



# DO MORE, DO BETTER

## Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit 2017-2022

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3**

## DEVELOP THE POWER TO ACT OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

#### **Rely on the potential of individuals**

In the Aboriginal communities, social relations have historically been established in light of the values of cooperation and cohesion, through taking root in the community and a strong sense of belonging. Against this background, collective self-fulfilment is especially dependent on the quality of individual abilities.

The goal is, therefore, to create conditions conducive to the realization of the individual potential of community members and their ability to solve their own problems. We must strive to broaden the power to act of individuals, not only to ensure that they take themselves in hand and mobilize in favour of the conditions of their personal existence but also to become active participants in the process of cohabitation and collective healing.

The action plan therefore seeks to encourage individual empowerment. It proposes measures that promote the development of the capacity of individuals and communities, in the perspective of broadening citizen involvement.

#### **Foster social innovation**

To promote the exercise of citizenship and solidarity in the Aboriginal communities, the Government of Québec will support social innovation projects. In particular, it intends to establish partnerships and projects that propose innovative approaches more closely geared to social realities in the field.

The action plan encourages such approaches, which, by breaking in a manner of speaking with the status quo, afford on a long-term basis a response to needs and problems, thereby engendering significant benefits not only for certain individuals but also for the community.

Conceived in this manner, such initiatives have the potential to transform communities. While the initiatives can emerge from all environments (bodies that report to the band councils or the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, tribal councils or off-reserve community organizations, and so on), or be sponsored by youth, women's and other groups, they also have in common that they present innovative solutions to concrete social problems. In all cases, they target the social inclusion of the Aboriginal peoples and the strengthening of cohesion in their communities.

# KEY MEASURES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABILITY TO ACT OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

## 1. CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

- Implement a new program to hire coordinators responsible for community mobilization, citizen involvement and the promotion of healthy lifestyles in Aboriginal communities in Québec
- Support initiatives that promote the sharing of expertise and good practices with respect to support for parental roles between family-related community organizations and services in the Aboriginal communities
- Financially support structuring projects aimed at encouraging and promoting gender equality among girls and boys from Québec's Aboriginal nations
- Promote the hiring of the Aboriginal peoples to fill jobs related to legal services
- Inform Aboriginal victims of their right to protection and the measures available to them to ensure their safety and that of their family circle
- Encourage the recognition of Aboriginal seniors to foster their social participation

## 2. PROMOTE INNOVATIVE SOCIAL INITIATIVES

- Support activities organized for elected Aboriginal women, especially those proposed at the Congrès des élues autochtones du Québec
- Encourage citizen involvement, the capacity to act and community development through the elaboration of projects in partnership with Aboriginal young people
- Support the community justice committees that work with adult and young offenders and in the realm of youth protection in the Aboriginal communities interested
- Promote and encourage the development of community action in the Aboriginal communities by contributing financially to the launching of organizations and developmental projects
- Fund social development projects and partnerships under the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund III