

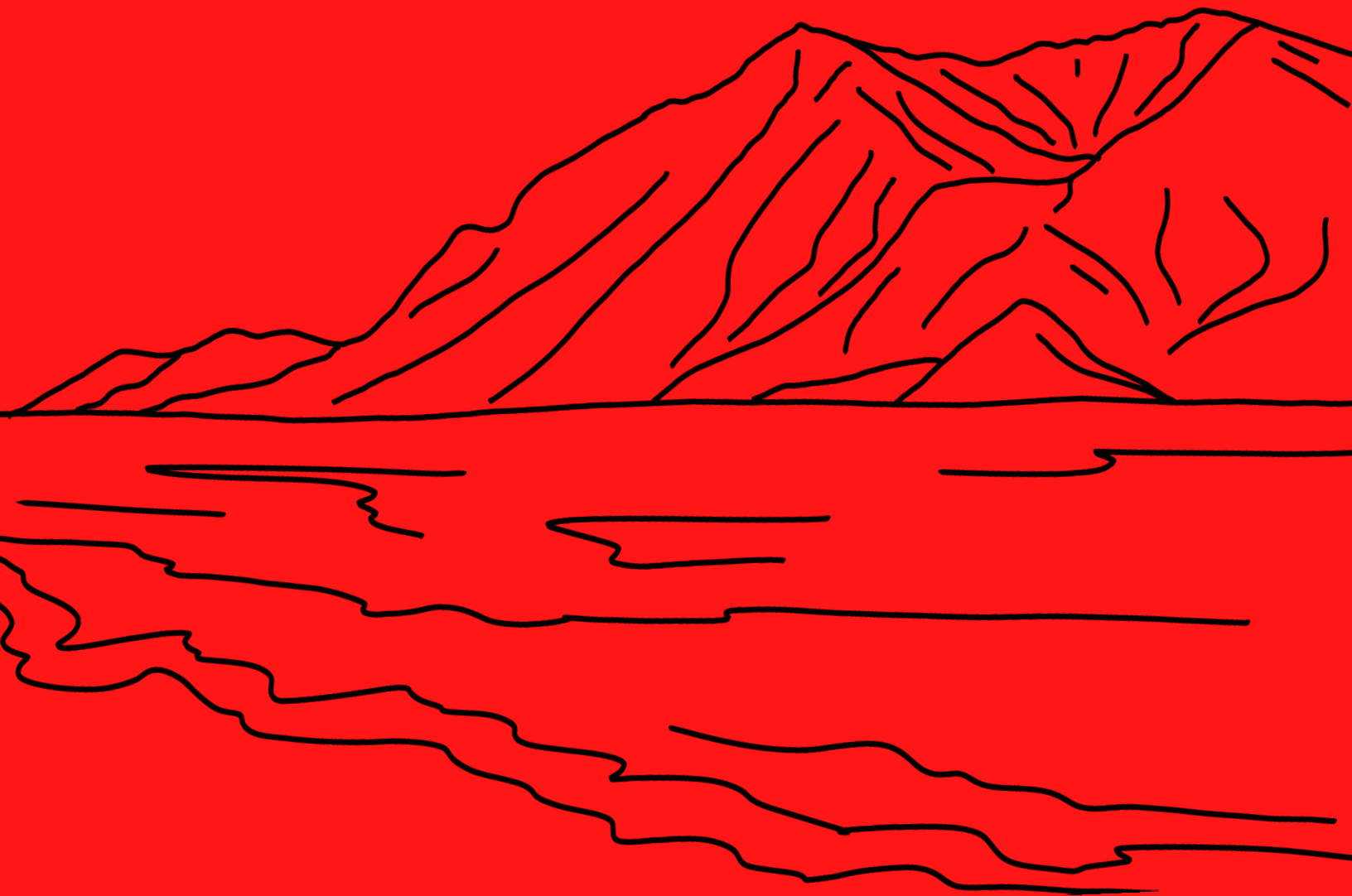


**YUKON
REGION**

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T
2 0 2 1**



**YUKON
REGION**



DANCH'É

Shiyaa Awoodineiki'. On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I acknowledge the Elders, Matriarchs, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders and Youth from across Yukon who support the work of our office. I also recognize the First Nations across Canada who continue to show strength, courage, and leadership through this challenging year.

As the Yukon Region continues to move through the pandemic and as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, I reflect on the challenges we have faced over the past year: those loved ones we have lost, and the impacts that isolation has had on the physical and mental health of our people, particularly the youth. Yukon is in the strong position that it is today because of Yukon First Nation communities, Chiefs and leaders who have helped us stay strong together while safely keeping apart. I also recognize the many accomplishments that Yukon First Nations have celebrated this year despite facing such significant social and economic hardships.

