



Regroupement des centres  
d'amitié autochtones du Québec

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

### ***ÉDITH CLOUTIER, FIRST FRANCOPHONE TO RECEIVE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE***

**Wendake, March 29, 2010** – Ms. Édith Cloutier, President of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), received this past March 26 the Award of Excellence in the "Public Service" category on the occasion of the 17th National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Gala.

Ms. Cloutier's work is marked by her dynamic and human approach based on finding solutions and fostering mutual understanding between peoples. *"She is a source of inspiration for the entire Native Friendship Centre Movement in Quebec through her dedicated efforts to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginal citizens,"* said RCAAQ Executive Director Josée Goulet.

Ms. Cloutier is the first Francophone to be honoured by this award since the inception of this prestigious black-tie gala in 1993 as an event dedicated to encouraging and celebrating excellence in the Aboriginal community. The Awards recognize the outstanding career achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, in diverse occupations. These Awards have become today a Canadian institution.

Ms. Cloutier has been militating for almost 20 years within the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec. She is also the Executive Director of the Native Friendship Centre of Val-d'Or and co-chair of a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) project entitled *Aboriginal People in Quebec's Cities*. In 2006, she was made a Knight of the National Order of Quebec.

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 Montréal, Val d'Or, Sept-Îles, Chibougamau, La Tuque, Senneterre, Québec, Joliette, Saguenay and Trois-Rivières.

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Source:

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