

A MESSAGE FROM NWAC'S CEO

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

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



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

IN THIS ISSUE WE EXPLORE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAND.

While farming was not universal among the Indigenous cultures of North America prior to contact with the Europeans, many First Nations actively cultivated plants like squash, beans, and corn.

In this issue, you will read about Karen Thurlow who grows all of the vegetables that go onto her dinner table – year round - in the small garden and greenhouse behind her house on a First Nation in northern a New Brunswick. Now she has purchased 100 acres of land off the reserve so she can grow far more produce, so she can set up hives of bees, and so that other members of her community can plant and harvest their own patches.

You will read about Patty Joe who just loves to garden and is providing advice for other aspiring agriculturalists who just need a little help to get started. Joe says the best thing about gardening is watching the faces of children when they realize you can pick and eat food straight from the ground.

We will take you to Northern Ontario where Rhonda Lyons is guiding people who want to enjoy the healing beauty of a fall day on a lake, on two-day visits to the places where her ancestors have been harvesting manoomin (wild rice) for generations.

We will chat with Cherlene Seward, the food sovereignty steward at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University in British Columbia, about the unique

Indigenous programs that are being run at the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems.

You will learn about the beautiful greenhouse and green roof that will sit atop NWAC's new Social and Cultural Innovation Centre in downtown Gatineau, Que., and will provide vegetables and herbs for the Centre's Indigenous-themed café.

And we will hear from Elder Alma Brooks about the healing energy of plants and an experience she had connecting with her non-human relations while taking part in a sacred ceremony.

As First Nations, Inuit and Métis women who are overcoming centuries of colonization, we are reconnecting with the land – a fact that is much in evidence at the NWAC's Resiliency Lodges where our healing programs are centred in land-based learning. In this issue we want to share a small taste of that experience with you.

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

MIIGWETCH.

