

Building on the legacy of the NWAC Faceless Doll Project: Create your own Faceless Dolls

NWAC's Faceless Doll Project is a commemorative art project—a collection of faceless felt dolls in honour and in memory of the more than 600 missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) remains committed to the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. For years staff have been travelling the country to raise awareness of this epidemic and the impact it is having on all First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities. Thousands of Canadians have participated in these community engagement workshops from coast-to coast-to-coast.

The NWAC Faceless Dolls Project was launched in March 2012 and Canadians from all walks-of-life, men and women, boys and girls, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal were invited to come and hear the Faceless Doll story and create their very own doll for inclusion in this commemorative art project (funded by the Status of Women Canada). No two dolls are the same.

The NWAC Faceless Doll project is now complete and will be traveling the country to raise awareness and reaffirm that *"we remember that a beautiful Aboriginal woman is represented by every number shared, that each statistic tells a story."*

The second phase of the project encourages communities and organizations to build on the legacy of this work and create their own faceless dolls.

The Faceless Dolls Project is based on research presented in NWAC's report "What Their Stories Tell Us" (2010) that presents demographic and statistical evidence from NWAC's Database. NWAC has gathered information about 582 known cases of missing and murdered women in Canada. **Each doll represents a 'known case' of a missing or murdered Aboriginal woman or girl from the NWAC database. These strong and beautiful women represent human beings lost to extreme violence, individuals who also run the risk of becoming a faceless victim of crime.**

Why are the dolls faceless? NWAC has chosen to make faceless dolls to reflect society's 'devaluing' of Aboriginal women and girls. The media portrays Aboriginal women as 'faceless' and Canadian society is at times indifferent to this tragedy, the lives lost and the humanity of our women. However, NWAC also feels that there is great strength and unity with the faceless dolls. Each doll is unique but their facelessness unites them as part of the same community. Although no doll has a face, together the faceless dolls have a very powerful voice and a presence that cannot be ignored.



A selection of faceless dolls from the NWAC Faceless Doll Project.

Commemorative Lapel Pins are available at www.nwac.ca/donations



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L'ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES
AUTOCHTONES DU CANADA



Decorate the above faceless doll using the materials provided. ☺

*If you are interested in hosting a Faceless Doll workshop please call 1-800-461-4043.
For these templates, teacher resources and toolkits on this issue visit www.nwac.ca/programs/faceless-dolls-project.*