



**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S SUMMIT  
STRONG WOMEN, STRONG COMMUNITIES**  
Pepsi Centre, Corner Brook, NL  
June 20-22, 2007

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A CALL FOR ACTION**

**JANUARY 2008**

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## **FOREWORD**

The first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS) which took place in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador from June 20-22, 2007, was a historic milestone for Aboriginal women across Canada.

It represents the third of a series of Aboriginal Summits that started with a Summit on Aboriginal Health issues in Vancouver in November 2006 hosted by Premier Gordon Campbell and followed by a Symposium on Aboriginal Economic Development hosted by Premier Lorne Calvert in Saskatoon in January 2007. The leadership shown by Premiers, Ministers and Aboriginal leaders in hosting and participating in these significant events demonstrates the interest and desire in addressing issues that are important in improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples in this country.

The NAWS theme *Strong Women, Strong Communities* reflects the significant role Aboriginal women play in their families and communities and the importance of addressing issues of concern to help support Aboriginal women.

The recommendations identified at the National Aboriginal Women's Summit will increase dialogue and enable more open communications between federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments, Aboriginal women and leaders, and the society at large. The approach is to address, in a coordinated and holistic manner, the key concerns identified by Aboriginal women.

The National Planning Committee is to be commended for their dedication and work in helping to facilitate the coming together of over 150 Aboriginal women delegates and another 150 federal, provincial and Aboriginal participants from across the country to attend the Summit. The relationships that have developed throughout this process will be lasting and demonstrate that working together can make a difference.

Summit organizers would like to express their deepest thanks to the First Nations, Inuit and Métis women who participated and gave of themselves in building a circle of hope and strength and moving forward the agenda of Aboriginal women.

Thank you to the Honourable Jim Prentice and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for providing financial support to the Province and the National Aboriginal Organizations for their participation in the Summit.

Thank you also to President Beverley Jacobs and the Native Women's Association of Canada and Premier Danny Williams and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for co-hosting the Summit.

## **Message from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador**



### **Honourable Danny Williams Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador**

Newfoundland and Labrador was proud to co-host the first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit that brought together more than 150 Aboriginal women from across Canada to discuss solutions to problems that exist in Aboriginal communities throughout our country.

This report is a summary of what we heard from the Aboriginal women who attended that summit. This report contains the 29 key recommendations which delegates identified as priorities for Federal, Provincial, Aboriginal Governments and organizations to consider for improving the lives of Aboriginal women and communities.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador remains committed to working with provinces, territories, the Federal Government, Aboriginal leaders and women to address issues of concern for Aboriginal peoples. Our government is very proud of our record on Aboriginal women's issues as we have worked very hard to be leaders within the country in championing their challenges and their opportunities.

The results of this summit represent a pivotal opportunity for the Government of Canada, provinces and territories and Aboriginal organizations to take action to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women in Canada.

I would like to commend all delegates for speaking freely and openly about their lives, their communities, their experiences and their goals for the future. It is only through the input of those who know the issues best, that we will be effective in finding meaningful solutions to the issues that must be addressed. In the faces of these women, I saw hope and determination; I was inspired and I am confident that with leaders and role models like those who attended the summit, we will see positive results.

Danny Williams, Q.C.  
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

## Message from the Native Women's Association of Canada



**Beverley Jacobs**  
**President of the Native Women's**  
**Association of Canada**

It was indeed a pleasure to co-host the first ever, National Aboriginal Women's Summit alongside Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams.

This historic event in Corner Brook, NL brought together Aboriginal women leaders from across the country in a forum which has never been seen before in our country. And the results of three days of intense discussions have helped to establish clear direction into the future on Aboriginal women's issues.

That direction came in the form of key recommendations focused on such critical areas as addressing the root cause of violence against Aboriginal women and ensuring there are adequate financial resources, social programs and housing.

There was extensive discussion about the need for all National Aboriginal Organizations, Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments to ensure "culturally-relevant" gender based analysis processes are established. As we look ahead to NAWS 2 in Yellowknife, NWT next summer, I anticipate that these recommendations will continue to receive a great deal of attention. So as Aboriginal women and political leaders, we must remain determined to use these historic first steps and build upon them.

I look forward to the concrete actions coming out of the first Aboriginal Women's Summit as we continue to work toward achieving stronger women and stronger communities.

Beverley Jacobs

## INTRODUCTION

The Native Women's Association of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, with funding support from the Government of Canada, were pleased to partner hosting the first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit from June 20-22, 2007, at the Pepsi Centre in



Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. The Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, co-chaired the event with Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

Early in the planning process, it was recognized that NAWS should be an opportunity for Aboriginal women from across Canada to get together to discuss issues of importance and not be a meeting of political leaders. It is this grassroots approach that has contributed immensely to the success of NAWS. While NAWS was well attended by Premiers, Ministers and Aboriginal Leaders, it was the voices of Aboriginal women which were heard loud and clear. The political leaders were there to listen.

Planning for NAWS was overseen by a National Planning Committee, which was co-chaired by David Hughes, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Sherry Lewis, Executive Director of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The Planning Committee consisted of representatives from the federal government and the National Aboriginal Organizations (NAO) including:

- The Native Women's Association of Canada
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Status of Women Canada
- Assembly of First Nations
- Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
- Métis National Council
- National Association of Friendship Centers
- Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence

The National Planning Committee met weekly via teleconference and held several face-to-face meetings including a site visit to Corner Brook. The Committee worked diligently and collaboratively in agreeing on the overall Summit theme, *Strong Women, Strong Communities*, and helped to shape the discussions at the Summit by developing sub-themes and topics for the agenda as follows:

#### Theme 1: Health, Safety and Wellness

- Topics:
- Violence against Aboriginal women
  - Poverty and Child Welfare
  - Aboriginal Healing & Wellness
  - Protecting the Environment

#### Theme 2: Equality and Empowerment

- Topics:
- Recognizing Aboriginal women's Rights
  - Empowering Aboriginal women
  - Understanding and implementing the equality provisions of Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

#### Theme 3: Strength, Balance and Honour

- Topics:
- Culturally relevant gender-based analysis
  - Revitalization of matrilineal/matriarchal systems
  - Justice System and Policing
  - Revitalizing and Strengthening Language and Culture

Topics for discussion were developed from submissions received from provinces, territories, the federal government and National Aboriginal Organizations. These organizations were asked to provide what they felt were the top five priorities for Aboriginal women in their jurisdiction. The majority of respondents identified violence against Aboriginal women as the number one priority.

