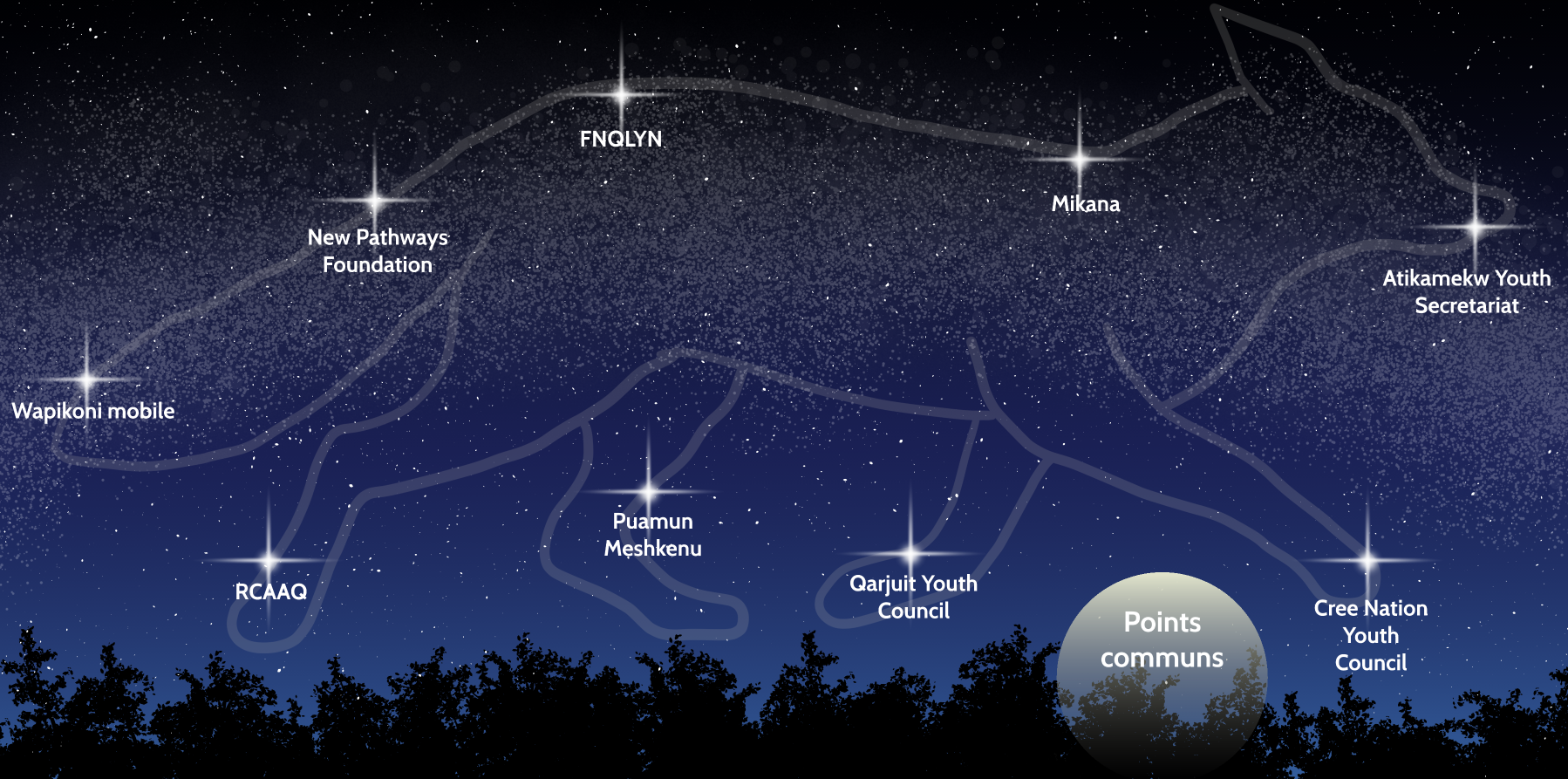


Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
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JEUNES AUTOCHTONES

How to navigate through the mapping?

- Click on the sections that interest you, then zoom out to return to the previous visual

Or

- Scroll through like a slideshow using the arrows at the bottom

Test it out by clicking the tab below!



**Mapping
context**

Mapping Context

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The concept of a cartography project emerged during an initial gathering, organized to discuss, and imagine a process that would be favourable to implementing concertation measures for partners working with the Indigenous youth in Quebec. The gathering, which took place in Wendake in November 2022, saw Indigenous stakeholders highlighting the need for tools to better navigate the various Indigenous youth-oriented organizations in the province, as well as to better promote their approaches and activities.



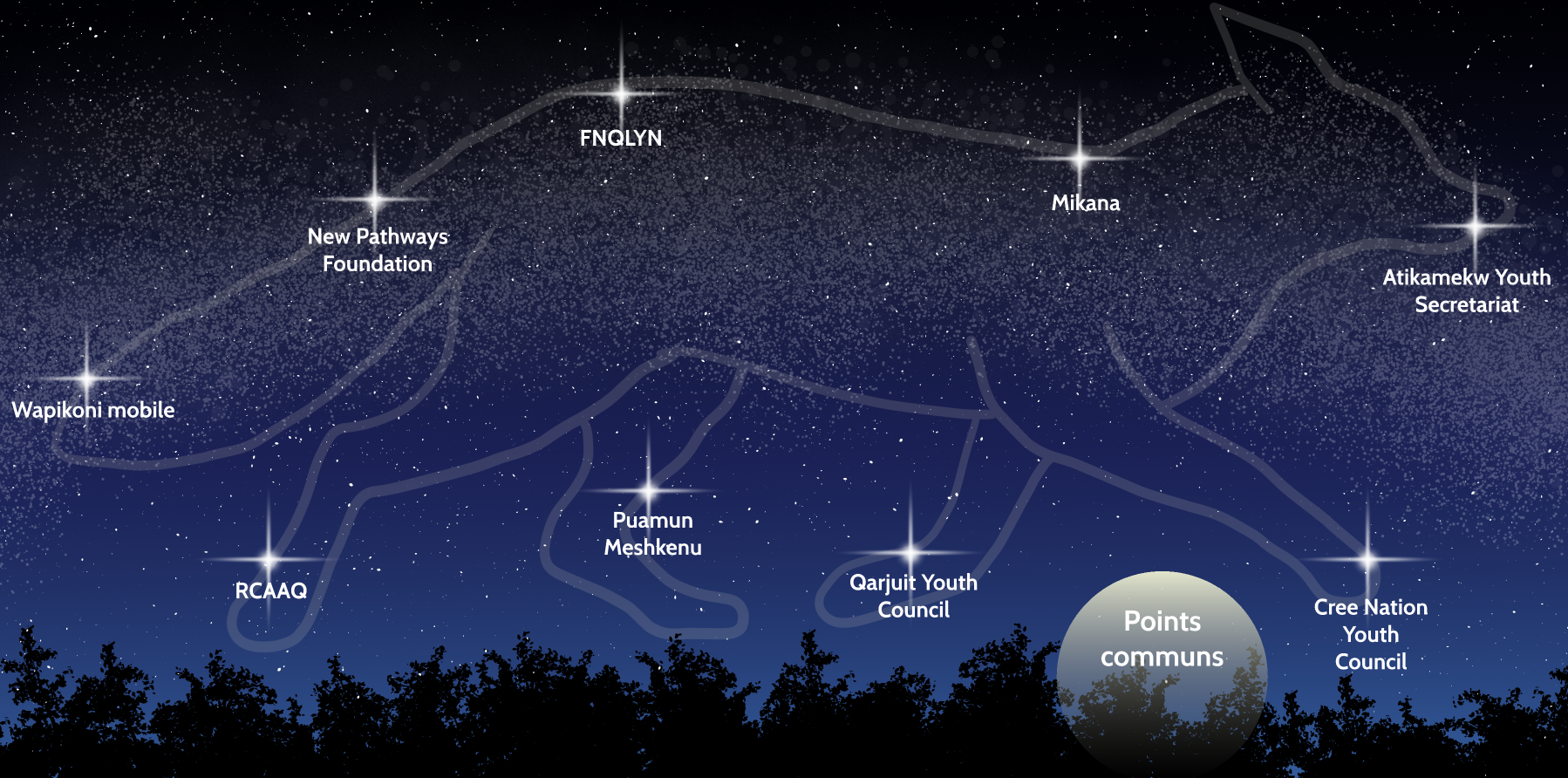
This mapping of Indigenous organizations designed to support the youth is therefore an opportunity to identify the specific characteristics of each organization in terms of its history, approach, activities, priorities, and structure, thus fostering opportunities for collaboration for the benefit of Indigenous youth.

Akin to a starry sky and its constellations, we have drawn the common elements connecting organizations with one another in breathing some life into the dreams of our youths. Click on the stars and key words to find out more.

This project was mapped during the fall of 2023. As organizations continue to evolve, it will need to be updated. The content was gathered by the Indigenous stream of the Youth Research Network Chair as part of its systematization and documentation mandate. Information was gathered from websites and interviews with organization representatives.

*This mapping was produced by Flavie Robert-Careau, Alicia Ibarra-Lemay & Natasha Blanchet-Cohen. This research is funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec sous la subvention # 2019-SJ-265147. The visual was created by Carole Bérubé-Therrien.

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Wapikoni mobile

Wapikoni mobile is a travelling video and music studio providing assistance, training and audiovisual productions for First Nations youths. Wapikoni encourages development through training and promotes their work across Canada and around the world.

“[We want to] reach out to young people and give them a voice and encourage sovereignty over their own stories.” V. Rankin, Executive Director



Website : <https://evenementswapikoni.ca/>

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History

Wapikoni was cofounded in 2003 by filmmaker Manon Barbeau, the Council of the Atikamekw Nation, and the Youth Council First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, with the support of the Assembly of First Nations as well as with the collaboration of the National Film Board of Canada. Wapikoni is named after Wapikoni Awashish, one of Barbeau's collaborators and a young woman from the community who died in a car crash.

In its early days, Wapikoni mobile was a travelling van that went out into communities and urban areas to connect with the youth and give them an opportunity to find their voice through creative expression. The creative workshops with the Mobile Studios quickly became a place for First Nations youth to gather, participate and create audiovisual and musical works. In its 20 years of existence, the organization has evolved into increased opportunities for First Peoples in terms of development, exchange, and creation, whether through the establishment of a Virtual Studio and a professional development service, or through mentoring during public performances and curatorial responsibilities.



Approaches



© evenementswapikoni.ca

“Our approach is based on creating through hands-on learning.” V. Rankin, Executive Director

Storytelling Sovereignty. Wapikoni is committed to supporting the youth in the growth and expression of their voices. Audiovisual productions are designed not only as creative tools, but also as tools for intervention and empowerment.

Social and societal transformation. Wapikoni enables local youths to express themselves through art, in a plurality of identities and cultures. A visual heritage is created through the eyes of the young—Wapikoni’s collection is made up of over 1,400 works—and it raises awareness on the different cultures and realities of Indigenous people.

Tailored & progressive approach. Participants in Wapikoni’s various workshops and projects are central to the development of its evolving range of services. By treating participants’ creative subjects and projects in an adapted and personalized way, the bond of trust and the impact on self-esteem become part of the process. By listening to participants’ needs and consulting with them, Wapikoni is able to develop a range of services that corresponds more closely to the needs expressed, while remaining flexible enough to evolve over time. By recognizing the diverse realities and challenges of the nations and communities that we serve, as well as our desire to foster intergenerational ties and exchanges, our approaches are always based on respect for the host communities and the members who wish to participate in our activities.

Activities

Wapikoni mobile's activities focus on producing and promoting audiovisual works:

Creative workshops with the Mobile Studios and the Virtual Studio. The workshops help build participants' self-confidence, resilience, and pride in their identity, as well as familiarizing them with digital technologies and acquiring social, technical, and artistic skills. The Mobile Creation Studios immerse participants in the real-life context of a production, where everyone benefits from support tailored to their experience, pace, and individual interests. At the end of each workshop, participants present their films to members of their community in a collective, rallying event. With a Virtual Studio, artists benefit from personalized, flexible support tailored to their needs over a longer creative period. This unique experience enables participants from diverse communities to meet, exchange and celebrate the richness of their perspectives.

