



**YUKON
REGION**

A Yukon that Leads

News Release

AFN Yukon Regional Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek Statement on Indigenous Peoples Day 2022:
Reflecting on where we have been and looking forward to the future.**

Whitehorse, Yukon – AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek has released the following statement to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022

“On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, we honour and acknowledge the strength and power of Indigenous people - First Nations, Inuit and Métis - from coast to coast to coast. Especially today, we take time to celebrate and honour the important contributions Indigenous people across the country have made to their culture, their nations, communities, and to Canada as a whole. Yukon First Nations leaders are a driving force in the advancement of self-determination, community-led and values-based solutions, and creating a better future for generations to come. We are guided by the intergenerational strength and resiliency of our Elders and ancestors who have helped pass down teachings, ways of knowing and being, language, and who we are as Indigenous peoples. Join us in raising our hands in gratitude for all those who have come before, who have fought to preserve our culture, our rights, and who we are.

We also reflect on the relationship Indigenous peoples have with non-Indigenous and Canadian neighbours, with a focus on the path we are walking together. Since the 215 young souls revealed themselves in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc just over a year ago, ground searches of former residential institutions have begun across the country. The Yukon joins this devastating list as the search will soon begin at the site of the former Choutla Indian Residential School. We thank the Co-Chairs and Elders Adeline Webber and Judy Gingell for their hard and heart work, and their leadership of the Choutla Working Group.

This path we are on must first lead to the truth. Only then can we begin to reconcile what we have learned. We need to share the honest history of this country; the real story of Indigenous peoples and Canada, and the generations of children still suffering the trauma of genocide. Even though today we

celebrate the contributions of our people, we encourage Yukoners and Canadians alike to not forget that these contributions have been made in the face of extreme violence, discrimination, and racism. As we find our footing on the long walk of reconciliation, we must begin by acknowledging, respecting, and listening to one another. We will find the steps ahead by walking together.

After two long years of being apart, I look forward to coming together to celebrate this important day with people across the Yukon and Canada. Today, we stand proudly and sing our songs, speak our languages, and tell our stories for generations to come.”

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