



# YUKON REGION

## A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

I would like to express gratitude to all Yukon First Nation Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth and citizens whose leadership has allowed us to begin to safely come together after two and a half very challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing mental health and toxic drug crisis, wildfires, flooding, and the continued discovery of children who never made it home from residential institutions. Together, we have remained grounded in the traditional values and teachings of those who came before, and I raise my hands to those whose leadership has kept communities safe as we finally come together again.

I acknowledge and thank all those Chiefs and Yukon First Nations leaders who continue to support the work of AFN Yukon Regional Office. All 14 Yukon First Nations Chiefs have continued to show leadership in advancing First Nations rights, priorities and voices in the Yukon and across Turtle Island. We also thank each of the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, who play a key role as part of the AFN Yukon Region's governance structure. I am incredibly proud of the leadership that continues to emerge from the Yukon Region. In moments of both challenge and celebration, we come together in unity and strength, and I look forward to the good work that is to come!

- Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Aagé*

## A Look Back

### July 2022

- 5-7** **Assembly of First Nations 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek led a delegation on Yukon First Nations Chiefs, leaders, and representatives at the AFN AGA, meeting with First Nations leaders from across the country to set strategic direction based on regional and collective needs and priorities. The Chiefs Assemblies provided the AFN Executive with strategic direction through discussing and voting on resolutions.
- 26** **Coffee with Kluane Episode #13:** Regional Chief Adamek was joined by guest co-host Amber Berard-Althouse, and guests Tamika Knutson and Stormy Bradley to carry on good conversations about art and culture in the Yukon, and all the forms that cultural expression can take.
- 28** **Tlingit Day Celebrations (Teslin, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek joined Tlingit Day Celebrations in Teslin.

### August 2022

- 2-4** **Indigenous Community Safety Summit (Whitehorse, Yukon):** The AFN Yukon office supported the inaugural 2022 Indigenous Community Safety Summit. Our office launched a community safety and justice survey at the summit, as part of our engagement project on the federal Indigenous justice strategy and First Nations policing legislation. Kwanlin Dun First Nation Chief Doris Bill, who sits on the AFN Yukon Executive, moderated a session with national AFN representatives, including B.C. Regional Chief Terry Teegee, presented on the development of the First Nations policing legislation and the strategy.



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- 18 Meeting with Minister Vandal and MP Hanley (Old Crow, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek traveled to the traditional territories of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to meet with Chief and Council as well as Minister Vandal and MP Hanley to discuss pressing regional matters including economic development, climate action, and housing. Regional Chief Adamek also enjoyed a tour of the Old Crow Solar Project and joined a community dinner.
- 23 Tour of Kluane National Park with federal Environment Minister:** Regional Chief Adamek joined Minister Guilbeault, MP Hanley and the Parks Canada team for important conversations about impacts of climate change on infrastructure, landscapes and traditional land-use. They also had a visit to the Operations Compound, where Regional Chief Adamek got to see and learn about the new solar panels project.
- 30 Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment (Whitehorse, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek joined the CCME meeting to speak to the impacts of climate change in the North, the leadership that has been exemplified by Yukon First Nations youth and citizens, and introduced two Youth Climate Action Fellows, Carissa Waugh and Jewel Davies, to speak to their work on the Reconnection Vision and Action Plan
- 31 Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Annual General Meeting:** Regional office staff attended the YSSC AGM in Dakwakada (Haines Junction). They shared an update on the 2021 national AFN resolution, developed by YFN chiefs, which directed the national AFN to take more direct advocacy actions, federally, on the decline of the Chinook salmon in the region. The AFN Yukon office invited the committee to take part in a meeting with the national AFN to provide strategic direction on implementing the resolution.

## September 2022

- 9 Arctic Funders Collaborative Gathering (Fish Lake, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek joined and heard presentations from local change makers including the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellows – the Children of Tomorrow.
- 20 Haines Junction School Opening (Burwash and Haines Junction, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek attended the Haines Junction School opening ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the new school year, the new Yukon First Nations School Board, and shared a meal with Chief and Council of Kluane First Nation.
- 21 White River First Nation Annual Hunting and Gathering Camp (Pickhandle Lake, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek visited White River First Nation territory to join the second day of White River First Nation's Culture Camp.
- 21 Visit to Kluane Lake School (Kluane First Nation, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek traveled to the traditional territories of Kluane First Nation and visited students at Kluane Lake School as they began the new school year.
- 22 Coffee with Kluane episode #14:** Regional Chief Kluane Adamek was joined by three guests - students and youth - who discussed the upcoming school year, Orange Shirt Day, artistic education and learning.
- 25-29 Assembly of First Nations 2<sup>nd</sup> National Climate Gathering (Fredericton, NB):** Regional Chief Adamek attended the AFN's Climate Gathering along with First Nation experts, leaders, youth, Elders and professionals from across the country to discuss action and approaches that must be taken to addressing the climate crisis. Regional Chief Adamek was also joined by 10 of the Yukon First Nation Youth Climate Action Fellows, who presented at the Gathering on their draft Reconnection Vision and Action Plan.
- 26-27 Implementation Working Group YFN Caucus Retreat:** AFN Yukon Regional Office staff were invited by CYFN to join the IWG YFN caucus retreat. Our office presented to the IWG caucus to introduce and gather initial feedback on our UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples project, and update about the October 25-27, 2022 AFN Yukon First Nations Annual Summit.