

# Yukon First Nations Defence and Security Industry Conference

**Dates:** Tuesday, April 22 and Wednesday, April 23, 2025

**Purpose:** This conference, hosted by Yukon Assembly of First Nations and Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, brings together Yukon First Nation governments, development corporations, defence industry leaders, Armed Forces members, and government partners to explore collaboration in the growing defence and security sectors. With major investments underway, it is critical that Yukon First Nations are not just participants, but key decision-makers and partners. Yukon First Nations have a longstanding legacy of leadership and innovation in the North. This conference is a platform to build strategic partnerships, drive economic opportunities, and ensure First Nation priorities shape the future of Arctic defence.

**Location:** Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon

## Day 1

Time	Agenda Item
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### *Setting the Context*

*Objective: To create understanding of the broader context of what is occurring and dispel myths and misconceptions.*

9:00-9:15am	<b>Opening Prayer</b> Elder Chuck Hume, AFN Yukon Knowledge Keeper
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9:15-9:45am	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Chief Sean Smith, Kwanlin Dün First Nation</li><li>❖ Chief Ruth Massie, Ta'an Kwach'an Council</li><li>❖ Tiffany Eckert-Maret, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce</li><li>❖ Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, AFN Yukon Region</li></ul> <p>Conference Moderator: Sam Alexander, Board Member, Gwich'in Council International and Professor, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, University of Alaska (Fairbanks)</p>
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9:45-10:45am	<b>AFN Yukon Elders Circle: Reflections on the Legacy of the Canadian Forces and United States Army in the Yukon</b>
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10:45am-12:00pm	<b>Panel: Arctic Security and Defence: fact versus fiction?</b>
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- *The state of threats facing the Arctic and the Yukon*
- *Yukon First Nation security and defence priorities*
- *How Crown governments are meeting the security concerns of Yukon First Nations*

Moderated by: Sam Alexander

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch (provided)

### ***Supporting Industries and Infrastructure***

*Objective: To consider the interconnection between Arctic security and defence and other key industries that Yukon First Nations are considering making investments in.*

1:00-1:45pm

#### **Creating Strategic Value and Shared Prosperity: Building a Collaborative Defence Economy**

- *The mechanics of creating shared value between community, industry, and government*
- *Strategic value of the Yukon and First Nations in defence*
- *Thinking outside the bureaucratic box: re-establishing First Nation economies and trade relationships*

Keynote by: David Acco, President and CEO, Acosys Consulting

1:45-2:30pm

#### **Energy Security**

- *The state of energy sovereignty and security in the Yukon*
- *Energy needs of the defence industry*

Presentation by: Senator Pat Duncan

### **Concurrent Workshops**

3:00-5:00pm

#### **Workshop 1: Energy Infrastructure**

*Hosted by Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation*

*Attendance is limited to representatives from Yukon First Nation and Transboundary First Nation Governments and Development Corporations.*

#### **Workshop 2: An Introduction to Doing Business in the Yukon**

*Hosted by Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce*

*Attendance is open to any interested attendee, but is primarily intended for federal government officials and officials from outside the Yukon.*

**- Day 1 concludes -**

6:30-9:00pm

#### **Networking Event and Reception**

## Day 2

Time	Agenda Item
<hr/> <i>Understanding the Defence Industry</i> <hr/>	
Objective: To raise awareness about what the “defence industry” means in terms of the Yukon, the Arctic, and Canada, and highlight opportunities geared towards First Nation procurement.	
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9:00-9:10am	<b>Day 2 Welcome</b> Sam Alexander
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9:10-9:30am	<b>Federal and Territorial Perspectives on Arctic Security and Defence</b>
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9:30-11:00am	<b>Moderated Discussion: Facilitating First Nation and Industry Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Challenges and opportunities that defence companies face when seeking to partner with local suppliers, First Nations, and First Nation businesses</i></li><li>• <i>Opportunities for partnership between the defence industry and Yukon First Nations.</i></li><li>• <i>Success stories: First Nation-industry partnerships</i></li></ul>
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11:00am-12:15pm	<b>Emergency Management and Security</b>
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12:15-1:15pm	<i>Lunch (provided)</i>
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1:15-1:45pm	<b>Preparing a Yukon First Nation Labour Force for Defence Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Labour requirements of the Department of Defence, Canadian Armed Forces, and defence industry leaders.</i></li><li>• <i>Skills programs for supporting workforce development.</i></li></ul>
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1:30-1:45pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <i>Tiffany Eckert-Maret, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce</i></li><li>❖ <i>Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, AFN Yukon Region</i></li></ul>
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1:45-2:00pm	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>
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2:30-5:30pm	<b>Workshop: Getting Started in Defence Procurement - A Primer for Yukon First Nation Development Corporations</b>  <i>Attendance is limited to representatives from Yukon First Nation Development Corporations or businesses.</i>
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- Day 2 concludes -	
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