



**FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.**  
**QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.**

**Press release**  
**For immediate distribution**

**Federal election: It's time for Indigenous women to take their rightful place**

**Kahnawake, September 9 2021** — The upcoming federal election is raising a lot of expectations among First Nations women in Quebec. The high rates of violence, systemic racism and overall poorer socio-economic issues affecting Indigenous women in Quebec should be addressed by each political party during this election campaign.

Further, QNW is calling for the implementation of *Bill C-15, An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Regardless of the outcome of this federal election, it is critical that Bill C-15 be fully implemented through legislation.

The full and immediate implementation of all the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls must be acted upon with the next elected government.

QNW is demanding that racism and systemic discrimination be addressed and that the Joyce Principles be implemented within both the federal and provincial health care systems. Indigenous women and girls have been subject to prejudice and gender-based discrimination since colonization and this must stop!

A more efficient registration process for Indigenous women and their descendants following the Descheneaux decision must be put in place to address the unacceptable long registration waiting period which prohibits Indigenous women and their children from accessing services they are entitled to.

In addition, Indigenous women must have access to culturally-appropriate services in all sectors regardless of where they reside most notably in the health and justice systems. Access to leadership programs for Indigenous women must be developed and provided to enable their entry into leadership roles at the community, regional and national levels and to enable positive change.

Finally, as Indigenous women are the “keepers of water”, QNW wants to ensure that environmental issues are held as a priority by the next order of government and will in unison and collaboratively to protect the environment and water for the “next seven generations”.

*"Prior to colonization, Indigenous women played a central and essential role in the well-being of their communities. The next elected government has a responsibility to tell the real story of Indigenous peoples and women. It must work together with Indigenous and women's organizations to deconstruct the prejudices against First Nations,"* said Viviane Michel, President of QNW.

## About QNW

Founded in 1974, Quebec Native Women is an organization that represents First Nations women in Quebec as well as urban Indigenous women.

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Source:

**Doreen Petiquay Barthold**

*Communication Officer*

Quebec Native Women

Business Complex, River Road

C.P. 1989, Kahnawake (Québec) J0L 1B0

[514-757-1508](tel:514-757-1508) | [communication@faq-qnw.org](mailto:communication@faq-qnw.org)