



Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec–Labrador

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMÉDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Quebec listens to the Québécois but not First Nations

Wendake, January 23, 2019 – The AFNQL is responding to the simplification measures announced by the Minister of Public Security earlier today and considers that the Legault government's approach does not address specific First Nations issues. Among other issues, firearms' registration is an irritant in the search for an open and positive political relationship with the Quebec government.

The AFNQL is also extremely concerned that any information intended to facilitate registration for those who wish to do so is only made available in French when many Nations use English. In addition, it should be remembered that many firearm owners in our Nations only speak in their original languages.

The start up position, as far as we are concerned, was clearly expressed by the AFNQL before the parliamentary committee on Bill 64 in March 2016, to the effect that First Nations have jurisdiction and can adopt regulations of their own. Moreover, we will never insist enough on the specific First Nations' framework whose Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized by the Canadian Constitution.

In a spirit of openness and dialogue, the AFNQL invites the Quebec government to respect our specific realities, including the jurisdiction of our Governments, the traditional and subsistence practices of our members and other considerations. Finally, the AFNQL considers it urgent that a meeting at the highest level take place as soon as possible before the implementation of the measures announced today.

The AFNQL reminds everyone that the safety of its members is at the heart of its priorities and that the announced flexible measures must meet the expectations of our Nations.

About the AFNQL

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador is the political organization regrouping 43 Chiefs of the First Nations in Quebec and Labrador. Follow us on Twitter @APNQL

Source:

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