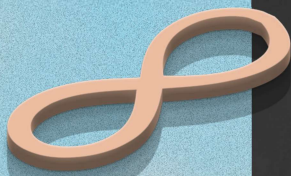


A MESSAGE FROM NWAC'S CEO

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

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



WELCOME TO THE ELEVENTH EDITION OF KCI-NIWESQ, THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

IN THIS ISSUE WE EXPLORE THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN THE NORTH.

We begin with an interview with Mary Simon, the veteran Inuit leader who is now head of state in Canada. Ms Simon talks to us about living in two worlds—the one of her people, many of whom still have homes in the village of Kuujuaq near Ungava Bay, and the southern world where she lives in the regal milieu of Governor General.

Simon says she plans to help drive the ongoing process of reconciliation by facilitating communication between Indigenous Peoples and the rest of Canada.

We talk to Eva Aariak, the former premier of Nunavut who is now the territorial commissioner (which is like lieutenant governor) and who has made it a lifelong mission to preserve her native Inuktitut language.

We hear from Lisa Koperqualuk who has witnessed the effects of global warming in her own community of Puvirnituq, on the shores of Hudson Bay. As vice-president for international affairs of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, Ms Koperqualuk is telling world leaders that climate change is an existential problem for her people, and that the Inuit must be part of the solution.

We learn about the Arctic Rose Foundation established by famed Inuit singer and songwriter Susan Aglukark, who will receive a humanitarian award in May at Canada's Juno Awards. Ms Aglukark says she is trying to create the safe spaces that will give young Inuit and First Nations people the kind of

confidence that would have helped her as she was starting her career.

We learn how art is teaching the tiny community of Inukjuak the importance of healthy food and water and giving the people a place to grow, both literally and figuratively.

And we hear from Natasha Peter, a member of Kaska Nation in Yukon, who has overcome addiction to fulfill her dream of becoming a designer of fashions and jewellery. Ms Peter tells us that getting back into Indigenous culture has helped heal her body, mind, and soul.

The North is such an important part of this country, and it is hugely important to NWAC, where our Inuit sisters are making essential contributions to the advancement of Indigenous women. We are proud to have the opportunity to tell you some of their stories.

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

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MONTHLY MAGAZINE TO TELL OUR STORIES