



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Kluane Adamek

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Yukon Region, I would like to say Gunalchéesh to the Yukon First Nation Chiefs and leaders who supported the work of the AFN Yukon Regional Office while I was on parental leave. I would like to thank Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim who stepped into the role while I was on leave, supporting myself and my family, and husband Scott Cavan, to enjoy precious time with our daughter, Tayāna Copper-Jane.

I also want to deeply thank, acknowledge, and express, my deepest gratitude to Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim, who has graciously supported the region, the office, and myself during my leave. I also thank the AFN Yukon Regional Executive, who consistently supports the AFN Yukon and the work our office and team do to support Yukon First Nations. This year, important regional and national priorities continue to take center stage for Yukon First Nations and the AFN Yukon Region is eager to support this work at the direction of Yukon Chiefs and First Nation leadership.

Looking forward to the important work ahead of us in 2024!

AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek

A Look Back

January 2024

- 16-17** **CYFN Leadership Meetings (Virtual):** Members of the AFN Yukon team presented at the CYFN Leadership Meeting to share updates on the AFN Yukon Region Office's priorities and areas of focus for the upcoming year.
- 19** **AFN National Regional Water Coordinator (RWC) Meeting:** The AFN Yukon Regional Water Coordinator attended this monthly meeting, joining Regional Water Coordinators from across the country to discuss updates and issues related to the development of the federal government's legislation on safe drinking water for First Nations.
- 20-Feb 8** **RIVER Aotearoa 2024:** RIVER Aotearoa invited the Yukon First Nations Climate Fellows, including members of the AFN Yukon Region team to join them in Aotearoa New Zealand on a culture and knowledge exchange opportunity focusing on climate, water, and the environment. As a supporter and member of the Fellowship's Steering Committee, the AFN Yukon's Director of Environment and Climate Change travelled with the Fellows in Te Urewera, on New Zealand's north island, hosted by Revitalizing Indigenous Virtues for Earth's Regeneration (RIVER) and Ngāi Tūhoe, a Māori tribe.
- 24** **Bell Let's Talk Day (Whitehorse, YT):** AFN Yukon Youth Council Representative Ethan LaVallee attended the Bell Let's Talk Day flag raising ceremony at Whitehorse City Hall on behalf of the AFN Yukon Region.
- 24** **UNDA Border Mobility – Modern Treaty Session (Vancouver, BC):** Communications Coordinator from the AFN Yukon Region attended this session which focused specifically on border mobility issues that are experienced by Indigenous peoples in the modern treaty context.



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25 AFN National Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)

