

45th



**FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.**

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**45 YEARS OF EXISTENCE,
RESISTANCE AND ACTION ...
AND WE ARE STILL STANDING!**

45th Annual Gathering of Members

November 17-18 2018

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all the government departments and non-governmental organizations who support us in our steps to accomplish our mission:

Canada

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Status of Women Canada
- Justice Canada
- Health Canada

Québec

- Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine
- Ministère Justice Québec
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones
- Secrétariat à la jeunesse
- Secrétariat aux aînés, du ministère de la Famille

Others

- AFNWL Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
Women's Centre of Montreal
- NACAVF Native Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence
Clinique internationale de défense des droits humains de l'UQAM
- FNHRDCQ First Nation Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec
- FFQ Fédération des femmes du Québec
Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec
- FMHF Fédération des ressources des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec
- NWAC Native Women's Association of Canada
- INRS Institut national de la recherche scientifique
- NBP Native Benefits Plan
- DIALOG

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sisters of the Nations, Colleagues,
Kuei,

It is with great pride that I present my activity report for the year 2017-2018. Significant accomplishments and positive and great challenges have been realized throughout the year.

We have managed to fulfill our commitment and organize the Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls for a third year, and to bring together the mutual aid and support network for Indigenous women, victims of sexual assault by police officers, for a second year. Participants reiterated their desire to take part in these annual gatherings to facilitate their healing. Mission accomplished.

In response to the broadcast of Radio-Canada's ENQUÊTE in March 2016, several Sisters of the Nations asked me to take action to put a stop to the problem of sexual assault within our communities. A forum was therefore organized by Quebec Native Women (QNW), together with the First Nations of Québec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC), last March in Québec City. This large-scale event brought together more than a hundred First Nations members, resulting in a plan of action that was approved by all First Nations participants. Mission accomplished.

Since we, as women, are concerned when it comes to the protection of the land, and we are the guardians of our mother earth, Quebec Native Women organized an international meeting with other partners including: Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine, Development and Peace, Fédération des femmes du Québec, Women of Diverse Origins, KAIROS, Mining Watch Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Québec, Projet Accompagnement Québec-Guatemala, Solidarité Laurentides Amérique Centrale. This meeting was held in Montréal from April 27-29, 2018 and brought together 37 mostly Indigenous women from 13 countries around the world: South Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Peru and Turkey. We emerged with recommendations for action and a declaration of thirteen principles.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last February, Quebec Native Women took part in the meeting of the Collegial Council of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), in the Wayu community, Colombia, in the northern part of the country. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss strategies for implementing the mission and actions of ECMIA. Quebec Native Women represented the organizations of the northern region. The General Assembly will be held in Colombia in 2019.

Quebec Native Women was chosen to be part of the jury of the 2017 Rights & Freedoms Award of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse during the special edition dedicated to the rights of Indigenous peoples. The eight laureates, supporters of initiatives which stand out in their communities and nations across Québec and which advance the rights of Indigenous peoples are: **Déclaration de souveraineté d'Atikamekw Nehirowisiw, Centre des Premières Nations Nikanite de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, the poetry of Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, Programme Sous le Shaputuan de l'Institut Tshakapesh, Montréal First Peoples Festival, Avataq Cultural Institute, Bureau du Ndakinna du Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki, Sébastien Grammond**, Federal Court judge and **Christiane Guay**, professor of Indigenous governance and youth protection at Université du Québec.

On the political side, our awareness of the impact of the paternalistic and colonial system leads us to reflect on how we work, whether in collaboration or partnership with researchers, universities governments and others. Quebec Native Women's model is to work in an advisory, collaborative and inclusive manner. This alliance has resulted in a model of collaboration at the governmental level.

"Our collective work and our steps will lead us to sustainable social change that will improve our living conditions!"

What about our relationship, **one of the most important**, with the Councils of Nations, the cornerstone of our organization? Our meetings and your requests are the root of what you give us as a mandate, so that we may continue in the same direction—that of shouting loud and clear about the inequality, the injustice and all of the systemic discrimination.

45 years! Let's be proud to still be here, proud of what our organization reflects for Québec society, but also for our nations. Quebec Native Women is a significant organization, recognized at the regional, national and international level for its expertise and professionalism thanks to all the exceptional, dedicated and greatly appreciated people who spent a short or a longer time at QNW. Let's dare to give ourselves a pat on the back, because we have all contributed, from near or far, to these 45 years of existence.

Let us continue to move forward together for social change and let's protect our wonderful organization just like we protect our children.

Tshinashkumitinau,
Nin Viviane Michel, President of QNW



VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Septembre et octobre 2017

- NWAC Board meeting - Items discussed: political accord, reduction of poverty, strategic planning of representation at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, updates and discussions on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, provincial and territorial needs assessment survey, NWAC logo and discussion on strategic planning.

November 2017

- By invitation, attended a Superior Court hearing in Longueuil to lend moral support to a member of Quebec Native Women and her family (the Fragnito's) of the Kahnawake Mohawk community.
- At the request of and in replacement of President Viviane Michel, I attended the Amnesty International postcard-writing campaign and the press conference for the release of incarcerated detainees in provincial correctional facilities. Also celebrated Amnesty International's 40th anniversary and attended the Native Women's Association of Canada Board meeting.
- Attended the Indigenous Leadership Gala in Ottawa.

December 2017

- Ottawa strategic planning committee
- Participated in Agriculture Canada's Engagement Session on food safety and relayed the information to QNW.
- Throughout December, I remained very active and proactive in tracking progress in the Deschenaux Decision. I sent out various requests for updates and to address ongoing residual discrimination concerns. I sent letters to Minister Bennett, the Status of Women's office, the office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, NWAC President Francyne Joe, Senator Sandra Lovelace and MP Romeo Saganash.

January and February 2018

- I attended NWAC's Board meeting. Items discussed: bylaw committee meeting, request for translated documents, purchase of new building, strategic planning draft, Deschenaux Decision.
- I shared info on the Indian Act and sent the Matson Case to Adam Bond, NWAC's legal representative.
- Request sent to Marilyn Davignon for documentation to be sent to Quebec Native Women translated and in a timely way. Same request was brought up during the bylaws committee meeting.
- I attended NWAC's Board meeting in Ottawa.
- I attended our Board of Directors meeting at the Sheraton Laval. Items discussed: housing. Reviewed press release regarding QNW's position on the request for extension of the NIMMIWG.
- Throughout January and February of 2018, I repeatedly sent faxes on the Radar Report to QNW's office (also available on NWAC's website). Communicated to Viviane Michel (President) issues on participation in the Native Women's Association of Canada and brought concerns and emphasis to promote and support the needs and concerns of QNW. I also forwarded a request to Lynne Groulx, NWAC's Executive Director, to continue sending all correspondence to Executive Director Carole Bussière.

April 2018

- Upon request, participated in consultation with Carolyn Bennet, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and AFNQL caucus with Ami Lee Hannaburg, member of QNW at the Delta Hotel in Montréal.

- Received and transmitted information to Adam Bond, NWAC's legal representative.
- Received responses sent to Carole Bussiere Executive Director of QNW.
- Responded to Melina Vasilliou regarding registration of urban group brought to the attention of Executive Director Carole Bussière.
- Dialogued with the Canadian Human Rights Commission requesting a kit for lodging a complaint procedure.
- Cases before the Supreme Court – Matson and Andrews Decision now pending with Judge McLachlin to June 2018.

