



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I would like to express gratitude to the Elders, Matriarchs, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders and Youth from across Yukon First Nations who continue to support and collaborate with the AFN Yukon Regional Office. We continue to make important connections on the ground as we build relationships and work together to advance the interests and priorities of Yukon First Nations.

As COVID-19 restrictions have eased and we have begun to safely gather in person again, I am reminded of how enriching it is to be able to sit together, share meals, and discuss the important issues that matter most to communities. As we move into the summer months, I am also excited to begin celebrating important community events, including the upcoming Adäka Cultural Festival, which bring people together in celebration of the distinct cultures and traditions that Yukon First Nations have to offer. I look forward to making these community connections in a safe way, and thank the Yukon First Nations Chiefs, leaders, citizens, families, and organizations whose leadership has brought us through the pandemic in a good way.

A Look Back

April 2022

- 25** **First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) Conference Panel - “Towards Net Zero by 2050”:** Regional Chief Adamek moderated a panel at the FNMPC Conference on Indigenous leadership in the energy sector. The panel discussed how Indigenous rights, environmental protection, and equitable economic stewardship combine to ensure that net zero mineral extraction benefits everyone.
- 28** **Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) meeting:** Regional Chief Adamek joined members of the ACE Committee for a meeting with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault, as well as Vuntut Gwitchin Government Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm and Knowledge Keepers Lorraine Netro and Norma Kassi to discuss the importance of ensuring First Nations are decision-makers when it comes to advancing climate action and climate solutions.

May 2022

- 4** **Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference:** Regional Chief Adamek joined the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference to provide opening remarks along with other leaders from across the Yukon to kick off the first day of the Conference, focusing on Northern Indigenous business and entrepreneurship.
- 16** **Coffee with Kluane Episode #11:** Regional Chief Adamek was joined by guests Adeline Webber, Katie Johnson and Charlene Alexander from the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association to discuss the importance of art, culture, traditional practice and connection as part of healing and community leadership.
- 18** **Virtual meeting with Young Diplomats of Canada (YDC) UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Delegation:** Regional Chief Kluane Adamek joined four of delegates from the YDC UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Delegation for a virtual chat and hangout, where they discussed the importance of youth leadership, advocacy and the speech that they delivered at the UN Permanent Forum in April 2022.



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- 19 **Yukon MMIWG2S+ Family Gathering & Accountability Forum:** Regional Chief Adamek shared opening remarks on Day 2 of the first annual MMIWG2S+ Family Gathering & Accountability Forum, hosted by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council in support of the work being done by First Nations women, girls, two-spirit+ peoples, and all those impacted by gender-based violence.
- 19 **Chiefs Committee on Health Meeting**
- 25 **Intergovernmental Forum:** Regional Chief Adamek joined Yukon First Nations Chiefs and leaders, representatives from the Yukon Government and Government of Canada including Ministers Vandal, Miller, and Hajdu to discuss collaboration on key priorities including climate action First Nations-led approaches, and the need for community-based mental health and wellness supports.
- 25 **AFN Yukon Chiefs Summit:** The AFN Yukon Region Chiefs Summit was hosted in a hybrid environment, to bringing together YFN Leadership to provide updates, advance priorities and give strategic direction to the AFN Yukon Regional office and Regional Chief Adamek.
- 27 **Indigenous Partnerships Success Showcase:** Regional Chief Adamek joined the Indigenous Partnerships Success Showcase for a conversation with Chief Joe Alphonse (Tribal Chair of Tsilhqot'in National Government) on shared priorities between First Nations in the Yukon and BC. They discussed Aboriginal Rights and Title, climate change, and a rights-based approach to climate solutions led by Indigenous voices.
- 30 **Meeting with Canada Research Chair Jennifer Jakobi**
- 30 **NZ High Commission Reception (National Art Gallery)**
- 31 **Meeting with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada**

