

April 4, 2024

Regional Chief Kluane Adamek
Assembly of First Nations Yukon
204 – 105 Titanium Way
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 0E7

Re: AFN Executive Committee Portfolios

Dear Regional Chief Adamek:

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of overseeing the Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements portfolio and the Environment, Climate Change and Water Stewardship portfolio.

Also encompassed in your portfolios is the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment. At times, with respect to Modern Treaties and self-government agreements, collaboration with your colleagues on the Executive Committee will be necessary, including Regional Chief Teegee in his duties as portfolio holder for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Regional Chief Hare, as portfolio holder for Lands.

In accepting this mandate, you are entrusted with the responsibility to act in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), advocating for the rights and interests of all First Nations. Your commitment to promoting unity, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the principles and ideals of the AFN Charter are maintained is of the utmost importance. In accordance with the AFN Charter, Article 18(9),

“The National Chief shall assign portfolios in a collaborative process with the Executive Committee and/or re-assign portfolio topics to Regional Chiefs serving on the Executive Committee to lead specific topics of work as required. Upon assignment, the Regional Chief shall report quarterly to the Executive Committee and the First Nations-in-Assembly as well as to their own Regions. If the Regional Chief fails to report quarterly, the National Chief may consider re-assigning the portfolio.

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- a) The portfolio holder shall be responsible for leading the work of the portfolio as directed by resolutions from the First Nations-in-Assembly;
- b) The portfolio holder shall chair all Chiefs' Committee meetings that are associated with their portfolio and oversee the work of the Chiefs' Committee to ensure that all procedures and processes are being followed and maintained under the Terms of Reference, By-Laws and the AFN Charter."

Additionally, for your portfolio areas, I ask you to take on the following activities, supported by the AFN Secretariat:

- **Advocacy:** Actively engage with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to advocate for policies and initiatives that align with the interests and needs of the First Nations. Represent the concerns and aspirations of First Nations in various forums.
- **Unity and Collaboration:** Foster unity among First Nations and promote collaboration on matters of common interest. Work closely with other Regional Chiefs to strengthen the collective voice of the AFN.
- **Engagement:** Regularly engage with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, women, youth, veterans, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples through our Advisory Councils and other forums to understand their perspectives, needs, and concerns. Bring forward these insights to inform decision-making.
- **Capacity Building:** Work towards the empowerment and capacity building of First Nations. Collaborate with relevant partners to secure resources and support programs that enhance First Nations' well-being.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency in your actions and decisions. Keep the Executive Committee informed about relevant developments, challenges, and opportunities.

As the lead portfolio holder, you will be supported by the AFN Secretariat and your work will be guided by resolutions approved by First Nations-in-Assembly that provide you with your mandate. Resolutions relevant to your portfolios include but are not limited to:

Environment, Climate Change & Water Stewardship

- 36/2023 – *Urgent and Transformative Change Through the AFN National Climate Strategy*
- 50/2023 – *Addressing Impacts from Mining Activities*
- 52/2023 *Securing Accountability of Nuclear Technology, Waste, Transport and Storage*
- 53/2023 – *First Nations-led Process for National Water Stewardship*

- 17/2020 – *Support for First Nations Climate Leadership, Food Sovereignty, Environmental Protection, Stewardship and Conservation*
- 04/2019 – *Support for the Food, Environment, Health and Nutrition of First Nations Children and Youth Study (FEHNCY)*
- 05/2019 – *Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency*
- 06/2019 – *Respecting First Nations Inherent and Constitutionally- Protected Rights in the Project List for the Impact Assessment Act*
- 07/2018 – *Addressing First Nations Rights, Title and Jurisdiction in Bill C-69 Impact Assessment, Canadian Energy Regulator Act and the Navigation Protection Act.*
- 64/2018 – *Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas – Pathway To Canada Target 1: Conservation 2020 Initiative*
- 65/2018 – *Closing the Environmental Protection Regulatory Gap on First Nations Lands*

Modern Treaties & Self-Government Agreements

- 77/2018 – *Assembly of First Nations Modern Treaty Implementation Group*

Financial support for travel will be supported by the AFN Secretariat, where available and in accordance with AFN Finance policies.

Thank you for accepting your role as the Portfolio holder for these areas. I look forward to working with you to advance the work of the Assembly of First Nations.

Megwetch,

Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
National Chief