



CELEBRATING
OUR

20TH



The 20th anniversary of the FNQLHSSC:
an event that deserves to be highlighted!

This year, the FNQLHSSC is celebrating its 20th anniversary. This is a unique opportunity to pay tribute to all those who have contributed from far and near to its growth and success. At the time, the founding members shared a vision with the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and, when the time came, they were fully invested in the creation of an organization whose principles and values support the First Nations' intention to assert their full autonomy in the area of health and social services.

Over the years, more than 70 mandates were entrusted to the FNQLHSSC by its General Assembly and the Chiefs of the AFNQL. To mark this event, we thought it would be important to identify and share with you a few of these moments. In the following pages, you will find the names of the founding members, a list of those who were members of the Board of Directors from 1994 to today as well as an overview of the events that marked the history of the FNQLHSSC. Finally, we encourage you to read the poem by Rita Mestokosho, from the Innu community Ekuanshit, illustrating with emotion the FNQLHSSC's mission!



20 years of boards of directors



Rangée du bas : Ida LaBillois, Anne St-Onge, Lionel Whiteduck, Diane Petiquay, Richard Picard
Rangée du haut : Richard Kistabish, Gilbert Courtois, Jowan Philippe, Keith Leclaire

1994-1995

(The first BOD is elected during the founding assembly in March 1994)

Lionel Whiteduck, president
Richard Gray, vice-president
Richard Kistabish, secretary
Gilbert Courtois, administrator
Richard Picard, administrator
Keith Leclaire, administrator
Rheena Diabo, vice-president
Anne St-Onge, treasurer
Ida Labillois, administrator
Diane Petitquay, administrator
Jowan Philippe, administrator

1995-1996

Anne St-Onge, president
Richard Picard, vice-president (social services)
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president (health)
Richard Kistabish, secretary
Fred Kistabish, treasurer
Christiane Lalo, administrator
Philip Einish, administrator
Garry Carbonnell, administrator
Jowan Philippe, administrator
Keith Leclaire, administrator

CELEBRATING OUR



1996-1997

Garry Carbonnell, president
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president (health)
(resignation in November 1996)
Marc Gill, vice-president (social services)
Gary Cole, acting vice-president (health)
(as a replacement for Gilbert Courtois)
Ida Labillois-Montour, secretary
Jowan Philippe, treasurer
Fred Kistabish, administrator
Agathe Connelly, administrator
Shirley Cheezo, administrator
Jacqueline Metallic, administrator
Philip Einish, administrator
Christiane Lalo, administrator
(resignation in novembre 1996)

1998-1999

Jean-Marie Vollant, president
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president (health)
Lionel Whiteduck, vice-president (social services)
Ida labillois-Montour, secretary-treasurer
Adéline Basile, administrator
(resignation in March 1999)
Agathe Connelly, administrator
Annette Malec, administrator

2000-2001

Jean-Marie Vollant, president
Lionel Whiteduck, vice-president (health)
Edward Georgekish, vice-president
(social services and early childhood)
Suzie Nepton, secretary-treasurer
Michèle Audette, administrator
Daniel Nolett, administrator
Daniel Pien, administrator *(resignation)*
Arden McBride, administrator *(new administrator)*

1997-1998

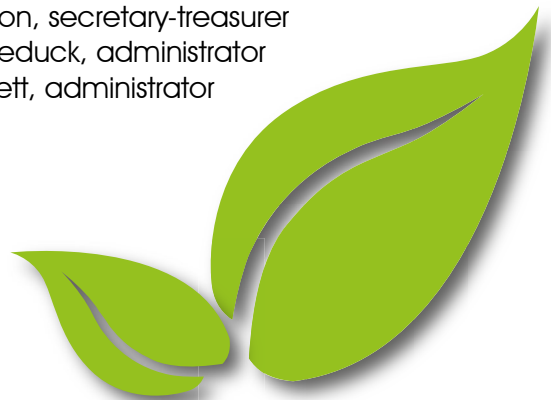
Patrick Dumont, president
(resignation in March 1998)
Gary Cole, vice-president (health)
Jean-Marie Vollant, vice-president (social services)
Ida labillois-Montour, secretary
Shirley Cheezo, treasurer
Mary Ann Nicholas, administrator
Jacqueline Metallic, administrator
Adéline Basile, administrator
Agathe Connelly, administrator
Jowan Philippe, administrator

