

FIRST NATIONS FORUM ON SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT

MARCH 27-29, 2018



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.



FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC
AND LABRADOR HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMISSION



Summary

Acknowledgements	4
Introduction	5
1. Quebec Native Women	5
1.1. An expertise in sexual assault	6
2. Presentation of the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault	8
2.1. Background	9
2.2. Organization of the Forum	10
3. First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault	11
3.1. Participation	11
3.2. Program	13
Day 1: March 27, 2018	14
Day 2: March 28, 2018	18
Day 3: March 29, 2018	21
4. Comments from the participants	24
5. The final action plan	26
6. Follow-up after the Forum	28
7. The “We Heal Together” campaign	29
Conclusion	30
References	31
Appendix A: Agenda	32
Appendix: Shockwaves framework	35
Appendix: First Nations Action Plan on Sexual Assault	36

Document prepared by Annie Bergeron, Health Coordinator, Kahnawake, May 28, 2018

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of this event, as well as highlight the dedication and hard work of the Quebec Native Women team, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, and the organizing committee.

Thank you also to the RCAAQ for having joined this project and for adding the urban perspective. Quebec Native Women would also like to mention the contribution of the speakers, who generously shared their time and knowledge, as well as the remarkable facilitation provided by Pierre Picard and Wáhiakatste Diome Deer.

The First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault was made possible thanks to the financial support of numerous partners: Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada, Ministère de la Justice du Québec, Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones du Québec, Secrétariat à la Condition féminine du Québec, Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec. We thank them wholeheartedly.

Québec 

Canada 

Partners



COMMISSION DE LA SANTÉ
ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX
DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR





Introduction

This report sets out the activities accomplished during the preparation and delivery of the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault, which was held March 27-29, 2018, at the Hôtel Plaza in Quebec City. The Forum is an initiative of Quebec Native Women, and was organized in close partnership with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSS).



Quebec Native Women

Since 1974, Quebec Native Women (QNW) is an association that represents First Nations women in Quebec living in Indigenous communities as well as in urban centres.

The goal of QNW is to support Indigenous women in their efforts to improve their own living conditions and that of their families through the promotion of nonviolence, justice, equal rights and health, as well as supporting women in their engagement within their communities. QNW is a member of Native Women's Association of Canada and holds a seat at the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

Indigenous women's health and well-being have always been the basis of the activities organized by QNW. Certain aspects of health have been discussed through questions related to violence and abuses of a sexual nature, areas in which QNW is actively involved. We were also involved in contributing to the achievement of a better economic, political, and judicial health, and consequently a better collective health for Indigenous women. As for sexual assault, the objective of QNW is to reinforce the ability of the Indigenous community members in Quebec to cope with the issue of sexual assault, both individually and collectively, by developing awareness, education, and training projects. In order to participate in the reconciliation process and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, QNW invites the government to act against violence toward Indigenous women by supporting projects initiated by Indigenous women organizations.

1.1. An expertise in sexual assault

For many years now, QNW has invested considerable efforts to shed light on the sexual assault issue.



2001

The Apitendemowin seminar, exclusively dealing with the problematics of sexual assault among Indigenous peoples, brought together community workers, specialists, and government representatives for three days in order to implement a collaborative effort on this issue, and raise awareness with governments and responsible organizations on the concerns and recommendations emanating from this exercise.

2003



The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador adopted a resolution to support “the action of Quebec Native Women aiming to implement a comprehensive strategy for awareness, prevention, and intervention on the subject of sexual assault among Indigenous peoples.”

2002

USSI-INIUN, a research project on sexual violence in Indigenous communities, was undertaken by QNW.

2005

The final research report, *Étude sur l’abus sexuel chez les Premières Nations du Québec (Study on Sexual Assault among Quebec First Nations)* was released in 2005.

2006

QNW launched its **Global Strategy for Prevention, Awareness, and Intervention** with regard to sexual assault for Indigenous communities.

2007

As a part of this strategy, QNW offered **training for Indigenous first-line workers**.



2009

Also as a part of this strategy, QNW completed a **literature review on regional services** offered in First Nations communities in regard to sexual assault, as well as those offered in the Quebec network.

This study shows that there are numerous gaps in services related to follow-up, support, and intervention, as well as a lack of funding in the communities to hire workers that could meet the demand.



2010

In light of the pressing need for awareness with regard to sexual assault in the Indigenous context, QNW developed an awareness campaign **My Sexuality, It's About Respect: Break the Silence!**

2011

Launching of the awareness campaign, still relevant today. It aims at providing awareness tools to prevent the harm caused by sexual assault and give power back to Indigenous communities so they can live their sexuality in dignity and respect. Within the context of the awareness campaign, QNW has developed awareness tools adapted to the realities of Indigenous communities.

2012



So as to meet the needs in training for Indigenous workers with regard to sexual assault, QNW developed the training entitled **Tsi Te Tio'karas Tatia'kénhe Tanon Tsi Te Ioswat'the - Walking through the dark and into the light: An intervention guide to dealing with sexual assault.**

This training was offered to the workers of 11 Indigenous shelters, including Sept-Îles, Schefferville, and three others in Nunavik in the Inukjuak, Salluit, and Kuujuaq communities.

2015

QNW submitted a brief on Indigenous women and sexual assault, within the context of the implementation of activities according to the Quebec government's third action plan with regard to sexual assault.



2017

The intervention guide to dealing with sexual assault was published and training provided to the workers of the Quebec Friendship Centres.



