



UNITÉ DE **SOUTIEN**
SSA | QUÉBEC

Ensemble pour un système de santé qui apprend

Resolution - Joyce's Principle

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

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Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada

Canadian Institutes
of Health Research

Owner : Scientific Management of Unité de soutien SSA Québec

Responsable : Patrick Archambault, scientific director

Recipients : All members of Unité de soutien SSA Québec

Adopted by : the Scientific Committee on September 15, 2026

*Please note this is a free translation.

WHEREAS: Article 24 of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) states: “Indigenous peoples also have the right to access, without any discrimination, all social and health services. [...] Indigenous peoples have the right, on an equal basis, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary measures to progressively ensure the full realization of this right.”

WHEREAS: The tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Joyce Echaquan, an Atikamekw woman, on September 28, 2020, at the Joliette Hospital Center in Quebec.

WHEREAS: [In Quebec, Indigenous women have experienced—and are still likely to experience— forced sterilization, obstetric violence, and abortions performed without consent.](#)

WHEREAS: The [Commission of Inquiry into Relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services: Listening, Reconciliation, and Progress](#) (*the Viens Commission, 2019*) highlighted numerous issues that hinder the well-being of Indigenous people in health and social services settings.

WHEREAS: The Joyce Principle has still not been adopted and implemented by the National Assembly of Quebec, and the Government of Quebec still does not recognize the existence of systemic racism and systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples, which particularly affect the lives of Indigenous women and girls.

WHEREAS: That, in its strategic development plan, the Unité de soutien SSA Québec (hereinafter, the Unit) has made cultural safety and the integration of the Joyce Principle central priorities of its Indigenous health activities; it remains imperative to ensure the full and complete implementation of this principle, to be carried out gradually as part of a coherent integration plan.

It is PROPOSED that:

1. The Unit endorses the Joyce Principle and thereby expresses its support for Indigenous peoples and Indigenous women so that they may assert their rights regarding health and social services in Quebec and Canada.
2. The Unit and its members, through the development of tools, training, and expert advice, commit to raising awareness among clinical, research, and health policy-making communities about the issues of cultural safety and systemic racism.
3. The Unit and its members are committed to promoting Indigenous peoples’ access to culturally safe environments, projects, and research teams in Quebec, and to recognizing the great value and importance of their cultural, traditional, and experiential knowledge in research.

4. The Unit supports the adoption of the Joyce Principle by the National Assembly of Quebec.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED on September 15, 2026.