May 2018

- I attended NWAC's Board meeting in Gatineau. Worked on Bylaw 14 and forwarded draft to Quebec Native Women.
- In May 2018, I was interviewed by Paul Gray, live on K103.7 (Kahnawake Radio) on the position of Quebec Native Women regarding the Superior Court Decisions and the human rights violations on residency rules/Mohawks of Kahnawake. I Read the position paper.
- Exchanged information received via messenger and public media regarding NWAC.
- I contacted President Viviane Michel regarding NWAC and got briefed on NWAC accord discussion.
- At President Viviane Michel's request, I contacted NWAC's Executive Director Lynne Groulx to voice concerns requesting email to be sent. Missed conference call.
- I relayed an invitation to NWAC President Francyne Joe to attend the QNW upcoming Board meeting at 1 pm on June 3, 2018.
- Ongoing weekly follow up Deschenaux Decision letter campaign.
- I faxed information to Quebec Native Women-Vice President report to be translated.

June to August 2018

- Discussed information regarding the need for support from the MP Linda Lapointe's office. Spoke with Ms. Madic in Milles-Îles to address the removal of gender inequity and residual discrimination in the Indian Act.
- I attended scheduled meeting in Boisbriand.
- Met with Ms. Madic from MP Linda Lapointe's office.
- I attended the Indigenous Women in Leadership Governance training, a 3-credit course at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, a Quebec Native Women initiative.
- I visited the office of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in Gatineau to hand in a request for ongoing discrimination cut-off dates of the Indian Act.
- At the request of President Viviane Michel, I participated in the Status of Women Roundtable Discussion to Advance Gender Equality which was held in Ottawa. Information on the discussion was forwarded to QNW.

September 2018

- I participated in NWAC's Annual General Assembly in Ottawa.
- I attended a meeting with the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) in Ottawa.
- I participated in the International Breakfast meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister and Civil Society in Montréal. The focus was on the protection of human rights, defenders' safety for Indigenous women in particular, the application of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the impacts of climate change.
- I attended the General Council meeting of the Mohawk Nation in Kahnawake. I did a historical overview of QNW
- 2017-2018: Participant on two committees: Bylaws and Projects.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2017 to February 2018

- Familiarization with my roles and responsibilities as Secretary-Treasurer (documentation, meetings with the Executive Director and the Accounting Clerk)
- Council of Elected Representatives (February)
- Assignment of dossiers under my responsibility: resource person for the justice file pending the replacement of the coordinator, revision of the Constitution, follow-up on resolutions.

March 2018

- QNW promotion activity in Gespeg (in accordance with Denise Larocque, representative of the Micmac nation).
- Resource person alongside Me Miller on the NIMMIWG file and with Julia concerning the action plan and communication strategy.
- Review of potential sources of funding for the commissions with the Executive Director
- Launch of the QNW–Ministry of the Family (Project on the passing on of culture)
- Consultation with Me Savard to establish the constitutional review process

April 2018

- Follow-up with Denise Larocque regarding the promotion meeting for QNW in Gespeg
- Coordination of the Constitution review work (1st working session with the working group by conference call)
- Follow-up on the resolutions with the Executive Director

May 2018

- Follow-up with the Executive Director on actions arising from the last meeting of the Council of Elected Representatives (February)
- Tabling of my Activity Report for the next meeting of the Council of Elected Representatives (June)
- Reading of the documentation and preparation for the next meeting of the Council of Elected Representatives
- Preparation of a report on the proposed changes to the Constitution by the working group for approval by the Council of Elected Representatives

June to August 2018

- Council of Elected Representatives (June)
- Research and draft of a model Code of Ethics for regional meetings
- Preparation for the resumption of work on the Constitution

September and October 2018

- Continuation of the work on the Constitution (2nd working session of the working group by conference call)
- Follow-up with the Executive Director on the actions arising from the last meeting of the Council of Elected Representatives (June)
- Follow-up on the recommendations of the working group on the Constitution with Me Savard
- Participation in the selection of applications for the election to the Presidency of QNW
- Continuation of the work on the Constitution

Other tasks : signing of cheques, Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Council of Elected Representatives, Approval of the financial statements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Once again, we had a very busy year with a calendar full of activities. My role as executive director is to coordinate and manage, in collaboration with the president, all the human, financial, material and technological resources necessary for accomplishing the mission of our Association. My activities can be summarized under two main headings:

- 1) Management of funding agreements allowing us to carry out the Association's mandates.
- 2) Management of our employees' files.

Funding which allows us to carry out the Association's mandates

Funding of QNW's operations is as follows :

- At the provincial level, we signed a five-year funding agreement (2017-2022) with the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones, as part of the FIA III. We have three years of guaranteed funding left;
- At the federal level, we signed a five-year funding agreement (2016-2021) with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). We have two years of guaranteed funding left

Another one of my duties is to follow up on requests for new funding as well as requests to renew the funding for each of our employees. Following are the government departments and other organizations and foundations with which we have agreements for 2018-2019

- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux – for the positions of Health Coordinator and the Coordinator for the Promotion of Non-Violence
- Secrétariat à la jeunesse – for the position of Youth Coordinator
- Ministère de la Justice Québec – for the position of Justice and Public Security Coordinator
- Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) for the position of Employment and Training Coordinator
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for the positions of President, Legal and Political Analyst and Communications Officer
- Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones for the positions of Executive Director, Project Manager and Executive Assistant, Receptionist and Finance Manager
- Secrétariat aux aînés, from the ministère de la Famille in the Québec ami des aînés program for the position of Coordinator for Seniors
- Health Canada for the position of Coordinator, Environment and Sustainable Development

We also receive funding from various departments, foundations and others, for occasional projects throughout the year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Monitoring of employee files

Throughout the year, Quebec Native Women strives to accomplish its mission, which is to improve the living conditions for you and your children by means of awareness, education, training and information activities. This year, we rose once again to meet that challenge. I invite you to read the reports by the employees of Quebec Native Women in the document you have received. These reports describe the numerous activities our employees were involved in as part of their respective files.

I am regularly called on to perform several other duties as well. They include supervising employees, ensuring the effective carrying out of activities, overseeing projects in collaboration with the coordinators, maintaining compliance with work calendars, and re-reading the reports and letters we send to various organizations and government departments. I also meet with people responsible for new projects presented to us. I then analyze these projects with the involved coordinator or coordinators and ensure that they are properly followed up on according to the memorandum of agreement that is signed.

"It is with pride that I can see the work accomplished in 45 years. Quebec Native Women has become an association with renowned expertise, with more than ten permanent, highly qualified and devoted employees working on over 10 files that which are ever evolving and growing. "

Concerning the finances of our Association, I conduct the necessary follow-up on our administrative files with our finance officer and our auditor, accounting firm Daoust-Lajoie inc.

In a context where competition is increasingly important for funding, QNW can count on undeniable assets. The strength of QNW lies in its longevity and reputation, the quality of its work and its staff. Furthermore, our media presence is more and more important and we are sought out for the knowledge we offer on the conditions of Indigenous women.

While staying focused on its mission, the Association modifies its orientations according to its base and especially the research carried out. Consequently, QNW has carried out several specific projects and created tools for targeted audiences. Information kits, radio clips on women's rights, specialized training, workshops on non-violence and analysis committees are all examples of projects the Association implemented.

"It is with pride that I can see the work accomplished in 45 years. Quebec Native Women has become an association with renowned expertise, with more than ten permanent, highly qualified and devoted employees, working on over 10 files which are ever evolving and growing."

I am very confident to see the great QNW team pursuing its mission with the same vision toward improving the present and building our future. I am hoping that there will be more and more of us supporting this cause that is so dear to me which is "to improve the living conditions of Indigenous women and their families."

In conclusion, I want to thank an exceptional, devoted, competent and greatly appreciated team. Thanks also to Viviane who supports me and has complete trust in me.

Thank you and wishing you all a great gathering,.



ORIGIN OF QNW

Québec Native Women (QNW) is a non-profit organization created in 1974 that defends the interests of Indigenous women from different nations of Québec, as well as Indigenous women living in urban areas.

