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en immigration, ethnicité
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Secretariat of the
Assembly of the
First Nations
of Quebec
and Labrador



Symposium

FOR A QUEBEC PROUD OF ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FIRST PEOPLES : Anti-Racism Policy and Action Plan

Université du Québec à Montréal
Alfred-Laliberté Hall
March 21 and 22, 2011

Under the auspices of the Research Chair on Immigration, Ethnicity and Citizenship, the International Observatory of Racism and Discrimination (CRIEC), the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, the Montreal Institute of International Studies (IEIM) and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

► **Symposium program** ◀
(Revised)



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FOR A QUEBEC PROUD OF ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FIRST PEOPLES : Anti-Racism Policy and Action Plan

A Symposium with an Outlook on the Future

Introduction – Overview of the Program

On September 13, 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The preamble of this important Declaration is very clear regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the different forms of discrimination (refer to: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/fr/drip.html). The Declaration emphasizes the urgency of advancing the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As regards to racism, when discussions took place about the fight against racism within the scope of Quebec's major public debates (consultations *Towards a government policy to fight against racism and discrimination*, in 2006, the Bouchard-Taylor Commission, government policy and action plan to fight against racism *Diversity: An Added Value* in 2008), it was pointed out that the Aboriginal Peoples are not part of the target-groups (immigrants, ethno-cultural minority groups, racialized groups, refugees), as a reason for not taking into account their particular circumstances. In fact, the question needs to be raised in different terms, that is to say that the historical targets of racism, particularly the Aboriginal Peoples, must be part of the preoccupations, questioning, and policies regarding the various expressions of racism. It is obvious that the Aboriginal Peoples, considering their status and their social and political situation as First Nations of Canada, deserve special consideration. In this sense, it is pertinent to clarify this omission of the Aboriginal issue in the debate on the fight against racism. It turns out that, it is both relevant and urgent to question the stakes and the dimensions to be considered in the elaboration of a policy pertaining to the Aboriginal reality.

The Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, *l'Observatoire international sur le racisme et les discriminations*, *la Chaire de recherche en immigration, ethnicité et citoyenneté*, *l'Institut d'études internationales de Montréal* and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO invite the various stakeholders anxious to contribute to the development of a policy and an action plan that would take into account the special circumstances of the First Nations, to participate in a symposium on the issue.

The symposium comprises four sessions of which discussions that deal with the reasons that will justify a policy and a distinct action plan pertaining to the fight against racism towards Aboriginal Peoples. It intends to shed light on the challenges confronted by these peoples work places, and in the areas of housing, education, public venues, as well as on the measures that are required to counter racism. The program also foresees a conference on the consequences and the implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. “Canada was the next to last country to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, more than three years after its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, on September 13, 2007. There is still a long way to go before the Declaration becomes a reality in the field, and this is why it is imperative that the governments give the example and lead the way to its effective implementation”, stated Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

1:00 – 1:30 PM Welcoming & Registration

1:30 – 1:45 PM Opening by an Elder: **Jacob Partridge**

Opening remarks

Anne Rochette, Dean, *Faculté des sciences humaines*, UQAM

Micheline Labelle, Chair Holder, *Chaire de recherche en immigration, ethnicité et citoyenneté* (CRIEC)

André Jacob, Coordinator, International Observatory of Racism and Discrimination (CRIEC)

Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

1:45 – 3:05 PM **Session 1: *For an anti-racism policy***

Chair: **Ghislain Picard**, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

“The Aboriginal Peoples differ from most of the groups who are the victims of racism, by the fact that they constitute organized societies which fight for their survival and that of their institutions. This collective nature of discrimination of which they are the victims, is specific to them. Yet, very little consideration is given to that fact”, explains Pierre Lepage, anthropologist and author of an essay on racism and discrimination towards Aboriginal Peoples. “It is important to relate another essential dimension to this collective aspect: the so-called systemic discrimination. This type of discrimination is not typical of specific persons. It ensues rather from the social system, the organization of the society”, emphasized Mr. Lepage.

