



FLORENCE 2010 IS BORN!

In the fall of 2010, the World March of Women Secretariat, following up on a proposal coming from Quebec, launched an appeal for walking marionettes. These giant marionettes, made by women from numerous countries including Argentina, Belgium, Brazil the Philippines, Portugal and Puerto Rico, symbolize the living conditions of women, their struggles, their demands and their dreams.

Thus, during the meeting of the Women's Network, the participants were put to work to sew a marcher in the likeness of a healthcare professional. This marcher, baptized as Florence 2010 in reference to Florence Nightingale, wore a patch "I am currently working overtime" and stickers against violence. She also personified the five values in the Women's Global Charter for Humanity: equality, freedom, solidarity, justice and peace. However, Florence 2010 was very determined as there is no doubt - our patience has been tested long enough! ■



THE NETWORK IN A NUTSHELL

The most recent meeting of the Women's Network, held on October 16 and 17, took on a very specific tone. In fact, the activists went to Rimouski in order to take part in an important mobilization activity: the World March of Women. Creative activities and discussions prompted by feminist values were thus on the menu.

Indigenous women's rights

At the Women's Network breakfast, France Robertson, and four of her colleagues from the Quebec Native Women organization, spoke to the participants about the United Nations Declaration on the rights of native people, stressing that this is a fundamental tool for indigenous women.

In fact, it is the first international tool which recognizes the double discrimination to which they are victims, as women and as indigenous women. The declaration calls on governments to take into account this double discrimination, and to see to it that women and children are protected from all forms of violence and discrimination. At the present time, Canada and the United States are the only two countries not to have signed it.

Following this presentation, the speakers answered questions and participated in informal exchanges with the activists, rattling some of the wide-spread biases in the process. ■