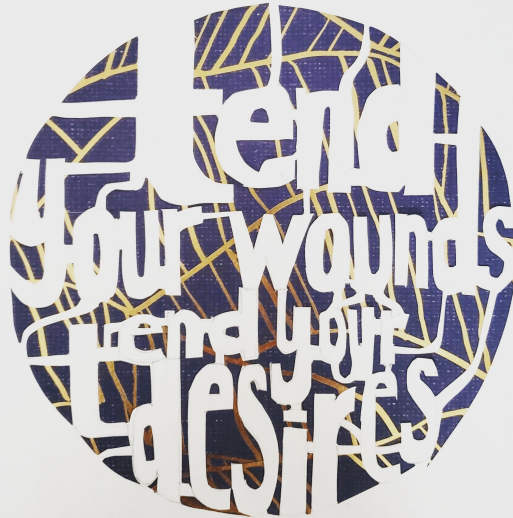




NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE  
EMPOWERING WOMEN BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO EXPLORE THEIR NEEDS

## feminist DISPATCH

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is a non-profit, community-based feminist organization in Thunder Bay, Ontario. We work with self-identified women to increase their access to knowledge, skills and resources so they can make informed choices.



*tend your wounds tend your desires, papercut by jayal chung*

### From our Executive Director

Equality means those who can become pregnant should have the right to control their own bodies, their plans to have children and their ability to recover and heal from sexual violence.

But now apparently, before we have even bothered to unpack the sexist constructs of motherhood, countries like the USA are affording foetuses more legal rights than the people who are pregnant with them. We have all heard a lot about rape myths and the victim blaming that surrounds women's experience of sexual violence, especially in criminal court cases. Although still largely unsuccessful, at least some attempts have been made to create laws that mitigate these destructive, yet strongly held beliefs. No such mitigation has occurred with respect to the societal beliefs we impose on those who can give birth to children. We see this every day in family court, where strong stereotypes about who should have authority over; versus who should have responsibility for children persist around the roles and rights of fathers and mothers dealing with child custody and support matters. These structural and persistent sexist inequities stem from the same beliefs – Patriarchy continues to disadvantage/ victimize/ blame / criminalize (in that order!) women and prop up white supremacy at the same time. It is not a coincidence that the political factions who would ban abortion also support the so called "Don't Say Gay" bills and have legislated an end to any education that challenges white privilege. The control, criminalization and commodification of women is resurfacing worldwide, among other nasty and intersecting oppressions. I have been thinking a lot about women in Afghanistan, where fighting or standing for the equality of women may now be a death sentence. In many US states, laws banning abortion will result in an intrusive system of surveillance of women's bodies and criminalize a wide spectrum of individuals and critical activities related to all areas of reproductive health. For many who are pregnant, it will also lead to a sentence of death.

Lest you think Canada is exempt from this madness, remember that forced sterilization and the criminalization of pregnant people who use substances

persists here, and disproportionately impacts women of vulnerabilized identities. Access to abortion is not equal, or easy across the whole country. Women\* cannot have equality and safety without autonomy over their own bodies. The good news is that the majority of us in both Canada and the US support women's reproductive freedom. And if there is any issue that will catalyze feminist action, especially by young women, this is it.

Gwen O'Reilly, ED

*\*Like the [National Abortion Federation](#), we aim to use gender inclusive language to recognize and respect that, "not every person with the capacity for pregnancy identifies as a woman," while simultaneously acknowledging historical and ongoing gender-based discrimination against women.*

## Abortion in Canada

In Canada, abortion is part of reproductive healthcare: a [medication or surgical](#) method to terminate an unwanted or unviable pregnancy. It's not illegal here, but it isn't widely accessible either. (See NAF's [History of Abortion in Canada](#).)

Explore these resources to learn more about abortion in a Canadian context, how to help increase access to abortion care in solidarity with reproductive justice advocates and activists, and how to access abortion care if you live in the Thunder Bay District:

