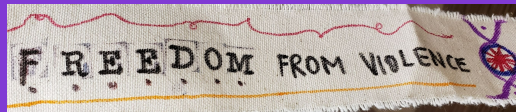




NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE
EMPOWERING WOMEN BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO EXPLORE THEIR NEEDS

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.



Created by Art of Resistance participant, 2019

From our Executive Director

I am writing this on Halloween, when all the sister witches are cackling over potions and eating too many tiny chocolate bars. November first and second marks the Mexican holiday of Day of the Dead, evidenced by the widespread appropriated images of sugar skulls everywhere.

November is traditionally the month when women's anti-violence advocates engage in **16 Days of Activism** (November 25 - December 10) to end gender based violence; the 25th is the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women; many also hold vigils on December 6th to commemorate the women killed in 1989 at L'école Polytechnique and all the other women, including missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, who have been taken by femicide to date. It is a long list that haunts every women's advocate. This year, NOWC and many other feminist groups across the province will be **focusing on promoting** the **86 jury recommendations** from the recent Renfrew inquest into the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam. We will be bringing some of them forward throughout the 16 Days of Activism because they directly reflect the work we have been doing for many years and speak to the reality of those women who face the risk of violence or femicide.

The first recommendation is the most telling:

"Formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic." Because it is – and there is no vaccine. The majority of the specific directives that follow are the same areas in which the NOWC and other women's advocates have (for decades) been demanding accountability from the agencies and government institutions that comprise the systemic response to gender-based violence. We want the safety, dignity and autonomy (AKA EQUALITY) of women and children AT THE CENTRE of this response, not a secondary consideration tucked behind a "public safety" or "victims rights" mandate.

There are already many government directives that clearly articulate what an appropriate response to GBV looks like – it is just that no one seems to be able to deliver, no matter how much training they receive.

We are ahead of the curve here at NOWC (or perhaps the legal system is just very, very far behind) in that we have already implemented an advocacy-based response to GBV. We have developed a High Risk GBV Navigation protocol with other sectors and have a dedicated advocate working with women survivors to assist with navigation, timely communication with all systemic players and therefore safety. We have

provided risk assessment training to many sectors and do risk assessment and safety planning with women as required. We offer women court support, access to justice through rights and public legal education and safe spaces to meet with service providers and legal actors. Our systemic work includes creating linkages between proceedings in family and criminal court; criminal and family court watch and **research and analysis of local GBV criminal court decisions**. We are currently planning public education sessions on alternatives to legal /state responses and non-punitive accountability. Are we propping up that other failing system that continues to put women at risk? NO! We are challenging them to catch up with us.

This work is going to require a lot of chocolate and perhaps a few spells. Beginning November 25th, you can follow our #16Days Campaign on our [website](#) or [facebook](#) page!

Gwen O'Reilly, ED



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

We're hosting our 4th annual Think Tank series as part of the **Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence (AAGBV) Project**. These events will invite you to meet and network with community members, grassroots organizers, and advocates to share knowledge, build analysis, and unite for action around issues relating to gender-based violence in Thunder Bay and the region.

The Think Tank series is taking place **November 21st to 23rd**. This year, our gathering is focused on learning about mutual aid and transformative justice approaches to preventing and responding to gender-based violence. We are hosting virtual sessions and an in-person gathering, featuring our keynote presenter **Dean Spade**, lawyer and author of *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)* (2020).

Registration is open! Event details and registration links are available on our [website](#).

[Find out more](#)



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

Annual General Meeting

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law
PACI Building, 401 Red River Rd

In partnership with the Gender and Women's Studies' Feminist Dialogue Speaker Series, we will also screen *The Smallest Steps*, a short film featuring the interconnected stories of four women, each beginning their own journey to end violence against women in Canada.

5:00PM - PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT +
2021/2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7:30PM - FILM SCREENING + PANEL DISCUSSION

Refreshments provided.

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 25TH:
ADMIN@NWOWC.ORG
OR 935-8043



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



Ontario



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Gender and
Women's Studies

RSVP

Good Food Box



Order from your host-site by Nov. 7th
Pick up from your host-site on Nov. 16th

Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes:

Order from the Women's Centre by Nov. 7th
Pick up at the Moose Hall on Nov. 16th

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

[Learn more about the GFB](#)



Do you follow the GFB on facebook?

