



PRESS RELEASE

**QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN CONGRATULATES FRANCIS VERREAULT-PAUL ON HIS
ELECTION AS HEAD OF AFNQL AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO GHISLAIN PICARD**

Kahnawake, February 27th, 2025 - Quebec Native Women (QNW) warmly congratulates Francis Verreault-Paul on his election as Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).

His commitment to indigenous communities and his forward-looking vision are a source of hope. QNW looks forward to working with Chief Verreault-Paul to advance First Nations issues, particularly those affecting women.

“This election testifies to the confidence First Nations have in Francis Verreault-Paul to represent them and defend their interests. His leadership and commitment will be essential assets for our communities,” stated QNW President Marjolaine Étienne.

QNW reaffirms its commitment to working with the new Chief of the AFNQL to ensure that the rights and issues of Indigenous women remain at the heart of political and social priorities. His support is essential to ensure that concrete actions are taken to continue advancing the cause of First Nations women and girls.

A legacy that lights the way

Quebec Native Women would also like to express its deep gratitude to Ghislain Picard for his 33 years of dedication at the head of the AFNQL. His unwavering support for the cause of Indigenous women and his role as a partner and ally have enabled significant advances in equity and justice for First Nations women.

“Thanks to Chief Picard's leadership, we have been able to advance our demands and strengthen our position on crucial issues. His constant support, both on the public stage and behind the scenes, has been decisive in advancing our cause. It's also thanks to him that Quebec Native Women now has a seat at the Chiefs' table, an essential recognition for bringing the voice of First Nations women to decision-making bodies,” emphasizes Ms. Étienne.

QNW would like to thank Ghislain Picard for his exceptional work. His voice and influence have been a driving force for change, and will continue to be essential levers for justice, equity and recognition of the rights of First Nations women.

As a new page turns with the arrival of Francis Verreault-Paul at the head of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard's legacy remains a source of inspiration for future generations. The solid foundations he laid will enable the new Chief to pursue this collective mission in a spirit of continuity and consolidation.

QNW welcomes this transition and reaffirms its commitment to working with Chief Verreault-Paul to continue the work begun for First Nations women and girls.

About QNW

Quebec Native Women is a non-profit organization that has been representing Quebec's First Nations and urban Indigenous women for 50 years.

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

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