



Annual Activity Report

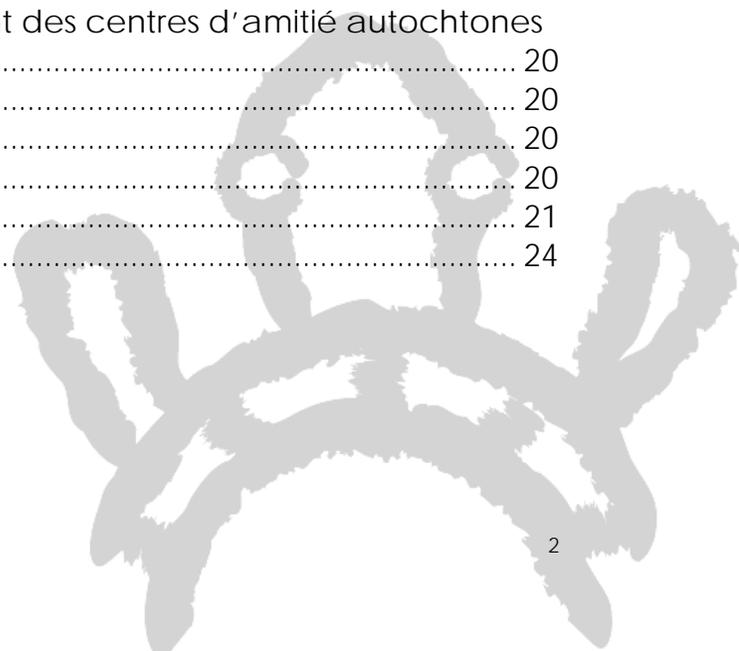
2006-2007



Regroupement des centres
d'amitié autochtones du Québec

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President's Report

Dear colleagues:

It is not easy to translate, in a few words, all the hard work accomplished in 2006-2007 by our provincial association, the *Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec* (RCAAQ). Our Annual Report describes a global and general picture of the realizations of our movement throughout the year. We can establish the RCAAQ's list of activities, actions and interventions with the partners, funders and collaborators of our movement. We present quantitative and qualitative information as to describe the span of our actions. Indeed, this data supports our claims for increased recognition of the essential role that the Native Friendship Centres play in the cities of Quebec. This data also justifies the necessity of obtaining appropriate funding sources for the pursuit of our missions. However, it is impossible to faithfully transcribe, in this report, and to its just value, all the heart, energy and dedication poured into the last year, as much by the RCAAQ team as its Centres that are members.

With this report, I wish upmostly to do justice to the extraordinary work accomplished throughout this busy year, but how determining for our movement. Thanks to these constant efforts, our movement has become a determining and influential actor in the Aboriginal community of Quebec.

The RCAAQ: An absolute leader for urban issues

In October 2006 was held the First Nations Socioeconomic Forum of Quebec (FNSEFQ). This unprecedented event gathered political leaders from First Nations, Quebec and Canada governments as well as key actors of the Quebec civil society. This exceptionnal tribune has permitted to put into perspective the tireless work done, unkown until now, by the Friendship Centres for urban Aboriginal people. At this Forum, the RCAAQ dit not just sit by as passive listener. On the contrary, the RCAAQ took its place by defending its positions with conviction and rigor.

By participating in this Forum, two objectives were pursed by the RCAAQ. First, to promote the mission and work of the Quebec Native Friendship Centres with the participating leaders, observers and media. The FNSEFQ had to make the reality of First Nations and Inuit people living outside the Quebec communities known. Looking back, we cannot only confirm that we have reached our objectives, but we have also made significant gains. Up until now, the Quebec Friendship Centres mouvement was a discreet player, working mostly in the background, far from the important issues touching our people. Not anymore...

Six months have passed and the Forum's assessment is more than positive. We can all be proud of the repercussions of our participation to this Forum. It is now

up to us to take this new turn and completely and entirely assume our new role as absolute leader on urban issues regarding Aboriginal people.

The Road Travelled

Where is our movement now, forty years after the opening of the first Quebec Native Friendship Centre, in Chibougamau?

We have travelled a long way. Beyond the fact that this road was, and still is, filled with traps and hardships, we can proudly look at the past and see that today, our work has not been in vain.

In the past year, the RCAAQ has built on the numerous realizations of the Centres. The Centres experiences have inspired the RCAAQ for the drafting of two memoirs submitted in Parliamentary Commissions, this past year. It is the first time, in the history of our provincial association, that representations are made to a Parliamentary Commission, more specifically one concerning the modifications to the *Loi de la protection de la jeunesse* and one for hearings dealing with the Quebec government policy to battle racism and discrimination. As a movement, our community voice is heard, further affirming our role as advocate for the rights and defending the interests of urban Aboriginal people.

The signing of a Declaration of Friendship with the CSN aimed to unite our strengths, to battle prejudice and discrimination, as well as the partnership born between the RCAAQ and the *Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec*: both are tangible examples that state that we have become a recognized and respected actor in the Aboriginal civil society.

Our path over 40 years, has been traced by people with heart, principles and convictions. By developing community values, such as empathy and respect, each Friendship Centre can realize itself fully and put to good use its talents and skills. Even when we must take heart-wrenching decisions for the good of our movement, these values remain at the core of our discussions and demonstrate the maturity our movement has acquired.

The Friendship Centres: People with Courage and Heart

I am heartened by the opportunities that are offered to our movement. I am confident that this increased recognition of the role played by the Friendship Centres of Quebec will have positive repercussions for the movement. The future outlooks are encouraging and the challenges many.

