



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.



Image source: ONWA

From our Executive Director

Mass murders, both recent and historical, inquests, abortion bans and environmental disasters and a visit from the Pope – it's been quite a summer, hasn't it? And now, Queen Elizabeth II is dead.

Although she was well loved by many across the world as both a person and a leader, settlers should bear in mind that the colonial power that she represented, at least in name, is still very much alive. As is the various forms of violence that resulted from those conquests. Her passing will mean something very different for any Indigenous nations in British-colonized countries like Canada and around the world.

On the subject of decolonization, you will find many excellent links below to prepare for Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th. A gentle reminder that reconciliation may require more than just wearing an orange shirt (or a stunning hat). Do some reading, and maybe consider joining the Land Back movement. You don't have to sign over your property (although that wouldn't hurt), just encourage our government to restore Indigenous jurisdiction and authority over those so called Crown lands:

- [Land Back: Indigenous Perspectives | The Agenda](#) interview with Pamela Palmater and Riley Yesno (March 28, 2022)
- [Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper](#) (2019)
- [Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit](#) compiled by US-based Resource Generation Land Reparations Group (2018)

On the legal education front, NOWC's upcoming "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" series deals with the difficulties of parenting with abusive and controlling partners – a reality that the women with whom we work face every day. There will be many expert presenters at these in person (!) events – please see registration details below.

This month we had to say goodbye to our amazing Legal Intern, Steph Miller, as she prepares to write her bar exams. Best of luck! We have welcomed back Steph Simko, our AAGBV Project coordinator after a long absence. Incoming are two new placement students – one from the LU Social Justice Studies Program and a ProBono Law student from Bora Laskin School of Law. Coming soon: another Feminist Think Tank; the NOWC AGM, and of course, winter! The geese are already heading south....

Truth & Reconciliation

Reports and calls to action:

- [Calls to Action Accountability: A 2021 Status Update on Reconciliation](#), special report by the Yellowhead Institute (2021)
- NWAC's [Action Plan to End the Attack Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People](#) (2021)
- [Reconciliation with Indigenous Women: Changing the story of MMIWG](#), a report from ONWA (2020)
- [Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)
- TRC's [Principles of Reconciliation and Calls to Action](#)
- [The Story of Orange Shirt Day](#) and Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story in her own words via the [Orange Shirt Society](#)
- Reports from The Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples:
 - [Make it stop! Ending the remaining discrimination in Indian registration](#) "Ongoing discrimination in the registration provisions of the Indian Act remains and continues to affect First Nations women and their descendants."
 - [Not Enough: All Words and No Action on MMIWG](#)
 - [The Scars that We Carry: Forced and Coerced Sterilization of Persons in Canada - Part II](#). "The federal government should compensate and apologize to all people who were subjected to forced and coerced sterilization."

Articles, essays, videos, podcasts, other resources:

- [4Rs Youth Movement](#) is a youth-driven initiative that was launched to change the country by changing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people. Through the networks and support of 14 founding national organizations, 4Rs is about engaging young people in critical cross-cultural dialogue that furthers reconciliation.
- [We need a better understanding of race, 'status' and indigeneity in Canada](#) (Celeste Pedri-Spade, *The Conversation*, August 7, 2022)
- [Writing Myself into Existence: An Essay on the Erasure of Black Indigenous Identity in Canadian Education](#) (Etanda Arden, Abolition & Solidarity Brief, Yellowhead Institute, January 28, 2021)
- [Indigenous people pay taxes: Demythologizing the Indian Act tax exemption](#) (Bradley Bryan, *The Conversation*, August 23, 2022)
- [Zaagi'diwin Inakinogewin | Love Law: A Policy Note For Protecting Two-Spirit, Non-Binary & Trans Indigenous Peoples](#) (Fallon Simard, Gender & Generational Justice Brief, Yellowhead Institute, August 2, 2022)
- [Shaking It Off: Papal Apologies and Narratives of Exceptionalism in Canada](#) (Patty Krawec, Gender & Generational Justice Brief, Yellowhead Institute, July 28, 2022)
- [Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's](#) is a podcast by investigative journalist Connie Walker about her family's experience of the residential school system
- [The Orange Path: Resources for Learning](#)
- [Walking with Our Sisters](#): A Commemorative Art Installation for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women of Canada and the United States (7 year project: 2012-2019).
- [Ever Deadly](#), a documentary about Tanya Tagaq, co-directed by Tagaq and Chelsea McMullan, is premiering digitally and in person at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Watch the trailer [here](#) and

get tickets [here](#)

- [Oshdeebeganwin](#) – (Oshdee – cross your heart, Begaa-win – written agreement), talking treaties with Michele Solomon, Nicole Richmond, and Gene Nowegejick shares an Anishinaabe perspective of the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850. Watch a recording by Thunder Bay Art Gallery [here](#).
- [Auntie Up!](#) is a celebration of Indigenous women talking about the important stuff. [Listen](#) to the podcast or [watch](#) the interviews by Creative Makwa.

