



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

Press release
For immediate release

The tracking bracelet: A protection measure to be adapted to Indigenous communities

Kahnawake, December 3, 2021 — Quebec Native Women (QNW) welcomes the Legault government's decision regarding the new protection measure for victims of domestic violence. The tracking bracelet will allow victims to regain their autonomy, an increased sense of security and peace of mind that will ease their fears.

However, QNW would like to address several challenges that could reduce the effectiveness of this bracelet in Indigenous communities, or even make it impossible to implement unless it is adapted. How will the alert zone around the victim be adapted in small communities where the offender may have limited choice to frequent the same places as the victim? If the signal to the central office and the police is sent via the cellular network when the offender crosses the alert zone, how can it be adapted to communities where cellular coverage is poor or non-existent? Knowing that there is already a bad history between Indigenous women and the police, how do you plan to increase the level of trust in these authorities?

Therefore, QNW invites the Ministry of Public Security and the Status of Women Secretariat as well as all concerned actors to discuss these issues around a concertation table with Indigenous organizations and representatives. This will allow each party to address these issues and put an end to the nightmare of domestic violence suffered by Indigenous women and girls.

"The more measures the better. Victims of domestic violence have been asking for the tracking bracelet for years and I am pleased to see that their request has finally led to something concrete. However, I call on the government to take the necessary measures to ensure that solutions are put in place to implement the project in Indigenous communities in a timely manner. The rate of victims of domestic violence is higher than the average for Indigenous women and in particular within the communities, we must act quickly", confirms 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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