

JACOBS, Beverley



Current President Native Women's Association of Canada – Oct. 2004

President Beverley K. Jacobs is a proud Mohawk citizen of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, Bear Clan. She actively practices her culture. Her traditional name is Gowehgyuseh which means “She is visiting.” She is the proud mother of Ashley, grandmother to Nicholas, Tessa and Bryson.

Ms. Jacobs is lawyer by trade with a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of Windsor and a Master's Degree in Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Jacobs also taught as a professor at several institutions including McMaster University, the University of Windsor, University of Toronto, University of Saskatchewan and Ryerson University.

Ms. Jacobs began her career as an entrepreneur and consultant with her own firm, Bear Clan Consulting, dealing with such issues as Bill C-31, Residential Schools, Matrimonial Real Property, and Aboriginal health issues.

She is also a sole practitioner with a law office at Six Nations Grand River Territory. Her practice is on hold during her term as President of NWAC. Ms. Jacobs' work on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women was inspired by her work with Amnesty International as the Lead Researcher and consultant for their Stolen Sisters Report.

This 2004 groundbreaking document highlights racialized and sexualized violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. Her work with Amnesty International helped Ms. Jacobs to solidify her goals and her mission in working toward ending the continued victimization of Aboriginal women and led her to her decision to run for President of NWAC.

Since her election as President, she has successfully secured funding for the Sisters In Spirit, a research, education and policy initiative aimed at raising public awareness about Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

In her role as NWAC President, she has travelled to countless communities to raise awareness, rally citizens and inspire young Aboriginal women.

In October 2008, President Jacobs was honoured by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, and Civilian Peace Service Canada as one of 50 Canadian women whose work and dedication has helped to further a culture of peace in Canada.

In November 2008, President Jacobs was the recipient of the Governor General's Award in commemoration of the Persons Case, which salutes Canadian contributions to the advancement of women's equality.