



Press release

For immediate release

The FNQLHSSC joins with the RCMP to announce the dismantling of a drug ring in communities of Eastern Quebec

Wendake, June 16, 2009 - After a long investigation by the RCMP, a network of manufacturing and distribution of PCP in First Nations communities of Eastern Quebec was dismantled this morning. The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission has been invited to comment on the social impacts brought by these substances in the communities.

According to Mrs. Claudie Paul, Program Agent of the National Native Alcohol and Drugs Abuse Program at the FNQLHSSC, "the problem of addictions has changed in the communities in recent years. At the time, alcohol abuse was the heart of our concerns. It is now replaced by substance abuse, mostly by synthetic drugs such as amphetamines, better known as speed. Phencyclidine or PCP (mess) which is used primarily in the communities on the North Shore and also has a devastating effect

This new reality affects in a very worrying way the lives of children, youths, adults and seniors of our communities. Problems associated with this consumption cause new issues that the stakeholders and services have to face without having the necessary resources to cope.

Co morbid disorders, especially drug abuse and mental illness caused by the abuse of these drugs, are increasing at an alarming rate. Access to these drugs, made easy because of their cost and availability in communities, both for youths and older ones, must be denounced. That is why the FNQLHSSC supports this initiative.

According to Mr. Richard Gray, social services coordinator at the FNQLHSSC, "although this reality is present everywhere in Quebec and all over the world, First Nations are particularly vulnerable, because nearly 50% of their population is younger than 25 years. Idleness and lack of work and leisure for young people in communities are major factors contributing to drug and alcohol abuse. Each community must mobilize and join forces to fight against this scourge."

Despite the existence of several initiatives in the communities, a lot of work remains to be done to counter this scourge, and financial and professional resources must come.

About the FNQLHSSC

The role of the FNQLHSSC is to assist the First Nations and Inuit of Quebec and Labrador communities and organisations in the defence, maintenance and exercising of their inherent rights in terms of health and social services, as well as to help them in the achievement and development of these programs.

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Source: Chantal Cleary
Communication officer
First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
Health and social services Commission

Tel.: (418) 842-1540
Cell.: (418) 558-5008
E-mail : ccleary@cssspnql.com