



**Native Women's  
Association of Canada**



**L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada**

**The Native Women's Association of Canada  
Activity Report 2018-2019 Fiscal Year:  
Greenhouse Grown Traditional Foods: An NWAC Pilot Project**

## **Organizational Summary**

The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) is a National Indigenous Organization representing the political voice of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in Canada, inclusive of First Nations on and off reserve, status and non-status, disenfranchised, Métis, and Inuit. An aggregate of twelve Indigenous women’s organizations, NWAC was founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of Indigenous women within their respective communities and Canadian societies.

For over 44 years, NWAC has established strong and lasting governance structures, decision-making processes, financial policies and procedures, and networks to help achieve its overall mission and goals. Today, NWAC engages in national and international advocacy aimed at legislative and policy reforms that promote equality for Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender diverse people, including LGBTQ+ people. Through advocacy, policy, and legislative analysis, NWAC works to preserve Indigenous culture and advance the well-being of all Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people, as well as their families and communities.

NWAC works on a variety of issues such as employment, labour and business, health, violence prevention and safety, justice and human rights, environment, early learning childcare and international affairs.

## **Activity Report**

NWAC’s CEO travelled to Toronto to consult with the landscape architecture company responsible for the rooftop garden of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, the original inspiration behind NWAC’s rooftop garden. The call for proposals to landscape architects is currently being prepared, and NWAC will select the landscape architect to carry out the project based on the submitted quotes and proposals.



NWAC's CEO and proposal writer also met with one of the Elder's on NWAC's Board of Directors to discuss the needs for the project and rooftop garden, including advising the design and structure of the garden and greenhouse, and on challenges surrounding securing a full time Elder to work on the project. Given their advice, NWAC has expanded the job description to allow for an Elder or traditional knowledge keeper and will work with NWAC's in house Elders and the Elders from NWAC's Board of Directors to identify and approach likely candidates.

Several planning activities had been intended for year one of the project, however NWAC had waited to incur any major costs until after the signing of the agreement, which was signed at the End of March. All activities in year 1 were related to planning of the year 2 activities. As such, the activities will continue as planned in year 2. The three positions are being posted, the Elder advisory committee will be formed and engaged as planned, preparation of workshop materials we begin, as well as further planning for the rooftop garden and greenhouse.

Construction at 120 Promenade du Portage is underway, with the extension's construction set to commence in May 2019. The rooftop garden and greenhouse are on schedule to be completed and operation for year three of the project, when workshops and activities will be hosted on site.