Attendance at the Summit consisted of over 150 Aboriginal women delegates from across Canada. Each of the provincial and territorial governments and the federal government departments sponsored up to five Aboriginal women. National Aboriginal Organizations sponsored up to ten Aboriginal women. This included the Native Women's Association of Canada, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Assembly of First Nations/ AFN Women's Council (20), Métis National Council/Women of the Métis Nation, National Association of Friendship Centres, and National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence.

There were also another estimated 150 Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Aboriginal officials who attended the Summit including Premiers and Ministers, Federal Ministers, and leaders of National Aboriginal organizations.

The National Aboriginal Women's Summit brought together the collective body of knowledge on Aboriginal women's issues. There were over 60 Policy papers submitted on Aboriginal women's issues for consideration at the Summit. These papers helped shape the discussions in the Summit Workshops. The Aboriginal women delegates discussed the recommendations arising from the Policy papers and determined the most important ones to bring forward for consideration. The Policy papers are listed in Appendix A and can be viewed on the National Aboriginal Women's Summit website at the following URL:

<http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/naws/policy.htm>

It is our hope that the National Aboriginal Women's Summit will be an impetus for action to help address the important issues facing Aboriginal women in Canada and help to develop *Strong Women and Strong Communities*.

## **BACKGROUND**

The need for an Aboriginal women's Summit was identified as a key issue by President Beverley Jacobs during the First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) with National Aboriginal Leaders in Kelowna in November 2005. President Jacobs felt that in the process leading up to Kelowna (which included a distinction-based approach with sectoral tables), women's issues were not adequately heard and requests to have a women-specific table were unsuccessful. Furthermore, the Native Women's Association of Canada's (NWAC) request to have the issue of violence added to the Kelowna agenda was not accepted. NWAC identified at that time that violence is the most basic socio-economic issue affecting Aboriginal women in this country and must be addressed in order to "close the gap."

At the Kelowna FMM, President Jacobs discussed the idea of a National Aboriginal Women's Summit with Premier Danny Williams. Premier Williams was fully supportive of the concept of a National Summit on Aboriginal women's issues. Leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations were also supportive of a National Aboriginal Women's Summit. President Jacobs continued to build support for a National Summit in May 2006 when she wrote Premier Ralph Klein to keep the idea of Aboriginal Women's Summit current and vital while he remained in office.

Western and Northern Premiers met May 30, 2006, in Gimli, Manitoba, and reaffirmed their commitment to closing the gaps for Aboriginal peoples as identified at Kelowna. They also reaffirmed their desire to work with Aboriginal



leadership to hold a summit "in the coming months" on Aboriginal women's issues, in particular violence against women.

As well, the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, indicated he was interested in Aboriginal women's issues and that it was likely the federal government would be prepared to assist with an Aboriginal Women's Summit. This was confirmed on June 20, 2006, when Minister Prentice issued a press release regarding the federal consultation process for Aboriginal women on the issues of matrimonial real property and the family violence prevention program. Minister Prentice was quoted as saying "The Government shares the concerns of all Canadians regarding all forms of discrimination and violence against Aboriginal women and is committed to providing support where needed."

At the July 25, 2006 meeting between Premiers and National Aboriginal Leaders in Corner Brook, NL, Premier Williams agreed to co-host a National Aboriginal Women's Summit with President Beverley Jacobs at the Pepsi Centre in Corner Brook on June 21-22, 2007.

Following the decision to hold a National Aboriginal Women's Summit, President Jacobs wrote to Premiers asking them to consider holding regional processes/Summits in their jurisdictions to help inform the agenda and discussions at the National Summit. Many jurisdictions held regional processes through Summits, meetings and other forums and provided feedback to the Planning Committee on their priorities to help inform the Summit agenda.

As well, the federal government agreed to provide funding to help support the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador hosting the National Aboriginal Women's Summit. The federal government also provided much-needed support for the National Aboriginal Organizations to facilitate their participation in the Planning Committee and attendance of their delegates and officials at the Summit.

The collaborative efforts of provinces, territories, the federal government and National Aboriginal Organizations demonstrates that much can be accomplished.

## **SETTING THE STAGE**

Prior to the Aboriginal women delegates discussing their priorities in the Workshop sessions, President Beverley Jacobs provided an overview of regional processes and priority themes. Following President Jacobs address, each of the women leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations addressed the delegates to provide an overview of priorities for their respective groups including:

- Kathleen McHugh, Chair, Assembly of First Nations Women's Council
- Mary Simon, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

- Rosemarie McPherson, Women of the Métis Nation
- Lillian George, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Martha Greig, President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- Vera Pawis Tabobondung, President, National Association of Friendship Centres

The addresses by these Aboriginal women leaders proved to be inspirational in setting the stage for the Aboriginal women delegates leading into the Workshop sessions.

## **SUMMIT THEMES**

The Summit was organized into three main themes which were determined by the National Planning Committee based upon the feedback received from Provinces, Territories, the federal government and National Aboriginal Organizations. The main themes contained three to four major topics for discussion in facilitated breakout sessions by the Aboriginal women delegates as follows:

### **Theme 1: Health, Safety and Wellness**

*The main focus of discussion on this theme was to develop strategies to address and recommendations to improve conditions affecting the overall health status of Aboriginal women.*

- Topics:
- Violence against Aboriginal women
  - Poverty and Child Welfare
  - Aboriginal Healing & Wellness
  - Protecting the Environment

### **Theme 2: Equality and Empowerment**

*The main focus of discussion on this theme was to develop strategies and recommendations to ensure that Aboriginal women have the tools to achieve greater equality of rights and empowerment.*

- Topics:
- Recognizing Aboriginal women's Rights
  - Empowering Aboriginal women
  - Understanding and implementing the equality provisions of Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

### **Theme 3: Strength, Balance and Honour**

*The main focus of discussion on this theme was to develop strategies and recommendations to ensure that Aboriginal women's experiences are examined appropriately, and that Aboriginal women are identified as a source of strength in their families and communities.*

- Topics:**
- Culturally relevant gender-based analysis
  - Revitalization of matrilineal/matriarchal systems
  - Justice System and Policing
  - Revitalizing and Strengthening Language and Culture

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

The Summit was organized to allow for the Aboriginal women delegates to discuss their priorities for each of the themes in facilitated breakout sessions. The 150 delegates were directed to small groups of 25 for each session which had two professional facilitators helping to guide the discussions and determine the main priority recommendations of the group. All of the Aboriginal women delegates had an opportunity to participate in each of the theme discussions. Each breakout session provided for a limited number of observers of Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Aboriginal leaders and officials to listen to the discussions.

