

Gunalchéesh.

Aaa

aḡ éesh eeti ganeix

dziyáak áwé

ch'a kaawayídei áwé dagátch

i yoo ḡ'atangi.

(Kaal.átk') *Haa wáa sá.*

Tléil áwé ách woonaxlisheeyi káa koostí.

(Kaal.átk') *Yéi yatee, yít'k', yéi yatee.*

Yá gaaw áwé

kaax áwé shawjixeen

haa kusteeyí, haa Lingítḡ sateeyí

aadéi yéi jinéiyi yé

shux'áa aayí

aaa

aḡ éesh eeti ganeix

aaa.

Dziyáak áwé has du ḡ'éit ḡwasi.áḡ yú haa

yátx'i

yéi áwé s at shí.

«Yéi áyá kaa jín du.ús'kw, »

yú.á

«yéi áwé kaa jín du.ús'kw. »

Yisikóo

yá yéi at kunaxdayéin áwé

aaa

yaa kdus.injin áwé ḡá wé s'ix'.

Aaa.

Neil wuduwateeyi aa jín du.ús'gun.

Ch'u yéi áwé a daa tuxditaan.

Yá dziyáak

yá s du x'asheeyí

aadéi s ashutan yé

aaa

yá ldakát yáx has ayawlishiyi shí

a xoox' áwé déix aa kudzitee

kulits'ígwaayi aa áwé

áwé tléil ch'a aadéi ch'a neechx'

kei kawduwashiyi yéix' gándeí

oongaa.aadi yé.

Yóo áwé

haa shagóon kudzitee.

(Kaal.átk') *Gunalchéesh áwé.*

Yáat'aa á

ách áwé

yéi kugwastée

aaa

yéi kugwastée

dáxnáx has gugwatée

yá haa daat yóo x'atánk yóodei s akgwatee

aa

aaa.

X'úx' káx' áwé yéi s aya.óo

yáa yeedát

yáax'

yáax'

haa tóot has k̄oowatini aa

aaa.

Haa Lingítx̄ sateeyí áwé

kaax̄ yéi shukgwashx̄éen

a k̄usteeyí.

(K̄aal.átk') *Gunalchéesh áwé.*

Dei haa jeex' áwé

a káa yáa haa jinalsák

yáat

haa Lingítx̄ sateeyí.

Naaléi áwé aadéi yéi aa kandutax̄'w yé

haa jinák.

Áwé a shú áwé tulashát

áwé yáa yeedát áwé tlaḡ

aḡ toowú

sh kax' x̄awdigáx'

yá Sealaskach a daa wdahaaní.

Aan át haa x̄'awdagáax'in

yáḡ

haa léelk'w hás

aadéi yéi s jinéiyi yé.

Át aḡwdishée haa Aan̄káawu has du éet

wudasheeyí

has du jín kée awulsháadi.

Aagáa tléil k̄ut kei kagwaxeex haa Lingítx̄

sateeyí.

L yéi yei s jeenaneinín k̄u.aa áwé

x'úx' áwé at has akgwatée

a kaadáx áwé a akgwatóow.

Dei ch'áakw áwé wduwatík'

haa Dleit Káax sateeyí yá haa xoonx'ích

haa Lingítx sateeyí;

á áwé a kaadéi s akgwalgéen.

Áwé ch'u l yéi unaneijí áwé.

Aaa,

gunalchéesh xá

aaa,

adaanáx has wudanaagí

yá kustí yá haa Lingítx sateeyí.

(Kaal.átk') *Gunalchéesh.*

Aaa

aadéi sh tóogaa haa ditee

aaa

aadóo ku.aa sá kwshí shux'aanáx.

Wa.é gé?

Aaa, yáadu yá ax kéek'

Keewaax.awtseix.

Yoo x'atánk yei aguxsanéi.

---

Aaa.

Dziyáak áwé i séit xwasi.áx.

Aagáa áwé anax haat keeyaník

gaaw du.áxji.

Yáa yeedát áwé

aaa

a káa haa jiwlisák

yax shawtulatsaagi haa Lingítx sateeyí.

(Unidentified) *Gunalchéesh.*

Aaa

dei áx' haa jeex' tl'aadéin yáa naltídi áwé

yá Sealaska

anax haat has uwanák.

Aaa.

Gu.aal kwshé

dakdachóon has ayawutaaník haa jeex'

(Unidentified) *Gunalchéesh.*

ch'u l haa jeedáx unatáx'wji

haa léelk'w hás aadéi x'ayakáayi yé.

Aaa.

