



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.



February is Black History Month

In Canada, we celebrate **Black History Month** each February because **Jean Augustine**, the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, made a motion in 1995 that passed unanimously.

At the Women's Centre, we are committed to accountable anti-racism, to listening and learning from people who are the experts of their own experiences, and to directing our privilege and power toward an equitable future.

In keeping with the theme for Black History Month 2023, "**Ours to Tell**," we're focused on learning directly from stories, podcasts, and articles by Black feminists, activists, scholars, journalists, and artists. Join us in exploring and celebrating the invaluable critical perspectives and creative contributions of Black women and gender-diverse people--this month and every month!

Some of the history of Black Women's activism and advocacy in Canada:

- **Black Women in the Women's Movement** (RiseUp Feminist Archive)
- **They Are More Than Research Subjects: Recognizing the Accomplishments of Black Canadian Nurses** (Karen Flynn, *Nursing Clio*, 2021)
- **The legacy and impact of Black Canadian women's organizations** (Canadian Heritage)
- **Black Canadian Feminists and Trailblazers You Should Know About** (YWCA Vancouver)
- **Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Collection** (St. Mary's University)
- **How to use archives to find hidden Black histories** (Ashley Okwuosa, *TVO Today*, February 28, 2022)

Films, Videos:

- **Remember Africville** (Directed by Shelagh Mackenzie, NFB, 1995)
- **Sisters in the Struggle** (Directed by Dionne Brand & Ginny Stikeman, NFB,

1991)

- **Artist Talks** with **melannie patchwork monoceros**, poet and polydisciplinary artist.
- **Celebrating Black Joy Through Storytelling** (*The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, February 15, 2022)
- **Reimagining Social Justice and Racial Equity** with **adrienne maree brown** (SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, March 2022)
- **Roots and Resistance** (webinar) explores connections between sexual violence, state violence, and healing from collective and individual sexual abuse and trauma for Black survivors in Canadian context. (Yamikani Msosa, Learning Network, 2018)

Articles, Essays, Interviews:

- **Stop asking Black people to perform emotional labour during Black History Month** (Evelyn Bradley, *CBC Opinion*, January 23, 2023)
- **"I'm Glad That Someone Is Telling the Nursing Story": Writing Black Canadian Women's History** (Karen Flynn, *Journal of Black Studies*, 2008)
- **Police Abolition/Black Revolt** (Robyn Maynard, *Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2020)
- **Writing Myself into Existence: An Essay on the Erasure of Black Indigenous Identity in Canadian Education** (Etanda Arden, *The Yellowhead Institute*, January 28, 2021)
- **How Mary Ann Shadd Cary set the blueprint for abolitionist feminist writing** (Huda Hassan, *CBC Arts*, October 27, 2022)
- **A Roadmap Away From 'Cancel Culture' and Towards Transformative Justice** (KQED, 2021)
- **Syrus Marcus Ware & adrienne maree brown: The Pleasures of "Post-Binary" Community** (*Them*, November 2022)
- **Curating early Black experiences in Kingston, Canada's first capital, a city long defined by histories of whiteness** (Qanita Lilla, *The Conversation*, January 19, 2023)

Podcasts:

- *Don't Call Me Resilient* (EP 1): **What's in a word? How to confront 150 years of racial stereotypes** featuring Cheryl Thompson, Assistant Professor, Creative Industries, Toronto Metropolitan University, and author of *Uncle*.
- *Don't Call Me Resilient* (EP 12): **Making our food fairer** with Melana Roberts, President, Food Secure Canada and Tabitha Robin Martens, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, UBC
- *A Shot of Melanin*
- *Black Girl Songbook*
- *How to Survive the End of the World*
- *The Roxane Gay Agenda*

— “ —

There is no such thing as a
single-issue struggle because
we do not live single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde, "Learning from the 60s" (1982)

— ” —

Read the full speech delivered by
Audre Lorde at Harvard in 1982:
“**Learning from the 60s**”



Walk with us on February 14th

February 14 marks the **16th Valentine's Day Memorial Walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**. Sharon Johnson started this walk in honour of her sister, Sandra Johnson, who was murdered in Thunder Bay 31 years ago. In recent years, it has been organized by community members and Confederation College.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 12pm @ City Hall, with the memorial walk from City Hall to the CLE Heritage building for light refreshments, drumming, guest speakers and prayers.

There will be a shuttle available to return attendees back to their vehicles and bus station at City Hall.