- 1:45 – 2:05 PM **Pierre Lepage**, Anthropologist Consultant, Aboriginal Affairs and Human Rights
- 2:05 – 2:25 PM **Micheline Labelle**, Chair holder, Research Chair on Immigration, Ethnicity and Citizenship
- 2:25 – 3:05 PM Plenary discussion
- 3:05 – 3:20 PM Break

- 3:20 – 5:30 PM **Session 2: *Facing the job challenge***
 Chair: **Nadine Gros-Louis**, Chief of operations,
 Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and
 Labrador (AFNQL)

The social integration goes through integration at work. In Aboriginal communities, a certain number of persons may practice traditional trades, such as hunting and trapping. On the other hand, the majority of people aspire to participate in the labor market in the private sectors (hydro-electricity, construction, mines, forestry, etc.) and in public sectors (particularly in the social and health services). The level of unemployment still remains very high. Lastly, the Aboriginals are not very visible in the labor union circle. What can the unions do to favor their integration to work and their participation in the area of labor-union setting?

- 3:20 – 3:40 PM **Ralph Cleary**, Director General, First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Québec
Odile Joannette, Communications Officer, First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Québec
- 3:40 – 4:00 PM **Andy Baribeau** and **Diane Marois**, Aboriginal Inclusion and Management Advisers
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM Round table
Nicole de Sève, Advisor to Socio-Political Issues,
Centrale des syndicats du Québec
Jacqueline Bernier, *syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs du Ungava Tulattavik Health Center*
Gilles Audette, Director General, Foundation of Economic Training, *Fonds de solidarité FTQ*
Claudette Carbonneau, President, *Confédération des syndicats nationaux*
Édith Garneau, Advisor Aboriginal Affairs,
Commission de la construction du Québec CCQ

- 5:00 – 5:30 PM Plenary discussion
- 5:30 – 5:45 PM Break
- 5:45 – 7:15 PM Principal presentation
The scope and implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the signatory countries
- Chair: **Ghislain Picard**, Chief of the AFNQL
 Speech by **Dorval Brunelle**, Director, *Institut d'études internationales de Montréal*, UQAM
 Panelist 1 : **Armand MacKenzie**, Jurist and Senior Adviser, Communication and Public Affairs, Innu Takuaikan uashat Mak Mani-Uténam and Director of Conseil des Innus du Nitassinan.
 Panelist 2 : **Roxana Paniagua Humeres**
 Speech by **Geoffrey Kelley**, Minister responsible for Native Affairs
- 7:15 PM Cocktail

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011

- 9:15 – 11:50 PM **Session 3: *Racism against Aboriginals in the urban setting***
- Chair: **Michèle Audette**, President, *Femmes Autochtones du Québec*
- The presence of Aboriginals in the urban setting becomes more and more significant. There are numerous situations encountered of racial discrimination: discrimination in job searches, apartment rental, access to social and health services, etc. Also, it is important that people who are faced with specific problems, such as social isolation, homelessness, alcohol and drug additions, family conflicts, etc., get the necessary support and resources to improve their fate.
- 9:15 - 9:35 AM **Édith Cloutier**, President of the *Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec*
- 9:35 - 9:55 AM **Cynthia Lacasse**, Programme Officer, Social and Human Sciences, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
- 9:55 - 10:15 AM **Jean-Paul Audy**, Mayor of Pointe-à-la-Croix and **Pierre Vicaire**, Coordinator, *Comité Harmonie intercommunautés Listuguj-Pointe-à-la-Croix*

10 h 15 -10 h 35 **Nakuset**, Co-Chair of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK and **Jane Cowell-Poitras**, Deputy Mayor and Associate Councillor for the social development, family and elderly

10:35 – 10:50 AM Break

10:50 – 11:50 AM Plenary discussion

11:50 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 3:15 PM **Session 4: *Tools to counter racism***

Chair: **André Jacob**, Coordinator, International Observatory of Racism and Discrimination

The first three sessions will pave the way to a presentation on the status of the situation or some sort of diagnostic, but all will remain dead without the elaboration of principles, objectives and intervention strategies. This last workshop intends to be an opportunity to share experiences and to make hypotheses which could prepare the ground work for an eventual policy and an eventual action plan against racism pertaining to the Aboriginal issue.

1:00 – 1:20 PM **Me Sylvie Godin**, Vice-President, CDPDJ and **François Larsen**, Director of Research, Education, Cooperation and Communication, CDPDJ

1:20 – 1:40 PM **Michèle Audette**, President, *Femmes Autochtones du Québec*

1:40 – 2:00 PM **Béatrice Vaugrante**, Director General, *Amnistie internationale – Canada francophone*

2:00 – 2:20 PM **Patrick Bacon** and **Patrice Lacasse**: First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (Fight Against Poverty)

2:20 – 3:15 PM Discussion

3:15 – 3:30 PM Closing remarks

Chantal Bouvier, *vice-rectrice aux Affaires publiques et aux relations gouvernementales et internationales*, UQAM

Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador