



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.

Happy
International
Women's
Day



International
Women's Day

#EmbraceEquity
#IWD2023

From our Executive Director

Whew! It's already March and the High Feminist Holiday of **International Women's Day** approaches. I've been so busy writing grant applications that I haven't even had time to iron my purple sash! Speaking of grants, here's a generic grant application for what we really, really want, in case some funder or benefactor has some year-end funding to send our way:

Project Description

By implementing a global reversal of the powers of colonialism, capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy and their intersecting impacts, all women and gender-diverse people (and everyone else) will live and engage safely and securely in all aspects of their lives and communities. In addition, our project will restore the environment to its original integrity and replace current polluting technologies and extractive industries with locally sustainable, diverse and democratic systems. We will strike an advisory committee to research a meltdown of weapons and their re-purpose to farming implements.

Demonstrate the need for this project

The colonial hetero-patriarchy is alive and well – just ask the women of Afghanistan, Iran and the United States, among many others. Thousands of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people are missing or murdered, many by state powers past and present. BIPOC people are targets of police, if they are not already coerced and commodified by human traffickers. Justice systems continue to re-victimize those experiencing gender-based violence and many governments are trying to legislate sexual orientation and gender identity out of existence. And don't get me started on Reproductive freedom...

Workplan

1. Eradicate global poverty and food insecurity.
2. Equalize distribution of wealth and access to justice.
3. Stop war and displacement.
4. End environmental degradation and mass extinction.
5. Eliminate racist and gender-based violence.
6. Ensure equitable access to quality education, healthcare and childcare for all.
7. Provide decent and affordable housing for everyone.

8. Create decentralized, renewable sources of energy that are non-exploitative.

Budget

Revenue: Tax the movement of global capital; make the rich pay. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Expenses: \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

How will you sustain this work?

By celebrating feminist and social justice work everywhere. We will stay focused on issues of human justice and equity and inspire people to believe that we can and should say NO to oppression and continue to work towards social, economic and environmental sustainability on this planet.

Happy International Women's Day everyone! Not sure what you can do to celebrate? Check out our [IWD PSA](#) for ideas! (Note: most purple words in the PSA are clickable links.) And please feel free to edit my proposal with your own demands... Who knows? Maybe we'll get the grant!

- Gwen O'Reilly

Special Event

International Women's Day
MARCH 8TH

IN THUNDER BAY

Flag Raising Ceremony
10:30 AM — Thunder Bay City Hall
Guest Speaker: Jan Oakley, President,
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

Drive Thru Feminine Hygiene Product Donation Drop-Off
5 PM+ — OPSEU/SEFPO Membership Centre
(326 Memorial Ave) Collection for United Way's
Tampon Tuesday Program

Women's March & Celebration
5:30 PM — OPSEU/SEFPO Membership Centre
Opening: Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby
Keynote: Gwen O'Reilly
Poetry: Taina Chahal, Stephanie MacLaurin,
Ardelle Sagutcheway
Music: Kris Tonkens
Light refreshments provided.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

AGENDA for WOMEN'S MARCH & CELEBRATION:

- 5:00 PM** — Feminine Hygiene Product Collection for United Way's Tampon Tuesday
- 5:30 PM** — March with drummers
- 5:55 PM** — Light refreshments
- 6:15 PM** — Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

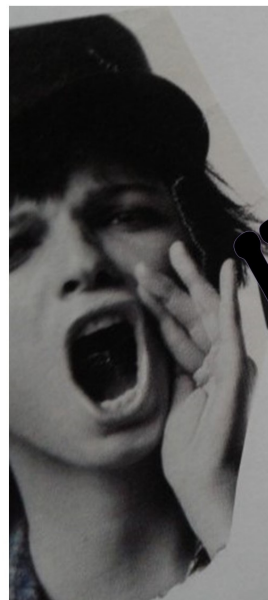
- Opening: Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby
- Keynote: Gwen O'Reilly
- Poetry: Taina Chahal, Stephanie MacLaurin, Ardelle Sagutcheway
- Music: Kris Tonkens
- Dessert
- Closing: Drummers



**GOOD
FOOD BOX**

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

Planning is well underway for our 50th Anniversary celebration, including a dinner for honourees and a dry dance party. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter and our website for further updates. And don't forget to [send us](#) your submissions for the commemorative zine! Learn more about "Making Zines, Doing Feminism" [here](#).

50th Anniversary Webpage

Community Events + Additional Resources

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 31 - International Transgender Day of Visibility

- **Tomorrow Without Violence** group will be holding one day in-person groups on **Mar. 4 & Apr. 29**. This group is designed to create a safe space for children and teens to learn about the impact of family violence. It also supports mothers and female-identifying caregivers in learning how to support their children's healing. [Register here](#).
- **Mar. 7th** (2:30-3:45pm EST). Lakehead University Dept. of English presents **Chelsea Vowel: "Like a String of Beads/âniskôhîcikan: Indigenous Futurisms"** public talk (zoom or in person in Thunder Bay)
- **Trans-Friendly / Affirming Resources:**
 - **Egale** offers resources and education in English and French
 - **Trans Lifeline** provides peer support. Toll-free in Canada: (877) 330-6366
 - **Gender Journeys** and **Virtual Trans Peer Support Group** (NorWest)
 - **The Other 10%** (Children's Centre)
 - **Two-Spirit & LGBTQ+ Mentor** (TBIFC)
 - **Pride Central** and **Gender Equity Centre** (Lakehead University)
 - **Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay**
 - **Thunder Pride**
 - **Umbrella Clinic**
- **MUTUAL AID: BUILDING SOLIDARITY DURING THIS CRISIS (AND THE NEXT)** by Dean Spade (2020)
- **Cuts to telehealth in Ontario mean fewer trans and non-binary people will have access to life-saving health care** (Greta Bauer et al., *The Conversation*, February 2, 2023)
- **MMIWG2SLGBTQIA+ National Action Plan FINAL REPORT** (2021)
- ***A Long Way To Go: Collective Struggles & Dreams of Reproductive Justice in Canada*** (PDF anthology of paintings, poetry, essays, collages, and interviews exploring reproductive health and rights in Canada)
- **Home on Native Land** (by RAVEN) is a program designed for anyone to become familiar with the laws - both colonial and Indigenous - that govern the lives of Canada's First Nations.
- **Accountability Mechanisms for Child Welfare Advocacy: An Interview with Naomi Metallic** (Kelsi-Leigh Balaban & Hayden King, The Yellowhead Institute, January 12, 2023)
- **Intentionally Marginalized Communities: The Violence We See in Relationships, Families and Systems in Canada** (Learning Network Webinar Recording and Resources)
- **CERB/CEWS: No Oversight For The Rich, Little Forgiveness For The Poor** (Nora Loreto, *The Passage*, December 9, 2022)
- Podcast: *Don't Call Me Resilient*



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 *What My Bones Know: A Memoir of Complex Trauma* by Stephanie Foo. 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

- 43 years ago: *Broadside* - Vol. 1, No. 5 - March 1980
- 33 years ago: **Black Nurses Challenge Systemic Racism** (video + transcript)



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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

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.

For more information or to make a

referral, contact Jennifer at navigator@nwowc.org or (807) 935-8042.



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.

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y](#)

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Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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