



AFN Yukon Regional Office  
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### Regional Chief Kluane Adamek Statement on the Speech from the Throne

(Whitehorse, Yukon, September 23, 2020) –The AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek – “Aagé” – released the following statement on today’s Speech from the Throne.

“Today the Government of Canada released a Speech from the Throne during what they rightly refer to as one of the greatest challenges we have collectively faced. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we look at healthcare, infrastructure and access to services. As First Nations, we know the pandemic has disproportionately affected Indigenous communities, racialized communities, and women. I was pleased today to see the government recognize these inequalities and pledge actions to bridge those gaps, and to address the pre-existing issues that have been magnified by this global pandemic.

I am encouraged to see that priorities brought forward by First Nations leadership were acknowledged in this speech, including a federal commitment to legislating the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous people, as well as a health and mental wellness. Alongside these two commitments are opportunities for the federal government to invite First Nations into the decision making process, especially as they relate to the funding commitments for internet broadband, access to healthcare and affordable housing, and partnering with First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities and community leaders to find solutions to food insecurity.

Alongside our fight against COVID-19 is our fight for Climate Action. The government’s speech today again commits to fighting against the climate emergency we find ourselves in. I look forward to working with federal and territorial government colleagues to support the commitment to legislate net zero emission and to find balance between a healthy economy and a thriving environment. I hope we can – together – hold the government accountable to including Indigenous voices. First Nations, Metis and Inuit have been stewards of this land since time immemorial and respecting that tradition includes providing a seat for our leaders at that table. On the economic side of that balance, we will push to ensure First Nations voices are heard and rights honoured when the government is updating the Economic Response Plan this fall.

The AFN Yukon remains committed to working in partnership with our federal counterparts to create a just society. We intend to continue the progress we have made towards strong government-to-government relationships between the Government of Canada and Yukon First Nations. Today, the government re-committed to staying on the road to reconciliation, and in turn we echo this commitment.”

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