



Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Tribal Government (Y-K RTG)

Frequently Asked Questions

November 4, 2022

How does the Y-K RTG impact the 56 Tribal Nations?

The establishment and participation in the Y-K RTG does not diminish the sovereign rights of the participating Tribal governments.ⁱ Tribal governments choosing to join and participate in the Y-K RTG retain their inherent rights to contact, compact, and acquire federal appropriations. It is important to remember that the voted Council members are Tribal Citizens and Members. The Council wants to see all Tribes succeed and flourish within the Region—the Y-K RTG is a mechanism to grow and foster relationships and support all 56 Tribal Nation's efforts to better our communities and Region. The Y-K RTG is an opportunity to work efficiently with other governments (Tribal, state, and federal), regional and village corporations, and nonprofits that support the communities.

What is the purpose of the Y-K RTG?

Our Elders spoke about the need for a Regional Tribal Government. The Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Athabascan People have survived on this land for many generations because we work together—the Y-K RTG is the nucleus for our Tribal Nations to get together and address subsistence, promote Regional economic growth and infrastructure, promote Regional public health services, and public safety to improve life within the Region.

The Y-K RTG, as stated in a previous question, is not designed to compete with the 56 Tribal Nations. The Council and its staff fully support and wish to promote the Region's nonprofits that focus on community development, education, social services, and other programs in nature. It is the Council's strong effort and desire to connect with our Regional nonprofits.

What is the capacity of the Y-K RTG?

The Y-K RTG is a Constitutional Government that was established on February 22, 2021 by several of the 56 federally-recognized sovereign Tribal Governments in the Region. The Y-K RTG is a Charter under the Napaskiak Tribal Council.ⁱⁱ Under the Constitution of the Y-K RTG, the capacity of the current Constitution:

- Restore Tribal jurisdiction over traditional homelands and waters,
- Provide Regional Public Safety,
- PROMOTE Regional public health,

- Protect and regulate subsistence, wildlife, and other natural resources, and
- Promote Regional infrastructure.

The capacity of the Y-K RTG Council and staff is limited to, and must uphold, the Constitution.

What has the Y-K RTG done thus far?

Since its establishment, The Y-K RTG Council successfully advocated for a \$1 million minimum base-pay from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for all Y-K Tribal Nations to respond to the Coronavirus. The Speaker previously met with Congressman Don Young to advocate for our land rights and subsistence. The Y-K RTG also hosted various leadership roundtables and hosted a Meet and Greet with Governor Dunleavy. Recently, Y-K RTG staff worked to maintain consistent contact with the State and FEMA to support communities affected by Typhoon Merbok. As we move forward and have a full Council, the Y-K RTG will go after grants and funding opportunities to support the 56 communities and Tribal Citizens.

ⁱ Article III, Section 2 of the Y-K RTG Constitution states that “[n]othing contained in this Constitution shall be construed to limit the sovereignty of any Tribal government within the Region without its consent” and Article IV, Section 3 states that “[a]ny powers not expressly contained in the Constitution are preserved by the People of the Region and their Tribal governments.

ⁱⁱ Napaskiak Tribal Council, Native Village of Napaskiak Resolution 06-16-21, “Whereas, Article VI of the Constitution vests the governmental power of the Tribe in a Council which shall have such power to ‘represent and protect the Native Village of Napaskiak and its members in matters’” and “Resolved, that the Tribe’s Council, pursuant to its constitutional authority, does hereby grant this Charter attached hereto as Exhibit A to create, appoint, and constitute the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Tribal Governing Authority”.