1999-2000

Jean-Marie Vollant, president
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president (health)
Lionel Whiteduck, vice-president (social services)
Suzie Nepton, secretary-treasurer
Annette Malec, administrator
Agathe Connelly, administrator
Daniel Pien, administrator

2001-2002

Arden McBride, president
Brian Isaac, vice-president (health)
Doreen Canatonquin, vice-president
(social services)
Edward Georgekish, vice-president (early childhood)
Suzie Nepton, secretary-treasurer
Lionel Whiteduck, administrator
Daniel Nolett, administrator



CELEBRATING OUR



2002-2003

Arden McBride, president
Brian Isaac, vice-president (health)
Anne St-Onge, vice-president (social services)
Maxime Ottawa, vice-president (early childhood)
Suzie Nepton, secretary-treasurer
Lionel Whiteduck, administrator
Daniel Nolett, administrator

2003-2004

Arden McBride, president
Brian Isaac, vice-president (health)
Anne St-Onge, vice-president (social services)
Maxime Ottawa- vice-president early childhood
Alexandra Awashish, secretary-treasurer
Lionel Whiteduck, administrator
Daniel Nolett, administrator

2004-2005

Anne St-Onge, president
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president
Lionel Whiteduck, vice-president
Alexandra Awashish, secretary-treasurer
Daniel G. Nollet, administrator
Joyce Bonspiel Neilson, administrator
David McLaren, administrator

2005-2006

Anne St-Onge, president
Gilbert Courtois, vice-president (health)
(leave in February 2006)
Lionel Whiteduck, vice-president (social services)
Lison Picard, secretary-treasurer
Daniel G. Nollet, administrator (social development)
Joyce Bonspiel Neilson, administrator (early childhood)
David McLaren, administrator (strategy and politics)
Annette Malec, administrator
(replacement for Gilbert Courtois)

2006-2007

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Donna V. Metallic, vice-president (social services)
Lison Picard, secretary-treasurer
(leave in February 2007)
Joyce Bonspiel Neilson, administrator
Annette Malec, administrator
Yvette Bellefleur, administrator *(entered in February 2007, replacement for Lison Picard)*
Clifton Polson, administrator

2007-2008

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Donna Metallic, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Jowan Philippe, administrator
Sheila Swasson, administrator
Clifton Polson, administrator



CELEBRATING OUR



2008-2009

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Jeannine Bellefleur, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Didier Ross, administrator
Sheila Swasson, administrator
Clifton Polson, administrator

2009-2010

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Donna Metallic, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Didier Ross, administrator
Jeannine Bellefleur, administrator
Clifton Polson, administrator

2010-2011

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Donna Metallic, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Jeannine Bellefleur, administrator
Clifton Polson, administrator
(resignation in December 2010)
Jowan Philippe, administrator

2011-2012

Anne St-Onge, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Jeannine Bellefleur, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Keith Leclaire, administrator
Jowan Philippe, administrator
Agathe Connelly, administrator



2012-2013

Jowan Philippe, president (*resignation*)
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
(becomes president)
Keith Leclaire, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Malik Kistabish, administrator
(becomes vice-president health)
Jeannine Bellefleur, administrator
Agathe Connelly, administrator

2013-2014

Malik Kistabish, president
David McLaren, vice-president (health)
Keith Leclaire, vice-president (social services)
Annette Malec, secretary-treasurer
Jeannine Bellefleur, administrator
Michel Paul, administrator
Derek Montour, administrator



From left to right: Keith Leclaire, Malik Kistabish, Annette Malec, Jeannine Bellefleur, Derek Montour, Michel Paul and David McLaren



20 years, 20 information capsules

2013-2014

The years 2013 and 2014 marked the holding of several major events such as the dissemination of the results of phase 2 of the First Nations Regional Health Survey and the FNQLHSSC – *Avenir d'enfants* Joint Forum, which gave its participants the opportunity to experiment with the proposed process in the context of the agreement reached during the previous year. In January 2014, the Social Services Forum allowed for presenting the range of services provided by the social services sector and reinforcing the network of workers in attendance while focusing on wellness. In March 2014, the information resources sector organized a regional meeting that had the main objective of presenting current projects as well as the administrative and technical elements associated with infrastructure. During the same month, the FNQLHSSC held another regional meeting on health human resources in order to increase awareness among the participants as to the importance of all aspects of this work and to promote the tools developed by the FNQLHSSC and foster networking.

