

VOL 23 | JULY 2021


NWAC President's Report

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



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.

July President's Report

My Dear Friends,

This year Canada Day has been different than any other year with the recent discovery of residential children that have been found. We recognize the trauma and tragedy of finding our children in these mass graves and we acknowledge what's happened to our children from coast to coast to coast. Even more tragically, we are aware that these numbers will be increased as we investigate the schools where the residential schools were placed.

Our Indigenous Youth and their strong commitment and involvement in Residential School awareness, who are making an impact in our lives today. We have seen this with Isabella Kulak from Saskatchewan and the impact with her Ribbon Skirt and recently too with Landyn Toney in support and acknowledging his hurt and pain. He walked for residential school children who did not come home, raising over \$34,000 in support of residential school survivors.

The appointment of Mary Simon as Governor General was a poignant event this month. I believe this shows that our Indigenous women are valued. It is also a recognition of the important place that Indigenous women have in the history of Canada and in modern Canadian society. Her appointment tells young Indigenous women and girls that they too can dream about doing important things – not just in government but in whatever aspect of life they choose. I feel that Mary Simon is an extremely good choice for Governor General. She is highly respected and has had an amazing career both nationally and internationally. As well she has lived in both worlds, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, bringing to Canada a wealth of experience through an Indigenous lens. We are hoping that Mary Simon will work to bring Canada further down the path of decolonization.

I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Marc Miller in my home community at Glooscap First Nation. This was an informal meeting as he was able to visit our office at Glooscap. He listened to our concerns and barriers that NWAC faces within the government system as well as support in what NWAC is pursuing. Minister Miller was very engaged and approachable and has taken us back to his office with his team.

In regards to all of the meetings and concerns from this month, we must also recognize and acknowledge climate change and how it affects our environment and Mother Earth has made a change in correcting what we as humans have done to her. We see more heat, more flooding, earthquakes and in addition to riots



and impatience, we see the pandemic. We as people must look truly at what Mother Earth has given to us, we need to acknowledge and recognize that Mother Earth does not need us. We need her and we need to be thankful for what we have been given and have compassion and respect following our Seven Sacred Teachings.

May you enjoy the remainder of our summer and stay safe!

Wela'lin



President Lorraine Whitman



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

My July Agenda

Generation Equality Forum – I attended various workshops on between June 30-July 2nd with regard to accelerating progress for Gender Equality. The event took place virtually from Paris, reaching towards a 5 year action plan for gender equality globally for generations to come.

Travelled to Truro for the Walk for Survivors and Landyn's Journey of Awareness

Landyn Toney, a 12 year old Mikmaw boy in Nova Scotia spread awareness for survivors, and for the residential children who never made it home. One step at a time he walked 195.5 kms grabbing the attention of many. I met with Landyn, his family and his supporters and I joined him in his Journey of Awareness for part of his walk. He raised over \$34,000.



Virtual Annual General Assembly and National Chief Election

The Assembly of First Nations assembled for the National Chief Election this month for its 42nd Annual General Assembly hosted virtually out of Toronto. I attended to give support to Roseanne Archibald, who was elected as first

Indigenous woman as National Chief. I very much look forward to working with her in her new position as National Chief. Our congratulations go out to her!

Media call re AM600 - Discussions on the experiences of Indigenous Women:

The media interview with this radio station was on the *Cultural Changes and the Impact upon Indigenous Women*, the *Changing Image of Indigenous Women* and breaking the stereotypes and the abuse and violence of Indigenous women, lack of access to education, health care, equality to employment, housing, economics, and other issues relevant to gender and Indigenous peoples.

CP24 Panel Discussion re new Governor General Mary Simon

I attended an online discussion on the new appointment of our Governor General and her role as Canada's first Indigenous Governor General. The discussion was a panel format and

was informative, enlightening and encouraging towards our Indigenous women and looking towards a new future.

PTMA YWAC Meeting & PTMA Nova Scotia Meeting

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 to promote and enhance their governance in their territories. These are ongoing presentations to all PTMA's meeting their busy schedules.

ECMIA, Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the America's - 2 meetings were held this month, discussion topics were "Prevention" and "Attention and Healing" and how the pandemic affected violence in Indigenous communities worldwide. There is a series of 7 meetings on how we can address the violence that has taken place and solutions that we can address globally.

