



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I acknowledge the Elders, Matriarchs, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders and Youth from across Yukon who support the work of our office. I also recognize the First Nations across Canada who continue to show strength, courage, and leadership throughout this challenging year and as we come to the end of 2021.

As the Yukon Region continues to move through the pandemic and as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, I reflect on the challenges we have faced over the past year: those loved ones we have lost, and the impacts that isolation has had on the physical and mental health of our people, particularly the youth. Yukon is in the strong position that it is today because of Yukon First Nation communities, Chiefs and leaders who have helped us stay strong together while safely keeping apart. I also recognize the many accomplishments that Yukon First Nations have celebrated this year despite facing such significant social and economic hardships. Wishing all Yukon First Nation citizens, families, and communities a happy, healthy and safe end of 2021.

A Look Back

October 2021

- 1-4** **Climate Fellowship Reconnection Space (In-Person):** On the Land Gathering in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Territory at Nänkäk Chëholay (Land of Plenty) for the YFN Climate Action Fellowship. The Fellowship safely gathered for the fourth time in person to further refine ideas, concepts and components for the YFN Climate Reconnection (Vision & Action) Plan. Participants were joined by local Leaders, Elders, knowledge keepers, steering committee members and climate experts to listen, learn and ask questions. The Fellowship provided a presentation on the program at the local cultural center, and participated in cultural activities including traditional hide drum making, sharing circles and spending time on the land.
- 1** **Queen's University Dean's Action Table on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Regional Chief Adamek delivered a presentation titled *Following the Leadership of Indigenous Women & Matriarchs in Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in All Place and Spaces* at Queen's University's Dean's Action Table on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The forum and presentation focused on sharing the importance of Matriarchs and traditional roles of First Nations women as leaders, and the importance of diversity and representation in community and public leadership.
- 4** **Whitehorse Sisters in Spirit Walk and Vigil:** AFN YR Women's Council representative Doris Anderson attended the Yukon #SistersInSpirit walk and vigil in honour of the victims and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ peoples, and those impacted by violence against MMIWG2S+. The event was put on by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Native Women's Association of Canada, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle and Liard Aboriginal Women's Society in collaboration with families and communities.
- 5-6** **CYFN Fall Gathering (Video-conference):** Annual CYFN Fall Leadership gathering hosted at Sundog Retreat at Policeman's Point, YT. The AFN YR Regional Climate Change Coordinator joined virtually to observe the discussion and dialogue on YFN priorities, including a climate change update from CYFN's Natural Resources and Environment department Director, Ed Schultz.
- 8** **NZAB Feedback Meeting (Video-conference):** Planning meeting to outline critical feedback for the NZAB secretariat regarding meaningful inclusion and supports for Indigenous participants including Regional Chief Adamek.



YUKON REGION

- 18 **Full ACE Meeting (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek and AFN YR Regional Climate Change Coordinator provided regional updates and contributed to the important discussions, dialogues and updates from the national office.
- 25 **Canada's Net Zero Economy Securing Prosperity in a Net Zero World Conference (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek submitted a pre-recorded video which was shared during the pan-Canadian virtual event during session 5 titled "Updates on the road to Glasgow" including the critical role of Indigenous leadership and in the carbon reduction discussion. Over 1600 participants joined this virtual event from across Canada.
- 25 **Welcoming Ceremony Chief Leas (In Person):** Regional Chief Adamek attended the welcome ceremony and reception for the newly elected Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief, Amanda Leas.
- 25 **YFN Climate Action Fellowship – Virtual Campfire / Co-Space Session (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek was a guest speaker at this session for the YFN Climate Action Fellowship with the 13 selected youth, elder advisors and members of the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Gathering Steering Committee.

