



Jeannette Corbiere Lavell
President, Native Women's Association of Canada

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell is a strong Anishnabe woman and a member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island in Ontario.

Dedicated to the causes of Aboriginal women for more than a quarter of a century, Ms. Corbiere Lavell challenged the gender discrimination in the *Indian Act*, going to the Supreme Court of Canada to ensure equality for Aboriginal women. She is a founding member and past president of several Aboriginal women's organizations, including the Ontario Native Women's Association and interim president of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Ms. Corbiere Lavell has worked tirelessly as a teacher and school principal, education and employment counselor, accomplished advocate, cabinet appointee and consultant on matters related to law and justice and Indian status. She is the co-editor of a book, "Until Our Hearts Are On The Ground: Aboriginal Mothering, Oppression, Resistance and Rebirth." Ms. Corbiere Lavell has also served on many board of directors and has worked to advance issues of concern for Aboriginal women in Canada and internationally and has been awarded with numerous awards, honours and distinctions.

In 1987 the Ontario Native Women's Association established the Jeannette Corbiere Lavell Award, "to be presented annually to a deserving Native Woman demonstrating the same qualities and dedication as Jeannette."

In 1995 Ms. Corbiere Lavell was awarded the YWCA Women of Distinction Award.

In 2008 Ms. Corbiere Lavell was appointed the first Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on citizenship.

In September 2009 Ms. Corbiere Lavell was elected to a three-year term as President of the Native Women's Association of Canada in September 2009.

In October 2009 Ms. Corbiere Lavell was presented with the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, which honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of women's equality.

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell is a proud mother to three and a grandmother to five.