

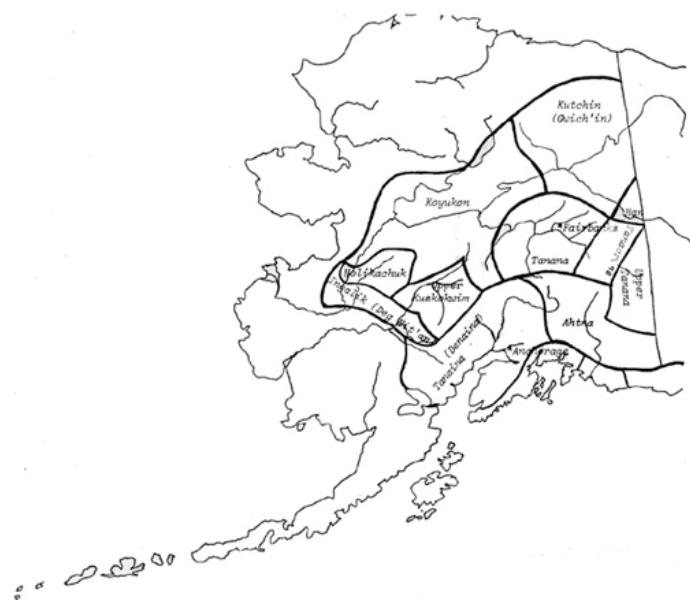
PITAAS



David Salmon

Gwich'in Athabascan

1912-2007



Reverend Chief Dr. David Salmon was raised in the traditional Athabascan lifestyle by his father after his mother Alice Salmon, passed away when he was nine years old. Chief Salmon, who was first made Chief of Chalkyitsik at the age of 29, helped shape the community and was instrumental in building a school and starting a store. He introduced the first Christmas tree and potlatch, and built the church by hauling 90 logs at the age of 70, using only a chainsaw. In 2004, Chief Salmon was made the First Traditional Chief of the Interior. He was also a founding member of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), a non-profit organization that works toward meeting the health and social service challenges for more than 15,000 Alaska Natives, and Denakkanaaga, a non-profit elders organization who TCC often turns to for direction and wisdom. A treasure to his culture and a model for all Alaskans, Chief Salmon was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2002. He continued to share his knowledge of traditional hunting tools and lifestyle right up to the day of his passing. He was a master musician, and

toolmaker who made several pre-contact canoes and tools which are on display at UAF; the main offices of Doyon, Limited, in Fairbanks; and the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.