The Aboriginal women delegates were guided through the breakout sessions by the following facilitators:

Lead facilitator – Ms. Judy White

Facilitators:

Ms. Patricia Baxter

Ms. Andrea Williams

Ms. Michelle Kinney

Ms. Edwina Wetzel

Ms. Michelle Leclair-Harding

Ms. Irene Goodwin

Ms. Elisapi Davidee-Aningmiuq

Ms. Sara Tuckatuck Bennett

Mr. Mathieu Courchene

Ms. Joan Riggs

Mr. Dan George

Ms. Carolann Brewer

The breakout process was as follows:

## PROCESS – BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1. Introductions (10 min)

- a. Facilitator
- b. Participants

### 2. Session (5 min)

- c. Norms
- d. Objectives
- e. Process



### 3. Introduce the Recommendations (15 min)

Facilitator: Explain the recommendations, themes, topics and clusters.

Question: Are there any recommendations that you would add under a specific topic area?

### 4. Break into small groups by topic (30 min)

Tasks: Identify the top three priorities for their topic.

Why did you choose these three?

One key message for your topic.

### 5. Report Back (30 min)

Each group will report back on the top three recommendations and key message.

### 6. Key Message Question: If you had one key message for the theme, what would it be?

### 7. Full Group Validation or Priority Process (10 min)

Question: Out of the top twelve priorities what would be the top three?

## RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the Summit there were 137 recommendations made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis women. 59 of the recommendations were identified as priorities. 29 recommendations were highlighted by theme for more immediate action.

The Aboriginal women delegates identified the following overarching principles and statements:

- **Define “Aboriginal” inclusively:** When we say Aboriginal we mean inclusive of all groups regardless of status, non-status, on-reserve and off-reserve, urban and remote – First Nations, Inuit and Métis.
- **Invest in Aboriginal Nations:** Recognize that resources for Aboriginal Nations are needed to build skills and opportunities to develop healthy solutions for Canada. To invest in Aboriginal Nations, we have to invest in the Nations' women.
- **Invest in Aboriginal women:** Respect all priorities and the diversity of all Aboriginal women. Include in the future the development, implementation and evaluation of all action plans and future processes, recognize traditional ways and invest in improving the lives of Aboriginal women, and Aboriginal women must have resources and opportunities to reclaim their traditional governing roles within families, communities and nations.
- **Invest in the community capacity to address the issues that are a priority to them:** Direct all levels of government (the three levels and Aboriginal governments) to make meaningful substantial improvements to the social, economic, political conditions under which all Aboriginal women and their families live by: a) investing in multi-year funding (10-15 years) that addresses holistic needs of communities that are culturally appropriate and designed by the community; b) developing and training and capacity building with resources for the community to design and deliver meaningful programs and to train non-Aboriginal service providers.
- **Build Ongoing Relationships with Aboriginal Women by promoting:**
  - ✓ Active and meaningful involvement of Aboriginal women at all levels.
  - ✓ Exposure to create capacity, engagement and leadership skills.
  - ✓ Life-long learning for Aboriginal women's development and to address the issues in their community.
  - ✓ Delivery of Aboriginal women's services by Aboriginal women.

## **Theme: Health, Safety and Wellness:**

Six overall priority recommendations under this theme were overwhelmingly supported by the Aboriginal women and are listed below:

1. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Governments must increase financial resources for family violence initiatives and abuse prevention programs; provide more national financial and policy support for enhanced programming regarding family violence and abuse for prevention, care, healing initiatives/treatment and support; and increase resources for child sexual abuse and Elder abuse programs and services.
2. Make violence against Aboriginal women and girls a priority in all areas. In health, this includes providing sexual and reproductive health services, particularly sexual health education programs, HIV/AIDS awareness, education and health prevention and promotion services. In education, particularly post-secondary education, this means supports that meet the unique needs of Aboriginal women, such as child care and housing, to decrease their vulnerability to violence and increase their opportunities for economic opportunities. In housing, this means ensuring that emergency shelters, second stage housing and transition shelters are adequately funded in areas where these services are currently not accessible to Aboriginal women.
3. Ensure that resources be available to address all issues that negatively impact on Aboriginal women's well-being, including poverty, lack of housing, sexualized and racialized violence, employment, education, single parent families, healthcare, urban and remote issues, etc.
4. Ensure economic opportunity strategies consider all the socio-economic conditions that are required to create the right environment for Aboriginal women to participate in the economy. For example, child care, adequate housing, strategies to combat gendered racism, and ensuring that the right and fundamental freedom to live free from violence are all factors to be considered. Existing inequities facing Aboriginal women must be removed in all sectors. This requires the application of a culturally relevant gender-based analysis.
5. Recognize and understand the role and value of traditional Aboriginal reproductive, pregnancy and birthing knowledge; the loss of continuity of family and community care and involvement for women who must leave their communities during late pregnancy to give birth; the importance of Aboriginal women's roles in teaching young women about the physical aspects of womanhood and holding related ceremonies; and develop and

- implement a comprehensive strategy that promotes the inclusion of Aboriginal youth in the design and delivery of policy, programs and services.
6. Aboriginal women must be engaged fully within environmental stewardship issues including water, land, food, air quality, medicines and access and benefit sharing of traditional knowledge on the use of resources, consistent with traditional and modern responsibilities.



## **Theme: Equality and Empowerment**

- Recognizing Aboriginal Women's Rights,
- Empowering Aboriginal Women,
- Section 15 of the Charter of Rights:

Twelve overall priority recommendations under this theme were overwhelmingly supported by the Aboriginal women and are listed below:

7. National and regional Aboriginal women's organizations (NAOs) must be provided appropriate resources for the development, implementation and monitoring of a national, long-term strategic plan for Aboriginal women in all spheres (social and economic development, etc.). Resources must reflect the unique circumstances of each group or geographical area.
8. Action must be taken on a full suite of legislative initiatives including addressing the gender bias under the *Indian Act*, customary and family law reform, Bill C-31 and Canadian Human Rights legislation. Participants want to ensure that the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Aboriginal women under Section 35(4) are recognized and protected.
9. Federal, provincial and territorial governments must address jurisdictional issues so that programs and services are provided irrespective of status and residency with specific agreements for delivery.

