



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.



Mixed media collages by *Art of Resistance* Participants (2019)

“Develop your analysis, learn your history and always keep reading.”

--Margaret Phillips' advice to young feminists

In 2016, we self-published *40 Fabulous Feminists & Amazing Activists of Northwestern Ontario*, a non-fiction book profiling just some of the brilliant women who made (and continue to make) meaningful impacts on women's lives and communities in our region.

In honour of Women's History Month, we're sharing excerpts (pp. 72-73) from our profile of steadfast feminist Margaret Phillips (1935-2015), co-founder of the former Northern Woman's Bookstore on Court Street, the last feminist bookstore in Canada:

In the early 1980's, Margaret was part of the Northern Woman's Journal Collective, which produced a feminist journal for Northwestern Ontario. The collective discussed the need for a feminist bookstore in the region. Activism had been developing in the region throughout the 1970s but a lack of access to feminist literature remained an issue. Margaret and Joan Baril, among others, would bring back as much feminist literature as possible from visits to the Toronto Women's Bookstore, and then would pass these books around from woman to woman in the community, until they became dog-eared. After a long conversation with the collective about starting the bookstore, Anna McColl and Margaret took on the project of starting a store together. Over the years, the bookstore graciously hosted many book launches and readings, concerts, talks, book clubs and other events, and had in many ways been a hub for the feminist community. It also introduced a whole new generation of budding activists to feminist literature. Until her passing in 2015, Margaret continued to run the store with the help of a dedicated collective of volunteers.

Margaret first became involved in the feminist community in Thunder Bay in 1972 when she was working as the director of the Social Planning Council. A group of young women working with the Women's Drop-in Centre asked if she would be interested in helping them organize a women's conference in Thunder Bay. After six months of planning, the Northern Women's Conference was held in 1973. The organizing committee hoped for 150 participants, but they ended up

with 600! Out of that conference grew a number of feminist initiatives in the community, including the *Northern Woman Journal*, and the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre. [...]

Margaret felt that of all the issues facing Northwestern Ontario feminists and other activists today, the most pressing is the racism that is still so prevalent in our communities. She considered the other crucial issues facing feminists to be the same as they were 40 years ago: the need to end violence against women and the need to gain economic security for women. [...]

She emphasized the importance of continuing to analyze the broader issues behind social problems such as violence, even while dealing with the practical urgencies of those problems on the ground. As she crucially reminded us: "radical means from the roots and we have to go back to the roots of a problem to really make change."

As the Northern Woman Bookstore Collective so perfectly affirmed: "Margaret's legacy is a feminist flame that can never be extinguished. She remains deep in our hearts and will continue to be our feminist touchstone and strength."



Feminist Books at NOWC

Did you know you can access print resources and borrow books from the Women's Centre? Come visit and check out our selection!

We need your support!

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is about to celebrate **50 YEARS** of feminist organizing and advocacy--and we need your help to do it!

Since 1973, the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre has worked to improve women's safety and access to justice. We've launched programs to address economic inequality, food insecurity, and gender-based violence, while empowering women to share creative strategies with one another and be their own best advocates. You can learn more about past and current projects on our websites: nwowomenscentre.org, actiontoanalysisgbv.org and GoodFoodBoxtb.org.

We have big plans to mark our 50th Anniversary! Of course we'll be dancing, but we'll also create a special anniversary logo and produce commemorative merchandise, publish a zine featuring historical/archival and current contributions from our community, and host a celebratory event to honour the volunteer service of our long-standing Board Members.

For 50 years, the Women's Centre has continued to act as a meeting place and catalyst for feminist organizing and women-led efforts. If you have the means, please consider supporting our fundraising efforts! We welcome donations of any amount by cash or cheque, e-transfer, pre-authorized deposit, and through [United Way Thunder Bay](#) and [CanadaHelps](#). We provide charitable tax receipts for monetary contributions over \$20. Get in touch with Lori at admin@nwowc.org for more information.

Follow us on Facebook [@nwowc](#) and keep reading this newsletter to stay in the loop about our anniversary plans so you can join us in the celebrations!

REGISTER NOW: Legal Information Series

Join us on three Tuesday afternoons at Waverley Library to learn from these free, helpful sessions in a supportive environment with other women. We'll hear from lawyers, family counsellors, and advocates during this series to learn strategies for co-parenting, coping with parental alienation, and dealing with child protection involvement while focusing on the safety and wellbeing of you and your children.

Coffee & tea provided. Bus tickets are also available.

NOTE: PART 1 is cancelled due to illness, but PART 2 will be extended to include the material it would have covered.

If you are already registered for PART 2 on October 11th, you don't need to register again. Just note that the session now runs until 4pm.



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE
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Three-Part Legal Information Series

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

OCTOBER 04

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Waverley Library Auditorium
285 Red River Rd.