I however am convinced that the success known this past year could not have been possible without the work of our team - Julie, Amélie, Emmanuelle et

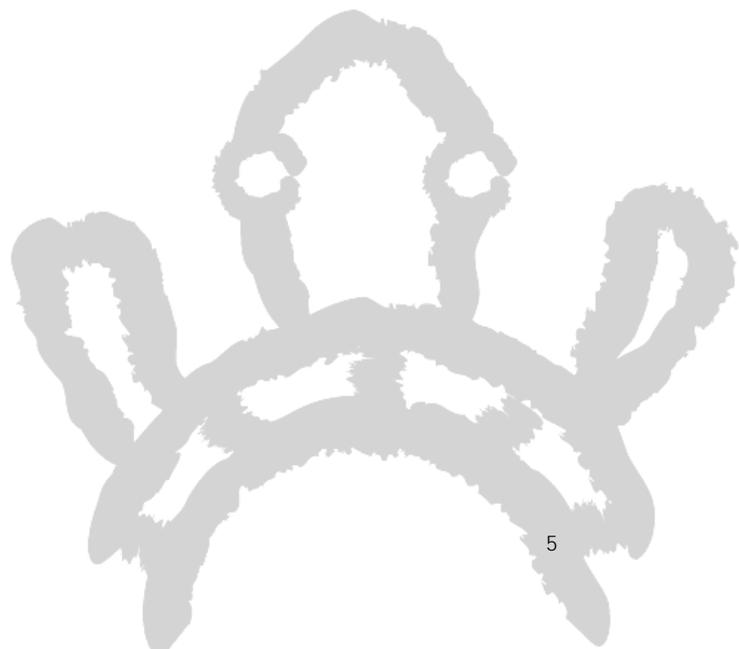
Danielle – and without the respected leadership of our Executive-Director, Josée Goulet. I consider that the Native Friendship Centres of Quebec are privileged to have such a devoted and dedicated team, not only for the Friendship Centres that form the RCAAQ, but also for the people for which this wonderful movement exists.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the faith you have entrusted me with. It has been a privilege to serve our movement as president.

Respectfully submitted,



Édith Cloutier
President



Report by the Executive Director

2006-2007 was an exceptional year for the Native Friendship Centre Movement in Quebec. We were called upon to take up important challenges, which allowed us to develop new knowledge and to show strong innovation for carrying out our mission:

“Promote and defend the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal people.”

To determine our priority actions, we established the following guiding principle: *“Improving the quality of life of Aboriginal people confronted by the urban reality is conditional upon the effort made to combat poverty and social exclusion.”* It is on the basis of this guiding principle that the team of the Regroupement des centres d’amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) has mobilized itself. Motivated and dedicated as ever to accomplish our mission in a context of growing management responsibilities, we have succeeded at maximizing our synergies.

I am very proud to present you with our annual activities report for 2006-2007. My report as executive director marks my third year as the RCAAQ’s executive director.

First Nations Socio-Economic Forum

The First Nations Socio-Economic Forum was held in collaboration with the Canadian and Quebec governments in late October 2006. This major event was a tremendous learning experience for the RCAAQ. It was a window of opportunity allowing us to develop an integrated services program to support the mission of the Native Friendship Centre Movement. The mutual commitments that were reached at the Forum correspond to our values and intervention philosophy.

We obtained 13 commitments from our various partners in all sectors dealt with by the Forum, as follows:

- Health, social services and social development
- Education, culture, language, the economy, employment and income security
- Infrastructure and housing
- Sustainable community development and youth

Partnerships

Further to obtaining commitments from the Canadian and Quebec governments, the RCAAQ also reached out for the support of members of civil society who are working to build a fair and equitable society. We are agents for

change, and genuine social transformation can be brought about by the creation of partnerships.

For example, we gave concrete form to our partnership with the Chantier de l'économie sociale through the signing of an agreement allowing our two organizations to share their expertise in promoting the social economy among Aboriginal people.

We also signed a *Declaration of Friendship* with the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) to combat poverty and social exclusion. This declaration will allow us to count on the support of the central councils of the CSN, which are stakeholders strongly involved in social issues. It will allow us to undertake local and province-wide awareness and education activities to combat prejudice and discrimination against Aboriginal people, thereby strengthening the social fabric of Quebec society.

Finally, we will soon be developing our partnership with the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) in order to promote and encourage mutual understanding and harmonious relations between Aboriginal people and the non-Aboriginal members of the municipalities in Quebec.

Development and consolidation of the Movement

Strengthening the capacities of our network is our main priority for action. We are continuing with our objective to implement strategies and initiatives that will increase the capacities of the Native Friendship Centre Movement, thereby ensuring our sustainability.

We are achieving this objective in various ways. We have hired a new resource person to ensure the local development and implementation of social economy projects with strategic impact for sustainable development based on our strengths in social mobilization.

In addition, the window for opportunity provided by the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum led to the establishment of criteria and standards concerning the social economy, to facilitate the start-up of enterprises in this form of economic activity.

Furthermore, this new resource person will provide support to the Native Friendship Centres under development, namely the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière and the Native Friendship Centre of Sept-Îles.

As part of our work to ensure the development of our network, we have supported the mobilization of the Aboriginal people in Sept-Îles to create a Native Friendship Centre there. We developed a project to allow the Centre's

implementation and ensure its sustainability. We hired a coordinator to help direct this work and we also mandated a researcher to conduct a needs assessment.

The founding general assembly of the Native Friendship Centre of Sept-Îles (NFC SI) was held on December 10, 2006. A board of directors was elected and the Centre was incorporated as a non-profit organization. To give the directors effective management tools, training was provided on the roles and responsibilities of a board of directors, as well as on the social economy.

On the basis of the results of the needs assessment, we carried out a strategic planning session and developed an action plan for the coming year. We also held a community evening last March to present the urban Aboriginal community in Sept-Îles and our partners all of the work completed to date and the next steps.

From the same perspective, the RCAAQ is seeking to obtain *recognition of the specific situation of Aboriginal people living away from the communities*.

To achieve this objective, we are working with various partners to conduct a survey which will allow us to learn more about the reality of urban Aboriginal people, their needs, and the issues and challenges facing them. The objective is as follows:

Draw up a portrait of the reality of urban Aboriginal people in Quebec.

There is very little research in Quebec dealing with the specific realities facing urban Aboriginal people. Despite the wide range of research on the issue elsewhere in Canada, little has been done to broaden our knowledge of the specific urban reality of Aboriginal people in Quebec. We targeted the city of Montreal as the first step towards meeting this need. Montreal is the appropriate place to begin a needs assessment because it is home to the members of several Aboriginal nations. The RCAAQ plans to extend the assessment to include the other urban Aboriginal communities in Quebec.

The final report will be presented this coming fall at a community meeting.

The RCAAQ team

We have added a new resource to team for meeting the needs that have been identified regarding local development. The RCAAQ is fortunate to have a team of employees working so highly dedicated to working on behalf of urban Aboriginal people. Our team represents an invaluable strength for the Movement and an important factor allowing us to take on ever-increasing

management responsibilities. I wish here to highlight the commitment, motivation, perseverance and know-how they have demonstrated in a context specific to change management.

A look towards the future

Throughout this past year, we set down important guideposts and developed strategic partnerships for our Movement. Together, we now possess a greater wealth of experiences. Our challenge is to stay concentrated on our priority actions and to ensure the implementation at both the local and provincial levels of the commitments we have obtained. The urban Aboriginal issue is generating more and more interest. We must have faith in ourselves and continue our work on behalf of urban Aboriginal people.

Your Executive Director,


Josée Goulet



Report by the Program Coordinator

Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP)

As a provincial association, the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones (RCAAQ) administers the *Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program* (AFCP) and its *Official Languages* component, along with the *Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre* program (UMAYC). The overall role of the RCAAQ here is to ensure the sound management of these programs. In this regard, the RCAAQ supports the Native friendship centres (NFCs) in their delivery of programs, services and activities based on the diverse needs of the urban Aboriginal communities.

In fiscal year 2006-2007, two of the NFCs forming the RCAAQ membership were considered to be centres in difficulty according to the *AFCP Criteria and Guidelines*. They were the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) and the Centre d'amitié autochtone La Tuque (CAALT). Through its management of the AFCP, the RCAAQ provides the NFCs experiencing difficulties with the appropriate support in their remedial efforts.

During the year, the RCAAQ worked with and provided its expertise to the NFCM, which is experiencing a high level of difficulty in its financial management and governance. To redress the situation and allow the NFCM to carry out its mission, the RCAAQ and the centre undertook a joint process which is continuing today.

The CAALT is experiencing governance problems. To remedy this situation, the RCAAQ and the CAALT maintained good collaboration and continuous communication throughout the year. The RCAAQ is supporting the CAALT in its efforts to improve its overall situation. Following the annual AFCP evaluation, the RCAAQ did not recommend the renewal of the CAALT's special bilateral agreement.

Furthermore, the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) officially approved the membership of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière (CAAL). But despite its membership in this national organization, the CAAL cannot receive AFCP funding. The five-year transfer agreement between the NAFC and Canadian Heritage, which ends in 2010, does not contain provisions for new NFCs.

Finally, the RCAAQ is continuing its collaboration with and support of the Quebec NFCs to ensure that they can effectively meet their wide range of needs. The RCAAQ is also continuing its representation activities at the national level to defend the interests of the Quebec members of the NFC Movement.

Official Languages component of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program

The RCAAQ is also responsible for the management of the *Official Languages* component of the AFCP. To do so, the RCAAQ plans and manages the flow of requests for translating and revising documents, and distributes the completed documents to its members and partners. In addition, the RCAAQ organizes simultaneous interpretation services for various meetings held by the RCAAQ as well as for meetings held by the NAFC.

The RCAAQ strives to ensure rigorous management of the *Official Languages* component. Despite its limited funding, the RCAAQ has demonstrated its effective management of the component. Indeed, the RCAAQ possesses the expertise and knowledge necessary for maximizing the available funding in the management of its language services.

In 2006-2007, the RCAAQ organized simultaneous interpretation services for most of the meetings held by the NAFC. As in the past, we again promoted the use of these services by offering prizes to members who used interpretation headsets at the annual general meeting of the NAFC, which was held in Saskatoon in July 2006. Furthermore, at the Youth Forum, the programs coordinator ran the elections for the National Aboriginal Youth Council in French, as a means of encouraging the participants to use headsets.

Youth component

Urban Aboriginal Youth Council

For the RCAAQ, urban Aboriginal youth form an integral part of the Native Friendship Centre Movement. The RCAAQ therefore ensure that it listens to what they have to say in order to respond to their needs and aspirations.

To interest and involve urban Aboriginal youth in their environment, each NFC has created a local urban Aboriginal youth council, which plans and organizes activities and events for young people. These local councils are made up of committed, active and dynamic youths aged 14 to 29. One representative from each council sits on the RCAAQ's Urban Aboriginal Youth Council to get across the views of their respective NFCs and Aboriginal communities and to make known the realities of their peers.

The members of the Urban Aboriginal Youth Council are the spokespersons for Aboriginal youths. Together, they express the opinions and concerns of Aboriginal youth as a part of the NFC Movement.

The efforts that the RCAAQ has been making in recent years to foster joint actions by the members of the Urban Aboriginal Youth Council will now be facilitated by funding from the Quebec government. At the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum, the RCAAQ obtained funding for a youth coordinator. Therefore, our mobilization and collaboration efforts will continue and will allow

us to more effectively identify the needs, interests and aspirations of urban Aboriginal youths.

Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres (UMAYC)

The objective of the UMAC program is to promote the personal development of urban Aboriginal youths. To do so, the UMAC projects sponsored by the NFCs provide young people with the tools they need to take on the urban challenges they face and to improve their job prospects.