Resources:

- **Families reeling after news dozens of MMIWG cases sitting at the Thunder Bay Police Service** (APTN, March 15, 2022)
- **Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs)** provide specialized services to families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
- **Full Moon Memory Walk**
- **NWAC 's Action Plan to End the Attack Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People** (2021)
- **MMIWG2SLGBTQIA+ National Action Plan, Final Report by the 2SLGBTQIA+ Sub-Working Group** (2021)
- **Reconciliation with Indigenous Women: Changing the story of MMIWG**, a report from ONWA (2020)
- **Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People**, a report from Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak/Women of the Métis Nation (2019)
- **Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** (2019)
- **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)



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Navigating the
**Ontario Disability
Support Program (ODSP)**
an online legal information session

Join us in learning from legal professionals about

- what counts as income and has to be reported
- what to know about ODSP in relation to CPP Disability
- how to deal with ODSP overpayment decisions
- how to appeal an ODSP decision and get support in the process

**FEBRUARY
16TH**

**1 PM - 3 PM EST
ON ZOOM**

REGISTER AT

<http://bit.ly/NOWC-ODSP>

SPEAKERS

Melanie MacKenzie
Licensed Paralegal/
Community Legal Worker

Molly MacDonald
Staff Lawyer
KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC

FOR MORE INFO

Email Stacey at
communications@nwowc.org

Or visit our website
nwowomenscentre.org/events

Ontario 



CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION




Register



**GOOD
FOOD BOX**

ORDER from your host site by **February 6th**
PICK UP from your host site on **February 15th**

Learn more about the GFB


HEY!

We are looking for
STORIES, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS,
MEMORIES, CLIPPINGS, POEMS about
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE
To be published in a ZINE to mark our
50th Anniversary in April 2023
What does the Women's Centre mean to YOU?

Send items by email to:
communications@nwowc.org

Or mail/drop off to:
73 Cumberland St. N, Suite 101,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 4L8

Please respond by March 17, 2023

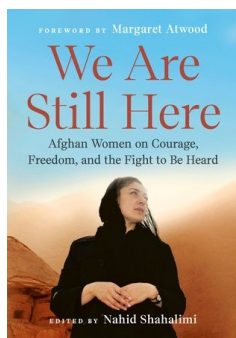


NOWC is a non-profit feminist organization. We gratefully acknowledge the support of volunteers, donors, and the Investing in Women's Futures Program, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Community Events + Additional Resources

- University of Ottawa researchers are **seeking participants for a study about peoples' experiences with emergency contraception and abortion care** in Northern Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Northern Ontario History of Health & Medicine Lecture Series presents **"Restless in spirit": Maternal Patients in B.C. Insane Asylums, c. 1840-1914"** with Dr. Heather Stanley. February 9th 12-1pm. Join in person (lunch provided) or online.
- Virtual Forum: **Not Yours to Distribute! Intimate Images and Consent** (Learning Network). February 8 & 9, 2023 | 1:00 to 3:30 pm EST.
- **Digital Anti-Racism Education Workshop**, a free, virtual Anti-Islamophobia & Countering Cyberhate workshop (CCMW & MSS). February 22 & March 22 | 6-8pm EST.
- Webinar: **Understanding the Realities of Gender Diverse Peoples to Strengthen our Care Systems**. Tues, Feb 28, 2023 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm EST.
- The government is offering a **one-time top-up of \$500** to the Canada Housing Benefit. Application deadline is March 31, 2023.
- **Penalizing mothers for protecting their children** (Pamela Cross, Jan 9, 2023)
- **Here's What Canada's Grocery Giants Are Telling Their Shareholders While Prices Soar** (*The Maple*, January 11, 2023)

- [Here's What Health Professionals Say About Doug Ford's Plan to Privatize Surgeries](#) (*The Maple*, January 17, 2023)
- [The humanities should teach about how to make a better world, not just criticize the existing one](#) (*The Conversation*, January 10, 2023)
- [Reducing Stigma: Exploring the intersections between trauma, race and criminalization](#) (Elizabeth Fry Toronto & WomanACT, 2022)



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 typically meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month in store at Goods & Co Market. The book for February is *We Are Still Here: Afghan Women on Courage, Freedom, and the Fight To Be Heard* edited by Nahid Shahalimi. Check out the LWC for availability.

[Find out more](#)

From the Feminist Archives

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

- 37 years ago: *Our Lives: Canada's First Black Women's Newspaper*
- 36 years ago: *Tiger Lily Magazine – Vol. 1, Issue 2 – 1987*



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CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS



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.

We work with self-identified women to increase their access to knowledge, skills, and resources so they can make informed and strategic choices around a variety of issues: poverty, child welfare, family and criminal law, immigration, sexual harassment, human rights and more.

We work to increase public understanding of issues that affect women such as violence, poverty, sexism, racism, sexual orientation, access to justice and human rights through presentations and information clinics. We also actively advocate for systemic change in public policies that negatively impact women in our community.

We work and live on the traditional land of the Anishinabek People, and the territory of Fort William First Nation—signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. We recognize that this and other territories and their people have been circumscribed and harmed by systematic forces of colonialism. This violence was first perpetrated by European settlers and continues to be perpetrated by our governments, institutions, and individuals. The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre remains committed to addressing these past and present wrongs by working to end racist and misogynist violence, and by building allyship and working in solidarity with Indigenous organizations and people.

nwowomenscentre.org

Our small but mighty feminist non-profit is seeking self-identified women to sit on our volunteer Board of Directors, the strategic heart of our organization:

- ✓ We encourage applications from women who have been subjected to intersecting oppressions or who see their lived experiences/realities reflected in our advocacy work
- ✓ Fundraising, special events planning, finance, legal, or human resources experience an asset
- ✓ No previous Board experience necessary

REQUEST AN INFO PACKAGE

admin@nwowc.org 935-8043



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada

Canada

Ontario



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.

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
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



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