Some Indigenous-led initiatives and organizations to support:

- [Beendigen](#)
- [Full Moon Memory Walk](#) - 17th annual walk is tomorrow (Sat. 10th)!
- [Indigenous Food Circle](#)
- [Neechee Studio](#)
- [Ontario Native Women's Association](#) (ONWA)
- [Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre](#) (TBIFC)
- [Wiindo Debwe Mosewin \(Walking In Truth\) Patrol - Thunder Bay](#)

SAVE THE DATES: Legal Information Series

BETWEEN A ROCK AND HARD PLACE: CO-PARENTING WITH AN EX-PARTNER WHEN THEY ARE ABUSIVE OR CONTROLLING

Join us in a supportive space where we'll hear from lawyers, family counsellors, and advocates during this three part-series to learn strategies for co-parenting, coping with parental alienation, and dealing child welfare involvement while focusing on the safety and wellbeing of you and your children. Coffee & tea provided.

Dates: **Tuesday, October 4, 11 & 18**

Time: **1-3pm**

Location: **Waverly Library**

Keep an eye on our [website](#) or get in touch with Stacey at communications@nwowc.org to receive an email when registration opens.

Good Food Box



Order from your host-site by September 12th
Pick up from your host-site on September 21st

Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes:

Order from the Women's Centre by September 12th
Pick up at the Moose Hall on September 21st

Available July - December for \$60/box (\$20 tax receipt). Limited quantities! Email GFB@nwowc.org to reserve your Locally Grown Good Food Box today! Find details [here](#).

[Learn more about the GFB](#)

We are thrilled to announce that our Good Food Box Program has received a \$63,800 **Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation!**

Over 24 months, these funds will help the Good Food Box Program recover from impacts of COVID-19 and build resiliency by developing a strategic plan for more sustainable, flexible revenue generation, cost recovery and procurement. We will explore shifting our program into an innovative, full-scale social enterprise, including a website redesign that integrates e-commerce options.

Most importantly, at a time when food costs are ever-increasing and demand for Good Food Boxes is growing, we will continue to supply affordable, healthy food to our customers!



Image credit: Karen Penroz via Unsplash

Craftivism: Crochet a Holiday Gift with Nele Schoutteten

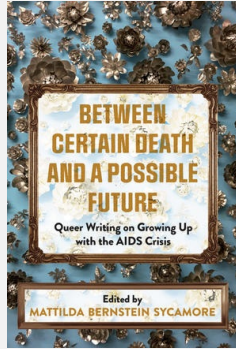
Saturday, October 1st | 12-3pm

This workshop is suitable for all skill levels, including beginner! We plan to host a follow-up session so that each participant can finish at least two pieces, one to take home and one to donate to the Good Food Box Holiday Gift Box. Supplies provided.

[Register](#)

Community Events + Additional Resources

- **Truth and Reconciliation Week:** Remembering the Children (Sept 26-30, 2022), a free educational program for grades 1-12.
- **Tomorrow Without Violence**, a group for women and their children and teens who have experienced intimate partner violence, is offering in person and virtual sessions this fall. Contact Janna at Thunder Bay Counselling: (807) 683-4710 or register [here](#).
- CMHA now offers **text and chat options** for its 24/7 Crisis Response service. Call or text 807-346-8282 for mental health/addictions support.
- **Abortion access in Canada: Could what's happening in the U.S. happen here?**, a CATIE Blog post by Coral Maloney, an Access Line navigator with Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- **Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS)** provides counselling and 24/7 crisis support to those who are impacted by residential school experiences: 1-800-721-0066
- **Talk4Healing**, a culturally grounded, confidential helpline for Indigenous women available in 14 languages all across Ontario: 1 855



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 September is *Between Certain Death and a Possible Future: Queer Writing on Growing Up with the AIDS Crisis* edited by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore.

[Find out more](#)

From the Feminist Archives

Rise Up! is a digital archive of feminist activism in Canada from the 1970s to the 1990s

- 29 years ago: *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance* (1993), a landmark documentary by Alanis Obomsawin. (See also: *Considering Kanehsatake, Thirty Years Later* by Marg McPhail)
- 35 years ago: *Women Spirit - Vol. 1, No. 6 - September/October 1987* - published by the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto Inc.

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 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 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](#)

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, Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

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