



MEDIA RELEASE, For Immediate Release | September 7, 2018

Indigenous Activist Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell honoured with Order of Canada

The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) is extremely honoured to acknowledge Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell for receiving the Order of Canada. The Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System, and recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell has been appointed with this honour for her leadership in advocating for Indigenous women's rights throughout Canada, notably for advancing gender equality under the law. Cora-lee McGuire-Cyrette, Executive Director of ONWA says "her contribution to the well-being and equal rights to Indigenous women demonstrates strong leadership, determination, strength, and resiliency that continue to positively affect the Indigenous women's movement."

Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell is widely known for the Lavell Case in 1973. She challenged the Indian Act based on discrimination under the Canadian Bill of Rights before the Supreme Court of Canada after she lost her Indian Status for marrying a non-Native in 1970. Her attempt inspired others to continue the



fight and in 1985, the Indian Act was amended to remove the discriminatory clauses against Indigenous women. The ONWA is appreciative of all of the hard work and dedication she has withstood and the impact she has had towards changes within the Indian Act.

Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell began a journey from a grassroots level as a founding member of the Ontario Native Women's Association, a non-profit organization established in 1971. This led to a larger movement that positively affected the Indigenous women, communities, and ultimately the Nation, regardless of locality or status.



She is truly an inspiration to Indigenous women, families, and communities.

Jeanette Corbiere-Lavell received the Order of Canada on September 6, 2018.

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