



Information Governance

FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC-LABRADOR

What is information governance?

Information governance means regaining control over all information pertaining to First Nations.

Information governance is based on structures and mechanisms through which First Nations can access, collect, use, share, manage and protect their information.

By governing their information, First Nations set the terms and conditions for performing these actions in a manner consistent with their values, visions and needs.

Background

First Nations hold knowledge from millennia past, handed down in accordance with their values, traditions, and connection to the land. This knowledge has historically guided decision-making in their communities. This body of knowledge and data constitutes precious information assets that have grown richer over time.

From the perspective of self-determination, it is essential that information pertaining to First Nations be under their control. Too often, this kind of data is managed and controlled by third parties and not used to address the real needs of First Nations. Communities and organizations must have the necessary resources and capacity to make full use of their information assets to inform decisions for their populations and ensure the intergenerational transmission of knowledge.

This is why, for over 30 years, First Nations have been joining forces to regain control of their knowledge, information, and data.

This is the context that gave rise to the **Quebec-Labrador First Nations Information Governance Strategy**.

Objectives

Enable First Nations to manage and preserve their information assets and reclaim ownership of their data and information to foster better decision-making and the achievement of full autonomy.

Establish a First Nations regional information governance centre in Quebec and Labrador that will offer a range of services aimed at building the capacity of First Nations communities and organizations to manage and govern their information in accordance with their wishes and autonomy.

Key moments

- **2016:** Resolution by the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations reaffirming the importance of data sovereignty and requesting funding from the Government of Canada.
- **2021:** Funding was provided by Indigenous Services Canada to the First Nations Information Governance Centre for the development of a national network of regional centres.
- **2023:** Initiation of engagement in the Quebec-Labrador First Nations Information Governance Strategy. The mission was presented and supported by the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).
- **2025:** Adoption of Resolution No. 03/2025 by the Chiefs of the AFNQL, supporting the continuation of Phase 2 of the Quebec-Labrador First Nations Information Governance Strategy.

Coordination

The **First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission** has been entrusted with the task of coordinating the strategy in collaboration with the **AFNQL's regional commissions and organizations** and another First Nations organization representing the Innu in Labrador.

The **strategy is also being developed in collaboration with First Nations communities and organizations** to identify their priority information governance needs.

Main expected outcomes

- Protect and promote First Nations cultures and knowledge.
- Foster the intergenerational transmission of information assets.
- Improve services and contribute to the wellness of the population.

- Strengthen decision-making using reliable and culturally relevant data.
- Improve access to information and data control.
- Support the repatriation of information and data.
- Develop an accurate and representative picture of the issues facing First Nations communities and organizations.
- Build local capacity.

Three-phase strategy

The Quebec-Labrador First Nations Information Governance Strategy is an ambitious project that has spanned just over a decade. To ensure an effective and sustainable launch, the strategy is being rolled out gradually in three main phases.

Each of these phases is essential for building a solid structure reflecting the realities of First Nations.



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

Next steps

Complete Phase 1 of the strategy

Co-develop the foundations of the future regional centre by defining its legal structure, mission, service offer, and operational framework.

Complete the engagement meetings

First Nations communities and organizations are at the heart of the strategy. Many engagement meetings have been held so far, and more are planned with a view to better understanding and identifying First Nations' needs and strengths and the challenges they face related to information governance.

“Information is an uncontested source of power. It is imperative that information pertaining to 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.”

Ghislain Picard, Chief of the AFNQL (1992–2025)

More information:

info@sgipnql.com

www.sgipnql.com