MISSION

The Association supports Indigenous women in their efforts to better their living conditions through the promotion of non-violence, justice, equal rights and health. Quebec Native Women also supports women in their commitment to their communities.

The creation of Québec Native Women (QNW) precedes the rise of a political action group called "Droits égaux pour femmes indiennes". This group was created by Mary Two-Axe Earley, a Mohawk activist whose objective at the time was to amend the Indian Act to recognize the right to equality of Indigenous women.

As for QNW, it was women from different backgrounds who felt the need to get together to raise awareness of their concerns and priorities. Regardless of their nation of origin, these women realised the similarities in the problems faced by their respective communities, but also the isolation experienced among them.

Since its inception, QNW has been acting as a voice to communicate the needs and priorities of its members, including issues of equality, rights, justice, youth, health and violence.

QNW is also a bilingual organization, member of the Native Women's Association of Canada. For several years now, QNW has been sitting at the table of the Assembly of First Nations Québec-Labrador, on the board of the Native Para-Judicial Services of Québec, on the Commission de développement des ressources humaines des Premières Nations du Québec and on many other Indigenous and non-Indigenous committees.



THE TEAM

The QNW team brings together over a dozen experienced Indigenous and non-Indigenous women who work tirelessly for a cause they hold close to their heart. The team consists of:



Viviane Michel
President



Carole Bussière
Executive Director



Isabelle Paillé
Promotion of non-violence and
Women Shelters Coordinator



Nathalie Bussière
Project manager and
Assistant to the Director



Jennifer Brazeau
Youth Coordinator and
Bullying Prevention Project
Manager



Naomi George
Coordinator for the Elders



**Julia Couture-
Glassco**
Health Coordinator



**Josiane Loiselle
Boudreau**
Justice and Public
Security Coordinator



**Margaret
Chittspattio**
Receptionist



**Éloise Ouellet-
Décoste**
Legal and Policy Analyst



Miriam Fillion
Communication Officer



**Bérénice Mollen-
Dupuis**
Employment and Training
coordinator



Myriam Landry
Coordonnatrice environnement
et développement durable

Employees who quit QNW during the fall of 2018

ELECTED COUNCIL

President: Viviane Michel

Vice-President: Mary Hannaburg

Secretary-Treasurer: Suzette Jeannotte

Nation Representatives

Abenaki Nation: Mandi Thompson

Algonquin Nation: Françoise Ruperthouse

Atikamekw Nation: Vivianne Chilton

Eeyou Nation: Linda L. Shecapio

Huron-Wendat Nation: Kateri Vincent

Innu Nation: Marie-Josée Wapistan

Mig'maq Nation: Denise Larocque

Mohawk Nation: Ami-Lee Hannaburg

Naskapi Nation: Elisabeth Mameanskum

Urban areas: Héléna Lalo

Youth Representative: Ashley Guanish

Elder Representative: Roseann Martin

Employee Representative:

Jennifer Brazeau

Executive Director: Carole Bussière



Some of the members of the Elected Council at the February Board meeting

Meetings of the elected council in 2017-2018:
- February 17-18, 2018
- June 2-3, 2018

QNW is administered by an elected council that is currently composed of 16 members, elected by members at Nation Council meetings and at the Annual Gathering of members. The Elected Council consists of three Executive members, nine representatives, one representative of Indigenous women living in an urban centre, one youth representative, one elder representative, one employee representative and the Executive Director. In general, the elected council exercises all powers except those belonging to members, and may take any action that the organisation is authorized to take in accordance with the law, its letters patent and its Constitution

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Justice and Public Security

QNW has developed a recognized expertise in defending the rights of Indigenous women since 1974. With the justice and public security dossier, QNW represents the interests of Indigenous women in order to improve the access to justice and their safety.

Gathering of Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

QNW's third gathering for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women took place in September 2017. Again this year, participants reiterated the necessity of holding this event on an annual basis since it helps to promote their healing. In 2018, QNW sought funding to organize the fourth edition of the gathering. At the time of writing this report, we still had not received confirmation of funding.

National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

In 2017, QNW officially obtained its participant status in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. QNW represented the interests of its members in its interventions with the NIMMIWG, the government, the media and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women.



Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress

QNW obtained its participant status for this provincial inquiry in 2017. QNW represented the interests of its members in its interventions with the Commission, the media and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women. On September 14, 2018, QNW testified for the second time in front of the Commission, to denounce racism and systemic violence endured by Québec's Indigenous women.



Peer support and sharing network for Indigenous women victims of sexual assaults by police officers

The second edition of this event took place in May 2018 and brought together 12 Indigenous women who benefited from healing activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Justice and Public Security

Conferences on Indigenous women and justice

Again this year, QNW offered conferences on the historical elements having an impact on the lives of Indigenous women and the current realities of Indigenous women with workers in the justice system, including the École nationale de police du Québec, the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales, the CIRFF 2018 and the Congress Clarity 2018.



Committees and partnerships:

- Advisory committee on the Éducaloi *Comprendre les différents domaines du droit qui touchent les victimes d'agressions à caractère sexuel* project
- Working committee for the justice information project (in partnership with the FNQLHSSC)
- Comité d'examen des décès liés à la violence conjugale, led by the Bureau du Coroner du Québec
- Justice Committee for Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network (NETWORK)
- Phase II committee for denunciations of police misconduct
- Board of Directors for the Services parajudiciaires autochtones du Québec (SPAQ)
- Indigenous socio-judicial forum
- I'm in trouble with the law. Can you help? Guide to the Criminal Legal Process and the Rights of Indigenous People Accused of a Crime, from Éducaloi
- Projet Iskweu, an initiative of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, which aims to support families when an Indigenous woman or girl (trans or two spirit) disappears

Research projects

- Research project on the needs of Indigenous women incarcerated in Québec provincial penal institutions, in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Québec, Concordia University and McGill University
- Research project *Looking Out for Each Other* on Missing and Murdered Indigenous women in Montréal, in partnership with Université du Québec à Montréal
- Research project *Les femmes et la gouvernance autochtone au Québec : revendiquer et satisfaire des droits dans un contexte de pluralisme juridique*, in partnership with Université de Montréal

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Projet

Family Violence and Sexual Assault Intervention

The project manager for the family violence and sexual assault intervention was mandated to conduct a needs assessment on the needs of frontline workers servicing the Indigenous communities across Québec on matters of violence. The other mandate for this position was to conduct the training “Walking through the dark and into the light” with the frontline workers of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ).

Needs Assessment

One of the main mandates for the project manager was to conduct a needs assessment. This mandate was developed in response to the ongoing issue of violence within the communities across Québec and in order to best support the frontline workers servicing these communities on matters of family violence and sexual assault intervention. The data collection process for the needs assessment continued on through the end of 2017 and was finalized in February 2018. A preliminary report on the results from the needs assessment was submitted to the Ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux (MSSS) on January 31, 2018 with the final report submitted on April 1, 2018. The final report included some recommendations based on the results of the needs assessment and this included an extension of the project in order to take inventory of and updating the existing tools developed by QNW pertaining to violence. This proposal was granted and the position was extended for another year.

“Walking through the dark and into the light: an intervention guide for dealing with sexual assault”



The other mandate for the project manager on the family violence and sexual assault intervention was to conduct the training “Walking through the dark and into the light” with the frontline workers within the RCAAQ. The « Training the Trainer » format was used to deliver this training to representatives of each of the friendship centres that were available to attend the training in response to the demand made by the RCAAQ. The training was divided into two parts. The first part was conducted in the summer of 2017 and the follow-up was conducted on November 16 and 17, 2017. A final report on the project was submitted on April 1, 2018, which included recommendations for the continuation of this training as well as best practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Projet

Family Violence and Sexual Assault Intervention

“My Sexuality: It’s about respect”

There was a collaboration with the Health Coordinator for the training of community outreach awareness agents as part of the “My sexuality: it’s about respect” project. We gathered members from the anglophone communities affected by the Plan Nord for a training of awareness agents. The agents would go on to organize awareness activities on the topics of healthy sexuality, sexual assault, as well as the Plan Nord and its potential effects on the Indigenous communities. The training was divided into two parts, the first part took place from December 12th to 15th and the second part took place on April 16th and 17th.

