



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The First Nations Education Council reaffirms that
security and respect are at the heart of its priorities**

Wendake, January 14, 2026 – Following an article published in the media concerning the sexual assault of a 16-year-old adolescent, which occurred on the fringes of the 2024 Inter-School Games, the First Nations Education Council wishes to reassure youth, parents and heads of mission that the organization is taking all the necessary steps to ensure the security of the 1,200 participants who take part in the event each year.

The security of participants, and young people in particular, is at the heart of the organizing committee's concerns. Since the first edition in 2008, we have maintained a ratio of one chaperone for six youth participants. The role of these adults is to stay with the young participants at all times to ensure that they are never alone.

At this time, the information available in our records indicates that the accused was not an official chaperone for the 2024 Inter-school Games. It is crucial to emphasize that stringent security measures are already in place:

- Proactive disciplinary committee made up of three people who receive complaints, assess them and make a judgement about the situation. These immediate steps can result in expulsion from the Inter-School Games.
- Zero tolerance awareness campaign
- Continuous and transparent communication with the stakeholders
- Cooperation with the authorities and partners concerned, if applicable

For the 2026 edition, the organizing committee will have a *Youth Protection Mandate* ratified by all heads of mission, coaches and chaperones.

"In addition to this mandate, we will require all heads of mission to obtain "Safe Sport Training" certification from the Coaching Association of Canada. "The security and protection of our youth remains our number one priority," states David Gill, Coordinator of the First Nations Education Council Inter-School Games.

About the FNEC Inter-School Games

Created in 2008, the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) Inter-School Games are an annual event which brings together students from member communities around sport, culture and team spirit. These Games are more than a competition. They promote academic perseverance, physical and mental health, and the sharing of First Nations values and traditions. They provide young people with a unique opportunity to excel, create links, and celebrate the cultural richness that unites them.

About the First Nations Education Council

The First Nations Education Council (FNEC) is an association of 22 First Nations in Quebec that has been working for more than 40 years to fulfil the right of First Nations to exercise full jurisdiction over education by developing a comprehensive education system with appropriate resources, designed and managed according to First Nations values and culture. For more information, go to www.cepn-fnec.com.

Source and information:

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