

Two New Native Friendship Centres Join the RCAAQ

Wendake, June 13, 2017 – The 38th Annual General Meeting of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) was held in Val-d'Or on June 10 and provided an opportunity for the Maniwaki and Lac-Saint-Jean Native Friendship Centres to exercise their membership rights for the very first time. Having officially joined the provincial association, both Centres play an active role on behalf of Aboriginal people in their respective regions while helping to promote the mission of Quebec's Native Friendship Centres.

In operation since the fall of 2016, the Native Friendship Centres in Maniwaki and Lac-Saint-Jean are the products of a broad-based initiative by Aboriginals seeking to implement a culturally safe and relevant service structure at the local level. Today, over one-half of Quebec's First Nations live outside their communities of origin. Present in towns and cities with a significant Aboriginal presence, Native Friendship Centres constitute the largest service network for urban Aboriginal people in Quebec.

Christine Jean re-elected president

During the AGM, members reiterated their confidence in Christine Jean by re-electing her as RCAAQ president for a two-year term. Ms. Jean pledged to stay attuned to members' concerns and to meet their expectations. She also intends to continue ongoing lobbying efforts involving government bodies and other partners with a view to promoting and defending the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal people.

The RCAAQ is made up of nine Native Friendship Centres and a Service Point based in the following localities: Chibougamau, Joliette, La Tuque, Maniwaki, Montréal, Roberval, Senneterre, Sept-Îles, Trois-Rivières and Val-d'Or. Quebec's Native Friendship Centres seek to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginals while promoting culture and building bridges between peoples.

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