



NWAC

# PRESIDENT'S report



APRIL 2024

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT | APRIL

### GOVERNANCE

The seasons were not the only thing to change in April. NWAC went through a significant organizational change, as well.

On the week of April 8, the Board and former CEO, Lynne Groulx decided to part ways. I sent an email to all staff advising that an Interim Operating Committee (IOC) comprised of myself, and the rest of the Executive Council of NWAC's Board of Directors (except for the National Youth) was put in place. I thanked them for their hard work and reminded everyone that NWAC continues to be committed to the grassroots Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people we serve. NWAC was founded on a collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural well-being of our people. We will continue to do this work and advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), housing, self-determination and emergent issues that arise from colonialism.





I also reminded everyone that I will continue to lead by the seven (7) grandfather teachings of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom.

On April 16, 2024, I called an all staff meeting to give an update on the organizational transition. I thanked them for their hard work and introduced the IOC as well as Madeleine Redfern who also spoke to everyone and offered her support as an interim leader.

The following is a high-level overview of meetings to ensure a smooth transition:

DATE	COMMITTEE
<b>April 3</b>	Emergency Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 8</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 9</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 11</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 11</b>	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>April 11</b>	Executive Council Debrief
<b>April 12</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 13</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 15</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council
<b>April 23</b>	Special Meeting with NWAC Youth Council





## OPERATIONS

Three (3) members of the Interim Operating Committee (IOC) spent the week of April 15, 2024, at NWAC headquarters. The IOC's mandate is to ensure a smooth transition. The three (3) members consisted of National Elder, Constance Sewell, Secretary Josie Nepinak and Treasurer Amy Sock.

The IOC met regularly with the Interim CEO (ICEO), Madeleine Redfern. We also met with the auditor and finance staff and key directors who helped provide important operational information.

Below is a high-level overview of meetings with the EC and ICEO. Madeleine also sent us weekly reports to update us on fact findings.

DATE	COMMITTEE
<b>April 23</b>	Meeting with ICEO
<b>April 24</b>	Meeting with ICEO and 1 <sup>st</sup> VP
<b>April 26</b>	Meeting with ICEO
<b>April 29</b>	Meeting of the Executive Council with ICEO







## POLITICAL ADVOCACY

On April 8, 2024, I attended a preparatory meeting for the 23<sup>rd</sup> *United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* (UNPFII) attending representation at UNPFII 1:00 PM-1:30 PM EST, by Teams. NWAC sent a delegation. Pictured (from left to right) is Cheryl Alexander of Manitoba Moon Voices, National Youth Angelina Perea - Rodallega and 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Gena Edwards at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The theme this year was:

*"Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth."*



April 29, 2024, Bill C-29, the *National Council for Reconciliation Act* passed. The Council will serve as an independent, Indigenous-led oversight body that monitors and evaluates progress on reconciliation actions, including the implementation of the Calls to Actions, at all levels of government and throughout Canadian society.





NWAC was originally excluded from the bill. However, this was rectified during second reading at the House of Commons. When I testified, I sought an amendment to section 10(1) to ensure NWAC could appoint someone to the Council's Board of Directors. The bill reads:

## Composition

**9** The Council's board of directors is to be composed of a minimum of nine and a maximum of 13 directors.

## Nominations

**10 (1)** The board of directors is to include

- (a)** one director who may only be elected after having been nominated by the Assembly of First Nations;
- (b)** one director who may only be elected after having been nominated by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami;
- (c)** one director who may only be elected after having been nominated by the Métis National Council; and
- (d)** one director who may only be elected after having been nominated by the Native Women's Association of Canada.

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:

On April 16, 2024, Madeleine Redfern and I spoke to *APTN National News* about the transformational change. We spoke to journalist Dennis Ward. The joint interview confirmed that we are starting a new chapter at NWAC.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and patience, especially my Executive Assistant, Tiffany Stow who went above and beyond in organizing and supporting the high volume of meetings this month.

I am hopeful that NWAC will continue to get stronger as we work as a team to advance the rights of Indigenous women, girls, transgender, and gender diverse peoples in our 50<sup>th</sup> year of advocacy.





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