



# YUKON REGION

## A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I acknowledge the First Nation Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth and citizens from across Yukon who have continued to support the work of our office through the many successes and challenges of 2022.

As we welcome 2023, I reflect on the accomplishments of Yukon First Nation communities, youth, citizens and leaders that we have celebrated this year despite facing such significant times of loss, grief and sadness.

In the last quarter, Yukon First Nations have come together to begin developing a strategy to increase awareness about the dire state of Yukon River Salmon. Significant resolutions were moved and seconded by Chiefs in our region at the 2022 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly including proposed amendments to the AFN charter, changes to NIHB travel policies, and reimbursement of legal expenses incurred by residential school survivors.

Yukon First Nations also shared their input on long-term reform of the child and family services system and Jordan's Principle program, part of our collaborative project with the Council of Yukon First Nations.

We welcomed almost every Yukon First Nation during our annual summit in October, where we met with several federal ministers, and delegates passed a total of five resolutions.

In preparation for the months ahead, we look forward to our ongoing work together, at the direction of Yukon First Nations. Through advocacy, policy and legislative analyses, coordination and strategies, we continue to advance our regional priorities and solutions with federal partners. I also thank each of the members of the 2022 AFN Yukon Executive – Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Roberta Joseph, Naa Shaáde Háni Eric Morris of the Teslin Tlingit Council, former Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief Steve Smith, and outgoing Vuntut Gwitchin Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm – who played a key role as part of the AFN Yukon Region's governance structure.

As a result of their leadership and efforts, we are charting a way forward with all to have the AFN Yukon Regional Office incorporated into its own entity in 2023.

In moments of both hardship and celebration, we come together in unity and strength, and I look forward to the good work that is to come!

From all of us at the AFN Yukon Region, we wish all Yukon First Nation citizens, families, and communities a happy, healthy and safe year ahead.

- Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Aagé*



# YUKON REGION

## A Look Back

### October 2022

- 11-12 Meeting with AFN National on Yukon Salmon:** Regional Chief Adamek convened a meeting with Little Salmon Carmacks Chief Nicole Tom (the Yukon region's representative on the AFN National Fisheries Committee), the national AFN Fisheries sector, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Yukon Salmon-Sub Committee to discuss progress AFN Resolution 21-06: *Yukon River Chinook Salmon of Canadian Origin*, and strategize on next steps.
- 14 Tea with MP Brendan Hanley (Whitehorse, Yukon):** Regional Chief Adamek shared tea with Yukon MP Dr. Brendan Hanley to discuss regional priorities and continued ways to work together.
- 18 AFN Yukon Executive Meeting (Virtual/Whitehorse, Yukon):** The AFN Yukon Executive Chiefs and the Regional Chief met in preparation for the Yukon First Nations Annual Summit.
- 25-27 Yukon First Nations Annual Summit (Whitehorse, Yukon):** The AFN Yukon Region hosted the Yukon First Nation Annual Summit, which was attended by Chiefs, Councillors, youth, and proxies from Yukon First Nations to discuss key regional priorities including salmon, UNDRIP implementation, community safety and justice, implementation of Final Agreements, land use planning, northern security, and more. Federal Ministers Marco Mendicino (Public Safety) and Dan Vandal (Northern Affairs) joined the Summit virtually to discuss key issues, and Minister Marc Miller (Crown-Indigenous Relations) travelled to Whitehorse to engage with delegates in person.

### November 2022

- 1-4 SHEIndigenomics Conference (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Kluane Adamek was honoured to join former Chief Leah George-Wilson and Yukon First Nation Climate Action fellow Jewel Davies at the SHEIndigenomics Conference for a panel focused on uplifting the critical role of Indigenous women in advancing climate action, contributing to the economy, and achieving a just transition to clean energy.
- 21 Coffee with Kluane Episode #15:** To mark Yukon Innovation Week 2022, Regional Chief Adamek was joined by special guests Joella Hogan and Gina Nagano to discuss First Nation-led innovation and transformation, and the various ways that Yukon First Nations are transforming their communities.
- 24 Chiefs Information Session/AFN SCA Prep Session:** Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon Region met alongside Yukon First Nations to prepare for the upcoming AFN Special Chiefs Assembly and discuss updates regarding the recent CHRT rulings on child welfare, and the related class action case. Chiefs also received updates, and provided feedback, on the engagement project we are working on with CYFN regarding long-term reform of child and family services and Jordan's Principle.
- 28 Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence Panel:** Alongside Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Roberta Joseph, Regional Chief Adamek testified before this senate committee on Arctic and northern defence. Both Chief Joseph and the Regional Chief stressed to the senators the importance of collaboration with and participation of Yukon First Nations in Canada's military planning and initiatives.



# YUKON REGION

- 29 AFN Executive Meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:** Regional Chief Adamek joined her AFN National Executive colleagues in meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau to discuss First Nation priorities. The Regional Chief spoke to the decline of Yukon salmon, climate change, and strengthening bilateral opportunities for Yukon First Nations.

## December 2022

**4-5 AFN National Executive Committee Meeting**

- 3-9 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (Ottawa, ON):** The AFN Yukon Region team and Regional Chief Adamek, along with a delegation of Yukon First Nation Chiefs, leaders, and proxies travelled to Ottawa to join the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly. First Nations leaders from coast to coast to coast joined the SCA to discuss regional and national priorities, engage with federal leadership, and vote on important resolutions to move the work of the AFN forward.

- 4-5 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly Committee Meetings (Ottawa, ON):** The AFN Yukon Region team and Regional Chief Adamek participated in various AFN national committee meetings while at the ACFN Special Chiefs Assembly, including committees on National Fisheries, the Youth Council, First Nation Policing Taskforce, Women's Council, the UNDA, Chiefs Committee on Long Term Reform, ACE Committee, Chiefs Committee on the Environment, the Veteran's Council and Knowledge Keepers' Council.

- 6-8 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (Ottawa, ON):** The AFN Yukon Region team and Regional Chief Adamek, along with a delegation of Yukon First Nation Chiefs, leaders, and proxies travelled to Ottawa to join the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly. First Nations leaders from coast to coast to coast joined the SCA to discuss regional and national priorities, engage with federal leadership, and vote on important resolutions to move the work of the AFN forward. Throughout the SCA, the Yukon delegation met with federal officials: Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray, National Defence Parliamentary Secretary Bryan May, Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal, and Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu.

- 11-18 COP15 (Montreal, QC):** Regional Chief Adamek travelled to Montreal to participate in COP15, where she joined several panels, meetings and presentations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and how to take a rights-based approach to its implementation at regional, national, and international levels.

- 13 Bilateral Meeting with Minister Steven Guilbeault (Montreal, QC):** As the AFN Climate Change and Environment portfolio holder, Regional Chief Adamek met with Canada's Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault to discuss the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

- 14 COP15 Business & Biodiversity Event (Montreal, QC):** Regional Chief Adamek joined at COP15 panel "Global Dialogue on Strengthening the Links between Nature and Cultures to Achieve a Sustainable and Ecological Civilization". The panel discussed self-determination, nature, culture and intrinsic connections to biodiversity, as well as the threat that species like Yukon River Salmon are currently facing.

- 15-16 WWF-Canada (Montreal, QC):** Regional Chief Adamek met with Megan Leslie, CEO of WWF-Canada to discuss the important work of protecting wildlife and biodiversity, and the challenges being faced by Yukon First Nations when it comes to protecting Yukon salmon and other wildlife.