



## Vuntut Gwitchin Government

NEWS RELEASE

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P.O. Box 94, Old Crow  
Yukon Y0B 1N0

### **Imminent release of repeat violent sex offender Christopher Schafer to Old Crow prompts community emergency measures from the Vuntut Gwitchin Government**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, October 8 - Old Crow, Yukon

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the community of Old Crow were in shock yesterday after learning that a Yukon Court had ordered that repeat violent sex offender Christopher Schafer be released from the Whitehorse Correctional Centre this morning and immediately put on an Air North flight to Old Crow. The Territorial Court of Yukon ordered this action on the eve of Thanksgiving weekend with no prior notice to Vuntut Gwitchin Government Chief and Council or the local RCMP detachment.

Coming days after the community joined the rest of Canada in conducting a walk to honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Yukon Court Order was made with no notice, consideration, or consultation with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Shockingly, the Court Order does not contain any conditions to protect the residents of Old Crow.

In response to this miscarriage of justice, Chief and Council passed a resolution issuing a Community Emergency Declaration and Order that will remain in effect until Thursday January 5, 2023—a period of 90 days. Chief and Council can extend the Declaration and Order at any time in the next 90 days.

Some of the main points of the Declaration and Order include:

- Christopher Schafer is a serial dangerous offender who has committed violent and sexual offences against women and girls on VGFN Settlement Land and elsewhere.
- Schafer is prohibited from entering, accessing, using or otherwise being present on VGFN Settlement Land due to the danger he poses to the life, health and safety of the residents of Old Crow.
- It is prohibited to help Schafer in any way to enter, access, use, or otherwise be present on, VGFN Settlement Land.
- Anyone who does not comply with these measures commits an offence under the Community Emergency Act and can be convicted and imprisoned for a term of six months.

#### **Quote**

“In response to this abject failure of the Canadian justice system, the Vuntut Gwitchin Government reacted swiftly to protect the residents of Old Crow. A Yukon Justice of the Peace deferred the release of Christopher Schafer, who will now appear before a Yukon judge on Tuesday October 11. We can assure our Citizens, other residents of Old Crow, and all Canadians concerned with the safety of women and

girls in this country that we will be there on Tuesday with a powerful message for the judge, the Yukon Justice Minister, and the Premier of our territory.”

—Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin Government

**Media Inquiries:**

**Gyde Shepherd**

**Communications Manager**

Vuntut Gwitchin Government

(613) 804-4273 | [gyde.shepherd@vgfn.net](mailto:gyde.shepherd@vgfn.net)