



Wendy M. Sturgeon

Wendy is life-partner, mother, grandmother, daughter and auntie. She lives and plays in the beautiful Niagara Region. Wendy is the Executive Director of the Niagara Chapter- Native Women Inc. She has spent over 20 years working in the urban Aboriginal community in Niagara. She brings that community knowledge as well as provincial and national awareness and knowledge of Indigenous issues as they pertain to urban society. She was

born in Toronto and raised in urban society with a lucky three years living in Germany and travelling with family around Europe. She is connected to the Chippewa of the Thames and is of Anishnabe (Ojibway) and Welsh/English decent. Her current interest rests with Indigenous child welfare issues, having developed and secured funding for two ground breaking provincial Indigenous child welfare programs that have had significant provincial impact - the Aboriginal Child Advocate program and “Original Pathways” an Alternative Dispute Resolution program which seeks efforts to keep Indigenous children and families out of court. Recently she has secured funding through Ontario Native Women Assoc. for two additional programs with a third one pending. Her governance experience includes being treasurer of Ontario Native Women’s Association and Board of Director for nine years; founding member and on the executive of the Ontario Native Women’s Charitable Foundation for five years; a founding member of the Neto Native Arts Canada, the only Indigenous Artist Run Organization in Niagara with third party Ont. Arts Council funding and standing. Wendy is also on a provincial Indigenous housing support service for 10 years ensuring that Indigenous families have access to both home repairs, down payments if qualified and that Indigenous groups have access to funding for major community housing projects off reserve. Two such projects are now underway in Niagara at this time.

Wendy feels privileged and honored to be entrusted by the Indigenous community to represent at the provincial level and has also been requested to represent at Native Women of Canada as well as Official Observer at the United Nations Indigenous People’s Forum. Two such projects are now underway in Niagara at this time. What brings Wendy great joy is time spent with family, playing and painting with her granddaughter, especially outdoors, seeing people succeed at what they put their minds to, rafting, canoeing, kayaking and running around in puddles whenever possible!