

## **NWAC MAKES INAUGURAL APPEARANCE AT SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS IN PERU**

April 9, 2018

OTTAWA, ON - The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) brings the voice of Indigenous women of all Nations of Canada to the eighth Summit of The Americas in Lima, Peru, South America this week. (April 10-13) This is NWAC's third visit to South America by request since March of 2018 and the first ever at the Summit of the Americas.

Every three years, heads of state and governments from the Western Hemisphere gather to discuss concerns and commonalities on related issues at the summit. The affirmation of shared values and common policy issues in these discussions will allow further commitment to change regionally and nationally within the Americas. The central theme of this summit is "Democratic Governance to end Corruption."

Executive Director Lynne Groulx and NWAC Provincial Member President Judy Hughes will attend on behalf of NWAC. Lynne Groulx stated, "The importance of Indigenous gender perspective at conferences of this magnitude will benefit Indigenous women and girls around the world. After recently visiting with our sisters in Bolivia, Brazil and now Peru, I see first hand similar issues of colonial oppression and control. Governments can no longer ignore the issues Indigenous women face and the significance of corruption and human rights violations. There is an uprising and NWAC is leading the charge for change for Indigenous women of many Nations in Canada."

NWAC brings our advocacy to the Summit of The Americas at the "Indigenous Peoples Forum" on April 10<sup>th</sup> and again on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the "Dialogue Between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives" session. The Government of Peru has invited Indigenous people, to participate fully in sharing ideas related to youth advocacy, corruption and human rights.

The Summit of The Americas has resulted in many programs and initiatives including the creation of the World Bank that provides low interest loans to developing countries. Additionally, the Pan American Health Organization was created to improve health and living standards in countries of the Americas and the United Nations Development Programme that advocates for change to build better lives.

Attendees at the summit will include The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and Donald Trump, President of the United States of America. Canada was host of the Summit of the Americas in 2001. NWAC is honoured to represent the voice of Indigenous women of many Nations of Canada at this important and historic summit.

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The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women. NWAC is an aggregate of thirteen Native women's organizations from across Canada and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1974.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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