

A MODEL OF INDIGENOUS SELF-GOVERNANCE

Annual Report
2023-2024



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC

85 Bastien Blvd
Wendake, QC G0A 4V0
1-877-842-6354 • infos@rcaa.qc.ca • rcaa.qc.ca

ISSN: 2818-9124
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A word from the directors	5
Mission, vision and values	6
Strategic orientations	7
Board of directors	7
The Quebec Native Friendship Centre Movement	8
The Observatory of Urban Indigenous Realities	10
The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec: a force for social transformation	11
 SUPPORTING the development and delivery of frontline programs and services designed specifically for urban Indigenous communities	11
 CONTRIBUTING to the development of relevant public policies for urban Indigenous populations	12
 FOSTERING harmony between communities by celebrating Indigenous cultures	13
 PROVIDING un institutional and strategic support to Friendship Centres while respecting their autonomy and specific local context	16
Overview of the Movement	17
On the verge of new achievements	20



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear members and partners,

The 2023-2024 year marked a significant step for the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) as we set our latest strategic plan into motion. Over the past decade, our focus has been on enhancing the recognition of the work carried out by Native Friendship Centres. Looking ahead, we are shifting our focus to refining our organizational structure as a provincial association while continuing to strengthen our strategic role as a Movement. We intend to build on the progress made in recent years to improve our internal practices and drive innovation in governance and organizational management. Our goal is to showcase our ability to adopt contemporary management practices while staying true to our values and cultures.

We take pride in having solidified our leadership in research. While there is still a lot of work to accomplish in the coming years, the launch of our Observatory of Urban Indigenous Realities and the addition of new team members to share our expertise even further will help us strengthen our influence with key decision-makers.

Even though we are focusing more on growing our organization, we remain committed to our members—the Native Friendship Centres. We will strive to stay closely connected with them and their teams, ensuring we are in tune with the unique needs of each region where a Friendship Centre or service point operates. To support this, we have set up a dedicated member services team within the RCAAQ. Our members can count on us to keep working hard to support their growth and their efforts to better serve Indigenous communities in Quebec's cities.

On the partnership front, we have teamed up with public decision-makers to enhance the quality of life for Indigenous communities, delivering real, concrete results. These successes include partnerships in health, justice and culture, all designed to integrate holistic solutions that reflect the true realities of urban Indigenous people. The RCAAQ is fully committed to maintaining these partnerships, ensuring they continue to make a lasting and positive impact on Indigenous communities.

We are thrilled to present our 2023-2024 Annual Report. Fuelled by the passion of a dedicated team and the commitment of an engaged board of directors, this report captures the drive that has powered our efforts. As you turn the pages, you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of an entire Movement dedicated to building bridges and creating spaces that honour Indigenous values, all while meeting the current and future needs of urban populations.

With that, and with our deepest thanks for your ongoing support, we wish you a great read.

Warmly,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Meilleur'.

Philippe Meilleur
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Sirois'.

Tanya Sirois
Executive Director

MISSION

To advocate for the recognition of the collective rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples in urban areas and to support our members.

VISION

To expand our role as a driving force for change, leveraging our expertise and innovative approaches to make a powerful impact on the delivery of culturally relevant services and the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples in urban areas

VALUES



COMPASSION

Compassion means empowering individuals while honouring our history, cultures and uniqueness. It is about acting with humility and putting the collective good first.



INNOVATION

Innovation is about crafting solutions that meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples and that are grounded in cultural awareness. Our projects and approaches are designed to be transformative and to express our purpose.



COLLABORATION

Collaboration thrives on shared knowledge and mutual support, embracing cultural diversity and fostering spaces for cooperation to achieve shared goals.



INTEGRITY

Integrity is about staying true to our values, acting ethically and ensuring our vision and actions are aligned as we work diligently toward our mission.



COMMITMENT

Commitment is shown through our unified efforts and knowledge-sharing, driving us to fulfil our mission. It represents collective strength and inspiring leadership while solidifying our cultural and organizational identity.



RESPECT

Respect means considering how our actions affect others, honouring traditions and working for the well-being of future generations. It is reflected in how we speak, act and carry ourselves.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



INVEST IN ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Structure the organization to secure the expertise and resources needed to realize our vision and mission while also boosting the RCAAQ's research capabilities.



