



REGROUPEMENT  
DES CENTRES  
D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONES  
DU QUÉBEC INC.



CHANTIER  
DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE

## COMMUNIQUÉ

For immediate release

### ***The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec and the Chantier de l'économie sociale deplore the Federal Government's budget cuts***

**Wendake, October 4, 2006** – The *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec* (RCAAQ) and the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* both deplore the \$39M budget cuts announced on September 25, 2006, by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Treasury Board President John Baird. These cuts affect non-committed funds for social economy programs across Canada.

In Quebec, the RCAAQ and its Native Friendship Centres are directly affected by these cuts since it means cancelling an initiative aiming the development of social economy enterprises that would have allowed for the network's capacity reinforcement. "In a context where the Government maintains a surplus, it is unacceptable to target society's most vulnerable populations," indicated Ms. Édith Cloutier, President of the RCAAQ.

The RCAAQ considers social economy to be an interesting alternative to conventional economic development. Social economy generates both economic and social wealth and enables a collective wealth for First Nations through the creation of employment, the increase of the employability rate, the development and delivery of adapted services, the fight against social exclusion, etc. Moreover, social economy corresponds to the values promoted by the Native Friendship Centre Movement of Quebec.

The Native Friendship Centre Movement of Quebec has collectively undertaken the shift to social economy in October 2005. It is now works in partnership with the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* of Quebec.

The *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec* is an organization that advocates in favour of the collective rights and interests of Aboriginals who deal with urban reality. As

provincial concertation common structure, founded in 1976, the RCAAQ supports Native Friendship Centres in the development and implementation of partnerships.

The mission of the *Chantier de l'économie sociale* is to promote social economy as an integral part of Quebec's socioeconomic structure and, in doing so, having the pluralistic character of our economy recognized. The *Chantier de l'économie sociale* fosters and supports the emergence, development and consolidation of social economy enterprises and organizations across several sectors of the economy. Collective enterprises are an original response to their community's needs and create sustainable employment.

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