Accompaniment of young guest artist. Distributing and promoting films in accordance with the filmmakers' wishes. Wapikoni also creates culturally appropriate spaces for advanced training, to support young people in their filmmaking career journey.

"[All activities] revolve around [the goal of] bringing a film to life, but above all, to provide young people with an experience [...] so that they feel supported and guided every step of the way." V. Rankin, Executive Director

Screenings, film distributions and awareness workshops. Programming on various themes and in various contexts - such as festivals, educational and cultural settings. A selection of films is used as an educational tool for a non-Indigenous public to raise awareness of First Nations realities.

"It's about showing and talking about Indigenous realities, through film as an engine for conveying information." V. Rankin, Executive Director

© evenementswapikoni.ca



Dossiers

Wapikoni is an organization that has an impact on various areas of activity:

- **Culture:**

Wapikoni empowers young people to capture images, sounds and words in their communities, helping to create a rich and unique audio and visual heritage of “seeing ourselves, for ourselves and by ourselves.” (V. Rankin, Executive Director)

- **Education:**

Wapikoni prepares young people for filmmaking through training in the use of equipment and other skills related to film production. This opens the door for some to discover a passion for art or film, to get involved in a project, and to motivate them to persevere in school.

“It is a driving force to feel that you are capable of achieving something because you have managed to produce a film from A to Z within a month.” V. Rankin, Executive Director

- **Health and Well-Being:**

Wapikoni gives young people the opportunity to undertake a project that directly benefits them and gives them a sense of pride. This feeling of empowerment positively impacts their health and well-being.

- **Environment and social, political and grassroots participation:**

Wapikoni gives young people the opportunity to address a range of issues in their films. Promoting sovereignty in storytelling, Wapikoni is a driving force on a number of fronts.

- **Employability:**

Wapikoni offers training, internships, and mentorships. The organization plays an important role in building bridges with the film industry, notably by offering career development activities.



© evenementswapikoni.ca

Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- Band councils and local organizations
- Indigenous organizations working with the Indigenous youth
- Cultural and artistic organizations
- Universities
- Festivals
- Government bodies
- Indigenous communities worldwide
- Native Friendship Centres
- Ect.

Wapikoni wants to invest in collaborations that give priority to:

- Strengthening partnerships with Indigenous organizations
- Sharing expertise
- Mutual benefit for the youth when there is collaboration or involvement with a non-Indigenous organization
- Avoiding over-solicitation and a lack of collaboration

Structure

Wapikoni's permanent team is made up of 26 employees, supported by:

- Board of Directors with an Indigenous majority (with one seat reserved for a youth)
- A general management team
- An operations and outreach team
- A creative team
- A career development, distribution and broadcasting team

The teams dedicated to creative activities in both Mobile Studios and Virtual Studios are made up of 79 contractual staff working on training and creation.

For each in-community visit, the Mobile Studio creative workshop teams are made up of:

- 2 mentoring filmmakers
- 1 facilitator
- 1 local coordinator from the community
- 1 assistant filmmaker from the community

Accompanying teams for creative workshops with the Virtual Studio are formed according to the selected candidates and projects. They are made up of:

- A mentoring filmmaker
- A facilitator

Teams dedicated to dissemination and awareness-raising activities: 27 staff members, all First Nations members. They are made up of:

For broadcasting:

- Programming curators
- Facilitating filmmakers
- Guest artists
- Ambassadors

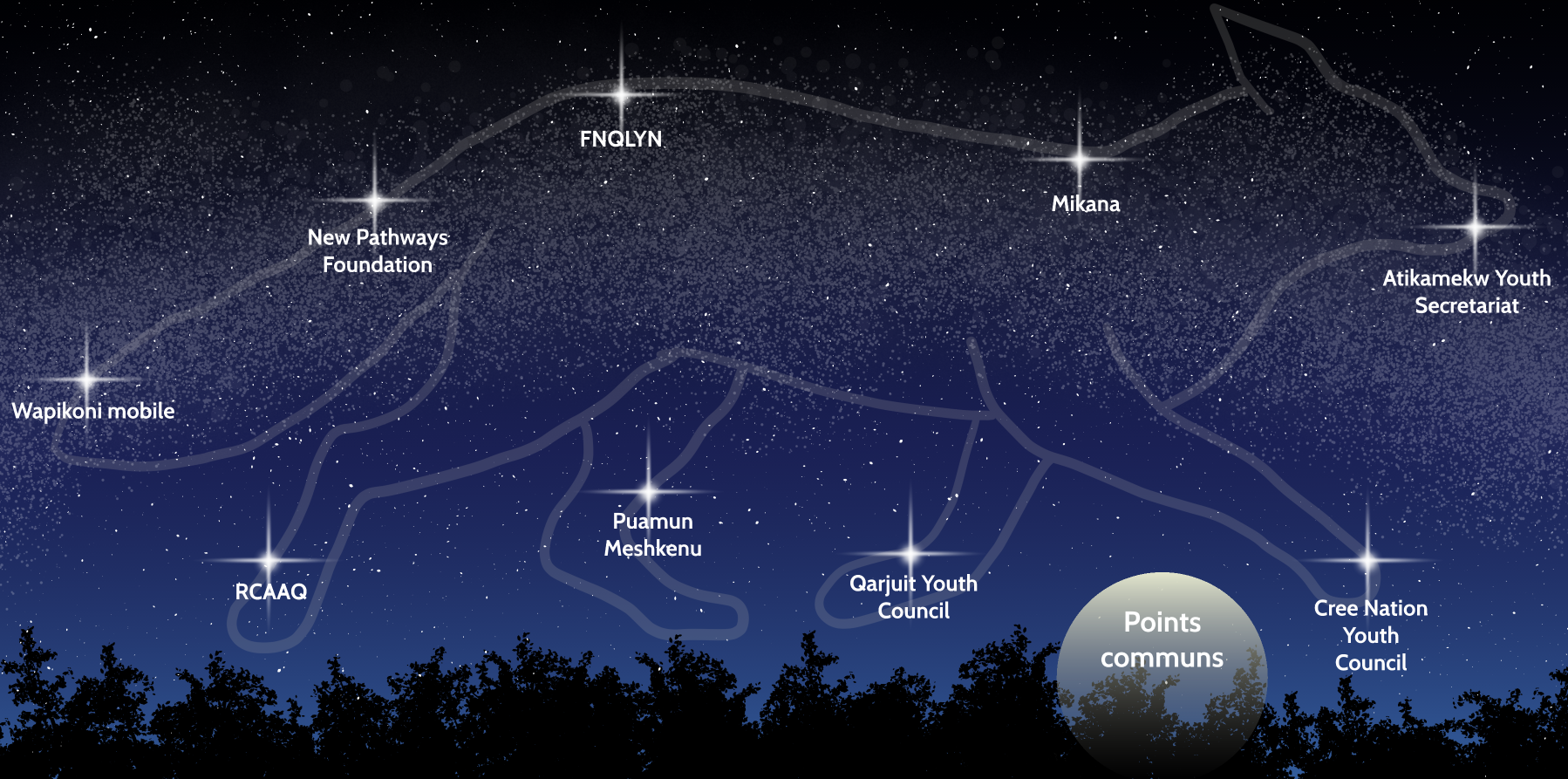
For awareness cultivation workshops:

- Ambassadors

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Mapping of youth organizations



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New Pathways Foundation

Founded by First Nations for the benefit of their youth in 2010, the New Pathways Foundation works for the future and well-being of First Nations youth in Quebec. Its mission is to foster growth and confidence among the youth in a better future, thanks to a strong identity.

Whether in or out of the community, the New Pathways Foundation develops concrete, positive experiences that honour the spirit of First Nations youth.



Website : <https://nouveauxsentiers.com/>

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Histoire

The New Pathways Foundation was created in 2010 by the FNHSSCQL with the support of three founding members: Andrew Delisle, Aurélien Gill and John Martin. This entity provides services to First Nations and is the result of a regional strategy driven by First Nations chiefs to combat poverty and social exclusion. The Foundation is autonomous and managed by a Board of Directors, all representatives of First Nations communities and organizations.



©nouveauxsentiers.com

"Everyone agreed that we needed a foundation to raise money [and] redistribute it to our youth. Also, [we wanted to] try to bring a little wellness and equity to the communities for the youth." M.-C. Cleary, Executive Director

Approaches

Through each activity and project offered to the youth, the Foundation aims to provide a culturally safe environment and a holistic approach where they can speak out, be heard, develop the ability to dream and take action, develop cultural pride, self-confidence, self-esteem, a sense of belonging and diversity, and explore new interests and skills. The approach is based on the principles of reciprocity, connection, and giving projects the time they deserve.

"We talk a lot about the journey that a young person takes [...] They may start with camps, but we aim to give that young person all the opportunities available. We are convinced that creating a relationship like this is how we can really make an impact." M.-C. Cleary, Executive Director

Diverse experiences. The foundation's name "New Pathways" refers to its approach based on valuing diversified and meaningful experiences, allowing young people to create their own path.

"The New Pathways Foundation empowers the youth to carve out their own path [...] A new pathway symbolizes how things are going to change, how people are going to walk down a new pathway filled with everything we want for our youth: culture, language, belonging, pride." M. C. Cleary, Executive Director

Innovation. In addition to its Indigenous Social Innovation Laboratory (the Lab), the Foundation applies a living, innovative perspective to all its projects, constantly involving young people and partners in identifying new needs and finding solutions.

Reciprocity. The Foundation's approach is one of listening and learning in a spirit of reciprocity, focusing on knowledge exchange.

Respect. The Foundation is respectful of the rights, culture, and traditions of First Nations. It honours traditional protocols, consultation and consent processes, and existing First Nations agreements.



©nouveauxsentiers.com/camps/

Activities

The Foundation offers five initiatives to First Nations youth in Quebec aged 0-35:

Camps. Camps offer an alternative learning space based on culture and self-knowledge. They provide a way for young people to achieve their potential through alternative educational experiences, which in turn nurture their perseverance. Camps come in different formats: Leadership Camps (meeting each other), Camps in the Community (in-community summer tour), Grand Portage Camps (a trail is created by and for in-community First Nations youth).

Become. This initiative is available to First Nations students and aims to nurture the development of their interests, knowledge, self-confidence, self-esteem, and networking opportunities. Become encourages the youth to stay in school and provides them with vocational guidance support, while offering extra support tools as well as internships where they can explore stimulating workplaces.

Scholarships. The scholarships are designed to encourage First Nations youth in Quebec to stay in school and help them pursue their dreams.

Niska. The goal of this initiative is to support physical activity among young people by providing them with a culturally inspired challenge designed to instill a sense of pride, accomplishment, and success, and to improve their lifestyle habits. The Fox Challenge is a non-timed race for First Nations, held directly in the communities.

Social Innovation Laboratory. The Laboratory identifies and experiments with solutions and strategies for social transformation. It is comprised of several partners and a Governance Circle made up of First Nations youth aged 18-35. The Lab is an opportunity for young people to make their voices heard regarding their own issues. Its actions are rooted in a perspective of systemic change, implementing innovation processes through indigenization.

Dossiers

The Foundation focuses on a number of priority areas, including:

- **Health and Well-Being:**

Holistic health is a unifying element in all projects, enabling young people to thrive in all facets of their life journey.

- **Education:**

Camp projects, Become, mentorships, scholarships, internships, in-school activities, and bursaries all contribute to perseverance, educational success (not just academic success) and multiple learning opportunities.

- **Culture:**

Providing culturally safe spaces and fostering pride in identity are particularly important to the Foundation.

- **Youth engagement:**

Youth engagement is achieved through contributions to projects that are meaningful to them, and through the development of concrete projects (such as the construction of community hiking trails) aimed at promoting youth participation.



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Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- Academos
- Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL)
- Cap Campus
- First Peoples Innovation Centre (FPIC)
- Chaire de recherche Myriagone Research Chair (Université de Montréal)
- Youth Citizenship (Citoyenneté jeunesse)
- Kiuna College
- First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)
- First Nations Education Council (FNEC)
- Coopérative Niska
- Cordescaps
- Exeko
- Quebec Native Women
- Youth Fusion (Fusion jeunesse)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)
- Institut du Nouveau Monde
- Institut Tshakapesh
- Maison innovation sociale
- Puamun Meshkenu
- Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAO) (Native Friendship Centres Network)
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Network (FNQLYN)
- Secrétariat à la Jeunesse (Youth Secretariat)
- Secrétariat aux Relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuit (Secretariat Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit)
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Tremplin Santé
- Wapikoni Mobile

The Foundation is actively involved in promoting Indigenous leadership in philanthropy.