- Kluane Adamek, Aagé
AFN Yukon Regional Chief

Portfolio Holder of:

- ***Environment & Climate Change***
- ***Modern Treaties***
- ***Youth***

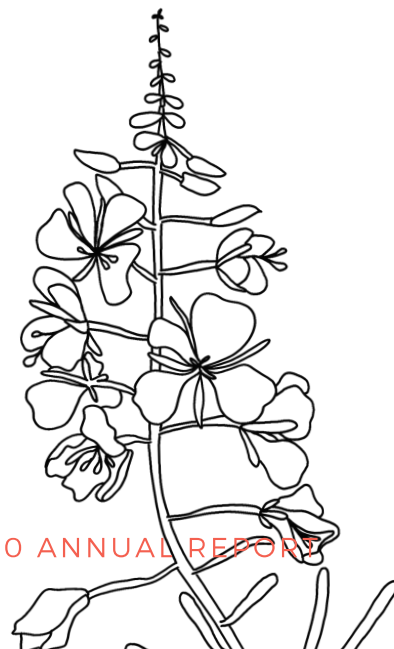


EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

We acknowledge the contributions of Yukon First Nations in the ongoing development and formalization of the AFN Yukon Regional Office and its work. This includes reviewing key governance mechanisms, including the Regional Office's Terms of Reference, to ensure there is clarity and direction on the roles and responsibilities of the Yukon Regional Office and AFN Yukon Regional Chief. The AFN Yukon Region would like to acknowledge and show gratitude to all 14 Yukon First Nations Chiefs, who have continued to show leadership in advancing First Nations rights and leadership in the Yukon and beyond. We also thank each of the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, who form a key pillar of the AFN Yukon Region's governance model. The Executive is tasked with providing support and direction to the Yukon Regional Chief and Regional Office, and we thank them for their ongoing support and guidance.

AFN Yukon Executive Members 2020-2021:

- Chief Doris Bill, Kwanlin Dün First Nation
- Naa Sháade Háni Eric Morris, Teslin Tlingit Council
- Chief Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondëk Hwëchin Government
- Chief Dana Tizya Tramm, Vuntut Gwich'in Government





**YUKON
REGION**

A YUKON THAT LEADS

YUKON FIRST NATIONS ARE:

United through embracing their diversity

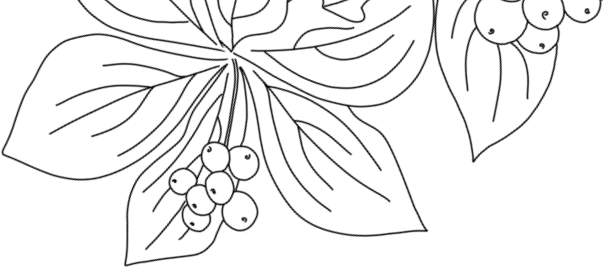
Building on tradition of leadership

Exercising their inherent authority,
jurisdiction and influence

Bravely chartering the path forward as
equal partners with all forms of governments

Openly sharing self-determination solutions
within the Yukon and beyond

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AFN YUKON REPRESENTATIVES



DORIS ANDERSON

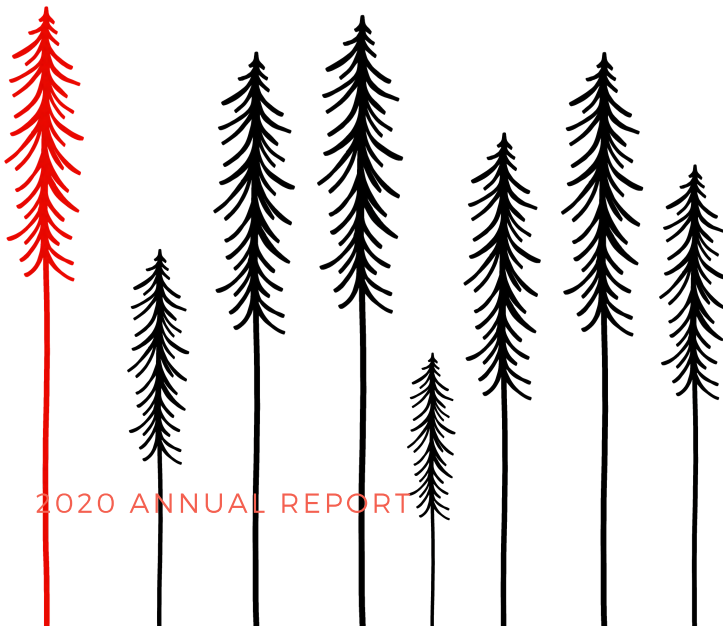
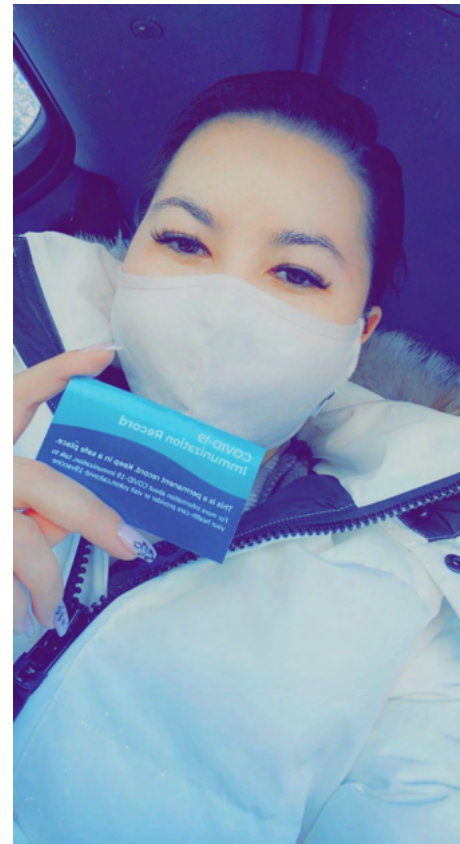
Women's Representative