First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault

The First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault was a major event that took place on March 27, 28, and 29, 2018. The planning committee for this event had meetings on the following dates and the project manager for the family violence and sexual assault intervention file was in attendance:

- November 23, 2017 ;
- January 22 and 23, 2018 ;
- March 12, 2018.



Presentations, conferences, roundtables

- October 18, 2017 – Workshop-Discussion at the Centre d'éducation et d'actions des femmes
- January 26, 2018 – Training for the Indigenous cohort at the École nationale de police du Québec (Nicolet)
- February 2, 2018 - Presentation for the instructors at the École nationale de police du Québec (Nicolet) on the realities of Indigenous communities and stereotypes.
- March 11, 2018 - The Circle and the box workshop at La Collective des femmes de Nicolet et régions

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Promotion of Non-violence and Women's Shelters

The Promotion of non-violence and Women Shelters Coordinator has for mandate:

- To coordinate the activities of the network of Indigenous shelters
- To participate in committees promoting the improvement of services to Indigenous women
- To promote the connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous resources
- To provide personalized assistance to guide women seeking access to appropriate resources
- To sensitize organizations and school environments to the situation of Indigenous women
- To initiate projects promoting non-violence in Indigenous communities

Due to a lack of funding, there were no courses offered this year by Québec's Network of Indigenous Shelters.

Activities :

- 24 au 27 mai 2017 à Val-Morin : Rassemblement du Réseau d'entraide et de partage pour les femmes
- May 24 to 27, 2017 in Val-Morin: Gathering of the Support and Sharing Network: in support of Indigenous women victims of police abuse
- September 28 to October 1, 2017, in Val Morin: Gathering of the Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Men
- October 4, 2017 : Co-animated the Montréal vigil in front of more than 350 people.
- February 24, 2018: Attended the vigil for Tina Fontaine in Montréal.

Totalling an outreach to 1117 people

Presentations throughout the year:

- Presentation to 16 QNW partners, for a total of 803 people
- Presentation to the SPVM in front of 2 Major Crimes officers, 2 Wôlinak/Odanak Peace Keepers and 74 non-Indigenous students from the anglophone cohort of the École nationale de police du Québec, in Nicolet
- Presentation in 3 different Nations, in 4 communities in front of 236 people and reached many more through community radio

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Promotion of Non-violence and Women's Shelters

Community activities:

Abenakis

September 11, 2017, in Odanak

First Nations Day, for concerted action on violence.

February 13-14, 2018 in Odanak

Training for students in the Specialized Education AEC program at the Kiuna Cegep.

May 15, 2018 in Wôlinak

Training for workers of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.

Anishnabe

September 6, 2017, in Kitigan Zibi

Commemorative March for Maisy Odjick and Shannon Alexander.

Innu

September 11 to 14, 2017 in Unamen Shipu

Gave workshops to community members (workshops and sharing circles), spoke for 4 hours on the community radio to talk about the Indian Act and residential schools and provided training to workers.

March 14-15, 2018 in Mashteuiatsh

Gave workshops to community members (workshops and sharing circles) and residential schools and provided training to workers.

Mohawk

June 18, 2017, in Kahnawake

Commemorative march for Tiffany Morrison.

Urban area

June 16, 2018, in Montréal

Spirit Walk with the Native Women's Shelter of Montréal. Fundraising to offer women and their children living in shelters a retreat on their territory to promote their healing.



Involvement in priority committees with:

SPVM, Major Crimes, Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons, TrajetVi, Comité vigie autochtone of the city of Montréal, Comité violence conjugale avec les coroners, Comité 12 jours contre la violence faite aux femmes, l'École nationale de police du Québec à Nicolet, various Centres jeunesse and many Indigenous and non-Indigenous partner organizations in Montréal and throughout Québec.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Youth

Established in 2003, the Quebec Native Women (QNW) Youth Coordinator position is responsible for supporting the multifaceted youth file. The Youth Coordinator's responsibilities are to defend, support and empower young Indigenous women across the province of Quebec. In collaboration with the Quebec Native Women Youth Council (QNWYC) our efforts within the youth file are to benefit young Indigenous women within the province. The QNWYC was created to give a direct voice in the affairs of QNW to young Indigenous women aged 18-35 years. The QNWYC is comprised of one youth representative from each member Nation, one urban youth representative and the Youth Council Representative elected by the QNWYC.

Through the work that the QNWYC and Youth Coordinator have engaged in this year, the QNW youth file has seen incredible growth and success. As a result of the continued recognition and support for Indigenous-led and grassroots initiatives by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec through the Quebec Government's 2017-2022 Indigenous Youth Action Strategy, we have remained capable to continue our vital work on this important file.

The 2017-2022 Indigenous Youth Action Strategy was developed in partnership with the Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec, the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador's Youth Network and Quebec Native Women. QNW is a committed and active partner of the 2017-2022 Indigenous Youth Action Strategy. From 2017 to 2022, QNW has, and will continue, to lead innovative projects with the aim of increasing the personal, professional and civic autonomy of Indigenous youth while recognizing their cultural specificities. This partnership is complementary to both the vision and the mission of QNW and the QNWYC.

It has been the belief of many on the QNWYC and in the QNW leadership that it was time to have the QNWYC revisit its role and develop its own more comprehensive plan, a Strategic Plan, that would encompass the implementation of some of the key elements of the 2017-2022 Indigenous Youth Action Strategy. To respond to this, a strategic planning session was held at the Lodge Mont Gabriel (QC) on November 9 – 10th, 2017. The members of the QNWYC, the QNW Youth Coordinator, as well as the QNW Bullying Prevention Project Coordinator were asked to form a Planning Team and develop the Plan. Willy Fournier of Ajawaan was asked to facilitate the planning process.

It is clear from the Strategic Plan developed that the QNWYC envisions and proposes that it play a far more ambitious and effective role on behalf of young Indigenous women in Quebec. There were two (2) complementary outcomes from the planning session:

1. The Strategic Plan for the three (3) year period 2018 – 2020;
2. A more active and focused role and work plan for the QNWYC, one that will need to be reflected in the Corporation's Constitution and By-Laws.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Youth

The Strategic Plan vision developed by the QNWYC is of “young, culturally-empowered and respected Indigenous women living fulfilling lives as equals in their communities”. They proposes that the unique contribution, or Mission, of the QNWYC will be to “support young Indigenous women in their cultural empowerment, and their pursuit of fulfilling, autonomous lives”.

The thinking or logic to guides this Strategic Plan is that each of the Strategic Priorities is intended to help women heal, move forward and triumph over the enduring, inter-generational trauma created by colonialist attitudes, polices and practices. By focusing these strategies on young Indigenous women, our current and future mothers, we will more effectively and quickly re-establish our own cultural ways and healthy living, and we create the potential and best opportunities for the flourishing of the next generations of our children.

QNW and the QNW Youth Coordinator is fully committed to supporting and in coordinating the implementation of this Strategic Plan. We would like to thank all those who helped to develop the plan over the last year. The Plan provides clear structure and instructions for any incoming Youth Coordinator or QNWYC member to make a smooth transition into their respective roles. This Plan will be an important corner stone in the continued development of the QNW youth file.