Although it still appears active, the metaverse has shut down our longtime facebook page, a community page in a format they have phased out. We cannot create new posts there. Please join us on our new page @GoodFoodBoxTBay! As always, if you have questions about your Good Food Box, emailing GFB@nwowc.org is the best way to reach us!

Follow the GFB on facebook



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

Do you like to Knit or Crochet?

We're seeking donations
of NEW hats and mitts
for children and adults!

Drop off at the
Women's Centre:
73 N. Cumberland St.

Need yarn?
We have extra at the
Women's Centre!

Our goal is to collect new
knitted/crocheted hats, mitts, and
gloves for children and adults during
the winter time. Some will be given to
women who drop by our Centre, and
others will be donated to local groups
and organizations.

For more information, contact
Lori at 935-8043 or by email
to admin@nwowc.org
www.nwowomenscentre.org

 Thank You!



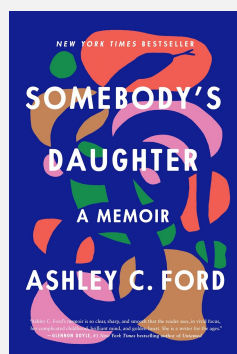

Knit and Crochet Hats & Mitts for Community: A Workshop with Sue MacLean

Join us at the Women's Centre on **Saturday, November 12 from noon to 3 pm** and make hats and mitts for distribution in our community as winter sets in. Sue McLean will provide instruction and support for beginner and intermediate knitters -- advanced makers are welcome too! Yarn, other supplies and patterns will be provided, but if you have a favourite hook, tools or patterns, please bring them.

Register

Community Events + Additional Resources

- **Woman, Life, Freedom: Tracing Iran's Veiling History**, presented by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (November 3, 6-7:30pm EST)
- **Understanding Coercive Control Against Children: Impacts and Supportive Responses**, Learning Network webinar (November 22, 1-2:30pm EST)
- **Strong Hands Stop Violence 7th Annual Poetry Night** hosted online by ONWA (November 25, 7pm EST)
- **Spreading Like Wildfire: Our Voice of Fire**. An intimate and in-depth discussion with author and journalist Brandi Morin (December 1 at 5:30pm)
- Job opportunity: **Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)** is hiring a full-time Members' Coordinator. View the full job posting [here](#).
- **Hockey Canada and sexual violence: Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC) responds**
- **Hockey Canada must stop treating women's and para hockey like an afterthought** (Laura Misener & Erin Pearson, The Conversation, October 19)
- Podcast: **Healing Comes in Waves**, a podcast for survivors to explore healing after harm. Hosted by Farrah Khan.
- **Decentering Whiteness in Reconciliation: Challenges & Opportunities for Online Learning** (Lacey Dawn Hawranik & Jess Bolduc, 4Rs)
- **How to Skin a Muskrat**. *Métis people have always asserted sovereignty through their food knowledge. Samantha Nock's family carries on the tradition through kitchen table governance* (Maisonneuve, September 23)
- **"Feels Like Life" | An Interview with Barbara Kruger**, the artist who created "Untitled (Your Body Is a Battleground)" in 1989 (*The Drift*, October 20)



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 November is *Somebody's Daughter* by Ashley C. Ford.

[Find out more](#)

From the Feminist Archives

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

- 40 years ago: **Northern Woman Journal – Vol. 7, No. 5 – November 1982**
- 45 years ago: **Upstream – Vol. 2, Issue 1- November 1977**

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](#)

**CALL
FOR
SUBMISSIONS**

To contribute a photo of your original artwork, a short piece of writing, a resource or a link to a community event that aligns with our **mission**, please get in touch! All newsletter-related inquiries and submissions can be directed to Stacey at communications@nwowc.org.

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
Education](#)

[What's
New](#)



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

73 Cumberland St. N., Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4L8

(807) 345-7802 | ed@nwowc.org

www.nwowomenscentre.org



This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received it because you've shared your email with us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

Sent by
 **sendinblue**

 Women and Gender
Equality Canada Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada

Canada

Ontario 

 CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION