



Native Women's Association of Canada

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Moves Agenda Forward for Aboriginal Women

Toronto, ON (October 30, 2009) – Yesterday the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and leaders of National Aboriginal Organizations met for the first time with federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. This meeting was the first of an Aboriginal Affairs Working Group that will meet on an ongoing basis to move dialogue forward on the many issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples, including education and skills training and economic development.

“I am proud that NWAC is here working with all jurisdictions to identify and implement action to benefit our women and move towards closing the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal Peoples and Canadians,” commented NWAC President Jeannette Corbiere Lavell. “The issues affecting Aboriginal women impact their families and communities; when they see advancements, it benefits all of Canada.”

This past summer the Council of the Federation agreed to direct their respective Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs to determine how best the federal, provincial and territorial governments can work with National Aboriginal Organizations more effectively to improve outcomes for the First Peoples of Canada. Yesterday's dialogue set the stage for ongoing discussions for a future First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues in late 2010.

“NWAC is pleased with the commitment made to include the important issue of violence against Aboriginal women and the crisis of our missing and murdered sisters, mothers, aunts and grandmothers. The meeting concluded with unprecedented consensus in support of this issue as an integral part of the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples,” added President Corbiere Lavell. “The issue of violence, as well as the broader issues of health and well-being will be addressed as a core topic by the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group at the next meeting in April 2010. As experts in the field, NWAC looks forward to being a leader on this issue.”

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