



YUKON REGION

A Message from Regional Chief Adamek

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the First Nation Chiefs, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth, and Citizens throughout the Yukon for their ongoing support of our office as we have quickly moved through the beginning of 2025. I also acknowledge the strong leadership shown by First Nations across Canada as we begin this new year.

As we step into 2025, we continue to celebrate important progress and accomplishments of Yukon First Nation communities, youth, citizens, and leaders. In the Yukon and across Canada, we also face potential changes and uncertainties in the political landscape. Despite these feelings of uncertainty, the steadfast leadership coming from all 14 Yukon First Nations remains inspiring as we continue to advance the rights, needs, and voices of our people, both here in the Yukon and across Turtle Island.

I also remain deeply grateful to the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, whose hard work is integral to the ongoing efforts of the AFN Yukon Regional Office. In both difficult times and moments of celebration, we stand together in unity and solidarity. There are many exciting pieces of work on the horizon, and I look forward to continuing to work at the direction of all Yukon First Nations to move these priorities forward.

Gunalcheesh, Shäwnithan, thank you!

Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Aagé*

A Look Back

January 2025

- 13 **AFN Executive Meeting (Virtual)**
- 18-21 **CYFN Leadership**
- 20 **AME Roundup (Vancouver, BC):**
- 22 **Cabinet and First Nations Leaders Gathering (Vancouver, BC)**
- 23 **National Chiefs Children's Commission (Vancouver, BC)**
- 21 **AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Rangers and Primary Reserves (Virtual):** the second session in a series of virtual 'open houses' for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brought together members of the Canadian Rangers and Primary Reserves, along with experts in Arctic and Northern security, to discuss the role that the Rangers and Reserves play in the Yukon today and moving forward as DND begins work to establish a naval reserve in Whitehorse.
- 28 **AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations (Virtual):** the third session in a series of virtual 'open houses' for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brought together representatives from various agencies involved in SAR Operations in the Yukon – ranging from local SAR bodies to representatives from Public Safety Canada –



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to discuss the complex SAR landscape and provide YFNs with a better understanding of who is involved when SAR operations are required.

February 2025

- 3** **AFN Yukon Executive Meeting (Virtual)**
- 3-5** **UNDA National Forum (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek, Elder Mary Jane Jim, and the AFN Yukon team participated in the UNDA National Forum. Regional Chief Adamek also moderated the Modern Treaty Perspectives panel during the Forum, which featured Dr. Matthew Coon Come, O.C., Former Grand Chief and AFN National Chief, Grand Council of the Crees, Mary Jane Jim, AFN Yukon Region Knowledge Keeper and former Regional Chief; and Charles Morven, Secretary and Treasurer, Nisga'a Government. They shared their perspectives on Modern Treaty implementation, federal accountability, and the need for a whole-of-government approach to rights implementation. The discussion explored challenges in establishing the Office of the Modern Treaties Commissioner, the role of UNDA in safeguarding commitments, and the importance of moving beyond engagement fatigue toward true partnerships.
- 11** **AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Disaster Response and Emergency Management (Virtual):** the fourth session in a series of virtual 'open houses' for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brought leaders from local organizations (i.e., Yukon First Nations Wildfire Service) and government agencies (i.e., JTFN, Yukon EMO) who play a role in emergency response to support Yukon First Nations' understanding of which agencies are prepared to be activated in the case of emergency or disaster event.
- 11** **Women Leading on Climate (WLOC) Canadian chapter event (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in a panel discussion focused on fostering discussions and sharing insights on climate leadership and sustainable practices within Canada's business and environmental sectors.
- 14** **Family Preservation Wellness Center, Opening (Whitehorse, YT)**
- 14** **YukonU Celebration (Whitehorse, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek joined and provided remarks at Yukon University's celebration marking its membership into Universities Canada.
- 18** **Parks Canada - Ministers Roundtable (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek joined the Ministers Round Table meeting between Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Ron Hallman, Parks Canada President & CEO, Victoria Pruden, President of the MNC, and Natan Obed, President of ITK. The meeting was held to shape the development of Parks Canada priorities.

March 2025

- 3** **BCAFN Water Forum (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek participated in the BC Water Forum in her capacity as the AFN portfolio holder for environment and water stewardship. Regional Chief spoke to the importance of Yukon First Nations' matriarchal governance over water, the need for collaborative decision-making, and alignment with self-government agreements. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen interregional partnerships, inform national-level advocacy on water protection, and highlight Yukon-specific priorities. Insights gained from this forum will inform both AFN national and AFN Yukon advocacy and engagement with governments on water and First Nation rights.
- 4** **Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs Workshop (Whitehorse, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek joined Indigenous women entrepreneurs and provided opening remarks at the Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs Workshop, hosted by dāna Näye Ventures.



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- 7 AFN Yukon-YFNCC Meeting with Global Affairs Canada (Whitehorse, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek and members of the AFN Yukon team joined GAC to discuss the role that GAC can play in supporting relationship building between First Nations and Indigenous peoples in Canada, including trade, investments, international agreements and governance.
- 10 Assembly of Yukon First Nations Annual Summit (Whitehorse, YT):** Yukon First Nation leaders and representatives came together to discuss important governance matters including the reunification options for the AFN Yukon Region and Council of Yukon First Nations, planning and sustainability for the AFN Yukon Region. Chiefs also heard from the Department of National Defence Indigenous Affairs Branch on National Defence priorities and their support for work completed to date.
- 11 AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Political Interference and Economic Security (Virtual):** the fifth session in a series of virtual ‘open houses’ for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brought together leaders from CSIS, Global Affairs Canada, and experts with experience working with Indigenous communities and governments to advance their own economic security in the face of a shifting geopolitical security landscape.
- 12-13 Natural Resources Forum (Vancouver, BC):** Regional Chief Adamek joined the session on Responsible Development for Future Generations, with support from the AFN environment Sector.
- 18-19 CYFN Leadership**
- 19 AFN Executive Committee Meeting**
- 20-23 45th Annual Yukon Native Hockey Tournament:** AFN Yukon Region provided sponsorship for the tournament’s Hockey Mom and Youth MVP Awards, with AFN Yukon National Women’s Council representative Carissa Waugh presenting the Hockey Mom Award at the Opening Ceremonies and Youth Council Representatives Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey and Ethan LaVallee presenting the Youth Division Award at the Closing Ceremony.
- 25 AFN Yukon National Defence Virtual Open House: Balloon Incident & YFN Leadership Information Needs (Virtual):** the sixth and final session in a series of virtual ‘open houses’ for Yukon First Nations to explore different aspects of National Defence. This session brings together Yukon First Nations leaders as well as those from federal agencies who were involved in the 2023 shooting down of a balloon over Yukon First Nations’ territories, discusses the communications failures of that incident, and what lessons have been learned for communicating with Yukon First Nations governments during operations involving national security concerns.
- 25 2025 Renewables in Remote Communities Conference (Whitehorse, YT):** Regional Chief Adamek provided opening remarks to reinforce the importance of embracing Indigenous leadership in renewable energy and encourage collaboration with Elders, Youth, Women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and diverse leaders in this transition towards a cleaner energy future.
- 27 AFN Executive Committee Meeting**
- 27 ChangeMakers International Women’s Day Inspired Event - “Accelerate Action” (Virtual):** Regional Chief Adamek joined this international Women’s Day panel to celebrate International Women’s Day and share insights into the progress that is still needed to build a more equitable world for women in the workplace and in all spaces.