Finally, phase 3 of the First Nations Regional Health Survey was officially launched through promotion and planning activities. These years were also marked by the publishing of four briefs focused on issues that are important to the First Nations: racism and discrimination; sports and recreation; autonomy insurance; and long-term care and residential resources. These types of issues represent real challenges and the FNQLHSSC is taking all the necessary steps, such as training and awareness activities, to support advocacy and find longer-term solutions in order to contribute to improving the living conditions of First Nations populations.



CELEBRATING OUR 2TH

2012

In 2011, the FNQLHSSC tabled two projects as part of the Health Services Integration Fund. This Health Canada initiative aims to fund projects that allow for meeting the health needs of the First Nations more effectively. Of the 70 projects approved at the national level, two projects are coordinated by the FNQLHSSC: the health and social services governance project for which the objective is to contribute to improving the supply of and access to health and social services adapted to the realities of the First Nations of Quebec; and the project on the development of protocols for mental health and addictions.

On August 21, 2012, an important partnership was established with the official signing of an agreement reached between the FNQLHSSC and *Avenir d'enfants*. This agreement allowed for the development of engaging projects and the allocation of funding for the development of young children in the First Nations communities.

The year was also marked by the launching of the Surveillance Portal for Quebec's First Nations Health Status and Determinants and the Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey and the retirement of the Executive Director, Guylaine Gill, who had held this position for six years. Marjolaine Sioui, who had already been working at the Commission for nearly 15 years, obtained the Executive Director position.



2011

In February 2011, the FNQLHSSC organized, in collaboration with the AFNQL and the other regional commissions, the First Nations Summit on Addictions. This event, which was made possible thanks to the financial support and collaboration of several government partners, brought together more than 425 participants from the communities and organizations.

Following the observations that were made, the participants were able to develop and propose an action plan focused on fighting the various forms of addictions. This plan, which was later adopted by the Chiefs of the AFNQL, proposed the conditions for success and the actions to be taken at the local, regional and political levels.



Over the course of the same year, the FNQLHSSC proceeded with the official launch of the I-CSLC software during a regional meeting. This project's objective is to endow the First Nations of Quebec with an information management system comparable to the one used by the institutions of Quebec to enable them to meet the clinical and administrative needs of their clientele. The year 2011 also marked the adoption of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, which is in line with the 2007-2017 Blueprint.



The year ended with the implementation of the Prevention of Violence and Aggression in the Communities (PVAC) project since many studies have demonstrated that prevention measures must be applied starting from early childhood. The PVAC project allows the community workers to intervene among young children, their parents and families with the objective of improving the care provided and the interventions, namely through training workshops adapted to First Nations.

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2010



The year 2010 was marked by the implementation of several projects and initiatives within the First Nations communities and organizations. One of the commitments made during the Socioeconomic Forum in 2006 led to the universal implementation of preventive first-line social services in the communities. This same year also saw the implementation of the Maternal and Child Health Program, the Diabetic Retinopathy Remote Screening Project focused on improving the management of care for diabetic patients in four communities, the launching of the First Nations health status surveillance plan as well as Kirano – an intensive training program. In addition,

Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund gave many communities and organizations the opportunity to submit projects aiming to improve the integration and adaptation of the provincial health services to the needs of the First Nations and 54 projects were accepted. The FNQLHSSC was entrusted with the

mandate to coordinate nine of these projects that were regional in scope, which included the adaptation of various elements for pandemic influenza including a training component, the development of a mental health framework, a study on the regulation of the nursing practice and the integration of telehealth.



2009

As part of the implementation of the Fight Against Poverty strategy, the FNQLHSSC began work in 2008 on the creation of a Foundation. In 2009, the New Pathways: Foundation for the Future of First Nations officially obtained its status as a charity organization. Its purpose is to provide programs for First Nations people to meet the challenges they face in terms of food insecurity, poverty, education, culture, history and tradition, lack of employment, social exclusion, drug and alcohol dependency, assistance and support as well as leisure activities for young people.

In 2009, the FNQLHSSC developed several tools and resources, such as the Directory of Specialized Resources for First Nations Workers and Families with Special Needs Children, which gives a list of the programs and services designed to meet this clientele's needs. The promotion of healthy lifestyles was also prioritized, namely by publishing the first edition of the Healthy Living Newsletter in the winter of 2009 and the guide entitled On the Path to Health, which explains in detail the elementary school nutrition education program for the First Nations communities in Quebec and the actions to be taken to implement this program.