Ách áwé x'éidáx kandushéet' áwé

aaa

ch'a yú at tan yéix' ch'a áa sh wudigwaal

yú du gaawú

aaa

haa toowú áwé yéi téeyin dé

aaa

ch'a a kayaadéi yoo shatoogíxgin.

Áwé dziyáak i x'éidei xaa.áxch

yá yoo x'atánk.

(Unidentified) *Haa wáa sá.*

Aaa

yáa yeedát kudzitee áx' yéi yatee du daat

du shuká

yéi yoo x'axaatangi aa

yú ax léelk'w eeti ganeix

hé Keikóok'

hú áwé yoo x'atánk

áwé yéi aguxsanéi.

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Yak'éi

yak'éi, kík', yak'éi.

(Unidentified) *Gunalchéesh.*

(Kawóotk') *Gunalchéesh.*

Aaa.

Ch'a yéi gugénk' áwé a kaax shukaylits'úx

haa tlagu kwáanx'i aadéi s kunoogu yé.

Áwé

yáa yeedát

aaa,

ch'a ayáx sh gayisnoogóot ágé

aaa

yei tunook yee kát wugoodéen ax éesh

hás eeti ganeix?

(Kaal.átk') *Haa wáa sá.*

Yáax'

á áwé

yáa yeedát áwé ch'a i tóo kawtuwatlexu

yáx áwé haa tóo wjixeen.

(Kaal.átk') *Yak'éi.*

Ách áwé

yéi x'ayaká yee yátx'i

(Kaal.átk') *Gunalchéesh.*

aaa

yáax' aadéi yéi jeeyaneiyi yé tlél haa  
tuwaa ushgú

ch'a kawayíx yawus.aaxí, haa léelk'u hás

aadéi yéi s jineiyi yé áwé.

De áa awtulixaaji át áwé

áa haa wakkeeyakaa.

Ách áwé

kakawtuwakél'.

Aaa.

Dei kawtoo.aagóon áwé xá

aaa

haa tláa léelk'w hás, haa tláa káak hás

has du kusteeyí

has du yoo x'atangi.

Dei áa awtulixaaji át áwé

haa jiyís.

Aaa.

Haa jeex' kakeeyakél'.

Ách áwé tsu héidi shugaxtootáan

yá yaakoosgé daakeit

haa jeex' a nák has kawdik'éet'.

(Kaal.átk') *Yak'éi, yak'éi.*

Haa káak hás

ka haa léelk'w hás

yáa yeedát áwé

yáadu.

Aaa.

Gunalchéesh.	Thank you.
Aaa	Yes,
aḵ éesh eeti ganeix	my father's surviving relative,
dziyáak áwé	a moment ago...
ch'a kaawayídei áwé dagátch	your words
i yoo ḵ'atángi.	only fell into space.
(Kaal.átk') <i>Haa wáa sá.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Indeed.</i>
Tléil áwé ách woonaxlisheeyi káa kooostí.	There wasn't a person present who could grasp them.
(Kaal.átk') <i>Yéi yatee, yít'k', yéi yatee.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>That's how it is, son. That's how it is.</i>
Yá gaaw áwé	At this time
kaax áwé shawjixeen	the cover has fallen away
haa kusteeyí, haa Lingítḵ sateeyí	from our culture, our Tlingit identity,
aadéi yéi jinéiyi yé	the way our predecessors
shux'áa aayí	used to do things,
aaa	yes,
aḵ éesh eeti ganeix	my father's surviving relative,
aaa.	yes.
Dziyáak áwé has du ḵ'éit ḵwasi.áḵ yú haa yátx'i	A moment ago I listened to those children of ours,
yéi áwé s at shí.	to how they sang.
«Yéi áyá kaa jín du.ús'kw, »	"This is how one's hands are washed,"
yú.á	it is said,
«yéi áwé kaa jín du.ús'kw. »	"This is how one's hands are washed."
Yisikóo	You all know,
yá yéi at kunaxdayéin áwé	when things like these were happening,
aaa	yes,
yaa kdus.injin áwé ḵá wé s'íx'.	they used to carry in a basin, you see.
Aaa.	Yes.



