



MUNICIPALITY *of the*  
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Message

August 9, 2022

---

**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:**

**A message from the Municipality of the County of Kings**

In December 1994, the United Nations (UN) assembly decided August 9 would be known as *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples*.

This day is particularly important on Turtle Island due to the history, systemic discrimination, and violence against Indigenous people. The date August 9 is referencing the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Since this first meeting, the UN has made progress in the promotion and protection of Indigenous rights. Although there is still room for advancements, the UN system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous people and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) are great foundations for improving the treatment of Indigenous folks worldwide. The government of Canada and the Municipality of the County Kings has committed to adopting and implementing the UNDRIP and upholding the rights of Indigenous People.

Each year a new and relevant theme is chosen, and this year's theme is the role of Indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge. This theme was chosen to highlight the invaluable roles Indigenous women play in their communities and the unique forms of oppression and stigmatization they face. The UN has recognized Indigenous women as breadwinners, water carriers, caretakers, knowledge keepers, leaders, and human rights defenders in their communities, specifically emphasizing the crucial role Indigenous women play in the preservation and sharing of ancestral knowledge. Despite being invaluable members of their communities, Indigenous women experience less access to education, health care, job opportunities, and politics, all hindering their health, safety, and potential. This year's theme is a call to action toward uplifting, appreciating, supporting, and protecting Indigenous women across the world.

Within the context of Canada, Indigenous rights are, and have always been, under attack – especially the rights of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse persons. The Municipality would like to shine a light upon the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), which has been uplifting, appreciating, supporting, and protecting Indigenous women across the world for 48 years, and the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (NSNWA), which has been doing the same for 47 years.

NWAC represents the political voice of women, girls, and gender-diverse folks to enhance the well-being of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse in Canada. NSNWA has 16 chapters across Nova Scotia and offers programs, services, and advocacy support for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA.

Please take some time to learn more about NWAC by visiting <https://nwac.ca/> and NSNWA at <http://www.nsnwa.ca/>

To learn about International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and this year's theme, visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>