INNOVATE IN MEMBER RELATIONS

Emphasize innovation and foster open, two-way communication with our members and partners while strengthening the Movement's overall capacity.



ENHANCE THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC POSITIONING

Maintain a strong, influential presence by reinforcing the RCAAQ's position with various stakeholders and across multiple platforms, ensuring it remains a leading force for change.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Philippe Meilleur

Chair
Native Montreal

Laurianne Petiquay

Vice-chair
Centre d'amitié autochtone Capetciwotakanik – La Tuque

Edith Cloutier

Secretary-Treasurer
Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

Jennifer Brazeau

Board member
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Nancy Brunelle

Board member
Centre d'entraide et d'amitié autochtone de Senneterre

Charlotte Commonda

Board member
Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre

Maud Flamand

Board member
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières

Jenny Hervieux

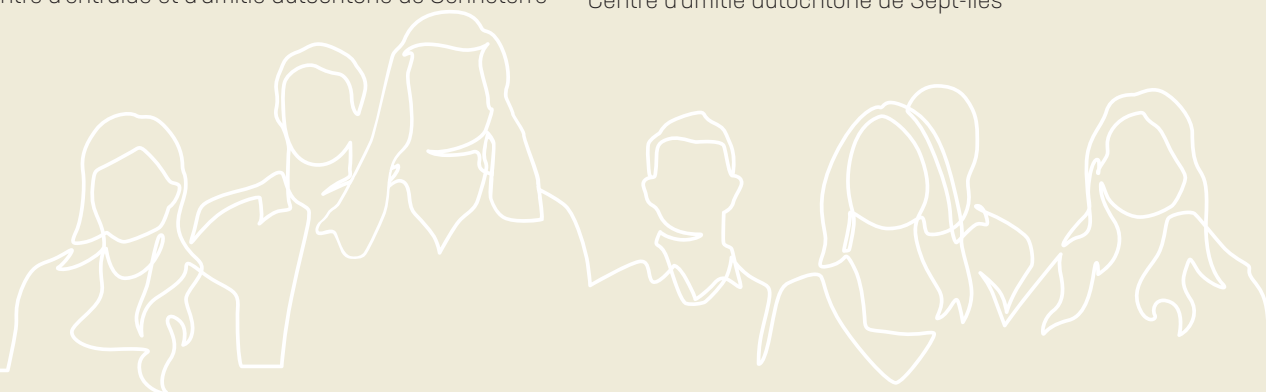
Board member
Centre multi-services MAMUK

Jo-Ann Toulouse

Board member
Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre

Guylaine Vachon

Board member
Centre d'amitié autochtone de Sept-Îles



THE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE MOVEMENT

The Movement comprises the RCAAQ, the Friendship Centres and the Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec. It represents the largest network of services for urban Indigenous people. Its core mission is to drive a broad social transformation, led by and for Indigenous communities in urban settings. This effort thereby

supports their social, community, economic and cultural development.

In response to racism and discrimination, both past and present, the Movement offers constructive solutions and encourages dialogue.

COMPONENTS OF THE MOVEMENT



EMPLOYEES

259

AREAS
OF ACTIVITY

15

GOVERNANCE

71%

female majority

KEY LOCATIONS IN

14

cities

Affiliated friendship Centres

Eleven Native Friendship Centres and three community service points are united under the banner of the RCAAQ. They serve Indigenous people living in or passing through the cities of Baie-Comeau, Chibougamau, Gatineau, Joliette, La Tuque, Maniwaki, Montréal, Québec City, Saint-Michel-des-Saints, Senneterre, Sept-Îles, Shawinigan, Trois-Rivières and Val-d'Or. Some of these Centres have been established for several decades, dating back to the 1970s. Since 2000, a second wave of Centres emerged in response to the expanding and diversifying urban Indigenous population and its increasing needs.

Friendship Centres serve as essential anchors of social cohesion in the cities or municipalities where they are based, and their influence extends well beyond these locations into their surrounding regions. They play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for urban Indigenous residents, promoting Indigenous cultures and bridging gaps between different communities.

