



PRESS RELEASE
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**MARJOLAINE ÉTIENNE RECEIVES THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE PERSONS CASE, A RECOGNITION THAT
CELEBRATES THE WORK OF QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN**

Wendake, October 20, 2026 – Quebec Native Women (QNW) is immensely proud to recognize the distinction awarded to Ms. Marjolaine Étienne, recipient of the 2025 Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. This award honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advancing equality for women and girls in Canada.

This prestigious recognition highlights her exceptional commitment to equality, justice and the defence of the rights of Indigenous women and girls, while also bringing greater visibility to the collective work carried out by QNW for more than 50 years.

Serving as President of QNW since 2021, Ms. Étienne has dedicated much of her career to strengthening the representation of Indigenous women in decision-making bodies and promoting their empowerment. Her leadership is reflected in particular through the creation of initiatives that foster women's political and economic participation, her contribution to the United Nations General Recommendation No. 39 on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, and her involvement in the development of the Charter of Equality between First Nations Women and Men.

"This distinction is an immense source of pride for our organization and for all Indigenous women who work, often behind the scenes, to advance our rights. It recognizes Marjolaine Étienne's outstanding leadership, but also the strength of a collective movement carried forward by generations of determined women. It reminds us that every step forward is built on the solidarity, perseverance and courage of those who came before us. We hope this recognition will inspire other Indigenous women and young girls to take their rightful place and make their voices heard," said Ms. Véronique Rankin, Executive Director of Quebec Native Women.

QNW warmly congratulates the other recipients of this year's awards, Damineh Akhavan, Sandra DeLaronde, Shianne Gordon, Meseret Haileyesus and Rochelle Prasad, whose respective contributions help advance women's rights and equality in Canada.

This distinction also provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the founders, activists, Elders and all the women who have contributed to building QNW. The organization reaffirms its determination to carry forward their legacy and work towards a future in which Indigenous women and girls can fully exercise their rights, leadership and self-determination.

About QNW

Quebec Native Women is a non-profit organization that has represented and defended the rights and interests of First Nations women and girls across the territory of Quebec for more than 50 years.

Official photo, from left to right: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Louise Arbour, Governor General of Canada; Marjolaine Étienne, President of Quebec Native Women (QNW).

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