

Press release For immediate release

## Quebec Native Women strongly supports the Indigenous women of Val-d'Or

**Kahnawake, December 16, 2021** — Quebec Native Women (QNW) is in full support of the collective action issued on December 14 by Indigenous women in Val-d'Or, as represented by the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. The discriminatory actions and abuses committed against Indigenous women by Sûreté du Québec police officers must be brought to account.

The painful stories of these Indigenous women are unfortunately not surprising to QNW. QNW is not afraid to name the appalling behaviour of the police; discrimination and systemic racism against Indigenous women and girls, which still persists in Quebec.

QNW is demanding the Government of Quebec to intervene in this case and to take all the necessary steps to ensure that justice is served without delay. It is inconceivable that the Government of Quebec tolerate such behaviors and actions from Sûreté du Quebec police officers, whose role is to protect and ensure the security of all; Indigenous women and girls should not be afraid of police officers!

"We cannot wait for another decade, we cannot wait for more tragedies to occur and we cannot turn a blind eye to these acts. QNW fully supports the Val-d'Or Friendship Centre and the women in this collective action and commends them on their courage to bring forth and denounce such injustice. I sincerely hope that the collective action will bring justice to all those touched and affected by the actions of these Sûreté du Quebec police officers. Further, we encourage all women who have been victims of discriminatory practices and racist abuse to come forward and denounce these actions", attests Marjolaine Étienne, President of QNW.

If you are or know of members of your community who can take part in this collective action, please register on this site: https://tjl.quebec/recours-collectifs/caavd/.

The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre offers support and assistance to all persons and family members who want to join this collective action and can be contacted at: <a href="mailto:actioncollective@caavd.ca">actioncollective@caavd.ca</a>.

## **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.

Femmes autochtones du Québec | Femmes autochtones du Québec (faq-qnw.org)

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Source:

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