



**Chugachmiut**  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION

August 26, 2019

Mr. Alex Russin, Superintendent  
Cordova City School District  
675 Second Street  
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Dear Mr. Russin, *Alex*

Time passed quickly since our last conversation near the end of the last school year. The “end” of our Heritage Program is just mere days away, but Helen and I didn’t want to let another day pass before we took this time to express our heartfelt appreciation to you and your staff at the District Office, Elementary School and the Junior/High Schools for the support you gave and demonstrated to the Chugachmiut Heritage Program over the last three years, and more.

*Llangarklluku: Becoming Aware* will end on August 30, 2019. This is a bittersweet occasion to see the closing of our Sugt’sun Language and Sugpiaq Cultural Education Program, but also a celebratory opportunity to applaud all the amazing accomplishments of the restoration and preservation of the language and culture of the Chugach region.

Cordova City Schools, under your leadership has been notably recognized in all aspects of our program, and for that, we want to express our appreciation for that amazing support.

Now to the future: Chugachmiut is anticipating a future for the Heritage Program. We currently have four grant applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and Administration for Native Americans. If we are fortunate and receive one or more of these, we should be able to reinstate our language/teacher training program across the region by November, 2019. It is our intent to maintain the partnership viable through the current Memorandum of Agreements between our two administrations. We will definitely keep you informed of any promising aspects.

Thank you again for being such an outstanding partner and we continue to look forward to more years of working together in the interests of the students, communities and the people we mutually serve.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Hiratsuka  
Alaska Native Education Program Manager

Cc: Helen Morris  
Michael Hortaon