



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH ALLIANCE **ODENA**: **ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN QUÉBEC CITIES: IDENTITY, MOBILITY, QUALITY OF LIFE AND GOVERNANCE**

Val-d'Or, March 18 2010 – The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), the DIALOG Network and the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) present the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) concerning urban Aboriginal people in Québec.

ODENA: Aboriginal People in Québec Cities, is funding for 2009-2014 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, this research alliance brings together the Québec Native Friendship Centre Movement and university partners in a co-construction process of knowledge to improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people in the cities and renew the relations between First Peoples and Québec citizens in a spirit of equality and mutual respect.

This innovative project will broaden and renew our understanding regarding the social, economic, political and material situation of the urban Aboriginal population in Québec and will point the way towards the future development of public policies that are more closely adapted to the challenges and problems experienced by urban Aboriginal people.

"By being better documented, the policies and programs intended for the urban Aboriginal population in Québec will be more culturally relevant. Achieving this objective forms an important part of the mission of the Native Friendship Centres in Québec and our daily actions," said RCAAQ President and **ODENA** Co-Director Édith Cloutier.

"In today's knowledge society, university research must obviously be designed and carried out with the support of society's stakeholders. With ODENA, all of the expertise, experience, practices, knowledge and skills of the people within the Québec Native Friendship Center Movement will contribute directly to the research under our CURA. Our challenge here is to make research a genuine instrument of social change," added **ODENA** Co-Director Carole Lévesque, who is also Director of the DIALOG Network and a professor at the INRS.

The mission of the **Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec** is to promote the rights and interests of Aboriginal citizens in the city and to support the Québec Native Friendship Centres in their work to improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people, promote culture and build mutual understanding among peoples. The Native Friendship Centres of Québec are located in Montreal, Val-d'Or, Chibougamau, La Tuque, Senneterre, Québec City, Joliette, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay and Sept-Îles.

In carrying out its mission to promote, disseminate and renew research concerning Indigenous Peoples, the **DIALOG Network** brings together 150 people from universities and Aboriginal communities and organizations in Quebec, Canada, the Americas, Europe and Oceania.

-30-

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