

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

DAY
#2

PUBLIC AWARENESS

November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month, which includes the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign spanning November 25th to December 10th that calls for an end to gender-based violence.

Thunder Bay City Council formally declared GBV and IPV an epidemic on September 25th immediately following our deputation. In addition, City officials have invited us to present to the local social services administration board and the Intergovernmental Affairs committee, and also supply a list of actionable goals for City Council to better support survivors of GBV in our community.

Our 2023 16 Days campaign will focus on these actionable goals - efforts at the municipal and personal levels to address gender-based violence.

Why it matters

- GBV/IPV is a community safety concern, public health issue, adverse childhood experience, and significant human rights violation that requires a collective understanding of risks, signs, root causes, and effective responses in order to address and eliminate it.
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a prevalent form of gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner, dating partner, common-law partner or spouse, in public and/or private spaces, to maintain power and control. It can include physical abuse, stalking, sexual violence, emotional/psychological abuse, financial/economic abuse, spiritual abuse, reproductive coercion, coercive control, and/or technology-facilitated violence/cyberviolence (Women and Gender Equity Canada).
- 44% of women (6.2 million) in Canada have experienced IPV in their lifetime (Statistics Canada, 2021). Indigenous women (61%) were more likely to have experienced IPV in their lifetime (since the age of 15) when compared to non-Indigenous women (44%) (Statistics Canada, 2021).
- Two-thirds of women who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or another non-heterosexual orientation have experienced IPV in their lifetime, and they are two times more likely than heterosexual women to experience most types of IPV (Statistics Canada, 2021).
- Three in five Trans women (64%) experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 16 (Trans PULSE Canada, 2019).
- Young women (ages 15-24) are at high risk for IPV; there is a high prevalence of physical and sexual assault among high school and post-secondary students. Some form of IPV was experienced by more than four in ten (43%) of young women aged 15 to 19 years in the 12 months preceding the survey (Statistics Canada, 2021).
- In 2019, police-reported rates of IPV in Canada were more than 3.5 times higher among women than among men (Women and Gender Equality Canada).
- Women are disproportionately subjected to the most severe forms of IPV (i.e., choking; sexual assault; threats with a weapon), and experience violence more frequently and with more injuries (Statistics Canada, 2021).
- Women victims of homicide are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than anyone else (Statistics Canada, 2021). Every 2.5 days a woman or girl is murdered in Canada, and Indigenous women are six times more likely to be killed than non-Indigenous women (National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, 2021). In 2021-22, there were 52 femicides in 52 weeks in Ontario (OAITH: More than a Number).
- "Over the last 52 weeks, there have been 62 women and children killed. There have been 93 charges reported by media, laid against 57 men accused in relation to these femicides, while another 14 cases were deemed a femicide-suicide" (OAITH, November 2023).

ACTION

- **CWK Inquest Jury Recommendation #23:** Develop and implement a new approach to public education campaigns to promote awareness about IPV, including finding opportunities to reach a wider audience in rural communities. These messages should promote broad recognition of how to seek support, risk factors, and warning signs of IPV, community and bystander engagement, be accessible in multiple languages and in multiple formats, and ensure that rural residents can identify themselves in the messaging and materials.
- Make IPV/GBV epidemic declaration visible on the City's website, along with crisis numbers (Talk4Healing, Faye Peterson House, Assaulted Women's Helpline, etc.) and links to local anti-violence coordinating committees (TBDCCEWA & Naadmaagewin IDVC).
- Launch public awareness campaigns on City Transit targeting diverse audiences and include crisis numbers and a QR code to the City's declaration along with links to local services.

BELIEVE SURVIVORS.
Prioritize the safety
of survivors and
their children.

Resources

- Naadmaagewin IDVC: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJtdMFMpnqX0PFAGrGx3ObA>
- TBDCCEWA: <https://www.endwomanabuse.com/>
- Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence: <https://analysistoactiongbv.org/>
- Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre: <https://nwowomenscentre.org/links/>
- Canadian Women's Foundation: <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>
- New toolkit for a survivor's friends and family members: <https://lukesplace.ca/new-toolkit-for-a-survivors-friends-and-family-members-2/>
- Neighbours, Friends and Families: <https://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/>
- KIZHAAY ANISHINAABE NIIN | I Am a Kind Man: <https://iamakindman.ca/>
- Male Allies (Program of SASC): <https://www.sascwr.org/maleallies.html>
- Draw the Line: <https://draw-the-line.ca/>

