



PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN UNVEILS ITS MAP DOCUMENTING MISSING OR MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE IN QUEBEC AND SOUNDS THE ALARM ON THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION**

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**Quebec City, March 31, 2026** – Quebec Native Women (QNW) unveiled today its mapping project documenting Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit individuals who have gone missing or been murdered (MMIWG2S+) in Quebec. This unprecedented overview, covering the period from 1950 to 2026, highlights the scale and persistence of violence against Indigenous women in the province.

Produced in partnership with the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO) and with financial support from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), this mapping project documents 124 cases of MMIWG2S+ in Quebec over this period, in addition to numerous deaths that were suspicious or occurred under aggravating circumstances. In total, nearly 220 life stories were documented and honored as part of this project.

This initiative has three main objectives: to document cases, to raise awareness among the public and decision-makers, and to honor the memory of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit individuals who have gone missing or been murdered by creating an accessible space of remembrance.

**Trends and Highlights**

Beyond the numbers, QNW reminds us that every piece of data represents a life, a family, and a community affected. The mapping reveals a deeply alarming reality and highlights certain troubling trends, including the concentration of cases in certain regions, such as Nunavik, Montreal, and the Outaouais, the significant number of cases occurring outside of communities, and the reality of violence experienced in various contexts, including domestic, family, sexual, and institutional violence.

Of the 124 cases, 96 involve murdered women and girls, 14 people remain missing and have never been found, and 14 people were reported missing before being found dead.

At the same time, data from the Quebec's Association of First Nations and Inuit Police Directors (QAFNIPD) provide a broader picture by shedding light on the reality experienced on the ground by Indigenous police services. In 2024 alone, more than 2,500 cases related to violence were opened across Quebec's 22 Indigenous police services. However, these figures represent only part of the reality, as many instances of violence go unreported or are never officially documented.

**QNW Sounds the Alarm**

The data revealed by this mapping project unequivocally demonstrate that violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people is not a thing of the past, but a current,

persistent, and systemic crisis. Many cases remain invisible or difficult to document due to structural, administrative, and historical limitations. Disappearances and murders are often linked to systemic, social, economic, and institutional factors.

In light of the gravity of these findings, QNW is sounding the alarm and calling for immediate and concerted action. To address the situation, institutions, governments, public services, and all relevant stakeholders must prioritize the voices and expertise of Indigenous women in all decision-making and operational processes to ensure the safety of Indigenous women and girls.

### **Quotes**

#### **Marjolaine Étienne, president of Quebec Native Women:**

“This map sheds light on a reality that our communities have long been aware of. Behind every circle on the map is a woman, a girl, a two-spirit person, a family, and a community. Today, we are not here merely to present data, but to issue a call for collective action. The safety of Indigenous women must become a priority for society as a whole and for the next government of Quebec. This map is an essential tool for better understanding, taking better action, and better prevention.”

#### **Audrey Rousseau, Professor of Sociology at UQO:**

“This mapping project documents a reality (MMIWGS+) that remains too often overlooked in Quebec, by combining the strengths of quantitative and qualitative research between the university and the community. Despite the challenges related to accessibility and the fragmentation of institutional data (particularly police data), this project demonstrates the urgent need to act in order to obtain a more accurate picture of the situation and support the implementation of concrete actions.”

#### **Pierre Simard, Director of Quebec’s Association of First Nations and Inuit Police Directors (QAFNIPD):**

“The overall picture presented today reveals the gravity of the situation and a reality that can no longer be treated as a series of isolated cases. In 2024, more than 2,500 cases related to violence were opened within our 22 police services, and this figure represents only the situations that enter the system. Too much violence still remains hidden. Our support demonstrates that another approach, based on collaboration between police services, community organizations, and institutions, is possible, in order to better prevent violence and protect Indigenous women.”

### **About QNW de FAQ**

Quebec Native Women is a nonprofit organization that has represented and defended the rights and interests of First Nations women and girls in Quebec for over 50 years.



**Photo from left to right:** Paul-André Perron, Strategic Advisor to the Coroner’s Office, Pierre Simard, Director of the Quebec’s Association of First Nations and Inuit Police Directors (QAFNIPD), Bridget Tolley, member of the MMIWG2S+ mapping advisory committee, Marjolaine Étienne, President of Quebec Native Women (QNW), Laura Rock, Interim Executive Director of Quebec Native Women (QNW)

**Link towards the press kit:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NEEw8iX9vAM4vp36WLZGFSLhkIB-vuYh?usp=sharing>

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

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