

Native Friendship Centre Movement

EDUCATION STRATEGY 2022-2027



Native Friendship Centres are a cultural anchoring space for urban Indigenous people. They offer a service continuum to support students and their families in a holistic manner, according to their realities, needs and aspirations.

For Indigenous people, learning extends far beyond the classroom to include lifelong learning from family and community.



Fostering Educational Success through Empowerment and Cultural Identity

In addition to providing concerted academic support, Friendship Centre learning support services strengthen the social and cultural identity of Indigenous youth, with an emphasis on empowerment and building self-esteem.

A Strategy Co-developed by the Centres and the RCAAQ

In order to offer planned, concerted and culturally relevant actions in the field of education to Indigenous people in Quebec cities, the Quebec Native Friendship Centre Movement has adopted a new five-year strategy. This Education Strategy, which is broken down into areas of focus, objectives and actions, aims to intensify the development of integrated services to foster the educational success of Indigenous people in urban areas, in elementary schools and high schools, in general adult education, as well as at the college and university levels.

AREAS OF FOCUS





VISION STATEMENT

Members of urban Indigenous communities are culturally strong and equipped to thrive according to their potential and aspirations.

Friendship Centres holistically support Indigenous individuals and families in their learning journey to achieve a holistic, harmonious and balanced well-being. Valuing Indigenous cultures and languages is an integral part of lifelong learning initiatives.

The Native Friendship Centre Movement forms a united community that invests in the continuous improvement of its practices, actively collaborates with its partners and fights against socio-economic barriers to the educational success of Indigenous people in cities.



COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Objective 1: Develop and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with key stakeholders in the city and education sector

- 1.1 Participate in local collaborative mechanisms and address education-related issues
- 1.2 Collaborate with relevant organizations to ensure that the basic needs of individuals and families are met (e.g., housing, food, security)
- 1.3 Develop and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with Early Childhood Centres, elementary schools, high schools, Adult Education Centres and post-secondary institutions attended by Indigenous people, as well as with nearby Indigenous communities
- 1.4 Formalize and define partnerships, for example through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
- 1.5 Facilitate the development of partners' cultural competencies

Objective 2: Address the systemic issues that limit Indigenous peoples' access to quality education

- 2.1 Defend the interests of urban Indigenous people with external partners
- 2.2 Ensure close communication and collaboration between the RCAAQ and the Centres to address issues together



SUPPORTING LEARNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Objective 1: Foster student retention and academic success

- 1.1 Ensure support, follow-up and accompaniment of students and their families in their academic and learning journeys, while fostering their autonomy
- 1.2 In keeping with the roles and mandates of the schools and Centres, facilitate access to specialized services for students who need them
- 1.3 Liaise between students, parents and educational institutions

Objective 2: Increase the involvement of parents/guardians, Elders and the community in children's learning

- 2.1 Provide spaces and programming to enrich the parenting experience, reinforce autonomy, and build parent confidence
- 2.2 Develop and offer services specifically intended for parents/guardians (e.g., accompanying parents during meetings with the school)
- 2.3 Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to pursue their own learning
- 2.4 Organize intergenerational activities
- 2.5 Promote the essential role of parents/guardians, extended family and community in learning

Objective 3: Promote learning to individuals and families

- 3.1 Celebrate students' perseverance and achievements
- 3.2 Promote positive role models for student retention and success
- 3.3 Organize fun activities to develop children's intrinsic motivation and develop a positive feeling towards learning

Objective 4: Foster the well-being of learners and their families in all spheres of life

- 4.1 Be proactive with learners and families about healthy living and wellness
- 4.2 Ensure the complementarity of services to provide holistic support
- 4.3 Promote accessibility and student participation in extracurricular activities
- 4.4 Provide a cultural anchor for Indigenous children in non-Indigenous foster care and promote their cultural security through family support



TRANSMISSION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURES

Objective 1: Promote the transmission of Indigenous knowledge and cultures to members

- 1.1 Promote the presence of Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the living environment and their participation in the Movement's activities
- 1.2 Promote the use and transmission of Indigenous languages
- 1.3 Value and transmit traditional knowledge

Objective 2: Encourage experiences in nature and on the Land

- 2.1 Promote learning in nature
- 2.2 Offer Land-based and outdoors activities to members
- 2.3 Ensure member access to cultural sites

Objective 3: Promote the reappropriation of identity and the strengthening of identity pride and the sense of belonging of Indigenous people in urban areas

- 3.1 Offer regular programming of cultural activities
- 3.2 Promote the visibility and appreciation of Indigenous cultures in schools and in urban settings
- 3.3 Promote Indigenous values, knowledge, stories, cultural specificities, and ways of learning



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Objective 1: Increase empowerment of urban Indigenous people

- 1.1 Foster and strengthen youth leadership
- 1.2 Support adults in precarious situations in their growth
- 1.3 Raise awareness and understanding of the rights of urban Indigenous people
- 1.4 Foster the involvement of members in the community life of the Centre
- 1.5 Support the next generation of Indigenous workers

Objective 2: Foster closer ties between Peoples

- 2.1 Provide trainings and workshops to raise awareness about Indigenous realities
- 2.2 Organize or participate in activities and events that promote popular education and closer ties between Peoples
- 2.3 Foster civic participation for Indigenous people in urban settings

Objective 3: Ensure access to a supportive and empowering environment at the Centre

- 3.1 Encourage the presence of Indigenous employees, Elders and Knowledge Keepers at the Centre
- 3.2 Ensure access to a caring and safe space that is conducive to learning
- 3.3 Provide culturally safe and relevant camps and retreats that foster children's, teenagers' and adults' growth



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF PRACTICES AND SERVICES

Objective 1: Document the challenges and needs of members related to education

- 1.1 Conduct research identified as a priority in the Movement
- 1.2 Document the systemic barriers faced by Indigenous students
- 1.3 Collect and maintain meaningful data for each Centre and provincially

Objective 2: Document and evaluate services and practices across the Movement

- 2.1 Conduct formal evaluations to assess the efficiency and impacts of learning-related services
- 2.2 Ensure strategic monitoring of innovative practices related to lifelong learning

Objective 3: Improve internal collaboration within the Movement

- 3.1 Participate in RCAAQ-facilitated communities of practice
- 3.2 Develop province-wide initiatives
- 3.3 Develop and ensure access to shared tools

Objective 4: Strengthen professional skills within the Movement

- 4.1 Organize training sessions for Centre and RCAAQ teams
- 4.2 Identify training needs and establish professional development plans within teams





The Centres

Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre

Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

Centre d'amitié autochtone de La Tuque

Centre d'entraide et d'amitié autochtone
de Senneterre

Centre d'amitié autochtone de Lanaudière

Centre d'amitié autochtone de Sept-Îles

Native Montreal

Maniwaki Native Friendship Centre

Centre d'amitié autochtone de Trois-Rivières

Centre multi-services MAMUK (Québec City)

The Native Friendship Centre Movement

The Native Friendship Centres are both everyday living environments and service hubs for Indigenous people living in or passing through cities. In addition to providing cultural anchoring, Centres advocate for urban Indigenous people's rights and interests. Through partnerships, Centres promote a better understanding of urban Indigenous people's challenges and realities, and contribute to building bridges between cultures.

Each Centre is shaped by its history, the realities and cultures of the Indigenous people it serves, and the city in which it operates.

However, the Centres share the same values and all develop a service continuum around health and wellness, social justice, lifelong learning, and social and economic development. To achieve this, they rely on collaboration and mutual influence, both within the Movement and with their partners.



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