



Regroupement des centres  
d'amitié autochtones du Québec

PRESS RELEASE  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **First Nations university pavilion gets green light – celebration in order!**

Val-d'Or, February 16, 2007 – Today, First Nations leaders, the university community in Val-d'Or and representatives of the Canadian and Quebec governments are celebrating the go-ahead given for constructing a First Nations pavilion at Université du Québec en Abitibi-Temiscamingue (UQAT). The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) is proud to be part of this important project.

This development follows through on a commitment obtained at the First Nations Socio-Economic Forum and constitutes a strong partnership between the First Nations and UQAT, with the support of the RCAAQ, the First Nations leadership and the governments of Quebec and Canada. By 2008, UQAT will have close to 450 full-time and part-time First Nations students.

"The First Nations pavilion will be cited as an example of harmonious co-existence and a symbol of the rapprochement between our peoples, through its effectiveness in helping to combat racism and prejudice," said Édith Cloutier, who serves as president of the UAQT Board of Directors and is also the president of the RCAAQ Board of Directors.

The RCAAQ has the mission to defend the rights of urban Aboriginal people by supporting the eight Native friendship centres in Quebec in their work to improve the quality of life of their urban Aboriginal communities, to promote culture and to foster rapprochement between peoples.

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