It's been an honour to serve as the Women's Council representative during so many exciting developments towards gender equality and celebrating women's leadership at the AFN, including the early implementation of Resolution 13 and the election of the first-ever woman National Chief!

JESSICA MAZUR

Youth Representative

As we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, I have used my voice as the Youth Council representative to encourage my fellow youth to protect themselves and their communities against COVID-19 by learning about the efficacy of vaccines and making an informed decision about getting vaccinated.





MARY JANE JIM

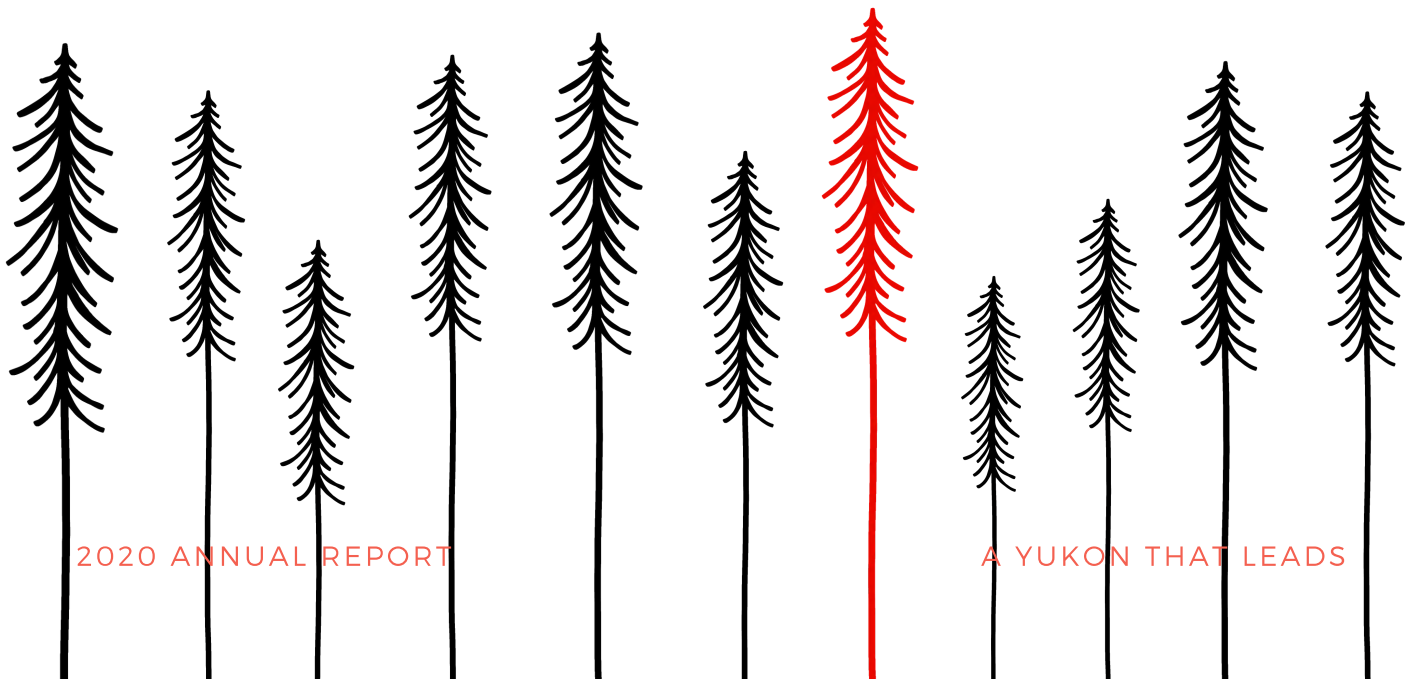
Elder Representative

This year, I had the opportunity to travel to Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to welcome the Warrior Walkers after their long journey to honour the 215 young souls found in Kamloops, BC in May, as well as the thousands more that continue to be recovered across the country.

