



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.*

### From our Board President




As a board member of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre, I am thrilled to celebrate our 50th anniversary on the traditional lands of the Anishinabek People and Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. We stand in solidarity with the survivors of sexist and colonial violence and celebrate the incredible feminist work done through the Women's Centre over the past fifty years.

Guided by principles of reconciliation, anti-racism, anti-oppression, gender-based analysis and trauma-informed frameworks, we recognize the diverse experiences of women and acknowledge that our activism can take many forms. We aim to empower women through individual and systems advocacy, public education and training, food security initiatives, and craftivism workshops. I am proud to be part of an organization that listens to women, offers a safe space for accessing support and resources and for connecting and sharing with one another.



As we celebrate five decades of community-based advocacy and activism, we also acknowledge the ongoing struggles of many women, girls and gender-diverse people who are marginalized by oppressive institutions, systems, and norms, and we call upon everyone especially those with power, to join us in this ongoing work.



--Jan Oakley



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

Last call for submissions for the commemorative zine! Be sure to drop off or **email us** your submissions by **Friday, April 7th!**  
Learn more about "Making Zines, Doing Feminism" [here](#).

50th Anniversary Webpage

**Coming Soon:**

**New Women's Centre t-shirts printed by Seven Oaks in a variety of colours and sizes!**



# ANALYSIS TO ACTION

on Gender-Based Violence



## Update

The Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence (AAGBV) website is a connecting hub and advocacy platform linking issues, analysis and action relating to gender-based violence.

We recently updated our platform to include a report from our GBV Court Advocate, outlining the initial findings of the Court Watch Project. This project conducted daily observation of virtual criminal court proceedings (including bail hearings, overnight arrests, and plea hearings) to gather data pertaining to how the Criminal justice system responds to cases involving gender-based violence.

Upcoming content will include a review of the Renfrew County Inquest recommendations and a look at the impact of Covid-19 on GBV & the courts.

[Visit the AAGBV website](#)

## What is Keira's Law?

*Stereotypes about violence and victims remain alive, and women who have been subjected to subtle, non-physical forms of violence continue to be disbelieved and re-traumatized, or worse, vilified, throughout the family law process.* – [Pamela Cross, May 2022](#)

**Keira's Law / Bill C-233:** An Act to amend the Criminal Code (a.2: that the accused wear an electronic monitoring device, if the Attorney General makes the request) and the Judges Act (expand training for judges to include intimate partner violence and coercive control).

Three-Part Series into the death of [Keira Kagan](#) (*City News* Exclusive – Cynthia Mulligan):

- Part One | February 8, 2023: [Report finds Ontario child's likely murder was 'predictable and preventable'](#)
- Part Two | February 9, 2023: [Ontario's Chief Coroner to launch inquest into death of 4-year-old girl likely killed by father](#)
- Part Three | February 10, 2023: [Signs Ontario girl needed help before she died were ignored by child protection workers: report](#)

See also:

- [Coercive control and family law](#) (Luke's Place)
- [Issue 37: Children Experience Coercive Control: What You Need To Know](#) (Learning Network)
- [Understanding Coercive Control Against Children: Impacts and Supportive Responses](#) (Webinar recording, Learning Network)



**GOOD  
FOOD  
BOX**

ORDER from your host site by **April 11th**  
PICK UP from your host site on **April 19th**

Follow us on facebook: [@GoodFoodBoxThunderBay](#)  
and Instagram: [@goodfoodboxtbay](#)

[Learn more about the GFB](#)

## Community Events + Additional Resources

**April 12 - International Day of Pink (anti-homophobia + anti-transphobia)**

**April 16 to 22 - National Volunteer Week**

**April 22 - NOWC 50th Anniversary Dance Party at the Moose Hall**

- Apr. 4th 12-1pm (online) - **Challenging CERB and CRB overpayment notices** - CLEO webinar for community workers
- **Tomorrow Without Violence** group will be holding one day in-person group on Apr. 29th. 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.
- What is the **International Day of Pink**?
- **2SLGBTQIA+ 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**
  - **CUPE** (2SLGBTQI+ bargaining guides, research, etc.)
  - **International Day of Pink** (campaign resources)
  - **The Canadian Centre for Gender + Sexual Diversity** (CCGSD)
- **Suicide attempts rose among children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for girls** (Madigan et al., *The Conversation*, March 9, 2023)
- **Dying to be seen: Why women's risk for heart disease and stroke is still higher than men's in Canada** (Gahagan & Grant, *The Conversation*, February 1, 2023)
- **Hard Price to Pay for Internet in the North** (NWAC, *KCI- NIWESQ Magazine*, Issue 17)

Mass Casualty Inquiry:

- **Final Report – Turning the Tide Together** (March 30, 2023)
- **Mass Casualty Commission report details the Nova Scotia shooter's abuse of sex workers** (Ralston & MacDonald, *The Conversation*, March 30, 2023)
- **RCMP 'revictimized' Lisa Banfield: MCC Report** (Bousquet, *Halifax Examiner*, March 30, 2023)
- **Change needed to end 'epidemic' of gender-based violence, says N.S. mass shooting report** (Davenport, *CBC News*, March 30, 2023)

Podcasts:

- **Body Stuff with Dr. Jen Gunter** (OB/GYN, pain medicine physician, and author of *The Vagina Bible* and *The Menopause Manifesto*)
- **Métis in Space | otipêyimsiw-iskwêwak kihci-kîsikohk** (Indigenous feminist science fiction podcast with Molly Swain & Chelsea Vowel)
- **She is Your Neighbour** explores the realities and complexities of domestic violence | EPISODE 7: **Seeking Support: Challenges that Trans Youth Face** with Kieran Duby



## FEMINISMS AND THE LAKEHEAD 2023:



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH**  
**FACULTY LOUNGE | 9:00AM - 4:30PM**



Presentation topics include: feminist analysis of Thunder Bay healthcare, analysis of advocacy and activism related to Food Security at Lakehead University, trauma-informed approaches to fitness, Organizing in Solidarity with Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse within Sivananda Yoga, and the 'global catwalk' initiative

Feminisms at the Lakehead 2023 is proudly co-hosted by the Gender Equity Centre and the department of Gender and Women's Studies.



### 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

- 47 years ago: *Northern Woman* – Vol. 2, Issue 5 – 1976
- 40 years ago: *Union Woman* – Vol. 6, Issue 3 – March/April 1983

## Gender Based Violence: How we can help

### Navigation Advocacy & Court 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. Women who are navigating various court systems can access court advocacy.

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
- 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 Jennifer at [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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## Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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[www.nwowomenscentre.org](http://www.nwowomenscentre.org)



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