



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

THE RCAAQ WELCOMES MINISTER GEOFFREY KELLEY TO ITS OFFICE TO HIGHLIGHT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Wendake, Tuesday March 8, 2011 - The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du québec (RCAAQ) will be receiving the visit of Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Kelley during International Women's Day. The RCAAQ takes this opportunity to express its pride in being nominated for the Prix Égalité with *La Légende d'Aigle-Doré, conte atikamekw*, a work that encourages egalitarian relations between young urban aboriginal citizens of Quebec of both genders.

Favouring equality between men and women, *La Légende d'Aigle-Doré* was retained as a finalist for the *Prix Égalité* 2011 from the *ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la condition féminine*, in the category of "Model and egalitarian behaviours". Entirely drafted, illustrated and edited by young Atikamekws from the Lanaudière region, the youth album has led to an individual and collective reflection among young urban aboriginals enabling boys and girls to revisit their traditional roles. In addition, this production allowed the Native Friendship Centres to provide themselves with a culturally-adapted educational tool that is relevant for all.

"During this International Women's Day, the RCAAQ takes the opportunity to encourage egalitarian relations among urban aboriginal citizens, while being aware that our Movement offers, in the manner of social economy enterprises, a democratic space and over 165 jobs, which are mostly occupied by aboriginal women", declared Ms. Goulet, executive director of the RCAAQ. "The visit of minister Geoffrey Kelley has also allowed us to present him with our concrete actions targeting the improvement of our quality of life", continued Josée Goulet.

The *Gala du Prix Égalité*, which will reward the nominated organizations, will take place next Tuesday, May 15.

The *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec* advocates for the rights and interests of urban aboriginal citizens while supporting the Native Friendship Centres in their actions targeting the improvement of urban aboriginal peoples' quality of life, the promotion of culture and reconciliation between peoples.

In the province of Quebec, Native Friendship Centres have been established in the cities of Montréal, Val-d'Or, Chibougamau, La Tuque, Senneterre, Quebec City, Sept-Îles, Joliette (Lanaudière), and Saguenay, while Trois-Rivières is in development.

-30-

Source: Patricia Auclair
Communications and special projects coordinator
Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec
(418) 843-6354 ext. 224

