

VOL 22 | JUNE 2021


NWAC President's Report

This publication highlights the various activities the President has undertaken throughout the month of September.



LORRAINE WHITMAN

Lorraine Whitman was elected as the President of the Native Women's Association of Canada on September 14, 2019. Prior to her presidency at NWAC, Ms. Whitman served as President of the Nova Scotia Native



Women's Association and
has been advocating for Indigenous
women's rights over the past 45 years.

June President's Report

My Dear Friends,

I would like to truly acknowledge National Indigenous History Month as it is so important that we are educated as we have so many Indigenous communities coast to coast. Included in the month of June was National Indigenous Peoples Day and many people across Canada celebrated in the various ceremonies that they were able to partake in during COVID. Yes there were limits but we still found ways to celebrate within our communities and online.

We have faced many challenges and barriers in our lives and we need to continue to make inclusiveness of all peoples a priority. To celebrate Pride Month I would like to engage inclusivity of ALL people, 2SLGBQ2S+, and we all need to accept each other regardless of our gender and differences we have. Pride month celebrates the diversity of all and we must respect each other, leaving no one behind. We have a rich diversity in our country and we stand beside our gender diverse community as we welcome in Pride Month. To all of you, my friends and family I give you all my support and love.

On Honouring Day MMIWG at NWAC, I was honoured to host a Dreamcatcher Workshop where many attended online creating their own dreamcatchers in a red theme for MMIWG. It was an opportunity to educate on the importance of a dream catcher and what it means to each participant as each added their own elements; stones, feathers, beads and artwork as they meditated on the meaning of what was created. I very much enjoyed engaging with our community members online.

It is with a great deal of sorrow and with heavy, heavy hearts that we have received the news of the remains of 215 Indigenous children found buried at a former residential school in Kamloops B.C. So many of those children were either deemed to have gone missing, or were murdered, raped, tortured, or starved to death. How could this have happened in a country like Canada?

The cultural genocide declared by the TRC and the National Inquiry is real and in June we continued to talk about a national action plan for missing and murdered women, also a part of the on-going genocide. The genocide has not ended.

The National Action Plan that was demanded in the very first Call For Justice — a plan that the commissioners said all governments in Canada must develop in partnership with Indigenous People — has not yet materialized so we at NWAC took matters into our own hands.

We could not wait for the work of others to begin, and actions by others to be taken, to put an end to the violence. We could not wait to begin the healing process for Indigenous women who are forced to live in fear and who, even today, are being subjected to the racism and discrimination that is the direct result of colonization.

Our Calls, Our Actions is a plan that has been developed by Indigenous women for Indigenous women that has been years in the making. It consists of 65 + concrete actions that NWAC will take to start to address the 231 Calls for Justice issued by the Inquiry Commissioners when they released their final report on June 3, 2019.

The NWAC plan is action oriented. It is fully costed. Its goals are measurable. Its activities are inclusive of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people. First Nations, Metis and Inuit specific approaches to the implementation of the activities will be developed as needed. The plan will be constantly renewed and updated. And it is aligned with the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry.

I also sent a letter to Pope Francis to express my deep disappointment with his failure to apologize on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church for the pivotal role it played in the emotional, physical and psychological abuse of Indigenous children at church-run Indian Residential Schools.

“I am pleading with you today to issue the formal apology that is owed by the Catholic Church to all those impacted by the residential-school system. The other churches involved in the darkest chapter of Canadian history



have done so. Only the Catholic Church, which ran 60 per cent of these institutions, has refused.” My letter had expressed.

While Indigenous people and many other Canadians are grieving the finding of 215 unmarked graves of children at the former Kamloops Indian

Residential School, I do not understand why the Pope has described the discovery as “shocking.” We have known about those graves since 2015 because we read the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that said many thousands of children died

and the school and their bodies had yet to be found. I asked the Holy Father, to please join with us in righting these wrongs

I would like to offer my personal congratulations to our graduates across Canada for their hard work and accomplishments during the pandemic. I am so proud of what you have done during COVID. I understand how difficult it is; whether you were in school or virtually, I know it takes a lot of commitment - and the commitment of our youth was there. Congratulations and hopefully next year we are somewhere 'normal' in our studies.