Presentation of the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault

The First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault, hosted by QNW in partnership with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSS), was an opportunity to meet, discuss, and collectively reflect on solutions to curb the issue of sexual assault among our populations.

The Forum included a background for the issue of sexual assault in the Indigenous context, success stories, and workshops on an action plan to fight against sexual assault. **This provided an opportunity to mobilize and act together toward collective healing.** During the Forum, the participants were called to collaborate in workshops to enhance and adapt an action plan to fight against sexual assault among First Nations. At the close of the Forum, the enhanced action plan was approved by all of the First Nations participants.

This pre-eminent event which lasted 2½ days brought together about 100 First Nations members (political decision-makers, health directors, and workers) coming from about 30 communities and urban environments from across Quebec. Furthermore, numerous partners and departments had the opportunity to participate in the work and discussions. Ministers Kelley, Vallée, and David, as well as the Chief of the AFNQL, Mr. Ghislain Picard, were able to engage with us to take the actions necessary to end sexual assault among First Nations.



2.1. Background

Recently, more and more Indigenous people have chosen to break the silence about the sexual violence of which they are victims.

Moreover, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission shed light on multiple cases of sexual assaults of which Indigenous students were victims during the residential school period, and demonstrated the intergenerational impacts of these abuses (CVR, 2012).

More recently still, in October 2015, a broadcast of the *Enquête* television show had a bombshell effect in Quebec when, for the first time, Indigenous women of Val-d'Or openly denounced the sexual assault and violence they had experienced from certain police officers of the *Sûreté du Québec*, who were supposed to protect them (Dupuis, 2015). A further broadcast of the *Enquête* television show, aired in January 2017, then focused on the difficulties inherent to filing a complaint for sexual assault in certain Indigenous communities (Panasuk, 2017). These broadcasts describe problematics that are known among Indigenous people, but which are too often denied or kept silent. **The women who have courage to denounce this sexual violence break down taboos and the law of silence that seems to predominate in Indigenous environments.**

Following these broadcasts, QNW was solicited more than ever, whether by Indigenous women who also wanted to denounce or do something to curb this problem, or by organizations and workers wishing to be made more aware of and become better equipped with regard to this issue.

Furthermore, **the rise of the #metoo movement created favourable circumstances for the discussion of difficult questions pertaining to sexual assault and harassment.** Within this context, it seemed clear to QNW that the time had come to meet and act collectively to be able to efficiently fight against sexual assault. Furthermore, QNW has the experience and expertise to deal with these issues.



// The idea for this forum emanated from the testimonies and denunciations by resilient and determined women. "I would like to thank the Algonquin women who wrote to me after the *Enquête* broadcast for having the courage to make their voice heard, to declare in unison: 'That's enough.' Thank you - You are an incredible source of strength and inspiration. //

Viviane Michel, President, QNW

2.2. Organization of the Forum

With the realization that it was more than time for action, QNW quickly created a partnership with the FNQLHSS, the leading organization for Quebec First Nations health and social services.

An initial meeting which took place in May 2017 between QNW, FNQLHSS, and various key players in the area of sexual assault among First Nations, helped to identify needs and share ideas on what the Forum would look like. The hiring of an experienced facilitator also ensured productivity during work sessions. With eight work sessions for the organizing committee, which took place between May 2017 and February 2018, the committee was able to engage in preparatory discussions and establish the foundations for what would become the First Nations action plan to fight against sexual assault. Furthermore, meetings with government partners enabled the

establishment of collaboration objectives between First Nations and different partners that could be approached for this ongoing endeavour.

On October 31, 2017, the Forum gains the support of the AFNQL through a motion proposed by Chief Adrienne Jérôme from Lac-Simon.

“The AFNQL fully supports the work of Quebec Native Women and the FNQLHSS in the hosting of a regional forum whose objective is the adoption of an action plan to guide our work in eliminating sexual assault and re-establishing mutually respectful and trustworthy relationships.”

Excerpt of the minutes of the AFNQL Chiefs' Assembly October 30 and 31, 2017.

The members of the Forum's organizing committee

- > Quebec Native Women
- > First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission
- > Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec
- > Danielle Descent, psychologist experienced with First Nations
- > Dr. Judith Morency, psychologist experienced with First Nations
- > Marie-Luce Jourdain, Special Projects Manager, Innu Takuaitan Uashat mak Mani-utenam



3

First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault

3.1. Participation

Invitations for the Forum were sent in February 2018. They initially targeted non-conventioned First Nations community members on the basis of three per community: a health and social services director, a political representative, an involved member of their choosing (worker, elder, etc.). Members of the Eeyou and Naskapi Nations were also invited. Furthermore, invitations were sent to the Friendship Centres to ensure a representation of the realities of urban Indigenous people. Additionally, many Indigenous partners and others from the health, justice, and social services networks were invited, as well as various departments and policy makers interested in supporting our action and investing in the fight against sexual assault. Their presence was vital to ensure that everyone work collectively in support of the movement.

The First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault brought together more than 160 people, including key players in the fight against sexual assault among First Nations, as well

as numerous partners. Among the Forum participants, there were first-line workers, health and social services directors, and chiefs or political advisers, coming from approximately 30 Indigenous communities or urban environments in Quebec, and from eight different nations (Innu, Algonquin, Atikamekw, Micmac, Mohawk, Cree, Naskapi, Abenaki).



