

KLUANE ADAMEK



October 13, 2021
For Immediate Release

WHITEHORSE —Kluane Adamek, *Aagé (she/her)*, the current AFN Yukon Regional Chief, will stand for re-election as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Yukon Regional Chief on November 17th, 2021. Since the citizen of Kluane First Nation became the Regional Chief in 2018, she has worked with Yukon First Nations to increase the accountability, regional engagement, modernization, and relevance of the AFN Yukon Regional Office. While serving as the Regional Chief, Kluane has focused on finding solutions for issues that impact our young people and our climate and environment as well as working alongside Yukon Chiefs at the national level to continue to assert our rightful place as First Nation governments.

“As Regional Chief, I have continued to learn from our leaders, past and present, that we are truly stronger together. We draw our strength from the land, our languages, and cultures. Building on the longstanding knowledge, experience and at the direction of the 14 Yukon First Nations, we have accomplished a great deal together over the last three years.

I would be honoured to continue to serve Yukon First Nations for a second term, conducting the work necessary to advance regional priorities and solutions at the national level. We have made First Nation leadership on climate change and the environment a top priority regionally and nationally. The AFN Yukon Region continues to be a strong voice at the national level on various important issues including Residential Schools, MMIWG2S+, Gender Equity, COVID-19, and climate change. As a direct result of our regional efforts, we have seen a shift amongst our federal colleagues and our national counterparts at the AFN, as they continue to understand the unique nature of our region and that they must work directly with Yukon First Nations. Together, as a region, we have advanced significant AFN resolutions, including those prioritizing Modern Treaties, Yukon River Salmon, Climate Change, Financial Accountability and Ending Gender-Based Violence.

In seeking a second term, I reaffirm my commitment to serving all Yukon First Nations, to amplifying our collective voices on regional and national issues impacting our families, communities, and Region, and to building national and international solidarity with our Indigenous relatives on common priorities.” Adamek said.

Building on the direction of the Yukon Chiefs and Yukon First Nation leadership throughout the AFN Yukon First Nation Chiefs Summits between 2018-2021, Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon Regional Office have been implementing the the AFN Yukon Region Strategic Plan, that identifies the following priorities: ‘Fulfilling National Responsibilities, Formalizing the Regional Office, and Supporting Self Determination’. As Regional Chief, Kluane Adamek and her team have worked to influence federal legislation and public policy to reflect the interests of all 14 Yukon First Nations through analyses, discussion papers and advocacy efforts. They have enhanced communications, including social and print media, a new website, and quarterly updates, enabling the AFN Yukon Regional Office to engage across the region, resulting in open and positive information channels between the National Office, the region and federal ministers and officials.

The priorities she has identified for a second term will focus on *people, place, and progress*. This includes formalizing regular meetings with Yukon First Nations and federal officials, continued joint-advocacy efforts and solidifying strategic priorities with partners, including the Council of Yukon First Nations, and other local and Indigenous organizations. Specific focal areas include acceleration of the regional climate plan, support for Elders, women and youth to gather, increased advocacy and improved support for health, wellness, addictions, and trauma. Kluane recognizes that there is still much to accomplish in advancing and implementing modern treaties, self-government, and self-determination, at the direction of rights holders. At every opportunity, as the AFN Yukon



Regional Chief, Kluane Adamek will continue to press for equity in federal resources, direct access for Yukon First Nation governments in federal programs and services and advancing the capacity of Yukon First Nations whenever opportunities arise.

The AFN Yukon Regional Chief will be elected for a three-year term during the AFN — Yukon First Nations Annual Summit being held in Whitehorse on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, November 16-18, 2021.

– 30 –

Re-election Media Inquiries: Kluane Adamek will be available on weekends, and on business days before 9:00am and after 5:00pm YT

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Background:

“Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief since 2018, shares a deep understanding and has been engaged on regional and national issues impacting Yukon First Nations including climate change, wellness, education and housing. These priorities are close to her heart and she continually shows her commitment and ability to listen to, and work with, our Elders, women, young people, and leaders. I have worked with Kluane in the past, and most recently as the AFN Yukon Elder. She continues to lead and be an incredible advocate and representative of our people, and our region. She has my whole-hearted support to continue to serve our people as the AFN Regional Chief, and as a former Regional Chief, I continue to witness her build upon the legacy of those who have held this position before her. She is strong, grounded and always puts our people and region first. - **Elder Mary Jane Jim, AFN Yukon Knowledge Keeper, former AFN Yukon Regional Chief**

“45 years ago, we envisioned a future where our people would be empowered to create a bright new tomorrow. I have worked directly with and witnessed Kluane Adamek’s proven abilities to bring people together and to address challenges in ways consistent with our values. Now more than ever, we need the next generation to continue the legacy of steadfast leadership in the Yukon Region, especially women. I strongly support Kluane continuing to advocate for our people as the AFN Yukon Regional Chief.” - **Elder Judy Gingell, former Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations, and former commissioner of Yukon**

“A proud member of our First Nation, Kluane Adamek has continued to support the region, including Kluane First Nation, while serving the region as Regional Chief. Her solid footing both here at home in the Yukon, and her ability to navigate the federal systems in Ottawa through positive intergovernmental relationships, is an important balance to have. She has delivered on the direction of Yukon Chiefs; strengthened the AFN Yukon office, ensured that the Yukon Chiefs have all the information we need, and truly advocated for the priorities of all 14 First Nations. Her leadership is a great asset to this region, and we are very pleased she is pursuing a second term.” - **Chief Bob Dickson, Kluane First Nation**

“Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, is an authentic leader who has accomplished so much already. To help other Nations understand the impacts of climate change that we feel every day on the ground in the north, she brought the AFN National Climate Committee north to Old Crow and hosted the AFN National Climate Gathering in our region. She continues to listen to our people, to make sure she understands their issues, priorities, and solutions. I have witnessed her respond to complex challenges and issues with diplomacy and she is always respectful. With Regional Chief Adamek at the AFN, Yukon First Nations voices continue to be heard in a very meaningful way. I fully support Regional Chief Adamek’s bid for re-election as I know she will continue to press for progress on climate change, support for ANWR, and she has shown that she can lead and represent our people. Kluane, my dear friend and colleague, has my full support.” - **Elder Lorraine Netro, AFN National Climate Committee, former AFN Women’s Council – Yukon Representative, former Member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly**