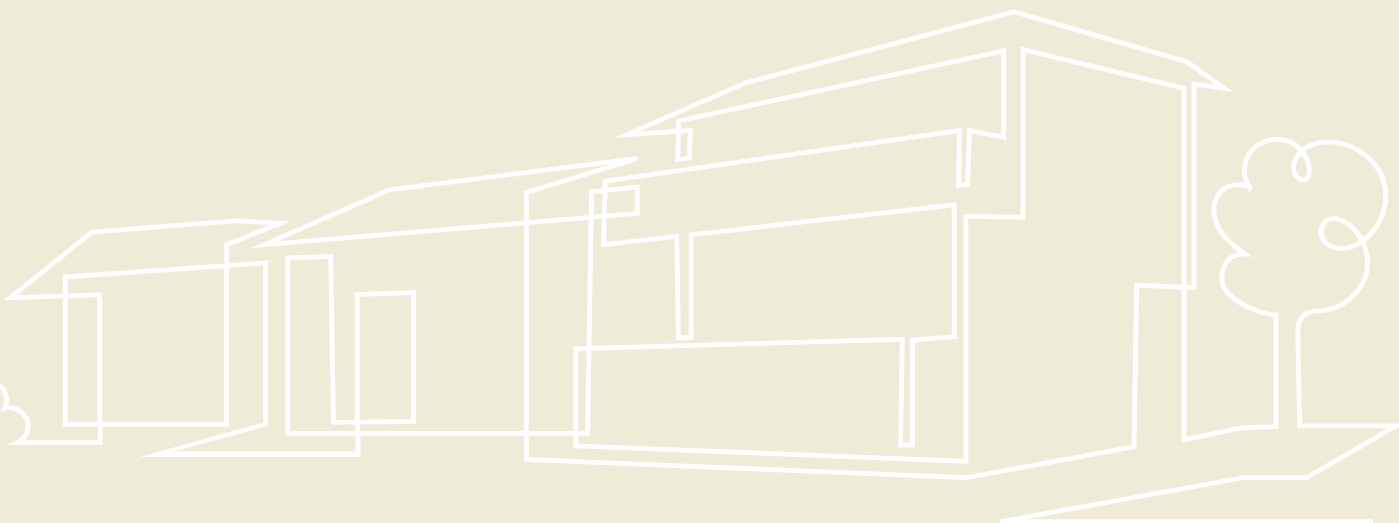
By offering a range of integrated and interconnected services, these Centres provide a culturally safe and relevant environment, making them crucial hubs for frontline services. Friendship Centres address various needs, including health, individual and community wellness, early childhood development, youth engagement, rights advocacy, social inclusion, community housing and more.

Led predominantly by women, both the RCAAQ and the Friendship Centres are self-governing, Indigenous-led and politically independent organizations

The Société immobilière

In 2019, the RCAAQ established the Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (SIRCAAQ) under the *Companies Act*. The SIRCAAQ is dedicated to developing and supporting social housing projects for Indigenous communities in Quebec cities, aiming to enhance members' wellness. The SIRCAAQ has proven its effectiveness and relevance with practical solutions for culturally safe and dignified housing. The organization currently

manages two student residences: Waska Witcihitowin in Trois-Rivières and Nutshimit in Sept-Îles, and is working on three more residences—two in Québec City and one in Chibougamau. Additional projects, including support for Friendship Centres, are also in development.



THE OBSERVATORY OF URBAN INDIGENOUS REALITIES

In 2022, the RCAAQ launched the Observatory of Urban Indigenous Realities. Its mission is to gather, understand and share knowledge related to urban Indigenous issues, focusing its actions on using First Nations and Inuit knowledge and expertise for the benefit of society as a whole. Through extensive consultations, four key research areas have been identified:

CULTURE AND IDENTITY



This is a key focus of the Observatory since there is limited relevant external data on these topics, especially when factoring in the urban dimension.

HEALTH AND COLLECTIVE WELLNESS



For First Nations, health is viewed holistically, encompassing physical, mental, spiritual and emotional aspects at both the individual and community level. It plays a vital role in improving living conditions.

HOUSING: A PLACE TO CALL HOME



Housing has a major impact on quality of life and, in turn, on the health of Indigenous communities. Additionally, both visible and hidden homelessness are on the rise.

