



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.



*Photo: buttons made during our Open House in September*

### From Our Executive Director

#### **Thunder Bay City Council declares Gender Based Violence an Epidemic**

**WITH RESPECT to Report 299-2023-City Manager's Office-Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, we recommend that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) / Gender-Based Violence (GBV) be declared an epidemic;**

**AND THAT a copy of the resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities;**

**AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.**

On September 25, 2023, Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre led a deputation to City Council on behalf of two local Domestic Violence Coordinating Committees (Naadmaagewin and TBDCEWA). Our request was supported by the City's Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, and our goal was have the City of Thunder Bay recognize that Gender Based Violence is widespread and requires urgent attention across all jurisdictions. We especially wanted to focus on the connection to Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and girls, and that any effort to combat GBV must include Indigenous women's safety.

Thunder Bay City Council agreed unanimously, and now we can add our names to the list of # other municipalities who support the first recommendation of the Culleton, Kuzyk, Warmerdam Inquest: to have the Province of Ontario also declare GBV an epidemic. That's a good first step! But there is much more to be done. This week, staff have been focusing on drafting a response to a federal government consultation on the criminalization of coercive control; next up is our October 23 webinar with researcher Vivien Green regarding her research on women who have been charged with DV. Good thing we got some dancing in at our 50<sup>th</sup> dance party, because we're going to be run off our feet in the coming months!

-- Gwen O'Reilly

### Local media coverage:

- TBNewsWatch.com Article (Sept. 26): [City declares intimate partner violence an epidemic](#)
- TBT News Video (Oct. 2): [City declares intimate partner violence an epidemic](#)
- CBC News (Aug. 19): [Groups call on Thunder Bay city council to declare gender-based violence an epidemic](#)

## Women's History Month



The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is one of the new inductees to the Women's History Month [web exhibit](#) on

Thursday, Oct. 26, from 11:00 to 12:00 at the City Archives (235 Vickers St. N.).

This is mainly a media event, but members of the public can attend. They will also unveil the final design for the new City art bus, which is based on the Women's History Month exhibit!

(Photo: Excerpted page from our 50th Anniversary Zine)

## SUPPORTER SHOUT OUT



## The Women's Centre extends our thanks & appreciation to

all of the individuals and businesses who donated artwork, products and services to our Silent Auction, and to Headley & Co Mental Health and CIBC for their financial support.

We appreciate every single one of you who came out and celebrated with us, made a donation at the door, bought a t-shirt, and/or participated in our Silent Auction.

With your help, we raised \$1948.50 for the Women's Centre!

## Online Legal Information Session



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE PRESENTS  
ONLINE LEGAL INFORMATION SESSION:  
**WOMEN SURVIVORS  
CHARGED WITH  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
OFFENCES**  
**OCTOBER 23 | 1:00-3:00pm**  
ON ZOOM

WITH

**VIVIEN GREEN**

COORDINATOR OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS,  
COUNTERPOINT COUNSELLING AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE

In this session, Vivien Green will share the findings and recommendations from *Women Take Action: An Injustice of the Criminal Justice System*, a research project by Counterpoint Counselling and Educational Cooperative about women survivors charged with domestic violence-related offences.

We will also share what we've learned locally from women who have been criminalized in the context of domestic/intimate partner violence.  
The last half hour of the session will be reserved for discussion.

**REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3RIDjlu>**

✉ [communications@nwowc.org](mailto:communications@nwowc.org)

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

📱 @nwowc



Ontario



REGISTER

## NEW! Thursday Drop-in Sessions

Last week, we hosted a 50th Anniversary Open House complete with purple-frosted cupcakes and personalized button-making. More than 30 people dropped

by to say hello, meet staff, and make a button in the company of other women. It was a fantastic afternoon connecting with old friends and new!

## Starting Next Week!

Beginning next week, we're hosting **Thursday afternoon drop-ins from 1-3pm** for all self-identified women, Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary folks at the Women's Centre!

With funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation, we are excited to host these free sessions as informal opportunities to connect with other women, do some artmaking or crafting, and have coffee/tea and snacks. Sometimes we'll have a guest speaker or watch a short film or video, sometimes we'll just make things and chat. No registration is necessary. Materials and refreshments provided. Join us anytime between 1pm and 3pm, and stay for a bit or the full session.

### October Theme: Women's History and Queer History!

**Oct. 12 | Mixed media art cards** about an inspiring woman (real or imagined) or create a card of appreciation for a woman in your life who matters to you.