Youth File Activities Highlights

- QNWYC Gathering November 9-10, 2017, Montreal QC
- University Women’s Club of Montreal Olympes de la parole, Panel Speaker, November 15, 2017, Montreal QC
- Native Women’s Association of Canada Indigenous Leadership Conference, November 28-30, 2017, Ottawa ON
- Equitas International Forum, November 30- December 2, 2017, Montreal QC
- Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas Child and Youth Commission, North American Delegate, January 28-31, 2018, Peru
- QNWYC Gathering March 2-4, 2018, Montreal QC
- Unlocking Women’s Empowerment’ Conference McGill University, March 15-16, 2018, Montreal QC
- First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault, Working Committee Member and Forum Host March 27-29, 2018, Québec QC

Partnerships

- Equitas, Community Action Project Partner
- Institut du Nouveau Monde Steering Committee Member
- ECMIA-CHIRAPAQ
- Native Women’s Association of Canada

Funders

- Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Elders

In response to several resolutions brought forward over recent years, and through the determined work of Jennifer Brazeau, the position of Coordinator for the Elders was created through the funding of the project “Listening to the wisdom of Niokominanak (our Elders)”.

It is my honour to do the work to develop the position of the Coordinator for the Elders and, as such, to be a voice for our Elders, to defend the interests of all Québec's Indigenous Elders and to promote their social, political and civic involvement. It will fill my heart to act as a representative to advocate for the needs, concerns and contributions of Elder Indigenous women, on all levels, whether it is regionally, provincially, or nationally.

I am very humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to fulfill the role of Coordinator for the Elders. Our Elders traditionally hold a very sacred and meaningful position within our social structures and the varying cultures across our Nations. They are the carriers, protectors, and teachers of the identities and cultures of our nations. Without their work, we would be without our teachings. It is crucial for the survival of our teachings that we recognize the value and importance of our Elders on all fronts.

Listening to the wisdom of Niokominanak (Our Elders)

Currently, the primary focus of the Coordinator for the Elders is to organize intergenerational gatherings for the Elders and youth for each of Québec's Nations. This project was realized by Jennifer Brazeau, who successfully received funding of \$301,607 to develop a project centred on the transmission of culture and identity for the Nations represented by QNW. These gatherings will take place over the next year, all the while being documented, in order to be finally developed into a book. This book will be used as a tool to preserve and share the teachings and collective memories featured throughout the gatherings. The objective of these gatherings is to highlight the traditional roles of educators of history, culture and wisdom, while the youth of our Nations assume their traditional roles as active listeners, as they will carry the knowledge on culture and identity that is shared with them.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Elders



When I presented this project to the Board of Directors meeting on June 4, 2018, Elizabeth Meamskum, the Naskapi Nation representative, said that the Naskapi Nation would be the first to welcome me, as their 2017 resolution was regarding the need for intergenerational transmission of knowledge between Elders and youth. Therefore, the first gathering that I organized as part of this project was for the Naskapi Nation.

The gathering of Elder women and young women of the Naskapi Nation took place in Kawawachikamach from September 21st to 23rd, and it was a success. With a total participation of 16 Elders and 8 youth in the weekend's activities.

Documentation of the gathering included audio and visual recording, which allows for the conservation and promotion of the gatherings as well as the language, culture, and Elders' stories featured at the gatherings.



The next gathering will take place among the Abenaki Nation on October 20th and 21st, with the gathering for the Mi'gmaq Nation to follow on November 23rd and 24th.

Activities

30 mai 2018 – Coanimation de l'atelier « Le cercle et la boîte » ;

May 30, 2018 - Co-facilitated "Circle and the box" workshop

July 11 and 12, 2018 - AGA and pre-AGA FNQLHSSC

July 12 to 15, 2018 - AFNQL gathering of Elders and youth

July 25 to 27, 2018 - Co-facilitated "My Indigenous Culture" workshop in Oujé-Bougoumou

August 20, 2018 - Panel presentation on Social Inclusion in Montréal for Indigenous youth for "Apathy is Boring"

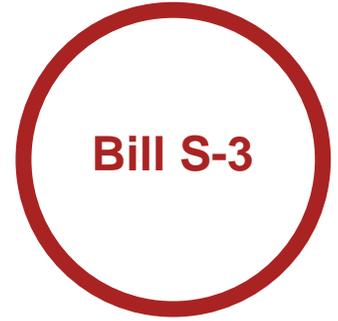
August 28 to 30, 2018 - Co-facilitated "My Indigenous Culture" workshop in Nemaska

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Dossier Legal and Policy

Collaborative Process on Indian Registration, Band Membership and First Nation Citizenship

Following the adoption of Bill S-3 in December 2017, which modifies the Indian Act in response to the Descheneaux Decision rendered by the Superior Court of Québec, the Government of Canada is undergoing a second consultation phase called "Collaborative Process on Indian Registration, Band Membership and First Nation Citizenship." During this second phase, the following issues must be addressed: adoption, the 1951 deadline, exclusion after the second generation, unknown or undeclared paternity, the role of the federal administration in the determination of Indian status and the power of First Nations regarding the determination of band membership.



Quebec Native Women is following this dossier with interest since, despite the modifications made by the adoption of Bill S-3, discrimination persists within the Indian Act. Quebec Native Women thus deems necessary the full recognition of the rights of Indigenous women and their children and grandchildren, without discrimination. Quebec Native Women is currently preparing a consultation in collaboration with its members in the 10 nations to gather their testimonies and perspectives on the issues at the heart of the collaborative process initiated by the Government of Canada.

Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights

In February 2018, the Government of Canada announced the creation of a new policy called "Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights." A national engagement process, led by the Crown-Indigenous Relations minister, was initiated in order to consult First Nations, Inuit and Metis on the content of this framework. In the spring of 2018, Quebec Native Women participated in a meeting and is following the work progress in order to ensure that the rights and interests of Indigenous women are protected and that equal rights are guaranteed at all levels.



Summer School on Female Indigenous Governance

Quebec Native Women organized a credited university course for Indigenous women on Female Indigenous Governance. The course was offered in French in collaboration with the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and in English with Saint-Paul University. The 10-day course brought together a total of 13 Indigenous women occupying leadership roles within their band council or nation.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Dossier Legal and Policy

Youth Protection

Quebec Native Women works to ensure the preservation of Indigenous identity among children placed in foster families, both in urban and Indigenous areas. To this end, Quebec Native Women is developing a workshop on the Youth Protection Act and the intervention of child protection services (DPJ) in Indigenous communities. Quebec Native Women is also following the implementation of Bills 99 and 113, adopted in 2017.



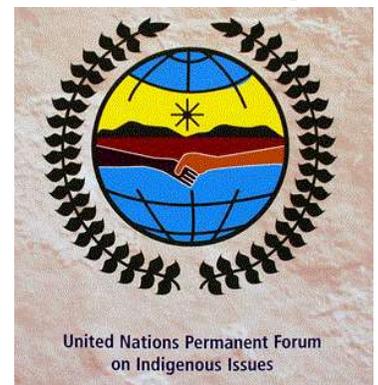
UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Quebec Native Women met with Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during her visit to Montréal in April 2018. Quebec Native Women took this opportunity to tell her about the situation of Indigenous women in Québec. Quebec Native Women also talked to her about the works of both commissions of inquiry in progress (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Public Inquiry Commission on Relations Between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services in Québec).

Participation in International Meetings

From February 5 to 9, 2018, Quebec Native Women participated in the meeting of the collegial council of the Continental Network of the Americas Indigenous Women (ECMIA) in Columbia, in the Wayu community in the northern part of the country. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss strategies for implementing the missions and actions of ECMIA. Quebec Native women represented the organizations of the northern region.

