



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Violence against women

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS FULLY SUPPORTS THE CAUSE OF THE SISTERS IN SPIRIT

Ottawa, Wednesday, October 4, 2006 – Bloc Québécois MPs **Marc Lemay** (Abitibi—Témiscamingue), **Yvon Lévesque** (Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou) and **Maria Mourani** (Ahuntsic) would like to express their sympathy and full support for Aboriginal women who are still the victims of violence in Quebec and Canada. The Bloc Québécois MPs joined the hundreds of people who came to demonstrate their solidarity in a silent vigil on Parliament Hill, on the second anniversary of the release of the Amnesty International report on the conditions imposed on Aboriginal women.

MPs **Marc Lemay** and **Yvon Lévesque** are respectively the critic and deputy critic for Indian and Northern Affairs, while **Maria Mourani** is responsible for status of women issues for the Bloc Québécois.

“On behalf of all my fellow members of the Bloc Québécois, I condemn all forms of violence against Aboriginal women. This unacceptable reality cannot be overlooked. The federal government has turned a blind eye to this serious problem for too long, which is why an activity such as the one today is so important to raise awareness in Quebec and Canada,” stated **Marc Lemay**.

“No less than 500 Aboriginal women are still reported missing and, according to Amnesty International, there are still serious problems in Canada relating to the fact that the crimes committed against Aboriginal women are not systematically recorded or exhaustively analyzed. Given its fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal peoples, the federal government must ensure that these crimes are not overlooked and that measures are taken to eliminate discrimination against Aboriginal women,” added **Maria Mourani**.

Yvon Lévesque recalled finally that the Bloc Québécois has never hesitated to defend the cause of Aboriginal women who are the victims of violence: “The Bloc Québécois has fiercely defended the demand by the group Sisters in Spirit for adequate funding to conduct an awareness campaign across Canada. We are pleased that funding is now available, but the cause must still be promoted in Quebec and across Canada,” concluded **Yvon Lévesque**.

– 30 –

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