



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

**Press release
For immediate distribution**

The National Action Plan 2021: a plan without concrete action

Kahnawake, May 4th, 2021 — The National Action Plan presented this morning, entitled National Action Plan 2021: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+, is causing real controversy. Quebec Native Women (hereinafter QNW) is surprised to see that the plan explicitly mentions violence in all its forms experienced by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons. QNW is pleased to see that the plan recognizes a feminist and intersectional approach, acknowledging that violence is experienced completely differently by Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people than by Indigenous men. Women are often specifically stereotyped because they are both women and Indigenous. Although the plan recognizes these aspects, let's wait to see the real actions taken to end this violence in all its forms, which women experience disproportionately compared to men.

While the National Action Plan claims to respond to the demands of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, no concrete action or directions on what to do are included in the plan. The actions identified and the means to achieve the short and medium term objectives do not correspond to the real needs of the women we represent. QNW does not believe that this plan is truly representative and that it puts forward the rights of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons.

QNW does not believe that there is a real will to act. The flagrant lack of concrete actions in the action plan raises a great frustration that is palpable. *"The report itself recognizes that Indigenous women are more at risk of being murdered or missing, so why doesn't it issue real, concrete and tangible actions that can make a difference?"* says Viviane Michel, President of QNW.

The Government of Canada specifies that it consulted various associations and organizations concerned in order to develop its plan. Considering that we are a representative Indigenous organization and that we carry the voice of First Nations Indigenous women in Quebec, we are of the opinion that the government should have consulted us in order to respect its constitutional duty of *Honour of the Crown*. Thus, our organization is disappointed that we were not consulted, but not surprised. It speaks volumes about their true commitment to action.

The National Family and Survivors Circle was consulted and was a member of the core working group. In looking at the list of core working group members, the Government of Canada seems to have forgotten the provincial organizations. This major gap indicates, among other things, the lack of coordination between the different levels of government for the implementation of this plan.

QNW is formally asking for explanations and major changes so that this action plan can live up to its name. "*Our organization is currently working to develop a real action plan for missing and murdered Indigenous women. Contrary to the National Action Plan presented to us, we are consulting and building in collaboration with our members, our Nations representatives and the Indigenous families of Quebec. Considering that there is no coordination between the different levels of government, we ask ourselves what is the use of the work we are doing in this sense?*" says Viviane Michel, President of QNW.

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