Neil wuduwateeyi aa jín du.ús'gun.	The hands of the one who is taken in would be washed.
Ch'u yéi áwé a daa tuxditaan.	This is just how I'm thinking about them.
Yá dziyáak	A while ago,
yá s du x'asheeyí	the way they directed
aadéi s ashutan yé	these songs of theirs,
aaa	yes,
yá ldakát yáx has ayawlishiyi shí	of all the songs they sang
a xoox' áwé déix aa kudzitee	there are two among them
kulits'ígwaayi aa áwé	that are sensitive
áwé tléil ch'a aadéi ch'a neechx'	and cannot be sung without a reply
kei kawduwashiyi yéix' gándeí	before people take leave.
oongaa.aadi yé.	
Yóo áwé	That's the way
haa shagóon kudzitee.	our ancestors lived it.
(Kaal.átk') <i>Gunalchéesh áwé.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Thank you.</i>
Yáat'aa á	That is why
ách áwé	there will be
yei kugwastée	this person,
aaa	yes,
yei kugwastée	there will be,
dáxnáx has gugwatée	there will be two of them,
yá haa daat yóo x'atánk yóodei s akgwatee	the ones who will respond for us,
aa	
aaa.	yes.
X'úx' káx' áwé yéi s aya.óo	They have written some into books
yáa yeedát	already
yáax'	here
yáax'	here

haa tóot has k̄oowatini aa	those who have joined with us,
aaa.	yes.
Haa Lingítx sateeyí áwé	For those of us who are Tlingit,
kaax̄ yéi shukgwashx̄éen	the cover will slide off
a k̄usteeyí.	from our culture.
(K̄aal.átk') Gunalchéesh áwé.	(Charlie Joseph) Thank you.
Dei haa jeex' áwé	Even now our grip
a káa yáa haa jinalsák	is weary from holding onto it,
yáat	here,
haa Lingítx sateeyí.	on to our Tlingit identity.
Naaléi áwé aadéi yéi aa kandutax̄'w yé	It is very deep to where most of it has sunk from our
haa jinák.	grip.
Áwé a shú áwé tulashát	We are just clutching the very tip
áwé yáa yeedát áwé tlaḡ	but this moment though, how
aḡ toowú	my silent
sh kax' x̄awdigáx'	prayer continues
yá Sealaskach a daa wdahaaní.	that Sealaska would rise to it.
Aan át haa x̄'awdagáax'in	It was as if
yáḡ	we went and begged to have someone do it
haa léelk'w hás	the way our grandparents
aadéi yéi s jinéiyi yé.	used to do things.
Át aḡwdishée haa Aanḡáawu has du éet	My hope is that our Lord will assist them
wudasheeyí	
has du jín kée awulsháadi.	and lift their hands.
Aagáa tléil k̄ut kei kagwaxeex haa Lingítx	Then, our Tlingit identity will not vanish.
sateeyí.	
L yéi yei s jeenaneinín k̄u.aa áwé	But if they don't do this
x'úx' áwé at has aḡwatée	they will only be carrying books around with them

a kaadáx áwé a akgwatóow.	that they can read this from.
Dei ch'áakw áwé wduwatík'	Our Tlingit identity
haa Dleit Káax sateeyí yá haa xoonx'ích	has long been misunderstood
haa Lingítx sateeyí;	by our relatives who are white.
á áwé a kaadéi s akgwalgéen.	This is what they will be looking at.
Áwé ch'u l yéi unaneijí áwé.	This is to prevent this from happening,
Aaa,	yes.
gunalchéesh xá	Thank you,
aaa,	yes,
adaanáx has wudanaagí	for rising to this culture,
yá kustí yá haa Lingítx sateeyí.	to this Tlingit identity.
(Kaal.átk') <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Thank you.</i>
Aaa	Yes,
aadéi sh tóogaa haa ditee	we are grateful for this,
aaa	yes,
aadóo ku.aa sá kwshí shux'aanáx.	but I wonder who will be the first.
Wa.é gé?	Is it you?
Aaa, yáadu yá ax kéek'	Yes, here is the younger brother of mine
Keewaax.awtseix.	Keewaax.awtseix.
Yoo x'atánk yei aguxsanéi.	He will make a speech.
Aaa.	Yes.
Dziyáak áwé i séit xwasi.áx.	A while ago I listened to your voice.
Aagáa áwé anax haat keeyaník	You told us then
gaaw du.áxji.	about the beat of the drum.
Yáa yeedát áwé	Now,
aaa	yes,
a káa haa jiwlisák	our grip has wearied

