

Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson

2668 Aspen Heights Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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February 21, 2023

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Application for NPFMC Board Appointment

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) as a Council Member. My background begins with the guidance and support from my grandparents and other family members who lived a very traditional indigenous way of life in and around the Norton Sound area. I am tribal member of Nome Eskimo Community and a mother of three, of which my oldest currently serves as a US Navy Linguist. I am also a Security Forces veteran of the US Air Force. I have a varied experience in collaboration with many tribal members, Alaskan communities, villages, tribal serving organizations, and interactions on the local, state, federal, and international level, including the International Maritime Organization.

My background in communication and guidance working with over 100 tribes in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska on fisheries and marine opportunities positions me as a strong candidate for membership in this body. As Government Affairs/Policy Director for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribal Consortium (AYK TC), I work to support our continued collective effort in restoring and protecting our rivers and the Bering Sea for our holistic way of life, including our language and culture, spiritual well-being, food security and sovereignty, subsistence economies, and most importantly for our Elders and future generations.

I currently serve on the Advisory Panel for the NPFMC, as well as on the Community Engagement Committee and Salmon Bycatch Committee, which allows me to continue to share the educational processes of the NPFMC with rural Alaska and heavily encourage tribal participation. My participation in the Council process has taught me that we must be a part of a collective effort in restoring and protecting our way of life.

I am personally and professionally committed to serve on the Council and I will look for ways to continue to build true and meaningful two-way communication and collaboration. While my appointment would benefit Council by bringing a tribal/subsistence perspective into its decision-making process, as a Council Member I would commit to serve as an advocate for all of Alaska's fisheries and approach every decision with fairness and objectivity. It would be a great honor to apply my experience, collaboration skills and Tribal expertise to serve on the NPFMC Council body and I hope that you will consider my application.

Quyanacpak (Thank you very much in Inupiatun),



Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson (Inupiaq)

WORK EXPERIENCE**Government Affairs/Policy Director, Full-time 40 hours/week
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribal Consortium**Anchorage, Alaska
September 2022-Present

- Lead the development, planning and delivery of public policy and stakeholder engagement initiatives to support the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribal Consortium (AYK TC).
- Develop and cultivate relationships with external stakeholders (policymakers, nonprofit partners, trade associations) to achieve public policy and government relations objectives.
- Design and execute Tribal advocacy strategies for government relations and regulatory issues at the international, federal, state, and local levels, including strengthening relationships.
- Work internally with Tribal leaders to shape AYK TC public policy priorities and advocacy plans to advance objectives.

**Adjunct Faculty Alaska Native Studies, Part-time 60 hours/semester
University of Alaska Anchorage**Anchorage, Alaska
August 2017-Present

- Teach University level students listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Inupiatun—the language of Inupiat—for effective communication at the elementary level.
- Incorporate history of Inupiat people by way of text materials, audio/visual materials, and guest speakers.
- Create a syllabus for students to follow with different tools or methods such as Total Physical Response, where are your keys, and Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (Aka Grey Morning) while in the classroom environment.

**Indigenous Engagement and Communication Specialist, Full-time 40 hours/week
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee**Anchorage, Alaska
February 2022-September 2022

- Develop and coordinate communication between federal agencies and Alaska Native entities such as federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and IARPC agency members.
- Develop, produce, and maintain guidance documents for the IARPC agencies about different knowledge systems and principles for conducting research in the Arctic.
- Develop and propose to IARPC educational and outreach materials for Indigenous communities, tribes, Alaska Indigenous organizations, and the IARPC research agencies.
- Develop trusted two-way information and educational sharing networks between Indigenous entities and federal agencies with Arctic research missions.
- Develop and maintain outreach coordination and communications databases to include local points of contact, key leaders in Indigenous communities, and Alaska Indigenous organizations.

**Executive Director, Full-time 40 hours/week
Bering Sea Elders Group**Anchorage, Alaska
May 2018-January 2022

- Responsible for the administration and development of all programs and activities of BSEG within the provisions of the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and budget approved by the Executive Committee.
- Actively engage attorneys, partner agencies, and funders in understanding the natural and cultural resources of the Indigenous people from the Bering Sea area.
- Plan, coordinate, and attend meetings with rural, state, federal and international decision-makers.
- Establish and monitor timelines for strategic goals. Manage budget and grants, while increasing financial sustainability for organizational operations.
- Communicate with external/internal audiences by way of social media, organization website, and newsletters about subsistence preservation and the importance of co-production of knowledge.

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- Build and maintain partnerships with tribal communities by attending regional tribal meetings and relevant meetings of decision-making bodies for cultural connections.

ANTHC Program Coordinator July 2017-April 2018
ANTHC Elder Program Manager June 2015-July 2017
ANTHC Elder Outreach Coordinator October 2012-May 2015
ANTHC Office Manager-Cardiology Clinic December 2011-October 2012
ANTHC Management Information Specialist July 2009-December 2011
ANTHC Office Manager-Ophthalmology Clinic August 2007-July 2009

ANHC Inupiaq Language Learner/Instructor March 2015-April 2018

BOARDS/MEMBERSHIPS

Tribal Member Nome, Alaska
Nome Eskimo Community Present

Advisory Panel Member Anchorage, Alaska
North Pacific Fishery Management Council August 2020-Present

Salmon Bycatch Committee Member Anchorage, Alaska
North Pacific Fishery Management Council November 2022-Present

Community Engagement Committee Member Anchorage, Alaska
North Pacific Fishery Management Council February 2019-Present

MREP North Pacific Exploratory Committee Member Anchorage, Alaska
Marine Resources Education Program September 2022-Present

Indigenous Advisory Board Member/Co-chair Anchorage, Alaska
US National Science Foundation, Navigating the New Arctic Community Office April 2021-Present

ELOKA Advisory Committee Member Anchorage, Alaska
US National Science Foundation April 2020-Present

Dancer/Singer/Member Anchorage, Alaska
Kingikmiut Singers and Dancers of Anchorage, Inc. August 2015-Present

EDUCATION/TRAINING

BA-Health Services Administration with a minor in Human Services Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska Pacific University December 2011

Security Apprentice, Full-time 40 hours/week Lackland AFB, Texas
United States Air Force April 1998-September 1999

TPR, Where Are Your Keys, Accelerated Second Language Acquisition March 2015-April 2018

ANTHC Leadership Excellence through Advancement and Determination (LEAD)
April 2009-September 2010