

## NWAC'S PRESIDENT REPORT

This publication highlights the various activities the president has undertaken throughout the month of December

### LORRAINE WHITMAN

NWAC's President

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.



While short, the President undertook several activities throughout the month of December.

- Hosted Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, on behalf of NWAC. The goal of the visit was to discuss the implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' (MMIWG) 231 Calls for Justice. President Whitman was grateful to see the support for MMIWG from a number of Chiefs, including AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde.
- Attended the Honouring Indigenous Women Reception Red Dress Display in Ottawa on December 4th.
- Visited several fly-in First Nations, including Fort Albany and Kashechewan on December 5th with Mr. Almagro to see firsthand the safety, security, social and economic issues Indigenous people face in remote communities. Participated in high-level discussions on December 6th with NWAC Elders, PTMA presidents, community leaders, experts and academics alongside the Secretary General.



Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa, Ontario



Fort Albany and Kashechewan First Nations, Ontario



- Attended the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) from December 7th to the 12th to ensure the voices of Canadian Indigenous women were well represented. COP25 was designed to advance the full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The event was attended by dozens of government officials, environmental organizations, entrepreneurs and scientists.



Madrid, Spain

- Networked with Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change, and other government officials. President Whitman also had the opportunity to meet with Indigenous women from around the world from December 7th to 12th.
- Participated in a private meeting on December 11th with Jonathan Wilkinson, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss rights and interests of Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people with respect to the environment.



Madrid, Spain



Madrid, Spain

- Visited NWAC's new Resiliency Centre in Chelsea, Quebec on December 13th to see the progress of the facility. The Resiliency Centre will be a safe space for women and their families to heal and seek cultural support.

Undertook preparations in Ottawa with NWAC staff on December 9th for the upcoming opening of the Resiliency Centre.



Wolfville, NS

- Attended a student gathering on December 17th at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia to meet with Indigenous students who are furthering their education



Ottawa, Ontario

- Attended the NWAC staff mawio'mi (gathering) at the Lord Elgin in Ottawa on December 20th. President Whitman would like to extend her gratitude to the Board of Directors for thanking



Native Women's  
Association of Canada



L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada

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