

PRESIDENT'S

MONTHLY MAY REPORT

2023



02

Spring is full of hope and renewal after the harsh challenges of winter. It's a time to make the most of our days. At the President's office we did just that. Below please find highlighted events. In addition to these events, our office holds daily meetings to vet requests, discuss political news and Indigenous issues. My Interim Adviser, Lisa Smith also provides briefings to me and my team on emerging issues.

On May 2 my office underwent media training with Joan Weinman, NWAC's Chief Communications Strategist. Ms. Weinman gave us an overview of the media and the positives of interacting with them. We discussed interview skills, techniques to better handle the media and how to create compelling messages.

Mel Critch of Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) advised me of a motion that was to be presented by Winnipeg Centre New Democratic Party (NDP) Member of Parliament (MP) Leah Gazan. On May 2, the House of Commons adopted the motion unanimously! It calls on the federal government to declare ongoing violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people a national emergency. It also calls on the government to provide an "immediate and substantial investment" to create a public alert system for missing Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. I thanked Ms. Gazan for her motion. I also sent out a Press Release and talked with the National Observer. I told the National Observer that not only is the government not investing in MMIWG2s+ funding, but they are clawing back essential funding in relation to women's shelters.

On May 3, I spoke with City News regarding the University of Toronto (Mississauga campus) research findings about how police repeatedly dismiss and justify violence against Indigenous women in Canada. They asked what this means for Indigenous women and police relations. I advised that the study proves what we already know as Indigenous peoples and the broken relationship between our people and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

03

On May 3, I spoke with APTN regarding the NDP Motion and called again for a state of emergency.

On May 4, myself and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, announced the expansion of NWAC's Safe Passage initiative with new online tools, as well as the establishment of the Safe Passage Women's Safety Council. The announcement was drafted in January, and we had been waiting on the Minister to release it to the public. The announcement got traction from APTN; therefore, I spoke with them about the program and new safety council. I also spoke about the importance of our PTMAs in this initiative.

On May 4, I spoke with the Globe and Mail, CBC, and the Canadian Press about the National Day of Awareness for the prevention of violence against Indigenous women, also known as Red Dress Day.

May 5 was a busy day! In addition to multiple media interviews (580 CFRA Ottawa, APTN, Associated Press) I participated in NWAC's commemoration event to honour and bring awareness to the thousands of MMIWG2S+ across Canada. Minister Marc Miller, Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) was in attendance at the art unveiling portion of the agenda. MP Jamie Batiste was also in attendance.



MP BATISSE, ATTENDEE , MINISTER MILLER, PRESIDENT MCBRIDE, 2ND VP BRANDY STANOVICH

04

It was a great event that brought attention to the urgent work NWAC is undertaking.

That momentum continued into May 6 when NWAC hosted a MMIWG2S+ Roundtable. Senator Michelle Audette, PTMAs and NWAC staff gathered to discuss the many issues surrounding the genocide against our loved ones. We also discussed NWAC's Action Plan, Our Calls Our Actions, and the Federal Action Plan as well as ways to accelerate their implementation with greater transparency and accountability.

Senator Audette, CEO, Lynne Groulx and I also held a private meeting to discuss upcoming events.



President McBride, Senator Audette, CEO Groulx

05

On May 11, I attended the 30th Indspire Awards in Edmonton, Alberta and helped honour First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievements from Coast to Coast to Coast. In addition, I was thrilled to be on stage to present the Indspire Arts Award to Sandra Laronde.



[Indspire Arts Award recipient Sandra Laronde.]

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I also had the pleasure of running into Board member, Madeleine Redfern and Mr. Donald Worme the Chair of the Indspire Board of Directors.



(Madeleine Redfern and Carol McBride)



(left to right, Donald Worme, Carol McBride)

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I am pleased to announce that the much-anticipated 2023 Indspire Awards had an even broader scope for celebration this past year. This year's Indspire Awards gala not only honoured twelve exceptional Indigenous achievers, but also commemorated 30 years of Indigenous excellence, welcoming past Indspire Laureates to a three generation-spanning event (along with the 2023 Awards recipients).

Juno Award winner Fawn Wood and viral TikTokker James Jones (@notoriouscree) blessed us with their talented performances of traditional song and dance- while Cree Confederation Powwow Drum Group sang several honour songs representing the Treaty No. 6 Territory.



[Performers: James Jones (@notoriouscree), Fawn Wood, Cree Confederacy & DJ Kookum]



[Indspire Vice-President of Indigenous and Government Relations, Yancy Craig and I at the lobby of the Indspire gala.]



[Indspire CEO Michael D. DeGagné and I arriving at the gala rehearsal dinner.]

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The Indspire Awards gala was an amazing celebration. Indspire Vice-President of Indigenous and Government Relations, Yancy Craig and Indspire CEO Michael D. DeGagné were incredibly welcoming and gracious hosts. Lastly, I was very pleased to meet the new NWAC media relations specialist, Shinoah Cheechoo who accompanied me.

On May 12, I attended the 27th Esquao Awards hosted by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. The theme this year was Amplifying the Spirit, Strength, and Resiliency of Indigenous Women. It was held at Grey Eagle Resort and Casino in Calgary, Alberta.

Although my travels extended into the weekend, I was thrilled to travel to Alberta and honour amazing Indigenous women.

On May 16 the Annual General Assembly (AGA) Committee met and had a productive meeting. We are on a good path to ensure our upcoming AGA will be a success.

My adviser briefed me on testimonies of other Indigenous leaders regarding Bill C-29, National Council for Reconciliation Act. This bill is a high priority for me as I want to urge the government that NWAC must be included.

On May 17 my office met with Jillian Collins, Board Liaison. I am excited to work with her. I am positive it will help with the flow of information between my office and operations.

We held a National Apprenticeship Program (NAP) committee meeting on May 23rd to touch base on the progress of the program and the systematic issues therein.

On May 24 we held an Executive Council meeting to touch base on the agenda for our upcoming board meeting among other things.

In addition, I called for the immediate resignation of Pierre Dufour (via a Press Release and an interview with APTN national news), since the MNA suggested numerous times that Indigenous women lied about being sexually assaulted by police officers in Quebec. The truthful testimonies of those women prompted the Viens Commission and its 142 recommendations to repair relations between Indigenous Peoples and Quebec public services.



Carol McBride
@NWAC_CMcBride



!! We cannot tolerate MNA Pierre Dufour's harmful comments. Calling Indigenous women liars, who are survivors of abuse, while we are in the middle of a genocide of Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse peoples is egregious. [#cdnpoli](#)

Read more below 📌



nwac.ca
Native Women's Association of Canada - Native Women's
Association of Canada

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On May 26, I was honoured to travel to Ottawa and attend the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards and dinner reception on behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada. It is inspiring to see the creative talents this country has to offer.

I enjoyed a working breakfast with Quebec Native Women on Saturday May 27. It is an honour to learn from our incredible grassroots women. I also attended the 44th Annual Traditional Odawa Pow Wow 2023. It was a magnificent event.

We finished the month with an informative update during our Personnel Committee meeting that took place on May 31.

In addition, our office was successful in securing meeting requests for next month such as:

- Canadian Heritage Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Indigenous Meeting (FPTI) in Toronto;
 - Housing FPTI in Ottawa;
 - Meeting with Minister Marc Miller;
 - Meeting with MP Anthony Rota;
 - Meeting with Senator Audette and
- Meeting with NDP caucus (Leader Jagmeet Singh, MP Leah Gazan, MP Charles Angus and MP Lori Idoult

I want to take this time to thank the Board for all your hard work.

CAROL MCBRIDE
PRESIDENT