FOR RELEASE
October 26, 2026

Yukon leaders bring shared priorities to Ottawa for the First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting

This is a joint news release with Council of Yukon First Nations, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Liard First Nation and the Government of Yukon.

Today, Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini, Liard First Nation Chief Harlan Schilling, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hähkè (Chief) Darren Taylor and Premier Currie Dixon attended the First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa.

At the meeting, First Nations leaders from across Canada met with First Ministers to discuss matters of national importance, including:

- rights, treaties, jurisdiction and First Nations priorities;
- economic partnerships and participation;
- strong communities; and
- building a resilient and prosperous Canada.

Yukon leaders highlighted the Yukon's unique governance context and the strong, respectful government-to-government relationships that support collaboration among Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada. Together, they emphasized the Yukon's leadership in modern treaty implementation and the recognition of self-governing First Nations' jurisdiction, and the need for a distinct, government-to-government approach with Yukon First Nations that have not signed final agreements – Liard First Nation, White River First Nation and Ross River Dena Council. Yukon leaders advocated to advance shared priorities, including energy security, health system transformation, treaty implementation, and the responsible stewardship of lands and waters, including Indigenous-led conservation. Yukon leaders also expressed support for the continuation of existing intergovernmental forums, as well as the importance of commitment to existing policies and agreements.

The First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting provided an opportunity for Indigenous leaders from across Canada, provincial and territorial premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada to build stronger nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationships, and to identify ways to work together with mutual respect to address First Nations priorities, create opportunities that benefit communities and foster prosperity across Canada.

Quotes

Yukon came to Ottawa with a strong, shared voice, and I was proud to be part of it. The Kaska homeland crosses the Yukon, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, and Liard First Nation has never ceded our title or rights. That is why we called for a made-in-the-North approach, built government to government and grounded in respect. The First Nations of the North are nation builders too. As Canada invests in critical minerals and energy, it must also invest in the health of our lands and waters, including Indigenous-led conservation. That is how we build a prosperous Canada that lasts.

– Liard First Nation Chief Harlan Schilling

I was pleased to participate in the First Nations First Minister's meeting as a modern treaty and self-governing Indigenous government representative. The Final and Self-Government agreements of Yukon First Nations are important tools for wider nation-building. They provide a stable and predictable environment for investment, economic growth, and wellbeing through continued collaboration and full implementation. That the First Ministers have welcomed leaders representing Canada's self-governing First Nations as a distinct group to the First Ministers Meeting is important recognition of our governments. My hope is that, moving forward, there will be further opportunity for self-governing Yukon First Nations to shape a prosperous Yukon and Canada.

– Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hähkè (Chief) Darren Taylor

Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon are working together to advance shared priorities and build a strong, resilient North. As Canada pursues opportunities in critical minerals, energy security, and sustainable economic development, we must respect our modern treaties, strengthen existing partnerships, and ensure Yukon First Nations have a meaningful role in shaping decisions that affect our lands and communities. By working collaboratively with the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada, we can build on the Yukon's leadership in modern treaty implementation and create a future that respects our rights, strengthens our communities, and delivers lasting benefits for our people.

– Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini

Together with Yukon First Nations, we highlighted the Yukon's distinct governance context and shared our experience as a national leader in modern treaty implementation and collaborative work. We emphasized that national initiatives must build on existing partnerships, commitments and mechanisms that are already delivering results. We also advanced shared priorities, including energy security, health system transformation and economic development. We look forward to continuing this work with Yukon First Nations and Canada.

– Government of Yukon Premier Currie Dixon

Quick facts

- The First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting brings together federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous leaders to discuss priorities of national importance affecting First Nations across Canada.
- First Nations participants included treaty and self-governing First Nations, modern treaty organizations, non-treaty First Nations, groups with asserted Aboriginal rights and title and the Assembly of First Nations.
- The meeting was held in Ottawa on the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

Media contact

Tim Kucharuk
Press secretary, Cabinet Communications
867-335-2419
tim.kucharuk@yukon.ca

Brigitte Parker
Communications, Executive Council Office
867-332-0004
brigitte.parker@yukon.ca

Stephanie Joe
Communications, Council of Yukon First Nations
867-393-9200 ext. 9223
communications@cyfn.net

Elaine Corden
Communications, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
867-993-7100 ext. 136
elaine.corden@trondek.ca

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Supporting materials

Email teaser text

Yukon leaders confirmed the Yukon's shared priorities of energy security, health system

transformation and treaty implementation at the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting. (limit 180 characters, including spaces)

Social media content

☒ Yes, we recommend sharing as a standalone post.
☐ No, we do not recommend sharing as a standalone post.

Bluesky

Yukon leaders confirmed the Yukon's shared priorities of energy security, health system transformation and treaty implementation at the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting. Read more: [insert link to joint news release] (limit 280 characters)

Facebook

Yukon leaders confirmed the Yukon's shared priorities of energy security, health system transformation and treaty implementation at the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting held to foster dialogue on shared national priorities between Indigenous leaders, premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Social media image

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Yukon Leaders attended the First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa on October 26, 2026.

News release photo credit and caption

Yukon Leaders attended the First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa on October 26, 2026. Left to right: Yukon Premier Currie Dixon, Liard First Nation Chief Harlan Schilling, Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Math'ieya Alatini and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hähkè (Chief) Darren Taylor.

Photo credit: Council of Yukon First Nations