

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER



Message from the CEO

June is National Indigenous History Month. While this month represents an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions, and experiences of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and to honour the stories, achievements, and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, it's also opportune to not forget that Canada committed genocide against our people.

And the genocide is still going on. Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse (WG2STGD+) Peoples—the very people that the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) represents—continue to go missing and are murdered at an alarming and disproportionate rate.

In a unanimous motion in the House of Commons, this genocide was recognized as a Canada-wide emergency. In fact, researchers have reported that Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than Caucasian women.

NWAC continues to press home the message that the federal government needs to do more—far more—to address the ongoing genocide. That's why special occasions such as Red Dress Day, held every May 5, and National Indigenous Peoples Day, held every June 21, are so important. They serve as a tangible reminder that the government continues to fail Indigenous WG2STGD+ Peoples.

In this issue of our newsletter *Shining the Spotlight*, you will learn that NWAC marked RED Dress Day in a special way. We hosted guided tours to our special exhibit in our Vault Exhibition Space; held a faceless doll workshop; and held a roundtable with our PTMAs and Senator Michèle Audette to talk about the issues relate to the genocide. It was a powerful and moving day.

There is of course trauma and violence associated with colonialism and the ongoing genocide. To help Indigenous WG2STGD+ Peoples heal, and in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice, NWAC created two healing lodges, the latest in