**Oct. 19 | Knitting + crochet as acts of feminist resistance and community care:** bring your current project to work on or join us in making hats/mitts for women in our community as the cold weather approaches. We'll have knitting looms, yarn, needles, hooks, and patterns on hand, as well as some experienced knitters/crocheters.

**Oct. 26 | Poetry as a feminist practice with Jayal Chung:** we'll make our own mini poetry kits, do a bit of generative writing, and do some poetry reading. Bring your own poetry if you'd like to do a short reading, or bring something by your favourite feminist or queer poet to share. (Reading your own work aloud is entirely optional.)

*Remember: The Women's Centre is a non-judgmental and welcoming space where we are all teachers and learners. Absolutely no art, writing, knitting or group experience is required to come and hang out with us. Feel free to just come for a coffee!*

We would love to see you!

Questions and suggestions welcome:

Get in touch with Stacey at [communications@nwowc.org](mailto:communications@nwowc.org)



**GOOD  
FOOD  
BOX**

Thanks to new funding from TBDSSAB's Homeless Prevention Program, we are able to add healthy, protein-rich legumes and grains to your Good Food Box!

The newsletter accompanying your box includes cooking instructions and delicious recipes with the box contents in mind.

Boxes remain \$22 each.

ORDER your September GFB from your host site by **October 10th**

PICK UP from your host site on **October 18th**

[Learn more about the GFB](#)

**It's Locally Grown  
Good Food Box**



## 2023 LOCALLY GROWN GOOD FOOD FUNDRAISER BOXES



Our **LOCALLY GROWN BOXES** are packed with a sampling of the best & freshest locally grown & produced goods from a number of local farms & producers, including: Sleepy G Farms, Root Cellar Gardens, Jen's Strawberries, Veg-e-tato, Bear's Bees & Honey, Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, The Squash Queen, Mountain Stream Orchard, Wanderwines Greenhouses, Pitch Creek Farm, B&B Farm, Morning Moon Farm, Bill Hunt Farms, Belluz Farms, Brule Creek Farms, Hanna Road Produce, Roots to Harvest, and more!

**Boxes available July through December:**  
**Pick Up Dates—3rd Wed. of the month\*:**  
July 29th | \*Thurs. August 17th | September 20th  
October 18th | November 15th | December 20th

**Limited quantities available**  
**To purchase a box please visit**  
[www.goodfoodboxtb.org](http://www.goodfoodboxtb.org)  
For more information e-mail: [gfb@wvwv.org](mailto:gfb@wvwv.org)

## Season!

To raise funds in support of our GFB program operations, the Women's Centre sells fundraiser boxes of local goods several times a year. Three months left in the season: October, November + December!

Boxes are \$60 each, and include a \$20 charitable donation to the Good Food Box Program. September's pick up is on the 20th (3:30-5pm) at the Moose Hall on Fort William Rd.

And guess what?! You can now order our fundraiser boxes on our brand new website designed by Sociable thanks to funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation!

Place your order  
online now

## THANK YOU SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE!



THANK YOU to the Solidarity Collective, a grass-roots collective of BIPOC & 2SLGBTQ artists, activists, allies, and makers, for this generous donation of hygiene, first aid, clothing and self-care items!

We are so grateful to be able to offer these much-needed items to women and gender-diverse people who come to the Centre.



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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](http://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](mailto:admin@nwowc.org) 935-8043



Women and Gender  
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité  
des genres Canada

Canada

Ontario



## Community Events + Additional Resources

### Commemorations in October:

- Women's History Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Queer History Month
- Sisters in Spirit Day - 4th
- National Coming Out Day - 11th
- International Day of the Girl Child - 11th
- Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day - 15th
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - 17th
- Persons Day - 18th

### EVENTS

- Oct 10 | 5:30-7:30pm: **Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ Online Social** in celebration of National Coming Out Day. Hosted by Jayal & Logan (TBIFC). Email Jayal to get the zoom link: [jayal.chung@tbifc.ca](mailto:jayal.chung@tbifc.ca)
- Oct 16 | 10am-3pm: **Birth Certificate Clinic** at Roots Community Food Centre. Make an appt. with Katie Watson: [katie@rootscfc.org](mailto:katie@rootscfc.org) or 807-707-4906
- Nov 1 | 9am - 3:30pm at the Italian Hall: **Mamokawok "Coming Together" Youth Conference** hosted by Naadmaagewin Indigenous Domestic Violence Committee. Contact Lorena (807) 684-6751 or Cindy (807) 631-5274.
- Nov 2-4 | **Recentring Food Law and Policy: Connecting People and**

