



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

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ADVOCATING FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RIGHTS: A GREAT SUMMIT TO MARK 50 YEARS OF QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN**

**Kahnawake, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024** – As part of the celebrations surrounding its 50th anniversary, Quebec Native Women (QNW) announces it will be holding a Great Summit focusing on the future of the defense of Indigenous women's rights in Quebec. This event will take place from May 13th to 16th, in Quebec.

Since 1974, QNW represents and defends the rights and interests of all Indigenous women in Quebec, with the aim of improving their living conditions through the fight for equality, justice, non-violence, education, health, and economic and social security. Through mobilization and unity, QNW works towards greater autonomy and increased participation of women in all spheres of society.

After half a century of existence, QNW wishes to take the time to appreciate all the progress made for the well-being of women since its inception, while also preparing for the future. In this regard, the Great Summit will serve as a major platform for reflection and discussion, bringing together over a hundred women from all First Nations across Quebec, as well as various stakeholders from all sectors of society.

The Great Summit will focus on the following themes:

- Leadership and Governance
- Social and Economy Development: Education and Women's Entrepreneurship
- Culture and Identity: Language and Intergenerational Relationships
- Territory and Climate Change

It will notably aim to:

- Conduct assessments of the situation regarding Indigenous women in Quebec;
- Identify priority issues in the short, medium, and long term;
- Propose solutions to these issues, as well as strategies to implement them.

A vibrant celebration will take place during this event to mark the organization's 50th anniversary.

*"The Great Summit will allow for the continuing development of Indigenous women's leadership and empowerment, ensuring a future at the height of their aspirations. This significant event could not have been possible without various partners' contribution. I am delighted to see that many are*

*committed to the path to reconciliation, especially in a project for and by Indigenous women, which will benefit society as a whole,"* emphasized Marjolaine Étienne, president of Quebec Native Women.

*"This Great Summit represent an important moment in the history of Indigenous women in Quebec. It will be an opportunity to take stock of the progress made and the path ahead. After 50 years of struggle, it is wise to assess the future of Indigenous women,"* rejoices the spokesperson for the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL, Nadia Robertson.

*"It is with great enthusiasm that I highlight the 50th anniversary of Quebec Native Women and the holding of its Summit in May. I trust that the findings and recommendations arising from these discussions will enable us to meet the needs of Indigenous women and girls more effectively,"* declares the Minister responsible for International Relations, Francophonie, and Women's Issues, Martine Biron.

*"Quebec Native Women is an important organization that amplifies the voices of First Nations women. Whether it's for better legal services or to raise awareness about the reality of Indigenous women in communities and urban settings, our government has always recognized the leadership of QNW. I hope that Indigenous women will continue to be ambassadors for young Indigenous people across Quebec. Happy 50th anniversary!"* says Ian Lafrenière, Minister responsible for Relations with First Nations and Inuit.

*"It is essential that the voices and lived experiences of Indigenous women continue to be heard and recognized. Quebec Native Women has been successfully working towards this goal for the past 50 years by advocating for Indigenous women's rights, both in Canada and on the international stage. This important event commemorates half a century of dedicated efforts to improve the well-being of thousands of women, empowering them to create a better future. Therefore, we will continue to support QNW's commendable work,"* says Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

## **About FAQ**

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

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### **Source:**

Quebec Native Women \ <https://faq-qnw.org/>

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