CHUCK HUME

Elder Representative

I continue to be inspired by the work being done by Yukon First Nations who continue to build a better world for the generations of tomorrow. I raise my hands up to those who are working tirelessly to sustain the traditional knowledge and values that will support us through our battle against depleting salmon stocks, a changing climate, and the protection of our children.



HIGHLIGHTS

July 2020

- CYFN Leadership Meeting
- ACE Meeting
- Federal Minister of Environment Meeting
- AFN YT Annual Leadership Summit

August 2020

- CYFN Annual General Assembly

September 2020

- Federal Minister of Environment Meeting
- CYFN Fall Gathering at Helen's Fish Camp
- ACE Meeting

October 2020

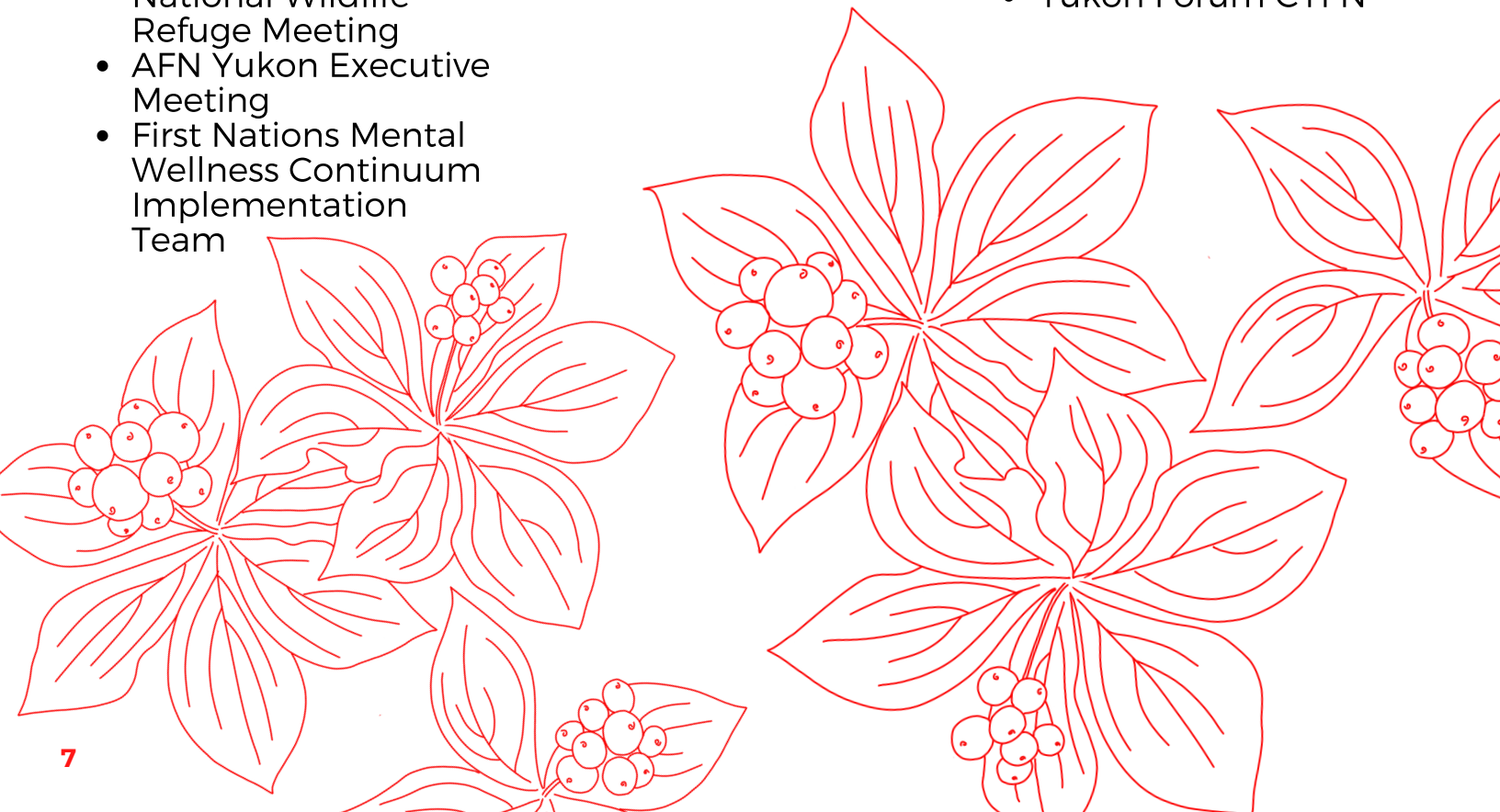
- Yukon Forum CYFN Executive
- Climate Change Call with CIRNAC
- AFN Yukon Executive Meeting
- Kluane First Nation Annual General Assembly
- CANDO 27th Annual National Conference
- ACE Update & Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Meeting
- AFN Yukon Executive Meeting
- First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Implementation Team