- [AAVAZ: Roe v. Wade has just been overturned – but abortion rights activists from across the world are fighting back!](#) Sign a [global open letter](#) in support of abortion rights.
- [Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada \(ARCC\)](#) is the only nation-wide political pro-choice group devoted to ensuring abortion rights and access.
  - [Sexual and reproductive health advocates call for Reproductive Justice in Canada now!](#)
  - [Want to take action? Here's some ideas](#)
  - [Protect access to abortion in Canada](#): petition calling on our federal government to act now to honour several election promises vital to protecting and expanding abortion access across Canada.
  - [Members of Parliament with an Anti-choice Stance](#)
  - [Sample Letter for your Member of Parliament](#)
  - [10 Lies that Anti-Choice groups are telling you about abortion](#)
- [Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights](#) (Planned Parenthood Canada) is a progressive, pro-choice charitable organization committed to advancing and upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canada and globally.
  - [Statement on the overturning of Roe v. Wade](#)
  - [How you can take action to protect abortion](#)
  - [Why We Don't Need A New Abortion Law In Canada](#) (drafted in partnership with the [National Association of Women and the Law](#))
  - [Abortion Access and Indigenous Peoples in Canada](#)
  - [Decolonize Abortion Care: Reproductive Justice for Indigenous Communities](#)
- [National Abortion Federation \(NAF\) Canada](#) promotes, enhances, and ensures access to quality abortion care, which includes the NAF Hotline and the Dr. Henry Morgentaler Patient Assistance Fund. This Fund helps pregnant people in Canada whose abortion care is not covered by provincial or territorial health insurance or who have to incur travel expenses in accessing abortion care. The NAF can issue charitable tax receipts for donations.
- [Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity](#): "Abortion access is a 2SLGBTQ+ rights issue. It's a human rights issue."

- **Do We Know Things** podcast by sex educator Dr. Lisa Hamilton:
  - **Episode 07 - What do you need to know about abortion?**
  - **Episode 08 - Abortion Feelings**
- Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (July 4): **U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, impacting the right to abortion: OCRCC responds**
- *Vox* (June 29): **Black women will suffer the most without Roe**
- On Canada Project blog: **7 Things Canadians should consider after the Overturning of Roe v. Wade**
- *CTV News* (June 24): **Roe v. Wade abortion ruling raising alarms among Canadian advocates**
- *CBC Thunder Bay* (June 27): **In the wake of Roe v. Wade decision, people in Thunder Bay fear for U.S. friends, abortion rights in Canada**
- *The Maple's* North Untapped Podcast (May 11): **What Are The Biggest Threats to Abortion Access in Canada?**
- *Toronto Star* (May 7): **As Indigenous health-care providers we see inequities in Canada's reproductive rights every day**

### **Abortion Services + Supports:**

Plan B, an **emergency contraceptive**, is available over-the-counter at most pharmacies. According to the TBDHU, if you're seeking an abortion, most GP's and walk-in clinics in Thunder Bay can make referrals for abortion care.

- **Abortion: What to Expect**
- **Action Canada:** For information about sexual and reproductive health, and for referrals to clinics and hospitals that provide reproductive health services, including abortion, anywhere in Canada, call 1-888-642-2725 (9:00AM and 9:00PM EST) for immediate and confidential help.
- **ARCC:** List of **Abortion Clinics and Services in Canada**, hotlines, funds, supports, etc., and **Information for pregnant Queer and Trans people**.
- **Centr'Elles** offers free and confidential individual and group counseling services as well as accompaniment and referrals to other services, including abortion services, for French-speaking women aged 16 and up.
- **Gender Equity Centre (GEC), Lakehead University** offers referral information and support for LU students.
- **NAF Hotline** provides free, accurate information, confidential consultation, and referrals to providers of quality abortion care, as well as case management services and limited financial assistance to help cover the cost of care and travel-related expenses: 1-800-772-9100 (various hours).
- **NorWest Community Health Centre** walk-in clinic can provide referrals. They also have a midwifery program that offers 2SLGBTQI+ care, sexual health planning, reproductive healthcare and specialist referral services.
- **Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU):** call 625-5976 or 1 (888) 294-6630 first thing in the morning on Tuesdays or Thursdays to access same day or urgent appointments with a physician who will do an assessment and referral.
- **Choice Connect** is a free and anonymous web app that helps locate the nearest abortion provider. The app features detailed referral information for more than 120 abortion providers and clinics across Canada.
- **Shore Centre** (Kitchener, ON) provides **medication abortions via telemedicine**, as well as emotional support before and after an abortion.
- **Women on Web** is an international online abortion service, providing access to safe abortion services.

### **Good Food Box**

Order from your host-site by July 11th  
Pick up from your host-site on July 20th

New **host-site:** Brodie Library!



## Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes:

Order from the Women's Centre by July 12th  
Pick up from the Moose Hall on July 20th

Available July - December. Limited quantities!  
Email [GFB@nwowc.org](mailto:GFB@nwowc.org) to reserve your Locally Grown Good Food Box today! Find details [here](#) or below.

[Learn more about the GFB](#)



# 2022

## LOCALLY GROWN GOOD FOOD FUNDRAISER BOXES



Food Security In our Hands  
since 2005



### Annual fundraiser in support of the Thunder Bay Good Food Box program

Local Fundraiser Boxes are \$60 each  
Price includes any applicable taxes  
as well as a \$20 donation to the  
Thunder Bay Good Food Box.  
Charitable receipts issued.

