

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

DAY
#10

PERPETRATORS OF GBV

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.

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

- "A perpetrator is a person, group, or institution that directly inflicts, supports and condones violence or other abuse against a person or a group of persons. Perpetrators are in a position of real or perceived power, decision-making and/or authority and can thus exert control over their victims." [...] Perpetrators of violence come from various age, socio-economic, cultural, sexual orientation, ethnic, and religious demographics. Perpetrators of domestic violence are most commonly male. (Glossary, Learning Network)
- "Men comprise over 80% of perpetrators of violence against women in Canada, and one key risk factor for the perpetration of IPV is the experience of neglect, abuse, or exposure to IPV in childhood" (Issue 16, Learning Network).
- A high percentage of perpetrators have histories of GBV from previous relationships - as in the CKW case.
- Many perpetrators are not charged - there is no intervention of any kind.
- Those who are charged may face long delays - more than a year in many cases before the matter is finished, and Partner Assault Response (PAR) counselling is only assigned at sentencing, the end of the court process. Breaches and re-offending are common during this period, because most perpetrators are released.
- Most do not go to jail, and those who do have no services to mitigate their behaviour.
- Courts focus on determining criminality, but this does not address the root of a perpetrator's sense of entitlement or violent behaviour.

ACTION

- Familiarize yourself with #32 through #39 of CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations (see Resources below for the link).
- Stop normalizing gendered and racist violence and reinforcing rape culture; try to intervene instead.
- Develop a local GBV prevention campaign specifically for boys and men about positive masculinity and healthy relationships; especially for those who are struggling with emotion regulation and feelings of anger, superiority and a need to be in control.
- Establish services for men who experienced childhood abuse and other maltreatment, and services to support and intervene for men who use violence.
- Provide GBV training for Probation and Parole officers.

Early intervention and real accountability for perpetrators is key to women's and children's safety; prevention is even better.

Resources

- Issue 16: Boys' Victimization & Adult IPV Perpetration: https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-16/index.html
- CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations (June 2022): https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CKW-Inquest-Verdict-Recommendations-SIGNED_Redacted.pdf
- Downside: The Perpetrator of Violence in the Representations of Social and Health Professionals: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7579262/>
- GBV Glossary: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/glossary/index.html>
- How to Support Harm Doers in Accountability: <https://vimeo.com/365578741>
- Issue 35: Gender-Based Violence in Rural, Remote & Northern Communities: https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-35/index.html
- Kizhaay Anishinaabe NiinProgram (I am a Kind Man): <https://tbfc.ca/program/kizhaay-anishinaabe-niin-program/>
- Offender Profile and Recidivism among Domestic Violence Offenders in Ontario: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/crime/rr06_fv3-rr06_vf3/toc-tdm.html
- Safe & Together Model: <https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/the-sti-model/model-overview/>
- Self-Audit Tool for Practitioners Who Work With People Who Have Caused Harm: <https://possibilityseeds.ca/resources/self-audit-tool-for-practitioners-who-work-with-people-who-have-caused-harm/>
- Sexual Violence Prevention: The Critical Role of Sport: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/backgrounders/sexual-violence-prevention-sport/Sexual-Violence-Prevention-Critical-Role-of-Sport.pdf>
- Talking to People who Use Abusive Behaviour: <https://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/friends-and-family/talking-to-abuser.html>
- Victim-Blaming in Canada: https://crcvc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Victim-Blaming_DISCLAIMER_Revised-April-2022_FINAL.pdf

