



**YUKON
REGION**

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News Release

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The Assembly of First Nations - Yukon Region Recognizes the Honourable Ranj Pillai's Leadership and Service as Premier of the Yukon

[Whitehorse, Yukon] – The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) – Yukon Region expresses its gratitude to Yukon Premier Ranj Pillai following his May 7, 2025, announcement of his intention to step down as Premier once a new leader of the Yukon Liberal Party is selected. With over 20 years of public service, Premier Pillai has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the people of Yukon. His tenure as Premier has been marked by a strong dedication to fostering positive relationships with Yukon First Nations.

Over the past two years, Premier Pillai engaged constructively with Yukon First Nations on a wide range of shared priorities—including housing, health services, economic development, and climate action. His support and recognition of the framework set up by *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* upheld a government-to-government relationship rooted in partnership.

“I extend my heartfelt thanks to Premier Pillai for his leadership, openness, and genuine commitment to building stronger relationships with our Nations,” said Regional Chief Kluane Adamek. “His efforts have laid a foundation of collaboration that will benefit future generations. We wish him and his family all the best in this next chapter and look forward to continuing our work with the new leadership in the territory.”

Most recently, Premier Pillai focused on Arctic security and defence. In December 2024, he signed a letter of intent with the federal Minister of National Defence to

establish a naval reserve unit in Whitehorse and supported the creation of the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security.

These initiatives were significantly accompanied by a commitment to position Yukon First Nations as co-leaders—not just participants—in shaping northern defence strategies.

“As the Yukon Liberal Party transitions to new leadership, the AFN Yukon Region remains committed to ensuring that First Nations’ rights, modern treaties, and governance stay central to the path forward,” adds Regional Chief Adamek. “Reconciliation must be rooted in action, accountability, and true partnership.”

The AFN Yukon Region is committed to working with all levels of government to advance the priorities of Yukon First Nations and ensure that the future we are building together is grounded in recognition, respect, and shared responsibility.

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