



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.



Artwork: mini winter watercolour by Violet, age 5 (2013)

From our Executive Director

The New Year 2023 marks our 50th year of existence! We have a long list of achievements behind us, but with many more still to address. In 2022, we completed a substantial evaluation and strategic planning process with the help of Consultant Anne Ostrom. After many interviews with individuals and organizations connected to the NOWC, Anne prepared (among other things) an impact report: *A Retrospective of the Difference the Centre Makes in the Lives of Women and the Community*. This document is an excellent assessment of NOWC's contributions.

In my biased opinion, the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is doing more focussed education and access to justice work than ever before. We provide a level of expertise, analysis and advocacy that is not available anywhere else.

Our Court Watch, GBV case analysis and joint lobby efforts through community tables are making legal actors take notice and change their behaviour. Our Legal Information Clinics address issues that are current and unique to women in this part of the world, and our Empowered Self Defense NOW trainers help women reinforce that no really does mean NO! In the current context of renewed action towards addressing gender-based violence, we are well positioned to establish ourselves as an information and advocacy lead, and to explore solutions both within and outside of institutional systems.

Our ongoing food security work fills an important void in these days of rising fresh food costs and connects us to families and organizations across Thunder Bay and Region. Aside from this concrete support, we continue our advocacy efforts to ensure women realize their economic rights and entitlements. In the coming months, watch for more focus on bringing women together in art-full ways: Craftivism, 50th Anniversary celebrations and regular drop ins are all in our immediate future. Recent funding increases and our newly minted strategic plan mean we have at least a few years of stability to launch our unique and much needed services into the next 50 years!

Gwen O'Reilly, ED



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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



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:

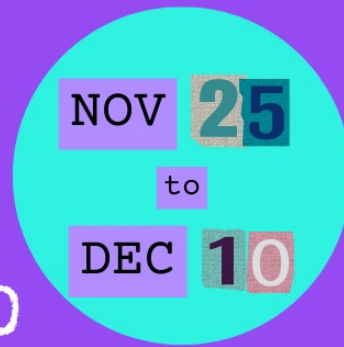
73 Cumberland St. N, Suite 101,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 4L8

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

16 DAYS of ACTIVISM against GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Our 2022 Campaign

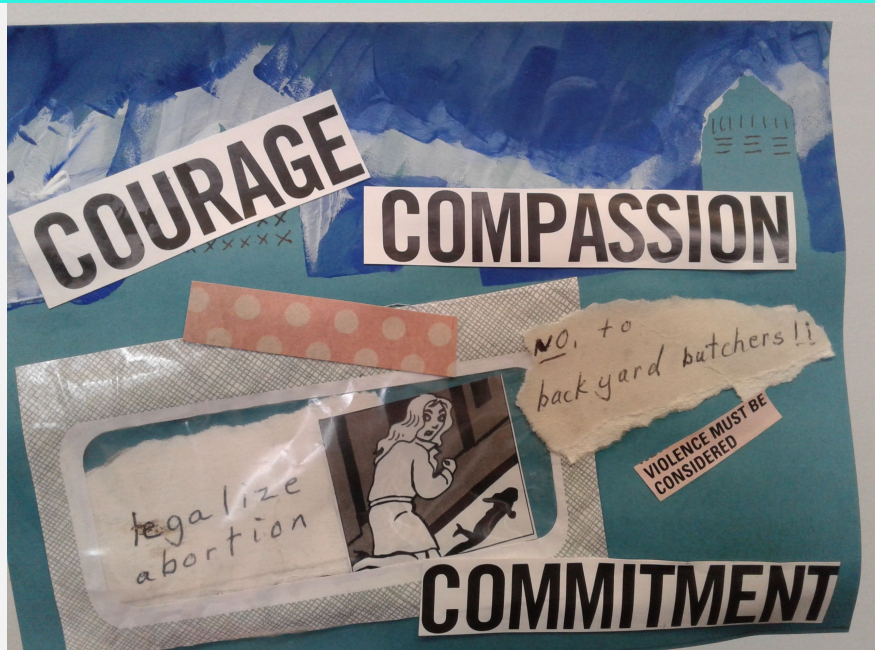
The NOWC and many other feminist groups across the province highlighted the 86 jury recommendations from the recent Renfrew inquest into the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam. While all 86 recommendations are important, we opted to focus on some that most directly reflect our years-long advocacy and speak to the reality of women we work with who face the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), intimate partner violence (IPV) or femicide.

You may have seen some of our daily posts on facebook or our website. Our full campaign with resources is now available on the [Past Projects](#) page of our website.

Though the 16 Days of Activism campaign has come to a close for the year, our individual and systems advocacy work continues.

