



**Native Women's
Association of Canada**

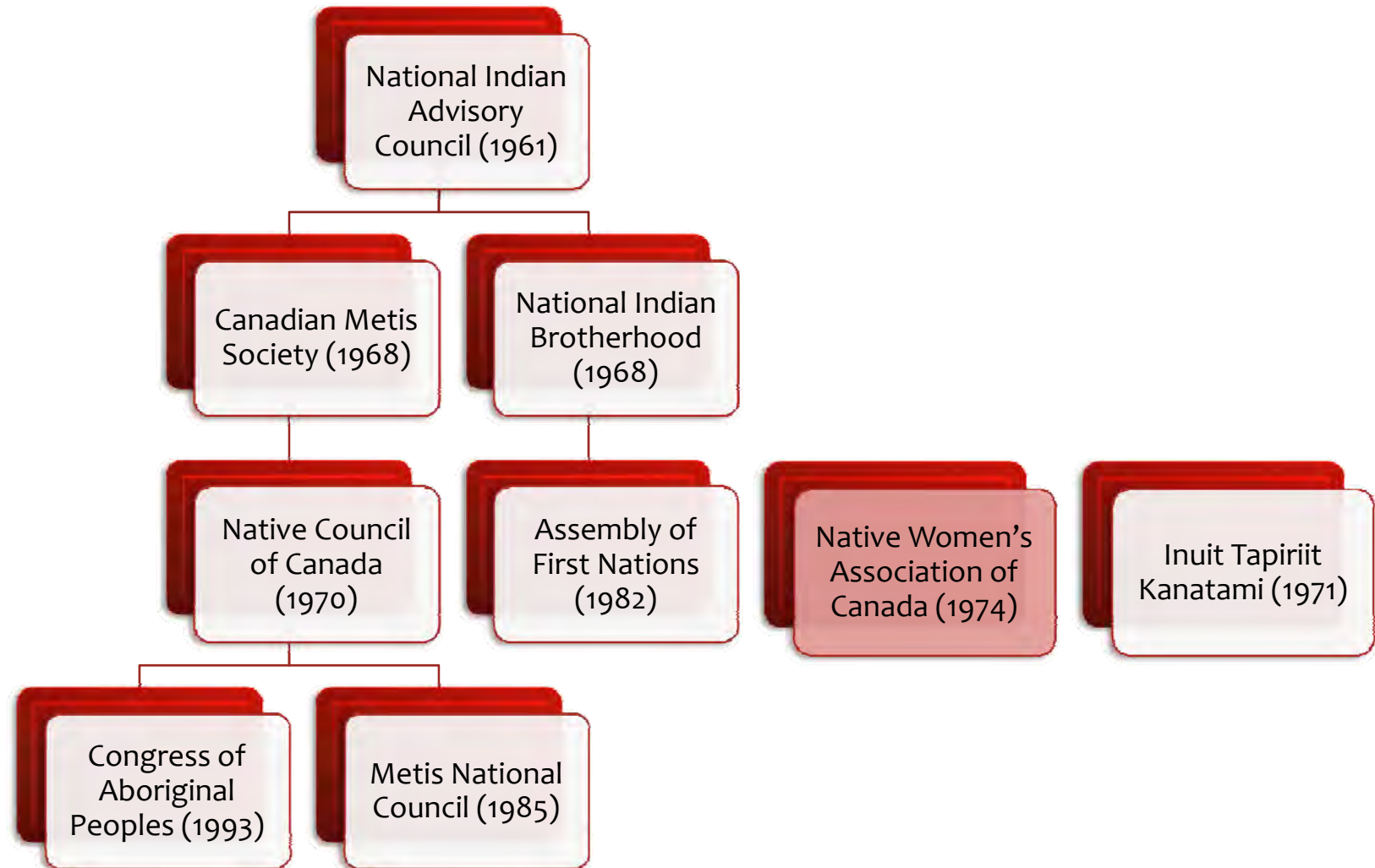
Native Women's Association of Canada



**An Introduction to
Advocacy**



National Aboriginal Organizations





We are the only National Aboriginal Organization
solely responsible for representing the interests of
Aboriginal **WOMEN**.



Missing and Murdered



NWAC President, Beverley Jacobs





Advocacy





Balance



Advocacy + Balance



The CRGBA & Advocacy

ADVOCACY is the pursuit of influencing outcomes that directly affect people's current lives



Social Exclusion

Social exclusion translates into:

- Gendered Racism
- Systemic Discrimination
- Lateral Violence

And is perpetuated by:

- Colonization
- Patriarchy
- Christianization
- Capitalism

Why Cultural Relevance in GBA?

There is a need to move beyond gender and conventional GBA to incorporate Indigenous worldview

There is a need to look at the underlying factors behind Aboriginal women's consistently poor health

Why Cultural Relevance in GBA?

There is a need to examine gendered Aboriginal identity and how the dominant culture's imposed beliefs have shaped gender, and our cultural, economic, social, and political status in society

NWAC's CRGBA: Principle 1

Revitalize the value of Aboriginal women's roles within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal society and reconnect race and gender to positively impact health and healing

“It is not solely my gender through which I first experience the world; it is my culture that precedes my gender.

Actually if I am the object of some form of discrimination, it is very difficult for me to separate what happens to me because of my gender and what happens to me because of my race and culture.

To artificially separate my gender from my race and culture forces me to deny the way I experience the world. Such denial has devastating effects on Aboriginal constructions of reality.”

Patricia Monture-Angus
Thunder in my Soul: A Mohawk Woman Speaks

NWAC's CRGBA: Principle 2

Embrace Aboriginal culture and the principles of balance and equilibrium, with gender being one component of balance.

NWAC's CRGBA: Principle 3

Comply with the laws of the Creator and
Aboriginal world view and law, inherent
right, Constitution, and International law

NWAC's CRGBA: Principle 4

Capture diversity and different circumstances of Aboriginal women based on their distinctive cultures and cultural practices

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Aboriginal Women's Realities

- Among female youth, the rate of suicides among registered Indians was nearly 8 times that of other Canadian youth
- The rate of spousal violence experienced by Aboriginal women over a five-year period was 24% compared to 8% for their non-Aboriginal counterparts
- 71% of Aboriginal single-parent households live off-reserve. Over 80% of those households are headed by single female parents
- More than half of all female single-parent households live in core housing need
- Aboriginal women are almost 3 times more likely to contract AIDS than non-Aboriginal women
- Aboriginal women make up 29% of total the female Canadian prison population
- Over 40% of Aboriginal women live in poverty

Gendered Racism

Colonial laws and policies targeted the power Aboriginal women held as family anchors

Demeaning and demoralizing portrayals became the identity of the Aboriginal woman in Canada

Systemic Discrimination

Aboriginal women are differentially impacted by legislation, laws:

- Section 91(24), Constitution Act
- Indian Act
- Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA)
- Matrimonial Real Property Rights

And policies:

- Non insured health benefits (NIHB)
- Post secondary education (PSE)
- Band membership codes

Lateral Violence

Lateral violence refers to the “*shaming, humiliating, damaging, belittling and sometimes violent behavior directed toward a member of a group by other members of the same group*”

It is a learned behavior and most often manifests itself among groups of people who have experienced extreme forms of oppression such as colonization

What can the CRGBA do?

1. Expose the impacts
2. Influence outcomes
3. Advance knowledge & awareness
4. Achieve equity among genders
5. Promote systemic change
6. Restore Aboriginal identity
7. Raise consciousness



Native Women's Association of Canada

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