



## Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec–Labrador

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

## **Transmitting Discrimination and Systemic Racism to Young Quebecers: The AFNQL is Very Concerned**

*Wendake, October 26, 2021* – The Legault government is revising the Ethics and Religious Culture course, offered to secondary school students in the province, with the objective of giving its content a more "Quebec citizenship" focus. The project is part of the new nationalist ideology championed by Premier François Legault. The Premier's initiative raises many concerns, including those of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).

"What kind of message to young people can be expected by a provincial government that is determined to deny the deep roots of discrimination and racism that make it a systemic scourge? What other message can we expect from a provincial government that is determined not only to deny, but to fight in court the very existence of First Nations' fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination, to govern themselves according to their rights, customs and traditions? If we base ourselves on statements and actions that are taken by the Legault government on a daily basis, young Quebecers will be convinced that it is legitimate and fair to have built Quebec's collective wealth on the backs of First Nations, by depriving them of their right to their territories and resources; and,

That the rights of the "Quebec nation" in terms of culture, language and heritage are superior to those of other nations who share the territory and that this national supremacy is legitimate. The AFNQL is very concerned that this initiative, with such strong nationalistic content put forward by the Legault government, will be taking us back years whereas, it could have been a step forward towards the Systemic Reconciliation that First Nations are proposing to Quebecers. There are other ways to build national pride," says AFNQL Chief Ghislain Picard.

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### **About the AFNQL**

The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador is the political organization that brings together 43 First Nations Chiefs in Quebec and Labrador.

### **SOURCE**

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