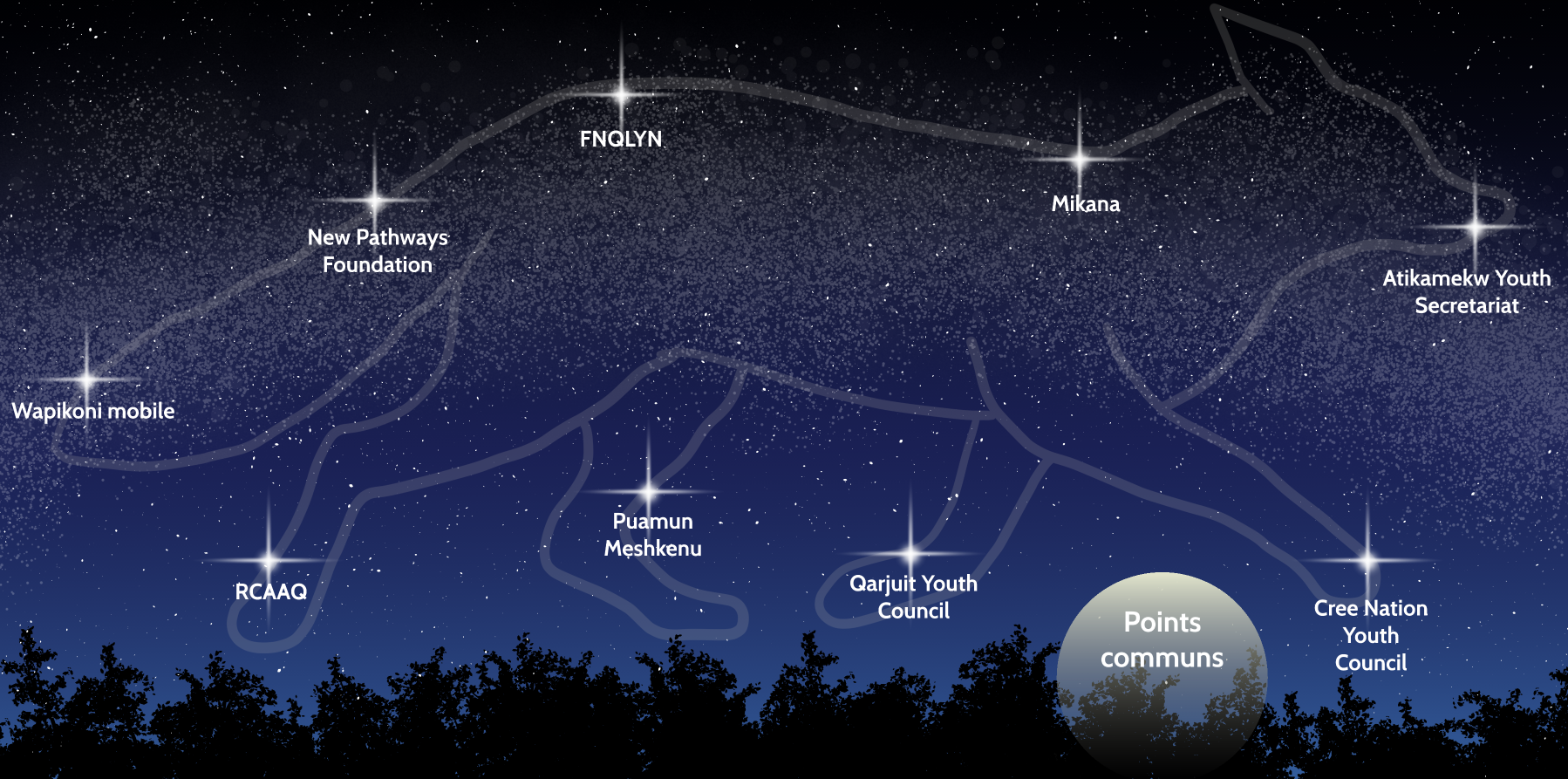
Structure

The Foundation is autonomous and managed by a Board of Directors, all representatives of First Nations communities and organizations.

The team includes:

- An Executive Director
- An Administrative Assistant
- A First Nations Youth Development Director
- Youth Mobilization and Best Practices Advisor
- Communications and Philanthropic Development Manager
- Consultants, as needed
- Volunteers

Mapping of youth organizations



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Regroupement des centres d'amitiés autochtones du Québec

The RCAAQ is a provincial association that has been campaigning for the rights and issues of Indigenous residents in Quebec cities for over 50 years. The RCAAQ represents Native friendship centres in Quebec, assisting and supporting them in the development of services and programs for urban Indigenous people, including the youth.



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC

Website: <https://www.rcaaq.info/>

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The first Native Friendship Centre was established in 1969, in Chibougamau. Over the following decade, several other centres were developed in cities which were already meeting points for Indigenous residents. The Regroupement was founded in 1976 by and for Indigenous people who wanted a provincial structure for consultation, coordination, and representation to support the Centres. The RCAAQ now represents 10 friendship centres.

"Our role, as in all programs, projects and services, is mainly to [offer] support so that centres can develop services that meet the needs [among others] of young people." S. Fontaine-Dumais, Director of Services to Members



Approaches

The RCAAQ is not a youth organization, but it does support the capacity building of youth programs and provides financial assistance for their planning and implementation.

Culturally safe space. The Regroupement aims to create a culturally safe space in an urban setting, where members of all ages can express their aspirations and participate in the decision-making process to achieve their goals.

Young people are central to the services offered by many centres. The centres aim to create culturally safe opportunities and spaces favourable to their development.

"We will support you in developing your programming and your services for the youth, and we will give you the financial means to hire people to work with young people within your centres." S. Fontaine-Dumais, Director of Services to Members

Multi-generational inclusivity. The RCAAQ adopts a consistent approach across all centres, services, and programs, in order to accompany people through the different stages of their lives. As such, the organization supports initiatives that are aimed at young people and that will impact them (in)directly, thus promoting an inclusive multigenerational approach.

Adapting to the needs of the younger clientele. With identified profiles and needs of Indigenous youth in urban Quebec as a priority, some centres have developed youth strategies. Through this consultation, the RCAAQ intends to contribute to setting up activities and services to support them and better meet the changing needs of young people.

"[Young people] want to learn crafts with an elder, [so the centre will] develop [t]he programming based on their needs, on what young people have expressed. [They are] also trying to broaden their activities to engage young people who may not otherwise be involved with [the] services or [the] centre." S. Fontaine-Dumais, Director of Services to Members

Activities

Each friendship centre offers specific services and programs to meet the needs of its members. Some activities are aimed specifically at young people:

Intervention through outdoor activities and sports. The RCAAQ supports the training and graduation of “educ-trainers,” a program that enables friendship centre staff to receive training in outdoor intervention and to create a sports and outdoor challenge program for the centres’ younger clientele. The program offers sports training to a group of youths over several weeks, in preparation for a major sporting challenge, such as canoe expeditions.

Youth spaces. Several centres have developed rooms and spaces reserved for young people. These spaces are self-managed by the youth with the support of a youth worker.

Youth Committees. Some centres (e.g. Native Montreal) have set up youth committees, which come together to create initiatives and projects that are close to their hearts.

“[These are] young people who want to get involved in the Centre, and in a youth group [to] create initiatives [and] projects.” S. Fontaine-Dumais, Director of Services to Members

Val-d’Or LGBTQ+ youth group. This group was created to provide a space for young people to discuss their issues and realities, and create initiatives.

Gatherings. The RCAAQ organizes and coordinates gatherings for urban Indigenous youth. These gatherings were an opportunity not only to consult with young people to develop a youth strategy, but also to exchange ideas and experience a shared cultural context.

“The young ones liked it. [The gathering] was more in a ‘cultural sharing’ mode. They had a chance, if they chose so, to take an introduction to the sweat lodge and [to] attend the Wemotaci powwow. [We were] more in a playful frame of mind.” S. Fontaine-Dumais, Director of Services to Members

Dossiers

The issues addressed by the centres and the RCAAQ are diverse:

- Social Development
- Employability and social participation
- Justice and public safety
- Educational success
- Research
- Health and Social Services



Collaborations

Supported by the RCAAQ, each centre cultivates its own partnerships with:

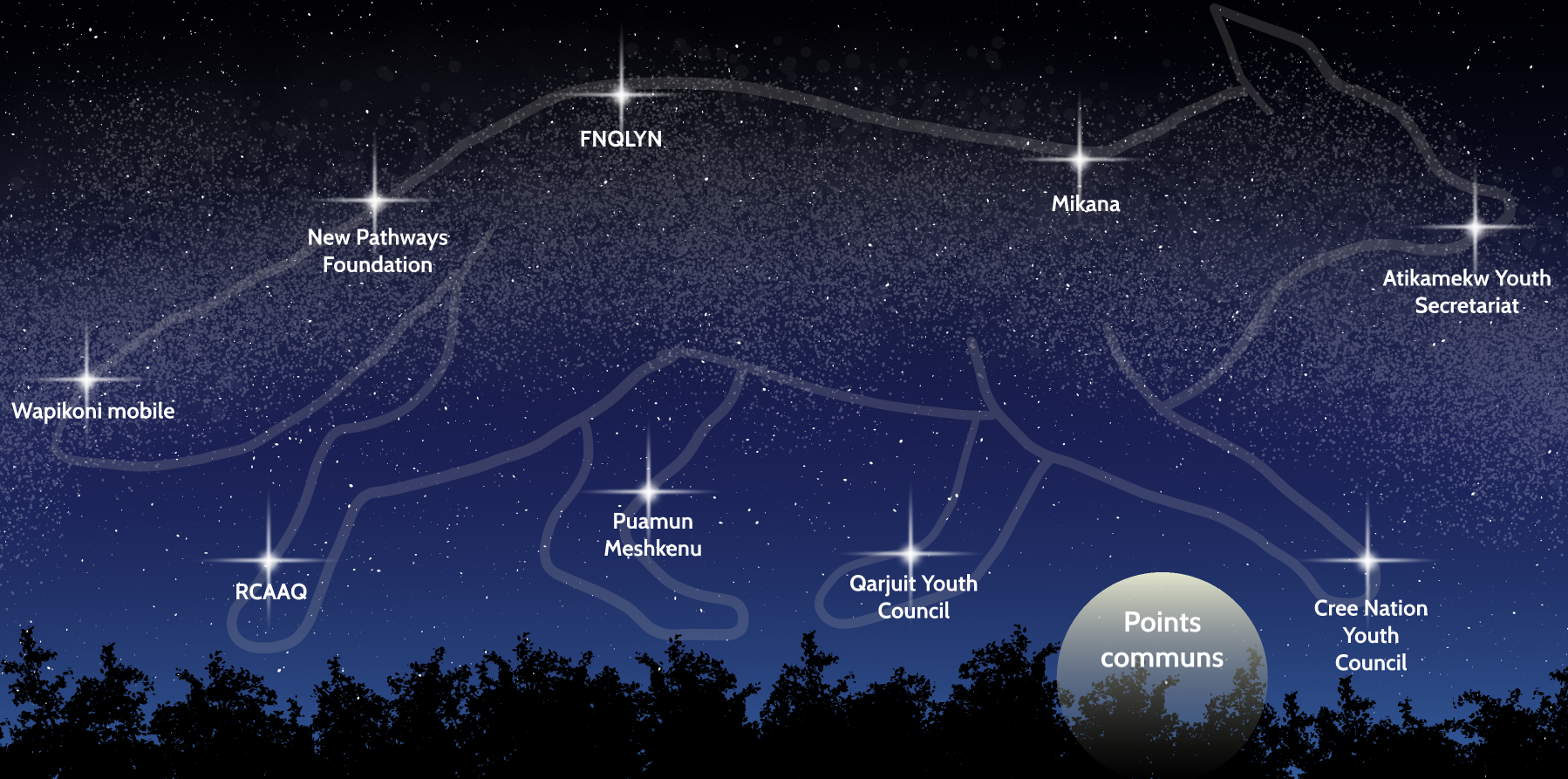
- Local schools and institutions (primary, secondary, CEGEP and school service centres)
- Research centres and researchers (e.g. Dialogue)
- Local community organizations
- Ect.

