

A Message from the CEO

Spring is a time of new beginnings and growth. Birds and butterflies have arrived; trees have donned their greenery; flowers are blooming.

NWAC, too, is growing as an organization. We have moved into our new building in Gatineau. The building will not only house our offices but act as an incubator space for our revenue generating businesses (boutique and café) and welcome government departments, national non-profit organizations, and other groups to gather in our culturally designed meeting spaces. The space that is occupied by more than 200 Indigenous art pieces in our new building, made by Indigenous artists from across the country, is designed to honour and bring awareness about Indigenous women and girls in Canada.



With awareness comes understanding, and understanding leads to reconciliation. As we grow in staff numbers and departments, we are also growing as an advocacy voice for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. The work we are doing always has a focus on inclusivity and respect for all the Indigenous people we represent—on and off-reserve; with or without disabilities; First Nations, Inuit, and Métis; urban and rural.

This issue of *Shining the Spotlight* offers a glimpse into some of the projects and programs we are working on related to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG); the economic marginalization of women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people; and the environment.

THE ROAD TO HEALING

With the opening of our Resiliency Lodge, Indigenous women who have been marked by settler-colonialism policies and programs, racism, and discrimination now have a welcoming, culturally safe space to come to as guests. You'll read about this, as well as our work on the MMIWG file. Supported by our