GOVERNANCE



The Friendship Centre Movement provides a unique, autonomous platform for Indigenous voices, free from the limitations of the *Indian Act*. This freedom allows for innovation and development that aligns more closely with Indigenous needs and traditions.

Note: The Indian Act, passed in Canada in 1876, is a federal law that governs the affairs of First Nations and defines the legal status of Status Indians (Status Indians being the legal term used in the Act). Although amended over time, the Act remains controversial for its colonial character and its impact on the self-determination of Indigenous peoples.

The Observatory goes beyond gathering knowledge and data—it paints a dynamic and evolving picture that will increase the understanding of urban Indigenous realities. This understanding will be reflected, among other things, in an evaluation of the actions taken by the Friendship Centre Movement and their impacts, with the findings presented in a clear and accessible manner. The Observatory actively supports the Movement in building a culture of assessment that draws inspiration from Indigenous traditions and practices.



THE RCAAQ: A FORCE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



SUPPORTING

the development and delivery of frontline programs and services designed specifically for urban Indigenous communities

The RCAAQ spearheads innovative, proactive strategies to meet the needs of Indigenous populations in urban settings, backing the creation and implementation of projects and programs across Quebec, while also providing strategic support to the Friendship Centres. I

In a system that often fails to reflect the culture and experiences of First Peoples, many Indigenous people feel disempowered when it comes to understanding their rights, obligations and available options of recourse. Friendship Centres offer a holistic approach, enabling Indigenous individuals to address all their needs in one place, despite the complexities of urban Indigenous life.

They take a proactive stance by offering services aimed at prevention and solid interventions, in order to disrupt the cycles of vulnerability experienced by Indigenous communities. This approach not only helps reduce the socio-economic differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations but also ensures access to culturally safe services.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

New Partnership with the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications

The RCAAQ secured a three-year agreement on Indigenous cultural development. This partnership will elevate Indigenous identity and promote the rich diversity of Indigenous cultures in urban environments.

Collaboration with the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ)

To tackle the issue of some Indigenous people attending Friendship Centres without health insurance cards, the RCAAQ has teamed up with the RAMQ. Select Friendship Centres will now be able to verify and assist Indigenous individuals in obtaining their health insurance cards. This partnership will also help build lasting connections with family doctors, facilitating long-term healthcare follow-up within the Friendship Centres.

Perinatal care pilot project with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)

A new pilot project supporting Indigenous families through pregnancy has been launched in collaboration with the MSSS. The project focuses on guiding families through maternity care, documenting best practices, training professionals and enhancing the services provided.

New agreement to streamline service coordination between the SIRCAAQ, Friendship Centres and partners for early childhood and family services

Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, this project will document and evaluate how early childhood and family services are integrated into the community living environments in Sept-Îles and Trois-Rivières. It will also establish a framework to eventually rollout these services in other locations, such as Québec City, Chibougamau and others.



CONTRIBUTING

to the development of relevant public policies for urban Indigenous populations

The RCAAQ is a key partner for various government levels on urban Indigenous matters, playing a pivotal role in ensuring fair access to services for Indigenous people in cities. It helps shape practical solutions and public policies by documenting insights on the presence, needs and experiences of urban Indigenous populations through consultations, research and evaluations. Many Indigenous individuals who turn to Friendship Centres, but rarely use public services, face complex, multifaceted challenges. Innovative and novel approaches to intervention are crucial to breaking down the social inequalities that have persisted for decades.

Contributions and advocacy with government bodies

Submitting papers and participating in consultations are at the heart of our efforts to make the voices of urban Indigenous heard across Quebec and to influence public policy. By submitting papers and participating in consultation processes, we share unique perspectives, highlight specific issues and propose solutions adapted to the realities of today's communities.

Over the past year, several papers have been submitted, illustrating our commitment to actively participating in consultative processes and defending the interests of urban Indigenous populations.