Structure

RCAAQ's team is made up of:

- 20 Staff
- A 9-seat Board of Directors
- 10 centres employing over 150 staff, the majority of whom are Indigenous women.
- Volunteers

Mapping of youth organizations



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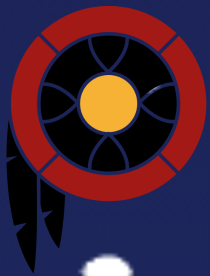


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Puamun Meshkenu

Puamun Meshkenu, which means “the path of dreams” in Innu, is an organization that promotes the development of the full potential of Indigenous youth.

Puamun Meshkenu promotes the holistic health (mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical) of young people and their communities, perseverance and the many facets of reconciliation.



**PUAMUN
MESHKENU**

Website: <https://www.puamun.com/>

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History

Following Dr. Stanley Vollant's "Innu Meshkenu" project (2010-2017), the communities wanted to continue working together to bring the walks and exchanges with young people to life. Since its creation in 2016, Puamun Meshkenu has aimed to go further and accompany young people through health promotion, encourage perseverance and foster reconciliation, to support and inspire Indigenous Peoples in a holistic way.



@www.puamun.com/

Approaches

“Through what we do, there’s very much this message of hope. What we’re putting forward through our various projects is that we are capable of doing things by ourselves, [as] Indigenous people, we can believe in our dreams.” J. Launière-Mathias, Executive Director

Puamun Meshkenu’s approach to health promotion is **holistic, respectful, and inclusive**:

Health. Health is physical and mental, but it is also emotional and spiritual.

Perseverance. Perseverance is promoted by emphasizing the inclusiveness of young people’s realities and alternative models of success.

Reconciliation. Three facets of reconciliation run through our activities and actions:

- Indigenous people and institutions
- Between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Between Indigenous people

“We must also reconcile within ourselves, with each other, and with our history, our past, our cultures.” J. Launière-Mathias, Executive Director

“For us, youth is the future. That’s the direction our work is taking, [i.e.] to prepare young people who are going to have an impact in their community, in their environment.” J. Launière-Mathias, Executive Director



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Activities

The main activities are:

Umeshkanam Walks. Organizing walks (physical challenges) and inviting community members to participate. This encourages young people to believe in their dreams, and to value fitness and holistic health. Reconciliation is also a message conveyed by these walks, as is the perseverance of the young people who take part.

Youth Ambassadors Programs. This program offers training for Indigenous youths to strengthen their public speaking skills.

Leadership Program. Puamun Meshkenu works upstream to reach the youth in the community or in urban areas willing to get involved and increase their engagement opportunities.



[@www.puamun.com/](http://www.puamun.com/)

Dossiers

The dossiers in which Puamun Meshkenu is directly involved are:

- Political and community involvement
- Health and well-being

Other elements underpin the organization's activities and actions, such as:

- Culture
- Education



@www.puamun.com/

Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- The FNQLYN, in organizing a large gathering
- Organizations within Nations
- Ect.



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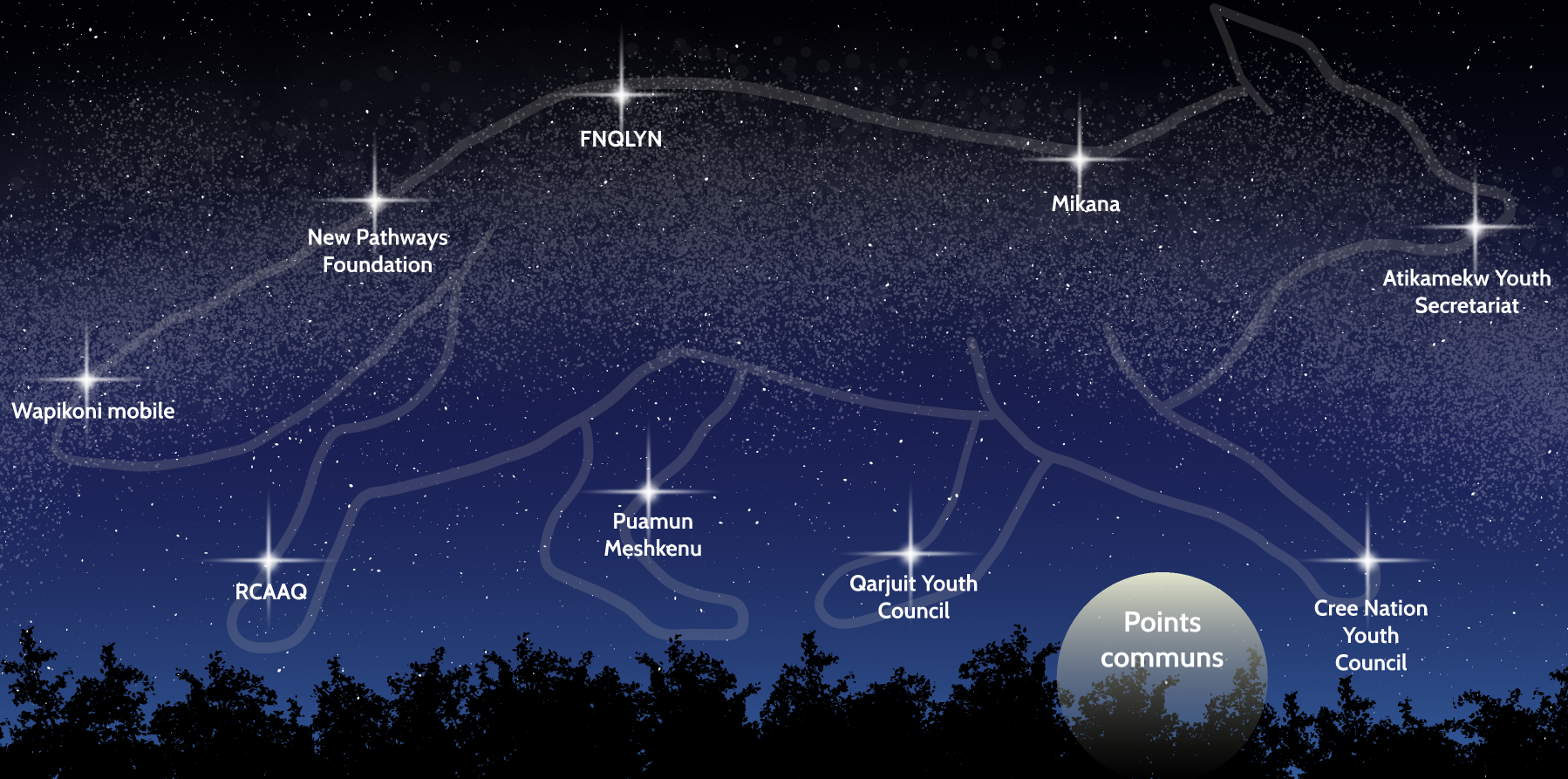
Structure

Puamun Meshkenu is made up of:

- A Board of Directors, with one seat reserved for an Indigenous youth
- One Executive Director
- Consultants
- Ambassadors

The organization aims to revise its structure and increase the number of permanent employees, to ensure project continuity with the help of project managers, technicians, and assistants.

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First Nations Quebec-Labrador Youth Network

The Youth Network represents Indigenous youth in Quebec and Labrador. Its aim is to give young people a voice, so that they are heard and included into decision-making and political influence. The FNQLYN promotes the participation and mobilization of young people in their communities.



Website: <https://rjpnql.com/>

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/rjpnql.fnqlyn>

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History

The First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Youth Network has been an independent Indigenous organization since 2021, but its history goes back several decades.

As early as 1992, the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) made space for young people within its political structure, but they did not have the right to vote. An initial body, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Council, was created in 2001 to identify the youths who would represent the AFNQL. The first major youth gathering was held in 2001 in Waswanipi. In 2010, the Council changed its name to the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador Youth Network (AFNQLYN), and its representative system was modified, with 4 spokespersons elected for terms of 1 to 2 years.

In 2020, the FNQLYN began a process of empowerment and self-governance in relation to the AFNQL, completed in 2021.

[@www.facebook.com/rjpnql.fnqlyn/](https://www.facebook.com/rjpnql.fnqlyn/)



Réseau jeunesse des Premières Nations
/ First Nations Youth Network

Approaches

“One of the topics highlighted was the need to work together, to go further, and grow stronger.” G. Vachon-Laurent, Acting Executive Director

Carrying our voice. The Network’s priority is to bring the voice of First Nations youth to the table, so that they feel listened to, respected and included in political processes upstream of decision-making. As such, the FNQLYN’s approach is to consult young people in communities and urban settings to identify their visions, wishes and needs in terms of participation. The FNQLYN wishes to recognize the multiplicity of the realities of youth diversity.

Empowerment. The empowerment of the FNQLYN, and more broadly of Indigenous youth, is at the heart of the organization’s approach. This greater autonomy enables the FNQLYN to operate in step with the needs of youth, and to adapt its services and actions accordingly.

Holistic Approach. The FNQLYN wishes to harmonize Western governance and management practices with Indigenous methodologies. It advocates for youth to play a greater role at consultation tables, and for a return to traditional practices.

Activities

Certain activities are central to the organization's development:

Annual Youth Summit. Youth gatherings to elect spokespersons and discuss the needs and ambitions of young people. In 2023, three priority topics emerged from the summit:

- Listening to the youth
- Types of leadership
- Visualizing the future of self-government and Indigenous governance

“We want to show that we are capable of working together across communities and nations, of coming together and then still having the power to act collectively.” G. Vachon-Laurent, Acting Executive Director

Seats at the AFNQL Chiefs' Table. Within this political body, the FNQLYN's mandate is to ensure that the youth file is handled by a Chief (currently by Sipi Flammand).

Dossiers

In the future, the FNQLYN plans to work on a number of issues:

- Strengthening the youth network
- Advocacy
- Citizens' association
- Regularly checking in with the youth
- Meeting with the youth
- Developing a governance system to better represent all First Nations youth.
- Political initiatives
- Collaborate with other organizations in proposals aimed at supporting the youths in their skills development and empowerment.

Collaborations

The Network intends to build partnerships with other Indigenous youth organization:

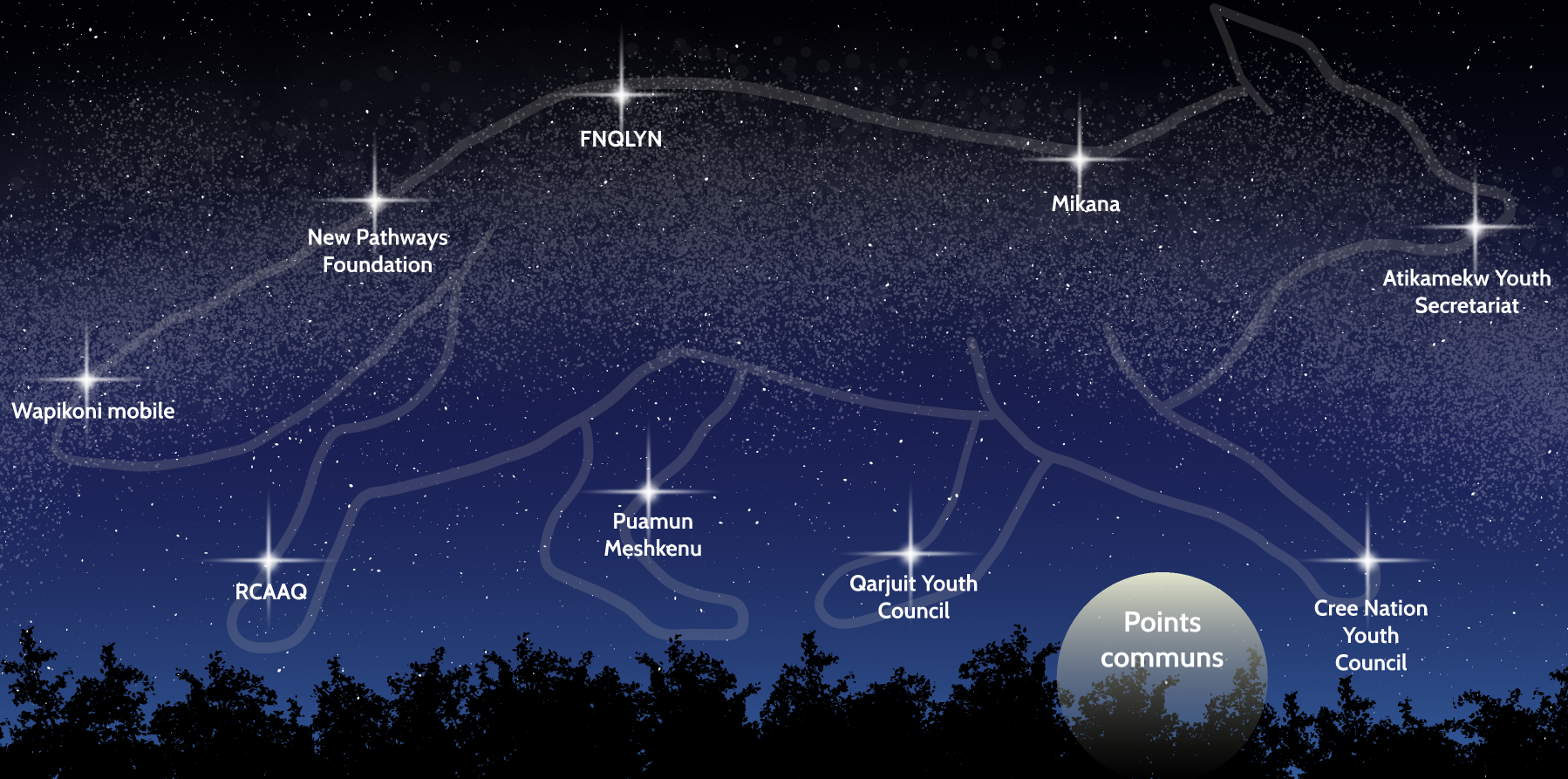
- Puamun Meshkenu
- New Pathways Foundation
- Wapikoni mobile (empowerment workshops for Indigenous youth coming soon)
- Cree Nation Youth Council
- Ect.

Structure

The FNQLYN is made up of:

- Four members of the Board of Directors
- Nine Human Resources Staff
- One Director
- Four elected Spokespersons

Mapping of youth organizations



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
SUR LA JEUNESSE DU QUÉBEC
JEUNES AUTOCHTONES

Mikana

Mikana, which means path in the Anishinabe language, is an Indigenous non-profit organization whose mission is to work towards social change by educating different audiences on the realities and perspectives of Indigenous peoples. This initiative stems from a desire to generate concrete action against racism and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples.

Mikana is also a network and collective practice of Indigenous youth—the Ambassadors*—who want to play an active role in building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and who believe in bringing people together through dialogue, working to decolonize minds by creating safe spaces for education and exchange.



Website : <https://www.mikana.ca/>

History

Approaches

Activities

Dossiers

Collaborations

Structure

*“Ambassador” is the gender-neutral term for non-binary and/or two-spirited people. The neutral generic term for this term is used in this text in order to simplify its form.

History

Founded in 2015, Mikana is the result of several years of consideration and vested involvement between Mélanie Lumsden and Widia Larivière. Both being born from an Indigenous and a non-Indigenous parent, they witnessed firsthand the existing gap between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds. Their meeting in 2007 launched a series of collaborations, speaking engagements, all focusing on taking action for social change and justice for the respect of Indigenous rights.



@www.mikana.ca/

Approaches

Education to increase awareness. Mikana offers Ambassador-led awareness workshops on Indigenous perspectives. Mikana's approach centres around:

- The transformative power of education to raise awareness
- Building partnerships
- Maintaining dialogue

Involving and nurturing the next generation. Mikana works to:

- Foster engagement among the next generation
- Empower the youth to act and create change

Accompaniment and support. From 2020 onwards, Mikana has prioritized ambassador team coordination and coaching to enhance the support, skills development and mentoring of the youth, and is now committed to:

- Placing the youth at the core of our actions
- Clarifying and respecting their boundaries
- Making sure that the activities offered to non-Indigenous people always benefit the well-being of our Ambassadors
- Providing young people with tools for success (professional and personal)

Personalized approach and building trust. For our team, “family” best describes Mikana's approach. “It's really more interpersonal, building trust and then creating a kind of supportive community.” (E. Cohen-Bucher, Director of Operations)

Storytelling sovereignty. Mikana makes storytelling sovereignty the cornerstone of its education program. Young people can decide on the themes they want to speak on, highlight their favourite subjects and talk about the realities of Indigenous Peoples in their own words.

“The youth surrounding Mikana want to engage in positive change through dialogue and education.” E. Cohen-Bucher, Director of Operations

“I think a big strength at Mikana is that [we work towards] youth empowerment. We really give young people the space [to] develop their own skills, [by asking them] what kind of skills they want to develop. On our end, it's about getting training and resources so that young people can develop even further.” (J. Bossum, Ambassadors Program Coordinator)

Activities

Mikana has developed a three-prong mandate to best serve the youth:

Education and Increased Awareness. Offering awareness-building activities (workshops, training, conferences, webinars) led and chosen by the Ambassadors, as well as tools and resources on Indigenous realities and viewpoints for non-Indigenous people from different backgrounds.

Youth Empowerment. The Ambassadors program aims to provide tools to bring together Indigenous youth who wish to actively participate in building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This allows for:

- The development of their skills and knowledge within a field of interest
- The opportunity to lead and facilitate awareness-building activities, or to share their experience
- Participation in projects involving tool development, computer graphics, etc.
- Access to training courses set up by youth Ambassadors who are experts in a given subject, thus promoting their personal development
- Participation in Ambassador retreats

Sustainable, Systemic Change. Creating long-term partnerships to bring about significant change in the areas of decolonization and Indigenous rights. For instance, Mikana has been working with the team of teachers at Cégep Ahuntsic to decolonize their content since 2018, and with the Service de la culture de la Ville de Montréal to make cultural services more accessible to Montreal's Indigenous population.

Dossiers

Mikana's most important projects are as follows:

- **Education:**
Educating non-Indigenous people through Ambassador-led awareness-building activities.
- **Kindness:**
Dedicated attention to the well-being of employees and Ambassadors.
- **Arts & culture/social and environmental justice:**
Promoting points of concern and interest to youth Ambassadors.
- **Employability:**
Encouraging the development of youth Ambassadors' skills.
- **Social/community participation:**
Young Ambassadors engage in various ways, through dialogue or activism.



@www.mikana.ca/

Collaborations

Examples of collaborations:

- City of Montreal
- Concordia University's Office of Community Engagement
- Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK
- Quebec Equity Diversity Inclusion Network (RQEDI)
- Ahuntsic College
- Transition en commun
- Ect.

Mikana wants to increase its collaborations with Indigenous youth organizations in Quebec.

“We want to work with other organizations with Ambassadors for mutual support in program development and joint training for young people, as we often have [common] objectives.” E. Cohen-Bucher, Director of Operations

Structure

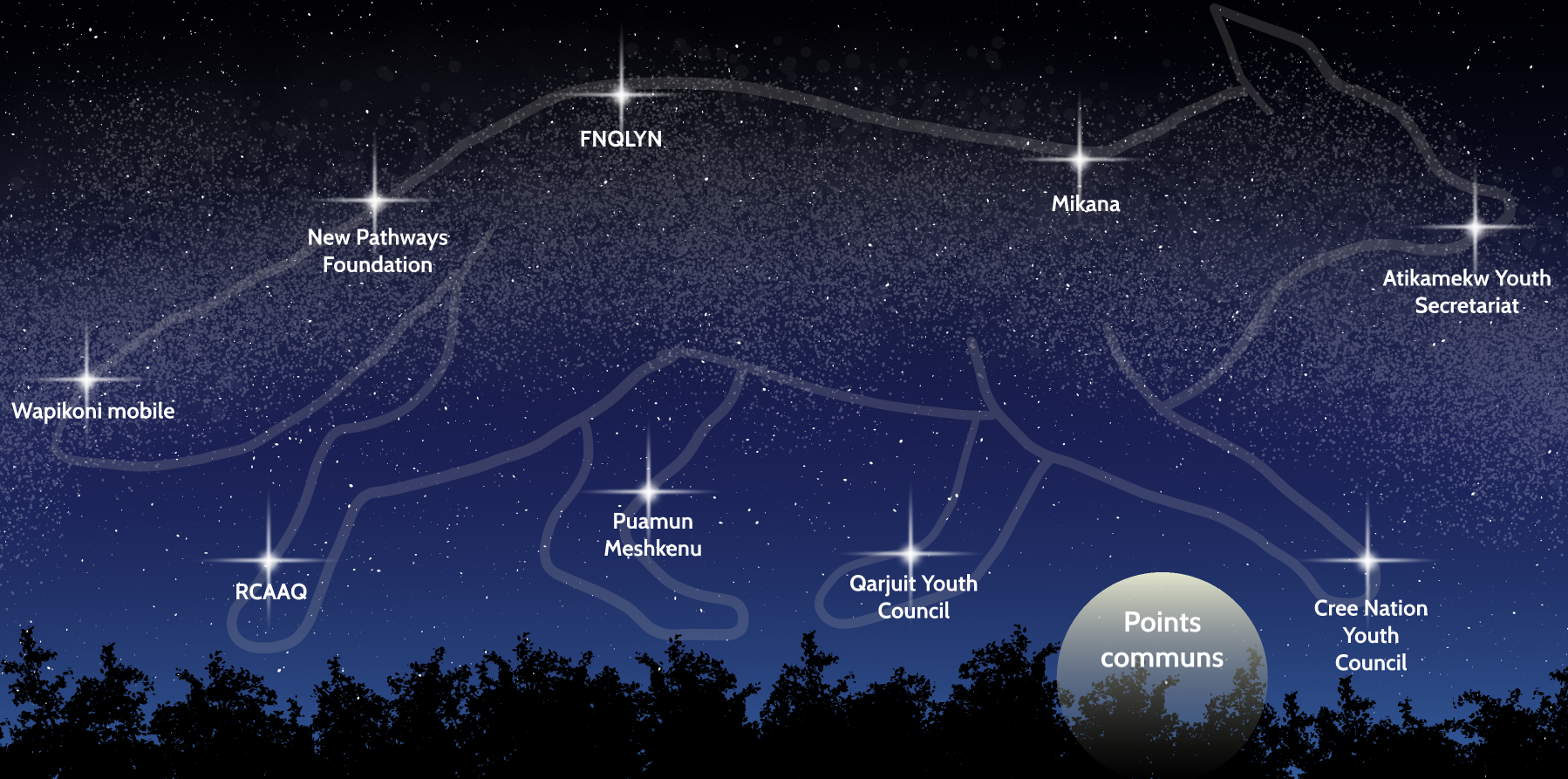
The team makes up:

- Board of Directors
- Administrative and Development Team
- Fifteen Youth Ambassadors

“We’re aiming for a horizontal approach to governance”

E. Cohen-Bucher, Director of Operations

Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
SUR LA JEUNESSE DU QUÉBEC
JEUNES AUTOCHTONES

Qarjuit Youth Council

The Qarjuit Youth Council is an organization that represents the voice of Inuit youth. They are a political youth organization led by youth and for youth and offer space to empower and grow together.



Website: <https://qarjuit.ca/>

History

Approaches

Activities

Dossiers

Collaborations

Structure

History

Founded in September 2015, the Qarjuit Youth Council is a non-profit organization that represents Inuit youth from the ages of 15 to 35 that reside within the 14 communities in Nunavik and Chisasibi, representing approximately 5000 youth. QYC is an organization which upholds the constitutional rights of all Inuit in Nunavik and was founded as an independent organization in 2015. Their independence allowed them to offer youth catered/specific services. The name Qarjuit Youth Council was chosen through a contest done in 2016. Their first ever consultation process also occurred that year, held over 3 months to represent the needs and wants of the youth.



@www.facebook.com/qarjuit/
<https://www.tiktok.com/@qarjuityouthcouncil>

Activities

The QYC's work covers several areas:

Activism and leadership. QYC involve Inuit youth in their communities, regions, province and country. Immersing them in different opportunities including or exchange with other communities around the world and to participate in social and political realms, most recently at COP27 and COP15.

Advocacy papers. QYC creates community-friendly documents to educate youth about their rights. These are also done as a way of getting their lands back and working towards self-determination.

Consultations. The consultation processes are central to help better cater to the needs of the youth. For the first time, the Quebec government has agreed to give full leadership to Inuit youth in gathering information and creating their own strategy. These consultations involve representatives of all communities. A first consultation in 2016 was done to identify youths' priorities, their needs and what they would like, and again in 2019. The consultation in 2024 will focus on key policy directions identified in 2019 (e.g. mental health, school perseverance, building bridges between young and older Inuit generations, and encouraging school perseverance) and projects including mental health awareness.

Youth and Elder retreats. Creating yearly opportunities for youth and Elders alike to come together and exchange while on the land and work towards bridging gaps, which are part of one of the main pillars of Qarjuit.

Treaty simulation. During a four-day collaborative space held in collaboration with the Gordon Foundation, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, the Nunavik Regional Board on Health and Social Services and many great advisors. Youth from QYC were engaged in a treaty simulation to learn about their rights and treaties, specifically pertaining to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

Approaches

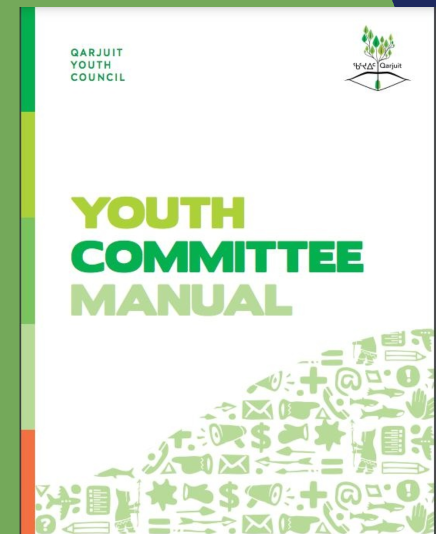
“We are youth; youth are not just the future but also the present. Youth empowering youth is amazing; we are advocating for our people and our youth.” (S. Kudluk, Former Vice-President)

Their main mission is to create **exposure and involvement** for all youth at the grassroots to local, regional and international levels, this is done by:

Empowerment. They offer services and opportunities for Inuit youth to voice their needs, wants and create opportunities for leadership and empowerment through governance and educational workshops and conferences.

“Try empowering their voice as much as possible through different political entities, but also in different other non-formal setup.” C. Martel, Former General Manager

Led by youth for youth. Their approach is catered specifically to their youth and everything in the organizations is managed by youth with all representatives below 35. They work together, inspire each other and in a common direction.



@www.facebook.com/qarjuit/

Dossiers

Four main pillars of Qarjuit:

- **Education**

Education in both and formal and informal ways are offered to create opportunities for a brighter future. Youth are given training opportunities to learn how to become future leaders and reach higher positions within regional organizations.

- **Health**

Improving mental health awareness is central, also one of the main topics discussed during their consultation. Part of health is to emphasize Inuit identity and culture throughout their organizations.

- **Gap between Elders and youth**

They acknowledge that within their organization there is a gap of services and programs offered that caters to knowledge exchanges and relationship building between Elders and youth within the 15 communities. They offer opportunities for Elders and youth alike to engage and come together while being on the land, helping to bridge the gap.

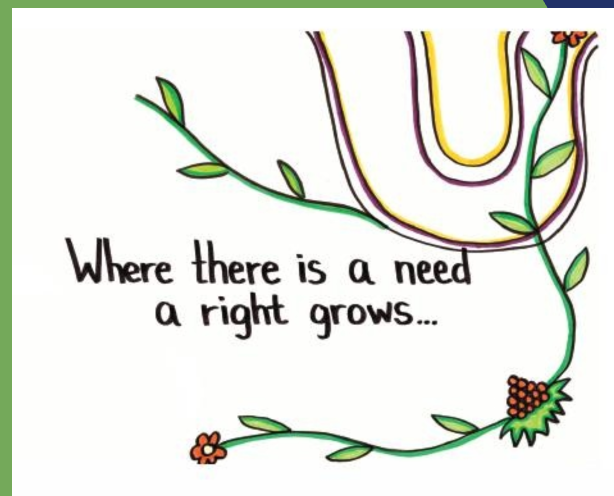
- **Networking and connection between youth**

Creating spaces and opportunities for youth to engage and connect with other youth and share experiences and knowledges. This occurs through informal and formal means such as events, conferences and gatherings.

Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- Cree Nation Youth Council
- Indigenous Climate Action
- Gordon Foundation
- Force Jeunesse
- Kativik Ilisarniliriniq
- NRBHSS
- CIUSSS Youth team
- Institut national de la recherche scientifique
- Etc.



@www.facebook.com/qarjuit/

“ There's a lot more people that know and are aware of what we are doing just because of the connection we can do with collaborators and funders, I think it's getting more and more well known”

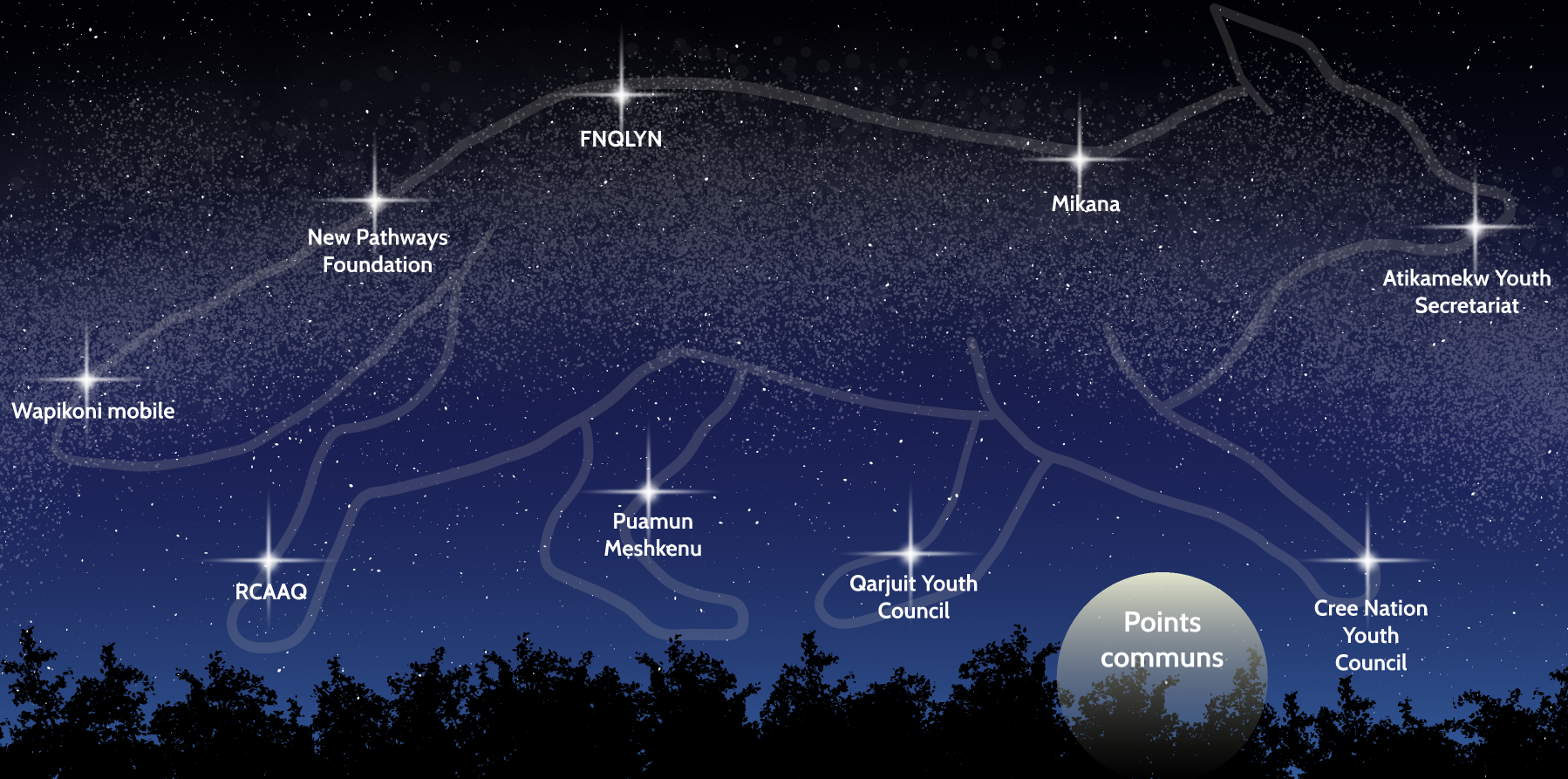
(C. Martel, ancienne directrice général)

Structure

Their board of directors was created to give voice to the regions they represent. It is formed by:

- Full time team of 9
- 11 Board of Directors
- Two board of directors for each of the coasts (Hudson, Ungava, Hudson Strait):
 - 3 Executives (President, VP, Secretary Treasurer)
 - 2 coastal Representatives * 3 coasts
 - 1 elder's representative
 - 1 Makivvik Representative
- Elections held every mandate (each 3 years)

Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
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JEUNES AUTOCHTONES

Atikamekw Youth Secretariat

The Atikamekw Youth Secretariat (SAJA) is a branch of the Atikamekw Nation Council (CNA) set up by and for Nehirowisiw Atikamekw youth.

It strengthens their engagement and their power to act within the Nation.



Website: Coming soon

History

Approaches

Activities

Dossiers

Collaborations

Structure

History

The Atikamekw Youth Strategy was unveiled in 2021, following 4 youth summits held since 2017 and a national consultation with young people from the three communities and in urban areas about their needs and wishes.

SAJA's mission is to represent the voice of the youth within the CNA and to support actions in favour of Atikamekw youth development. More specifically, SAJA carries out its work through two main priorities: youth engagement and concerted action.



© Ke ici Matciticik Ka ockatisitcik.
Stratégie jeunesse Atikamekw 2021-2024

Activities

SAJA carries out its work through two main mandates:

Youth Engagement. Supporting youth empowerment, engagement, and leadership growth. SAJA proudly supports the Ka Ockatisitcik youth movement and its Youth Representatives.

Concerted action. Consult with the youth to identify their issues and aspirations and develop a national Atikamekw Youth Strategy. Coordinate its implementation with all sectors concerned at the CNA.

Certain activities are central to the organization's development.

Atikamekw Youth Summits. Annual gatherings that provide an opportunity to inform the youth, listen to their concerns, and promote the importance of identity.

Participating in Atikamekw Councils. Secretariat representatives for the youth are present at meetings and gatherings held by band councils or the Atikamekw Nation Council (CNA).

Cultural activities on the land. Beginning in fall 2023, the Secretariat will offer activities on culture and the land. The Secretariat wants to create a platform to help young people get started and explore their interests, to give them the opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding of their ancestral practices through an immersive experience.



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Stratégie jeunesse
Atikamekw
2021-2024

Approaches

“We carry the voice of the youth.” A. Dubé-Quitich, Manawan Youth Representative

SAJA is dedicated to and active in the well-being and development of young people. Atikamekw youth are thriving and dedicated. They form a proud and strong future for the d'Atikamekw-Nehirowisiw.

Accompanying and raising our voices. Guided by the Atikamekw Youth Strategy *Ke ici matcitcik ka ockatisitcik* ("wanting to accomplish"), SAJA's goal is to support and carry the voice of young people from the Nation's three communities and those in urban areas within government (in-community council, Atikamekw Nation Council, and others).

“I want them to be at the forefront of the decisions that the Nation and the members of a community are making.”
K. Chilton, Youth Development Coordinator

The five axes of the strategy are:

- Language, culture, and tradition
- Education
- Health and Wellness
- Development
- Affirmation

The three challenges of the strategy are:

- Strengthening the youth's relationship with their ancestral territory, the Nitaskinan
- Strengthening intergenerational relationships
- Collaborating with existing organizations and institutions

Self-determination. The Secretariat's spokespersons are committed to the self-determination of the Nation's youth and recognize the importance of a specifically Atikamekw Youth Secretariat. That said, priorities sometimes vary from one community to the next.

Listening and gathering. The Secretariat prioritizes an approach focused on interaction, exchange, and the development of youth. The organization is committed to mobilizing and promoting role models among young leaders.

Youth representatives reiterate the importance of listening to community members and creating spaces for young people to express their needs, thereby promoting their well-being, and strengthening their identity.

“We want to give them the puzzle pieces so they can put them together.” K. Chilton, Youth Development Coordinator

Dossiers

One of the Secretariat's top priorities is:

Political and community involvement:

“The Youth Secretariat also wants to have a say in the decisions that elected officials are going to make. We want to be heard.” K. Chilton, Youth Development Coordinator

The axis of the strategy also focuses on a number of other dossiers:

- Education
- Physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being
- Environment and the land
- Culture
- Language



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Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- FNQLYN
- Cree Nation Youth Council
- Ect.

The Secretariat intends to build partnerships with other youth organizations to enable young people to develop alliances between Nations.



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2021-2024

Structure

The Ka Ockatisitcik youth movement is led by Atikamekw youth and supported by the Atikamekw Nation Council. The Atikamekw Youth Secretariat is made up of:

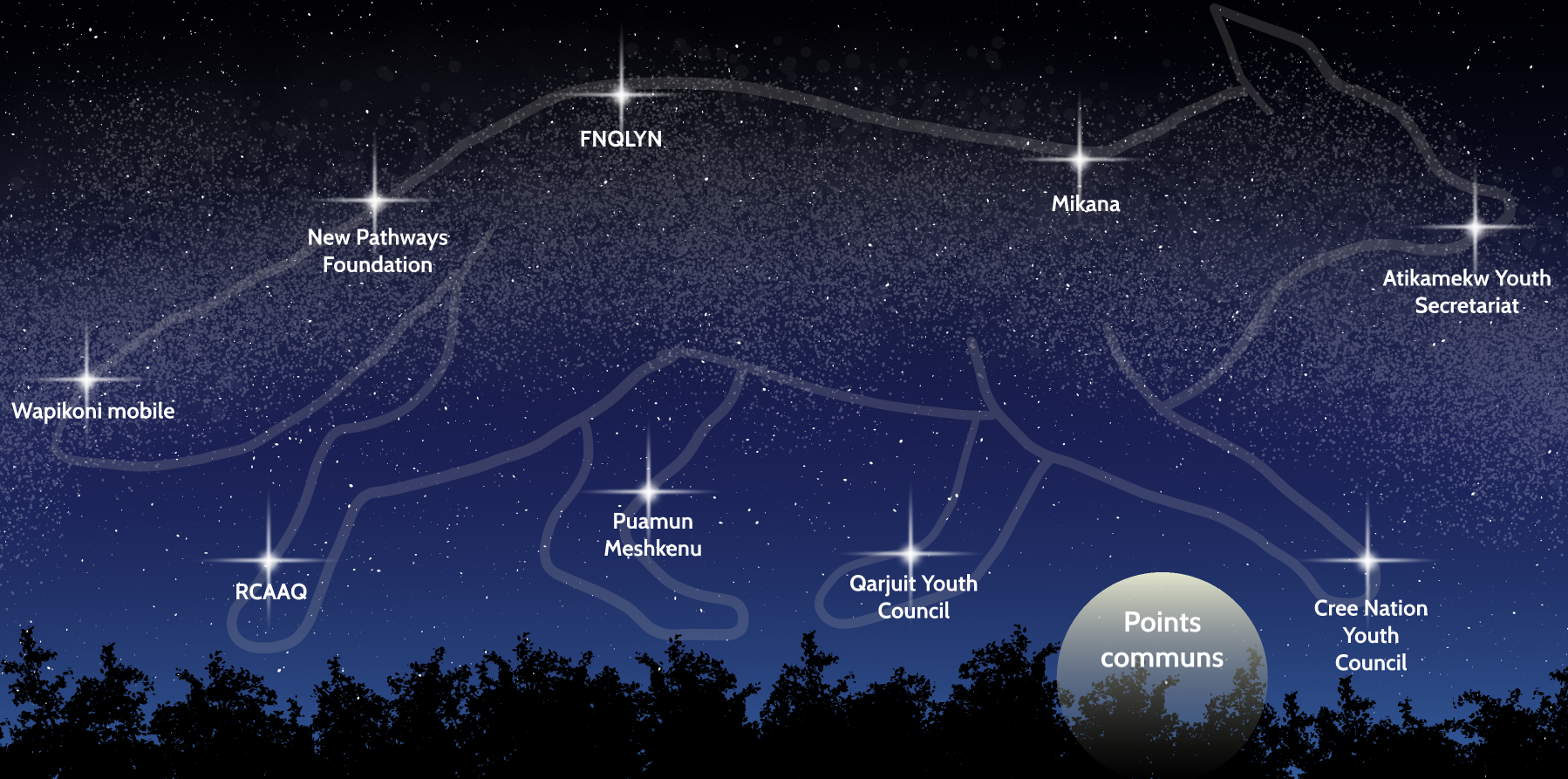
- Three Youth Representatives elected by the communities
- A Youth Development Coordinator

The Secretariat's Youth Representatives want to go further in reappropriating traditional models of governance and political expression.



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Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
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Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC)

The Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) is the youth representative body of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, dedicated to safeguarding the rights and interests of the Nation's youth, and to strengthening community life while respecting the traditions and principles of the Cree Nation.



CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL

ፌዴራል ዲሞክራሲ ሲቪል ንግድ (አዋጅ/ፌዴ ብሶ)

CONSEIL DES JEUNES DE LA NATION CRIS

History

Activities

Approaches

Dossiers

Collaborations

Structure

Website: <https://creenationyouthcouncil.ca/>

History

The roots of the CNYC go back to 1985 and the desire to involve the youth in the Nation's governance processes, following the political boom that the Cree Nation was experiencing as a result of the James Bay Agreement.

“In its humble beginnings [the objective of creating the CYNIC] was for young people to come together. That's still the case today: that elected youth can come together and have the great discussions they need to have about what's going on in the nation.” T. Richmond, Project Coordinator

The Council was created following an initial Cree youth conference on the themes of education, traditional practices, economic and cultural development, and treaties and agreements. The first Youth Annual General Assembly was held in Chisasibi in 1990. The Council's first general election was held in 1999 to fill the position of Youth Chief/President.

Activities

The CNYC's activities focus on three main priorities:

Advocacy. Carrying the voices of the youth to regional tables and advising the Grand Council of the Cree Regional Authority of Eeyou Istchee on all matters concerning youth.

“[CYNC] has a strong culture of connection, and the culture and language [are] equally strong. [We are] still the [first] Nation [...] to have a modern treaty under the James Bay Agreement. [...] There's a prestige and a tradition of modern politics [...] it's become very important [this political voice] of representation and inclusion.” T.

Richmond, Project Coordinator

Leadership Development. To prepare young people to undertake leadership responsibilities within the Cree Nation and for youth development in areas such as administration and management, business and political skills, and social and economic development. The CYNC funds local projects by young people for young people through the Youth Development Fund.

Programming and events. Organizing various events and activities (gatherings, consultations, conferences, local meetings, etc.) to inspire and encourage positive self-esteem, learning, motivation, and goals, while listening to leaders, institutions, and organizations.

Approaches

« Teaching them, it's offering guidance more than anything. Because they're going to learn on their own." T. Richmond, Project Coordinator

From a "bottom-up" perspective, CNYC aims to see young people develop:

- Their abilities
- Their leadership

This includes:

Development in all its facets. This includes the full intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual potential of young people. CNYC sees itself as a facilitator to empower the youth to become responsible members and contributors to the community.

Meaningful education and support. Meaningful education and support are the cornerstones of positive youth development. CNYC therefore aims to guide young people through a process of advocacy.

An informal approach in reaching out to the youth. Consultation and information processes are often carried out through moments that value informality, interaction, challenge, and play.

"Instead of approaching [young people] for consultation, we'll do fun games, we'll do challenges and then [through these] activities, people come to us [and give their opinion], otherwise we'll offer opportunities to get information so they can make up their own minds." T. Richmond, Project Coordinator

Dossiers

CNYC offers programs and services that explicitly or implicitly tackle several issues:

- Schooling and Support
- Health and well-being, an active lifestyle
- Culture and tradition
- Environment
- Employment and Training
- Social/political/community participation

Collaborations

Collaborations with:

- Cree national authorities

“We’ve focused a lot on building [partnerships] within the Cree Nation itself [...] but gradually, without rushing things, we are opening doors beyond that.”

T. Richmond, Project Coordinator

The CNYC is also strengthening its relationships with other Indigenous organizations:

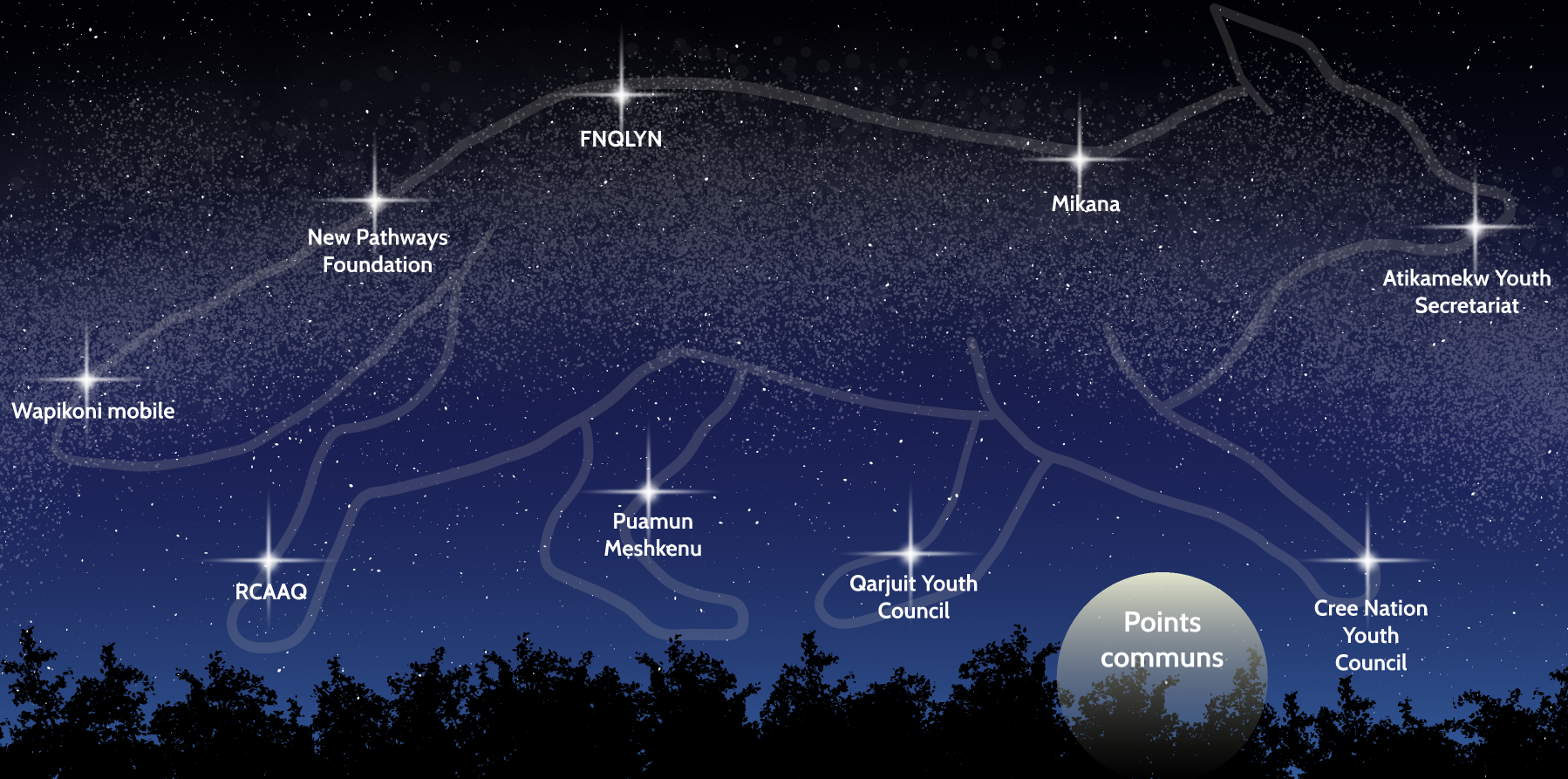
- Atikamekw Youth Secretariat
- FNQLYN
- QYC
- Etc.

