

VOL. 1 | SEPTEMBER 2019

NWAC'S PRESIDENT REPORT

This publication highlights the various activities the president has undertaken over the month of September

LORRAINE WHITMAN

NWAC's New President

Lorraine Whitman was elected as the new 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 30 years.



The new president undertook a number of activities in the first two weeks of September:

- **Celebrated her last days** with the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.
- Participated in stakeholder meetings, including Liberal Party of Canada leader, Justin Trudeau Federal Election Campaign Kick Off in Nova Scotia.



Halifax, Nova Scotia



Truro, Nova Scotia



Ottawa, Ontario



Truro, Nova Scotia



Montreal, Quebec

- Worked with NWAC Board and senior staff to develop new NWAC Board Committees.
- Dealt with a number of priorities related to PTMAs and the transition of becoming the new president of NWAC.
- With NWAC CEO Lynne Groulx, President Whitman attended numerous stakeholder briefing sessions on key priorities.
- Worked closely with NWAC CEO to finalize plans for the Resiliency Centre to be located in Gatineau, Quebec. The Resiliency Centre represents NWAC's practical response regarding the need for Indigenous women-led health and wellness services and support—particularly in reference to the ongoing after-care and support for families of the MMIWG post-inquiry.
- Attended a number of senior official meetings related to the establishment of a Resiliency Centre in Nova Scotia. These meetings included a discussion related to the purchasing of a federally funded building.
- Attended a celebration in Montreal for the amendments to the Bill S-3 ("the 1951 Cut-off") of the Indian Act, which ends sex-based inequalities for the registration of Indigenous status under the Act. The removal of the 1951 Cut-off represents important success for the rights of Indigenous women and their families. NWAC continues to advocate for legislative and policy reforms to eliminate these injustices.

- Promoted NWAC at the Atlantic Film Festival and met women from L'nuk 101 and Atautsikut / Leaving None Behind. The documentary reveals another aspect of the true North. In their own words, the Nunavik Inuit and Cree recount their struggles and reveal how their co-ops came shining through a message of hope.



Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Participated in a youth environmental school strike for climate change at Acadia University in Nova Scotia along with more than 150 students.



Wolfville, Nova Scotia



Washington, D.C.

- Delivered a high-level speech in Washington, D.C. on September 24 at a hearing on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Canada and MMIWG, alongside several leading Canadian stakeholders. President Whitman underscored the National Inquiry's key finding of colonial genocide and the need to expand the common understanding of what constitutes this grave crime.



Ottawa, Ontario

- Participated in a social media advertising campaign to promote Indigenous women's voting participation in the 2019 federal elections on October 21 as part of an initiative funded by Elections Canada. Indigenous women are among the fastest-growing populations in Canada yet are extremely underrepresented as candidates for elected office, in terms of candidates and number of overall voters in Canadian elections.



Native Women's
Association of Canada



L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

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