POSITION PAPERS IN 2023



- » Submission to the Commission de la santé et des services sociaux during the special consultations and public hearings for Bill 15 - *An Act to make the health and social services system more effective*
- » Submission for the special consultations and public hearings on Bill 32 - *An Act to establish the cultural safety approach within the health and social services network*
- » Submission to the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale as part of public consultations for the development of the 4th government action plan to combat poverty and social exclusion
- » Submission to the Ministère de la Famille with recommendations to improve services in Indigenous childcare centres (CPE) in urban areas, ensuring they better address the needs of children and families
- » Submission to the Secrétariat aux aînés of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to contribute to the 2024-2029 action plan for the policy *Aging and Living Together, at Home, in One's Community, in Québec*
- » Submission to the Commission de la santé et des services sociaux during the special consultations and public hearings for Bill 37 - *An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children's Well-Being and Rights*

The RCAAQ has been deeply involved in the federal government's efforts to shape legislation on Indigenous health. It is critical to the RCAAQ that the forthcoming *Indigenous Health Act* guarantees equal, discrimination-free access to all health and social services. It will continue working with the federal government to ensure that the recommendations and concerns raised throughout the consultation process are not only acknowledged but acted upon, aiming to correct a longstanding injustice that has had, and will continue to have, devastating consequences for both current and future generations.



FOSTERING

harmony between communities by celebrating Indigenous cultures

Although there's still a long way to go, the RCAAQ demonstrates innovative and constructive leadership by embracing an approach built on co-creation and collaboration with its members, partners and all levels of government. Thanks to the Observatory, we now have clear evidence showing how the knowledge and expertise of First Nations and Inuit enrich society and promote Indigenous self-determination, even in urban settings. Through initiatives like knowledge-sharing events, training sessions, conferences and presentations, the RCAAQ showcases Indigenous knowledge and expertise, building bridges and promoting harmony between communities. These gatherings, centred on open, compassionate dialogue and the wellness of Indigenous people in urban areas, illustrate how this approach is reflected in the services provided on the ground.



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
IN RCAAQ ACTIVITIES:



584
PARTICIPANTS

EVENTS

"Uniting our strenghts" gathering

The "Uniting our strenghts" [uniting our strenghts] event brought together 179 participants, creating a valuable space for sharing best practices, key tools and experiences related to the work of Native Friendship Centres. These exchanges helped equip staff with the skills and knowledge to better support those who rely on the Centres. Participants also brainstormed ways to improve the rollout of programs and services, making them more efficient and impactful.

"This Movement is bigger and stronger than I realized. I now feel more supported in my work."

Participant at the
«Unir nos forces» gathering



Early childhood and family days

In November, the RCAAQ hosted a three-day event focused on early childhood and family support. Nearly 30 participants from nine Friendship Centres, including five Elders, gathered to expand their knowledge and develop new tools for working with Indigenous children and families in urban environments. Through workshops, training sessions and a cultural circle, participants engaged in rich discussions that helped deepen intergenerational bonds.



Social justice at the heart of our actions

Social justice is central to our work, and in March 2024, we hosted community justice exchange days, bringing together the RCAAQ and justice workers from Native Friendship Centres. This event saw 80 participants, including about 10 partners such as the Ministère de la Justice, the Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVAC), Alter Justice and the Sûreté du Québec. For Indigenous individuals in difficult situations, culturally sensitive alternatives to incarceration are offered, focusing on personal healing and renewal. These options complement the services already available in each Friendship Centre. By working alongside dedicated partners, we have created a transformative initiative that restores dignity and hope by addressing the unique cultural needs of every individual.



Forum on Indigenous health governance

About 100 experts and professionals from Native Friendship Centres and the health sector gathered for the Indigenous Health Governance Forum. The event featured a range of conferences, panels and workshops, led by voices from community, academic, scientific and government backgrounds.

The Forum showcased the strides made in recent years through the health services provided by Friendship Centre clinics. These services are designed to address the specific health needs of Indigenous people living in urban areas.

We have been working tirelessly over the years to solidify partnerships with Quebec's healthcare system in order to ensure a meaningful, lasting impact. Our vision is to reclaim autonomy by creating spaces where we can set the rules for our own governance and services.