Promotional poster for the event

The Forum also benefited from the present of other First Nations members from the following organizations, allowing for a representation of urban realities, as well as many other non-Indigenous partners:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > CALACS from Val-d'Or (Mikizi project) > CAVAC (Indigenous liaison officer) > Quebec Indigenous Friendship Centres > Indigenous shelters > Centre Wapan > Centre miam Uapukun > Indigenous justice committees > AFNQL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec > Fondation Marie-Vincent > À cœur d'homme > Regroupement québécois des CALACS > Service de police de la ville de Montréal > Correctional Service Canada > Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones du Québec > Ministère de la Sécurité publique > Ministère de la Justice > Secrétariat à la Condition féminine du Québec > Sûreté du Québec > Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales |
|---|--|--|



The commitment ceremony with Chiefs and Health Directors

3.2. Program

The Forum's primary focus was to bring together First Nations people in order to directly discuss sexual assault issues. This unique opportunity for such a gathering was to facilitate discussions together on this issue and to share our expertise. First Nations are experts of their situations: they have the historical, cultural, spiritual, and social knowledge to understand sexual assault and consider the best means toward collective healing.

Facilitators for the Forum

Our facilitators for the Forum were Mr. Pierre Picard, Huron-Wendat, specialized in the field of intervention in cases of sexual assault among First Nations, and experienced conference speaker and trainer, accompanied by Mrs. Wáhiakatste Diome-Deer, Mohawk, QNW Youth Coordinator.

Also, this was an action-oriented forum, to the extent that all the participants had the opportunity to define together, by and for First Nations, what the action plan would be in compliance with our values, histories, cultures, identities, and privileged means of healing. The participants also had the opportunity and the task of speaking up as representatives of their community.

In summary, the Forum was the opportunity to mobilize and establish a work plan to engage together toward our collective healing path.



Québec Native Women staff

DAY 1

Tuesday
March 27, 2018

On March 27, 2018, following a traditional opening prayer, the introductory speeches opened the discussions on the importance of meeting together to collectively address the issue of sexual assault. Remarks pronounced by Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, Quebec minister of Affaires autochtones in Quebec, and Mrs. Stéphanie Vallée, Quebec minister of Justice, opened the assembly. Then came Mrs. Viviane Michel, QNW President and co-chair of the Forum, and

Mrs. Marjolaine Sioui, FNQLHSS Executive Director and co-chair of the Forum, who spoke to us from their heart about the importance of this event for First Nations. Finally, a word from the Chief of the AFNQL, Mr. Ghislain Picard, who inspired us for the two days of work ahead of us.

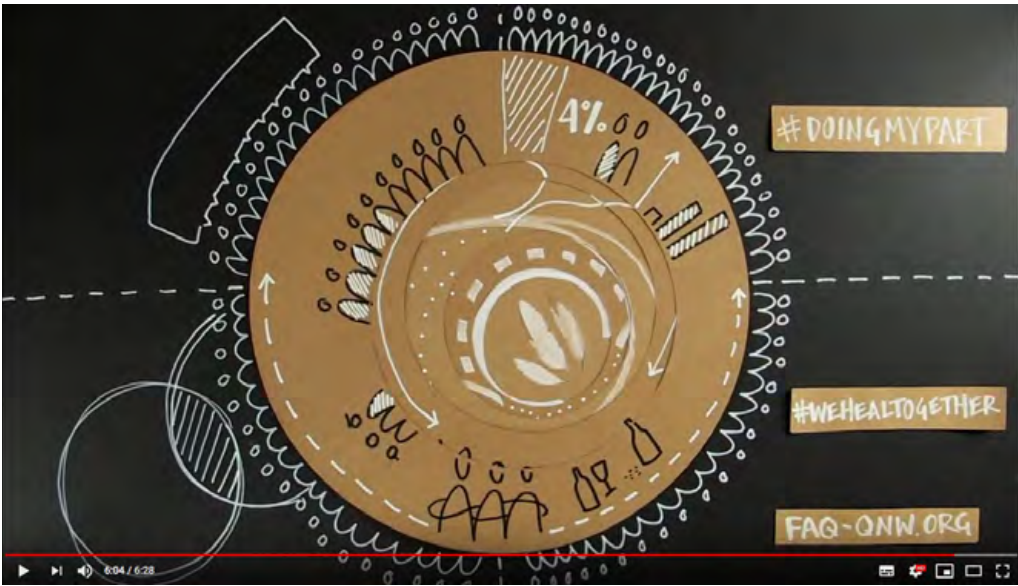
Mrs. Michel then presented the objectives of the Forum and the importance of the process to be undertaken by and for First Nations. Then, Mrs. Sioui presented the vision for the Forum: **“Each First Nations community engages in preventing and countering sexual assault, and implementing concrete actions to break the cycle of sexual violence, while supporting victims and aggressors on the path to healing.”**



Viviane Michel, Marjolaine Sioui, Stéphanie Vallée, Geoffrey Kelley and Ghislain Picard

Then, the participants were able to reflect on colonial history that affected First Nations and their perception of sexuality and healthy relationships. To do so, a short video “Our history, past and present” (created by Percolab with a story by Wáhiakatste Diome-Deer) gave an overview of the history of colonization and the emergence of sexual assault issues among First Nations (See link below).

Then, in order to illustrate the impact of sexual assault has, not only on the victims and the aggressors, but also on their families and the community, a powerful presentation of the “Shockwave” framework supported by audio excerpts, touched the participants. In this audiovisual presentation, different people from an Indigenous community affected by the sexual assault of a 12-year-old young girl presented their point of view and how this had affected them personally. It was a disturbing look at the extent of the impacts and the importance of confronting the situation for collective well-being (see the visual in Appendix B).



