



**YUKON
REGION**

April 9, 2018 | Whitehorse, Yukon | 9:00 am PST

STATEMENT

Interim AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek issued the following statement on the passing of Joe Linklater, a former Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and respected Yukon First Nation Leader:

“Like many across the Yukon and beyond, I am heartbroken by the loss of former Vuntut Gwitchin Chief Joe Linklater. I had the honour and privilege of working with him. Joe inspired me, as he did many young people, to strive to work for our communities, and for our people. We have all lost a trailblazer and a dear friend. Joe championed education as a tool for exercising our rights and advancing a bright future.

Chief Linklater’s leadership and efforts are helping create a bright future for his people and all Yukon First Nations. He is an incredible inspiration to us as we continue to advance our rights and determine our path forward through community led solutions.

From 1998 to 2010, Joe Linklater served as Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. He worked tirelessly to implement self-government for his people, and supported other Yukon First Nations in advancing education, self-government and self-determination.

Chief Linklater continued to dedicate himself to supporting his community and Indigenous peoples across the North. He provided leadership to a number of organizations and international bodies, including the Arctic Council. His unwavering advocacy and dedicated leadership on advancing our rights to self-determination will be deeply missed.

In reflecting on self-government, Chief Linklater once said, “Now we have the ability to strive for what it is we want and to get the best out of what we have.” I am confident that this vision, and the legacy he leaves us, will continue to guide us on the path he and so many others have set for us.”

— 30 —

Media Inquiries

Nathan Wright
Director of Policy and Operations
(867) 333-0118
policydirector@afnyukon.ca