CANCELLED

PART 1: When abusers weaponize parenting, child custody or access

Learn how to manage child access more safely and effectively when you are court ordered to co-parent with someone who uses violence and control.

[Register](#)

OCTOBER 11

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Waverley Library Auditorium
285 Red River Rd.

PART 2: Is it parenting or is he just controlling you and your kids?

Learn how to confront and cope with parental alienation and how to help your children through it.

[Register](#)

OCTOBER 18

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Waverley Library Auditorium
285 Red River Rd.

PART 3: When Child Protection (CAS, DIIICO, Tikinagan) is involved

Learn how to deal with false reports to child welfare agencies by (ex)partners, what to be aware of when service plans or kinship care agreements are made, and when to involve a lawyer.

[Register](#)

REGISTER ONLINE

nwowomenscentre.org/events

For more information, email Stacey:
communications@nwowc.org



ABOUT US

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is a non-profit, community-based feminist organization in Thunder Bay. We advocate for systemic change to public policies and practices that impact self-identified women's lives, and we work to increase women's access to knowledge, skills and resources so they can make informed and strategic choices and fully engage with their communities.

Register for PART 2

Register for PART 3

Good Food Box

Order from your host-site by October 10th
Pick up from your host-site on October 19th



Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes:

Order from the Women's Centre by October 10th
Pick up at the Moose Hall on October 19th

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](#)



Big Thanks to Country Roads Autumn Market!

Country Roads raised \$1130 from their 2022 ticket sales in support of the Good Food Box! This generous donation will enable us to subsidize boxes for some of our customers who have difficulty affording the full cost of a Good Food Box.

Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



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

ANALYSIS TO
ACTION
on Gender-Based Violence



VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON THINK TANK FALL 2022

An annual gathering to share knowledge, build analysis, and unite toward action around gender-based violence issues in our communities

SAVE THE DATES:

NOVEMBER 21ST, 22ND, AND 23RD

Registrations opens **NOVEMBER 1ST**

Speakers & Session details to come

Contact gbvproject@nwowc.org for additional info

Community Events + Additional Resources

- **Tomorrow Without Violence**, a group for women and their children and teens who have experienced intimate partner violence, is offering in

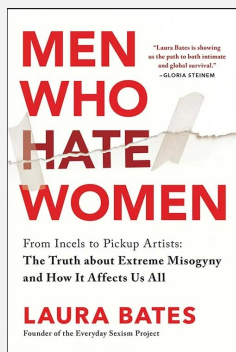
- person and virtual sessions this fall. Register [here](#).
- From CLEO/Steps to Justice:
 - [What happens if CAS gets a report about my child?](#)
 - [What happens if CAS decides my child is in need of protection?](#)
 - [What happens if CAS takes me to court?](#)
 - From the VAW Learning Network:
 - [Children Experience Coercive Control: What You Need To Know](#)
 - [Trauma- and Violence- Informed Approaches: Supporting Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence](#)
 - [Sibling Violence](#)
 - [\(Dis\)placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System](#) (2017), directed by Melisa Brittain featuring the perspectives of Indigenous youth and First Nations child advocate Cindy Blackstock.
 - [Indigenous Ally Toolkit](#) (2019) - Montreal Indigenous Community Network
 - [Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People](#) (2019) Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation
 - [Iran on fire: Once again, women are on the vanguard of transformative change](#) (Vrinda Narain & Fatemeh Sadeghi, *The Conversation*, September 26)
 - [Mass killings, domestic violence linked](#) (Stacey Godsoe, *Saltwire*, July 9)
 - [Courage Catalysts: Creating Consent Culture on Campus](#) (A Toolkit by Students, for Students) by Courage to Act, a project of [Possibility Seeds](#)
 - NFB films: [CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN CANADA](#)



The Women's Centre is a Collection Site

Moon Time Sisters Ontario is a volunteer-led organization that partners with 30+ northern Indigenous communities in Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories to supply people who menstruate with free period products. From October 1st – 31st, Moon Time Sisters Ontario will be collecting period products. The **#1 requested item is pads**, especially thin ones.

If you'd like to donate period products to the drive, bring your donations to the Women's Centre at 73 N. Cumberland St. from Mon-Thurs between 9:30am and 5pm in October.



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 October is *Men Who Hate Women: From Incels to Pickup Artists, the Truth about Extreme Misogyny and How it Affects Us All* by Laura Bates.

[Find out more](#)

From the Feminist Archives

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

- 31 years ago: *Diva: A Quarterly Journal of South Asian Women* – Vol. 3, Issue 1 – October 1991
- 35 years ago: *Northern Woman Journal* – Vol. 10, No. 4 – October 1987

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.

Support Our Work

AAGB
V

Advocac
y

Good Food
Box

Public
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What's
New



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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www.nwowomenscentre.org



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 Women and Gender
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des genres Canada

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WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION