Contributions
The Potlatch Dancers accepts your donations to help defray the cost of regalia, regalia maintenance, and operating expenses. Volunteer services are also appreciated.

Reservations
To make reservations for a performance, please call the JOM Cultural Specialist, Irene Nicholia-Todd.

Vision
We are a unified, healthy, and empowered Native community that embraces all cultures.

Mission
To promote spirituality, cultural identity, self-reliance, physical and mental health, by improving the quality of life of our community through professional quality services.

FNA serves ALL Fairbanks residents

Supported in part by the Fairbanks Arts Association City Bed Tax Re-grant Funds.

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E-mail: inicholia-todd@fairbanksnative.org
**History & Culture**

The Potlatch Dances have been performing since 1991. The group consists of JOM eligible students who volunteer their time after school to practice their indigenous singing and dancing. Most of the dancers have been middle and high school students in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Students learn responsibility and leadership qualities as they step forward to teach songs and dances to new members and well as to speak publicly at performances and to help fundraise. Students must maintain their GPA to be eligible for travel.

Elders are utilized to provide a foundation of respect for the culture to teach meaning of songs, and values. Students are also encouraged to do a cultural project during the school year with assistance from local elders or subsistence experts to gain knowledge, skills, and to promote healthy self-esteem.

**Johnson O’Malley (JOM)**

Began in 1934 when W. Hiram Johnson and Thomas P. O’Malley sponsored a bill in the House and Senate, which became known as the Johnson O’Malley Act. Funding is provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. JOM is designed to meet the unique educational needs of Alaska Native students. The passage of Public Law 99-228 allows a student to be JOM eligible if they are an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe, regardless of blood degree.

**Performances**

The JOM Potlatch Dancers have performed at the University of Alaska graduation ceremonies, World Eskimo Indian Olympics, the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, Tanana Chiefs, Quyana, Episcopal Diocese Convention and Doyon Ltd Conferences, Art Expo, the Parka Parade, the Festival of Native Arts, various school assemblies, FNA Potlatches, and statewide professional conferences and conventions.

**Native Education Committee (NEC)**

The Native Education Committee consists of parents or guardians of eligible JOM students. Meetings are quarterly to review and approve the grant application, needs assessment, and services.