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Cree Women Of Eeyou Istchee Association
Association des Femmes Cris De Eeyou Istchee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Research on the free and informed consent and imposed sterilization of First Nation and Inuit women in Quebec

September 7, 2021, Gatineau, QC – The Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association (CWEIA) in partnership with Nishiyuu Council of Elders, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB), l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the First Nation of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission are conducting an investigation in Eeyou Istchee to find out if Cree women were subjected to any form of sterilization without their consent.

In 2015, research by Professor Karen Stote demonstrated that thousands of First Nations and Inuit women in Canada have been subjected to imposed sterilization. Although the literature shows that this is a long-standing and worldwide practice, there is currently little documentation on this subject in Quebec. In addition, Quebec is the only province that refused to take part in the work launched by the federal government in 2018 to examine the situation of imposed sterilization in the country.

Given the importance of advancing the file on informed consent and imposed sterilization, of documenting the practice rigorously and of assessing whether First Nations and Inuit women in Quebec have had their rights violated. CWEIA and CBHSSJB have partnered in hiring 2 Interviewers, one for coastal and one for inland to help with the study in Eeyou Istchee.

Janie Pachano, Coastal Interviewer
Janie.pachano@cweia.ca

Louise B Saganash, Inland Interviewer
louise@cweia.ca

If anyone who feels she went through this kind of mistreatment, they can contact one of the above mentioned interviewers. A video will also be made available on our website at www.cweia.ca in Cree with English subtitles if people wish to get more information on the campaign.

For more information:
Vincent Georgekish, Communications and Events Coordinator
(819) 282-6597 ext. 6 | communications@cweia.ca

Head Office
P.O. Box 905
Chisasibi, Qc J0M 1E0
www.cweia.ca