Lastly, I want to thank you for all your support during this challenging month. We have all gone through so much turmoil, we have all been tested and I know we are all working diligently to protect ourselves and others - it all begins through kindness. A kind action, word or thought goes a long way and I want to thank you for all of those: for all of your actions, your words and your thoughts of kindness.

Wela'lin



President Lorraine Whitman

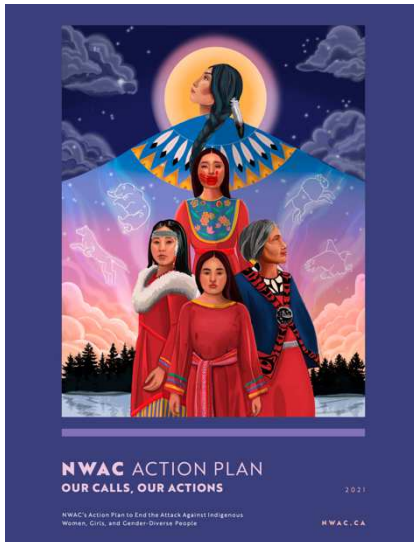


[@LWhitman_NWAC](https://twitter.com/LWhitman_NWAC)

My June Agenda

Honouring Day at NWAC, June 3rd

Hosted a special event – Dreamcatcher workshop a grassroots event that many attended. The theme was Red Dreamcatchers for MMIWG. I hosted the event and all participants



were enthused to be able to make their own

Dreamcatcher – it meant far more that it was red in commemoration of MMIWG.

Press Release

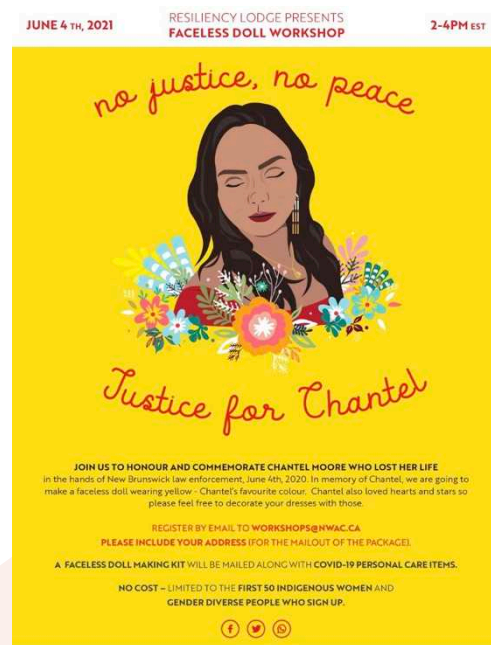
NWAC's NAP was released to address and announce "National Action Plan, Our Call, Our Actions" just shortly after the remains of our 215 children were found in the mass graves. This only demonstrates how important this National Action Plan is. Read more here: <https://www.nwac.ca/address-by-lorraine-whitman-and-lynnegroulx-to-announce-the-national-action-plan-our-calls-our-actions-of-the-native-womens-association-of-canada/>

Press Release

NWAC loses Confidence in Government, Announces own Action Plan. The National Action Plan of the Government had no body nor significance to – the plan shows short, medium, long term goals and shows a dollar amount to be able to bring the plan to action. This plan had been released due to fundamental flaw of the Government National Action Plan. With this plan, NWAC commits to take action, help build resiliency, prevent violence, and intervene to save lives. Read more here: <https://www.nwac.ca/nwac-loses-confidence-in-government-walks-away-from-toxic-dysfunctional-nap-process-to-put-families-not-politics-first-announces-own-action-plan-our-calls-our-actions/>

Faceless Dolls Workshop, Justice for Chantel Moore

A grassroots event honouring Chantel Moore, a kit was sent to each participant, many attended from across the country, each creating their own faceless doll. This exercise was meant to bring awareness of our MMIWG family members whose lives had been taken by law enforcement. For this, this event was featuring the yellow faceless doll but also represents other loved ones who were





taken. Martha Martin, Chantel's mother was a guest as well as PTMA members and other guests

Indigenous Peoples Day Events

Special messages were sent across Canada for Indigenous Peoples Day celebrating the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Messages for APTN & CTV greetings were recorded.

