



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

This issue may seem a little indulgent because we take a look at one of our own achievements, the new Social, Cultural, and Economic Innovation Centre in downtown Gatineau, Quebec, which we opened to the public in June of this year.

I will begin with a small story about the origins of Kci-Niwesq. The idea for it came to us during a conversation NWAC had two years ago with a federal government official who said we were not doing enough to publicize ourselves. She said we needed a way to help Canadians understand the work this organization is doing on behalf of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people, and suggested a magazine. So, here we are.

Kci-Niwesq, for the most part, has featured stories about Indigenous women, and not this organization specifically.

But the new Centre we have built, on the foundation of what used to be a bank and next to the towers that hold the offices of the federal departments is truly breathtaking. It is a testament to the beauty, the resilience, and the potential of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people.

In this issue we will tell you about the art gallery—housed within our building that is itself an art gallery—we have created. We talk to Irene Goodwin, the curator of NWAC's art collections, about the task of showing this art (most of which is for sale) to its best advantage, and of the power of art to move us spiritually and emotionally.

You will hear from Métis Chef Jenni Lessard about the rise to prominence of Indigenous food and the interest it is creating among gourmands across the

country. Café Bouleau, on the Innovation Centre's ground floor, is now selling Indigenous-inspired treats.

We talk to Justien Senoa Wood, one of the artisans whose work will be featured in Artisanelle Boutique, which sells the creations of Indigenous artists from across the country and, indeed, the Americas. She tells us that she is so fortunate to be able to make a living from something she loves to do.

Shannin Metatawabin, Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Associations (NACCA), tells us that many Indigenous lives would improve if governments invested in social financing, like the social-financing work that NWAC is doing out of our new Centre in Gatineau.

I take some time to explain the need for long-term stable funding for national Indigenous organizations, and how the Social, Cultural, and Economic Innovation Centre will help us with that.

And we will introduce you to our wonderful new President, Carol McBride. We are unbelievably excited to have a woman of her experience and character leading this organization.

So, thank you once again for opening the pages that follow. Thank you for reading the thirteenth 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Groulx'.