Click on the image above to see the online video on youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4_X5SRhxpM



Mrs. Jessica Vollant and Mary Coon

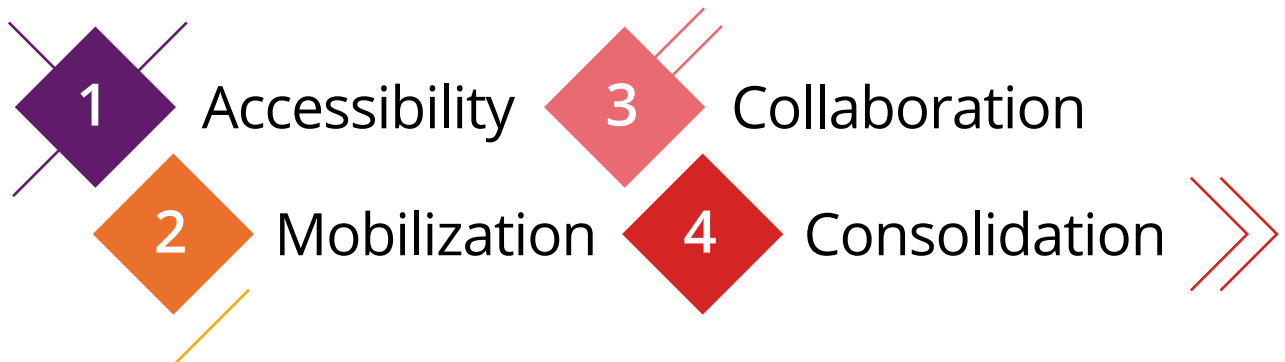
Afterwards, the inspiring success story of the Miroskamin program, meaning “spring”, was presented to us by Mrs. Mary Coon and Mrs. Jessica Vollant. The objective of the presentation of success stories was the sharing of expertise, inspiration, hope, challenges and difficulties to better move toward the future. The Miroskamin program consisted of intensive therapy sessions in a natural environment for adult victims of trauma and/or sexual assault, through a holistic and cultural approach.

In the afternoon, the facilitators presented the action plan and Mr. Richard Gray, FNQLHSS social services manager, presented the objectives that are at the

core of the action plan. It is essential to remember you that work on the action plan is the central element of the Forum. The participants were also able to split up into small groups, according to their communities or realities, for a first workshop where they were to provide their comments and suggestions on the vision and the four major objectives of the action plan: 1- Accessibility; 2- Mobilization; 3- Collaboration; 4- Consolidation.

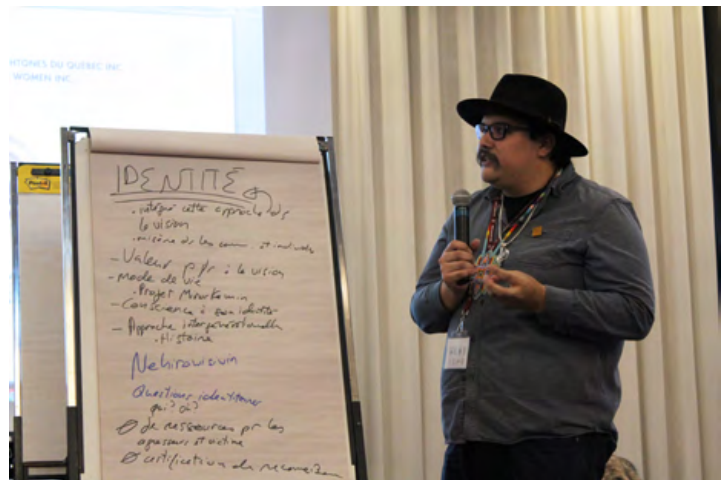
The representatives of each working group then presented the summary of their discussions, which guided the work for the modifications to be brought to the action plan for the next day. The facilitators thereby concluded the first day of the gathering. In the evening, the participants’ comments were integrated in the action plan presented the next day.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN





Mary Coon



Presentations by workshop facilitators



Participants at the Forum

DAY 2

Wednesday
March 28, 2018

The second day of the Forum got off to a strong start with the presentation of the second success story: that of the Wigobisan (rainbow) program from the Lac-Simon community. Chief Adrienne Jérôme, Mrs. Judith Morency, as well as two workers in the program, Mrs. Micheline Anichinapéo and Mrs. Élisabeth Papatie, shared with us about this new community and clinical intervention program for children and teens victims of sexual assault and exhibiting problematic sexual behaviours, and their parents. This program had known a huge success before abruptly losing its funding.



Presentation of the success story of "Wigobisan"

A greater part of the rest of the day was spent in small-group workshops discussing the actions necessary to achieve the four objectives identified together the day before. The participants mentioned several important points that were shared in a plenary session by the representatives of each group. These suggestions and modifications were noted to establish the final version of the action plan. These include the importance that culture and Indigenous specificities be explicitly mentioned in the guiding principles, the importance of cultural safety, the clarity of the plan, and the importance of the structure for follow-up.



Hélène Mollen and Chief Jean-Charles Piétacho, from the community of Ekuanitshit

At the end of the day, Mrs. Viviane Michel (QNW) presented an overview of the support and follow-up committee, who still has to more clearly define its tasks and membership. Then, Richard Gray (FNQLHSS) presented FNQLHSS' regional follow-up schedule. The last presentation was that of Mrs. Julia Couture-Glassco, QNW Communication Officer, who introduced the #wehealtogether campaign.