[See the complete 16 Days Infographic](#)

Craftivism



Artwork: mixed media postcard by Sue (2022)

Is Craftivism at the Women's Centre for you?

Do you make things? Or want to learn how to make things? Have you made objects or learned skills or strategies you'd like to share with others? Do you feel like your creativity is closely connected to your passion for social justice? Do you like to work on a project while enjoying snacks and long, rambling conversations about life, feminism and what's going on in our community?

A feminist craft program has been running somewhat informally out of the Women's Centre since 2016, and more formally (with facilitated workshops and a small budget) since May 2022. However, craft and art have been part of our strategy for both engagement and messaging for many years!

We beat the pandemic isolation through our love of craft and through so many good conversations, because something that happens when women get together to make things (food, crafts, signs for marches and awareness walks, etc.): THEY TALK. Women talk about their experiences and how their realities are shaped by the social and political environment. They make use of our resources and share their own. We're happy to transition back to in-person sessions and once again welcome women into our space for snacks, conversation and crafting!

Want to get involved? Find out more [here](#).



A poster for a 'ZINE WORKSHOP WITH JAYAL CHUNG'. The text 'SAVE THE DATE' is prominently displayed in a bold, black, typewriter-style font, preceded by a pink starburst. Below this, the date and time are specified in three colored circles: a pink circle with 'JAN', an orange circle with '28th', and a blue circle with '1-4pm'. To the right of the text is a collage featuring a raised fist, a crowd of people, and a blue mountain range. The entire poster is framed by a thin black circle.

ZINE WORKSHOP WITH JAYAL CHUNG

SAVE THE DATE

JAN 28th 1-4pm

To find out more, keep an eye on our website's Upcoming Events page (nwowomenscentre.org/events) or email Lori at admin@nwowc.org

Good Food Box

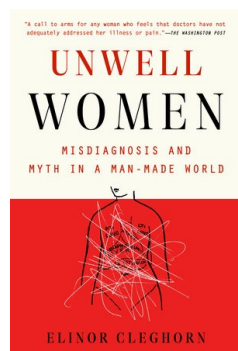


ORDER from your host site by **January 9th**
PICK UP from your host site on **January 18th**

[Learn more about the GFB](#)

Community Events + Additional Resources

- Jan 4th is **National Ribbon Skirt Day**:
 - **The Power of One: Isabella Kulak** (*Kci-Niwesq*, NWAC, March 2021)
 - **National Ribbon Skirt Day bill passed, to be celebrated on Jan. 4** (CBC Indigenous, December 23, 2022)
 - **Understanding history, protocol important for allies who want to wear ribbon skirts: Advocates** (CBC Indigenous, January 4, 2023)
- Jan 11 | 1:30-3:30pm (Sherbrooke School Cozy Room): **Early Years Parents Supporting Parents** with Anishnawbe Mushkiki EarlyON.
- Jan 18 | 1-2:30 pm (EST): **Intentionally marginalized communities: The violence we see in relationships, families and systems in Canada** (webinar) by the Learning Network & Knowledge Hub. Register [here](#).
- Jan 26 | 6-7:30 PM (EST): **Stories Spark Change: an evening with adrienne maree brown**. Join internationally renowned writer, artist, musician, and facilitator adrienne maree brown for an in-depth conversation on joy, pleasure, and healing. Stories Spark Change is part of Consent Action Week, an educational initiative held during the last week of January at universities across Ontario. Registration opens Jan. 9th. Learn more [here](#).
- **CLEO has a new Guided Pathway to request a court fee waiver** if you need help paying court fees for a civil, small claims, or family law matter. Learn more and access the request form [here](#).
- **'Draw The Line'** is an interactive campaign that aims to engage Ontarians in a dialogue about sexual violence. The campaign challenges common myths about sexual violence and equips bystanders with information on how to intervene safely and effectively. Find [resources and user guides](#) by OCRCC, Egale, Mujer, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and White Ribbon for a variety of themes, audiences and ages.
- Ontario government is doubling the **Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payment** for all recipients for 12 months beginning January 2023.
- **Why for-profit homes won't solve long-term care issues: Privatizing health services is a bad idea that just won't go away** (*The Conversation*, January 2)
- **CRAFTIVISM MANIFESTO**



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 January is **UNWELL WOMEN: MISDIAGNOSIS AND MYTH IN A MAN-MADE WORLD** by Elinor Cleghorn. 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

- 51 years ago: *The New Feminist* – Vol. 3, Issue 1 – January 1972
- 48 years ago: *The Northern Woman* – Vol. 2, Issue 1 – January 1975

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

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What's
New



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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