

2017 YWCA TORONTO WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

TRANSFORMING LIVES



CONNIE WALKER

Media – Senior Reporter, Investigative Unit at CBC News

In today's ever-changing world, the need for conscientious reporting on social justice issues is of paramount importance. Connie Walker is at the forefront of Canadian journalism achieving just that with her groundbreaking reporting on the disproportionate rates of violence against Indigenous women in Canada and the embedded societal and systemic issues that surround these cases.

As a Cree woman from the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan, Connie's unique perspective fuels her passion for the topics she covers as a Senior Reporter in the Investigative Unit at CBC News.

In December 2013, Connie helped launch CBC Indigenous, a web portal that has become a leading voice for coverage of Indigenous issues and one of the CBC's most successful community engagement units. A crucial element of this portal is the highly regarded and recognized interactive site: *Missing & Murdered: Unsolved Cases of Indigenous Women and Girls* where Connie and her colleagues investigate women's stories from across the nation. The team has won multiple awards including the 2016 Canadian Association of Journalists' Don McGillivray award, a Canadian Screen Award and the prestigious Hillman Award.

Connie has also broken new ground with her podcast *Missing & Murdered: Who Killed Alberta Williams?*, which investigates the unsolved murder of an Indigenous woman who was killed in British Columbia in 1989.

The connection Connie has to her family and roots is a source of motivation to tell these stories. Connie is leading the dialogue on Indigenous women's rights and social justice in Canada. As one of a small group of Indigenous reporters at the CBC, Connie mentors up-and-coming reporters and speaks out on the importance of representation of Indigenous peoples in the media.

Connie also helped produce *8th Fire*, a documentary series on CBC television that examined the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the rest of Canada. She was also a board member for imagineNATIVE, an organization that champions women filmmakers.

For over 15 years Connie's reporting identified critical issues faced by Indigenous communities and beyond. As more Canadians learn the truth about the realities that Indigenous peoples face in Canada, the whole nation is benefitting from the results of her work.



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