



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

The Montreal Holocaust Museum welcomes the apology expressed by the Quebec government to First Nations and Inuit

Friday, October 4, 2019

The Viens Commission report concluded that it is impossible to deny systemic discrimination against First Nations and Inuit. Through this apology, the government responded to the report's first call to action. As expressed by the Premier, apologies alone are insufficient. It is encouraging that the Quebec government is committing to take action and has expressed intentions to collaborate with First Nations and Inuit in order to break with the imposition of government solutions that perpetuate colonial relations. This can only be accomplished by recognizing the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples.

Several reports documenting racism and systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples have failed to lead to comprehensive government action. To become meaningful, this apology must serve as a conduit for action. It must lead to concrete solutions for all recommendations in this report, as well in those in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls tabled last June. The specific discrimination against Indigenous women and their mistreatment in the police and judicial systems requires immediate attention.

The Viens report notably identified the legacy of colonialism, ignorance, prejudice and stereotypes as key factors supporting the systemic discrimination against First Nations and Inuit. As a civil-society actor for whom the fight against racism is at the core of its mission, the Montreal Holocaust Museum is committed to sensitizing the public to the importance of respecting Indigenous peoples' rights and particularly those of Indigenous women. The Museum also seeks to demonstrate its solidarity with Indigenous peoples by amplifying their voices in order to promote respect for equality and human dignity.

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