



Native Women's Association of Canada

Press Release—For Immediate Release

NWAC welcomes applications for the 2010 Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award prized at \$1,000

Ottawa ON (July 15, 2010) --The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is pleased to announce it will now be accepting applications for the 2010 Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award. Prized at \$1,000 the award will be granted to four young Aboriginal women in Canada who are pursuing their post secondary studies.

Every year the NWAC Youth Department and Youth Council awards the Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award to four women under the age of 30 who demonstrate financial need and community involvement, with a goal to contribute either to the social, legal, or economic well-being of Aboriginal women.

The awards are made possible due to the generous donations of Helen Bassett, an artist and former resident of Ontario. After developing a close friendship with Aboriginal artist Joe Rosenthal, Ms. Bassett, who passed away in 2003, was driven to make a difference by encouraging the government to offer fair solutions for Aboriginals concerning land claim issues. Ms. Bassett also became a supporter of equal rights for Aboriginal Peoples and in particular those of Aboriginal women.

Her passionate belief in the advancement of Aboriginal women, led her to name NWAC as a beneficiary of her estate. She generously bestowed 35 per cent of her estate annually to NWAC. As a result, NWAC created the Helen Bassett Commemorative student Award to fulfill Ms. Bassett's wishes to assist Aboriginal women achieve their educational goals.

"I would like to encourage all young Aboriginal women who are struggling to meet the financial demands of post secondary studies to apply for the Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award," says NWAC president Jeannette Corbiere Lavell. "Our youth are the leaders of the future, and I am happy that Ms. Bassett's generosity will allow NWAC to continue to offer support to four young Aboriginal women with the cost of post secondary studies. "

This year's application deadline is July 30th, 2010.

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For More information or to fill out an application please visit the following link:

<http://www.nwac.ca/nwac-helen-bassett-commemorative-student-award>

Or Contact: Lacey Whiteduck

National Youth Coordinator

Email: lwhiteduck@nwac.ca **Phone:** 613.722.3033 x 238