Personnel Committee Meeting and AGA Committee Meeting

Met with PTMA's and committee discussion of areas of concern with regards to personnel concerns and issues concerning the impacts of the pandemic on our staff HR as well as the AGA committee meeting discussing our upcoming virtual AGA meeting taking place in the fall.

Media Meeting, The Claire Fox Woman's Hour regarding Residential Schools and the 1,100 unmarked graves that have been found at residential schools in Canada in recent weeks. This is devastating news. Canadians found this news to be tragic but the Indigenous people were well-aware of what had happened. This was emphasized by the TRC with Honourable Murray Sinclair and what had been mentioned. It is not acceptable or conceivable that a country like Canada would have such a dark history. More needs to be done in educating and finding remains of all our residential school children.

Media ARTE TV and CTV re Canada's Governor General

Interviews re Indigenous Woman as our Governor General, an interview on how our new Governor General brings the life of the north and how important she is to Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. She has lived in both worlds and brings vast experience and knowledge nationally and internationally. Again, congratulations to our Her Excellency The Right Honourable Mary May Simon, Canada's new Governor General.

Various Media Events:

BBC Woman's Hour, CORE Tree Live, Global News, CBC Talk Show about Election for National Chief, 580 CFRA Radio Interview on residential schools and Canada's Governor General



BBC Woman's Hour @BBC... · 4h ...
More than 1000 bodies of indigenous children have been found at former residential schools across Canada since May. @crystalfraser of @UAlberta & @LWhitman_NWAC discuss the history and impact of these schools and the issues facing indigenous women today bbc.in/3hPKWEK



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WPS Civil Society Leadership virtual selection meeting - involved in the Women, Peace and Security Civil Society Leadership in reviewing and selecting leadership candidates. This was not an easy task, as all were excellent candidates. It took time but was an important meeting. Done virtually. It was an honor to be asked to sit on this leadership selection committee.

FTP Meeting

"Discussions about the National Action Plan to End

Gender-Based Violence in Canada.

These minimum standards were, unfortunately, not included in the MMIWG National Action Plan. From NWAC's perspective, it is difficult to overstate the importance that the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Canada include these minimum necessary components of an action plan."



Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-19 ...

I had a chance to meet with @Min_IndServ Marc Miller to discuss #MMIWG and survivors of #ResidentialSchools. He was receptive and open to hearing what we had to say. A step in the right direction. canada.ca/en/indigenous-...



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#EastCoastPrincipal... · 2021-07-05 ...
 Today some of my [#schoolfamily](#) & I met Landyn Toney as he continues his Journey of Awareness about [#ResidentialSchools](#) He was given a poster [#EveryChildMatters](#) that hung in our school & our [#students](#) drummed as he walked 🧡 [#VoiceMatters](#)
[@NSTeachersUnion](#) [@AVRCE_NS](#)
[@LWhitman_NWAC](#)



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Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-06 ...
 Thank you to Landyn Toney for your initiative and support given to [#residentialschool](#) survivors and children. Your heart is so open in helping others! Landyn's Journey of Awareness 157 km walk finishes today. Donate to his cause: [gofundme.com/f/landyns-jour...](#)
[facebook.com/landyntoney200...](#)



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Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-26 ...
 The Walk for Every Child Matters at Millbrook community Nova Scotia was



Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-06 ...
 My congratulations to Mary Simon, Canada's first Indigenous Governor General, announced by PM [@JustinTrudeau](#) today. [#Indigenous](#)
[#Canada](#) [#cndpoli](#) [@GGCanada](#)



ctvnews.ca

Mary Simon named as Canada's first Indigenous Governor General



Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-07 ...
 Landyn Toney's Journey of Awareness: he made it home 196.5kms later 🧡❤️
 Thank you Landyn for your hard work and admirable resolve!! The whole country thanks you! You deserve a good rest after your big journey!!
[#residentialschools](#) [#landyntoney](#)



Lorraine Whitman @L... ·
 Today is [#NunavutDay](#). It celebrate especially since Governor General is from territory! Let's celebrate the Nunavut culture and

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Lorraine Whitman
 Celebrating [#nat](#)
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Lorraine Whitman @L... · 2021-07-09 ...
 "Today is a victory, and you can tell all the women in your life that the glass ceiling has been broken. I thank all of the women who touched that ceiling before me and made it crack. You are an inspiration to me." National Chief RoseAnne Archibald, AFN



cbc.ca

RoseAnne Archibald elected 1st female national chief of Assembly o...



Native Women's
Association of Canada



L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

nwac.ca