
FAIRE autrement MAINTENANT

FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The NPDQ bases its political proposals for recognition and social progress for Quebec's Indigenous populations on the following three principles:

1. The NPDQ recognizes that Quebec was built on the territory occupied since time immemorial by Indigenous Peoples.
2. Non-Indigenous and Indigenous People must engage in a real dialogue to put an end to the harmful effects of colonization that still exist today.
3. Non-Indigenous and Indigenous People must work together to reduce inequalities at all levels in order to build the Quebec we all dream of.

Indigenous Rights and Recognition

The NPDQ recognizes that Quebec was built and established on a majority of unceded indigenous land. Even if territorial agreements have been signed with some Indigenous Nations, we recognize both the ancestral rights and the right to self-determination of all Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Nations have an historical relationship with federal and provincial governments. Quebec identity and Indigenous identity are intertwined. The Government of Quebec has responsibilities towards the Indigenous Peoples on its territory.

Quebec includes 11 distinct Indigenous Nations and Peoples. Nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationships are the foundation of a strong, ethical and equitable relationship. The NPDQ believes that the Government of Quebec has an obligation to consult the Indigenous Nations on all bills that directly or indirectly affect them. Furthermore, the bills must be developed in partnership with the Indigenous Nations concerned. The NPDQ recognizes the authority and responsibilities of all existing Indigenous organizations and bodies in this regard.

Socio-economic situation

Indigenous Peoples have occupied the territory that became Quebec since time immemorial. They maintain strong links and live in close relationship with the land and its resources. The NPDQ recognizes that they hold rights and interests on their ancestral lands, whose resources they have always used in a sustainable manner. They continue to play an essential role in the development and preservation of Quebec's territory. As such, Indigenous Peoples are particularly threatened by the impacts of climate change on the environment.

Indigenous communities are the object significant economic and social disparities compared to the rest of Quebec. Many are not accessible by road and still depend on polluting technologies such as oil-fired power plants for their energy supply. There are also significant disparities in housing and health between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People.

Cultural Identity & Education

The land and its resources have helped forge the knowledge that Indigenous People hold. They are still an integral part of their lifestyles and cultural diversity today.

Language and culture are an integral part of Indigenous identity. Throughout history, government initiatives have been aimed at eliminating Indigenous languages and cultures. The use of one of Canada's two official languages has become necessary to function in Quebec society. As a result, the majority of Indigenous languages are threatened with extinction.

The Indigenous population is growing more rapidly than the Non-Indigenous population and half of the Indigenous people of Quebec are under 25 years of age. Furthermore, a large majority must leave their community to pursue post-secondary education (there are no post-secondary institutions in Nunavik or Eeyou Istchee). The school drop-out rate is high. Few professional training programs are available in Indigenous communities, especially in northern Quebec, and these programs are often occasional. Finally, unemployment is very high in all communities.

Fundamental Human Rights & Women

The NDPQ recognizes security and physical, psychological and spiritual integrity as fundamental rights and considers that the Quebec government has a duty to ensure that these rights are respected in all Indigenous communities.

Many Non-Indigenous employees and businesses working in Indigenous communities are unaware of the particular context in which they work. This sometimes leads to inappropriate behaviour and racism.

Indigenous men are experiencing a major identity upheaval in today's society. Indigenous women may experience situations of high vulnerability (sexual, physical, verbal, homelessness, prostitution). They are three times more likely to experience domestic violence than Non-Indigenous women and eight times more likely to die at the hands of their spouse during a separation. Resource development projects increase their vulnerability. Indigenous women have lower incomes than men and the housing shortage particularly affects them and their children. The NDPQ is aware that considerable efforts must be made to address this situation.

Urban Indigenous people

Half of Quebec's Indigenous people live in urban areas. They often find themselves isolated from their family, culture and language. They do not have access to the same services as those offered in their communities. They are often discriminated against, particularly in employment and housing.

The services offered to the Quebec population in urban areas are often not adapted to the realities and cultural specificities of Indigenous people. The role played by Native Friendship Centres is vital to them and should be recognized as such.

Research

Scientific production on matter related to Indigenous people is very important in Quebec. However, Indigenous Research has long been carried out without the active participation of the communities concerned, and it continues to benefit mainly Researchers. Indigenous people want to be active partners in the research that is being done on their land. They have knowledge and experiences that deserve and should be integrated into research.

In addition, abuses have occurred. In order to better supervise what is being done within their communities, the Indigenous communities have adopted the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Research Protocol. Nunavik is also working to develop its own research protocol.

Indigenous – Non-Indigenous relations

Quebecers have generally little knowledge of Indigenous People's history and culture. Little information is given on their history in compulsory general education at the primary and secondary levels. Similarly, people called upon to work in indigenous territory have little knowledge of the environment in which they operate. Indigenous people are regularly victims of racism and injustice in Quebec society.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission concluded that the Residential School System constituted cultural genocide. Residential schools have left a legacy of intergenerational trauma that will affect several generations to come. The Viens Commission is currently doing essential work on the systemic issues that characterize the relationship between Indigenous people and the people who work in a number of public services in Quebec. The NPDQ recognizes that Quebec society has a moral duty to work even further towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The challenges that the NDPQ will be able to meet with the Nations and Indigenous communities:

- ✓ Governance that respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ Respect for the land the environment.
- ✓ Employment and economic development for the communities.
- ✓ Preservation of languages and cultures & investment in education and youth
- ✓ Protection of Indigenous women.
- ✓ Improving housing and health.
- ✓ Services adapted to the needs of urban Indigenous people.
- ✓ More ethical and participatory research.
- ✓ An Indigenous – Non-Indigenous relationship moving towards reconciliation

OUR COMMITMENTS

The number of commitments that follow reflect the situation in which a large proportion of Quebec's Indigenous people find themselves and the difficult context in which communities are trying to develop. It reflects the lack of interest that the provincial government has had in this part of the population for too long. We are aware that one or even two electoral terms will not be enough to remedy a situation that has been going on for several decades. The NDPQ will work with Aboriginal nations and communities to determine the priorities they wish to give to each of them.

