



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

*An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families:*

**Historic Victory for First Nations**

**Wendake, February 13, 2024** – The First Nations Education Council (FNEC) welcomes the landmark opinion by the Supreme Court of Canada upholding *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Bill C-92). After more than a year of deliberations, the Supreme Court has ruled in favour of Indigenous Peoples' jurisdiction over child and family services.

Bill C-92 is an important milestone in the recognition of the rights of First Nations to assume responsibility for the protection of their children, in accordance with their traditions, cultures, and needs. The Supreme Court of Canada's decision reinforces the legitimacy of these fundamental rights and marks a crucial turning point in relations between Indigenous people and federal and provincial governments.

The FNEC would like to extend its sincerest congratulations to the [Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan](#), the [Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador](#), as well as the [First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission](#) for their determination and commitment in this struggle for the recognition and respect of these rights.

This historic victory puts an end to years of jurisdictional disputes and paves the way for necessary collaboration between First Nations and governments to ensure the well-being and development of Indigenous children. This is a defining moment in the struggle for justice and equal rights for First Nations in Canada.

As Denis Gros-Louis, FNEC director general remarked on this watershed moment "this decision is a significant victory for First Nations. We hope that the governments will take note of the decision and provide children with a path free of systemic barriers".

The FNEC believes that a swift and effective implementation of C-92 is necessary, with the ultimate goal to provide services focused on the safety and well-being of Indigenous children.

For more information, please consult the following link: [Supreme Court of Canada Decision: Victory for First Nations' Right to Self-government](#)

**About the FNEC**

The FNEC is the association of 22 First Nations of Quebec. Since 1985, the FNEC has been fighting to realize the right of First Nations to exercise their full jurisdiction in matters of education through the establishment of a comprehensive and adequately resourced education system, designed and managed according to their values and cultures. For more information, please visit [www.cepn-fnec.com](http://www.cepn-fnec.com).

**Source and information:**

Jean-Luc Lavoie

**Director of Communications and Government Relations**

First Nations Education Council

418-842-7672, ext. 3016

[jlavoie@cepn-fnec.com](mailto:jlavoie@cepn-fnec.com)