FRIENDSHIP CENTRE HEALTH CLINICS

OVER THE PAST YEAR

BETWEEN

4 AND 47

people access services at each clinic every day



NEARLY

16 000

hours of service provided



MORE THAN

18

staff hired





PROVIDING

institutional and strategic support to Friendship Centres while respecting their autonomy and specific local context

The RCCAQ supports each Centre and service point in their daily operations and interactions with local partners while affording them the freedom to operate according to their unique local needs. To ensure effective institutional and strategic support for the Centres, the RCCAQ has developed an innovative range of services tailored to their support priorities, fostering open and reciprocal communication with its members.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS FOR PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT, SERVICE OFFERINGS AND
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:



226

An essential support network

The RCCAQ's member services team has established learning circles that meet several times a year, either in person or online. These circles create a collaborative space where participants can share their experiences, discover new practices, network and explore collective solutions. Over the past year, the circles have focused on three main themes: health, education and youth, and justice. These topics have allowed for an in-depth examination of the needs of urban Indigenous populations.

This collaborative approach helps identify innovative strategies to address common challenges, enrich practices through shared experiences and knowledge, and align efforts while strengthening cohesion among participants.



A new Friendship Centre joins the Movement

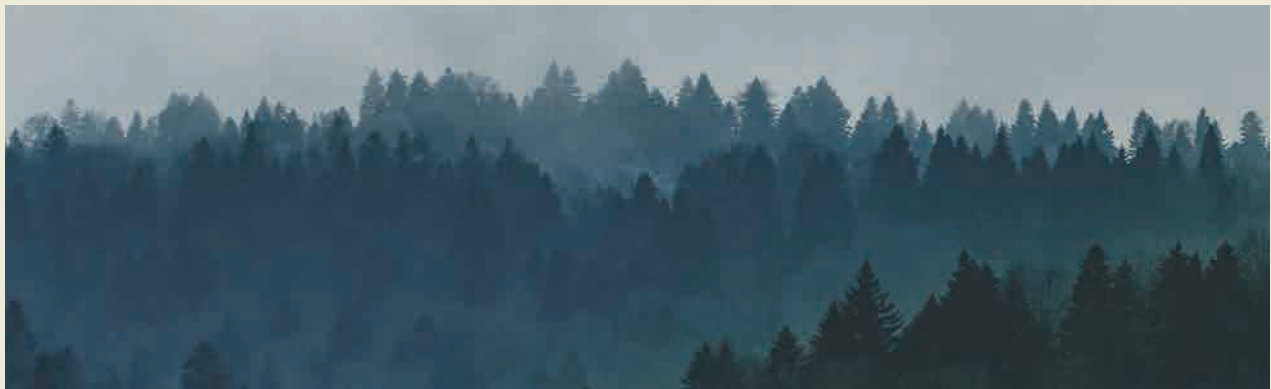
The RCCAQ was instrumental in helping launch the new Native Friendship Centre in Manicouagan. This initiative follows a comprehensive review of the challenges faced by Indigenous people living permanently or temporarily in Baie-Comeau. It reflects a strategic response to the specific needs of this increasingly significant segment of the city's population.

OVERVIEW: THE MOVEMENT IN ACTION

IN QUEBEC

In the summer of 2023, wildfires severely impacted several regions of Quebec. Native Friendship Centres stepped up to meet the urgent needs of those affected. They provided transportation, shelter, food, clothing, frontline health services and emotional support. These efforts were coordinated with local authorities, public safety officials and various emergency responders to ensure a comprehensive and effective response.

Moreover, the Friendship Centres extended their support to those in urban areas who were hosting relatives evacuated from Indigenous communities. Thanks to their dedication, the Centres were able to offer vital assistance, bolstering resilience and solidarity within the communities impacted by these disasters.



Over the past year, three women from the Quebec Native Friendship Centre Movement have been honoured with the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec's First Peoples Medal, which recognizes outstanding contributions by members of the First Nations and Inuit. This award highlights the achievements and dedication of individuals who are driving positive change and advancing the visibility of First Peoples.



Charlotte Commonda, a member of the Anicinape nation and executive director of the Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre, works to foster connections between communities.



Laurianne Petiquay, a member of the Atikamekw nation and executive director of the Centre d'amitié autochtone Capetciwotakanik - La Tuque, is committed to advocating for a more just society for future generations.



Nancy Jourdain, a member of the Innu nation and assistant executive director at the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, consistently works to support and uplift her community.

MANICOUAGAN

A new Native Friendship Centre has been launched to address the increasing needs of Indigenous people in the area. The establishment of a board of directors will ensure effective governance and the long-term sustainability of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan's services.