Governance

- Maintain a respectful, ethical and egalitarian relationship with the nations and Indigenous peoples of Quebec.
 - Meet with the 43 Aboriginal Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and Inuit leaders within 50 days of the election.
 - Pass a bill that makes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) the reference guide for all provincial government measures affecting First Nations and Inuit.
 - Prioritize the signing of Nation-to-Nation Agreements with Indigenous nations that have not yet signed a treaty.
 - Establish with Indigenous nations and communities, systems that enable them to give their free, prior and informed consent to any development project on their land. Make this consent mandatory and prior to the start of any development project.
 - Open negotiations with all Indigenous nations that wish to develop their own institutions and governance with broad powers in terms of, amongst other things:
 - Education and culture;
 - The development and exploitation of natural resources.
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- Provide the necessary financial resources to enable nations and communities, if they so wish, to establish their own police services and to meet the following needs:
 - Training of officers, including mandatory training on the distinctive characteristics of Indigenous communities;
 - Enable police services to enforce the regulations put in place by the community regarding cannabis use on its territory.

Land and environment

- Support Aboriginal organizations and authorities in achieving their respective aspirations and objectives in a sustainable development approach.
- Include the obligation to take into account Indigenous traditional knowledge in environmental assessments of development projects. This knowledge should be considered in the same way as the scientific knowledge mobilized.
- Ensure compliance with the obligation to consult prior to and involve Indigenous peoples in any project, program or initiative that directly or indirectly affects them in Quebec.
- Make Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) mandatory and preconditions for any development project.
- Provide Indigenous communities with the economic, legal and human resources necessary to ensure a balance of power with resource development companies:
 - During the IBA's negotiations
 - To ensure that the IBAs are respected
- Support Indigenous communities in implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Economic development and employment

- Support the development of partnerships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities based on the model of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government.
 - Support the development of social economy projects in Indigenous territories.
 - Promote and support local electricity production projects that will ensure the energy self-sufficiency of communities.
 - Encourage Indigenous employment as a solution to the labour shortage:
 - Hiring incentive;
 - Paid training.
 - Require employers and employees in all sectors of activity working in Indigenous communities to receive general training on Indigenous history, culture and on the behaviors to be adopted within the community.
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Languages and cultures & Education and youth

- Support initiatives that aim to preserve Indigenous languages and cultures.
- Establish, in collaboration with the Indigenous nations, a mechanism to ensure that their knowledge is taken into account in the production of any government reports concerning them.
- Increase funding for Indigenous schools.
- Plan the development of post-secondary institutions and institutions offering vocational training on Indigenous lands.
- Promote and financially support school exchange initiatives between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous schools.
- Support the production of school and general-purpose materials on Indigenous languages and cultures.
- Include Indigenous history and culture in the Quebec school curriculum, from elementary school to college.
- Support initiatives from employers to integrate traditional practices (hunting, fishing and gathering, etc.) into the workplace.
- Support outreach initiatives between Aboriginal youth and seniors to foster knowledge exchange and intergenerational bridging.
- Organize an Indigenous Youth Summit by 2020
- Support initiatives to specifically assist young Indigenous parents.
- Make National Indigenous Day, June 21, a holiday for all.

Indigenous Women

- Implement, in partnership with Indigenous nations and the federal government, the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
 - Support all initiatives that aim to reduce violence in communities.
 - Support all initiatives aimed at providing safe housing for women and their children who decide to flee violence.
 - Support all initiatives aimed at improving women's service offers such as: emergency assistance, psychotherapy, Indigenous healing initiatives, etc.
 - Support initiatives that help Indigenous men face the challenges imposed by Western society
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Housing and Health

- Plan and develop, in collaboration with the nations concerned and the federal government, a solution to significantly increase the number of new housing units in communities over the next three years.
- Plan and develop, in collaboration with the nations concerned and the federal government, a solution to significantly improve the quality of existing housing in the communities over the next three years.
- Provide the necessary financial resources to restore access and quality of health services in Indigenous nations to the same standards as in Non-Indigenous regions.

Urban Indigenous people

- Establish strong and lasting partnerships with the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtone du Québec*, Makivik Corporation, and the Kativik Regional Government to reduce isolation and improve access to services, and the socio-economic situation of urban Indigenous people.

Research

- Support, as a priority, through the *Fonds de recherche du Québec*, all co-constructed and co-executed research with and for Indigenous peoples.
- Exclusively support research projects or partnerships that apply and that respect the OCAP Principles (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession).

Indigenous – Non-Indigenous relations

- Give the highest attention and implement, in partnership with the Indigenous nations concerned, the recommendations of the *Viens Commission*.
 - Respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls for action, including working to integrate mandatory training on the history and culture of indigenous nations into the:
 - Secondary schools;
 - Universities;
 - Professional associations;
 - Organizations offering services to newcomers
 - Work with the 11 nations of Quebec to identify solutions to advance reconciliation.
 - Support and encourage initiatives to combat racism against Indigenous peoples.
 - Transform the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS) into a Ministry with a full division dedicated entirely to reconciliation.
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