



Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec-Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, bureau 201
Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0
Tél. : 418-842-5020 • Téléc. : 418-842-2660
www.apnql-afnql.com

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A historic victory and a milestone week for unity and the strengthening of First Nations

Wendake, July 9, 2021 – Why deny the skills of half the members of a nation? Why put aside the skill, wisdom and commitment of so many people because they are born women? Is this how our ancestors behaved? No, clearly not. Yet by losing some of their collective wisdom through contact with other cultures, this is what has often happened among First Nations, perhaps what is, finally, changing.

The AFNQL Elected Women Council experienced a lot of emotion this week, a very great pride that the women chiefs and elected officials of our local governments want to share today with all First Nations women, all women, and also with all the men who support them.

In the same week, Chief RoseAnne Archibald became the first woman elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. Ms. Mary Simon became the first woman from an Indigenous nation, the Inuit Nation, to be given the position of Head of State in Canada. Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky Deer became the first woman to head the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake. It seems that the history of humans is like this: it moves forward in great leaps!

And so? What does this change, we will be asked? The rights of First Nations are still under attack by colonialist governments. Systemic racism still wreaks havoc on a daily basis. The living conditions of the First Nations are still far behind those of the Canadian population. First Nations are still excluded from the development of the economy.

"What this changes is that by trusting women, who are half of our population, the First Nations have just redoubled their strengths. The women are arriving as reinforcements! It was about time," says Chief Adrienne Jérôme, co-spokesperson for the Elected Women Council of the AFNQL

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"What this changes is that the wisdom, experience and the often different point of view of women on all First Nations issues will be put to good use and may be decisive thanks to the role that these women in authority will play," adds Councillor Nadia Robertson, also spokesperson for the AFNQL Elected Women Council.

On behalf of all the women chiefs or elected officials in First Nation governments in Quebec-Labrador, the spokespersons express their congratulations to Ms. Mary Simon, Chief Archibald and Grand Chief Sky Deer, and thank them for their commitment. so inspiring to all First Nations people, men or women.

About the AFNQL Elected Women Council

The AFNQL Elected Women Council is made up of all women duly elected to the positions of chiefs or councilors of each of the First Nations communities in Quebec and Labrador. The AFNQL Elected Women Council aims for an equitable perspective of gender relations within the Table of Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador, the First Nations communities in Quebec, as well as within all the entities dealing with First Nations that recognize, respect, and support the role of women in leadership positions.

Information:

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