



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

“HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE” UNIVERSITY CENTRE

Following the dialogue initiated with universities in 2022 around building the House of Knowledge, the FNEC presented the project and consulted the senior administration of several other universities in Quebec. Several of these universities expressed their willingness to join in the concerted planning of the *House of Knowledge*. The FNEC is thrilled to count on their participation in this promising project.

Let us recall that the vision of the *House of Knowledge* is of a key university actor in Quebec, providing a flexible physical and virtual space of teaching, training, research, support, and cultural safety to students; a *House of Knowledge* created by and for the First Peoples in partnership with other institutions of higher learning.

Work on the *House of Knowledge*, with participating universities, will begin in June 2023. The goal is to pool respective knowledge and resources in order to present a coherent business plan to the ministry of higher education in 2025.

FNEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On May 2, 2023, the FNEC welcomed representatives of its member communities at the Sheraton Laval for its general assembly. Sixteen representatives participated in the event. Representatives of Indigenous Services Canada were also in attendance. Among the topics discussed at the assembly was work on implementing the Regional Education Agreement, the Regional Committee on First Nations Languages, technology services, as well as federal relations with Quebec.

We note that the assembly adopted the first indicators relating to the potential that the Regional Education Agreement brings to “high-performing schools”.

The organizing committee chose a hybrid meeting format that allowed representatives to come to Laval or attend virtually. New technologies and techniques now make these kinds of meetings possible. While the territory covered by the 22 member communities is vast, it continues to be important to offer face-to-face meetings to take advantage of networking opportunities.

Finally, the next meeting will be more interactive so the representatives can present the resources directed toward the Regional Education Agreement.

FNEC SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The FNEC Special General Assembly was held on May 3, 2023, also at the Sheraton Laval.

Fourteen Chiefs met for the event. Among the topics of discussion were:

- Work on implementing the Regional Education Agreement
- Adoption of the resolution “Mandate to the FNEC Secretariat - Draft legislation to ensure the sustainability of the REA”
- Adoption of the resolution “Support for the FNEC Secretariat and Chiefs Committee in their efforts to resolve systemic and institutional issues in education”
- FNEC Chiefs Committee’s operational report, as well as the welcoming of new elected representatives to the committee
- Political relations with the government of Quebec
- The assessment of the condition of school infrastructure against the new federal policy,
- The development of a business plan for the creation of a university by and for First Nations

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHIEFS COMMITTEE

At the Special General Assembly held on May 3rd in Laval, member communities’ chiefs appointed two new members to the FNEC Chiefs Committee.

Chief Richard Bélanger of Première Nation Wolastoqiyik Wamspekw, as well as Councillor Paul-Émile Ottawa of the Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan joined Chiefs John Martin (Gesgapegiag), Harry Rice (Kahnawà:ke), Lance Haymond (Kebaowek) and Councillor Jonathan Gill-Verreault (Mashteuiatsh).

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In March, the Chiefs Committee and the FNEC met with Minister Pascale Déry at her office in Quebec City. They introduced the organization and drafted a proposal for joint work to decolonize Quebec’s laws and regulations. The team made the minister aware of Kiuna Institution’s financial challenges and provided an update on the status of the First Peoples university project/”*House of Knowledge*,” whose business plan development is funded by the ministry of higher education (ministère de l’Enseignement supérieur).