November 2020

- CYFN Leadership Meeting
- AFN Yukon Virtual Annual Chiefs Summit
- AFN Yukon Summit
- Round Table on Parks Canada
- Full ACE Zoom Meeting
- 2020 Future of Good Summit

December 2020

- CYFN Leadership Meeting
- AFN Yukon Executive Meeting
- AFN Executive Committee Meeting
- AFN Annual General Assembly
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Declaration Ceremony
- Yukon Forum CYFN



January 2021

- CRE Indigenous Youth Policy School
- Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in the Health Care System
- CYFN Leadership Meeting
- Climate Full ACE Meeting

April 2021

- Indigenous Clean Energy 'Day in the Life' Film Series
- Visit to Whitehorse Individual Learning Centre
- Net Zero Advisory Body Meeting
- ACE Strategic Planning Sessions
- YFN Climate Action Fellowship 1st Gathering
- COP 26 Planning Meeting with Indigenous Clean Energy
- Presentation to FH Collins High School Social Justice Club
- Earth Day Walk with FH Collins Social Justice Club
- AFN Yukon Executive Committee Meeting
- The Role of Women in Ending Racism and Discrimination Towards First Nations
- The Role of Law in Tackling Today's Environmental Challenges

February 2021

- Discussion on the Clean Growth Economy
- MMIWG2S Planning Meeting
- Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference
- Arctic Inspiration Prize Awards Ceremony

May 2021

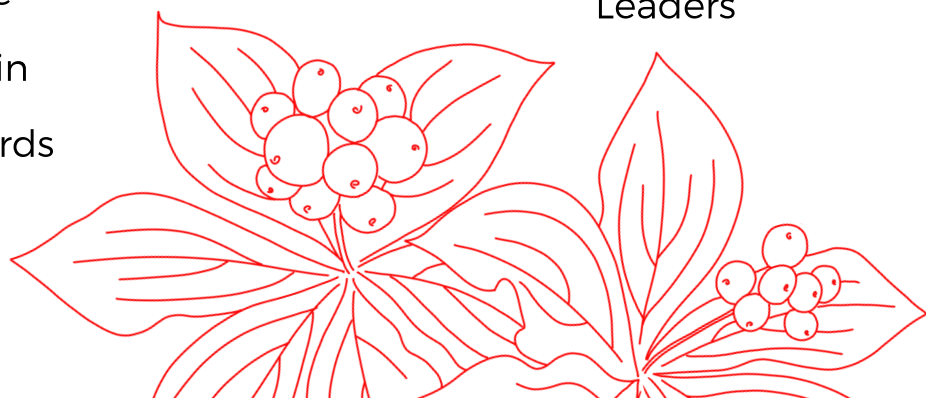
- Coffee with Kluane Episode #1
- Community Visit to Kluane First Nation
- Community Visit to White River First Nation
- High Level Expert Seminar on Climate Change Impacts of Expanding Situations of Vulnerability on Indigenous Peoples Afro-descendant Populations and Latin American Migrants.
- Memorial for 215 Children

March 2021

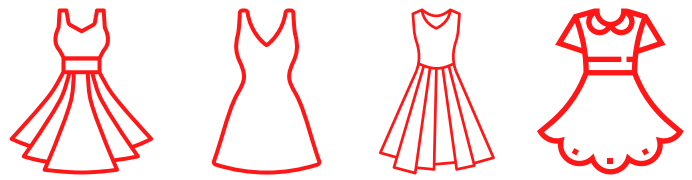
- AFN Yukon Executive Committee Meeting
- Yukon Climate Change Adaptation Forum
- AFN Yukon Executive Committee Meeting
- AFN YT Regional Water Dialogues
- AFN Yukon Leadership Awards Ceremony
- AFN YT Leadership Summit

June 2021

- Coffee with Kluane Episode #2
- Indigenous Women's Panel
- AFN Yukon Chiefs Summit
- Prep Meeting for Upcoming FPT Minister's Meeting on Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity
- AFN Yukon Annual Summit
- Residential School Walkers Send-off
- Ministers Responsible for Biodiversity, Conservation and Wildlife Meeting with National Indigenous Leaders



ENDING VIOLENCE



The National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) released its Final Report on June 3, 2019. The development of a National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada is a key recommendation from the final report of the National Inquiry.

