



NWAC

PRESIDENT'S *Report*



AUGUST 2023

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



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I started the month of **August** with an in person visit with my local Member of Parliament who represents the riding of Nipissing—Timiskaming - Anthony Rota. Anthony Rota is the 37th and current speaker of the House of Commons of Canada since 2019. We discussed areas of mutual concern. I advised him of NWAC's current programs such as the National Apprenticeship program and Safe Passage. I also extended an invitation to NWAC's headquarters . We will be meeting on October 6, 2023.

On Saturday **August 12, 2023**, our office attended the 49th Annual General Assembly in person. It was a pleasure to report to and hear from our membership. The meeting was a great success as by- law changes were passed (among other important business). The theme this year was reconciliation, which is an important endeavor for my office. We consistently lobby the federal government to reconcile their approach to include NWAC and Indigenous women ways of knowing at decision making tables.



On Sunday **August 13, 2023**, the new Board of Directors had their first meeting where they elected a new Executive. I want to congratulate everyone in their position. I am positive that we can work as a team to have a successful year ahead. I would also like to sincerely thank the outgoing Executive for their extremely valuable work.

On **August 17**, myself and my interim adviser virtually met with the new Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Gary Anandasangaree. I spoke about NWAC's top priorities as it relates to his department such as keeping promises under *the NWAC-Canada Accord*, Winnipeg landfill search, MMIWG priorities specifically an amber alert, advocating against the government's distinctions-based approach to decision making and PTMA capacity building and issues affecting communities (housing, education, ect). I also extended an invitation to the Minister to visit NWAC's headquarters so that we can continue our conversation.

Much of August was spent planning for the busy fall when both Houses will be in full swing. There is a lot of planning involved, especially this year with Parliamentarians on the campaign trail. In fact, our office met with the CEO's office for a two-day planning session that proved to be very fruitful.





Special Rapporteur Tomoya Obokata Meeting

On **August 18, 2023**, I responded to the Prime Minister's absurd comments about In CBC Indigenous on Prime Minister recent statement that "housing isn't a primary federal responsibility." I reiterated that the government needs to start taking responsibility for the housing crisis especially as it unproportionately affects our people amidst a genocide against our women. Please find the article here: [Some Indigenous leaders reject PM's 'out of touch' housing comments | CBC News](#)

On **August 25th**, I enjoyed a special meeting Tomoya Obokata, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. The CEO and NWAC staff were also present. We had a successful roundtable discussion on issues such as MMIWG, addictions/mental health, climate change, barriers to employment, political marginalization, funding constraints (among other things).



On **August 28**, I spoke with La Liberté about Indigenous women's role as water carriers and the importance of Indigenous women being a part of water governance. On that same day I also spoke to APTN about not honouring Indigenous oppressors. I urged that the statue of Sir John A MacDonald should not be replaced in Montreal as it celebrates the oppression of Indigenous peoples across Canada. All governments across Canada must consider removing statues and renaming sites named after MacDonald to advance reconciliation efforts.

I look forward to a busy fall and as always, I would like to thank everyone for their tremendous work.



Special Rapporteur Tomoya Obokata



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