

**Press release
For immediate release**

AFEAS AND QNW LAUNCH A CALL FOR CONSULTATION

Montreal, 8 mars 2023 – On the occasion of International Women's Rights Day, the Association féministe d'éducation et d'action sociale (Afeas) and Quebec Native Women (QNW) are joining hands to fight racism and discrimination against Indigenous women and girls, whose rights are still too often denied and violated.

The presidents of Afeas and QNW, Lise Courteau and Marjolaine Étienne, take advantage of this day dedicated to women's rights to urge the different levels of government, the institutions that depend on them and civil society to act together so that women can live in safety and in respect of their rights.

A discriminatory law

Despite amendments to the *Indian Act*, Indigenous women still have difficulty regaining their status and passing it on to their children and grandchildren like the men in their community. For the United Nations, [this law still discriminates against women](#). QNW and Afeas therefore demand the respect and implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), as well as the adoption of the [JOYCE PRINCIPLE](#).

Essential rights

Whether Indigenous women and girls live in an Indigenous community or in an urban area, they have the right to, among other things, quality education, decent work and equal pay, adequate health care and services according to their needs, a healthy and violence-free environment, and respect for their culture and language.

Rebuilding ties together

For many Indigenous spokespersons, an annual Day of Reconciliation is not enough. We need to know and understand, forgive and make amends by implementing the actions suggested by Indigenous women and girls.

To watch: Abenaki director and producer Kim O'Bomsawin's documentary series [Laissez-nous raconter](#), which gives voice to Quebec's 11 Indigenous Nations on the issues of reparation, spirituality, identity and territory.

Not to miss: on March 10, 2023, the Afeas de l'Ancienne-Lorette is organizing a conference on "[Indigenous Women's Rights](#)" with the Indigenous Leader and Senator Michèle Audette.

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Source [Afeas](#):

Hélène Cornellier

Responsible for policy issues

cornellier.communication@bell.net

514 915.7261

Source [QNW](#):

Doreen Petiquay Barthold, Communications Officer

communication@faq-qnw.org

(514) 757.1508