

# 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 SEVENTH EDITION OF KCI-NIWESQ, THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (NWAC).

IN THIS ISSUE, WE HAVE FOCUSED OUR ATTENTION ON WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE BIGGEST BARRIER TO THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN CANADA, AND THAT IS ECONOMIC MARGINALIZATION.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that to end violence perpetrated against the genocide and us requires a commitment to ending economic marginalization.

And we are determined to stop the genocide.

But you will see in this issue we are doing this by embracing our innovation and economic and business success.

We will introduce you to five successful female Indigenous entrepreneurs.

You will meet Marilyn Jensen, one of the founders of the Dakkhá Khwáan Dancers of the Yukon, who have taken Tagish dance and storytelling across Canada and around the world.

We will introduce you to Ashley Lamothe who, widowed and broke with two children to feed, created a business, relying on her own Indigenous roots, to tap into the creativity of others.

We will tell you the story of Sharifah Marsden who brings the images of her Anishnaabe ancestry to her metalwork and the emotional toils of motherhood to her painting.

We will learn how Alicia Stephens turned drawing with a Sharpie on a sandal into a business ... and how she has difficulty keeping up with the demand.

And we will take you to Peru where Luz Elena Champi Romero is turning out hundreds of handmade dolls every week to feed her own family and employ other Indigenous women in her small Andean village.

We talk to the amazing Tabatha Bull, the president

and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, who tells us that businesses started by Indigenous women are growing and there is much untapped potential.

We connect with Carol Anne Hilton whose book *Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table* is shattering the false narrative of Indigenous economic dependence and urging an economic relationship based on Indigenous design.

And we interview Jagmeet Singh, the leader of the federal New Democrats, whose party came out on top in an analysis of federal election campaign platforms that compared the policies of election contenders with the priorities of Indigenous women.

What this issue says is that the road to equality for Indigenous women is founded on their economic independence. We, at NWAC, are now introducing programs to teach skills that will allow them to chart their own course, put roofs over the heads of themselves and their families, and enjoy their fair share of the wealth of this country.

I have written a piece about economic reconciliation, which you will also find within these pages, that outlines many of the steps I believe will help us find that road.

So thank you once again for opening the pages that follow. Thank you for reading the seventh 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.**

MONTHLY MAGAZINE TO TELL OUR STORIES