November 2021

- 3 **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Visit:** Regional Chief Adamek joined Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government and citizens in a dialogue with leadership about community priorities and shared updates on the work of the AFN YR office. Regional Chief visited with students, toured the Yukon University campus, and shared a community lunch.
- 11 **Whitehorse Remembrance Day Ceremony:** AFN YR Women's Council representative Doris Anderson joined the community Remembrance Day ceremony on behalf of the AFN Yukon Regional Office in honour of veterans, including Indigenous veterans, who have made countless contributions and sacrifices.
- 16-18 **AFN YT Region Annual Summit & Regional Chief Election (Video-conference):** The AFN YT Annual summit and Regional Chief election was hosted virtually and in person to bring together YFN Leadership to provide updates, advance priorities and give strategic direction to the AFN Yukon Regional office as well as elect the AFN YT Regional Chief. During this event, Kluane Adamek was acclaimed as the AFN YT Regional Chief, and signed her oath of office for a 3-year term. The AFN YT RCCC provided an update on the work of the AFN National Office's environment sector, and the YFN Climate Fellowship co-leads provided an update on the Fellowship progress and planning over the next few months.
- 17 **AFN Yukon Regional Chief Oath of Office Signing:** Regional Chief Adamek signed her renewed Oath of Office at the AFN Yukon Region Annual Summit after being acclaimed as Regional Chief for a second term.
- 18 **AFN YT Region Annual Summit Meeting with Ministers (Video-conference):** The AFN YT Regional Office supported in facilitating time for Yukon First Nations Leadership to address various Federal Ministers on priority issues.
- 21 **Coffee with Kluane Episode 6:** Regional Chief Adamek hosted four Yukon First Nations leaders as guests on her CHON FM show to discuss connections between innovation, design, inspiration and culture.
- 22 **Meeting with Regional Chief Adamek & the NZAB Secretariat (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek, supported by AFN Climate Staff (Jennifer Matchett and RCCC), and Graeme Reed from AFN, had a meeting with ECCC Director Dennis Price to provide constructive feedback on how to make the NZAB more inclusive and accommodating for Indigenous members as well as specific supports required for meaningful involvement within the NZAB.
- 24 **Our Zero-Carbon Future: Making the Transition Just - Virtual Roundtable Series (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek participated as a panelist on Part 3 of the Corporate Knights roundtable series titled "Unsticking the Stuck – How can COP26 commitments most effectively address the just transition?"



YUKON REGION

- 24** **CYFN November Leadership Meeting (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek and regional staff attended the Council of Yukon First Nations leadership meeting to participate in the updates and discussion regarding priorities for Yukon First Nations.

December 2021

- 2** **An Invitation to Transform: Climate Change and Matriarchal Leadership (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek joined this event hosted by the Deyen organization, as a keynote speaker to share perspectives on the topic of climate change and matriarchal leadership. Deyen is a unique online learning hub that shares wisdom, worldviews, lived experiences and traditional knowledge of Indigenous women in Canada through various courses, workshops and forums.
- 6** **Yukon Days Meeting with Federal Ministers (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek joined part of the Yukon Days event, where CYFN Leadership had an opportunity to address and hear from Territorial and Federal Ministers on priority items to YFN's.
- 6** **SCA Climate and Conservation Leadership Dialogue Session (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in this pre-SCA session to provide opening comments and to help set the context for the dialogue. The opening prayer for this session was provided by Vuntut Gwitchin Knowledge Keeper Lorraine Netro.
- 7-9** **AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek and AFN YR staff supported YFN's Leadership in their participation in the SCA including technical support and sharing current resolution information and updates. The purpose of the SCA is to provide strategic direction based on the needs and priorities of First Nations; the theme of this year's event was 'Building our Future'. Through the Chiefs in Assembly, First Nations Leaders have a venue to provide direction to the work of the AFN, the National Chief and Executive Committee by way of resolution.
- 8-9** **AFN Yukon Regional Caucus Session (Video-conference):** The AFN Yukon Regional Office organized virtual caucus sessions during the SCA for YFN Leadership to dialogue and share information and updates regarding the assembly and resolutions. The newly appointed Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Patty Hajdu, joined the caucus sessions to dialogue with YFN Leadership.
- 13** **Meeting of CCME and Leaders from AFN, ITK and MNC (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in the Canadian Council for the Ministers of Environment (CCME) meeting with National Indigenous Organization (NIO) leaders. Regional Chief Adamek was the AFN representative, and President Cassidy Caron was the National Metis Council representative. This meeting was intended to foster interactive dialogue and discussion regarding meaningful collaboration with Indigenous people as part of the CCME's intergovernmental forum for collective action on climate and environment issues.