



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

First, on behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I acknowledge and thank the Elders, Matriarchs, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders and Youth from across Yukon who continue to work with our office as we collectively aim to advance the interests and priorities of Yukon First Nations.

The Yukon Region continues to move through the tail-end of yet another COVID-19 wave, and restrictions are beginning to once again ease. However, our people continue to face many challenges, related both directly and indirectly to the pandemic, and I reflect on the impacts that isolation has had on the health of our people, particularly those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges. As First Nations, some of our greatest strengths are our resiliency and interconnectedness. No matter what we are facing, we are stronger together, and I would like to thank all of the Yukon First Nations Chiefs, leaders, citizens, families, and organizations who have joined in efforts to support the health and safety of anyone struggling.

A Look Back

January 2022

- 12** **AFN Yukon meets with Minister Guilbeault (Environment and Climate Change (Video-conference)):** Regional Chief Adamek and the team met with Minister Guilbeault to discuss AFN's submission to Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan and the Emissions Accountability Act.
- 20** **Response to Yukon Government's declaration of a Substance Use Health Emergency:** Following the Yukon Government's declaration, Yukon First Nation Chiefs and leaders met with federal Minister Bennett to discuss the various supports and solutions that are needed to address the mental health, opioids and addiction crises that are ongoing in the Yukon. In the weeks following, YFN leaders also met with Ministers Hajdu, Vandal and Yukon MP Dr. Hanley to discuss the immediate community-led supports needed.
- 26** **#BellLetsTalkDay flag raising ceremony:** Regional Chief Adamek and other Yukon leaders came together safely to raise the #BellLetsTalk flag in Whitehorse. Other communities across the North also raised the flag as a demonstration of their commitment to encouraging open dialogue about the importance of mental health in Northern First Nations and communities across the country.

February 2022

- 1** **Special Edition Coffee with Kluane:** In the midst of the mental health and substance use emergency in the Yukon, Regional Chief Adamek led an important and heavy conversation about mental health, addiction, and opioids. This special edition episode featured guests who are experts and people who have lived experience with addiction, substance use, recovery and counseling, and is intended to show support to communities and families who are grieving, and those dealing with mental health and addiction challenges every day.
- 7** **Coffee with Kluane Episode 8:** Regional Chief Adamek was joined by three young women language warriors to discuss their different language journeys. They shared about their experiences discovering



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their passion for language, where they're at in their language journey, and what they hope future generations learning their respective languages.

- 8 Yukon Region Engagement Session on the development of a new First Nations Languages Funding Model:** The AFN National Office hosted virtual Regional Engagement Sessions on the development of a new First Nations Languages Funding Model. The Yukon Region's Language Session was aimed at reflecting the unique needs and priorities of the north and First Nations with Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements.
- 28 CBC Interview IPCC Report (In-person):** Regional Chief Adamek was interviewed by CBC about the most recent IPCC report and what it means for indigenous peoples in Canada.

March 2022

- 1-3 AFN National Executive Retreat (Whistler, BC):** the AFN National Executive met for a retreat on the traditional territories of Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation, the first in-person meeting of the Executive in two years. The new PEI Region was welcomed to the AFN National Executive, and agenda items throughout the retreat included climate and environment updates, the Yukon Special Interlocutor, UN Special Rapporteur to investigate the recovery of children from unmarked graves at former Indian Residential Schools, the upcoming Vatican Visit, AIP compensation and more.
- 4 Arctic Inspiration Prize 10th Anniversary Awards Ceremony (video conference):** Regional Chief Kluane Adamek welcomed and celebrated AIP finalists and new laureates whose work is driving innovation and development across the North.
- 8 Natural Resources Canada Armchair Discussion on International Women's Day (video conference):** Regional Chief Adamek joined an armchair discussion to celebrate and highlight the traditional and modern roles of First Nations women and Matriarchs as leaders, and discuss the importance of seeing and celebrating women in positions of leadership.
- 11 Meeting with Yukon Minister of Education and Women and Gender Equity Directorate:** Regional Chief Adamek met with Minister McLean to discuss Yukon's strategy as it relates MMIWG2S+ and gender-based violence as well as the developments of a First nation School Board and transforming the education system to better serve Yukon First Nations.
- 12 Yukon First Nation Wildfire Service Warrior Program Ceremony:** Regional Chief joined the Warrior Program ceremony to provide a greeting and to celebrate the 10 youth who participated in the 11-day Warrior Program.
- 15 Indigenous Knowledges and Climate Change Content Launched on the Climate Atlas (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in the launch of Indigenous Knowledge on Canada's Climate Atlas - The University of Winnipeg's Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) co-developed and released Indigenous Knowledges content and data on the Climate Atlas of Canada by, with, and for numerous First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations and communities.
- 15 Commission on the Status of Women (video conference): Indigenous Women's Leadership to Address Climate Change in the North:** Regional Chief Adamek participated in a panel discussion that highlighted how indigenous women have experienced the impacts of climate change for generations and have been leaders in conserving the environment for even longer. The panel highlighted indigenous women's knowledge and unique experiences in fighting climate change directly contribute to adaptation and mitigation actions for communities.



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- 16 **Net Zero Advisory Body (NZAB) Meeting (Video-conference):** Regional Chief Adamek joined the NZAB members and secretariat to participate in a year in review session. The session discussed the successes and failures of the Advisory Body's processes in 2021, as well as the recommendations for the coming year. The Regional Chief spoke about the inclusion of indigenous knowledge and the challenges around this. There was discussion of the NZAB visiting the Yukon to participate in some events surrounding the launch of the Region's climate plan. to advise the Minister on pathways to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- 21 **Coffee with Kluane Episode 9:** Regional Chief Adamek hosted an on-air conversation about physical activity, land, health and wellness, and healing through movement. Three guests joined who shared their experiences and learnings as champions for health and wellness, and the interconnectedness between different forms of healing.
- 22 **CYFN Leadership (Video-conference):** The CYFN Leadership meeting was hosted virtually and in person to bring together YFN Leadership to provide updates, advance priorities and give strategic direction to CYFN and AFN Yukon. Members of the CYFN Climate Fellowship Steering Committee provided a quick update on the Fellowship journey, approach and next steps.
- 23 **Yukon First Nation Education Directorate 3rd Annual Yukon First Nation Education Conference:** Regional Chief Adamek provided opening comments at the YFNED Conference to welcome students, youth, educators, and leaders, celebrate the accomplishments of Yukon First Nation education and look ahead to the work that is to come.
- 26-27 **Carcross/Tagish First Nation Community Visit:** AFN Yukon Regional Chief Adamek and members of the AFN Yukon Region team joined C/TFN's Annual General Assembly to hear from Chief, Council and citizens regarding LSCFN's priorities and the important work they are doing to advance their solutions as a nation.
- 28 **Whitehorse Individual Learning Centre Culture Week:** Regional Chief Adamek provided opening comments at the beginning of the ILC's Culture Week to welcome students, highlight the importance of culture-based education, and celebrate the work of the ILC.
- 28 **AFN Yukon Chiefs Summit (Video-conference):** The AFN YT Leadership summit was hosted virtually to bring together YFN Leadership to provide updates, advance priorities and give strategic direction to the AFN Yukon Regional office and Regional Chief Adamek.