10. Prior to the repeal of Section 67 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, a comprehensive multi-year plan must be developed for community education and consultation in order to define next steps.
11. Aboriginal women must be actively involved and take their rightful place in self-determination and processes must be developed to ensure that their unique and important roles in Aboriginal governments be recognized.
12. Economic development for First Nation, Métis and Inuit women is a priority.
13. Educational outcomes for Aboriginal women must be improved through accessible affordable educational opportunities and increased financial resources.
14. Gender equity is a right and must guide all policies and legislation while taking into account the distinctiveness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women.
15. Federal legislation related to Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) on-reserve must be enacted in order to ensure that the property rights of Aboriginal women are recognized and meaningfully respected upon marital breakdown. The proposed solutions must be reviewed to ensure that they do not result in inequitable impacts on Aboriginal women.
16. The Federal Government must adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and must work with Permanent Forum and Indigenous People's organizations.
17. Governments must work jointly with First Nation, Métis and Inuit to facilitate governance, capacity building and accountability with an emphasis on supporting the roles of Aboriginal women.
18. Aboriginal languages are a significant part of identity. Language program funds need to be increased to allow for retention of the language from various nations. This is a vital part of maintaining cultures.





**Theme: Strength, Balance & Honour**

- **Culturally Relevant Gender-based Analysis,**
- **Justice System and Policing,**
- **Revitalizing and Strengthening Language and Culture:**

Eleven overall priority recommendations under this theme were overwhelming supported by the Aboriginal women and are listed below:

19. NAOs, Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and all governments ensure that "culturally-based" GBA processes are established, and that Aboriginal women be resourced to define for themselves the impact of any proposed legislation, policy, programs and services.

Protection of intellectual property and indigenous knowledge transmission must be included and respected through the GBA.

20. Implementing a culturally relevant gender based analysis (CRGBA) framework in all legislative, policy and programming at all government levels will provide critical insight into the current situation forcing outcomes to be more holistic and inclusive.

21. Full participation of Aboriginal women at all decision making tables is needed so they are well served in all legislative, policy and programming initiatives affecting Aboriginal people.

22. A lifelong learning strategy must be developed in key areas of early childhood development, primary, secondary, and post-secondary education, and skills development, and retention, which addresses the unique circumstances of Aboriginal women.

23. All levels of government in partnership with all Aboriginal organizations should take the necessary steps to address the root causes leading to the over-representation of Aboriginal women as victims and offenders within the criminal justice system.

24. All NAO's must work in partnership with all levels of government, mainstream organizations and each other to ensure: a) that existing victims services are adaptable to needs of Aboriginal victims of crime; b) that existing services and structures are respectful of traditional approaches to justice. Police officers, judges and lawyers must learn about the legislative and policy-related history that impact only Aboriginal peoples in Canada, especially Aboriginal women and the key factors which lead Aboriginal women into the justice system.

25. A strategic approach to minimize the growth and impact of gangs in First Nations communities and urban centres as well as to minimize the continued recruitment of Aboriginal youth into gangs must be developed.
26. Aboriginal communities must be supported for the continued implementation and expansion of collaborative and cooperative Restorative Justice Approaches where this is appropriate and supported by the Aboriginal community.
27. The Federal Government (as a result of the previous assimilation policies of residential schools that negatively impacted on languages) must fund the revitalization of indigenous languages through programs dedicated to adults, youth and children.
28. Provide support and recognition to traditional healers, opportunities for Aboriginal women to help develop traditional healing policies and programs, and encourage meaningful dialogue between Aboriginal healers and non-Aboriginal health care providers.
29. Develop a strategy to allow Aboriginal women to reclaim their traditional roles, pass on traditional knowledge, and revitalize their cultures and communities through increased research and educational opportunities.

## **FEEDBACK FROM HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**

### **1. Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland Labrador**

Premier Williams spoke of how the Summit had been described as a transforming event. He said, "I told you that I would listen and I did. One comment that caught me from the beginning was: I am Chief in my home. That struck me. We can do it, was another statement. It is about family, relationships and building on work that has taken place. Inclusion is critical. Status quo is not an option. Understand who we are! Call on our Creator. Listen to our elders. Give us the tools that we need and we will finish the job. This has been described as a transforming event. Actions speak louder than words. Work together, all together we can do great things. Failure is not an option. It is all about our children our future. It really is worth it, action will make a difference. You can be who you want to be. We have to act now. We need you to lead. Boldness has genius, power and magic. Enough is enough. Violence is not acceptable. Poverty leads to powerlessness. We are women, hear us roar. Do not take us for granted. When you climb a mountain, you get a rest. You have to work hard to achieve in life. This summit has been about a positive attitude. The stars have aligned."

Premier Williams indicated the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will take each of the recommendations that came out of the Summit and look at each and every one of them because they all have merit.

### **2. Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians**

"I have long recognized and appreciated the significant role that Aboriginal women play as the emotional and spiritual centre of life for their families and communities.

In the numerous, wide-ranging contributions you make every day, Aboriginal women such as yourselves are living embodiments of the truth behind the theme of this Summit - Strong Women: Strong Communities.

That is why we all realize that improving the lives of Aboriginal women is key to enhancing the strength and well-being of families and communities."

### **3. President Beverley Jacobs, Native Women's Association of Canada**

"A few years ago, we had a vision of Aboriginal women leaders and governments from coast to coast to coast coming together for critical discussion on issues affecting our communities. I shared that vision with Newfoundland Labrador Premier Danny Williams and together, we worked hard to see that vision become reality with the first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS) in Corner Brook. But this summit was more than simply gathering a group of people in a room and holding a discussion.

The NAWS I Summit was a chance for policy makers, legislators and government to gain a better understanding of priority issues as identified by Aboriginal women, but more importantly to fully understand the implication of these issues. Gaining a solid understanding of Aboriginal women's perspectives on these long standing issues is the central element to future discussions, policy development processes, program planning and legislation.

