



## Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec-Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, bureau 201  
Wendake (Québec) GOA 4V0  
Tél. : 418-842-5020 • Téléc. : 418-842-2660  
www.apnql-afnql.com

## Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, Suite 201  
Wendake, Quebec GOA 4V0  
Tel.: 418-842-5020 • Fax: 418-842-2660  
www.apnql-afnql.com

### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

### **Grand Chief Polson is not in the mood for celebration**

*Wendake, July 1, 2019* - The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) calls on all parties involved in the opening of the Indigenous Peoples' Space (100 Wellington Street) to reach an agreement with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation so that their recognition protocols are respected on their traditional unceded territory.

Earlier today, Grand Chief Verna Polson of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Council began a hunger strike that will last as long as the rights of the Algonquin Nation are not respected on their territory. Despite the sensitivity of Grand Chief Polson's action, the AFNQL wishes to express its support for the positions defended by the Grand Chief with the support of the members of her Nation.

“I am concerned that Grand Chief Polson has decided to make the ultimate sacrifice and is going on hunger strike, ironically, in front of the Canadian Parliament, located in the traditional unceded territory of her people. The discourse of the political class, which claims to respect the protocols of recognition of the traditional territory, is only symbolic since, in fact, the decisions affecting the Indigenous Peoples' Space at 100 Wellington Street totally violate the right of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation to act fully on behalf of the Nation. This situation requires and deserves immediate and urgent attention,” denounces the Chief of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard.

On May 30, the AFNQL sent a letter to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Carolyn Bennett, expressing its unconditional support to the Chiefs of the Algonquin Nation and their position regarding the Indigenous Peoples' Space. In addition, Chief Picard travelled to Ottawa on June 17 and 23 to support Grand Chief Polson and the entire Algonquin Nation.

#### **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:**

Alain Garon, [agaron@apnql.com](mailto:agaron@apnql.com)

Communications Officer

Cell. : (418) 254-4620