



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



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN

COMMUNIQUÉ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Nations women also have the right to security and protection

Wendake, October 14, 2020 – The AFNQL Council of Elected Women and Quebec Native Women (QNW) recently submitted a brief to share their observations regarding the policy on police checks in the SPVM.

The current news is a stark reminder of to what extent being Indigenous is to be confronted with the systemic racism that exists in public services. First Nations women are all too familiar with these kinds of situations in health care, in legal services, in the prison environment, in short, in all spheres of society.

Public security is no exception. Indigenous people are between four and five times more at risk than non-racialized people in terms of the average probability of being stopped by the SPVM. Arrests have increased almost seven times among Indigenous people since 2014, and Indigenous women are a particularly targeted group.

The AFNQL Council of Elected Women and Quebec Native Women unite their voices to ask the *Commission de la sécurité publique* to seriously consider the two briefs submitted by their respective organizations in order to ensure that this policy will respond to the specific needs of women.

All abusive treatment of Indigenous women and delivery of services guided by racism, prejudice and stereotyping of Indigenous women in particular must stop.

Unfortunately, the treatment of our sister Joyce Echaquan was neither an isolated case nor unique to the health services. This leads us, the AFNQL Council of Elected Women and Quebec Native Women, to remind all public institutions of their responsibility for the provision of equitable services free from systemic racism. “Our women are human beings and they have rights like all Quebecers. First Nations women also have the right to security, protection and the right to justice. Their most fundamental right is above all to be respected,” said Adrienne Jérôme, co-spokesperson for the AFNQL Council of Elected Women.

“Our women must be guaranteed respect for their universal human rights, in particular to life, security and protection, without discrimination and on the same basis as every other woman in Quebec and Canada,” said Viviane Michel, President of Quebec Native Women.

About the AFNQL Council of Elected Women

The AFNQL Elected Women's Council shall consist of all duly elected women Chiefs or councillors from each of the First Nations communities in Quebec and Labrador. Through the establishment of an AFNQL Elected Women's Council, this affirms the importance of building and strengthening partnership between elected men and women of the AFNQL, in all levels of decision-making within the AFNQL, as an integral step in ensuring an equitable society.

About Quebec Native Women

Quebec Native Women represents members in 56 communities, 9 nations throughout Quebec and urban areas. <https://www.faq-qnw.org>

Source

Alain Garon
Communications Advisor
(418) 254-4620
agaron@apnql.com