Place, 7th Annual Canadian Association for Food Law and Policy Conference hosted by Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

#### RESOURCES:

- [Canada's lack of recognition for gender-based violence is putting disaster survivors at risk](#) (J. Slick, *The Conversation*, September 10, 2023)
- [Egale: Back to School](#) (how to be a champion for creating inclusive classrooms for all students, plus more resources)
- How the 'parental rights' movement gave rise to the 1 Million March 4 Children (C.L. Mason & L. Hamilton, *The Conversation*, September 20, 2023)
- [Riskier times on campuses mean we need a tool for prevention and intervention of sexual assaults](#) (S. Jung & J. Mendoza, *The Conversation*, October 2, 2023)
- ['Male soldiers can't help themselves' is among many rape myths that need debunking](#) (M. MacKenzie, *The Conversation*, September 7, 2023)
- [The real world bears little resemblance to Barbie Land: Mattel is laughing all the way to the bank. Women aren't.](#) (K. Scott, *The Monitor*, CCPA)
- [Queer Canadian History Timeline - Pre-Colonization to Present](#) (The Canadian Centre for Gender + Sexual Diversity)
- [Women in Canadian History: A Timeline](#)

#### PODCASTS & VIDEOS:

- *Stuff Mom Never Told You: Digging into the X-Files* (discussion of the impact of the X-Files from shipping, fandom, pantsuits and women in STEM on the 30th anniversary of the show)
- *Don't Call Me Resilient* (S6:E1): [Inside the search for the unmarked graves of children lost to Indian Residential Schools](#)
- *#HearOurStory: The Brunswick Four* (a group of 4 Lesbians who were evicted from The Brunswick House Tavern for singing a song)



## Mutual Aid Opportunity

While we continue to advocate for changes to policies and practices that make women disproportionately vulnerable to violence and poverty, we know that access to some basic material items can still be helpful. We also recognize the importance of taking care of one another, and we know that many NOWC supporters might appreciate an opportunity to extend support to women in our community in other ways. Informed by our conversations with women who visit the Centre, these items would be especially helpful lately:

- [adult monthly bus pass](#)
- reusable water bottles
- new socks
- winter gloves or mitts
- grocery or Tim Hortons gift cards
- prepaid phone cards
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- menstrual pads (light or regular)
- Poise pads (for incontinence)

If you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop by the Women's Centre (M-Th between 9:30am and 5pm) or get in touch with Stacey at [communications@nowwc.org](mailto:communications@nowwc.org) to make alternate arrangements.

***Special thanks goes out to Joan Baril for visiting us last week with donations of hygiene items and Tim Hortons gift cards!***



## 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 October is *White Magic* by Elissa Washuta. 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

- *Women Unite!: An Anthology of the Canadian Women's Movement*
- 52 years ago: *The New Feminist* - Vol. 2, Issue 4 - October 1971
- 34 years ago: *Pandora* - Vol. 5, Issue 1 - October 1989

## Gender Based Violence: How we can help

**Our Gender Based Violence Navigation Advocate provides support for women who are experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) physical and/or sexual violence or coercive control by a partner, family member or acquaintance. Women navigating various court systems may also 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 Violence Against Women service providers to ensure that critical information is shared
- Assisting with preparing for court
- Ensuring coordination between legal sectors (criminal, family, immigration etc.)
- Providing court accompaniment and emotional support

This service is intended to enhance the effectiveness of the existing VAW response, not duplicate or replace it. For more information or to make a referral, contact Jennifer:

Email: [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto:navigator@nwowc.org) Phone: (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

Email [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto:navigator@nwowc.org) to reserve the space.

## Contribute to the Feminist Dispatch!

Submit a photo of your original artwork, a short piece of writing, a helpful resource, or a link to a community event that aligns with our *mission*! All

newsletter-related inquiries and submissions can be directed to Stacey at [communications@nwowc.org](mailto:communications@nwowc.org).

Want to check out past issues? They're archived on our website in PDF format (the links within the PDFs are active): <https://nwowomenscentre.org/newsletter/>



### ***Helping Women Find Their Way Since 1973!***

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 the Investing in Women's Future Program of the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation, and the Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

Support Our Work

AAGB  
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New



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



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