



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**The Quebec Native Friendship Centre Movement calls for concrete actions following consultations held to combat racism and discrimination against Aboriginal people**

**Wendake, November 7, 2013** – The Regroupement des Centres d’amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) and several Native Friendship Centres in the province took part in the **Consultations on the Action Plan for Combating Racism and Discrimination against Aboriginal People** held by Quebec’s Secrétariat des Affaires autochtones (SAA) this past November 5 and 6. These two days of meetings allowed the RCAAQ to point out the contributions made by several initiatives implemented by the Native Friendship Centres over the past 45 years and more to efforts towards building mutual understanding among people. The RCAAQ also noted that these initiatives must be reinforced by the support of the Quebec government.

In view of the increasing number of Aboriginal people in numerous Quebec cities, the RCAAQ is calling on the Quebec government to take account of this Aboriginal specificity in the implementation of several initiatives and programs by different departments in order to support the Native Friendship Centres in carrying out their mission. The RCAAQ also wants to see the government get the province’s municipalities more involved, given the crucial role they have to play in this combat against racism and discrimination.

In closing, the RCAAQ has long expressed a desire for such discussions to take place and it welcomes this initiative by the Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones (SAA). During these consultations, the SAA made the commitment to submit its action plan in the spring of 2014. In a spirit of collaboration, the RCAAQ is asking the Quebec government to work jointly with it to develop strategic directions based on Aboriginal expertise and approaches for social innovation developed by the Quebec Native Friendship Centres.

The RCAAQ defends the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal people and supports the Quebec Native Friendship Centres in accomplishing their mission, which is to improve the quality of life of urban Aboriginal people, promote culture and foster mutual understanding between peoples.

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**Source:**

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