Seven UMAC projects in Quebec received funding in 2006-2007. These projects carried out a wide range of socio-cultural, sports and recreation activities. They also offered training to urban Aboriginal youths and organized workshops to promote leadership and commitment towards the community among youths. The UMAC program focuses on a culturally-adapted approach, which allows urban Aboriginal youths to come together to share ideas and to stay in contact with their Aboriginal culture.

At the provincial level, the RCAAQ organized training for the UMAC coordinators. The objective of this training, which was given by Groupe GRF, was to provide the coordinators with tools for effectively consulting youths, identifying future leaders and mobilizing youths around common goals, thereby consolidating the urban Aboriginal youth councils at the local level. In addition, the RCAAQ and the youths in the NFC Movement took part in a youth consultation in August 2006 and a telephone conference call in preparation for the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum.

Furthermore, as part of the management of the AFCP and the UMAC, the RCAAQ programs coordinator and accountant made their annual visits to the UMAC projects at the NFCs. This annual activity allows the RCAAQ to stay informed about the latest developments in the NFC Movement.

Community support initiative for the education of urban Aboriginal children and teenagers

During the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum, the RCAAQ obtained two commitments from the Quebec government's Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). The first one involved implementing and improving homework assistance services for elementary school children in the NFC network, while the second one involved the program entitled Québec en Forme.

The first commitment allowed the five NFCs already providing homework assistance services to improve the funding of these services beginning in January 2007. The RCAAQ's objective is to expand these services to encompass the

entire NFC network. We will therefore be supporting the implementation of homework assistance services over the next few years.

Regarding the second commitment, the RCAAQ Board of Directors held an initial meeting with the director general of Québec en Forme to inform him about the NFC Movement. The meeting also involved a discussion about possible partnerships. We will continue our representation activities with Québec en Forme during the coming year.



Report by the Partnerships Coordinator

Highlighted by the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum, 2006-2007 was a very beneficial year for the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) in its development and consolidation of partnerships. In addition, the various projects underway allowed the Native Friendship Centre Movement to extend its influence and confirm its role as the privileged interlocutor regarding urban Aboriginal issues.

Development and consolidation of partnerships

The RCAAQ develops partnerships to ensure its economic and social development, and carries out its mission with the support of the partners it has acquired.

Chantier de l'économie sociale

At the RCAAQ's annual general meeting of 2005, the NFC Movement in Quebec approved the shift to the social economy as a means of ensuring its sustainability and development. The social economy represents an economic development tool that generates both economic and social wealth. It contributes to the growth of collective wealth through the creation of long-term and rewarding jobs, the increase of people's level of employability, and the development and delivery of culturally-adapted services. It also contributes to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The values promoted by the social economy are in line with those of the NFC Movement in Quebec because they encourage economic, social, cultural and community development.

The Chantier de l'économie sociale and the NFC network in Quebec have joined forces to promote and support the development of the social economy to the benefit of Aboriginal people.

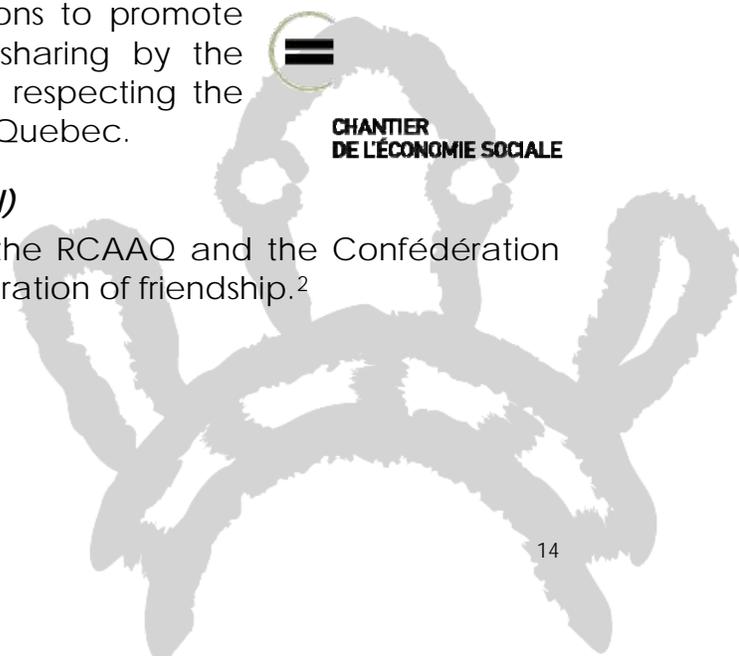
The objective of the partnership agreement¹ signed last October is to facilitate the implementation of strategies and actions to promote the social economy and to ensure the sharing by the Chantier of its expertise, at the same time respecting the specific approach of the NFC Movement in Quebec.

Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)

The First Nations Socio-Economic also saw the RCAAQ and the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) forge a declaration of friendship.²

¹ See partnership agreement in Annex 1.

² See Declaration of Friendship in Annex 2.



This declaration of friendship will allow for joint actions by the two organizations at the local and regional levels for promoting the labour market integration of Aboriginal people and for building bridges to create better understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

The CSN is the umbrella provincial organization of close to 300,000 persons working in all economic sectors. The CSN unions are distributed among 13 central councils throughout Quebec. These central councils are strongly involved in issues related to socio-economic development, regional development, job creation, the fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination, workforce training, environmental protection, and so on.



Dialog network

As a research and development partner, Dialog is an inter-university, inter-institutional, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral association. The Dialog network is a nexus of interrelations that offers services intended to publicize and promote First Nations research in Quebec, Canada, the Americas and around the world. It serves as a forum to facilitate and support opportunities for meetings, discussions, sharing of expertise and new learning, and partnership creation. As such, it is a springboard that develops and extends our thinking and knowledge regarding the First Nations.