I am excited to say, we are leaving this Summit armed with 29 priority recommendations drafted by Aboriginal women leaders. The 29 recommendations is our vision aimed at improving the lives of Aboriginal women and their families. No longer should our women suffer from gendered discrimination, racism and other forms of oppression. Involving Aboriginal organizations in the political process in a consistent and meaningful way is the first step in moving the Aboriginal women's agenda forward."

### **4. Kathleen McHugh, Chair of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council**

"In January 2005, the Women's Council made a submission to the AFN Renewal Commission to address key structural and procedural changes to continue to improve its representativeness with respect to First Nations women.

A Gender Balanced Analysis Framework was developed to guide the AFN. It was unanimously passed at last month's Special Chiefs Assembly in Gatineau, Quebec.

This framework is a necessary tool in the ongoing renewal of the AFN, to ensure First Nations women's needs and realities are reflected in all of its policies and initiatives.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics has reported that women living on reserves are much more likely to be victims of physical assault, including seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted. This is simply unacceptable.

Advancement in the area of citizenship is central to this. First Nations women must move quickly towards re-claiming their traditional and rightful roles in our communities.

Out of that will come the ways and means to deal with issues such as violence against women, un-stated paternity and matrimonial real property.

We are looking back to our traditional forms of governance, taking what is useful and proper from them, and advancing these in the current setting.

Our Elders often tell us to use the lessons of the past and combine them with our current knowledge. All knowledge is valuable.

We at the Council are sharing this framework with all governments and internationally.”

##### **5. President Mary Simon, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)**

“Elder Jackson brought home something to me that I have grown up with and it is true, that will and determination will get you what you want in the end. But you have to work hard to get there. I remember as I was growing up that my parents and my grandparents taught me to work hard. People ask me how did you get all these things done in your life and it is a very simple answer it is hard work. We are asking the government to partner with us because we need tools to get to where we want to go. I am very pleased that other Premiers offered to follow up with another conference.

Yesterday I was being interviewed by CBC and they asked me a question and it was a hard question to answer it though it was a simple question. Why is this conference different from others? Sometimes we don't know how things will go, but I try to imagine the families that are sitting in their homes wondering why we are meeting and what difference is it going to make to them. So I said because there is a sense of commitment that I feel coming from not only the aboriginal people but also from the leaders. The key to that is not only talk about implementation but to ensure that we are implementing and monitoring the actions that we have been committed to doing.

As aboriginal people we know that our lives are very interconnected. If we begin to address violence against women, we begin building relationships between their parents and children, better relationships between men and women and the wellness of the family improves when that happens. When you become healthier you will become a healthier community. We must remember those who are doing the best to be strong and doing their best to make things work and must build on their successes. I want to thank Premier Williams and Bev Jacobs on this conference and I think that it is a great start.”

## **6. Rosemarie McPherson, National Spokesperson for the Women of the Métis Nation (MNC)**

"We are very pleased to be participating in a unique and historic meeting. We sincerely hope that all levels of government will work together with the National Aboriginal Women's Organizations on implementing the recommendations coming out of this summit.

When Métis women think of health, they think of more than just physical disease. Health includes physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental well-being not just for individuals but for our families and our entire community. Métis women believe that a holistic solution combined with working with all levels of government offers the greatest promise of success in addressing health and wellness issues. The Women of the Métis Nation believe strongly in the need to address the economic marginalization of and education and life long learning opportunities for Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women need to be able to achieve because when they succeed, their communities succeed.

We encourage the women to support this Summit. It is an historic event. We believe in working together with Aboriginal women, various levels of government and other National Aboriginal Organizations to address the issues and priorities of Aboriginal women in Canada. We would like to see the momentum of this event continue. We recommend that the National Aboriginal women's Organizations meet annually to share success stories and that in five years we come together with the various levels of government to share a report card on what we have achieved. We believe that continuing to build this relationship will benefit Aboriginal women for generations to come."

## **7. Lillian George, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)**

"We must end a culture of blame and victimization and adopt a new posture of engagement and leadership. We must stop asking others what have you done for us? And instead ask ourselves what can we do for ourselves? And we cannot stop asking the tough question of us and our fellow leaders until all Aboriginal women be either on or off reserve, urban or rural, First Nation, Métis or Inuit can say with conviction that their present path is a better one. That their life is one of peace, health, safety and prosperity and that their destiny is as optimistic and opportunity filled as any one in this Great Country of ours.

Events like the National Aboriginal Women's Summit are a good first step toward the journey of restoring Aboriginal women in this country to a position of leadership, equality and honor."

## **8. Martha Greig, President of the Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada**

“It was good to be there to represent Inuit women and to see so much political and public servant support at this first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit.

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada is one of only two national organizations that recognize and prioritize the urgent women's agenda. We have been committed to the crisis facing Inuit women and our families for more than twenty years, the very issues that this meeting discussed, with very low levels of political and financial support. These include violence, poverty, healing and wellness, protecting the environment, justice, and equality.

We have strong optimism for our recommendation to federal, provincial and territorial leaders to improve the lives of Inuit women and our families. These four recommendations capture what we women have been saying for years.

First, since the average age of the Inuit is under twenty, I hope the circumstances for our children are seriously addressed after these discussions. Inuit women who are raising the new generation are truly the Inuit keepers of the light.

Second, Japanese are not Chinese, Italians are not Irish, and Inuit are not First Nations. Our culture, language, structure, governance, physical environments are unique and different. Please governments don't continue to lump us in with others. It is fundamentally important to be acknowledged, especially when it comes to voice and resources.

Third, partnerships are essential to meet the crisis we face in health, social and economic matters. We must build and implement results orientated accountable partnerships for our remote fly in communities. We are committed to this principle.

Fourth, and most important, we must protect our environment if we are to leave something for our children. Climate change, challenges to the health and numbers of our food animals, and our whole way of life is seriously in crises. This must be the highest priority for us all.

These are broad themes that do not lend themselves to containment from private sectors or other government agencies. They are to be taken as a whole to all programs developed by and for Inuit.”

**9. Vera Pawis Tabobondung, President of the National Association of Friendship Centres**

"We are talking about equality and fairness and all of you putting your minds together and being able to use the wisdom, the love, respect and the bravery to think outside of what we have always thought, the honesty, the humility and the truth because it is not going to work if there is no truth and even though there is all kinds of stories of passion and I want you to think past all of that and think of what is good for all of us not that I don't believe that each one of us is to be recognized but I want us to be able to use the thinking of all of us because this is the best of the best, and us, the creators, best wishes for all of us to design a package that we can say to the premiers that here it is and that you can take it to the other premiers who have a hard time to understand as aboriginal peoples something that we have been telling them for hundreds of years.

