



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Provincial Budget 2016-2017: Assistance for Urban Aboriginal People

Quebec City, March 17, 2016 – The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) welcomes the investments announced by the Government of Quebec in its 2016-2017 budget, particularly those targeting urban Aboriginal people, presented by Minister of Finance, Carlos J. Leitão.

The budget for 2016-2017 includes funding of \$5 million over the next five years to ensure better support for Aboriginal services organizations, such as the Quebec Native Friendship Centres, which are providing first-line services to First Nations members and Inuit in the urban setting. The Quebec government will also invest \$3.9 million to improve community infrastructure, thereby optimizing the provision of services that meet the emerging needs of the urban Aboriginal population.

Edith Cloutier, president of the RCAAQ Board of Directors, notes in response to the budget that "the Quebec Native Friendship Centre movement came into being more than 45 years ago. By providing a wider margin for manoeuvre to support Aboriginal community action in the cities, the Government of Quebec is showing recognition of the importance of urban issues and of the contribution being made by the Native Friendship Centres in the work to improve the living conditions of members of the First Peoples as well as to foster harmonious co-existence."

The RCAAQ is encouraged by these direct investments in the provision of services, especially in the areas of health and social services, plus social-judicial services. These commitments demonstrate the government's desire to take concrete action on urban Aboriginal issues in Quebec.

About the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec

The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec works to defend the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal people. The Native Friendship Centres in Quebec are located in the following cities: Chibougamau, Senneterre, Val-d'Or, Montreal, Joliette, Trois-Rivières, La Tuque, Quebec City, Saguenay and Sept-Iles. The mission of the Quebec Native Friendship Centres is to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginal people, promote culture and foster mutual understanding between peoples.

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