Over the next several years, the RCAAQ will be strongly involved in all activities and initiatives sponsored by the Dialog network to facilitate the acquisition of new skills for our Movement. The Dialog network offers numerous possibilities for strengthening links between the academic world and the Aboriginal organizations in Quebec and elsewhere, and for contributing to the development of new partnerships.



Finally, the RCAAQ confirmed its existing relations with the Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ) and Quebec Native Women (QNW) by signing reciprocal agreements with each of these organizations.

Projects on the go

In 2006-2007, the RCAAQ invested in several initiatives to better equip the NFC Movement in Quebec. The First Nations Socio-Economic Forum was an important cornerstone for the development of initiatives.

First Nations Socio-Economic Forum

For the RCAAQ, improving the quality of life of urban Aboriginal people depends on efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion. On the basis of this philosophy, the RCAAQ brought 11 commitments to the Forum in the areas of health, social services, early childhood, education, the economy, employment, infrastructures, sustainable community development, and youth:

- Offer culturally-adapted psychosocial services.
- Receive assistance for a community support initiative in the education of urban Aboriginal children and teenagers.
- Fund the construction of a First Nations pavilion at the Val-d'Or campus of Université du Québec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue.
- Promote the start-up of social economy enterprises that support the economic and social development of the First Nations.
- Improve existing infrastructures to ensure development of the NFC network in Quebec.
- Contribute to achieving the mission of the Native friendship centres.
- Make known the specific situation of First Nations citizens living away from the communities.
- Support the overall strategy for First Nations childcare services, including access to funding for off-community childcare services.
- Foster joint action by the Urban Aboriginal Youth Council in Quebec.
- Support the socio-occupational integration of urban Aboriginal youths.
- Promote better understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in order to combat prejudice and discrimination.

The work to prepare for the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum began over two years ago. It was stepped up in the months preceding the Forum. The members of the Board of Directors took part in four sectoral tables regarding the Forum's themes. In addition, the Chiefs' Table of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) supported the implementation of a strategic committee regarding urban and off-reserve issues. The work of this table allowed the RCAAQ to put forward various commitments on behalf of the NFC Movement in Quebec. To do so, the RCAAQ attended several negotiating sessions with different government departments, met with several government departments, presented the commitments at different levels, and took part in all meetings of the regional commissions and organizations (RCO), among other things. Furthermore, it held weekly conference calls in September and October with the NFCs to keep them informed about all new developments regarding the Forum. Overall, the RCAAQ took part in more than 30 meetings to prepare for the Forum.

There are partners associated with each of the mutual commitments concluded at the Forum. They come from civil society as well as from the federal and provincial governments.³

Tipenuaikan

The main objective of the *Tipenuaikan* project is to implement a Native friendship centre in Sept-Îles. A needs assessment concerning the urban Aboriginal clientele in Sept-Îles was conducted in support of this objective. This assessment was carried out over a six-month period. It served to draw up a portrait of the Aboriginal population in the region and presented recommendations concerning the development of the NFC. The results of the needs assessment were presented to the urban Aboriginal community of Sept-Îles and other stakeholders in the city at a community meeting on March 29, 2007.

The Native Friendship Centre of Sept-Îles was officially incorporated on December 8, 2006 and held its founding general meeting two days later, on December 10. A board of directors was elected at this meeting. A resource person has been working as coordinator for the centre since October 2006.

Training on various topics was provided to the NFCSI (roles and responsibilities of board members, the social economy, etc.) and strategic planning was carried out to support the centre's development.

Mobilizing our Support!

This HIV/AIDS project has involved creating an inventory of services and resources available in eight urban Aboriginal communities in Quebec for HIV/AIDS support and diagnosis and treatment. It has also served to develop adapted training at the NFCs for purposes of improving people's knowledge about HIV/AIDS and meeting their needs in this regard.

The *Directory of HIV/AIDS Intervention, Detection and Support Organizations* is the result of the first phase of *Mobilizing our Support!* The objective of this tool, which has been distributed throughout the NFC network, is to ensure that Aboriginal people can access a wide variety of information allowing them to meet their needs regarding HIV/AIDS as effectively as possible.

Greater visibility and presence

The RCAAQ has revised its logo, while remaining faithful to the original work by artist Christine Sioui-Wawanoloath. This revamped image illustrates the dynamism of the RCAAQ.



³ See Annex 3 for a list of the RCAAQ's partners.

The updating of the RCAAQ logo was accompanied by the launch of our



website at www.rcaaq.info, which is the gateway to the NFC Movement in Quebec. It provides a wealth of useful and current information on the NFC Movement in Quebec. Users can visit it to learn about, among other things, the RCAAQ's mission, the 8 NFCs in Quebec, and the Urban Aboriginal Youth Council.

The NFC Movement in Quebec was also active in media relations this past year. The Radio-Canada program *Au point* ran a report on the NFCs on October 24, 2006.

The RCAAQ also issued 15 press releases, which led to radio interviews and web-based and newspaper reports.

We made numerous presentations to various partners in order to get the message out concerning the reality of urban Aboriginal people. The organizations that were able to learn more about the RCAAQ's mission included the following: the First Nations caucus of the UMQ, the Social Economy Summit, the Direction de l'organisation des pratiques policières (policing practices association), the Coordination des Autochtones Francophone (a worldwide association of French-speaking Aboriginal associations), Université du Québec à Montréal, McGill University, the Confederal Council of the CSN, and the Dialog network.

The RCAAQ also made its position known to the parliamentary commission *Vers une politique gouvernementale de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination* (towards a government policy for combating racism and discrimination), the Comité conseil en agression sexuelle (advisory committee on sexual abuse and the Comité de consultation sur l'adoption traditionnelle (consultative committee on traditional adoption).