Press Release

NWAC demands justice for Chantel Moore and to End Police Killings of Indigenous People across Canada. A year ago Chantel Moore from the Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nation, was gunned down by police in Edmundston, N.B., who had been dispatched to check on her welfare. NWAC is calling upon all governments, federal and provincial, and upon police forces across the country to take the steps necessary to end the needless deaths and assaults of Indigenous people at the hands of police. There is a problem with racism in the policing system and it needs to be addressed. Read more here:

<https://www.nwac.ca/nwac-demands-justice-for-chantel-moore-and-an-end-to-police-killings-of-indigenous-people-across-canada/>

Letter sent to the Pope and Press Release

Kamloops, Residential Schools apology – A letter had been sent to the Pope in great disappointment as the Pope had not officially apologized to the people in Canada for the wrong doings of the churches to our children that were under the care of the church. Read more here.

<https://www.nwac.ca/nwac-sends-letter-to-pope-francis-saying-indigenous-people-deserve-a-real-apology-and-more-from-the-catholic-church/>

Board Meeting Presentations

President and CEO are meeting with the PTMA Board Members virtually with ongoing

presentations of the resources and services that the PTMA's may need in their territories. These are ongoing presentations on the schedule of the PTMA's.

Visited Residential School Location in Nova Scotia

I visited the site of the Sipekne'katik Residential School location in NS; where they are conducting investigations into the burial sites on this location where remains may be found. A ceremony had taken place by Elders before the investigation had taken hold of the site.

Press release: NWAC demands Criminal Charges against Governments, Churches & Others Responsible for Deaths of thousands of children at Indian Residential Schools

<https://www.nwac.ca/nwac-demands-criminal-charges-against-governments-churches-others-responsible-for-deaths-of-thousands-of-children-at-indian-residential-schools/>

L'Oreal Corporation Partnership

Attended an event where I spoke on NWAC's organization of what we do and who we are to the corporate brand L'Oreal conducting a speech and question/answer period for employees of L'Oreal in honor of National Indigenous Peoples Day. I had spoke to L'Oreal corporation about NWAC what we do and who we advocate with women, girls, gender diverse as well as MMIWG and a question answer period.

This was important in our partnership as there were many that were unaware of the history of the Indigenous People and what they face today with discrimination and racism.

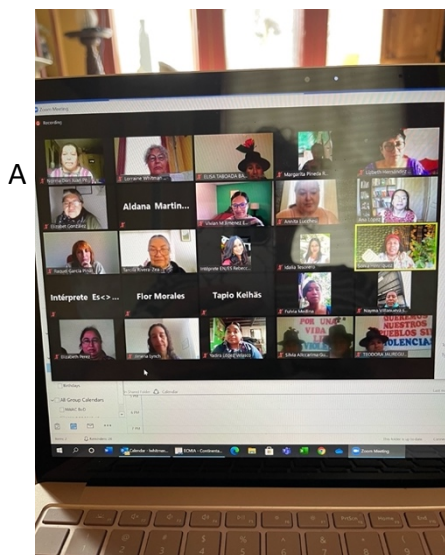
Focused Gathering on Proof of Vaccination Credentials (PVC's)

Information exchange on Proof of Vaccination Credentials (PVC's) for international travel from around the FPTI table in public health, IT, vaccine rollout and other areas

Attended as an observer in regards to the COVID vaccination rollout and the importance of vaccination for travelling and outcomes.

Honouring Workshop

Hosted a special event – Honouring and spirituality teaching workshop: a grassroots event that many attended online via Zoom. We had a great turnout virtually with participants from coast to coast, it was an excellent opportunity for healing and a safe space to speak of one's health and challenges that we are all facing challenges during COVID.



ECMIA – Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas

bi-weekly meeting/dialogue held virtually between indigenous women and youth of the Americas on strategies to prevent and eradicate violence with an emphasis on gender violence. 1st meeting held at the end of June discussed “Knowledge and Evidence Generation.”

This is the first of a series of meetings to be held bi-weekly.