The second day of the Forum came to a wonderful end when each delegate posted a feather on the wall of commitments, including an action that they were willing to undertake in the fight against sexual assault.



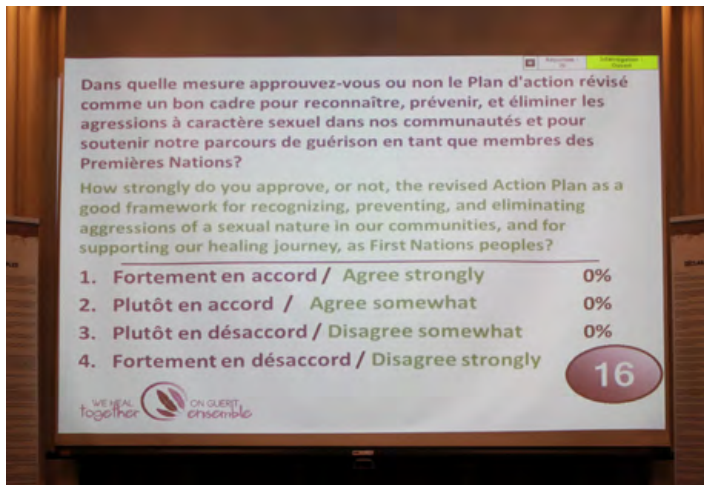
The wall of commitments at the Forum

DAY 3

Thursday
March 29, 2018

The third day of the Forum was first of all an opportunity to present the fruit of the participants' work. A final action plan, including the comments and modifications from the previous day's workshops, was presented and approved by all participants by secret ballot.

Then, a last workshop in small groups allowed the participants to envision the upcoming months and discuss the next actions to be undertaken. The summaries of the plenary sessions were noted to help us better establish the support structure and the needs of the communities.



Participants vote on the adoption of the action plan developed during the Forum.

Participants at the Forum



Finally, the last day was very important since it was an opportunity for all to engage personally and collectively to bring life to the First Nations action plan against sexual assault. Goose feathers represented the commitment required to continue the work and collaborate. Mrs. Viviane Michel and Mrs. Marjolaine Sioui gave inspiring speeches on their commitments in pursuing their involvement in the issue of sexual assault and support of the action plan. Speeches were given for engagement and support by Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, Quebec minister of Affaires autochtones, and by Mrs. H el ene David, Quebec minister of Condition f eminine. Then, Mr. Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL, also gave a speech, mobilizing First Nations to fight against sexual assault. Many participants also came to the microphone, committing to continue the work that was started at the Forum.

After these touching declarations, acknowledgements were pronounced to the attention of the organizers, to the QNW and FNQLHSS teams, to the facilitators, and all those who made the event possible. The Forum ended with a traditional closing ceremony.



The commitment feathers, presented to the Chiefs, Ministers and Health Directors

*Karine R egis,
Marjolaine Sioui,
Viviane Michel
and Mary Coon*



A press conference followed, with Mrs. Viviane Michel, Mrs. Marjolaine Sioui, and Mr. Ghislain Picard. A half-dozen media representatives responded to our call².

“We are very satisfied with the results of the Forum, we come away with a clear action plan and this momentum for mobilization must continue. First of all, we aim for each First Nations community to engage in preventing sexual assault and implement concrete actions to break the cycle of sexual violence. QNW and FNQLHSS will come together in their efforts to implement a follow-up committee who will report on progress made after the Forum. We also make the commitment to communicate and share best community practices. Awareness is part of our responsibilities and we intend to continue to find solutions to break the silence and the taboos around sexual violence in our communities,”

Mrs. Viviane Michel, QNW President.

“Our mandate is to listen to the voice of the community and support First Nations communities and organizations for the development of the local action plan. We will mobilize government partners and external organizations so that the teams working with First Nations can benefit from their expertise. We will take steps immediately, by first of all identifying needs in terms of support and current practices”,

Mrs. Marjolaine Sioui, FNQLHSS Executive Director.

“Engagement in the fight against sexual violence and violence in any form is everyone’s business. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety and healthy development of our children, families, and communities. Mobilization requires a clear political commitment for the implementation of the action plan, according to the local practices and initiatives of the communities”.

Mr. Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador

² **A few articles available - in French (click on the links to see them):**

Radio-Canada

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1092337/un-plan-daction-pour-contrer-la-violence-sexuelle-chez-les-autochtones>

Radio-Canada

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/espaces-autochtones/a-la-une/document/nouvelles/article/1091870/autochtones-forum-premieres-nations-solutions-viviane-michel>

Le Devoir

<https://www.ledevoir.com/societe/524075/des-autochtones-offrent-leur-reponse-a-moiaussi>

4

Comments from the participants

Following the analysis of the participants' evaluation forms for this event, we were pleased to find that the event was appreciated by a vast majority of respondents and that it met their expectations.

From the global evaluation of the forms, we can state that the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault was a success and the basic objectives of the Forum were met.

The comments highlighted the relevance and great interest generated through working on the action plan in group workshops. The participants appreciated being able to contribute and share on the content of the action plan. Another aspect that was particularly appreciated by participants was the presentation of success stories. Hearing inspiring stories and sharing on the expertise developed by First Nations seems to be motivating as a possible solution to collectively fight against sexual assault. Moreover, the aspect of the collective work accomplished at the Forum was mentioned as being a strong point; simply meeting together to discuss these issues and possible solutions was beneficial. Generally speaking, the comments were also very positive with regard to the organization and facilitation of the event.