yax shawtulatsaagi haa Lingítx sateeyí.	on our Tlingit identity that we were holding in place with a pole
(Unidentified) <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Unidentified) <i>Thank you.</i>
Aaa	Yes,
dei áx' haa jeex' tl'aadéin yáa naltídi áwé	it was rocking sideways in our grip under the pounding waves
yá Sealaska	when Sealaska
anax haat has uwanák.	surfaced.
Aaa.	Yes.
Gu.aal kwshé	My hope is
dakdachóon has ayawutaaníḱ haa jeex'	they will point what our ancestors used to say
(Unidentified) <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Unidentified) <i>Thank you.</i>
ch'u l haa jeedáx unatáx'wji	into the waves
haa léelk'w hás aadéi x'ayakáayi yé.	before it sinks from our grip.
Aaa.	Yes.
Ách áwé x'éidáx kandushéet' áwé	Because when they shoved him aside,
aaa	yes,
ch'a yú at tan yéix' ch'a áa sh wudigwaal	even while it was lying there pounding
yú du gaawú	that drum of his
aaa	yes,
haa toowú áwé yéi téeyin dé	that is how we felt,
aaa	yes,
ch'a a kayaadéi yoo shatoogíxgin.	kind of keeping the beat toward it with our heads.
Áwé dziyáak i x'éidei xaa.áxch	A while ago I heard these words
yá yoo x'atánk.	from your lips.
(Unidentified) <i>Haa wáa sá.</i>	(Unidentified) <i>Indeed.</i>
Aaa	Yes,
yáa yeedát kudzitee áx' yéi yatee du daat du shuká	Now there is someone following me

yéi yoo x'axaatangi aa	I'm speaking of
yú ax léelk'w eeti ganeix	my grandfather's surviving relative,
hé Keikóok'	Keikóok',
hú áwé yoo x'atánk	who will make
áwé yéi aguxsanéi.	a speech.
<b>Yak'ei</b>	<b>Fine,</b>
yak'ei, kík', yak'ei.	fine, younger brother, fine.
(Unidentified) <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Unidentified) <i>Thank you.</i>
(Kawóotk') <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Paul Henry) <i>Thank you.</i>
Aaa.	Yes.
Ch'a yéi gugénk' áwé a kaax shukaylits'úx	We have uncovered only a tiny portion
haa tlagu kwáanx'i aadéi s kunoogu yé.	of the way our ancient people used to do things.
Áwé	This
yáa yeedát	now,
aaa,	yes,
ch'a ayáx sh gayisnoogóot ágé	it is only to soothe the pain,
aaa	yes,
yei tunook yee kát wugoodéen ax éesh	of what befell you, my father's surviving relative?
hás eeti ganeix?	
(Kaal.átk') <i>Haa wáa sá.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Indeed.</i>
Yáax'	Here
á áwé	it is this,
yáa yeedát áwé ch'a i tóo kawtuwatlexu	now we're just trying to calm your thoughts is how it
yáx áwé haa tóo wjixeen.	came to mind.
(Kaal.átk') <i>Yak'ei.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Fine.</i>
Ách áwé	That is why
yéi x'ayaká yee yátx'i	your children say
(Kaal.átk') <i>Gunalchéesh.</i>	(Charlie Joseph) <i>Thank you.</i>

aaa	yes,
yáax' aadéi yéi jeeyaneiyi yé tlél haa tuwaa ushú	we don't want what you did here to only echo in the air,
ch'a kawayíx yawus.aaxí, haa léelk'u hás	how our grandfathers
aadéi yéi s jineiyi yé áwé.	used to do things.
De áa awtulixaaji át áwé	We had given up hope of seeing
áa haa wakkeeyakaa.	what you told us to look at.
Ách áwé	That is why
kakawtuwakél'.	we unwrapped it.
Aaa.	Yes.
Dei kawtoo.aagóon áwé xá	We had tried already, you see,
aaa	yes,
haa tláa léelk'w hás, haa tláa káak hás	the culture,
has du kusteeyí	the language
has du yoo x'atángi.	of our mothers' grandparents, our mothers' maternal uncles.
Dei áa awtulixaaji át áwé	We had given them up
haa jiyís.	for ourselves.
Aaa.	Yes.
Haa jeex' kakeeyakél'.	You have unwrapped it for us.
Ách áwé tsu héidi shugaxtootáan	That is why we will open again
yá yaakoosgé daakeit	this container of wisdom
haa jeex' a nák has kawdik'éet'.	left in our care.
(Kaal.átk') Yak'éi, yak'éi.	(Charlie Joseph) <i>It's fine, it's fine.</i>
Haa káak hás	Our maternal uncles
ka haa léelk'w hás	and our grandparents
yáa yeedát áwé	now
yáadu.	are here.
Aaa.	Yes.

This is a combination of several speeches that were made by Kichnaalx on May 29, 1980 at the Sealaska Corporation sponsored elders' conference, with the theme "Sealaska Elders Speak to the Future." There were several speeches made before, between, and after these ones, and we encourage everyone to study the content of all of them.