

CELEBRATE 'ALASKA DAY'? WHAT IS THERE TO CELEBRATE? CELEBRATE THAT THE RUSSIANS CAME AND KILLED $\frac{3}{4}$ OF THE NATIVES THEY ENCOUNTERED? CELEBRATE THAT AFTER THEY DEPLETED THE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS THEY DECIDED TO SELL THEIR SETTLEMENTS AND SINGLE POSTS (ONLY THE LAND THEY PHYSICALLY OCCUPIED) TO THE UNITED STATES?

CELEBRATE THAT NATIVES ARE HOMELESS IN THEIR OWN LAND?

CELEBRATE THE DESTRUCTION AND DEVASTATION THAT HAS BEEN ON-GOING? THE SICKNESS THE SETTLERS BROUGHT. THAT WIPED OUT WHOLE VILLAGES EVEN UP UNTIL THE 1950'S AND BEYOND? CELEBRATE THE LOSS OF OUR LANDS, RELIGIONS, CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE?

CELEBRATE THAT OUR CHILDREN WERE RIPPED FROM OUR ARMS AND TAKEN AWAY & STILL ARE?

CELEBRATE THAT WE ARE NOT GIVEN MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING GOOD JOBS BECAUSE THE DEVASTATION INCURRED HAS SO AFFECTED OUR LIVES?

NO - I WILL NOT CELEBRATE ALASKA DAY. I WILL CELEBRATE MY PEOPLE'S COURAGE AND ADAPTION AND ACCOMODATION. THEIR STRENGTH.

IT IS WINTER IN ALASKA NOW - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR RELATIVES ARE? IF YOU COME TO AFN & SEE ONE OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS HOMELESS, ON THE STREET, TIRED... TAKE THEM HOME WITH YOU - LOVE THEM - HELP THEM HEAL. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOMELESS SHELTERS HERE, NOR CARE. IT IS UP TO US TO HELP THOSE WE LOVE. | TOSHA GALAKTIONOFF 10-90

