



**YUKON
REGION**

A Yukon that Leads

AFN Yukon Regional Office

The AFN Yukon Region Celebrates Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation 30th Anniversary of Self-Government

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations - Yukon Region, I join others across the territory in sending my congratulations to the leadership and all citizens of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as it celebrates this momentous 30th anniversary of Self-Government!

Congratulations to Chief Pauline Frost and each of the Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Councilors, Elders, youth, and leaders both past and present. These leaders have been guiding their First Nation for decades, and have paved the way for other First Nations in the Yukon and across Canada to pursue their own individual journeys of self-government.

The continued advocacy of Vuntut Gwitchin leaders and citizens to protect and preserve the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge continues to set an example for other Indigenous communities in the Yukon, Canada, and even in the United States, and is one of the great markers of this First Nation's leadership over the last 30 years. Generations of Vuntut Gwitchin advocates have travelled internationally to call for more protection of the coastal plain, which includes the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd that has been the lifeblood of the First Nation. This advocacy work can be seen as a testament to the values-driven leadership of the Vuntut Gwitchin people and government, in addition to the many other ways that the First Nation has been fighting to uphold the Indigenous rights to self-government and self-determination.

As we think about the community's youngest citizens, I am optimistic about the future ahead. Youth are building the world that the next seven generations will inherit, and they will face some of the most pressing challenges that we have ever seen. However, our young people continue to remind us that the strength and resiliency of First Nations people and communities has no limits.

Thank you once again to all the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation leaders, ancestors, Matriarchs, Elders, youth, and citizens who have supported this incredible journey in honour of past, present, and future generations.

Congratulations to all – I look forward to our continued journeys and ongoing work together!



Proxy Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim

Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region