



## Assemblée des Premières Nations Québec–Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, bureau 201  
Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0  
Tél. : 418-842-5020 • Téléc. : 418-842-2660  
www.apnql-afnql.com

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#### PL 96: A MAJOR AND HISTORIC STEP BACKWARDS IN RELATIONS WITH FIRST NATIONS

**Wendake, May 24, 2022** - “By passing Bill 96 into law today, following instructions set out by the Legault government, the National Assembly of Quebec is taking a major step backwards, putting reconciliation with First Nations on hold with a questionable future.” These are the terms used by the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFNQL) to mark this day that will go down in history, but for all the wrong reasons.

The AFNQL has made clear, on several occasions, which aspects put forward by the Legault government in this bill, were unacceptable to First Nations. The AFNQL recognizes that the Act governing the use of French is of considerable importance for the future of Quebec but denounces the meanness and narrow-mindedness that have no place in a process that was intended to be “historic”.

To deny the rights of others to assert one’s own, to brutally assert one’s supremacy over other nations that share the same territory is unworthy of a government that respects itself. Using a parliamentary majority for purely partisan purposes to drag the National Assembly into an approach that will set society back is also unworthy of a democratic system.” adds Ghislain Picard.

The AFNQL will take all means to denounce the inequity of the Act itself as well as its harmful consequences for relations with First Peoples, in particular the major linguistic injustices that the Legault government now intends to impose, in the name of narrow and divisive nationalism.

The National Assembly, the people of Quebec and First Nations' members deserve better, denounces the AFNQL

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Sources:

Eve Bastien

Executive Assistant to the Chief of the AFNQL

[communications@apnql.com](mailto:communications@apnql.com)