“It was a positive experience to hear individuals from different communities. Especially because the visions were adapted to each community [...] I think that the small group activities were very productive.”

“The review of the vision and objectives reflected the discussions well. The success story provided encouragement and a transfer of knowledge. The group workshops were a strong point.”

“I loved hearing the success stories and seeing how passionate the people involved were.”

“Very well organized. I found that everything ran smoothly. Everything was perfect!”

“I found the welcome very friendly and the prayer was very good and appropriate. The two competent facilitators, the leaders’ speeches very motivating. I appreciated hearing about the Wemotaci Miroskamin program; I think it must help a lot of victims.” [TR]

“To know the members of other First Nations, share about our issues, and join forces is really a great initiative!” [TR]

“I am confident that the project will bear fruit; the Forum is very well organized: structure, resources, skills... I appreciated the information on social media. I will share. Thank you.” [TR]

“I appreciated having the honour and privilege to participate in a unique collective action plan, specific to our realities.” [TR]

“This is a new beginning, an event that will go down in history.” [TR]

5 The final action plan

The vision of the First Nations final action plan against sexual assault is that, in respect of their particularities related to culture and identity:

Each First Nations community is committed to recognize, reduce, prevent, and eliminate assault of a sexual nature.

Concrete actions are proposed and contribute to the individual and collective well-being, while supporting victims, aggressors, and any other person impacted, according to their respective needs.



FOUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES GUIDE THE PLAN



1

Accessibility

All First Nations persons have an easy, quick, and sustainable access to intervention, prevention, and post intervention for issues of assault of a sexual nature.

This includes the recognition of and access to natural caregivers and cultural/spiritual guides, and services that are:

- > Culturally safe;
- > Compatible with their spoken language;
- > Available in or close to their communities, including those that are isolated.

2

Mobilization

All First Nations persons are aware of the problem with regard to assault of a sexual nature; they are mobilized to eliminate this assault, and promote healthy and respectful sexual education.

3

Collaboration

By acknowledging and respecting the vision, the skills, and the practices of First Nations, local, regional, and national partners collaborate and support First Nations, in a sustainable way, in the application of solutions identified and implementation of the required resources.

4

Consolidation

The structures, mechanisms, tools, and resources to recognize, reduce, prevent, and eliminate assault of a sexual nature, and re-establish a safe environment for all, are available on a sustainable basis.

The detailed action plan is attached to this report. It should be noted that the action plan is intended as a working tool for First Nations and each community has the freedom to adapt their action plan to their own realities and cultures.

6 Follow-up after the Forum

Follow-up after the Forum is a vital element for the success of the movement initiated to fight against sexual assault together.

If the intention of the Forum was to be a starting point, a catalyst for the movement, the challenge now is to maintain this mobilization, continuous communication, and furtherance of the work undertaken.

In order to do so, it was decided:

- > to implement a regional support and follow-up committee to support communities in the review of the local action plans;
- > to coordinate and ensure collaboration with regional and national partners;
- > and to consult communities to promote the efficiency and sustainability of the local action plan: be its guardians, enhance it, update it, and ensure the continuity of the vision at the regional level after 2021.

To get the process going, the regional committee is composed of members of the Forum's organizing committee.





The “We Heal Together” campaign

The **#WeHealTogether** campaign will serve as a driving force for the movement initiated by the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault. Through this campaign, we encourage people to present texts or videos on how they do their part in this movement to heal and put an end to sexual violence. These videos and texts will be available on our website and social networks.

Also, QNW will make available on our website the tools used at the Forum, the action plan, an interactive mapping of resources for sexual assault, and explanations of the campaign and movement in the fight against sexual assault. The logo created for the Forum, composed of three feathers within a circle, represents the holistic vision of the approach that we wish to implement for the movement. The colour purple was chosen because it represents healing, a theme that is at the heart of our process. This logo will be used on promotional objects for the campaign, including buttons and pins distributed during the Forum.





Conclusion

In conclusion, QNW considers the organization of this Forum a huge success. The mobilization of such a great number of First Nations communities, organizations, and individuals on the issues of sexual assault is already a big step in the right direction. We are also very satisfied with the presence and support of numerous non-Indigenous partners.

The work sessions on the action plan were productive and allowed the development of a plan of action that is really by and for First Nations. The reception of the action plan was very positive and the vast majority of participants left very satisfied with it. The commitments made at the Forum also allowed us to anticipate that the support necessary to make the plan a reality will be provided by the involved partners.

The challenge of follow-up after the Forum remains. The resources and tools should be accessible and the mobilization should be maintained. In order to do so, QNW, the FNQLHSS, and the RCAAQ will need the support of their partners to continue to provide a support role to the Indigenous communities.



References

- > Dupuis, J. (2015). Abus de la SQ : les femmes brisent le silence [reportage]. E. Marchand (réalisateur), *Enquête*. Ici Radio-Canada, Montréal.
- > Quebec Native Women. (2015). *Les femmes autochtones et les agressions sexuelles*. Brief presented for the implementation of the preparatory work on the third governmental action plan with regard to sexual assault. Kahnawake.
- > Quebec Native Women. (2011). *My Sexuality, It's About Respect: Break the Silence!* Kahnawake..
- > Quebec Native Women. (2005). Ussi-Iniun Project. *Étude sur l'abus sexuel chez les Premières Nations du Québec*. Final Report Kahnawake.
- > Quebec Native Women. (2001). *Apitendemowin*. Rapport du premier séminaire au sujet des agressions à caractère sexuel en milieu autochtone.
- > Panasuk, A. (2017). Le cercle vicieux [reportage]. E. Marchand (réalisateur), *Enquête*. Ici Radio-Canada, Montréal.