Meeting with Minister David Lametti

From the meeting with Minister Lametti, correspondence then follow up Meeting with Minister Lametti regarding UNDRIP, calling for action with regard to genocide in Canada, MMIWG, criminal investigation into Indian Residential Schools

Letters were cc'd to PM Justin Trudeau, Marc Miller, Carolyn Bennett, Maryam Monsef, Erin O'Toole, Jagmeet Singh and Annamie Paul.

Anti-Indigenous Racism in Canada's Healthcare Systems

Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health

National Dialogue continues to honour the legacy of Joyce Echaquan and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis living in Canada who have faced traumatic experiences of racism in accessing care and navigating healthcare systems. This third National Dialogue is intended to focus on concrete actions that Indigenous partners, provincial and territorial governments, and health system partners can undertake collaboratively to drive substantive and immediate change. These actions should address the following themes that came from the second National Dialogue in January 2021 and were shared in the communiqué at the end of that meeting:

- Cultural safety and humility training;
- Increasing Indigenous representation in post-secondary health education;
- Safe patient navigation; and,
- Traditional approaches to health

In my home community at the Glooscap First Nation, I gathered with the local community in the planting of a weeping Mulberry Tree in recognition of residential survivors who never made it home. Weeping of the tears in sybolic. We planted 215 perrenials of the 215 of each child to symbolize that each child is loved. A symbol of love from Mother Earth. Taking time for gathering our sea greens for our workshop, cultural in gathering for what Mother Earth has given.

Media Interview Events throughout the month

CBC Power Politics Interview - *Power & Politics*

Global news, CBC French radio, Press Gallery, Global News, APTN, CBC Toronto, CBC Canada, CBC Radio, CTV, Montreal, Sputnik Russia, Indigenous Services Media, AST, Capital Current, Global News Radio 640, CP24

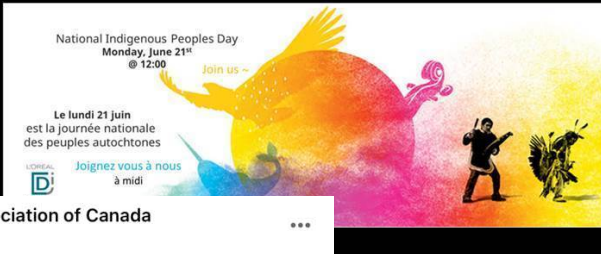
Media Interviews were regarding the Kamloops 215 remains of our children, Residential Schools, Letter to the Pope, Indigenous Peoples Day, Healthcare, Chantel Moore & Police

Aînée Lorraine Whitman (Grand-mère White Sea Turtle), présidente de l'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada, se joindra à nous pour célébrer la **Journée nationale des peuples autochtones** et partager un moment de silence pour honorer et se souvenir des vies autochtones perdues et volées.

Elder Lorraine Whitman (Grandmother White Sea Turtle), President of the Native Women's Association of Canada, will join us to help celebrate **National Indigenous Peoples Day** and to share in a moment of silence to honour those Indigenous lives lost and taken.



issues



Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-06-21 ...

A warm and heartfelt message for National Indigenous Peoples Day!
#NationalIndigenousPeoplesDay
#Canada



1,096 views

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Native Women's Association of Canada
2h · 🌐

On the anniversary of Chantel Moore's death, Chantel's mother Martha Martin asks we all hang yellow dresses in honour of Chantel and all Indigenous people who have lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement.

Join us in hanging a yellow dress and share it
#StayGolden and #JusticeForChantelMoore
#MMIWG #MMIWG2S



Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-06-17 ...

Isabella Kulak, known for starting a ribbon skirt movement, was made honorary member of RCMP committee. #ribbonskirt



cbc.ca

'It acknowledges our place': RCMP



Lorraine Whitman
@LWhitman_NWAC

It is so nice to be able to celebrate with our #2SLGBTQ+ community on #Pride2021 😊



Lorraine Whitman @... · 2021-06-03 ...

At Glooscap First Nation from the Mikma'ki, I joined Chief, Council and Health Staff who were planting 215 perennials in commemoration of the 215 souls that have been taken from us too early. We demand action @GCIndigenous #residentialschools



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Add another Tweet



Native Women's
Association of Canada



L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

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