

**SUCCESS FOR A FIVE-YEAR STRONG PARTNERSHIP
IN DEFENDING THE RIGHTS AND IMPROVING THE DAILY LIVES OF WOMEN**

Sherbrooke, June 1, 2023 – A joint report was released today about a five-year partnership development effort in support of the rights of women in the region. A press conference was given by contributing researchers from Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop’s University as well as feminist community organizations and ConcertAction Femmes Estrie.

“We believe partnerships between universities and feminist organizations can be a cornerstone in promoting the rights on women. Alliances like these help us develop new knowledge and keep our practices current,” explained July Raby, Project Coordinator at Relais-Femmes.

This regional partnership involved a number of initiatives:

- ✓ A research-based pilot project allowed the voices of local women living with disabilities to be heard about their experience with rental housing;
- ✓ Webinars helped raise awareness and educate the public about key issues, such as the disproportionate number of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada and the anticipated reforms to family law in Québec;
- ✓ An innovative pilot project was launched on safer transitions in custody arrangements in the context of domestic violence-based separations in rural settings;
- ✓ Various feminist knowledge-sharing forums centred on local cultural diversity, women’s employability, and sexual violence led to new collaborations between researchers and feminist organizations.

“It is about breaking down siloes so that we can build each other up. This has been made possible for women and gender diverse people in Sherbrooke through the important work of ConcertAction Femmes Estrie,” explained Vicki Chartrand, associate professor in sociology at Bishop’s University, founder and director of the Centre for Justice Exchange and the Abolition List-Serv forum, and committee cofacilitator and chair at Bishop’s University

“Knowledge-sharing spaces that bring researchers together with community organizations represent wonderful opportunities and mark a potential for great synergy for future partnerships in support of all women from all backgrounds,” explains Patricia Dionne, PhD (vocational counsellor and associate professor in the department of vocational counselling at Université de Sherbrooke) and Mariame Cissé (associate director and the lead of the women’s committee at the Eastern Townships’ federation of cultural communities FCEE, *Fédération des Communautés Culturelles de l’Estrie*).

Many of the women directly involved in these initiatives took turns during the conference to highlight how women benefit from the positive impacts of this kind of partnership. A full report about the partnership’s initiatives led by ConcertAction Femmes Estrie (CAFE), local feminist organizations, and researchers was circulated to those in attendance and highlights the positive impacts of the project on the lives of women.

“Working in this way can inspire generations of feminists to pool together their knowledge, resources, and aspirations in an effort to achieve more justice for people of all genders. This indeed represents our wish for the future,” concludes Viviane Doré-Nadeau, Director of CAFE.

-30-

Source:

Viviane Doré-Nadeau, CAFE Director, 819-919-1987 | direction@concertactionfemmesestrie.org

Speaking during this press conference were: **Viviane Doré-Nadeau**, CAFE Director, **Julie Raby**, Project Coordinator at Relais femmes, **Vicki Chartrand**, associate professor in sociology at Bishop’s University, founder and director of the Centre for Justice Exchange and the Abolition List-Serv forum, and committee cofacilitator and chair at Bishop’s University, **Patricia Dionne**, PhD, associate professor in vocational counselling at Université de Sherbrooke’s Faculty of Education, and **Mariame Cissé**, associate director and lead of the women’s committee at the Eastern Townships’ federation of cultural communities (FCEE, *Fédération des Communautés Culturelles de l’Estrie*).