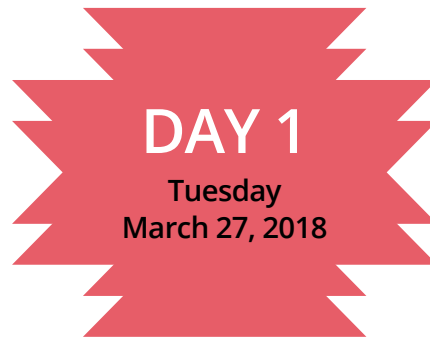
Appendix A: Agenda

First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault “We Heal Together”

Hôtel Plaza, Quebec City
Plenary: Plaza 1 Room
March 27-29, 2018

Objectives of the meeting

A session for planning, collaboration, and engagement to counter the cycle of sexual violence while supporting the victims and aggressors on the path to healing.



8:15 a.m. Welcoming

8:30 a.m. **OPENING REMARKS, PRAYER**

- > Opening prayer
- > Viviane Michel, President of QNW, Co-Chair of the Forum
- > Marjolaine Sioui, Executive Director, FNQLHSS, Co-Chair of the Forum
- > Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, minister responsible for Affaires autochtones
- > Mrs. Stéphanie Vallée, minister of Justice
- > Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL
- > *Facilitators: Pierre Picard and Wahiakatste “Wahi” Diome-Deer*

9:10 a.m. **WHY THE FORUM AND WHY NOW?**

Viviane Michel, QNW

9:30 a.m. **OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM**

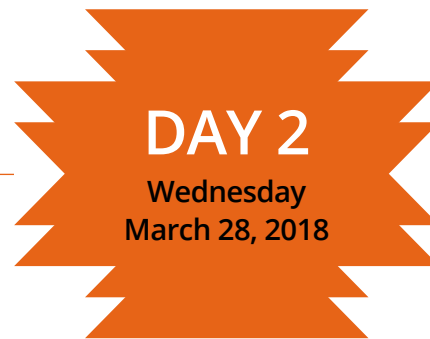
WHAT IS OUR VISION?

What will success look like for people of the First Nations?

Marjolaine Sioui, FNQLHSS

9:45 a.m. **SEXUAL ASSAULT: OUR HISTORY, PAST AND PRESENT**

Background

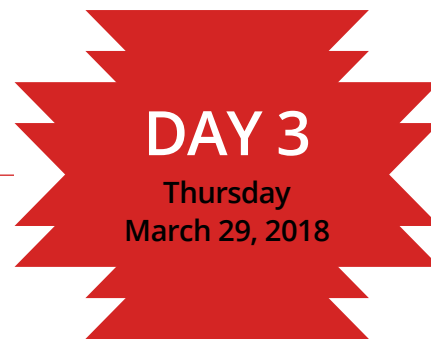


DAY 2
Wednesday
March 28, 2018

- 10:45 a.m. Health break
- 11:00 a.m. **SUCCESS STORY**
Wemotaci:
Miroskamin program
Presenters:
Mary Coon and Jessica Vollant
- NOON Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. **ACTION PLAN:**
PRESENTATION
AND OBJECTIVES
1. Accessibility
2. Mobilization
3. Collaboration
4. Consolidation
Richard Gray, FNQLHSS
- 1:45 p.m. **INSTRUCTIONS**
FOR THE WORKSHOPS
- 2:15 p.m. **WORKSHOPS**
The vision and objectives
of the action plan
- 3:30 p.m. Health break
- 4:00 p.m. **FEEDBACK:**
PLENARY SESSION
- 4:30 p.m. Adjournement
- 7:00 p.m. Sharing Circle
(optional)

- 8:15 a.m. Welcoming
- 8:30 a.m. **OPENING REMARKS**
- 8:35 a.m. **REVIEW OF THE FIRST DAY**
- 9:00 a.m. **SUCCESS STORY**
Lac Simon:
Wigobisan program
Presenters
> *Chief Adrienne Jérôme*
> *Lucien Wabanonik, counsellor*
> *Judith Morency, psychologist*
- 10:00 a.m. **INSTRUCTIONS FOR**
THE WORKSHOPS
- 10:15 a.m. Health break
- 10:30 a.m. **WORKSHOPS**
Accessibility and Mobilization:
actions to be undertaken
- 11:30 a.m. **FEEDBACK: PLENARY SESSION**
- NOON Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. **INSTRUCTIONS FOR**
THE WORKSHOPS
- 1:30 p.m. **WORKSHOPS**
Collaboration and Consolidation:
actions to be undertaken

