



Secrétariat  
de l'Assemblée des  
Premières Nations  
du Québec  
et du Labrador

Secretariat of the  
Assembly of the  
First Nations  
of Quebec  
and Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Lavasu, suite 201, Wendake, QC G0A 4V0  
Tél.: (418) 842-5020 / 842-5274 FAX: 842-2660

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bill 54 :**  
**The AFNQL is requesting a federal-provincial meeting on policing services**

**Wendake, January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008** – In line with its participation in the proceedings of the *Commission des institutions* regarding consultations on Bill 54 (An Act amending the Police Act and other legislative provisions), the Chief of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL), requested an immediate meeting with the Ministers responsible for Quebec-Canada Public Security.

“Once again AFNQL finds itself in a situation which unfortunately is becoming too familiar. It has to explain, one more time, its reality: a political, social and economic reality which differs from that of Quebecers. It is a reality that can't be ignored, but which is constantly disregarded. It is a reality that will not go away, even if people turn a blind eye. A portion of this reality is that, in Quebec, there are two groups of First Nations: those who are regulated by a government agreement and the others. This situation has significant impacts, among other things, on the services which are available to our populations.

*Bill 54* contains elements which will authorize the “Government to enter into an agreement with two or more Native communities in order to establish a joint police force to serve those communities”.

*Section 3 of Bill 54*, although brief in content, has the potential to be far reaching in its implementation. The AFNQL anticipates *Bill 54* to be a positive step forward. The proposed amendments to *Section 90 of the Police Act* will permit the Minister to address the long standing grievances expressed by several First Nations who wish to group their police services in a manner they feel will best serve their communities. Further to that, it will allow First Nations who have not expressed the desire to group their forces to explore the possibilities.

“Many of our communities have outstanding problems regarding their police forces, as a result of Government policy which does not correspond to the reality and the expectations of the

communities. The situation of public security which prevails in the communities requires the immediate intervention of the federal and provincial governments” concluded Chief Picard.

The minister must grab this opportunity to initiate an open dialogue with our communities, with the participation of his federal counterpart, in order to resolve situations which have prevailed for too long and which compromise the safety of our populations.

**The Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador** is the regional organization which regroups the Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

- 30 -

Information : Alain Garon, Communication Officer  
AFNQL  
Tel. : (418) 842-5020  
Cellular: (418) 956-5720