

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fonds de Solidarité IKWÉ – IKWÉ Solidarity Fund, an initiative related to the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre's commitment to assist and support Aboriginal women faced with difficulties

Val-d'Or, November 12, 2015_ The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre created the *Fonds de Solidarité IKWÉ* to support Aboriginal women faced with difficulties due to their social conditions, poverty and a sense of insecurity since the broadcasting of the program *Enquête* last October 22nd.

The creation of the *Fonds de Solidarité IKWÉ* emerged out of the will expressed by citizens, organisations and enterprises to provide financial assistance in the form of donations to Val-d'Or's Aboriginal women. The collected funds are used to offer ad hoc emergency aid to these women and include a variety of services such as healing programs, assistance with judicial processes, material needs and transportation.

The first person to benefit from the *Fonds de Solidarité IKWÉ* is Prescilla Papatie, an Anicinabekwe who was propelled into the public arena following her testimony on the program *Enquête*. The Fund allowed paying for a bail bond for Ms. Prescilla Papatie, in relation to a case dating back to 2010, and thus allowing her to receive the necessary care and assistance in a time of great vulnerability. "This action is consistent with the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre's commitment to assist Aboriginal women in a spirit of security and justice and provide them with all the support they need to move towards a state of well-being" said Director General Édith Cloutier. People wishing to make a donation to the IKWÉ Fund can access the necessary information on the Native Friendship Centre' website at www.caavd.ca.

The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre is an urban services clearinghouse which provides a living environment and cultural anchor for our First Peoples. Dedicated to well-being, justice and social inclusion, it promotes harmonious co-existence in our region.

- 30 -

Sources: Édith Cloutier, Director General, Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre
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