June 2022

- 1 **Meeting with National Chief's Office**
- 1 **Indigenous Clean Energy Gathering (Ottawa):** Regional Chief Adamek joined the Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Gathering in Ottawa to share about the Yukon First Nation Climate Action Fellowship, and the important values-driven climate work being done on the ground by First Nations from coast to coast to coast.
- 1 **AFN Yukon Region & Vuntut Gwitchin Government Parliamentary Reception (Ottawa):** At the Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) Gathering in Ottawa, the Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon Region co-hosted a Parliamentary Reception with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, inviting leaders from across the country to discuss Yukon First Nation leadership and the importance of Northern priorities to be part of national discussions and agenda-setting. Attendees included Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, Catherine McKenna (former Minister of Environment and Climate Change), Maryam Monsef (Former Minister for Women and Gender Equality) and other First Nations leaders from regions across Canada.
- 3 **Yukon First Nations Graduation:** Regional Chief Adamek attended the Yukon First Nations Graduation ceremony, a celebration of all Yukon First Nations graduates of 2022. The ceremony also included honouring two students who won this year's Environment & Climate Stewardship Award, an award sponsored by the AFN Yukon Regional Office.
- 8-11 **Juneau Celebration (Juneau, Alaska):** Regional Chief attended the Celebration, hosted by Sealaska Heritage, which is a biennial festival of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures who join together to celebrate their shared cultures with traditional songs, dance, foods, traditions, arts, crafts and more.
- 8 **Meeting with President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska:** Regional Chief Adamek had a meeting with Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida. They discussed the shared priorities that exist between Yukon First Nations and the Tlingit and Haida tribes in Alaska, and important cross-border initiatives including climate action, the health of salmon populations, and wildlife management.



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- 12-16 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-year Conference (Anchorage, Alaska):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in the NCAI's Mid-year conference on behalf of National Chief Archibald. During the conference, Regional Chief Adamek met with NCAI President Fawn Sharp to discuss shared priorities between the AFN and NCAI including cross-border climate action collaboration. Regional Chief Adamek also met with Secretary Deb Haaland and discussed common areas of focus including environmental justice, climate change, MMIWG2S+, and the truths of residential institutions in Canada and the US.
- 14 Tribal Nations Engaging in Transboundary Climate Action Breakout Discussion (NCAI Mid-year Conference, Anchorage, Alaska):** Regional Chief Adamek joined one of the breakout discussion panels at the NCAI Mid-year Conference to discuss climate change and its impacts on natural, social, cultural, and economic resources for First Nations and Tribal Nations. The panel was moderated by Graeme Reed, AFN Senior Policy Advisor, and explored how Nations on both sides of the Canadian/American border are engaging in innovative methods to address climate action at the transboundary and international level.
- 20 Coffee with Kluane Episode #12:** Regional Chief Adamek was joined by guests Diyet van Lieshout, Melissa Matheson-Frost, Amber Taylor-Fisher, Zakayla Netro, and Skaydu. Autumn Jules to celebrate Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and discuss youth leadership, education, art and culture, and Yukon's Adäka Cultural Festival.
- 21 Indigenous People's Day 2022:** Regional Chief Adamek marked Indigenous Peoples Day at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary, where she celebrated with Yukon First Nation artists, dancers, performers, and participated in a salmon bake-off with other leaders from across the territory.
- 26-27 Arctic Arts Summit:** Regional Chief Adamek joined the 2022 Arctic Arts Summit in Whitehorse, YT, which brings together artists and representatives of Arctic countries and the Indigenous Nations of the Circumpolar region around the world. This year's Arctic Arts Summit was the third-ever, and Regional Chief Adamek attended to celebrate the Yukon Region as a hub of culture and art in Canada and globally.
- 28-29 Council of Yukon First Nations Annual General Assembly:** Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN YR Team joined the CYFN Annual General Assembly to gather with the Chiefs and leadership of the 14 Yukon First Nations and discuss key individual and shared priorities. Regional Chief Adamek had time on the agenda of the AGA to provide an update on ongoing climate work and priorities, and also delivered a general update from the AFN Yukon Regional Office.