From April 16 to 20, 2018, Quebec Native Women travelled to the UN head office in New York in order to attend the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The theme for this year's forum was "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources." This meeting brought together hundreds of Indigenous organizations from all over the world. Quebec Native Women made two interventions during the workshops organized as part of this forum.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Bullying Prevention



“My Indigenous Culture” campaign

On April 25, 2018, QNW’s “My Indigenous Culture” campaign for Indigenous youth was launched in Montréal. The campaign includes a collaborative online platform to share resources and events, workshops for youth, an online social media #MyIndigenousCulture and training for teachers and support workers. More than 75 individuals, partners and organizations participated in the launch of the campaign.

As part of the campaign, we have developed four videos with Indigenous youth role models in partnership with the Wapikoni Mobile. The four videos have also been tied into the "My Indigenous Culture" poster campaign where the role models are highlighted. Underlining the traditional values discussed by the Indigenous youth in the Wapikoni videos, the posters have been part of the campaign with over 150 posters distributed across the province. The online videos have been viewed by over 10,000 individuals.

A comic book styled informational booklet, using the four youth role models, has been developed for Indigenous youth. These booklets give Indigenous youth information on depression, anxiety, bullying and violence in relationships. They give youth the information to identify these issues in their or their friends' lives and informs them on how to get help. We have distributed over 500 booklets directly to youth and organizations that serve youth.

The tools created through the project have been incorporated into the “My Indigenous Culture workshop”. The workshop is designed to encourage youth to express their cultural pride, as well as reflecting on how our Indigenous culture and traditions can be used as a source of strength in their lives. During the workshop, we use hands-on immersive and artistic activities, short films, and the information booklet. By using an innovative approach created for Indigenous youth, we encourage dialogue and artistic expression among youth on their Indigenous cultural values and traditions, promote pride and give them space to express their concerns.

« We have given the workshops and presentations around the province, reaching over 300 youths directly from a wide range of ages and in a variety of locations from elementary schools, to community centres to universities. »

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

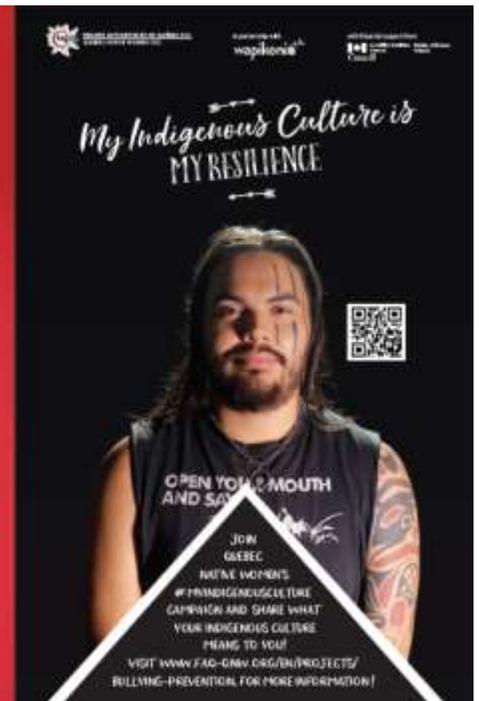
Project Bullying Prevention

QNW is in development of a "Train the Trainer" program for teachers and support workers with the goal of training them on how to incorporate the tools developed within their institutions. We hope to give teachers and support workers tools and knowledge to animate dynamic activities that will engage youth through a strength-based approach.

The three-year funding agreement comes to an end this year with Status of Women Canada for this project. QNW will ensure that the tools and workshops developed through this project will be continued through the youth file.

Financial Partners: - Status of Women Canada

Financial funder for Quebec Native Women's Aboriginal youth bullying prevention project.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Environment and Sustainable Development

The Environment and Sustainable Development Coordinator also acts as a representative to advocate for the needs, concerns and opinions of Indigenous women with respect to the land, the environment and sustainable development in a context of the rights of Indigenous peoples at the regional, provincial and national levels.

Projets

International gathering "Women Resisting Extractivism"

The international gathering, held in Montréal from April 27 to 29, 2018, brought together 37 women, mostly Indigenous, from 13 countries across the world: South Africa, Bolivia, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Peru and Turkey.

The International gathering "Women Resisting Extractivism" allowed for :

- The contribution to the creation of relationships and solidarity between women of Latin America, Canada and other parts of the world who are mobilizing for the protection of the territory
- The creation of a space of exchange on the impacts experienced by Indigenous women in their communities and territories
- The creation of spaces for discussion and analysis based on the interests identified by the women
- The creation of bridges of collaboration and solidarity between women and their groups and the allied organizations so that the latter continue to support them and help them in their resistance

Women Resisting Extractivism



Ni miro pimatisiwinan Project – Research on the impacts of climate change identified by Québec's First Nations women on their health.

In order to get a picture of the gender-related impacts of climate change affecting women of Québec's First Nations people, QNW wished to lead qualitative field research to be held over a year, from April 2018 to April 2019.

This project will identify the impacts of climate change on the health of Indigenous women and document initiatives proposed by the participants to address those issues. The results of this research project will help draft a first report on the gender-related impacts of climate change on Québec's First Nations, identify adaptation measures and recommendations at the local and regional level, adapted to the specific needs of Indigenous women and to best orient the actions and interventions of QNW, of the project partners and of the different government levels in order to attenuate the vulnerability risks of Indigenous women.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project

Environment and Sustainable Development

Presentations, conferences and roundtables

During the year, both as an organizer and a guest, I attended **six workshops** on the issues related to the environment, sustainability, mining projects and Indigenous women.

I was responsible for about **ten presentations** geared towards the university field, the greater population and Indigenous communities. In total, over 500 participants were reached and made aware of the issues relative to Indigenous women and the environment.

Throughout the year, I hosted **four Le Cercle et la boîte workshops** for various community groups and reached a total of close to 150 participants.

Collaborations and partnerships

Mining Watch Canada

Oxfam Canada

Accompagnement Québec-Guatemala

Solidarité Laurentides Amérique centrale

Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSD)

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)

Laboratoire de recherche sur les enjeux relatifs aux femmes autochtones- Mikwatisiw, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Development and Peace

Fédération des femmes du Québec

Women of Diverse Origins

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical

Publications

QNW's comments and recommendations regarding the Politique de consultation des communautés autochtones propres au secteur minier deposited to the Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources naturelles (February 8, 2018). (French only)



Collaboration and support to the *Livre multilingue-Le bâton de parole est aux femmes autochtones : elles prennent la plume pour partager leurs visions du développement durable* published by the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute.

Financement

Fondation Béati

Health Canada- Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program for First Nations south of 60°N.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Employment and Training

2017-2018 was a very eventful year for the Quebec Native Women Employment and Training program (ASETS).



I also took part in the ASETS meetings, which bring together all Employment and Training Coordinators of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). During these meetings, we take the time to inform ourselves on the new measures in employment and education. We also discuss our accomplishments and share our knowledge.

I also participate as a guest member at the regional meetings of the FNHRDCQ, which take place 3 times a year. These meetings bring together employees of the urban employment and training services centres, as well as the regional coordinators (in communities).

