



NWAC

PRESIDENT'S *Report*



 DEC 2022

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DECEMBER

As December ends, it is time for reflection, family, peace and togetherness. The end of the year also signifies the start of new ventures in the upcoming year. While I am grateful for the opportunity to spend time with my loved ones, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people. This issue continues to fuel my passion for advocating for important programs at the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

In the spirit of the seven (7) grandfather teachings of love, respect, bravery, truth, honesty, humility and wisdom, I participated in an honouring ceremony during the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly, that took place from December 6-8. The ceremony was led in partnership with Senator Michele Audette to honour the AFN's National Chief.

On July 8, 2021, Roseanne Archibald became the first female National Chief of the AFN. Like the work we do at NWAC, the National Chief has inspired young girls everywhere – in this case, demonstrating that they too can become national leaders.



Senator Audette (LEFT), Chief Archibald (CENTER), President McBride (RIGHT)





At the end of December, I welcomed a new staff member to my team. Lisa J. Smith took on the role as my interim political advisor.



Lisa is of settler and Inuit heritage. Her Inuit community is NunatuKavut. However, she grew up on the Burin Peninsula in Newfoundland and Labrador. Lisa journeyed across unceded territory from coast to coast. She attended law school at the University of British

Columbia (UBC) and returned to the east coast in her role as Crown Prosecutor. She shifted into policy work and is dedicating her career to truth and reconciliation. Lisa specializes in Indigenous advocacy in the international and parliamentary arenas and looks forward to fostering genuine relationships to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the 231 Calls for Justice of the final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

I look forward to working with her as she shares a genuine passion for advocating for change.

**UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON
THE RIGHTS OF
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES**





The media kept me busy in the month of December. On December 1st, I spoke with CBC Radio debating if the toppled statue of Sir John A. MacDonald be resurrected.

On December 2nd, I spoke with the National Observer concerning the horrific murders of the 4 (4) Indigenous Women in Winnipeg Rebecca Contois, a member of O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation, also known as Crane River, Morgan Beatrice Harris, and Mercedes Myran, members of Long Plain First Nation and the fourth woman who, until she's identified, has been given the name Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, or Buffalo Woman.

On December 8th, I spoke with APTN concerning the sexual assault of children and women on reservations.

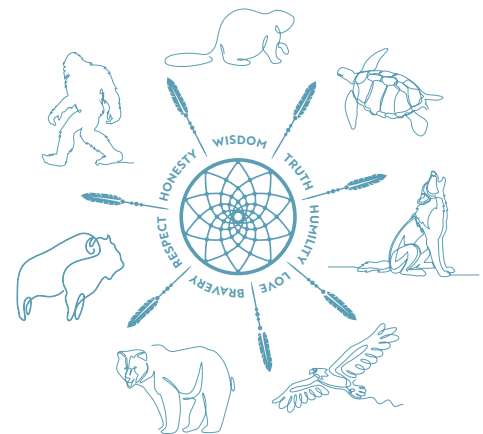
As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to our organization. Your tireless efforts to support and empower Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit, Transgender, and Gender Diverse people in Canada are truly inspiring.

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the season, let us remember the rich cultural heritage and traditions of our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. May the spirit of the season fill our hearts with warmth, joy, and hope for the year ahead.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Carol



peace love joy