Making a difference . . . and the recognition that comes with it

Over the past year, the RCAAQ took part in more than 100 meetings. This confirms our role as the privileged interlocutor concerning urban Aboriginal issues. The expertise of the NFC Movement in Quebec was also honoured. Édith Cloutier was made a member of the Ordre national du Québec, the highest

distinction bestowed by the Quebec government. Other awards included the gold medal won in March 2006 by the Cree Indian Centre of Chibougamau in the *Grands Prix du tourisme québécois Nord-du-Québec* (Quebec tourism awards – Northern Quebec), and the *Prix Rita Fortin* given to Doris St-Pierre in 2006 in recognition of his volunteer work, including his involvement with the Native Friendship of Val-d'Or since 1989.



Appendix 1 : Partners of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec

The RCAAQ works with various partners to fulfil its mission of improving the well-being of urban Aboriginal people. The RCAAQ is a privileged interlocutor concerning urban Aboriginal issues and the delivery of services to the urban Aboriginal clientele.

Our Aboriginal partners

- Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) (Relationship Agreement)
- First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development (FNQLEDC)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)
- First Nations Education Council (FNEC)
- First Nations of Québec and Labrador Youth Council (FNQLYC)
- Quebec Native Women (QNW)
- Native Para-Judicial Services of Quebec (NPJSQ)
- National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)

Our governmental partners

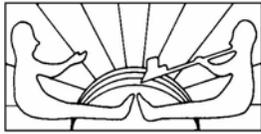
- Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones (Québec)
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Québec)
- Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (Québec)
- Ministère de l'Éducation, des Loisirs et des Sports (Québec)
- Secrétariat à la jeunesse (Québec)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Heritage Canada
- Service Canada

Our partners from civil society

- Chantier de l'économie sociale (Partnership Agreement)
- Union des municipalités du Québec
- Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (Declaration of Friendship)
- Réseau Dialog



Appendix 2 : Déclaration d'Amitié



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES
D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES
DU QUÉBEC INC.



DÉCLARATION D'AMITIÉ

Entre

Le Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) ¹

Et

La Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) ²

Mise en contexte

Le Forum socioéconomique des Premières Nations d'octobre 2006 est l'occasion de s'associer aux acteurs de la société civile québécoise afin de soutenir les initiatives prises par les Premières Nations du Québec pour l'amélioration de leurs conditions socioéconomiques. Le Forum permet également de favoriser un rapprochement et l'occasion de réaliser des projets de coopération entre les Autochtones et des organisations ou des entreprises du Québec.

Portrait du défi à l'emploi chez les Premières Nations au Québec

Le développement économique doit répondre à des impératifs sociaux. Il se fonde sur le respect des droits démocratiques, il favorise le bien-être des personnes, il contribue à lutter contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale.

- Les populations autochtones, dont ceux vivant en milieu urbain, comptent parmi les groupes qui sont particulièrement touchés par la pauvreté au Québec. Les causes de cette situation sont multiples : problèmes d'accès à l'éducation ou à la formation, faible participation au marché du travail, chômage, etc.
- De plus, les préjugés, les discriminations et le racisme constituent d'importantes barrières conduisant à la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale.
- Il est aussi de la mission du syndicalisme de combattre ces préjugés et discriminations et de soutenir l'intégration des Autochtones au marché du travail.

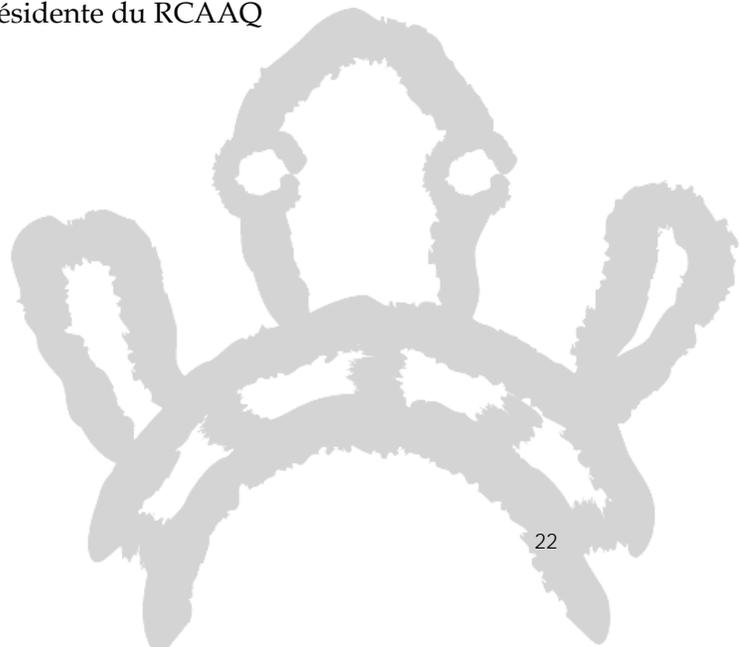
Actions

- La CSN s'engage à inciter ses conseils centraux (structure syndicale régionale) à s'associer au Centre d'amitié autochtone présent dans leur région afin de favoriser une meilleure compréhension et un rapprochement des cultures entre les Premières Nations et les travailleuses et travailleurs syndiqués du territoire.
- Dans le même sens, le RCAAQ incitera les Centres d'amitié autochtones à s'associer au Conseil central CSN de leur territoire.
- Les actions visées par cette association Centres d'amitié autochtones – CSN sont notamment les suivantes :
 - Actions de sensibilisation et d'éducation publique afin de contrer les préjugés et la discrimination dont sont victimes les membres des Premières Nations.
 - Actions conjointes au niveau local et régional afin de soutenir l'intégration des Autochtones au marché du travail.

Les parties du présent projet, représentées par leur autorité compétente dûment autorisée, ont signé à Mashteuiatsh, le octobre 2006.

