



PRESS RELEASE

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER EVENT

WHITEHORSE – This morning leaders from the City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, as well as the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, gathered at City Hall to participate in a historic event.

All three governments signed a Declaration of Commitment document, the first of its kind in the territory.

The document outlines commitments such as collaborating on mutually beneficial issues, maintaining ongoing communication and meeting on a regular basis, and continuing to recognize the resourcefulness of our youth and Elders, among others.

The Declaration of Commitment is meant to strengthen the existing relationships between all three parties, and will benefit our community as a whole.

The event also included a flag-raising ceremony and the unveiling of the new city bus wrap that features the work of local KDFN and TKC artists, a project in partnership with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association.

The bus wrap project is a partnership between YFNCT, KDFN, TKC and the City of Whitehorse, and features a new YFN arts brand, which aims to create awareness and appreciation for the vibrant arts and culture of Yukon First Nations. This project celebrates the power and resurgence of Yukon First Nations art.

Today's celebrations included a performance by KDFN drummers, along with tea and bannock.

Quotes

"Today represents a significant milestone for the parties gathered here. It reflects the work and energy that everyone has put in so that we could strengthen our relationships moving forward. I am very pleased with the collaboration that has taken place over the past few years, but we are not close to being done. On behalf of City Council thank you to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation, as well as the Yukon First Nations Culture

and Tourism Association, for working so closely with us and for helping improve our community.”

Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis

“We are very pleased with the ongoing effort and commitment made between the three governments to strengthen our relationships, which are now reinforced through the signing of the declaration. This will have benefits to Ta’an Kwäch’än Council Citizens and the community of Whitehorse. Strong partnerships with other governments can lead to new opportunities and benefits that one cannot achieve on their own.”

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief Kristina Kane

“Today represents a historic opportunity. Through our modern-day treaties and in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action, our citizens and governments will together define the path forward.”

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill

“As YFNCT continues to grow and move forward, this project represents the importance of collaboration and partnerships, as we work to elevate our cultural sector, our artists, our art and our stories, for the benefit of our community. This bus wrap also marks the first of a series of initiatives to bring awareness of Yukon First Nations Arts to visitors and residents of the City of Whitehorse, through a new YFN Arts Brand. We hope this project will inspire the next generation of artists and crafts people and celebrate the distinction and quality of YFN arts and culture

Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association President Marilyn Jensen

Links:

For more information on [Moving Forward Together](#)

[Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association](#)

[Ta'an Kwäch'än Council](#)

[Kwanlin Dün First Nation](#)

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