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- ▶ Benefits of Having a Will
- ▶ How to Make a Will
- ▶ What to Put in a Will
- ▶ Dying Without a Will
- ▶ Duties of the Administrator or Executor
- ▶ What to Do When a Loved One Dies
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This pamphlet is up to date to
March 1, 2023.

When a Loved One Dies in a First Nations community in Quebec

First Steps

This pamphlet is for the family and friends of people:

- ▶ registered under the *Indian Act*, and
- ▶ living in a First Nation community ("reserve") when they die.

Notify the government of the death

Contact these bodies:

Indigenous Services Canada
1-800-263-5592

Your community's Indian Registration Administrator can help you. Ask your band council for the administrator's contact information.

**Directeur de l'état civil
(registrar of civil status)**

The funeral home can help you send the necessary documents.

Plan the funeral

The service must respect the wishes of the person who died.

Some funeral costs are paid by the Quebec Pension Plan or by the ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (department of employment and social solidarity).

Look for a will

Look for a will among the person's papers. Also check for a will in the registers of the Chambre des notaires (association of notaries) or the Barreau du Québec (association of lawyers). Visit their websites to learn more.

Tell Indigenous Services Canada whether you found a will. If you have, send it to them for approval.

Find out who will settle the estate

If no one is named in the will to settle the estate, Indigenous Services Canada will ask family and close friends to recommend someone.

Indigenous Services Canada will officially appoint this person or the person named in the will. It will also provide the official documents you will need.

The person who settles the estate has these important duties:

- ▶ Identify who will inherit (according to the law or the will)
- ▶ File the tax returns of the person who died and pay any taxes owing
- ▶ Close bank accounts and cancel electricity and telephone services
- ▶ Pay the debts
- ▶ Contact the band council or Indigenous Services Canada to learn what to do if the estate includes land in a community ("reserve").