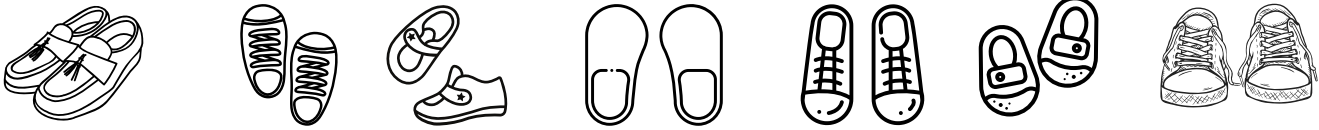
During and after the National Inquiry Final Report was released, the Yukon Advisory Committee (YAC) on MMIWG2S+ responded through the development of the “Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy”, a Yukon-wide strategy created to change the story for Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited peoples. The YAC is co-chaired by Yukon Regional Indigenous women’s groups, Yukon First Nation leadership, and the Government of Yukon with strong representation from MMIWG2S+ families and communities. In June of 2021, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) also released “Breathing Life into the Calls to Justice”,

a First Nations-led National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA Peoples as mandated in Resolution 67/2019. This Resolution directed the AFN to work together with the AFN Women’s Council and all regions to gather input from the regions and First Nation survivors, families and First Nations Coalitions and Grassroots Family organizations in the development of the Action Plan. We thank the YAC for providing important direction to the National Action Plan at the Engagement session held on May 29th, 2021.

The AFN Yukon Region joins all those who are working to advance ending violence and discrimination and stands with the families in their calls for justice. We commit to holding all partner organizations and levels of government accountable for their shortcomings. We will continue to call for justice for all stolen sisters and relatives, and will continue to support and create safe spaces and opportunities for First Nations women, girls, and two-spirit + people.



TRUTH BEFORE RECONCILIATION



To advance reconciliation, we must first get to the truth.

We continue to walk gently as we collectively mourn for our children who were taken by the residential “school” system, and we honor and acknowledge the survivors and families who continue to show strength and resiliency in these incredibly hard times. To date, over five thousand children have been identified at the former sites, and we acknowledge the many young souls who have yet to reveal themselves. The AFN Yukon Region stands in full support of First Nations and communities who are calling for immediate transformative action from all levels of government.

In June 2021, the Federal Government announced that it is prepared to appoint a special interlocutor who will work with Indigenous leaders to investigate unmarked graves and burial sites. They will also be tasked with recommending a new federal framework for laws, tools and practices that may be used to address these devastating discoveries.

This work must be led by and for Indigenous peoples. We support Yukon First Nations in their journey to bring these children home. The AFN Yukon Region remains committed to holding Canada accountable for its role in the atrocities of the past, and ensuring that the truths of Canada’s history are known by all people in this country.



REGIONAL KEY ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The AFN Yukon Region continues to build upon the legacy that has been created by former Regional Chiefs, to advance the priorities and objectives of our Strategic Plan ('A Yukon That Leads'), and to support Yukon First Nations in advancing their priorities nationally. Over the past three years, we have held a series of Quarterly Chiefs Summits. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these Summits have been held successfully both virtually over Zoom, or using a hybrid model of in-person and virtual participation,

to ensure that Yukon First Nations feel a sense of cohesion, especially in the face of the challenges brought about by the pandemic. Moving past COVID-19, these Chiefs Summits will be important for Yukon First Nations leadership to gather together to build consensus and identify shared priorities and actions for communities to take. In 2021, we held Chiefs Summit in March and June, and an additional Chiefs Summit in August leading up to our Annual Summit in November.

