



A Yukon that Leads

News Release

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Statement from Regional Chief Kluane Adamek on the Appointment of Prime Minister Carney's Cabinet

[Whitehorse, Yukon] The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) – Yukon Region acknowledges the appointment of Prime Minister Mark Carney's Cabinet, composed of 28 Ministers. We extend our congratulations to all incoming Cabinet members.

This newly-appointed Cabinet marks a critical moment for the federal government to advance the priorities of First Nations, particularly in areas of Crown-Indigenous Relations, climate leadership, Arctic and northern policy, and national defence. The appointment of Rebecca Chartrand as Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Mandy Gull-Masty as Minister of Indigenous Services reflects a recognition of the importance of Indigenous leadership within the federal government.

Yukon First Nations have consistently called for full participation in developing and implementing defence and security strategies that affect our lands, waters, and communities. Ongoing collaboration will be required to ensure that northern and Arctic priorities are addressed in a manner that respects Indigenous rights, knowledge, and governance. These efforts must be grounded in the full implementation of modern treaties and self-government agreements. Our organization will continue advocating for Yukon First Nations to be partners in designing and implementing defence and security strategies with the new National Defence Minister David J. McGuinty.

Recent signals from Prime Minister Carney on increased investment in Northern and Arctic security and defence must be matched by clear commitments and engagement

with Yukon First Nations. The federal government must ensure that policy decisions in this space reflect the unique legal and political relationships that exist in the Yukon, grounded in modern treaties and self-government agreements.

On climate, this Cabinet has the opportunity to take meaningful action by supporting Indigenous-led climate solutions rooted in stewardship, traditional knowledge, and deep relationships with the land. Effective climate leadership requires full inclusion of First Nations in all aspects of planning, governance, and implementation.

“This new Cabinet has the responsibility—and the opportunity—to advance meaningful partnerships with Yukon First Nations. Our governments are rights holders with deep knowledge, legal standing, and solutions rooted in the land. We look forward to working directly with Ministers to ensure federal commitments translate into tangible action for our communities and future generations,” shared Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Assembly of First Nations – Yukon Region.

The AFN Yukon Region will be reaching out to newly appointed Ministers to advance the priorities of Yukon First Nations and to begin early engagement on key portfolios. We will continue to advocate for full partnership and accountability in all areas where federal policy intersects with the rights, lands, and futures of our Nations.

For media requests related to this statement, please contact:

Nona Whitehouse

AFN Yukon Region

Communications

nwhitehouse@afnyukon.ca