



**Alaska Native
Tribal Health Consortium**

Division of Community Health Services

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**Luncheon to honor Alaska Native
breast cancer survivors with mastectomies**

When: Thursday, October 23, 2008

Where: Egan Convention Center
555 W 5th Ave
Anchorage, AK

What: Luncheon honors Alaska Native women with mastectomies, includes presentations about life after a cancer diagnosis and mastectomy

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is hosting its first luncheon honoring and supporting Alaska Native survivors of breast cancer who have undergone mastectomies. Presenters will discuss life after a cancer diagnosis and mastectomy. About half of the women attending are from the Anchorage area and half from Alaska's rural communities.

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Alaska Native women. Breast cancer accounts for 29% of all cancers diagnosed. More than 50% of Alaska Native women diagnosed with breast cancer undergo mastectomies by choice or as the treatment recommended for the type and stage of their cancer. Because it substantially reduces the time in Anchorage and away from home, residents of rural Alaska may choose mastectomy instead of a lumpectomy and radiation.

Representatives from Anchorage's Asian, African American, and Hispanic communities will attend the luncheon to observe and decide if a similar event would benefit them. Alaska Natives and members of these groups are considered underserved in health issues such as cancer. Julia Thorsness, who coordinates the State of Alaska's comprehensive cancer program, will also attend.

The Alaska Run for Women and Alaska Commercial Company have donated funding for the luncheon. Several other organizations have donated products and time as well.

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