



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

What an exciting and busy beginning to 2023 it has been! On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I would like to thank each of the Yukon First Nation Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth, and citizens from across the region who have continued to support the work of our office. We are only a few months into 2023 and we have already celebrated so many achievements for Yukon First Nations – from the medal wins by Team Yukon at the Arctic Winter Games, to the graduation of the 13 Climate Action Fellows, to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* – I am beyond proud of the leaders that continue to emerge from our region.

In addition to these celebrations, all 14 Yukon First Nations have continued to show leadership in advancing their individual and collective rights, interests, and priorities regionally and nationally. As always, I would like to thank each of the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, who are an integral part of the AFN Yukon Region's governance structure, and whose guidance and leadership remains an important force for the region. While there has been a great deal to celebrate, we also continue to push for change in order to see a world around us that is more equitable and representative of the strengths that come from within the Yukon.

I am looking forward to stepping into this Spring alongside Yukon First Nations Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth, and citizens!

- Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Aagé*

A Look Back

January 2023

- 25 **#BellLetsTalk Day Flag raising ceremony (Whitehorse):** Vuntut Gwitchin Elder Lorraine Netro attended the Bell Let's Talk Day flag raising ceremony on behalf of Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon Region.
- 27 **Thunderbird Partnership Foundation Roundtable (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek joined a roundtable discussion with the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, a non-profit organization that works with First Nations to further the capacity of communities and Addiction Treatment Centers to address substance use and addiction. Regional Chief Adamek stressed the need for Crown governments to invest in community relationships and territorial agreements in order to close the gaps in care and treatment that exist due to the inadequate funding and poor policy planning.



YUKON REGION

February 2023

- 16 First Elders Advisory Circle Meeting:** The inaugural meeting of the AFN Yukon Elder's Circle was held. This Circle will be responsible for supporting and providing advice to the Regional Chief, and bringing cultural knowledge and elders' issues forward.
- 3 AFN National Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek gathered with fellow members of the AFN National Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) to discuss important priorities to address climate action and national strategies. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government Chief Roberta Joseph, Elder Norma Kassi, and Regional Climate Technician Emily McDougall also joined to ensure the Yukon Region was represented in a good way.
- 7 IMPAC5 Indigenous Banquet Dinner (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek attended the fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) Indigenous Banquet Dinner hosted by the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The evening brought together IMPAC5 Indigenous delegates to gather, network, and celebrate with dinner and cultural performances.
- 3-9 Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) (Vancouver, BC):** hosted on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, Regional Chief Kluane Adamek joined leaders from across Turtle Island to share reflections on Indigenous-led conservation efforts. Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Leaders, Youth, and climate advocates were in attendance, as well as federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Joyce Murray.
- 8 Launch of AFN Yukon Engagement Report of Community Safety:** AFN Yukon produced a report and summary document with recommendations following the 2022 engagement with Yukon First Nations about their perspectives and priorities on community safety.
- 10 Meeting with Special Interlocutor Murray:** Regional Chief Adamek met with Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools.
- 13 2023 AFN National MMIWG2S+ Gathering:** The AFN hosted a national MMIWG2S+ Gathering with plenary and dialogue sessions to discuss the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People, the First Nations Action Plan, and implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice. AFN Yukon Women's Council representative Doris Anderson attended on behalf of the AFN Yukon Region.
- 13 Coffee with Kluane Episode #16:** Regional Chief Adamek hosted another episode of Coffee with Kluane, joined by First Nation lawyers and experts on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Victoria Fred and Caleb Behn joined the show to discuss *UNDRIP* and how it will impact Yukon First Nation modern treaties, and more. Regional Chief Adamek also used the show to share the AFN Yukon Region's work to support, inform, and engage with Yukon First Nations on *UNDRIP*!
- 13-17 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow (Whitehorse):** Regional Chief Kluane Adamek and members of the AFN Yukon team joined in various events and celebrations over the course of the week to celebrate the legacy and 50th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. In 1973, a delegation of First Nations leaders from the Yukon met with then-Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau which set the stage for the land claims negotiations across the Yukon that led to self-governance for First Nations across the territory. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his son Hadrian joined Yukon First Nations in the celebrations throughout the week.
- 15 Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship Present Yukon First Nations Chiefs with Reconnection Vision (Whitehorse):** The Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship – the Children of Tomorrow – presented their Reconnection Vision to Yukon First Nations Chiefs during their graduation ceremony in



YUKON REGION

Whitehorse. Regional Chief Kluane Adamek and the AFN Yukon Region are proud supporters of the Children of Tomorrow and the overall work of the Fellowship.

- 22** **Launch of AFN Yukon UNDRIP 101 Materials:** The AFN Yukon developed and launched 'UNDRIP 101' materials in efforts to provide accessible information to Yukon First Nations on the federal government's implementation of *UNDRIP* and the National Action Plan.

March 2023

- 2** **AFN Yukon UNDRIP Survey Launch:** The AFN Yukon Region launched an online survey asking Yukon First Nations citizens and governments to tell us what they'd like to see included in the National *UNDRIP* Action Plan to make recommendations to Government of Canada from a Yukon First Nation perspective.
- 2** **Spring Sitting of the First Session of the 35th Yukon Legislative Assembly:** Regional Chief Adamek joined the first session of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- 8** **International Womxn's Day at First People's Coffee (Whitehorse):** Regional Chief Adamek spent International Women's Day partnering with First People's Coffee, where they hosted drop-in coffee chats for people from the Whitehorse community to join conversations about the womxn in their lives, and how they choose to celebrate them.
- 8** **Visit to Gadzoosdaa:** Regional Chief Adamek visited the students and staff at Gadzoosdaa Student Residence, connecting with the students on their experiences and aspirations.
- 9** **UNDRIP Implementation Virtual Open House:** the AFN Yukon Region team led virtual sessions to provide an overview of Canada's plans to implement *UNDRIP*, draft recommendations found within the AFN Yukon discussion paper, and upcoming opportunities for YFNs to provide feedback on the implementation of *UNDRIP* in the Yukon context.
- 14** **CYFN Meeting on UNDRIP National Action Plan:** The AFN Yukon Region team met with the Council of Yukon First Nations and presented about the development of the federal government's National Action Plan and plans for the implementation of *UNDRIP*, as well as the work being done by the AFN Yukon Region to hear feedback from YFNs on the Action Plan and *UNDRIP* implementation in the territory.
- 16** **Meeting with Minister Anand:** Yukon Chiefs met with Minister of National Defense Anita Anand during the AFN Yukon Chiefs Summit to discuss NORAD modernization and YFN involvement in Northern defense planning and initiatives.
- 16-17** **AFN Yukon Chiefs Summit (Whitehorse):** The AFN Yukon Region Chiefs Summit was held, where Yukon First Nation Chiefs and leaders gathered for two days to discuss important regional priorities and voted on resolutions including *Resolution #2023.06 'Securing Core Funding for the AFN Yukon Regional Office'*. The Resolution directs the Yukon Regional Chief and the AFN Yukon Regional organization to immediately engage with federal officials to secure sustainable and predictable core funding for the operation of the AFN Yukon Regional Office.
- 23-26** **Native Hockey Tournament:** The AFN Yukon Region sponsored two women's hockey teams competing in this year's Native Hockey Tournament, and sponsored the Hockey Mom Award which was awarded to Amanda Johnson.