



**WELCOME TO THE FIRST VOLUME OF KCI-NIWESQ**  
THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (NWAC).

**THIS IS A NEW AND EXCITING PROJECT FOR US.** We are hoping to use these pages to showcase the many innovative projects and programs we have undertaken here at NWAC as we advocate for the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people of Canada.

But we also want the magazine to be a platform for highlighting our members – their concerns as well as their accomplishments and the things that bring them joy and sorrow.

The name Kci-Niwesq is Maliseet. This word, which means the female side of all life, seemed especially appropriate in the reflecting the perspective of Indigenous women.

At NWAC, the largest national Indigenous women's organization in the country, have been representing the female side of Indigenous life for more than four decades.

This magazine is launching around the time of the Winter Solstice, when the days in the Northern hemisphere are at their darkest, and the Earth is the coldest, but there is much promise for sun and warmth in the future.

And that is how we feel about our mission and vision at NWAC.

Sometimes the days are very dark, especially as we grapple with human rights issues like that of the genocide that has been perpetrated against Indigenous women, or their forced sterilization, or racism in health care.

But we are also hopeful that our advocacy, and the determination of our members, will lead to better times ahead for Indigenous women and, indeed, all Indigenous People.

In this issue we will introduce you to Janey Michael, a Mi'Kmaq fisher of elvers whose season has been disrupted by poachers; to Shelley Charles who is helping to conserve an ancient Indigenous squash to Rose Moses who is bringing back the tradition of First Nations dollmaking; and to Alma Brooks whose spiritual journey needs to be shared.

These are stories we know you will enjoy and shed light on the lives of Indigenous women in Canada.

And, as we go forward with this project, we will be telling you about many of the other amazing, brilliant, and resilient Indigenous women with whom we share Turtle Island.

Thank you for taking the first step in this journey with us. Thank you for reading the first edition of Kci-Niwesq. Please drop us a line and let us know what you think at [reception@nwac.ca](mailto:reception@nwac.ca).

**MIIGWETCH.**

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

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