



COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT



WHAT: Gathering of the AFNQL
Elected Women's Council

WHEN: March 18-20, 2025

WHERE: Quebec City, QC

WHO: Chief Sarah Diabo
Chief Teresa Oakes
Chief Tesha Rourke

WHY: The gathering focused on advancing gender equality, promoting elected First Nations women, and shaping the strategic direction of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Elected Women's Council. Chiefs participated in key discussions, roundtable sessions, and planning efforts to strengthen the role of First Nations women in leadership.

- NEXT STEPS:**
- Strengthening gender equity efforts in Akwesasne leadership.
 - Collaborating with the AFNQL Elected Women's Council on advocacy initiatives.





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For Immediate Release:

Enniskó:wa/March 26, 2025

GATHERING OF THE AFNQL ELECTED WOMEN'S COUNCIL CHIEF SARAH DIABO

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Sarah Diabo recently attended the Gathering of the AFNQL Elected Women's Council (EWC) in Quebec City, QC, from March 18–20, 2025, alongside Kana:takon District Chief Teresa Oakes and Tsi Snaihne District Chief Tesha Rourke.

The gathering focused on advancing gender equality, promoting elected First Nations women, and shaping the strategic direction of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Elected Women's Council. Chiefs participated in key discussions, roundtable sessions, and planning efforts to strengthen the role of First Nations women in leadership.

KEY DISCUSSIONS & OUTCOMES:

Charter of Equality

- Chiefs engaged in discussions on the Charter of Equality between First Nations Women and Men, developed by Quebec Native Women.
- A roundtable and networking session allowed leaders to share strategies for promoting gender equity in governance.

Promoting Elected Women

- A presentation highlighted initiatives to amplify the voices of elected First Nations women.
- A vox pop presentation shared community perspectives on the representation of women in leadership roles.

Survey of Elected Women

- A survey gathered insights from elected First Nations women on challenges, priorities, and areas requiring advocacy.

Budget & Planning



- Discussions on the 2025 budget emphasized financial constraints and the need for strategic allocation of resources to support the EWC's initiatives.

Portfolio Chairs Election

- Three **portfolio chairs** were elected to **serve as spokespersons and advocates** for the AFNQL EWC:
 1. **Ms. Nadia Robertson**
 2. **Savanna McGregor**
 3. **MCA District Chief Tesha Rourke**

TAKEAWAYS & NEXT STEPS:

- Applying insights from the Charter of Equality to strengthen gender equity efforts within Akwesasne.
- Exploring opportunities to promote elected First Nations women through leadership initiatives and advocacy.
- Continuing collaboration with the AFNQL Elected Women's Council to support policies that uplift First Nations women in governance.

The gathering reinforced the importance of representation, equity, and advocacy in First Nations leadership, ensuring that elected women have a strong voice in decision-making.