



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

Press release
For immediate release

World March of Women of Quebec: "For a wind of change"

Kahnawake, October 17, 2021 — Quebec Native Women (QNW) published a research report in 2015 entitled "Nānīawig Māmawe Nīnawind, Standing Up and Standing Together. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Quebec." This first study on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Quebec illustrates the picture of this weighty situation. As mentioned in the QNW brief, disappearances are a recurring phenomenon in Indigenous communities. Moreover, it has existed for a long time through colonial policies of assimilation, such as the Indian Act and residential schools.

"Despite the holding of two commissions of inquiry, despite the speeches and promises made by the Canadian and Quebec governments, the violence and sexual assaults experienced by women and girls from First Nations communities are unfortunately still ongoing. This is why QNW and the members of the Quebec Coordination of the World March of Women (QCWMW) have agreed to march together to denounce this governmental inaction", declare the members of the QCWMW.

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, these two non-profit organizations joined their voices at Cabot Square Park in Montreal to ensure that no more sisters are stolen from them. They demand action on the issues that Indigenous women and girls disproportionately experience. First, justice must be done to ensure that their rights are respected and that they obtain redress for the wrongs of the state. Second, racial profiling through police interventions must also be stopped immediately so that our women and girls are safe. In this sense, there must be concrete measures put in place to make the lives and daily lives of Indigenous women safer. A long-standing phenomenon, but denounced by the recent report of the program *Enquête*, there must also be reparation for the many cases of forced sterilization.

"It is by uniting our forces that our demands will be heard: the more we are, the more our voices carry far. We must act with a common front to protect our women, our daughters, our cousins, our sisters, our aunts, our grandmothers. We can no longer afford to live in fear and insecurity just because we are women and Indigenous people," said Viviane Michel, President of QNW.

About QNW

Founded in 1974, Quebec Native Women is a non-profit organization that represents First Nations women in Quebec as well as urban Indigenous women.

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