

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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## GBV / IPV: IT'S AN EPIDEMIC

November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month, which includes the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign calling for an end to gender-based violence. It begins on November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, includes The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6th, and ends on December 10th: Human Rights Day.

On September 25, 2023, on behalf of the two local coordinating committees (TBDCCEWA & Naadmaagewin), NOWC staff and a member of the Naadmaagewin Indigenous DVCC presented jointly to City Council to request that Thunder Bay join the growing number of Ontario municipalities in declaring IPV / GBV an epidemic. Our request was supported by the City's Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, and our goal was to have City Council recognize that gender-based violence is widespread and requires urgent attention across all jurisdictions with an integrated response to local missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people.

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

- To identify and advocate for necessary changes to local policies and practices to increase public awareness, reduce stigma and barriers to support, and strengthen community and cross-sectoral collaborations to protect survivors' (and their children's) right to safety;
- To mobilize our municipality to demand that the Ontario Government also declare IPV/GBV an epidemic; flow sustainable funding to IPV/GBV service providers doing this essential work, so that we can continue to prevent and respond appropriately to both survivors and perpetrators, thereby increasing opportunities for real accountability, healing, and safety.

### ACTION

Join us on January 18, 2024 (1-3pm) for an activism 101 drop-in workshop to learn about writing clear letters to relevant government representatives and policymakers, as well as how to make a deputation to City Council. If you're already a pro, come and share your strategies with others!

### Resources

Examples of plans, initiatives, and legislation resulting from feminist and survivor advocacy:

- Thunder Bay City Council Meeting Minutes (Sept. 25, 2023): <https://pub-thunderbay.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=4588>
- CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations (June 2022): [https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CKW-Inquest-Verdict-Recommendations-SIGNED\\_Redacted.pdf](https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CKW-Inquest-Verdict-Recommendations-SIGNED_Redacted.pdf)
- Map of Ontario municipalities that declared IPV an epidemic (2023): <https://www.buildingabiggerwave.org/actions/gbv-epidemic>
- Roadmap for the National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence: <https://nationalactionplan.ca/>
- We Count Femicide Because: <https://www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/we-count-femicide-because/>
- Kiera's Law (training for judges): <https://forlittlekeira.com/keiraslaw>, and <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-233/royal-assent>
- Clare's Law (disclosure of perpetrator's information): <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/disclosure-to-protect-against-domestic-violence-clares-law-act-protocol>
- Support for Survivors and their Families: <https://nationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Support-for-Survivors.pdf>

