



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Kahnawake - September 14 - Quebec Native Women's Association welcomes the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations General Assembly.

The 13th of September 2007 will be remembered as an international human rights day for the Indigenous Peoples of the world, a day that the United Nations and its Member States, together with Indigenous Peoples, reconciled with past painful histories and decided to march into the future on the path of human rights.

Unfortunately this is a bittersweet victory for Indigenous Peoples in this country since Canada was one of only four countries to vote against the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly yesterday, this in contrast to the 143 votes in favor. "This sends a clear message to Aboriginal peoples as to how the government of Canada intends to honor its commitments to them, and it illustrates how Canada's position is clearly at odds with most of the international community" says Ellen Gabriel, President of QNW. The United Nations bodies have repeatedly criticized Canada for its poor human rights record regarding Aboriginal peoples including Aboriginal women specifically.

"The Declaration is an important document that fills a void in the absence of a human rights instrument for Indigenous peoples in Canada," says Ellen Gabriel, president of Native women association of Quebec. "It's fortunate that the vast majority of UN members were able to set aside politics and narrowly defined state interests to show their support this vitally important human rights instrument." Canada will have to work very hard to redeem itself and its position as an international leader of the protection of Human Rights.

Quebec Native Women's Association (QNWA) is a non-profit organization created in 1974 to defend the rights and interests of Aboriginal women and their families.

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