



# NWAC

## PRESIDENT'S *Report*



JUNE 2023

[nwac.ca](http://nwac.ca)

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### JUNE

June brought sunshine and meetings. There was a push from Parliament to get as much parliamentary business completed as possible before the House of Commons and the Senate rose for the summer.

I had a productive and eventful start to the month in Ottawa, accompanied by my advisor, Lisa Smith.

**On June 5<sup>th</sup>**, we had the privilege of hosting Minister Marci Ien, Minister Greg Fergus, and MP Sophie Chatel. They made an important announcement, granting **\$1.15 million in funding** to the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) for two projects: *PTMA Liaisons: Grassroots Partnership* and *Capacity Building, and Kewabadjmin: SEEing Ourselves*. NWAC is only as strong as its grassroots. As President, I am constantly lobbying for increased capacity for our PTMAs. PTMAs are the heartbeat of NWAC and I was glad the Minister recognizes that.





The following day, on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**, I participated in an interview with CTV National News regarding the government's failure to implement the MMIWG Calls for Justice, critically examining the lack of progress four (4) years after the release of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG).

Furthermore, my adviser attended *Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023 Welcoming Reception* on the same day. Eight inspiring young Indigenous leaders from across Canada were invited to meet with the Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples. The youth have been selected for *Voices of Youth Indigenous Leaders 2023*, which spotlights young Indigenous people aged 18 to 35 who are making a difference in their communities.







The theme of this year's event was Indigenous education. The committee sought to hear how Indigenous youth have experienced education in all forms, including public and private, traditional, and non-traditional Indigenous education and post-secondary institutions.

**On June 7<sup>th</sup>,** I had the honour of attending a reception at the residence of the United States Ambassador, held in celebration of LGBTQI+ Pride Month and in recognition of Jessica Stern, Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons.

**On June 9<sup>th</sup>,** I engaged with other Board members on C-38, *An Act to amend the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)*. It was a difficult but important conversation. It was clear that Board members have lived experiences and lived discrimination under the Act. It was also clear that the bill does not go far enough.



A meeting with Senator Michelle Audette took place on **June 11<sup>th</sup>**, during which we discussed shared priorities such as advancing an Amber Alert Bill for missing Indigenous Peoples.

Another important meeting occurred on **June 12<sup>th</sup>** with Minister Marc Miller, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. In this meeting, I advocated for core funding and enhanced core funding for our PTMAs. Additionally, we followed up on action items from the NWAC-Canada Accord, including the Prime Minister's meeting.

**On June 14<sup>th</sup>**, my adviser participated in the *Economic Reconciliation on the Hill* event hosted by Senator Brian Francis. The event featured presentations addressing the challenges and successes of economic reconciliation for Indigenous peoples.

Furthermore, I testified before the Senate Standing Committee of Indigenous People (APPA) on June 14<sup>th</sup> regarding Bill C-29, *National Council for Reconciliation Act*. During my testimony, I emphasized the value our grassroots membership will bring to the Council. NWAC will be an important addition in overseeing the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action.



Pride Event at the US Embassy





President McBride and Lisa Smith,  
Senate Appearance June

My office continues to communicate with operations in our weekly meetings every Wednesday and Friday.

I also meet with my team daily to touch base and set the tone for the day.

To conclude the month, I took a much-needed vacation to recharge. I am grateful to my First Vice-President, Gena Edwards, for stepping in as acting president during my leave. I am thankful to Gena for taking my place at the Housing Federal Provincial/Territorial Indigenous (FPTI) meeting in my absence. Gena spoke about the urgent need to provide safe and affordable housing.

In addition, she also attended Canadian Heritage FPTI and spoke about the importance of language revitalization and the work NWAC is doing in that regard. Thank you, Gena, for your hard work and dedication!

In terms of internal governance, the following Board/Committee meetings took place:

### **NWAC committee activity**

- **June 1<sup>st</sup>** Board of Directors meeting
- **June 6<sup>th</sup>** Combined Executive Council and Finance Committee Meeting
- **June 14<sup>th</sup>** Executive Council Meeting
- **June 22<sup>nd</sup>** Finance Committee Meeting





# PRESIDENT'S *Report*



JUNE 2023

**nwac.ca**