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PRESS RELEASE

Quebec Native Women (QNW) and Saint Paul University (SPU) Announce the Launch of a Workshop series on Indigenous Women's Governance in Quebec

In 2018, QNW and SPU signed a full partnership memorandum of understanding to develop a summer school on Indigenous women's leadership. Both partners wanted to establish a relationship where the parties would be mutually engaged in the conceptualization and the development of the project. This year, the format chosen was an online workshop series. For QNW, this partnership is aimed at developing a course reflective of its members' current needs with regard to leadership training. Viviane Michel, president of QNW, explained that *"it is incredibly important that our Indigenous women have access to the necessary tools and resources to empower them to become leaders and agents of change in their community."* Chantal Beauvais, Rector of SPU, agrees and added that *"it is more important than ever that universities engage in dialogue with Indigenous Peoples as we all have much to learn and do. This partnership aligns perfectly with Saint Paul University's commitment to indigenize the institution and work on renewed relationships with Indigenous Peoples based on recognition, respect and mutual trust."*

The 2021 QNW-SPU workshop series aims to equip Indigenous women leaders with the practical knowledge, know-how and skills necessary to strengthen their ability to act autonomously and to take their rightful place in the governance of their communities. The workshops examine Indigenous community governance from an Indigenous women's perspective by exploring traditional and contemporary practices, changing roles and structures influenced by colonization, leadership roles, issues and methods, empowerment, and resistance strategies and tactics. The workshop series runs from June 7 to June 18 and, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is occurring online.

Professor Anny Morissette is facilitating the workshop series and is sharing her expertise on governance in Indigenous communities and, more particularly, the challenges faced by women. For Dr. Morissette, *"the QNW-SPU workshop series is an opportunity for Indigenous women leaders to gather strength together, to continue to make a difference in their communities and move Canadian society towards greater justice and equality."*

The workshops seek to offer participants a window into the unique knowledges of First Peoples political cultures, traditions of agency, leadership and decision-making. Participants in the Speakers Circles will include QNW's Vice-President Mary Hannaburg, QNW's Law and Policy Analyst Stéfanie Sirois-Gauthier, and Dr. Nadia Ferrara, Executive Director at the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, along with Marie-Louise Perron, Métis Knowledge Keeper at Saint Paul University.

Participants who complete the Indigenous Women's Governance Workshop Series will receive a certificate of recognition during Saint Paul University's graduation ceremony on June 18. The ceremony will be an opportunity to honour the participants who are true role models.

FOR INFORMATION

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