Structure

The CNYC's structure is similar to that of the Grand Council of the Cree Nation. It is not a stand-alone entity and operates under the Nation's Department of Social and Cultural Development. The CNYC is made up of:

- A 5-seat Executive Council (the Youth Grand Chief, the Youth Deputy Grand Chief and three executive members)
- Ten elected Youth Chiefs (one per community)
- Ten Youth Development Coordinators (one per community)
- Two staff members (one Administrative Technician and one Special Projects Technician)

Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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CHAIRE-RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE
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Common Threads

“We are working towards the same goals,
and we end up building bridges, weaving
paths together.” G. Vachon-Laurent, Executive
Director, FNQLYN

Issues

Activities &
Actions

Visions

Issues

**Financial
Resources**

**Human
Resources**

**Lack of
understanding/
cohesion between
organizations**

**Youth
Mobilization**

Financial Resources

Financial matters are an issue for all Indigenous organizations supporting youth.

It is difficult to meet the varied, changing, and emerging needs of young people and organizations. Project-based grants and heavy requirements weigh down organizations. They also note that funding agencies' ways of operating, terminologies and names change frequently, making management and communications difficult.

Donor expectations are difficult to meet for administrators, who may themselves be young and learning. All these issues make it difficult to develop long-term ambitions.

“It’s difficult to get grants, it’s difficult to get funded, but there’s also the question of the funding method, which often doesn’t correspond to the ideal or the mission of the organizations [...] You always have to think in terms of projects, which is exhausting for small organizations [...]” S. Obomsawin, Mikana

Human Resources

Maintaining and hiring Indigenous staff and human resources are challenges shared by the Indigenous organizations we spoke to.

Employee turnover is caused by a lack of experience appreciation and less competitive salaries. Turnover poses a number of challenges in terms of preserving organizational history and maintaining partnerships, which rely on human connections.

Hiring the next generation of Indigenous workers in urban areas can be a challenge.

“For an NPO in the cultural sector in the middle of Montreal, where housing is so expensive, it’s impossible for me to fulfill Indigenous hiring quotas in a context like that.” V. Rankin,
Wapikoni mobile

Thus, organizations are juggling with limited, short-term budgets, whereas there is a need for long-term resources in order to strengthen collaborations and projects and foster a close relationship with young people.

Lack of understanding/ cohesion between organizations

Getting to know other Indigenous organizations that support youth was cited as a need to improve cohesion between organizations. Despite emerging initiatives, collaboration needs to be improved to address the wide-ranging needs of young people and avoid duplicated initiatives.

“We need to get to know each other and avoid overlap.” J. Bossum,
Mikana

The lack of knowledge and proximity between organizations and of collaborative budgets is one of the obstacles to these synergies. Distance, language barriers and the distinct realities of the youth we serve, also pose challenges to collaborative work.

« The distance is really one barrier. The language for sure is another big one, because everything is organized in French and [for] of our board members, English is their second language. » C. Martel, QYC

Another issue is the challenge faced by Indigenous organizations when collaborating with non-Indigenous organizations. There is a widespread feeling of “Tokenization.”

“I get the impression that sometimes people just come looking for an Indigenous seal of approval for projects [...] and I think that makes us a little more suspicious.

J. Launière-Mathias, Puamun Meshkenu

Youth Mobilization

Youth engagement is a challenge for all the Indigenous organizations we met with. They all stress the importance of building bridges and trusting relationships with the youth, but a number of factors can complicate these connections.

“It’s quite a challenge to mobilize young people. It’s very difficult, but in the end when you get them on board, it pays off.” A. Dubé-Quitich, Atikamekw Youth Secretariat

Some organization representatives talk about the difficulty of reaching young people and maintaining a lasting connection with them. Others talk about the more formal structures and requirements within organizations in which young people are expected to get involved, but which don’t correspond to what they want.

“Young people want to get involved, but they don’t want to do so [...] within very formal, very structured frameworks.” S. Fontaine-Dumais, RCAAQ

Others point to the multiple realities and issues (substance abuse, homelessness, low self-esteem, etc.) leading young people to feel powerless, devalued, unheard, and pushing them to disengage from initiatives.

“What’s most difficult is to mobilize young people, because there’s a big issue out there with social breakdowns [...] We need to focus on activities, on building young people’s self-esteem [...]. Because right now in the community, young people are isolated, they feel neglected.” K. Chilton, Atikamekw Youth Secretariat

In addition to the challenge in motivating young people who are not yet engaged, there is also the issue of over-soliciting those who already are.

« So the one that are engaged, you don’t want to put too much pressure, but sometimes it’s hard to reach the other ones that don’t necessarily, get involved. »

C. Martel, QYC

Common Threads

“We are working towards the same goals,
and we end up building bridges, weaving
paths together.” G. Vachon-Laurent, Executive
Director, FNQLYN

Issues

Activities &
Actions

Visions

Activities & Actions

Ambassadeurs

Grands
rassemblements

Représentations
politiques et porte-
paroles

MIKAN

FONDATION
nouveaux
sentiers



PUAMUN
MESHKENU

wapikoni



REGROUPEMENT
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC



Initiation vers la
réconciliation

Activités physiques et
en territoire

Formations

Fonds pour les
initiatives dirigées
par les jeunes

Common Threads

“We are working towards the same goals, and we end up building bridges, weaving paths together.” G. Vachon-Laurent, Executive Director, FNQLYN

Issues

Activities &
Actions

Visions



Visions

"We all try to highlight the dreams of young people. We try to find the path between those dreams." V. Rankin, Executive Director, Wapikoni mobile

Innovation

**Collaborating
with
Indigenous
organizations**

**Fostering a
holistic
approach**

**Listening to
and valuing
young
people's
voices**

Listening to and valuing young people's voices

Creating opportunities for youth to express their needs, aspirations, and dreams, and to feel heard and included, is a priority for Indigenous organizations that support young people. For some, this means promoting storytelling sovereignty.

"Storytelling sovereignty is the choice of story, the choice of format, the way [in which] young people want to tell their story, who is going to help them tell their story [...]" V. Rankin, Wapikoni mobile

"We try to equip young people to have the confidence to speak up, make decisions and empower them to bring their voice into the space." M.-C. Cleary, New Pathways Foundation

Organizations are committed to supporting young people's empowerment by offering them a variety of activities, opportunities, and environments, enabling them to discover and expand their abilities, interests, and engagement.

Fostering a holistic approach

These organizations take a holistic approach to young people's past and present experiences. They value respect for the diverse circumstances faced by young people, the need to accommodate their needs, and a willingness to develop individualized approaches. Trust, openness, and listening are paramount.

"I'm already thinking about finding the right balance [in the way] we live. I often go back to [...] the medicine wheel or [the] holistic point of view."

G. Vachon-Laurent, Interim Executive Director, FNQLYN

Innovation

Rethinking models and practices to develop innovative methods and activities is a priority for organizations. Many are trying to align their organizations with the values and realities of the youth by drawing inspiration from traditional Indigenous governance models. Organizations are looking at ways to define themselves specifically as Indigenous organizations.

”[We’re working on] ways to decolonize our thinking, decolonize our ways of doing things [...] We’re in the process of defining who we are and how we fit in with First Nations values, and then how that is going to play out in our practices [...] so [we can let] First Nations organizations decide on these methods, these ways of working to meet the needs we’ve identified.” M.-C. Cleary, New Pathways Foundation

« Youth are moving also already quickly. So we need to adapt. And what we did yesterday, sometime, it’s not enough for today. So we really need a structure that is just evolving in the time really fast. » C. Martel, QYC

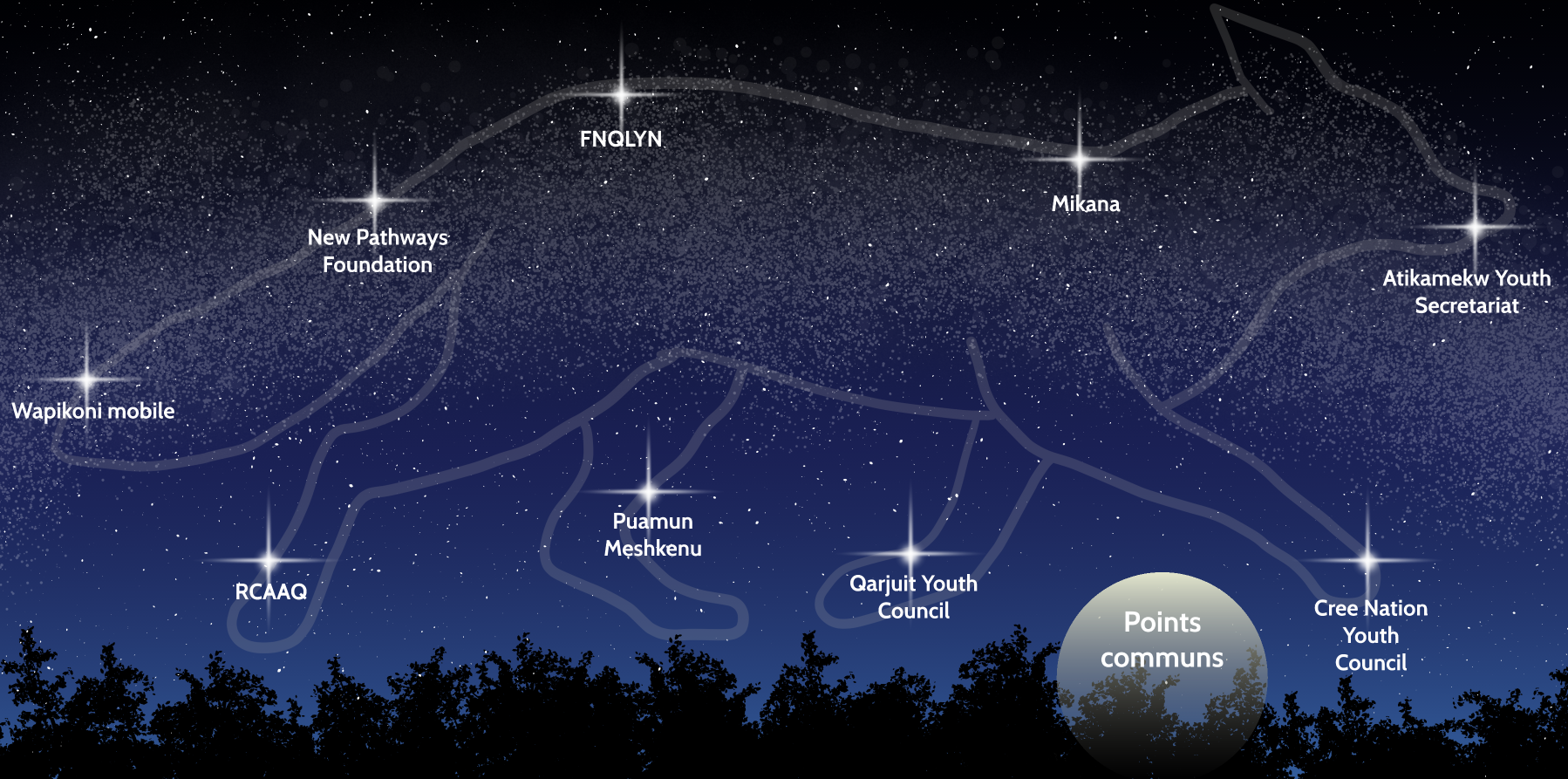
Collaborating with Indigenous organizations

The organizations all mention the need to collaborate with each other in order to:

- Work together to complement each other
- Broaden and better the range of opportunities, activities, speakers, training and events available to young people
- Exchange ideas, get inspired and create new synergies between young people from different backgrounds.

“We’re able to help each other with different projects. I think this is something we need to do more and more.” J. Launière-Mathias, Puamun Meshkenu

Mapping of youth organizations



Context of the mapping and user guide



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