Claudette Carbonneau
Présidente de la CSN

Édith Cloutier
Présidente du RCAAQ



Notes

1 Le **Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)** est une structure provinciale de concertation, de coordination et de représentation formée en 1976 par les Centres d'amitiés autochtones. On compte huit de ces Centres au Québec : Montréal, Québec, Senneterre, La Tuque, Val-d'Or, Chibougamau, Lanaudière et Sept-Îles. La mission du RCAAQ est de militer en faveur des droits et des intérêts collectifs de Autochtones qui composent avec la réalité urbaine.

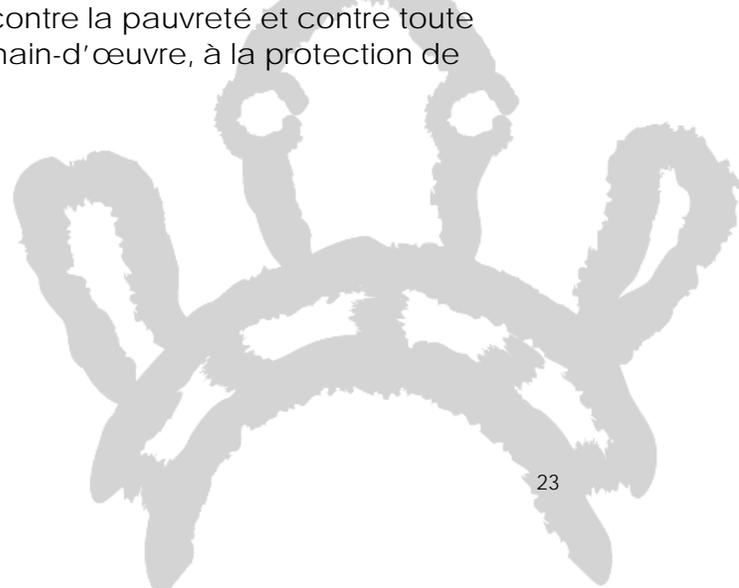
Les Centres d'amitié autochtones sont des institutions de services en milieu urbain pour les Autochtones. Améliorer la qualité de vie des Autochtones, promouvoir la culture et bâtir des ponts avec la communauté allochtone composent la mission des Centres d'amitié autochtones.

Depuis leur création, ceux-ci ont été des incubateurs d'importantes initiatives ayant mené à la mise sur pied de nombreux programmes et services pour les Autochtones qui se retrouvent en ville. Les Centres d'amitié autochtones sont ainsi devenus, au fil des ans, des lieux privilégiés d'expression des besoins, des aspirations et des revendications d'un segment de la population autochtone, ceux vivant en milieu urbain.

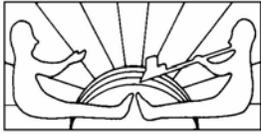
2 La **Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)** est une centrale syndicale québécoise regroupant près de 300 000 travailleuses et travailleurs œuvrant dans tous les secteurs d'activité à travers le Québec. La CSN a pour mission l'organisation des salariés-es en syndicats en vue de l'amélioration des conditions de travail. Elle est aussi partie prenante des débats et des luttes populaires pour une société plus juste, plus égalitaire, plus démocratique.

En plus d'être formés par les syndicats locaux qui lui sont affiliés, la CSN est composé de neuf fédérations et de treize conseils centraux. Les fédérations regroupent les syndicats CSN selon leur secteur d'activité et assurent le soutien à la négociation et à l'application des conventions collectives.

Les conseils centraux regroupent les syndicats CSN sur une base régionale. Leur mandat est notamment d'intervenir sur les questions relatives au développement de leur région, à la création d'emplois, à la lutte contre la pauvreté et contre toute forme de discrimination, à la formation de la main-d'œuvre, à la protection de l'environnement, etc.



Appendix 3 : Entente de partenariat



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES
D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES
DU QUÉBEC INC.



CHANTIER
DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE

ENTENTE DE PARTENARIAT

Entre

**Le Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec
(RCAAQ) ¹**

Et

Le Chantier de l'économie sociale du Québec²

Mise en contexte

Le Mouvement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec a adopté par voie de résolution, lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de 2005 du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, d'entreprendre le virage de l'économie sociale. Ainsi, le Forum socioéconomique des Premières Nations est l'occasion d'officialiser une entente de partenariat entre le RCAAQ et le Chantier de l'économie sociale.

L'impact de l'économie sociale pour le Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec

L'économie sociale représente un outil de développement économique exceptionnel puisqu'elle génère à la fois une richesse économique et sociale. Ainsi, elle contribue à la création d'une richesse collective par la création d'emplois durables et valorisants, l'augmentation du niveau d'employabilité, le développement et la prestation de services culturellement adaptés ainsi qu'à la lutte à la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale. Enfin, les valeurs prônées par l'économie sociale rejoignent celles portées par le Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec puisqu'elles favorisent le développement économique, social, culturel et communautaire.

Le développement économique doit répondre à des impératifs sociaux. Il se fonde sur le respect des droits démocratiques, il favorise le bien-être des personnes et il contribue à lutter à la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale.

- Les Autochtones comptent parmi les groupes qui sont particulièrement touchés par la pauvreté au Québec. Les causes de cette situation sont multiples : problèmes d'accès à l'éducation ou à la formation, faible participation au marché du travail, chômage, etc.
- De plus, les préjugés, la discrimination et le racisme constituent d'importantes barrières conduisant à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale.
- Les Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec doivent diversifier leurs sources de financement pour favoriser leur autonomie et répondre aux besoins émergents des Autochtones en milieu urbain.

Actions

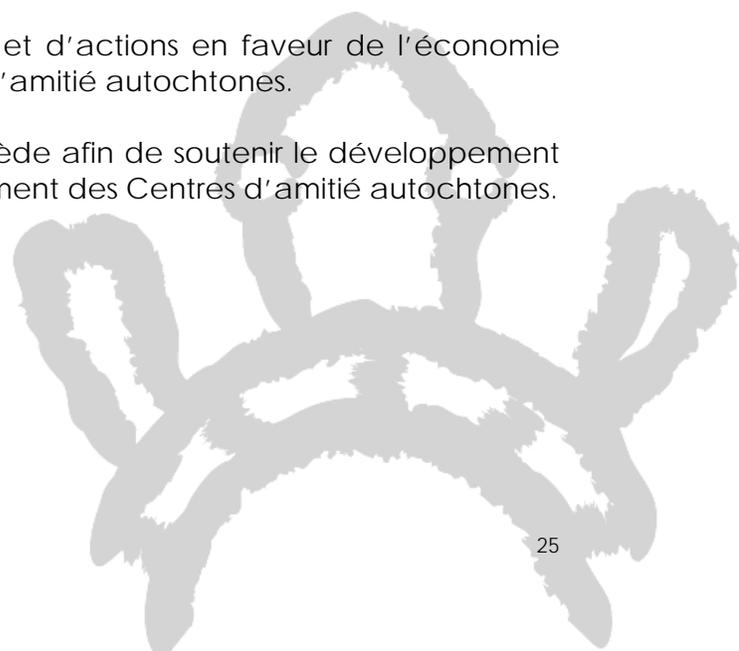
Le Chantier de l'économie sociale et le Réseau des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec s'allient ensemble afin de promouvoir et soutenir le développement de l'économie sociale en milieu autochtone.

Le RCAAQ s'engage à :

- élaborer une définition de l'économie sociale compatible aux valeurs portées par le Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones.
- chercher activement des ressources nécessaires à la mise en place de stratégies et d'actions en faveur de l'économie sociale pour le Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones.
- promouvoir l'économie sociale comme alternative au développement économique traditionnel.

Le Chantier d'économie sociale s'engage à :

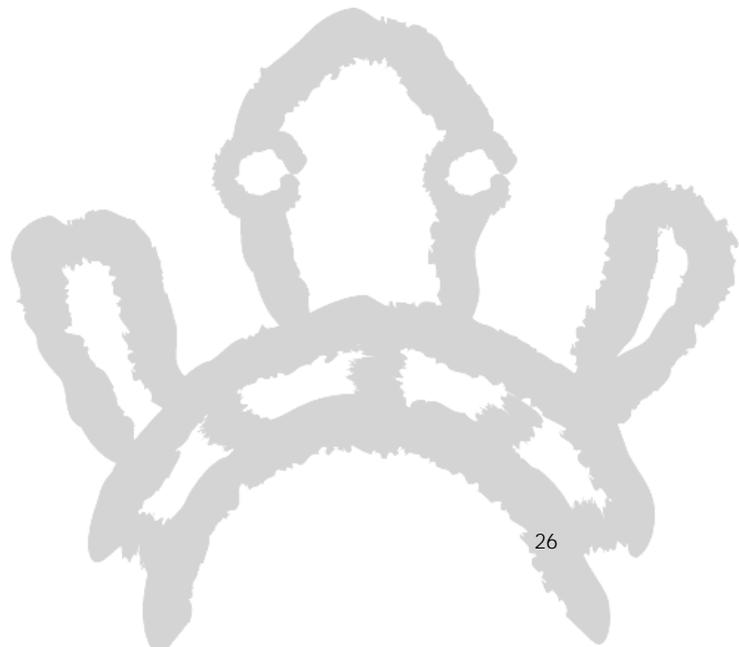
- respecter l'approche en économie sociale propre au Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones.
- faciliter la mise en oeuvre de stratégies et d'actions en faveur de l'économie sociale pour le Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones.
- partager les outils et l'expertise qu'il possède afin de soutenir le développement de l'économie sociale au sein du Mouvement des Centres d'amitié autochtones.



Les parties du présent projet, représentées par leur autorité compétente dûment autorisée, ont signé à Mashteuiatsh le _____ octobre 2006.

Nancy Neamtan
Présidente-directrice générale
Chantier de l'économie sociale

Édith Cloutier
Présidente du RCAAQ



Notes

1 Le **Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ)** est une structure provinciale de concertation, de coordination et de représentation formée en 1976 par les Centres d'amitiés autochtones. On compte huit de ces Centres au Québec : Montréal, Senneterre, Québec, La Tuque, Val-d'Or, Chibougamau, Lanaudière et Sept-Îles. La mission du RCAAQ est de militer en faveur des droits et des intérêts collectifs de Autochtones qui composent avec la réalité urbaine.

Les Centres d'amitié autochtones sont des institutions de services en milieu urbain pour les Autochtones. Améliorer la qualité de vie des Autochtones, promouvoir la culture et bâtir des ponts avec la communauté allochtone composent la mission des Centres d'amitié autochtones.

Depuis leur création, ceux-ci ont été des incubateurs d'importantes initiatives ayant mené à la mise sur pied de nombreux programmes et services pour les Autochtones qui se retrouvent en ville. Les Centres d'amitié autochtones sont ainsi devenus, au fil des ans, des lieux privilégiés d'expression des besoins, des aspirations et des revendications d'un segment de la population autochtone, ceux vivant en milieu urbain.

2 Le **Chantier d'économie sociale** est une organisation autonome et permanente qui a comme principale mission de promouvoir l'économie sociale comme partie intégrante de la structure socio-économique du Québec et ce faisant, de faire reconnaître le caractère pluriel de notre économie.

Le Chantier travaille ainsi à favoriser et à soutenir l'émergence, le développement et la consolidation d'entreprises et d'organismes d'économie sociale dans un ensemble de secteurs de l'économie. Ces entreprises collectives apportent une réponse originale aux besoins de leur communauté et créent des emplois durables.

Le Chantier de l'économie sociale a comme mandat la promotion, la représentation sur le plan national et international, le soutien à la consolidation et au développement de nouveaux créneaux et projets ainsi que la concertation des divers acteurs de l'économie sociale.