“ I CONTINUE TO LEARN WHO WE ARE AS YUKON FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE. WE ARE A PEOPLE THAT DEEPLY VALUE, HONOUR AND RESPECT THE ROLES OF WOMEN. WE ALWAYS HAVE. WE'RE A MATRILINEAL CULTURE. ”





The AFN Yukon Region has remained focused on leading action in response to climate change and drawing on the values-driven approach of Yukon First Nations in all climate-related work. Early this year, we were proud to launch the first ever Yukon First Nation Climate Action Fellowship in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations in order to provide a group of First Nations youth and emerging leaders the tools and support they need to develop a climate action plan rooted in traditional teachings, spiritual wellness and innovation. The AFN Yukon Region also



participated in multiple engagements on water policy and long-term water strategy. These conversations brought together leaders and citizens of Yukon First Nations to hold water ceremony and have conversations about the sacred importance of water as well as the roles and responsibilities of First Nations (particularly Matriarchs) in the management of water and water resources. Recognizing and elevating community leadership remains a focus of ours. The social isolation and restrictions of the past year have had serious impacts on the physical and mental health of First Nations

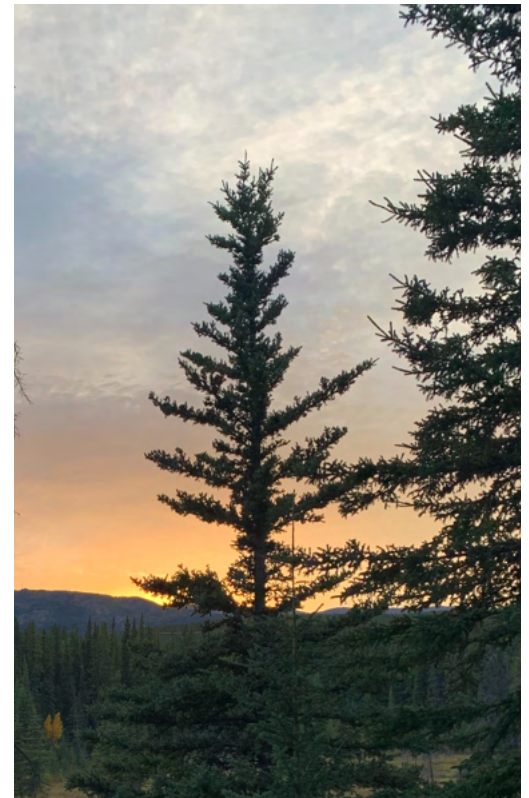


people across Canada, the North, and the Yukon. As a result, the Yukon Region has made it a priority to highlight the successes, wisdom and accomplishments of everyday Yukon First Nations people who make important contributions to their communities every day. This year, the second annual AFN Yukon Region Leadership Awards were hosted virtually to acknowledge and celebrate those individuals who live the values of a 'Yukon that Leads'. Thirteen Yukon First Nations citizens were recognized, celebrated, honoured and acknowledged for their incredible efforts and leadership.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

As the AFN National Portfolio holder for Environment and Climate Change, The AFN Yukon is committed to advancing climate action solutions that are developed and driven by First Nations through a values-based, and rights-based approaches. We continue to work closely with Chiefs in Assembly, receiving guidance and direction through AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action (ACE) as well as the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA). The AFN Environment sector has officially launched the National Climate Change survey to First Nations from coast-to-coast-to-coast to help inform the development of a National First Nations Climate Strategy.



The Yukon Region is working to implement the Yukon First Nations Climate Emergency Declarations signed by leadership and youth in February 2020 at the first-ever Yukon First Nations Climate Action Gathering held in Whitehorse, YT. As part of the efforts to develop a YFN Climate Vision and Action Plan, we co-created the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship which was launched in January 2021. Fourteen youth and emerging leaders aged 18-30 were selected to participate in this 20-month

Fellowship, which integrates virtual, in-person and on-the-land education. The Fellowship journey will support and uphold youth as they connect to climate-related challenges, as well as their culture and identity. The program will build skills and knowledge to approach climate solutions from a holistic perspective by integrating a First Nations worldview. The Fellowship will be leading and working alongside Yukon First Nations to co-create a Yukon First Nations Climate Vision and Action Plan for release in Spring 2022.





MODERN TREATIES

Advancing priorities at the direction of Modern Treaty and Self Government agreement holders, continues to be a priority both regionally and nationally. As we revisit the successes and outcomes of the 2019 National Self-Government and Modern Treaties Forum that we hosted in Whitehorse, we look forward to building upon this momentum and important work of the first Forum, as we plan the goals and objectives of the 2nd Forum. We look forward to bringing together (in-person or virtually) Modern Treaty and Self Governing First Nations, and those who are interested in developing Modern Treaties or Self-Government agreements, from across the North and Canada to discuss innovative solutions to advance self-determination.