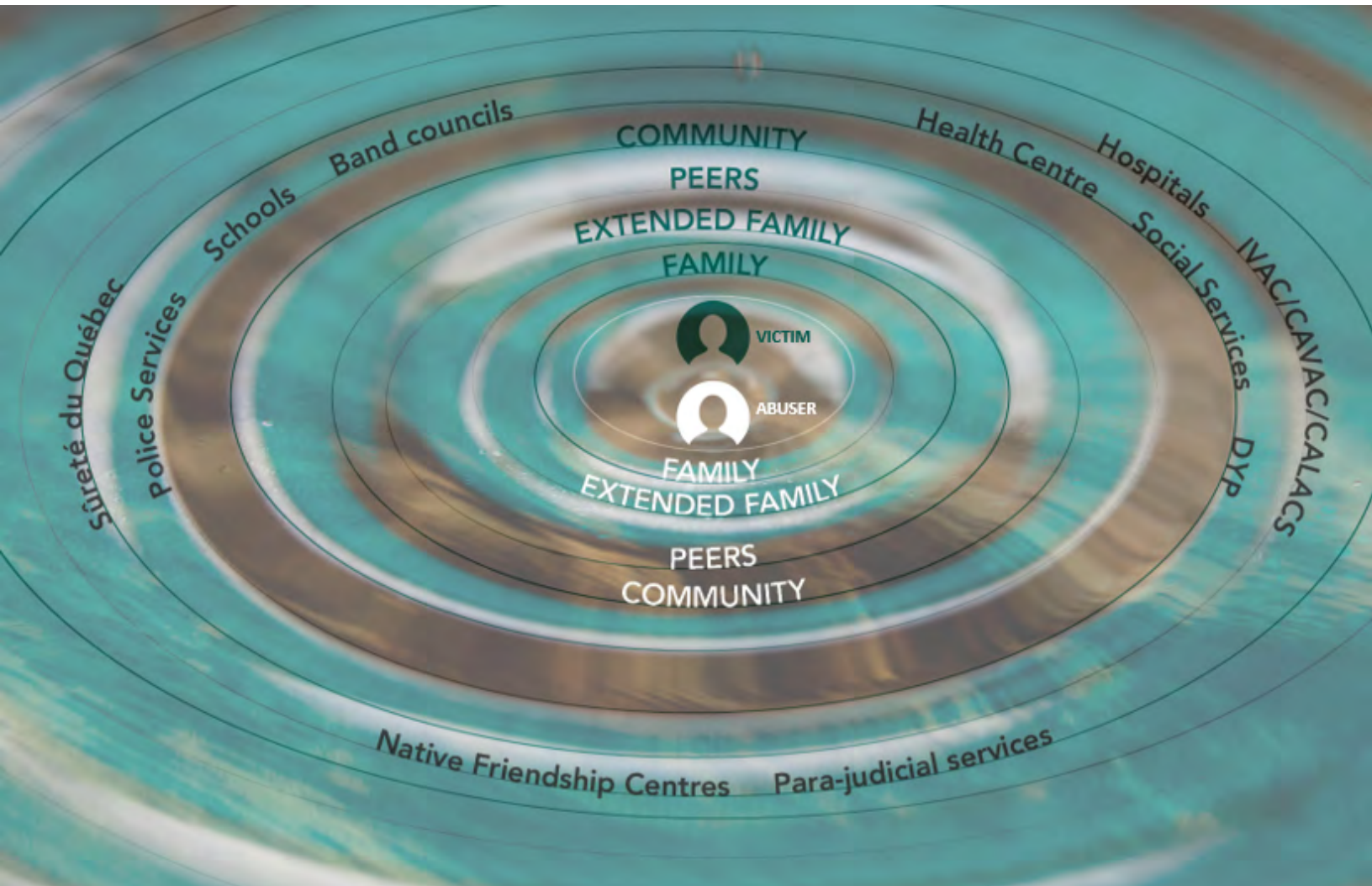
- 2:45 p.m. Health break
- 3:00 p.m. **FEEDBACK:
PLENARY SESSION**
- 3:30 p.m. **IMPLEMENTATION:
CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS:**
How can we work together to adequately support the implementation of the action plan?
- 1. Support and follow-up committee**
Viviane Michel, QNW
- 2. Work schedule, resources, coordination and regional support**
Richard Gray, FNQLHSS
- 3. Awareness campaign and social media**
Julia Couture-Glassco, QNW
- 4:45 p.m. Adjournement
- 7:00 p.m. Sharing Circle (optional)



- 8:15 a.m. Welcoming
- 8:30 a.m. **OPENING REMARKS**
- 8:45 a.m. **SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ACTION PLAN**
Approval
- 9:15 a.m. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN**
Upcoming months
- 9:30 a.m. **WORKSHOPS**
Implementation of the action plan:
Upcoming months
- 10:30 a.m. Health break
- 10:45 a.m. **FEEDBACK:
PLENARY SESSION**
- 11:15 a.m. **COMMITMENTS TOWARD SUPPORT**
- 11:45 a.m. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
Viviane Michel, QNW
Marjolaine Sioui, FNQLHSS
- NOON **CLOSING CEREMONY**
> Closing prayer
> Song

Appendix B

Shockwaves framework



Appendix C

First Nations Action Plan on Sexual Assault

PDF version

[https://www.faq-qnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/
ACTION-PLAN_Eng-23-mai.pdf](https://www.faq-qnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ACTION-PLAN_Eng-23-mai.pdf)

Word version also available on the QNW website

<https://www.faq-qnw.org/en/we-heal-together/>

To access files, clic on the links above.





WE HEAL
together





FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

Quebec Native Women

Business Complex River Road
Kahnawake, Quebec J0L 1B0
450-632-0088 – info@faq-qnw.org
faq-qnw.org



**FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC
AND LABRADOR HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMISSION**

**First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health
and Social Services Commission**

250 Place Chef-Michel-Laveau, Suite 102
Wendake, Quebec G0A 4V0
418-842-1540 – info@cssspnql.com
cssspnql.com

Québec 

Canada 