**This year's LOCALLY GROWN BOXES are packed with a sampling of the best and freshest locally grown & produced goods from a number of local farms & producers, including:**

Sleepy G Farms, Root Cellar Gardens, Jem's Strawberries, Veg-e-tate, Bears' Bees & Honey, Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, The Squash Queen, Mountain Stream Orchard, Vanderwees Greenhouses, Pitch Creek Farm, B&B Farm, Morning Moon Farm, Bill Hunt Farms, Belluz Farms, Brule Creek Farms, Hanna Road Produce, Roots to Harvest, and more!

Limited quantity available.  
For more info or to reserve a box:  
tel: (807) 345-7819 or [gfb@nwowc.org](mailto:gfb@nwowc.org)

Boxes available July through December;  
Pick Up Dates—3rd Wed. of the month:

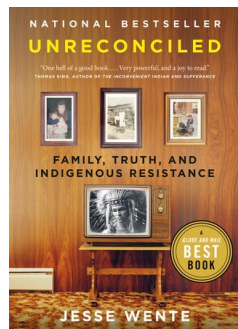
July 20th | August 17th | September 21st  
October 19th | November 16th | December 21st  
Order ONE or order them ALL!



## Community Events + Additional Resources

- **July 14th:** Oshdeebeganwin – (Oshdee: cross your heart, Begaa-win: written agreement), talking Treaties with Michele Solomon, Nicole Richmond, and Gene Nowejeck at [Thunder Bay Art Gallery](#) at 7pm. Attend in person (doors open at 6:30) or watch the livestream on YouTube. Find out more [here](#).
- *Don't Call Me Resilient* podcast: [Has the meaning behind the Canadian flag changed? What does it mean to be a settler of colour in Canada? Has the symbolism of the Canadian flag changed since the Ottawa convoy?](#)
- *Buffy* is a five-part CBC podcast series about Buffy Sainte-Marie by Mohawk and Tuscarora writer Falen Johnson that explores how Buffy's life and legacy is essential to understanding Indigenous resilience. See also [The lessons Buffy Sainte-Marie taught me](#).
- [Pro-choice Films & Documentaries](#)

- [The Native Youth Sexual Health Network](#)



## Loud Women Book Club

The Loud Women Collective's monthly book club reads exclusively feminist non-fiction covering a wide range of topics, encouraging learning, personal growth, and allyship. Thunder Bay chapter meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month in store at Goods & Co Market. The book for July is *Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance* by Jesse Wenthe.

[Find out more](#)

## From the Feminist Archives

[Rise Up!](#) is a digital archive of feminist activism in Canada from the 1970s to the 1990s

- Attitudes toward abortion: [The New Feminist – Vol. 3, Issue 3 – July 1972](#)
- Abortion stories from Halifax: [Pandora – Vol. 5, Issue 2 – January 1990](#)
- From the Kingston Women's Centre and Humanist Society: [CARAL – Abortion in Law and History Pamphlet \(undated\)](#)
- 33 years ago this month: [Northern Woman Journal – Vol. 12, No. 1 – July 1989](#)

# Gender Based Violence: How we can help

## Navigation Advocacy

The GBV Navigation Advocate provides support for women experiencing or at risk of experiencing physical and/or sexual violence or coercive control by a partner, family member or acquaintance. We can help by:

- Ensuring that women who are experiencing or at high risk of gender-based violence have access to ongoing and appropriate support and referrals
- Coordinating with VAW service providers to ensure that critical information is shared

For more information or to make a referral, contact Jennifer at [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto:navigator@nwowc.org) or (807) 935-8042.

## Court Advocacy

The Gender Based Violence Court Advocate works directly with self-identified women who are navigating various court systems. We can help by:

- Assisting with preparing for court
- Ensuring coordination between various legal sectors (criminal, family, immigration etc.)
- Providing court accompaniment and emotional support

For more information or to make a referral, contact Emma at [gbvcourt@nwowc.org](mailto:gbvcourt@nwowc.org) or (807) 935-8599.

## Computer Space Available

Women can access a computer or video conferencing in a private space at the Women's



Centre for:

- Counselling or Healthcare Appointments
- Job Interviews
- Virtual Legal Clinic
- Lawyer's Appointments
- Virtual Court Matters

[Find out more](#)

## Bruley's sending summer vibes your way!



The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre relies on government funding and private donations to continue our work. We gratefully acknowledge the support of volunteers, donors, and funding from the Investing in Women's Future Program of the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE).

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## Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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[www.nwowomenscentre.org](http://www.nwowomenscentre.org)



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Women and Gender  
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