



# YUKON REGION

## A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I express my gratitude to the First Nation Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth, and citizens from across Yukon who have consistently supported our office through the successes and challenges of 2024. I also acknowledge the leadership demonstrated by First Nations across Canada as we approach the end of the year.

As 2024 draws to a close, I reflect on the achievements of Yukon First Nation communities, youth, citizens, and leaders. I continue to be proud of the ways that we choose to come together to celebrate our accomplishments, support one another, and share our strength when communities need it most. All 14 Yukon First Nations have shown remarkable leadership in advancing the rights, priorities, and voices of our people, both within the Yukon and across Turtle Island.

I also extend my thanks to the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, whose contributions are essential to the work of the AFN Yukon Regional Office. Both in times of hardship and celebration, we unite in strength and solidarity, and I look forward to the continued progress to come in the next year. I wish all Yukon First Nation citizens, families, and communities a joyful, healthy, and safe end to the year and a wonderful start to 2025!

Gunalcheesh, Shāwnithan, thank you!

Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Aagé*

## A Look Back

### October 2024

- 4** **WWF-Canada Board Meeting and Conservation Site Visit (Vancouver & Katsie First Nation, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in the WWF-Canada Board meeting to discuss strategies for conservation, climate change action, biodiversity protection, and the organization's efforts to engage Indigenous communities and stakeholders in environmental sustainability initiatives.
- 7-10** **AFN's 3rd National Climate Gathering (Calgary, AB):** The AFN's 3rd National Climate Gathering brought together Indigenous leaders, Youth, experts, and community members, including many Yukon First Nations leaders, to discuss and advance climate action, resilience, and the protection of Mother Earth in the face of pressing environmental challenges.
- 15** **AFN Executive Meeting (Calgary, AB)**
- 16-18** **AFN Special Chiefs Assembly on First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Long Term Reform (Calgary, AB):** Yukon First Nations Chiefs and leaders, as well as members of the AFN Yukon Region team, joined the SCA to engage in discussions and ultimately vote on the Draft Agreement related to the long-term reform of the FNCFS Program.
- 21** **Chiefs Committee on Long Term Reform Meeting (Virtual)**



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- 22 Meeting with ECCC Minister Guilbeault (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek met with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Steven Guilbeault to discuss the importance of integrating First Nations knowledge and leadership in environmental policy, climate change adaptation, and the protection of land, water, and wildlife. They also discussed ongoing issues and next steps related to *Bill C-73, An Act respecting transparency and accountability in relation to certain commitments Canada has made under the Convention on Biological Diversity*.
- 28-29 Accountability forum on MMIWG2S+ (Haa Shagóon Hídi, Carcross, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek and Elder Mary Jane Jim joined the Accountability Forum on MMIWG2S+ which focused on the urgent need for justice and support for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people. Participants shared their experiences, insights, and concerns while highlighting the ongoing impacts of systemic violence and discrimination. The forum provided concrete actions from all levels of government to address the crisis and ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals in the community.
- 30 AFN Executive Meeting (Virtual)**

## November 2024

- 11-15 First Nations Nature Table Meeting (Quebec City, QC):** members of the AFN Yukon team First Nations leaders and environmental experts to discuss collaborative efforts in preserving and managing natural resources, strengthening Indigenous governance, and advancing environmental stewardship.
- 12 AFN Executive Meeting (Virtual)**
- 25 Walrus Talks (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek joined “Walrus Talks at Home” to discuss the topic of Indigenous perspectives on belonging.
- 27 CYFN Leadership Meeting**

## December 2024

- 1 AFN Executive Meeting (Ottawa, ON)**
- 3-5 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (Ottawa, ON):** The AFN Yukon Region team and Regional Chief Adamek, along with a delegation of Yukon First Nation Chiefs, leaders, and proxies travelled to Ottawa to join the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly. First Nations leaders from coast to coast to coast joined the SCA to discuss regional and national priorities, engage with federal leadership, and vote on important resolutions to move the work of the AFN forward.
- 6 Government of Canada Arctic Foreign Policy Launch (Ottawa, ON):** Regional Chief Adamek joined Northwest Territories Premier R. J. Simpson, Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai, Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeegok, National Inuit Leader Angajuqqaq Natan Obed, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly, Northern Affairs Minister Dan Vandal and Defence Minister Bill Blair as the federal government announced the launch of Canada’s new Arctic Foreign Policy. The new Arctic Foreign Policy is a response to rising geopolitical tensions developing around the world, as well as the growing impacts of climate change on Arctic interests, defence and security in the North.
- 17 AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Infrastructure (Virtual):** the first session in a series of virtual ‘open houses’ for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brought together technical and industry experts to present to Yukon First Nations about infrastructure, telecommunications, and transportation needs and opportunities in the national defence space, to hear First Nations’ priorities and concerns to help develop policy positions around defence and security.