February 2024

- 1-2 BCAFN Justice Tour (Vancouver, BC):** AFN Yukon Regional Office team members joined the newly established BC Justice Council head office in Vancouver for a tour and updates related to the advancement of Justice priorities in the Yukon Region
- 6-8 National Advisory Committee: First Nations Child Welfare (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek and regional representative Shadelle Chambers – CYFN, attended the NAC meeting on First Nations Child Welfare.
- 8 AFN National Chief Woodhouse and Regional Chief Adamek, Bilateral Meeting (Vancouver, BC):** AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse and Regional Chief Adamek met to discuss Yukon First Nation priorities and the and the AFN Yukon’s collaboration with the AFN National Chief’s Office moving forward.
- 13 WWF Canada Event (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek, who sits on the Board of WWF Canada, joined a conversation with Megan Leslie (President and CEO of WWF-Canada) and Angela Kane (CEO of the Secwepemcúl’ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society) to hear updates on the “Regenerate Canada” plan, and learn more about Indigenous-led wildfire restoration.
- 13-14 Yukon First Nations Emergency Management Forum:** Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim attended on behalf of AFN Regional Chief Adamek.
- 13-15 AFN Nature Table Meetings (Ottawa, ON):** The AFN Yukon Regional Nature Coordinator attended Nature Table meetings in Ottawa to share updates and discuss priorities.
- 15 GLOBE Forum 2024 - Thriving Together: Building Resilient & Proactive Communities (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek spoke at the “Thriving Together: Building Resilient & Proactive Communities” session, which focused on building resilient & proactive climate-ready communities and the need to explore new strategies, innovations, and community-driven initiatives including the Reconnection Vision.
- 16 Yukon Forum (Whitehorse, YT):** Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim attended on behalf of AFN Regional Chief Adamek, along with other regional leaders and representatives, to discuss key regional governance priorities, and identify areas for collaboration among leaders in the territory.
- 20-21 Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) Climate Adaptation and Emergencies Sharing Circle (Whitehorse, YT):** Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim attended on behalf of AFN Regional Chief Adamek.
- 20-23 Meetings with Department of National Defense (Ottawa, ON):** Members of the AFN Yukon Region team traveled to Ottawa to meet with representatives from the Federal Department of National Defense (DND), Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) and experts in the defence industry to discuss priorities and opportunities for Yukon First Nations to become more involved in defense industry procurement in the territory, and to become more engaged in Northern defense partnerships.
- 28 AFN National Regional Water Coordinator (RWC) Meeting (Virtual):** The AFN Yukon Regional Water Coordinator attended this monthly meeting, bringing together Regional Water Coordinators from across the country to discuss updates and issues related to the development of the federal government’s legislation on safe drinking water for First Nations.



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March 2024

- 5-7** **ACE Retreat (Tofino, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek attended a retreat with the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE Committee) to discuss strategic planning and priorities.
- 14** **Revitalizing Indigenous Virtues for Earth's Regeneration (RIVER) Meeting:** As a supporter and Steering Committee member of the Yukon First Nations Youth Climate Action Fellowship, Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon's Director of Environment and Climate Change attended and participated in a discussion around advancing the Reconnection Vision and the advancement of Illuminating Worldviews.
- 14** **Federal First Nations Climate Leadership Initiative (Virtual):** CYFN invited leadership to attend a 1-hour online information session on First Nations Climate Leadership and the recommendations-development process. Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim attended on behalf of the AFN Yukon Region.
- 18** **Meeting with ECC Minister Steven Guilbeault (Ottawa, ON):** Regional Chief Adamek travelled to Ottawa and met with the federal Environment and Climate Change Canada Minister Steven Guilbeault to discuss key priorities related to her AFN portfolio area of Environment and Climate Change.
- 19** **Meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid (Ottawa, ON):** As AFN portfolio holder for Water Stewardship, Regional Chief Adamek met with Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Special Advisor for Water.
- 20** **Meeting with DFO Minister Diane LeBouthillier (Ottawa, ON):** Regional Chief Adamek met with Diane LeBouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard, to discuss the ongoing crisis related to Yukon River salmon and extend an invitation to the region in the Summer of 2024.
- 20-21** **AFN Executive Committee Meeting (Ottawa, ON):** Regional Chief Adamek attended the AFN Executive Meeting, with support from Acting Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim
- 21-24** **Yukon Native Hockey Tournament:** AFN Yukon Region was proud to sponsor this year's 'Hockey Mom Award', as well as the CAFN Storm and the Cougars in the Women's Division of this year's Yukon Native Hockey Tournament. Team members from the AFN Yukon Region presented the Hockey Mom Award at the Opening Ceremony.
- 24** **Meeting with Premier Pillai on Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council:** Regional Chief Adamek met with Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai to discuss the newly formed Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council and the AFN Yukon's work related to national security and defence.
- 25** **The Social, CTV (Toronto, ON):** Regional Chief Adamek was invited to join The Social, and share perspectives on World Water Day, Women in Leadership, and Climate Change.
- 28** **Child and Family Services Engagement (Whitehorse, YT):** The AFN Yukon Region partnered with CYFN to host an engagement session and meeting with Yukon First Nations representatives and technical leads on child and family welfare