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PRESS RELEASE
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First Nations Target of Racial Slurs

“Apologies are just not enough” - Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL

Wendake, September 19, 2008 – “What is First Nations’ place in this federal election?» asks the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador in reaction to the racial slurs recently uttered by one of Conservative Minister Lawrence Cannon’s employee, slurs that were followed by mere meaningless apologies. “These apologies are just not enough. Minister Cannon and Prime Minister Harper must strongly condemn said slurs and must chiefly make public statements indicating their vision of First Nations’ future in Canada.

Chief Picard stresses that one of the main issues the next federal government will have to address is the future of First Nations. “Our Nations are already on a path leading to political autonomy that will culminate in the abolition of the colonial regime, which remains in place to this day. Our nations will regain their independence, willingly or unwillingly. It is ineluctable and political parties need to be made aware of this.”

For this reason, and also in an attempt to repair the damage caused by the racial slurs recently held, Ghislain Picard is seeking an emergency meeting with Minister Cannon and Prime Minister Harper. “We are entitled to ask questions to the Conservative leader and to demand clear and committed answers on his part”, concludes Chief Picard.

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador is the regional organization that represents the Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

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