It is one of those high five times all around, emotionally, spiritually and physically. I want to thank you for all the sacrifices that has been made to allow us to enjoy the past few days and to know that the young people will have a greater life because we agreed to sit around and listen to each other, make a commitment and move on to the next steps."

**10. Honourable Kerry Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living; Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister Responsible for Healthy Child, Manitoba**

"There were lots of actions that were discussed by all delegates and one thing came out loud and clear - that the Premiers understand the actions need to be cooperation, collaboration and that there isn't one solution. It is not just one level of government, it is not just one level of organization, but that we have to work together, that we have to come together to be one voice and we have to be strong. We have to admit what the issues are! Don't deny them! Don't minimize them, but continue to work to make a difference and to utilize traditional beliefs. I think we know the power that is held in those beliefs."

**11. Honourable Elaine Taylor, Minister Responsible for Women's Directorate, Yukon**

"Yukon has a very strong delegation. We have fourteen individuals in our delegation and I think that is pretty good for having to travel the farthest in Canada to this part of the world.

We have been able to strive towards a pan northern approach with our territorial counterparts that have really placed northern issues at the national forefront. Amongst those issues violence against women has been of the



utmost importance and we have been able to elevate the awareness of that particular issue.

Yukon has been an incredible leader in terms of raising aboriginal women's issues at the forefront particularly at the national level and certainly at the territorial level."

## **12. Honourable Carolyn Bolivar – Getson, Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in Nova Scotia**

"In June 2007, 50 Mi'kmaq women met in Millbrook, Nova Scotia to draft recommendations on each of this Summit's themes. The issues raised there have been raised here over the past two days -- violence against women, women in leadership, education and training for women, preservation of culture and language.

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to Mi'kmaq women both on and off reserve. The key message during the last few days was inclusion - that everyone be included at the table in decision-making. Special thanks to the women who made a commitment to shaping the future. This is a turning point in our history and I am glad to have been a part of it."

## **13. Rod Bruinooge Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs**

"It is a great pleasure to be in Corner Brook and with all of you. As a Métis politician from Winnipeg, I am proud to be here. I would like to bring greetings from our Prime Minister and Minister Jim Prentice. We are proud to have been a sponsor of the summit and glad that it is continuing into the future...., I find it important to listen to the wisdom that comes from people here today. Our government is very focused on the rights and issues of Aboriginal women and we have moved forward with very important work... That is something that is very much on our political agenda. Overall what you have accomplished here is a great success and I would like to thank the Government of Newfoundland Labrador for pulling off such a great event. Thank you very much."

## **14. Brenda Combs, Chair of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) and Director, Nimkii-Naabkawagan Family Crisis Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario**

"Our Aboriginal culture did not include family violence; there was always harmony between living things and respect for all women. As a Director of one of the INAC funded shelters, we will now be able to provide an even greater holistic approach to healing in our communities which will include our

men and continue teaching our children not to become the abused or the abuser.”

**15. Monsieur Benoît Pelletier - Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Quebec**

“All of us today want to change things [...], but we, as representatives of our respective governments, have the duty to give to the aboriginal women the tools that they need in order to express themselves and to make sure that they, with us, are able to make changes [...] and have an efficient leadership in their own communities. We are all here today to build a better future.”

**16. Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia**

“...we often label ourselves as First Nations or non-First Nations. Let me point out that we have more in common than our labels suggest. Those who are not First Nations, Métis, or Inuit also have mothers and families. My father took his own life. My mother was a single parent who raised four kids on a small salary. But my mother, like you, was the nurturer of the family. She gave us the gift of confidence. She told us: “You can be who you want to be. You should be proud of who you are.” And each of you, as mothers, as sisters, as daughters, give that gift every day to the girls, boys, men and women in your lives.”

**17. Honourable Carmel Robichaud, Minister of Status of Women, Government of New Brunswick**

“The problem of violence against Aboriginal women has existed for far too long. It is time to find practical, culturally appropriate solutions. In New Brunswick, we have an Advisory Committee on Violence Against Aboriginal Women, which includes Aboriginal women from many areas of the province and representatives of all New Brunswick Aboriginal organizations. This Committee is currently developing a Strategic Framework for presentation to all levels of government, including First Nations. The discussions to date have focused on three key areas: prevention and education; service delivery; and capacity building. I am looking forward to the completion of this work so that we can begin to address the Committee's recommendations.

As an Acadian, I can assure you that our Acadian community in New Brunswick would not have survived without the help from First Nations people and it is my turn as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to now help Aboriginal women for what they did for us.”

**18. Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women – Nunavut**

"I am grateful to the organizers of this extraordinary event and to all attendees for their input and the fruitful discussions that have taken place at the Summit. We talk about all the challenges that Aboriginal women face in Canada, but we do not acknowledge all the good work that we are doing. The work that comes from here provides a clear direction for addressing the issues raised at the Summit. Many of these issues are similar to those in Nunavut. However, in our territory, women also experience unique and specific challenges. For example, we have the highest rates of violence against women in the country, and it is going to take a hard commitment of our government, and of the whole community, to address this issue. Sharing experiences and best practices and discussing recommendations is fruitful for developing clear pathways for change.

In order to create true change, we need to be able to think outside of the box as to how we can provide better services to the citizens of Canada. It is crucial to promote the needs and rights of aboriginal women and the challenges that they face in a multidimensional way. Process and past regulations must not get in the way of addressing the issues before us. We can all make a difference."

**19. Honourable Joe Handley, Premier & Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Northwest Territories**

"Listening has caused me to reflect back and to ask what has happened to Aboriginal people for the last couple of decades to cause so many people hardship with housing, poverty, violence and so on. These were very strong independent people who lived here for 20,000 years and difficulties did not happen just because we are Aboriginal but a lot of our power and authority have been taken away from us. A lot of people thought they were doing that for the right reason and Aboriginal people right across Canada are very accommodating people. Treaties have been signed and we were willing to share -- to live peacefully together. But we lost a lot and far too many people are suffering.

