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L'équipe du CHANGEMENT

Montreal, Friday, September 14, 2018

Ghislain Picard
Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador

Dear Chief Picard,

This letter is a follow-up to the letter you sent me in the context of the current election campaign regarding the concrete commitments expected from the next Quebec government and the next National Assembly.

I am pleased to share with you my response to these issues which, I hope, will be to your satisfaction.

From the outset, I would like to reiterate my intention to continue and improve the nation-to-nation relationship between the Quebec government and the First Nations communities. I intend to meet with the representatives of the First Nations in the first weeks of my term of office. A Coalition Avenir Québec government will work with all communities to achieve a common goal of rapprochement, prosperity and respect for their rights.

The economic development of Quebec is at the heart of the concerns of my party and it is my wish that this development includes a partnership with the communities. As an example, I will act to bring about the signing of agreements between the Government of Quebec, the First Nations and Hydro-Québec for the development of the Côte-Nord.

In addition, in order to affirm that all Aboriginal peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of Quebec society, a CAQ government will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. For us, it is essential that First Nations are able to collaborate fully in its implementation.

A CAQ government will also make public safety, and the quality and funding of police services, a priority, while promoting local autonomy. First Nations communities have a fundamental right to safety, as citizens living in the territory of Quebec. The context of the legalization of cannabis, as you rightly point out, requires us to do better in terms of public safety and prevention in the fight against drug use and addiction.

A CAQ government will be firmly committed to following up on the report that will be produced by the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress. We will do our utmost to ensure harmonious and respectful relations between the members of First Nations and Quebec society.

In conclusion, I reiterate my intention to continue and improve the nation-to-nation relationship between the Government of Quebec and the First Nations communities.

Sincerely,

François Legault
Leader of Coalition Avenir Quebec