2008

In February 2008, more than 250 participants attended the First Nations Child and Youth Forum. The Forum affirmed the need to act quickly and put children at the centre of our priorities to offer them a better future. The discussions and recommendations of the Forum played a role in determining the objectives of the FNQLHSSC 2008-2011 Strategic Plan and in supporting communities and organizations in the implementation of the Quebec First Nations Health and Social Services Blueprint 2007-2017.



In order to reduce the gaps in the number of First Nations health professionals, the Quebec First Nations and Inuit Faculties of Medicine Program was established in September 2008 in collaboration with four Quebec universities: Laval University, McGill University, University of Sherbrooke and University of Montréal. A cohort for "Aboriginal students" was created to assure four placements annually to First Nations and Inuit. The program, coordinated by the FNQLHSSC and Laval University, facilitates the admission of these students and provides support throughout their studies.

2007

In August 2007, the FNQLHSSC was entrusted with the Indian Residential School file following the signing, on May 20, 2005, of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement between the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government. The mandate consists of informing, equipping and supporting the workers and survivors for the implementation of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement as well as the establishment of a regional committee comprised of all the players involved.

In the fall, the FNQLHSSC published and unveiled the "Quebec First Nations Health and Social Services 2007-2017 Blueprint: Closing the gaps... Accelerating change." The official launch took place in the fall of 2007 following several months of consultation and its unanimous adoption by the Chiefs of the AFNQL. This Blueprint identifies the focus areas that need to be targeted in order to make significant changes



and thereby improve the health and quality of life of the First Nations. There was a lot of work to be accomplished and the FNQLHSSC therefore made the commitment to support all the actions identified in the Blueprint.

2006

The year 2006 was marked by several major events and various research and evaluation projects. It began with a project aiming to develop the "Portrait of users and Consumption Patterns among First Nations" followed by the "Portrait of Accidental and Intentional Physical Injuries Occurring in First Nations Communities" and the "Income Security Policy Framework Evaluation." Finally, consultation processes on the subject of pandemics led to the production of the "Report on the State of Preparedness for the Pandemic Influenza Threat in the First Nations Communities."



With the objective of promoting the sharing of experiences and knowledge between the stakeholders of the First Nations communities and organizations, three forums were organized by the FNQLHSSC that respectively focused on "learning among First Nations children," "the fight against smoking" and "sexual health and HIV/AIDS." The First Nations Early Learning Forum, which was organized in collaboration with the First Nations Education Council, brought together more than 250 stakeholders.

One of the highlights of that year remains the holding of the Socioeconomic Forum in Mashteuiatsh. This moment is described as historic since the AFNQL successfully brought together all the players in order to discuss key issues, propose concrete actions and contribute to their achievement. This year ended with a project aiming to implement a Fight Against Poverty strategy and a human resource was hired to coordinate and support the development of an action plan for which the first phase consisted of conducting a prefeasibility study.

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2005

After spending more than ten years at the FNQLHSSC as its Executive Director, Garry Carbonnell officially retired on June 30, 2005. A new Executive Director, Guylaine Gill, was hired and began her duties in September.

The same year, the FNQLHSSC participated in the drafting of the Research Protocol that was published by the AFNQL. The Research Sector of the FNQLHSSC compiled the data for the first phase of the Regional Health Survey as well as a consultation on the e-Health needs and a needs assessment related to the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative.

At a more operational level, the actions taken by the health, social services and early childhood sectors were particularly focused on awareness and prevention in the areas of smoking cessation, HIV/AIDS, addictions and social crises. Furthermore, their actions led to the production of tools as well as the arrival of the Maternal and Child Health program, which aimed to support the First Nations families living in the communities. The year 2005 ended with the submission of a joint brief (FNQLHSSC and AFNQL) to the National Assembly of Québec on Bill 125 - An Act to Amend the Youth Protection Act and Other Legislative Provisions .



2004

In 2004, the FNQLHSSC celebrated its 10th anniversary and highlighted this event by holding a gala during which some of the founding members of the FNQLHSSC were

honoured: Gilbert Courtois, Rheena Diabo, Richard Gray, Michael Horne, Richard Kistabish, Keith Leclaire, Richard Picard, Anne St-Onge and Lionel Whiteduck.

In October 2004, the Suicide Prevention Action Plan (which was drafted in 2003) led to the hiring of a technical coordinator whose primary role was to support the community workers in the area of social crises. A consultation process on the subject was carried out among the communities, in November 2004, in order to develop a profile of the situation and define the needs in the area of prevention and intervention.