...In my view poverty leads to powerlessness. It leads to loss of self-esteem, people lashing out, frustration, loss of identity, to so many negative things...

As I listen this morning, native women have to be responsible for the delivery of programs for and by Aboriginal women. They must have active involvement and be directly engaged and it is important to do that: to move ourselves ahead. I think we can do it...

Education. I started out as a teacher; there are only three things I can say: education, education, education. You look at who is successful and education makes a huge difference... We have to do more ourselves as Aboriginal people to look after ourselves because nobody is going to look after us any better. In spite of the best efforts of government, nobody is going to do it better than us. We have got to do more than just talk.

I have to thank all of you here and as a politician it was really hard to listen for two days! Thank you to Premier Danny Williams, Beverly Jacobs. I want to say a big thank you for organizing this conference.”

#### **20. Paula Biggar, MLA, Prince Edward Island**

“Elders, Premiers, Bev Jacobs, elected officials, Aboriginal leaders and especially delegates. As head of the Prince Edward Island delegation, I am honoured to have been a part of this summit and am pleased to have participated along with five strong Aboriginal women.

I live in an area where I see first hand the needs of Aboriginal women and their families. But I have also seen the positive changes that are being made in that community. Throughout the summit it has become evident that this leadership exists coast to coast. Through the efforts of Aboriginal women this summit has raised the bar on how government should support all Aboriginal peoples. We must work together to build on challenges and be successful. We hope this summit will lead to sustainable change. I would like to thank Premier Williams and the generous people of Newfoundland.”

#### **21. Pearl Calahasen, MLA, Alberta**

“On behalf of the Alberta delegation, our Premier and our government, I want to say a special thank you to conference organizers. Aboriginal women are the strength of our communities; they carry the values; they educate the children and are the gatekeepers of the culture. As Aboriginal women we have to be strong. I have witnessed that strength and commitment over the last two days of this conference. I have heard the messages from this conference and I will carry those messages back to my government.”

#### **22. Audrey Poitras, Board of Governors for the Métis National Council and President of the Métis Nation of Alberta**

“I want to say how honoured I am to participate with other levels of government and Aboriginal women in developing recommendations. The nature and scope of the recommendations are truly impressive. They outline a holistic and comprehensive plan that seeks to close the gaps between Aboriginal women and other Canadians. The plan speaks of partnership and

reconciliation. It is forward thinking and I believe reflects all beliefs of all Aboriginal women. What has impressed me the most is the positive attitude of the Aboriginal women of this Summit.

[This Summit] has been about the sense of empowerment that is gaining momentum; you can feel it in this room. It touches our hearts and more importantly it guides our minds. I feel in my mind we have come to a crossroad in Canada. As stated by others the status quo is not sustainable or not acceptable. We must act. We have identified the challenges before us, now we must shoulder together and do what it takes because that is what it takes to get the job done. We need not seek permission from anyone including governments but we have heard the support around this table and I believe that is how it needs to be. We must lead on our actions, we will be judged by our failure to act."

### **23. Chief Rick Simon, Regional Chief of the Assembly of the First Nations for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland**

"I want to thank the Government of Newfoundland Labrador and the Native Women's Association of Canada for organizing this historic conference. I want to pay tribute to Bev Jacobs for her determination for making this a reality. I want to thank Kathleen McHugh; she is the chair of our Women's Council and for the delegation who worked so hard on the planning after the minister's meeting in BC. Here at this summit we looked at the issues that came out of Kelowna. We know now that solutions need to come from communities themselves with cooperation with government. We need to build on capacity and to focus on that.

The main focus here has been on women and children. Based on the recommendations, we know there is a concern on the drafting of federal legislation. The AFN has been working in the past year to address the shortcoming of areas including Human Rights legislation, matrimonial real property, Bill C-31, regarding citizenship. We are also concerned with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; high on our agenda. We have championed gender based analysis at the AFN and I believe the recommendations to adopt the framework is key. The Women's Council at the Chief's Assembly pushed in Ottawa for support and the fact that it has been pressed here and we certainly have adopted it and now we need to move towards implementation."

### **24. Honourable David Ramsey- Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs- Ontario**

"My message today is that we all have to work together. These issues are too important to be focusing on our differences. We cannot afford to leave anybody behind in this country, unfortunately for hundred of years we have

left Aboriginal people behind both socially and economically. It should have never happened and it is one of our countries biggest shames. We have to catch up; it is not just the cultural disparities but also economic disparities. We have to ensure that every citizen in Canada is firing on all cylinders as we as government have to ensure that resources are there. The time is now and the time is right and there is a lot of will in this room and will in this country."

**25. Honourable Beverley Oda – Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women Canada**

"As the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, I was happy to meet participants and partake in the National Aboriginal Women's Summit 2007. Each person that attended the Summit brought with them tremendous creativity, new ideas and positive energy, making the event relevant for Aboriginal women across Canada, and into the future. Our Government is deeply concerned about the challenges facing First Nations, Inuit and Métis women. We remain committed to working with our Aboriginal partners, as well as with other levels of government, to break down the barriers to the full participation of Aboriginal women in all walks of life in our country. My colleagues and I look forward to the outcomes of this Summit, which will inform our future actions in support of Aboriginal women, their families and their communities."

## **CONCLUSION**

The National Aboriginal Women's Summit was an historic event as it was the first time a Summit was held for Aboriginal women. Not only was it a unique opportunity for Aboriginal women to come together from across Canada, it was an opportunity to bring together collective minds to discuss the needs of Aboriginal women in our communities, identify solutions and plan for future action. Equally important was the forging of long-term partnerships with governments.

The recommendations proposed in this report represent a major step toward restoring long-term support for Aboriginal women and new solutions to national problems in the next millennium. The time to act is now and all governments have a unique and critical role to play in supporting this area.

This Summit strongly recommends that all levels of governments and leadership organizations embark upon the kind of leading-edge action to give all Aboriginal women the opportunity to be able to fulfill their promise. These steps, if taken now, will bring handsome returns to the Nation over the coming decades. That is our opportunity and our challenge.

Indeed we call upon the Government of Canada, provinces and territories and Aboriginal organizations to develop real and tangible solutions to these issues. Addressing the issues of Aboriginal women and communities must be a priority for all levels of government and jurisdictions. It is critical to this country; it must be a priority and then solutions are possible. But we need to equip and enable strong Aboriginal women to build strong Aboriginal communities. This summit begins this very rewarding journey.

