



**Assemblée des Premières Nations  
Québec-Labrador**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 05/2018**

**NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL INQUIRY COMMISSIONS:  
AFNQL'S POSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- WHEREAS** the Government of Quebec confirmed on December 21, 2016, the appointment of an inquiry commission (the “Viens Commission”) “to identify the causes underlying all forms of violence, systemic discrimination and different treatment of Indigenous people” with regard to six Quebec public services, including police. The final report of this Commission is slated to be submitted on 30 September, 2019;
- WHEREAS** the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (the “National Inquiry”) was appointed in September 2016. The final report of this Commission is slated to be submitted by the Government of Canada on 30 April, 2019;
- WHEREAS** the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) obtained party standing in the two inquiry commissions;
- WHEREAS** the work of the parties with standing in the two inquiry commissions will draw to a close in December 2018;
- WHEREAS** the AFNQL once again pays tribute to the First Nations women and victims in Quebec and Canada who have courageously come forward to publicly denounce unacceptable situations and to share their troubling and traumatic stories;
- WHEREAS** the Chief of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard, appeared before the Viens Commission on June 6, 2017, March 22, 2018 and September 14, 2018, to state the AFNQL’s position, concerns and recommendations, mainly regarding police services in Quebec, including on the territories of First Nations communities;
- WHEREAS** many of the AFNQL’s Grand Chiefs and Chiefs also appeared before the Viens Commission to express their concerns and the challenges they experience with Quebec public services and to submit their recommendations;

**WHEREAS** several AFNQL commissions also contributed to the work of the two inquiry commissions;

**WHEREAS** the proof presented before the Viens Commission definitively revealed the breadth of the gap to be filled before First Nations members receive quality public services that are free from discrimination, prejudice and racism, and that are adequately and satisfactorily funded;

**DETERMINED** to fight what appears to be a persistent institutional culture resistant to change and accepting accountability within the Sûreté du Québec and to help instate mechanisms to eradicate this culture and thus allow First Nations members to build trusting and respectful relationships with the police;

**WHEREAS** Me Wina Sioui, the attorney mandated by the AFNQL to represent it before the two inquiry commissions, along with her team, consulted Dwayne Zacharie, Chief of the Kahnawake Peacekeepers, and Jean Vicaire, Chief of police in Lac Simon, to formulate recommendations regarding police forces on the territories of First Nations communities;

**IT IS RESOLVED THAT** the AFNQL's recommendations will include an explicit request to the governments of Québec and of Canada to adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and that these governments develop, in partnership with the First Nations, an action plan, strategies and other tangible measures to implement the said *Declaration*;

**IT IS RESOLVED THAT** the AFNQL will offer to both Commissions an *Individual complaint* draft against Canada outlining the enduring violations of the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women* by that country;

**IT IS RESOLVED THAT** recommendations be made to the two inquiry commissions, primarily with a view to:

- A. Eradicating the institutional culture that is resisting to change and accountability within the non-First Nations police forces;
- B. Recognizing the importance for the First Nations to have their own police forces and to recognize First Nations police services as essential services and not just renewable programs;
- C. Requiring for all police officers who work with First Nations people, in urban centres and in communities, mandatory and continuing training on in-depth knowledge of the First Nations and their cultures;

D. Instituting greater accountability in police services and ways of facilitating complaints against non-First Nations police services;

E. Re-establishing the First Nations police forces that have been abolished following decisions made by the federal and provincial government,

**IT IS RESOLVED THAT** the AFNQL recommend that a permanent structure of concertation, in which it will sit, be put in place to monitor, among other things, the application of the recommendations made to the two inquiry commissions and laid out in their final report.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chief Manon Jeannotte, Gespeg

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Régis Pénosway, Kitcisakik

**ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS ON NOVEMBER 14, 2018 IN WENDAKE**



Ghislain Picard  
Chief of the AFNQL