As Employment and Training Coordinator, I sit on various committees, including:

- First Nations and Inuit Labour Market Advisory Committee
- Circle of Employability and Education of the Montreal Urban Strategy NETWORK
- Advisory Committee on non-traditional professions of Indigenous Women
- Indigenous Education Circle Meeting (English college and university levels)

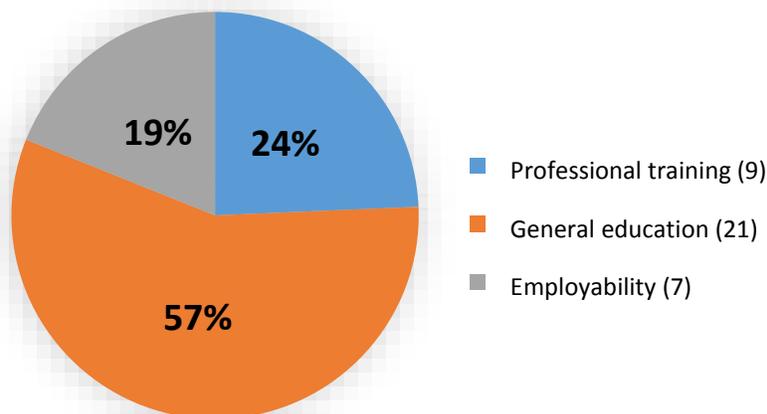
I work on various projects, including:

- QNW-UQAM summer school: « La gouvernance autochtone au féminin au Québec »;
- QNW–Saint-Paul University Summer School: "Indigenous Women's Governance in Québec"

Here are a few statistics to introduce you to the ASETS Employment and Training program:

ASETS program 2017-2018

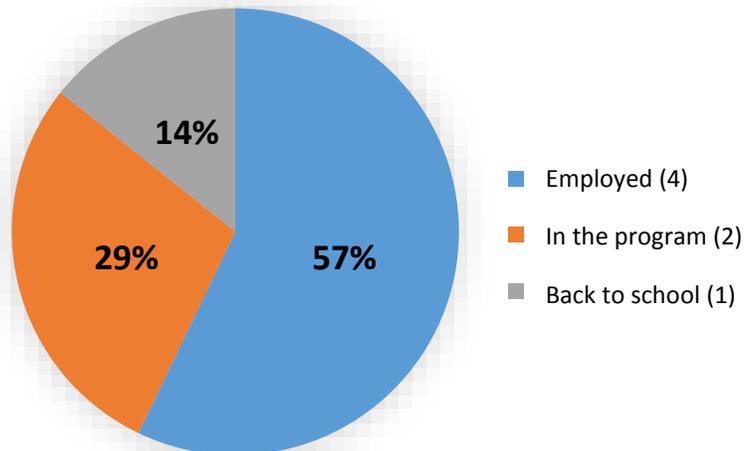
- 37 participants -



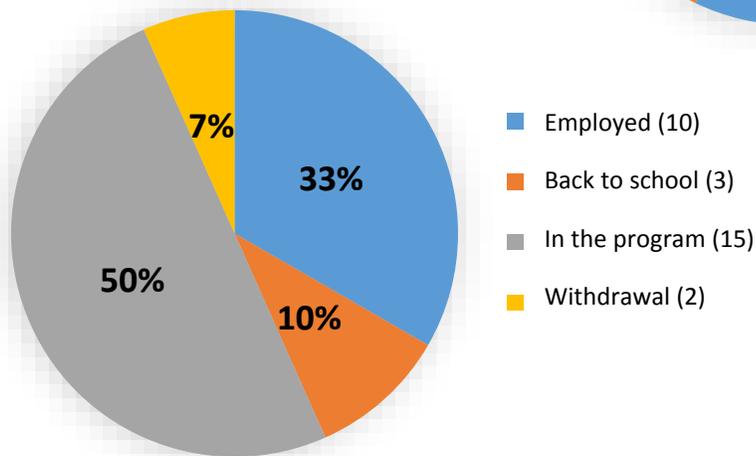
ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Employment and Training

Employability - 7 participants -



Students - 30 participants -



Governance of Indigenous Women in Québec

This year, the summer school: Governance of Indigenous Women in Québec, was offered in English and French to 2 groups of women.

From July 23rd to August 3rd, the Faculté de science politique et de droit de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and the Service aux collectivités de l'UQAM, in collaboration with Quebec Native Women, offered the course to a francophone cohort for the second year.



The Université d'été FAQ-SPU course on the Governance of Indigenous Women in Québec was offered for the first time to an anglophone cohort from July 30 to August 10, 2018, in Ottawa.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Health



First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault

This year, much of the time of the Health Coordinator was spent preparing the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault, which took place from March 27 to 29, 2018. The preparations included, among other things, eight meetings with the organizing committee of the Forum (May 2017 to March 2018) in Wendake, as well as several other working sessions with the event hosts and facilitators.



The First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault, organized by QNW in partnership with the FNQLHSSC, was an opportunity to meet, discuss and collectively reflect on solutions to put a stop to the issue of sexual assault within our populations. The Forum included an overview of the issue of sexual assault in Indigenous communities, success stories and workshops on an action plan to fight against sexual assaults. This was a moment to commit and act together towards collective healing. During the Forum, participants were asked to work in breakout sessions to improve and adapt a proposal for an action plan to fight against sexual assaults in First Nations. At the end of the Forum, the enhanced action plan was approved by all First Nations participants.



This major event brought together some one hundred First Nations members (policy makers, health directors and frontline workers) from more than 25 communities and urban areas across Québec. Furthermore, many partners and ministries had the opportunity to participate in the work and exchanges. Ministers Kelley, Vallée and David, as well as AFNQL Chief Mr. Ghislain Picard, were able to engage with us and take the actions necessary to put an end to sexual assaults among First Nations.

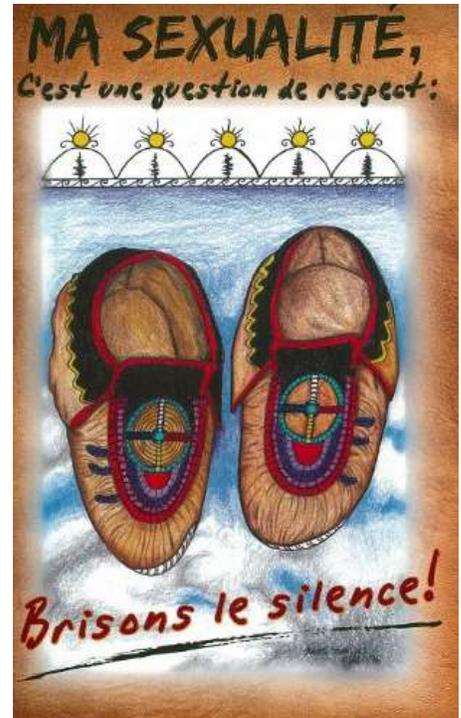


ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Health

Training of sexual assault outreach agents in communities located in the territory affected by the Plan Nord work

This year, we carried out the campaign My sexuality, It's About Respect: Break the Silence! in Indigenous communities located in the territory affected by the Plan Nord work, thanks to funding from the Secrétariat à la condition féminine. The objective of this training is to implement efficient and culturally pertinent prevention measures in terms of sexual violence towards Indigenous women and girls through the training of Indigenous outreach agents who will lead awareness and prevention activities in their communities.



From December 12 to 14, 2017, twelve anglophone participants (ten women, two men) took part in the QNW training. This training was facilitated by Pamela Gabriel-Ferland, Mohawk social worker, the Health Coordinator and the Project Manager in domestic violence and sexual assault. The participants, from 7 Eeyou and Naskapi communities, quickly established links and greatly appreciated exchanging amongst each other. The proposed activities allowed participants to talk about sexual health, facilitate workshops and discuss the realities of their communities. The activities were culturally appropriate and the content took into account the specific realities of the Indigenous communities.



The second phase of the training, which took place on April 16 and 17, 2018, allowed for participants to reflect on an awareness workshop that they had presented in their communities. They had the opportunity to address the difficulties, successes and challenges experienced and will create a support and exchange network. The training also addressed strategies to deal with the opposition, the basics of facilitation, the impacts of the Plan Nord, the use of social media in a context of prevention and outreach, etc.

