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Edith Cloutier receives the 2016 *Prix de la justice*

Québec, December 5 2017 – During a public ceremony at the Parliament Building of the Québec National Assembly, Mrs. Edith Cloutier was presented with the 2016 *Prix de la justice* by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Québec, Mrs. Stéphanie Vallée. This award is the highest honorary distinction in the legal area to mark a person's outstanding contribution to the Québec justice system and to the promotion of the values of justice.

Mrs. Edith Cloutier, a member of the Anishnabe First Nation, has been Executive Director of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val-d'Or since 1989. For 20 years, she chaired the Board of Directors of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec. Mrs. Cloutier has been actively involved with various groups to ensure a better understanding of the issues and realities of urban Indigenous people. In the wake of the Val-d'Or events, she accompanied and supported Indigenous women during the denunciation process with regards to the situations of abuse they experienced.

The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) would like to express their sincere congratulations to Mrs. Edith Cloutier for the reception of this prestigious award. Her rigorous and dedicated work towards justice for Indigenous women are remarkable. "Indigenous women had the courage and strength to denounce situations of injustice and misconduct. Mrs. Edith Cloutier and her team at the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val-d'Or were there to support these women in their individual situations", stated Mrs. Christine Jean, President of the RCAAQ.

The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec brings together nine Indigenous Friendship Centres and service points in the following cities: Chibougamau, Joliette, La Tuque, Maniwaki, Montréal, Roberval, Senneterre, Sept-Îles, Trois-Rivières and Val-d'Or. The mission of the Québec Friendship Centres is to improve the quality of life for urban Indigenous people, promote culture, and build bridges between peoples.

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Source : Tanya Sirois, Executive Director
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