

The CSQ and
Indigenous Peoples

**Over 50 years
of unwavering
commitment**



Since the 1970s, the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) has supported First Nations and Inuit communities in their efforts towards self-determination, the recognition of their rights as well as the acknowledgement and promotion of their cultures.

Discover our initiatives and achievements!

A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT

The CSQ was among the first labour union organizations in Quebec to take a clear stand in favour of the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples.

For over 50 years, the CSQ has:

- stood up for the role of Indigenous Peoples in Quebec's history and development;
- condemned injustice and systemic racism;
- campaigned to ensure governments respect the fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

The CSQ has stepped up to ensure all Indigenous students have access to a quality and culturally appropriate education.

Some notable progress:

- The creation of the **Provincial Round Table in the Educational Success of Indigenous Students** in 2017 thanks to, notably, the pressure exerted by the Association of employees of Northern Quebec (AENQ). The CSQ and the AENQ each hold a seat at the Table;
- The development of **practical guides to support professional integration** for those who teach or work in Cree and Inuit communities in Northern Quebec;
- The creation of **five (5) annual \$750 Indigenous academic perseverance** scholarships to Secondary 3, 4 and 5 students who demonstrate determination and resilience (information in French only);
- The implementation of an **analytical exercise on the self-determination of Indigenous persons in education**, a collective endeavour to promote equal opportunities and educational success.

To learn more

Living and working in Cree and Inuit communities (two guides)



Indigenous academic perseverance scholarships (in French only)



PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

CSQ actions go beyond the education sector. The CSQ has mobilized on several fronts:

- **The right to water:** Through its **The right to water: It's only natural!** campaign, the CSQ denounces the problems of access to running and drinking water in Northern Quebec, and urges governments to act by encouraging participants to send postcards to elected officials, including the Canadian Prime Minister.
- **Health and dignity:** In May 2021, the CSQ adopted the Joyce Principle, which guarantees fair and non-discriminatory access for all Indigenous persons.
- **Truth and reconciliation:** Since 2020, the CSQ has demanded that governments implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action.
- **Territorial acknowledgement:** All CSQ decision-making body meetings now begin with an acknowledgment that they are being held on unceded Indigenous lands. This practice started in 2024.

To learn more

The right to water: It's only natural! campaign



STRONG ALLIANCES

The CSQ relies on dialogue and solidarity to move forward by:

- **meeting with Indigenous leaders** from various organizations, namely the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) and Quebec Native Women (QNW);
- taking part in **seminars, symposia and conferences** on the educational success of Indigenous persons;
- supporting **the social and environmental struggles of Indigenous persons** through conferences and engagement activities carried out, in particular, by the CSQ ACTES Movement and various CSQ networks;
- offering its **political support**, including adopting a motion against Bill 97 regarding the Quebec forest regime, which is considered threatening to the territorial sovereignty and fundamental rights of First Nations people.

A resource-rich online information platform

The CSQ also developed an **information platform** (in French only) to help both its members and the general population to better understand Indigenous realities and to act in solidarity.



AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

Year after year, the CSQ intensifies its efforts for recognition, justice and equity.

Every time it takes a stand, on matters ranging from education and culture, to environment as well as healthcare, the CSQ helps build a more inclusive and respectful Quebec.

Indigenous Peoples play a crucial role in our societies. The CSQ is proud to stand with them.



Centrale des syndicats
du Québec

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