CELEBRATING OUR 20TH



That same year, a study was conducted jointly by the FNQLHSSC, Quebec Native Women and INAC (now AANDC) with various stakeholders in order to develop a profile of the sexual abuse situation in the communities. The results of the study confirmed that this growing phenomenon was threatening the future of many children and emphasized the need to continue to support local initiatives in order to break the silence...

2003

Year 2003 marked the creation of the Social Development Office at the FNQLHSSC, following the signature of the historic agreement between INAC (now AANDC) and the AFNQL implementing an income security program specific to First Nations. The newly-created sector organizes its physical space, updates manuals and provides training on the policy framework to income security advisors from ten communities.

In March 2003, the FNQLHSSC held the first major forum on the health of First Nations under the theme "Work and Health." The participants were presented with workshops on many subjects, including mental health, diabetes, STI's, addictions, traditional medicine and smoking.



2002

Year 2002 marked the beginning of many projects, starting with the development of the FNQLHSSC's first strategic plan following the adoption of resolution no 05/00 at the First Nations and Inuit Caucus. A consultation was started with First Nations communities and organizations, followed by a Special General Meeting in February 2002, with a main objective of specifying a vision and redefining the mission, roles and goals of the FNQLHSSC.

In March 2002, the communities of Manawan, Opitciwan and Wendake were the first to raise their hands, through a resolution, to adhere to the Income Security Policy Framework. Following a request by AFNQL Chiefs, this policy applies on a voluntary basis to band councils.



CELEBRATING OUR 20TH



The year ended by a project that would support a governance vision in terms of health information management and data access in the long term: the first phase of the First Nations and Inuit Regional Health Survey (2002). The FNQLHSSC is also in charge of coordinating and supporting the communities in implementing the information system on the health of First Nations and Inuit, the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, the home care program and the NNAIMS application .

2001

The Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada: The Romanov Commission was established in 2001 to examine, study and formulate recommendations on the future of the publicly funded health care system, notably by inviting organizations to table a brief. In March 2002, the FNQLHSSC and the AFNQL tabled a joint brief as a reminder that health care offered to First Nations must be adapted to their needs, while reaffirming the authority exercised by the FNQLHSSC in health matters and the willingness to maintain productive partnerships with governments.



Recommendations made in the brief were based on the health policy adopted on November 4, 1999 by the Assembly of Chiefs (AFNQL – resolution no 16/99). They expressed the need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party (federal government, provincial government and First Nations), establish a transfer policy for Non-insured Health Benefits adapted to First Nations, develop prevention programs and curative care to support health, and promote awareness among health care professionals of the reality of First Nations.

The year 2001 was also highlighted by the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy aimed at the misuse of tobacco and its negative impacts on health, quality of life and life expectancy. One of the first actions consisted of hiring a coordinator to quickly implement awareness-raising strategies in cooperation with the communities.



CELEBRATING OUR 20TH



2000

On June 15, 2000, The Commission on Health and Social Services (CLAIR Commission) was created to obtain the opinions of major stakeholders regarding the issues of the day facing the health system from the perspective of the funding and organization of services. As part of that process, the FNQLHSSC submitted an official brief on October 10, 2000. The purpose of the brief was to bring to light the precarious state of health of First Nations and to present a portrait of the situation within a context where the First Nations' expertise was not recognized. The recommendations in the brief expressed the need to get governments involved in the creation of joint committees with the First Nations to plan the organization and funding of services. The brief also called for governments to recognize the First Nations' competence and authority to plan and offer adapted health care services, as well as to recognize the integration of traditional practices as part of the organization of health and social services. On December 6, 2000, the FNQLHSSC inaugurated its new offices located at 250 Place Chef-Michel-Laveau in Wendake. The occasion was marked by a special evening, with the Chiefs, the health and social services directors and main partners as invited guests.

