



# NWAC

## PRESIDENT'S *Report*



NOV 2022

[nwac.ca](http://nwac.ca)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NOVEMBER

As President of NWAC, I am honoured to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of our organization over the past five and a half months. Our mission to advocate for Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQAI+ people, and families is of vital importance, and I am grateful for the dedication and passion of our Provincial-Territorial Membership Associations (PTMAs) in driving this work forward.

Throughout my career, I have been an ardent leader, having first been inspired to advocate for Indigenous rights at the age of 18 through a peaceful sit-in organized by Indigenous youth at the Indian Affairs department in Ottawa. My leadership experience includes serving as a council member for the Timiskaming First Nation, where I became the first female Chief, and later as Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation, during which I secured an agreement for 51% ownership of the Obajiwana-Fort Temiscaming National Historical Site.

Overall, my time as President has reminded me of my capabilities as a leader and the importance of being proud of our accomplishments. I am committed to continue working towards dismantling systemic issues facing Indigenous peoples and create a more equitable and just society for all.





On November 2nd, I appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples to discuss the constitutional, treaty, political, and legal responsibilities towards First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. NWAC has a crucial partnership with Canada, as outlined in the NWAC-Canada Accord. For Canada to uphold this partnership, it is essential that NWAC is included in decisions that impact Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people. NWAC is committed to sharing our experiences and providing recommendations on how to dismantle systems that continue to cause harm to Indigenous peoples.



On November 7th, I had the privilege of engaging in a meeting with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women. During the course of this meeting, we discussed a range of important issues, including the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). This Inquiry has determined that the violence directed towards Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender and gender-diverse individuals constitutes a genocide.

Carol McBride, President (LEFT) Sarah Niman, Legal Counsel (RIGHT)





As a result of the Inquiry, 231 Calls for Justice have been issued, which, when implemented, will have a crucial role in saving lives. It is essential to note that these Calls for Justice are not recommendations, but rather legal imperatives that must not be ignored.

NWAC has conducted an assessment of the Federal Government's implementation of the National Action Plan through issuing a report card. While some progress has been made in certain areas, there has been minimal progress in others. Furthermore, while the 2021 Federal budget has allocated 2.2 billion dollars over five years towards addressing this genocide, there is a lack of information on how these funds are being distributed and the concrete actions being taken as a result.





The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that the social and economic marginalization of Indigenous women is a significant factor in perpetuating the ongoing genocide. In line with this, NWAC has been dedicating significant time and resources to empower Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals through economic means. In collaboration with the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), we have recently launched a large apprenticeship program which will provide thousands of Indigenous women and trans-gendered, two-spirit and gender diverse individuals with the necessary skills and training to secure high-paying and in-demand jobs in the Red Seal trades.



## **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The National Action Plan was developed through the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Forum of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, and their respective government partners and agencies.



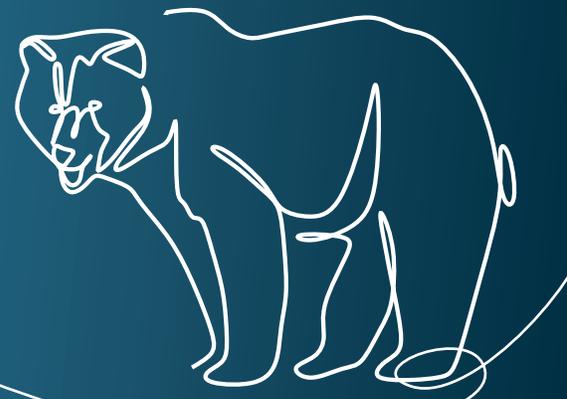


On November 11th, we honoured and remembered those who sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of Canadian people.

On November 14th, I received a call from Minister Marc Miller. He informed me that an amendment to Bill C-29 had been successfully passed in the House of Commons, granting NWAC a seat on the council's board. Although the bill has not yet passed, this is a significant advancement for NWAC, and I am extremely proud of this achievement. I had the opportunity to share my thoughts on this momentous development in an interview with the Hill Times. ['Remarkable showing of co-operation' from MPs on amendments to create 'historic' National Council for Reconciliation - The Hill Times](#)



Minister Miller (LEFT), Carol McBride, President (RIGHT)

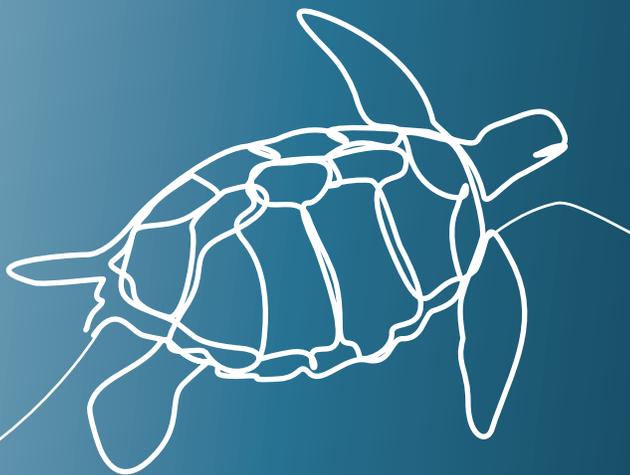




## STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

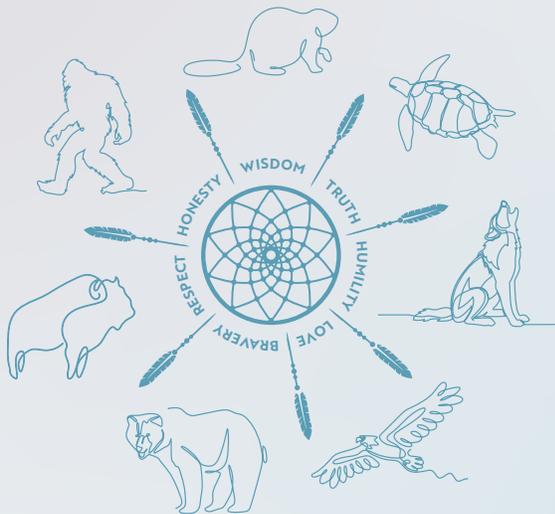
I am delighted that the board of directors were able to attend our 2-day strategic planning session at the Social, Economic and Innovation Center in Gatineau. Although not all members were able to be present in person, we were able to facilitate participation online. We are eagerly anticipating the completion of our 3-year strategic plan.

As a team-building exercise, prior to the strategic planning session, we organized an icebreaker event, karaoke night, in which we celebrated the achievement of our CEO, Lynne Groulx, for being recognized as one of the top 100 Canadian female CEOs. Once again, Congratulations Lynne, and we express our deep pride in your achievements.



President Stanovich, NB, (LEFT) President Ramjattan, PEI, (RIGHT)





## CAPACITY BUILDING

We were fortunate to have a 2-day training workshop that was recorded and distributed for all to participate. The workshop pertained to Federal Reconciliation Approach & Indigenous Governance and was facilitated by Russell Diabo, Policy Analyst. We had a guest speaker, David Nahwegahbow, where he, and his law firm, discussed amendments to the *Indian Act*.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In the month of November, we held a Governance and Elections Committee meeting, an AD HOC Building Committee Meeting, and an NAP Committee Meeting. I made two trips to Ottawa and am excepting one trip in December.

As always, I would like to recognize and honour the hard work of all our PTMAs, and all our staff at NWAC, without you, none of this would be possible.

Yours Sincerely,

*Carol McBride*

President



President McBride (LEFT) Lynne Groulx, CEO (RIGHT)





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