



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### **Project for a Native Friendship Centre in Roberval: The Needs in the City are Legitimate**

**Roberval, April 14, 2016** – The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) and the City of Roberval both expressed great satisfaction after the meeting held this past March 21 at Roberval's city hall concerning the project to implement a Native Friendship Centre in that city. The meeting was attended by elected municipal officials and partners from the neighbouring Aboriginal communities and government organizations.

The RCAAQ unveiled, for the first time, the results of an important study conducted from November 2015 to February 2016 on the needs of Aboriginal people who live in Roberval or stay briefly for various reasons. The report allowed the participants at the meeting to identify the local needs of Aboriginal people in the urban setting and to formulate recommendations that will allow the project to proceed, which was essential for getting work on the project underway.

“People from the different Aboriginal communities, including Opitciwan and Mashteuiatsh in particular, have been coming to Roberval for a good number of years now. We are pleased to collaborate in the work to implement a Native Friendship Centre in Roberval, which will assist the people from the communities to be involved in our various organizations and will promote harmonious relations among all,” said Roberval mayor Guy Larouche.

Having received the go-ahead from the City of Roberval and local partners, the RCAAQ is now putting together a local steering committee to oversee the project's implementation. This work will include creating and formalizing partnerships and readying the Centre for its official opening, as well as establishing strategic programming and the initial culturally relevant and safe services that will be provided to Aboriginal people in the city.

The Native Friendship Centres of Quebec are located in Chibougamau, Senneterre, Val-d'Or, Montreal, Joliette, Trois-Rivières, La Tuque, Quebec City, Saguenay and Sept-Iles. Their mission is to improve urban Aboriginal people's quality of life, promote culture and promote mutual understanding between peoples.

– 30 –

**Source:** Joannie Caron, Communications Coordinator  
Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec  
joannie.caron@rcaaqaq.info  
418-842-6354