



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

Secretariat of the
Assembly of the
First Nations
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFTER THE APOLOGIES OF PRIME MINISTER HARPER,
THE FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC DEMAND CONCRETE ACTIONS**

Montreal, June 11 2008 – The Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, gathered at a regular Assembly, in Montreal, took notice of the apologies pronounced by the Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, for the harm caused to the victims of residential schools, commonly known as “Indian residential schools”. After a minute of silence observed for the whole of concerned families and communities, the Chief of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL), read an official declaration.

“If the government does not adopt concrete measures, especially towards our youths, its apologies would prove meaningless” stated Chief Picard, who was accompanied by several other Chiefs having attended residential schools.

“The victims of residential schools are not only those who lived there. Many persons suffered and are still suffering, even if they never attended these places. Pain, hatred, anger and lack of understanding are transmitted from one generation to the other” further stated Chief Picard.

About the AFNQL

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.

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A copy of the AFNQL Declaration is available at: www.apnql-afnql.com

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