A francophone group, made up of participants of Innu communities, is planned for the year 2018-2019, and the first training will take place in December 2018.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Health

Presentation of awareness workshops on sexual assaults and the realities of Indigenous women

- **November 22, 2017:** One-day training at the Fondation Marie-Vincent in collaboration with the QNW Justice Coordinator and the Employment and Training Coordinator. The Health Coordinator addresses the specificities of the history, issues and impacts of sexual assaults on Indigenous women and the perspective proposed by QNW.
- **January 24, 25, 2018:** Two-day training offered to workers of the various CALACS of the province in collaboration with the Non-Violence Promotion Coordinator of QNW. The training addresses the history of colonisation, QNW's approach regarding sexual assault, cultural safety, intervention towards Indigenous women and Indigenous feminism. The training also includes role-playing workshops for participants.
- **February 20, 2018:** Presentation in the Women's Reproductive Health course by Cheryl Armistead. Presentation regarding the sexual health of Indigenous women and cultural safety.
- **September 24, 2018:** Presentation to the Indigenous cohort of the École nationale de police du Québec, in Nicolet, on the workshop My sexuality, It's About Respect: Break the Silence!



Representations

- Expert committee on the Awacic/Lanterne Project of the Fondation Marie-Vincent
- Montréal Sexual Assault Round Table (TCACSM)
- The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)
- Advisory committee of the Regroupement québécois des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel (RQCALACS)
- Réseau québécois d'action pour la santé des femmes

Participation in conferences, trainings and events

- **November 7 to 9, 2017:** Wellness Forum organized by the FNQLHSSC
- **November 16, 2017:** Training received by part of the QNW team to be equipped to offer the Cercle et la Boîte awareness workshop
- **May 24 to 27, 2018:** Gathering of the Support and Sharing Network: in support of Indigenous women victims of police abuse, organized by QNW
- **July 9 and 10, 2018:** Convention: Sexualités, genres et intersectionnalités, organized by Université de Montréal.
- **August 27 to 29, 2018:** Teionkwaienawa:kon ~ Working Together: Summer school of the Quebec Indigenous Mentorship Network
- **October 22, 2018:** Convention of the Canadian Mental Health Association
- **October 23 and 24, 2018:** Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellness conference



ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Project Communication

The year 2017 – 2018 was marked by many important events for the First Nations, which kept the communications dossier very active. Whether it concerned the provincial and federal inquiry commissions, the federal government's announcements regarding reconciliation with First Nations, or the issues surrounding the arts and cultural appropriation, QNW consistently followed the news to react effectively and in accordance with our mission. QNW works daily to improve the dissemination of its information and projects through various communication platforms.

Inquiry Commissions

Throughout the year, we followed both inquiry commissions closely: The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG) and the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress (CERP). The Communications Officer attended the hearings for MIMMIWG in Mani-Utenam (2017) and in Montréal (2018), in order to ensure representativeness, share news with our members and follow up with the media. QNW had to take a stand regarding the NIMMIWG challenges on several occasions and in March, the Communications Officer planned a press conference in partnership with Amnesty International and the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) to express the criticism and recommendations of QNW following the request for extension of the commission of inquiry.

QNW was also involved in the CERP, at which the President testified in September 2018. A regular follow-up was done in order to defend the need for legal representation of QNW at this commission and thus, for appropriate funding to meet this need. The Communications Manager regularly shared the news related to the commission with our members in order to insure a proper sharing of information.

#WeHealTogether Campaign

A major event this year was the First Nations Forum on Sexual Assault. Organized in partnership with the FNQLHSSC and the RCAAQ, this forum brought together stakeholders in the health and social services sector to develop an action plan around the issue of sexual assault.



In order to ensure the achievement and continuity of the project, the Communications Officer developed the #WeHealTogether campaign to bring an individual and collective mobilization around this issue. Through interesting visuals and the hashtags #WeHealTogether and #DoingMyPart, QNW encouraged community members to share strategies or thoughts on the fight against sexual assault. We also added a tab to our website in order to spread the movement and to ease access to the tools and resources for each community.

This campaign was presented at the forum at the end of March, with promotional items such as buttons, pins and lanyards that were shared with forum participants. Furthermore, the Communications Officer presented the campaign to First Nations Health and Social Services Directors during a meeting in Essipit in June.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2017-2018

Dossier Communication

Other events

Many other events and projects were part of the communications dossier during the year. The international gathering "Women Resisting Extractivism" brought together more than forty women from all over the world for a 3-day event around the topic of extractivist struggles. The Communications Officer actively participated through the sharing of information on social media, translation and copywriting and supporting the organization.

QNW also launched the My Indigenous Culture campaign, aimed at addressing the issue of bullying through the promotion of Indigenous culture among youth. The campaign was launched in the month of April and helped to share the tools developed to promote pride, self-esteem and openness of young people to the traditional practices of their culture. This campaign took place in partnership with Wapikoni Mobile, which developed the remarkable videos featuring inspiring Indigenous youth.

Finally, thanks to a generous donation, QNW was able to launch the QNW Otehiminan Award, which aims to celebrate the involvement of young Indigenous women who do exceptional work within their community. The Communications Officer has developed a poster to be shared on social media in order to encourage applications.

Workshops and conferences

The Manager facilitated the Le Cercle et la boîte workshop twice during the year: with La Collective des femmes de Nicolet et régions (Women centre member of R) and the Table de concertation du mouvement des femmes de la Mauricie (TCMFM). This workshop is a sensitization and healing tool which helps to raise the participants' awareness on the impact of colonization, including the intergenerational trauma on Canada's Indigenous families and communities.

Presence on social media

Social media have helped to scale up many projects to reach a greater audience during the year. Here are some of our **social media statistics** for 2017-2018:

- Number of followers on our Facebook page: 14,343
- Average engagement rate: 4%
- Average reach of our posts: 2,000 internet users
- Number of posts in 2017-2018: 366
- Number of followers on our Twitter feed: 1,351

These data indicate that we have a good presence on social media. On average, each post is seen by 2,000 people, 4% of whom like, comment, share or click on our posts. This is a very good engagement rate, considering the numbers of followers on the QNW Facebook page.

Press releases

News is at the heart of the work of QNW, which has been even more the case this year with the NIMMIWG and the Viens Commission. QNW has responded and shared its position with the media on various news subjects, with the constant goal of protecting the interest and the well-being of Indigenous women. Here are the 2017-2018 **press releases**:

September 13, 2018 | QNW President testifies at the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec

June 29, 2018 | Minister Gaétan Barrette's remarks

June 12, 2018 | Minister Geoffrey Kelley's departure

June 5, 2018 | Minister Bennett's response to the extension request by the NIMMIWG

June 1, 2018 | Adoption of Bill C-262

May 30, 2018 | QNW denounces the federal government's funding of the Trans Mountain pipeline

May 3, 2018 | Ruling on the evictions in Kahnawake

April 30, 2018 | Summary of the International gathering "Women Resisting Extractivism"

April 26, 2018 | QNW launches its "My Indigenous Culture" campaign

April 6, 2018 | concerns following the consultation with Minister Bennett

February 15, 2018 | Announcement of Prime Minister Trudeau

March 26, 2018 | First Nations in solution mode to fight against sexual assaults

January 30, 2018 | agreement between the Atikamekw Nation Council and the government of Québec

January 18, 2018 | Resignations at the NIMMIWG

December 7, 2017 | Amendment of Bill S-3, An Act to amend the Indian Act (elimination of sex-based inequities in registration)

November 24, 2017 | Support of Bill C-262 by the Minister of Justice

November 1, 2017 | Interim report of the NIMMIWG

October 23, 2017 | Request filed at the Public Inquiry Commission: listening, reconciliation and progress

October 6, 2017 | Enactment of Bill 99 (An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions)

October 6, 2017 | TransCanada's announcement: cancellation of the Energy East project



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