1999

The First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI), which seeks to improve the childcare services provided in the communities, has come under the authority of the AFNQL since 1995. In 1998, the Chiefs Assembly passed a resolution temporarily transferring this mandate to the FNQLHSSC. The following year, in 1999, the federal government gave the go-ahead to implement the Aboriginal Head Start program in the communities. From there, the First Nations Head Start program got underway throughout Canada to support the implementation of local programs, using an overall approach that would take account of all factors likely to influence this development. The FNQLHSSC was put in charge of supervising this program. During that same year, the Chiefs Assembly officially and permanently transferred the FNICCI to the FNQLHSSC. From the perspective of investing in early childhood, the Chiefs recommended creating an early childhood sector at the FNQLHSSC; a coordinator was hired to develop this sector and to ensure follow-up on matters related to this file. The role of the Regional Childcare Services Working Group was revised, leading to the creation of the First Nations Early Childhood Advisory Committee.





1998

In April 1998, the AFNQL and INAC (now AANDC) entered into a memorandum of agreement with the objective to develop an income security policy framework for the First Nations of Quebec. A working group, led by the FNQLHSSC, was then created and engaged in a reflection that took into consideration First Nations cultural context, socio-economic realities and geographical factors. In 1998, the working group finalized the framework policy. A consultation process was launched to raise awareness among decision makers regarding the proposed framework policy. The policy was submitted to the Chiefs Assembly on November 3, 1998. Its implementation led to a new partnership agreement with INAC.

1997

The first data collection process focused on the health of the First Nations of Quebec began in 1997. At that time, the First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS), officially known as the "First Nations and Inuit Regional Health Survey", was considered a pilot survey. The FNQLHSSC had a seat on a national committee with a mandate to develop the basic principles of research in the First Nations communities across the country, from which were born the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession relating to the management of data and information.



The RHS is the first population survey for which governance, research methodology development and coordination are entirely the responsibility of the First Nations authorities. Its objective is to provide a detailed picture of the health and general well-being of the First Nations people living in the communities. The first results were published in 1999. Since then, two other waves have been conducted; one in 2002 and another in 2008. The FNQLHSSC ensures the coordination of the RHS for the Quebec region and the national component is coordinated by the First Nations Information Governance Centre.



1996

The FNQLHSSC was quickly called upon to play its role related to defending the interests of the First Nations in the area of health and social services. In 1996, it entrusted to the *Services de Consultants autochtones* firm the mandate to carry out a consultation process among the First Nations to assess the effects of the health care system reform in Quebec, particularly in terms of ambulatory care. The reform consisted of shortening hospital stays by providing services closer to the living environments or at home. It was also in 1996 that the FNQLHSSC participated in the implementation of the joint committee tasked with reviewing the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and also produced a report on spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) and abortion.

1994

The members of the first Board of Directors of the FNQLHSSC were elected at its first general assembly, which was held after its creation in March 1994. The Board of Directors was then comprised of Lionel Whiteduck (President), Richard Gray (Vice-President), Richard Kistabish (Secretary), Gilbert Courtois (Director), Richard Picard (Director), Keith Leclaire (Director), Rheena Diabo (Vice-President), Anne St-Onge (Treasurer), Ida Labillois (Director), Diane Petiquay (Director) and Jowan Philippe (Director). The competition notice to hire an Executive Director was posted in June 1994. Francine Vincent got the job in July. One of the first mandates of the FNQLHSSC was to conduct a study on the Jasmin 1 report in order to take stock of the application of the Youth Protection Act. An overview of youth protection in Aboriginal communities and recommendations reflecting the stakeholders' will resulted from this study.





1991-1993

THE ROAD TOWARDS THE CREATION OF THE FNQLHSSC

Following several discussions highlighting the need to establish a strong communication link to provide directions in the areas of health and social services, the Chiefs of the AFNQL adopted a resolution on September 24, 1992, supporting the creation of a working group representing First Nations in order to develop the terms of reference of a "Health and Social Development Commission". On December 3, 1993, the AFNQL Chief, Ghislain Picard, issued a press release announcing the upcoming creation of this Commission. The "First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission" was officially created on April 14, 1994.





Poem by Rita Mestokosho

*The sky is a giant canvas that our dreams are painted on
We journey on a quest for healing
Through a territory of innumerable portages
One long portage around a beautiful river
The current sweeps up the tears of children once lost, now found
The wind gives us strength to continue
The shore beckons us towards a well-deserved rest
The heart of our people is one of love
We belong to this vast universe
And when it is time to welcome
A flock of geese in spring
We feel the life force
We feel the presence of our ancestors
The four winds sing for us
As simply as a child
Whose eyes are the mirror of our lives
Whose tiny voice sings the truth of the world
We have belonged to the sky forever
And we live with the earth forever
Let us hold fast to our desire to fly in unison
Like a huge flock of geese...*