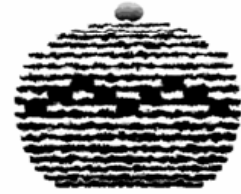


NEWS RELEASE

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Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. publishes
Dena'ina: Nat'uh, Our Special Place

(ANCHORAGE, AK – July 10, 2007)— *Dena'ina: Nat'uh, Our Special Place*, a newly released book published by Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) tells the story of the indigenous people of the Cook Inlet region and is now available for purchase.

Also published to accompany the book is a curriculum guide entitled *Reading and Study Guide, Dena'ina Culture, History, and Representation in Southcentral Alaska, a Supplement to the Alaska Studies High School Course*.

“We hope that people throughout Alaska will enjoy the book and appreciate the curriculum guide that highlights some of the little known facts and traditions about the first peoples of the Cook Inlet region,” said Gloria O’Neill, CITC President and CEO. “Alaska’s largest city resides in Dena’ina Country, and for too long the residents of Anchorage and other Alaskans have not been able to easily access basic historical information about the Dena’ina people and their predecessors.”

The book includes the early Kachemak Tradition people of Cook Inlet, but focuses mainly on the Dena’ina Athabascan people (45 pages). The contents of the book are depicted in the historical and cultural arts displays that are located primarily on the first floor of the Nat’uh (CITC) Building



located at 3600 San Jeronimo Drive, Anchorage, Alaska. (The name of the building and the book both include the Dena'ina phrase *nat'uh*, which is roughly pronounced nah-TOOH and is translated as "our special place.")

In addition to the historical and cultural information on the wall of the Nat'uh building, there are comments from O'Neill and Clare Swan, Chair of the CITC Board of Directors. An added feature in the book is a listing of the English, Dena'ina and Ahtna language names for the geographic features depicted on the Cook Inlet region map on the first floor serpentine wall.

Accompanying these names is the English translation of the Dena'ina and Ahtna words, reflecting the naming perspective of the indigenous peoples of the region.

The authors of the book are Alexandra J. McClanahan, Aaron Leggett and Lydia L. Hays.

The curriculum guide (15 pages) was developed by Patricia Partnow, Ph.D., vice president of the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage. It contains five sets of lesson ideas and a list of resources to be used along with the *Nat'uh* book. The guide is designed as a supplement to the required high school Alaska Studies course.

Nat'uh books may be purchased through The CIRI Foundation at 3600 San Jeronimo Drive, Suite 256, Anchorage, Alaska 99508-2870, by phone at (907) 793-3575 or by email: tcf@thecirifoundation.org. The cost of the *Nat'uh* book is \$15.95 per copy plus shipping costs.

The *Reading and Study Guide* may be purchased from Cook Inlet Tribal Council Inc. at 3600 San Jeronimo Drive, Suite 400, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Contact Jacqueline Lee, CITC internal relations officer at (907) 793-3414. The cost of the guide is \$5.95 plus shipping.

Publication of the *Nat'uh* book and curriculum guide is made possible by a grant from The CIRI Foundation and Cook Inlet Tribal Council Inc.

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