



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

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

THIS ISSUE IS COMING TO YOU IN THE DAYS BEFORE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CANADIANS WILL GO TO THE POLLS TO SELECT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT OF CANADA—THE GOVERNMENT THAT MAKES THE DECISIONS THAT HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THIS COUNTRY.

You will see that the stories in this edition are related to voting issues, or to politics, or to Indigenous women who are political leaders.

As an association that advocates for Indigenous women, we are not going to tell you how to vote, although you can see the analysis of the platforms of the major political parties that we have posted on our website.

But we do urge First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women to become politically active, whether that is at the local, provincial, or federal level. Our voices need to be heard in our communities, in the provincial and federal legislatures, and at decision-making tables.

In this issue you will read about one of the incredible political leaders of our time, Nellie Cournoyea. The first Indigenous woman to be premier of a territory, Ms. Cournoyea will tell you that it is women who get things done, whether that is in the home or in the halls of government.

You will also read about Ava Bear, Chief of Muskoday First Nation. She is representative of a growing movement of Indigenous women who are standing up to become leaders of their communities.

We will also take you across the country to ask Indigenous women to outline the main election issues in their respective regions. You will see that there are similar concerns being voiced, regardless of location.

We have also gone to four outstanding Indigenous women who are active in politics at the federal or provincial level to ask them why they chose that life, what challenges they have faced, and what words of advice they have for First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women who are contemplating a political career

And we ask a question that runs through the minds of many Indigenous people at this time of year: To vote or not to vote?

That is indeed a personal decision.

But our view is that Indigenous women need to have their hands on the wheel that steers this country and we must work within the colonial system for now, as we are significantly impacted by the decisions made by politicians. We must also work to ensure the next generation of Indigenous women are not left to deal with the systemic human rights issues affecting us today.

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

