



NWAC

PRESIDENT'S report



JANUARY 2024

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Greetings and best wishes as we get back to work for the New Year. Following our Christmas break, things began to get hectic in 2024 after Parliament resumed in the New Year. This is, of course, what we like to see. You'll note the updates below.

Governance Meetings:

While Board and Committee meetings have yet to resume, behind the scenes we kept ourselves hard at work, aligning plans between Operations with our CEO and the President's office.

An outline of meetings is to follow.

We look forward to many fruitful discussions throughout the coming year and continue to pursue opportunities with Ministers, Senators, and MPs, as well as sharing our advocacy work with the media.



President Carol McBride and CEO Lynne Groulx working from the Grandmother Moon Room at the NWAC headquarters in January.

Photo credit: Tiffany Stow



Meetings and Engagements Attended by President McBride:

- **January 28** – President McBride and her Executive Assistant Tiffany Stow attended NWAC headquarters and met with CEO Lynne Groulx. The leaders discussed logistics, and the EA toured the facility and was introduced to staff members working within the Operations Team.
- **January 29** – Meeting planned with MP Pam Damoff was cancelled at the last moment due to her scheduling and last-minute obligations.
- **January 30** – State Dinner by invitation from Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada (Rideau Hall, Ottawa). The State Dinner was in honour of Zuzana Čaputová, the fifth President of Slovakia – and the country's first woman President – to celebrate her work. She has been recognized for her environmental leadership. According to the official website for the President of the Slovak Republic, she was at the forefront of a 10-year public campaign against permission for an additional landfill in her hometown of Pezinok "that would have aggravated soil, air and water pollution in the town and its environs."

This mirrors President McBride's own leadership in the battle against Toronto's garbage being shipped to the former Adams Mine site (near Kirkland Lake, Ontario) for use as a landfill. The project was approved for assessment in 1998 to bring 20 million tonnes of solid waste from Toronto over a 20-year period. As one of the organizing leaders in the campaign to put a stop to the proposal, President McBride has been lauded for helping to protect regional groundwaters from leachate, thus protecting the Arctic Watershed. She helped to garner the support of the Chiefs of Ontario and 150 First Nations communities who all rallied together and prepared to blockade. The project was officially shut down in 2004.



Distinguished President of Slovakia, Zuzana Čaputová, entering the State Dinner held in her honour by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, at Rideau Hall on January 30, 2024.

Photo credit: Carol McBride



President Carol McBride and Assembly of First Nations Chief Cindy Woodhouse on January 30, 2024, at the State Dinner for President Zuzana Čaputová, Rideau Hall.

Photo supplied by Carol McBride.

Media Engagements:

- **Sawyer Bodgan** of Global News requested an interview with President McBride for a follow up story about Jenna Ostberg, a 21-year-old First Nations woman from Thunder Bay who died after police allegedly failed to respond to a 911 call before she died.

The interview was done with President McBride for television broadcast on **January 8, 2024.**

- President McBride had a media request from The Hill Times related to Bill C-29, the National Council for Reconciliation Act, as it is at consideration in the House of Commons for amendments, after completing third reading in the Senate on November 30. The bill could receive royal assent this year, completing number 53 of the 94 Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Reporter **Jesse Cnockaert** contacted President McBride with the following questions:

1. How do you feel about the possibility of Bill C-29 receiving royal assent? What would creation of a National Council for Reconciliation mean? Do you have any concerns about the bill in its current state or recent amendments?
2. Can you describe the significance of completing any of the Calls to Action in 2024, considering that the Yellowhead Institute's 2023 status report found that none of the Calls to Action were completed last year?

The interview was scheduled for publication in *The Hill Times*.

- **Fraser Needham** from APTN reached out to see if the President would be available for an interview about Bill C-29, the National Council for Reconciliation Act, which is soon heading for royal assent once Parliament resumes at the end of the month.

The interview was done with President McBride for television broadcast on **January 16, 2024**.





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Native Women's Association of Canada
L'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada