



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

10th Gathering of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK

Montreal, November 16, 2011 – *Le Cercle des Premières Nations de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)* welcomes the 10th Gathering of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK at *l'Agora Hydro-Québec de l'UQAM* on November 23, 2011.

"The efforts have quickly shown results", affirms Odile Joannette, Co-Chair of the NETWORK and representative of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. "A *Montreal Aboriginal Reference Guide* and the *Directory of Resources Offered to Montreal's Aboriginal Community* have been created, as well as the *Fund for Montreal Aboriginal Professional Artists and Writers* that was established by *le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec* in collaboration with the NETWORK."

"I'm incredibly impressed in how both the non-aboriginal and the aboriginal community organisations have come together in collaboration in order to have better working relationships to improve the life and services of Aboriginal people!", explains Nakuset, Co-Chair of the NETWORK and Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012.

At the Gathering the participants will have the opportunity to obtain an update on the NETWORK's activities, to share information, to visit exhibitors and to take part in the workshop *Different but Equal : Let's Take Action against Prejudice and Racial Discrimination*. Adalbert Pimentel of the Police Service of the City of Montreal will also be giving a presentation in regards to safety issues concerning urban Aboriginals.

To this day, the NETWORK consists of 570 members, including more than 120 organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of Aboriginal people in the greater Montreal area. In addition to sharing information relative to their needs, the NETWORK has the mandate to prioritize these needs to develop joint projects addressing gaps in and duplication of services. Its coordinated and concerted approach allows it to bring together the collective interests of the Aboriginal people of the greater Montreal area to support local initiatives.

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