



## MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Loi de la protection sociale atikamekw d'Opitciwan (Atikamekw of Opitciwan Social Protection Act): a historic move forward for First Nations families and children*

Wendake, November 8, 2021 – The Chief of the Opitciwan community, Jean-Claude Mequish, the Social Services Director of Opitciwan, Serge Awashish, the Atikamekw of Opitciwan Social Protection Director, Nadia Petiquay, the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), Ghislain Picard, and the President of the Board of Directors of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC), Derek Montour, invite media representatives to a press conference to mark a historic move forward for First Nations families and children: the adoption and implementation of the *Loi de la protection sociale atikamekw d'Opitciwan*.

**What:** Press conference

**Who:** Jean-Claude Mequish, Chief of Opitciwan,  
Serge Awashish, Director of Social Services of Opitciwan,  
Nadia Petiquay, Atikamekw of Opitciwan Director of Social Protection,  
Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL  
Derek Montour, President of the Board of Directors of the FNQLHSSC,  
Other First Nations leaders and guests  
Hosted by Marjolaine Sioui, Executive Director of the FNQLHSSC

**When:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, 5, place de la Rencontre, Wendake, QC, G0A 4V0

**NOTE: Journalists are asked to get accredited in advance in order to comply with COVID-19 health guidelines. All those in attendance must identify themselves, wash their hands before entering the room (antiseptic gel will be provided), maintain a one-metre distance, wear a mask or face covering and report any symptoms. The room will be set up in accordance with public health regulations. Vaccination passport is mandatory.**

#### **About the Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan**

The Atikamekw community of Opitciwan is located northwest of Lac-Saint-Jean, about 250 km from Saint-Félicien. It has around 3,000 residents, 50% of whom are under the age of 24. The Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan makes every effort to affirm the Atikamekw identity, values, language, culture and autonomy. It is in this spirit that it decided to obtain its full autonomy in matters of child protection.



**About the AFNQL**

The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador is a political organization that unites 43 First Nations Chiefs in Quebec and Labrador.

**About the FNQLHSSC**

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission is a non-profit organization that supports First Nations in Quebec in achieving their objectives in terms of health, wellness, culture and self-determination.

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**INFORMATION**

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