



**QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF
PESSAMIT AND CALLS ON POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACT**

Wendake, August 18, 2026 - Quebec Native Women (QNW) is responding with deep concern to the tragic events that occurred in the community of Pessamit on August 16, involving acts of unprecedented violence against three Innu women.

QNW President Marjolaine Étienne expresses her solidarity and support for the victims, their families, and the entire community of Pessamit, which has been profoundly shaken by these events. "In the face of such violent acts, we must come together, support those affected, and collectively reaffirm that no form of violence against Indigenous women is acceptable. Every woman has the right to safety, dignity and respect, regardless of where she lives," said Ms. Étienne. She also emphasized that the organization remains available to support the women and the community during this difficult time, and that the entire team remains mobilized to continue its efforts to strengthen the safety of Indigenous women and girls across Quebec.

QNW reminds the public that all forms of violence against Indigenous women, whether related to intimate partner violence, family violence, sexual violence, criminal activity or any other factor, are unacceptable and require an immediate, coordinated and sustained response. The safety of Indigenous women must be a collective priority for First Nations governments, the Government of Quebec, and the Government of Canada.

QNW Calls on Political Leaders

This profoundly dehumanizing act of violence underscores the urgent need for action. Indigenous women continue to face unacceptable levels of violence, and responses must reflect the seriousness of the situation.

As Quebec prepares for the upcoming provincial election, and while several First Nations councils are currently engaged in electoral processes, QNW is directly calling on Chiefs and elected officials, political party leaders, candidates, and all decision-makers to make the safety of Indigenous women a non-negotiable priority in their commitments.

QNW also reiterates that the Government of Quebec's recognition of systemic racism is an essential step in addressing the root causes of the inequalities and violence experienced by Indigenous women. The next Government of Quebec must officially commit to implementing concrete measures developed in partnership with Indigenous women's organizations, communities, and First Nations governments.

"QNW cannot, on its own, address the scope and complexity of this issue. We have already begun this important work, notably through the MMIWG2S+ mapping project unveiled on March 31, as well as through the efforts of our Roundtable. However, coordinated, sustainable, and structural actions are essential. We are calling on governments and political parties to make clear, ambitious and measurable commitments so that the safety of Indigenous women becomes a true priority at every level of governance," stated Ms. Étienne.

2026 Nation Tour

The President also highlighted that the 2026 Nations Tour will resume next September. These meetings will continue to serve as important spaces for listening, dialogue, and mobilization, where Indigenous women can share their concerns, particularly regarding safety and collective well-being.

About QNW

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.

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