



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.



Droits et Démocratie
Rights & Democracy

Centre international des droits de la personne et du développement démocratique
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

INFORMATION KIT:

CREATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA

MONTREAL – June 21, 2006 – The information kit developed for Indigenous women by Rights and Democracy, Quebec Native Women (QNW) and ENLACE – the Continental Network of Indigenous Women is now available in a new edition. This new version of the kit, which can also be adapted for use by any other persons, includes an information sheet that exposes the discrimination experienced by Aboriginal women in Canada.

As noted by QNW president Ellen Gabriel, Indigenous women form the most marginalized group in the world. “There is an entire justice system in place which entails numerous forms of discrimination against women, and this system is one of the main offshoots of the oppression to which our peoples have been subjected,” said Ms. Gabriel. “The Aboriginal women in Canada are now experiencing a more insidious form of discrimination, seeing that it is built right into the country’s laws and regulations.”

Rights and Democracy president Jean-Louis Roy added that the relations being created between women in the North and the South are extremely important for allowing Indigenous women to develop the tools they need in order to protect their rights. “This information kit will allow Indigenous women to share their struggles and success stories and at the same time make others aware of the international authorities and instruments in human rights protection, for example, the United Nations and the International Labour Organization, which they can turn to for support if their rights are violated,” he said.

In 2004, Rights and Democracy and its two partners published their first information kit to educate and train people and to highlight the work being done by Indigenous women at the local, national and international levels to ensure respect of their rights. The kit also offered women various avenues for action allowing them to take full advantage of the international forums and mechanisms available to them.

Encouraged by the success of this inaugural edition, Rights and Democracy began planning a new edition, which would be expanded to include an information sheet on Bill C-31 and its effects on Aboriginal women in Canada. Three thousand copies of this new edition will be published and distributed in three languages (French, English and Spanish) throughout the Americas to strengthen the links now being forged between women from North to South through the ENLACE network.

Partners

Rights and Democracy is a non-partisan organization created by the Canadian Parliament in 1988. Its mandate, international in scope, is to promote and support the universal values of human rights and to foster the growth of democratic institutions and practices around the world. Rights and Democracy works with individuals, organizations and governments in Canada and abroad to promote the human and democratic rights defined in the United Nations' *International Bill of Human Rights*.

Quebec Native Women (QNW) is a non-profit political organization created in 1974 to defend the rights and interests of Aboriginal women and their families, whether they are living in the Aboriginal communities or in urban centres. Its mandate is to support Aboriginal women in their efforts to improve their living conditions and in all other actions they take to develop their communities.

ENLACE- The Continental Network of Indigenous Women is the result of an initiative that Indigenous women of the Americas embarked on to create links among Indigenous women's organizations in North, Central and South America and to strengthen the capacities of Indigenous women's grassroots associations in their work on the issues affecting their lives.

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