EXECUTIVE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I continue to work as a contributing member of the AFN Management Committee. My approach to my work on both the AFN Executive and Management Committees is to ensure that my actions follow and adhere to the AFN Code of Conduct for the Executive Committee, and to continue to lead by my values, and teachings. It is critical that

the AFN advance with formally changing the name of 'National Indian Brotherhood' to truly reflect the people we serve. I am pleased with the AFN Executive supporting a motion to this end, in March 2021. Additionally, we can all look forward to the implementation of AFN AGA Resolution #13-2020, and that we are advancing the priorities identified in the MMIWG2QS+ National

Inquiry - Calls to Justice, in relation to taking urgent and special measures to ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are represented in governance, and to protect their rights and interests while doing so. Over the past three years, I have continued to push to ensure that our Executive is held to the highest standards of equity, transparency, and fairness.





YOUTH

As the Portfolio holder supporting the AFN National Youth Council, I have had the privilege of witnessing the strength and leadership that the Youth Council representatives have brought to the National AFN Executive, and to their respective regions.

The AFN NYC continues to be an incredibly important pillar in all our national work, and I want to thank and acknowledge all members, past and present, for their tireless advocacy and commitment to advancing youth interests and the important initiatives that they are all presently undertaking.



The AFN Yukon Region had passed a Resolution declaring 2020-2021 to be the "Year of the Youth". Through partnerships we have created various avenues to engage youth in our regional work, and to create opportunities to lift up their voices and perspectives as emerging leaders within First Nations governments and communities. The pandemic has placed significant obstacles in the pathways of youth, who have lost out on important opportunities for personal and professional development. The "Year of the Youth" is a way to celebrate youth leadership and provide a platform for young

people to take up positions of leadership where their voices can be heard and applied within spaces where policy and decision making takes place. This program provides leadership development, facilitation training, program and project building that will all come together by way of an in-person youth gathering in 2022. AFN Yukon has continued to build a partnership with Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE), a "by youth, for youth" organization in the Yukon. In 2021, we will continue to celebrate the successes of youth and search for ways to provide opportunities for further leadership.





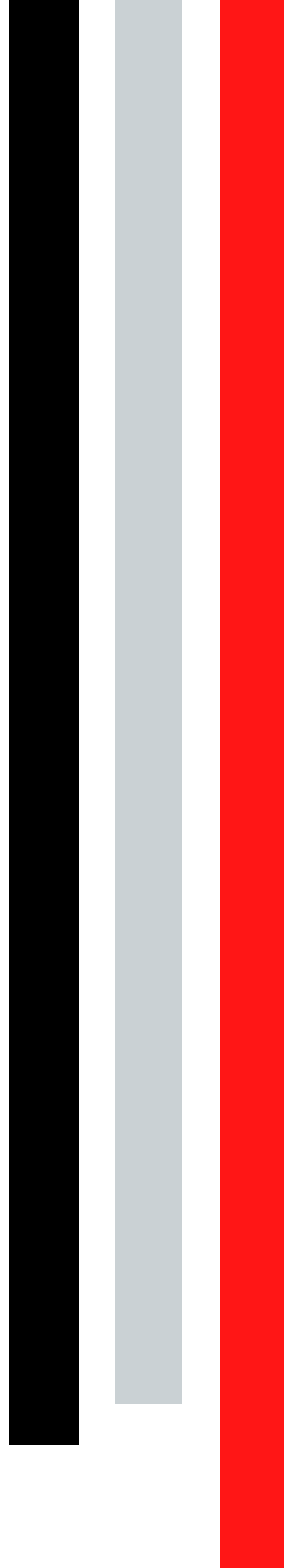
LOOKING FORWARD

A Yukon that Leads.

As we continue to move through the new rhythms shaped by the global pandemic, Yukon First Nations consistently show solidarity in addressing the most pressing issues and advancing solutions.

Our region continues to press for full implementation of the Yukon Final Agreements while supporting all 14 Yukon First Nations to advance their priorities and respective paths of self-determination. The work of the AFN Yukon Region continues to uphold important relationships with our government partners, working in collaboration and unity with First Nations from coast-to-coast-to-coast on matters important to Yukon First Nations.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and extend a most sincere congratulations to the newly elected and first-ever woman National Chief, RoseAnne Archibald! I look forward to continuing to work together, alongside our AFN Executive colleagues, as we step forward to create an equitable, inclusive and just future for the generations that are to come.





GUNALCHÉESH

Once again, I would like to thank the Elders, Matriarchs, Chiefs and Youth, who have led us through this very challenging year. The AFN Yukon Region remains committed to collaborating closely with leadership in the territory and across the country in support of all First Nations communities and people!

May we continue to lift each other up, and lead from a place of values.

Gunalchéesh.

- Aagé



THE TEAM



JENNIFER MATCHETT
Director of Policy



EMILY MCDUGALL
Regional Climate Change Coordinator



JAMES MACDONALD
Director of Operations



AMANDA DEHLING
Executive Assistant to the Regional Chief



VICTORIA HOLMES
Project Coordinator & Communications Liaison

