



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUPREME COURT OF CANADA DECISION REGARDING THE FEDERAL ACT RESPECTING  
FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (C-92)**

*Wendake, February 14, 2024* – The Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL, gathered in a General Assembly in Wendake, wishes to express its satisfaction following the decision that was rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The elected women recognize the historical importance of the decision but deplore how long it took for it to be made. The decision rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada will never be able to erase the countless heartbreaking stories experienced by First Nations families related to the provincial Youth Protection Act. The elected women of the AFNQL further lament the Legault government’s insistence on imposing its Youth Protection Act rather than recognizing the validity of First Nations laws which has led to the loss of four precious years as well as severe consequences for many children.

“We are elected women, we are women, mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers and bearers of water, lives, culture, and tradition. We have always had the necessary competence to protect our children. The Supreme Court is finally giving us justice and at least partially removing the obstacles put in our way by the provincial government, and we want to recognize that,” said Ms. Carina Dominique, Councillor for the Innu nation of Mashteuiatsh, on behalf of the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL.

“The elected women will remain very attentive to the consequences of this important decision of the Supreme Court and will firmly denounce any obstacle to its implementation. We can no longer tolerate anyone putting our children and families at risk. Never again!”, affirmed Ms. Nadia Robertson, Councillor for the Mig’maq Nation of Gespeg, on behalf of the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL.

**About the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL**

The Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL is completely composed of women who are duly elected to chief or councillor positions in the First Nations communities in Quebec and Labrador. The Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL aims for an equitable perspective of gender relations among the Chiefs’ Table of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador and the First Nations communities in Quebec, as well as all entities dealing with First Nations that recognize, respect, and support the role of women in leadership positions.