



Information Governance

FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC-LABRADOR

What is information governance?

Information governance relates to reclaiming control over all information concerning First Nations.

It refers to the structures and mechanisms through which First Nations can access, collect, use, share, manage and protect their information.

Having governance over their information allows First Nations to determine the terms and conditions of these actions.

Context

First Nations have little access to their data, information assets and information about their populations, which constitutes a failure to respect their right to information and self-determination.

Data is too often managed and controlled by third parties, which undermines the decision-making of leadership as well as self-government and information governance by and for First Nations.

“Support from leadership is essential to achieve our shared goals.”



Objectives of the strategy

Enable First Nations to manage and preserve their information assets and reclaim ownership of their data and information, thus laying the groundwork for more informed decision-making and self-governance.

Establish a regional First Nations information governance centre in Quebec that will offer a range of services aimed at strengthening the capacity of First Nations communities and organizations in the management and governance of their information.

Origins of the strategy

- **2016:** Resolution from the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations confirming the importance of data sovereignty and requesting funding from the Government of Canada.
- **2021:** Funding provided by Indigenous Services Canada to the First Nations Information Governance Centre for the establishment of a national network of regional centres.
- **2023:** Launch of the mobilization for the strategy. The mandate is presented and supported by the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).

Coordination

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) has been entrusted with the mandate to coordinate this strategy in collaboration with the **AFNQL regional commissions and organizations**.

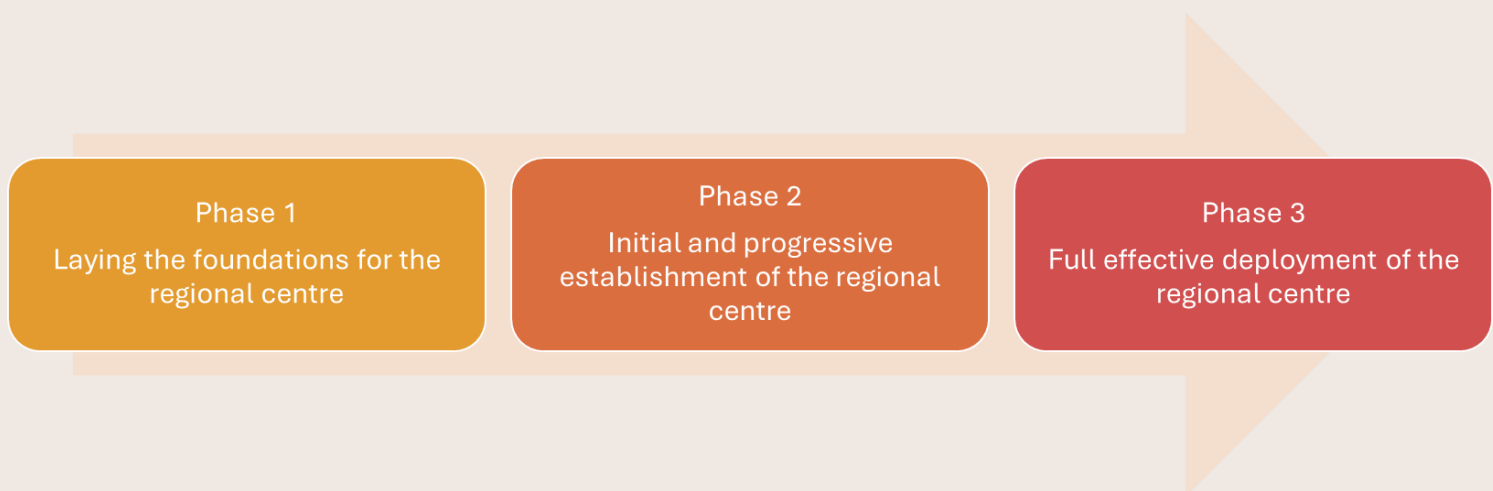
The strategy is being developed in collaboration with **First Nations communities and organizations** to identify their information governance needs. The first regional meeting was held in May 2024, and several local visits are underway.



Main expected outcomes

- Protect and promote First Nations cultures and knowledge.
- Preserve the intergenerational transmission of information assets.
- Improve the services offered.
- Strengthen decision-making.
- Improve access to information and data control.
- Support the transfer of information and data.
- Have an accurate portrait of the issues facing First Nations communities and organizations.
- Support other self-determination initiatives.

Three-phase strategy



Main needs emerging from the consultations

- Ensure the transfer of data to First Nations communities and organizations.
- Control information belonging to First Nations.
- Develop model agreements and standards.
- Provide training to support local capacity building.
- Provide support and advisory services.
- Support networking and sharing between nations.

“First Nations are at the heart of the strategy.”

“Information is an uncontested source of power. It is imperative that the information about us be used in the best interests of our nations and organizations. We have the right and responsibility to dictate how our information is collected, shared, stored, protected, used and accessed.” – [Translation] Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL (1992 to 2025)

Additional information

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