



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **AFNQL WELCOMES HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION**

**Wendake, December 5, 2024** - The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) welcomes the publication of Hydro-Québec's Strategy for Economic Reconciliation and to Strengthen Relations with First Nations and Inuit.

This strategy represents a necessary step towards building genuine partnerships between First Nations and Hydro-Québec, and reiterates Hydro-Québec's recognition of First Nations' aboriginal and treaty rights, as well as the principles established by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The AFNQL applauds Hydro-Québec's willingness to take responsibility for the damage caused to First Nations' rights and territories by energy development. The First Nations also underline Hydro-Québec's openness and sincerity during discussions with them and their representatives prior to the development of the strategy.

"Hydro-Québec's Strategy for Economic Reconciliation is a first step in the right direction. It is based on principles on which First Nations agree. We have rights that deserve recognition and respect. We appreciate that Hydro-Québec and Mr. Sabia are committed to this path," reacted AFNQL Regional Chief, Ghislain Picard.

This openness to dialogue on the part of Hydro-Québec is an example to be followed when taking charge of initiatives relating to the governance of energy resources. Moreover, on the sidelines of the Bill 69, *An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative provisions*, First Nations expect Hydro-Québec's openness to reconciliation to be reflected in the Quebec government's approach to the management of energy resources.

### **About AFNQL**

The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador is the regional political organization that brings together the 43 Chiefs of the First Nations in Quebec and Labrador. <https://apnql.com/en/>

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