



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### ALLIES IN RECONCILIATION: LET'S CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP!

**Val-d'Or, December 9, 2024** – The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre is proud to announce the launch of its 50th anniversary festivities. Fifty years of friendship deserve to be celebrated over a whole year, and this is exactly what the Friendship Centre will be offering everyone in Val d'Or, on the theme *Allies in Reconciliation: Let's Celebrate 50 Years of Friendship!*

These 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations will define the Centre's major events this year, with special 2025 programming that's sure to surprise and delight. Activities will highlight the richness and diversity of Indigenous cultures, and five decades of progress in social justice, socio-economic conditions, inclusion and reconciliation.

#### **An ongoing commitment to the community**

For 50 years, the Val d'Or Indigenous Friendship Centre has spearheaded initiatives to improve the quality of life of Indigenous people living in or passing through Val-d'Or, to promote Indigenous culture, to advocate for the recognition and defence of Indigenous rights and interests, and to bring about reconciliation. Its action areas have changed considerably over the decades. Starting out as a gathering place, the Centre has become a major service hub, a cultural reference point for members of the urban Indigenous community, and a place of learning and intergenerational transmission.

"We are so proud to launch our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations," says Sharon Hunter, chair of VDIFC's board of directors. "The logo reminds us how far we've come, but it is also looking to the future. We are honoured to celebrate these 50 years of accomplishments and to continue working in partnership with our allies toward justice and reconciliation."

#### **Partnership with CN**

The Centre is grateful to CN, an ally of reconciliation. This major partner is providing financial support for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.



**About the Val-d'Or Indigenous Friendship Centre**

The Val-d'Or Indigenous Friendship Centre is an urban service hub, living environment and cultural anchor for Indigenous people. Dedicated to wellness, justice and social inclusion, the Centre is an agent of reconciliation.

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