



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES
D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES
DU QUÉBEC INC.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec denounces the fact that non-mandated organizations are speaking on its behalf at the First Ministers' meeting in Kelowna

Quebec City, November 25, 2005 – Few organizations offer services adapted to the needs of the urban Aboriginal communities in Quebec, despite their claim that they represent these communities. The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) wishes to inform the public that the Native Friendship Centres are the only multi-service institutions for Aboriginal persons in urban areas and the only ones with the expertise needed to address the needs and challenges facing the urban Aboriginal communities.

None of the organizations attending the First Ministers' meeting underway in Kelowna has the mandate to represent the interests of the RCAAQ and the Native Friendship Centres in Quebec.

Urban life is part of the reality today of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and governments must formally recognize the specific needs and challenges facing the urban Aboriginal communities. It is this recognition that will allow the urban Aboriginal populations to be seen as forming distinct communities all with specific needs to be met and objectives to be reached, and the same interests and aspirations to defend.

The RCAAQ, which has the mission to promote the rights and interests of urban Aboriginal persons, is the provincial structure for representing and coordinating the Native Friendship Centres in Quebec. In this context, it is a privileged interlocutor in the urban Aboriginal dynamic and is the only one that has developed expertise over the years in organizing and delivering services to the urban Aboriginal communities.

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Source:

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