



WELCOME TO THE FOURTH EDITION OF KCI-NIWESQ, THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (NWAC).

YOU WILL NOTICE A THEME RUNNING THROUGH THE STORIES IN THIS VOLUME.

They are meant as a tribute to the Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people who have gone missing or been murdered in this country over the decades.

Early in June, NWAC released its 65-point action plan for addressing that violence, which a National Inquiry has determined to be a genocide. The steps that we will take, which align with the Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice, are costed and NWAC's progress on enacting them will be measured.

We are not waiting for others to start their work on this critical issue. We are taking action to save lives and start the healing.

I am proud to bring you the latest edition of the magazine that we started publishing earlier this year to tell you about the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women who are represented by NWAC. Sadly, violence is part of their story.

You will learn about the frightening number of Indigenous people who are shot to death by police—and the fact that the officers who pull the triggers that end Indigenous lives rarely, if ever, face repercussions.

You will read about efforts that are being made to make the justice system more inclusive of Indigenous women who are victims of violence. You will also learn that they are often treated as though their lives are worth less than those of non-Indigenous people.

You will discover the beautiful new Resiliency Lodge that NWAC has created in the Gatineau Hills in Quebec near Ottawa. It is the focal point of our action plan to end violence against Indigenous women. It is also a safe space of Elder led healing which we are set to recreate across Canada.

You will find out about commemorative sculptures and other art installations that are in place, or planned, to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women. These commemorations provide solace to families and are gathering spots for vigils.

And you will meet two amazing Indigenous women.

One is Louise Bernice Halfe, the Cree also known as Sky Dancer who is the federal Parliament's Poet Laureate. Ms. Halfe is a residential school survivor who writes often about the trauma endured by Indigenous women.

The other woman is our very own Lorraine Whitman, Grandmother White Sea Turtle, who is the President of NWAC. In this edition, Ms. Whitman talks about the day that four of her siblings were taken from her family as part of the Sixties Scoop.

Thank you once again for opening the pages that follow. Thank you for reading the fourth edition of Kci-Niwesq. Please drop us a line and let us know what you think at reception@nwac.ca.

MIIGWETCH.

LYNNE GROULX LL.L., J.D. | CEO

NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
L'ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU CANADA