

Benjamin Jacuk (Dolchok) is the Unguwat Program Manager and Indigenous Researcher at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage. Jacuk became the first Alaska native from the *Dena'ina Athabascan* and *Sugpiaq* Indigenous people's groups to speak at a WCC assembly, as he did at the recent 2022 Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany. Jacuk's main focus in his current work is research into boarding schools in Alaska. An expert in this research, he also acknowledges its very personal nature for him, as his grandfather attended boarding schools growing up. Jacuk, a Kenaitze Tribal Member, said his mother reinforced Alaska Native values in him. Jacuk went on to master's degrees from Princeton Seminary (M.Div. and Th.M.). He was just the second Alaska Native or American Indian person to graduate from Princeton seminary. Ben has worked with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and he helped edit the apology the Presbyterian Church made at the 2016 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention for its past treatment of Alaska Native people, and especially for abuses in boarding schools. Benjamin Jacuk was recently announced as the winner of the 2022 Alaska Young Professional of the Year award.