



# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

*Forum for academic success among First Peoples*

## **Participants make formal commitments**

**Trois-Rivières, February 21, 2025**—The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières (CAATR) held the Forum Kiskinorowewin focused on academic success among First Peoples on February 20 and 21. The Forum welcomed some 90 participants from diverse backgrounds—education professionals and decision-makers from primary to post-secondary levels as well as key actors from Indigenous communities and the Friendship Centre Movement—who identified tangible commitments for improving practices within their organizations.

Based on the CAATR's vision of education and lifelong learning, the discussions were aimed at co-developing a clear plan to contribute to the overall wellness of Indigenous children and youth and increase their academic success. The key components that were identified included the following:

- Recognizing and incorporating Indigenous knowledge and skills into educational settings and curricula
- Co-constructing new methods that recognize and promote Indigenous learning styles

The Forum Kiskinorowewin was the first concrete action taken after the Cawonok charter of commitment was signed on October 24, 2024, to improve the quality of, and access to, public services provided to urban Indigenous people. The CAATR initiative facilitates collaboration and the joint search for solutions to improve the reception and support of Indigenous people in school settings.

Over the years, several reports have stressed the importance of recognizing and promoting Indigenous cultural knowledge in the education of First Nations and Inuit children and youth. More recently, the Auditor General of Québec's report reiterated this observation, highlighting the direct link between the inclusion of this knowledge in learning environments and academic success. It is therefore essential to continue investing in support measures for Indigenous students, who experience different social realities and face specific obstacles.

### **Quote:**

"We invited our partners to develop a true alliance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people focused on the success and overall wellness of Indigenous children, youth and families in the greater Trois-Rivières

area. A better understanding of culturally relevant realities, issues and pedagogical strategies will help us offer future generations a host of opportunities to develop their full potential.”

*Maud Flamand, Executive Director, Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières*

### **About the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières**

Created in 2018, the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières provides a range of culturally relevant integrated services aimed at improving the overall living conditions of First Nations and Inuit members. Three facilities in Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan enable us to reach Indigenous people who live in or are visiting the area. The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières is affiliated with the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec.

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Source: Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières

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