We look forward to the implementation of the federal announcement of almost \$56 million over five years made by the Honourable Beverly Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister of Status of Women, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, for the operational costs of existing shelters to provide protection and prevention services that meets the needs of Aboriginal women, children and families ordinarily resident on-reserve. \$2.2 million of this funding will go to support the construction of up to five new shelters through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program.

We also look forward to getting together again in 2008 in Yellowknife at the invitation of the Premier of the Northwest Territories to host another National Aboriginal Women's Summit (NAWS 2) to continue our progress on Aboriginal women's issues.

## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Papers Submitted for the National Aboriginal Women's Summit

#### Status of Women Canada

- [Aboriginal Women: An Issues Backgrounder](#)
- [Summary of the Policy Forum on \*Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities\*](#)

#### Newfoundland and Labrador

- [Violence Prevention Efforts Get an Infusion of Funding](#)
- [Taking Action Against Violence 2006 - 2012](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women's Conference March 13-15, 2006](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women's Conference November 23-26, 2006](#) (PDF)

#### Women of the Métis Nation

- [Policy Paper on Violence Against Metis Women](#) (PDF)
- [Health Policy Paper](#) (PDF)
- [Education Policy Paper](#) (PDF)
- [Traditional Knowledge Policy Paper](#) (PDF)

#### Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

- [Protecting the Environment](#) (PDF)
- [Inuit Health and Wellness](#) (PDF)
- [Law and Justice](#) (PDF)
- [Revitalizing & Strengthening Culture and Language](#) (PDF)
- [Poverty and Child Welfare](#) (PDF)

#### Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

- [Protecting the Environment](#) (PDF)
- [Strengthening Inuit Families](#) (PDF)
- [Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis](#) (PDF)
- [Keepers of The Light – Inuit Women's Action Plan](#) (PDF)
- [Highlights of Early Child Development \(ECD\) Related Activities](#) (PDF)
- [Corrections](#) (PDF)
- [Equality and Empowerment](#) (PDF)
- [Language and Culture in Approaches to Programming](#) (PDF)
- [Urban Inuit - A Woman's Perspective](#) (PDF)
- [Poverty](#) (PDF)
- [An Overview of Risks and Opportunities in Family Violence and Abuse Prevention in Inuit Communities](#) (PDF)
- [An Overview of Risks and Opportunities in Inuit Sexual Health](#) (PDF)
- [An Overview of Risks and Opportunities in Economic Development](#) (PDF)

#### Native Women's Association of Canada

- [Matrimonial Real Property NWAC Issue Paper](#) (PDF)
- [Repeal of Section 67](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women And Traditional Healing](#) (PDF)
- [Reproductive Health, Midwifery, and Birthing](#) (PDF)



Final Report

- [Culturally Relevant Gender Based Analysis](#) (PDF)
- [Matrimonial Real Property](#) (PDF)
- [Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls](#) (PDF)
- [The United Nations Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women And Unstated Paternity](#) (PDF)
- [International Human Rights Standards and Instruments Relevant to Indigenous Women](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Gangs](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Restorative Justice](#) (PDF)
- [Revitalization of Matrilineal/Matriachal/Egalitarian Systems](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women And Partnerships](#) (PDF)
- [Federally Sentenced Aboriginal Women Offenders](#) (PDF)
- [Understanding Section 15 of the Charter of Rights](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and the Legal Justice System in Canada](#) (PDF)
- [Strategies to Address Child Welfare](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Self-Determination](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and the Environment](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Bill C-31](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Homelessness](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Climate Change](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women and Nuclear Waste Management](#) (PDF)
- [Aboriginal Women And Species at Risk](#) (PDF)

**Congress of Aboriginal Peoples**

- [Theme One: Health, Safety & Wellness](#) (PDF)
- [Theme Two: Equity & Empowerment](#) (PDF)
- [Theme Three: Strength Balance & Honour](#) (PDF)

**Assembly of First Nations**

- [Policy Recommendations June 2007](#) (PDF)

**Northwest Territories**

- [Status of Women Council](#)
- [Native Women's Association of the N.W.T.](#)
- [Department of Executive](#)
- [Violence Against Women in the NWT A Way Forward](#) (PDF)

**National Association of Friendship Centres**

- [Urban Aboriginal Women: Social Determinants of Health and Well-Being](#) (PDF)

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **NAWS COMMUNICATIONS SYNOPSIS**

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Media representatives from many broadcasters were present in Corner Brook, NL, to broadcast the news coming from the first ever National Aboriginal Women's Summit. Radio-Canada TV Atlantic, CTV from St. John's, CBC Radio, and provincial newspaper reporters were on hand. Canadian Press provided news conferences on the hour across the country, during newsbreaks.

It was important to inform media of the summit at least two months in advance to allow the broadcasters enough time to coordinate staff and priorities. This proved to be a good strategy.

Another strategy which worked well was contacting the media independently and well in advance to begin doing interviews and talking about NAWS. The Native Women's Association of Canada President Beverley Jacobs adopted this formula and leading up to the summit, she personally did at least 35 interviews.

#### **NAWS MESSAGES**

Several key points were developed by the NAWS Communications Sub-Committee as general messages adopted by all NAOs and governments. Equally, NAO's and government reps were encouraged to draft their own key messages based upon their position papers or issues they wished to address at NAWS. Again, this proved to be a successful strategy which aided to maintain consistent messages but also engaged all groups that wished to address the media.

#### **VIDEO CONFERENCING**

This historic event was successfully broadcast over the World Wide Web via video conferencing technology. The video conferencing allowed those who could not attend, to tune in to the summit.

#### **NAWS WEBSITE**

Summit position papers and recommendations were placed on the NAWS website for public viewing. Also, there is a component which allows visitors to provide for direct input to the recommendations. This website will continue to be a valuable communication tool as we look ahead to future NAWS allowing visitors to view the progress and help to identify the gaps.

Each NAO developed its own unique NAWS webpage with a link to the main page which is currently being housed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador but will be turned over to the Government of the Northwest Territories which is hosting NAWS 2.

### **NAWS COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Communications team consisted of members from all NAOs, Government of NL, and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The group met regularly via conference call beginning as early as March to begin the long process of managing overall communications, technical requirements, website and logo design among other things. The communications team became a partnership driven by common challenges and goals.