MANIWAKI

In April, the Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre opened its early childhood facility, Migiwewin, to other Native Friendship Centres across Quebec. The Centre hosted workshops on cultural integration, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices.



SENNETERRE

At the 23rd Les Milleniums gala in September 2023, the Senneterre business community honoured the Centre d'entraide et d'amitié autochtone de Senneterre with an award recognizing its impactful contribution to city's economic development.



JOLIETTE

The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière, in partnership with CISSS de Lanaudière and the Sûreté du Québec, has established a joint intervention team—combining police officers and community workers (EMIPIC)—to provide 24/7 support for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous vulnerable populations.



VAL-D'OR

The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre is expanding its facilities to better accommodate and serve the region's growing Indigenous population, consolidating all its services under one roof.



CHIBOUGAMAU

In November, the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre brought together government partners to revitalize the local accessibility roundtable for urban Indigenous services.



MONTREAL

Native Montreal launched the city's first culturally safe family health clinic. This new clinic takes a holistic approach to healthcare, aiming to improve access to essential services for the Indigenous community in the metropolitan area.





LA TUQUE



The Centre d'amitié autochtone Capetciwotakanik – La Tuque has unveiled plans for an expansion project to address the growing needs of the urban Indigenous population. This project will be carried out in partnership with the SIRCAAQ.

MAMUK- QUÉBEC



The Centre multi-services MAMUK unveiled a new space close to its existing facilities for its Ishkuteu employability program. This initiative helps urban Indigenous people with job preparation and employment support.

SEPT-ÎLES



The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Sept-Îles has opened a newly renovated and child-friendly space for children aged 0-5 in the PAPACUN program. This is a culturally relevant program that, through entertaining activities, promotes the healthy development of children in all spheres of their lives.



Additionally, the SIRCAAQ launched Nutshimit, their first housing project in Sept-Îles, offering 32 units and a new support area for Indigenous students and their families to facilitate access to education and boost academic success.

TROIS-RIVIÈRES



The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières has expanded with new facilities in downtown Trois-Rivières and a service point in Shawinigan. These additions strengthen the Centre's role in serving urban Indigenous communities and enhance its ability to provide local services.



The SIRCAAQ also opened its second housing project in Trois-Rivières, Waska Witcihitowin, which features 42 affordable housing units, a childcare centre (CPE) and communal spaces, all designed to support better educational outcomes.





ON THE VERGE OF NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

For yet another year, the Native Friendship Centre Movement continued to champion its unique model of Indigenous self-governance in urban settings, further strengthening our authority over standards within our organizations. This approach reflects both our aspirations and the lasting impact of our efforts on current and future generations. The RCAAQ has been a pivotal force in this movement, playing a crucial role in defending the rights and interests of urban Indigenous individuals while providing active support to the Friendship Centres, which deliver essential frontline services.

The RCAAQ's goals will continue to evolve through its broad vision of social transformation, driven by and for Indigenous people in urban areas. Its dedication to building an inclusive and engaged Indigenous civil society will, as always, remain at the core of its mission.

In the coming months, the RCAAQ will roll out the Movement's first-ever certification program, aimed at solidifying its position as a leader in services for Indigenous people across Quebec. This program will set out new practices and standards to strengthen

member organizations and help them grow. Beyond just ensuring sustainability, the program seeks to build trust at the ground level and will address organizational challenges while fostering confidence among members and funders alike. The goal is to create consistent quality standards that define what it means to be a true Friendship Centre, establishing a certification label that embodies the Movement's vision and values.

New initiatives are also in the works to drive social, community, economic and cultural development, using innovative collaboration models with diverse partners. The years ahead will be defined by a renewed commitment to these ambitious goals, further strengthening the Movement's impact in the communities it serves.

THE RCAAQ AND FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ARE UNITED AROUND THREE CORE GOALS:

- » Contributing to beneficial and sustainable social transformation for Indigenous people
- » Remaining focused on the needs and expectations of their members and the urban communities they serve, maintaining direct contact and fostering urban Indigenous mobilization
- » Working in a coordinated way by pooling efforts, expertise and resources to enhance their influence and ability to take action

