

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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## TRAINING

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

- The day-to-day decisions of service providers: social workers, police officers, lawyers, probation officers, VAWP workers, etc. can have significant and serious repercussions for the safety of women and children, especially if they are unaware of existing safety concerns. Everyone responding to situations of IPV must understand the potential significance of their actions and their agency's role in the situation. They should also be able to recognize the signs of trauma reactions and coercive control.
- Abusers may try to manipulate sources of income and assets - EI; OW; ODSP; CPP; CTB; employment income, pensions, mortgages, etc.
- Organizations and institutions operating in Ontario have a legal duty to take steps to prevent and respond to sexual harassment (Ontario Human Rights Commission)
- We provide A LOT of training to other organizations and service providers. It is important, but it is not enough. Institutions and organizations need to create a culture of awareness and accountability to ensure that GBV or trauma-informed training is implemented and results in changes of attitude, policy and practice. Recent legislation in Canada reflects the critical need for judges (and Crown Attorneys) especially to be better informed about gender-based violence and the use of the law to address it.

### ACTION

- CKW Recommendation #30: Provide specialized and enhanced training of police officers with a goal of developing an IPV specialist in each police detachment
- Provide training for social workers, employers and financial institution employees to recognize and report financial abuse.
- Provide violence and trauma-informed training for teachers, coaches, and support staff, so they can provide appropriate support to students who have experienced GBV themselves or who may be struggling with exposure to IPV at home.
- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter to hear about upcoming trainings, events, and resources: [https://bit.ly/feminist\\_dispatch](https://bit.ly/feminist_dispatch)

work together to  
create a culture  
of awareness &  
accountability within  
institutions &  
organizations

### Resources

- What is coercive control?: <https://lukesplace.ca/coercive-control/>
- New bill would criminalize coercive behaviour (CTV Morning interview with Pamela Cross): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSJ8K5DWUPE>
- Children Experience Coercive Control: What You Need To Know: [https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased\\_newsletters/issue-37/index.html](https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-37/index.html)
- Preventing Revictimization and Use of Aggression Following Girls' Maltreatment: A life course approach: [https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/reports/discussion\\_paper\\_18.html](https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/reports/discussion_paper_18.html)
- Supporting Youth Experiencing Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence: [https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased\\_newsletters/issue-39/index.html](https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-39/index.html)
- The Centrality of Community in Education about Gender-Based Violence: <https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1295&context=jfs>
- Trauma- and Violence- Informed Approaches: Supporting Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence: [https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased\\_newsletters/issue-31/](https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-31/)
- Understanding Resilience in Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence — What We Know From Current Literature: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/briefs/brief-38.html>
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Project: <https://www.kalc.ca/shiw-project/>
- Sexual Harassment and Assault Resource Exchange (SHARE): <https://hrlsc.on.ca/share/>
- Good Night Out: <https://www.goodnightoutvancouver.com/saferspaces>
- Make It Our Business: <https://www.makeitourbusiness.ca/>
- Male Allies: <https://www.sascwr.org/maleallies.html>
- Trauma and violence-informed approaches to policy and practice: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/health-risks-safety/trauma-violence-informed-approaches-policy-practice.html>
- Domestic Violence and the Workplace (quick guide for Employers): [https://womanact.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WomanACT\\_Quick-Guide-for-Employers-on-Domestic-Violence.pdf](https://womanact.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WomanACT_Quick-Guide-for-Employers-on-Domestic-Violence.pdf)
- Domestic Violence and the Workplace: What are your rights? (quick guide for Employees): [https://womanact.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WomanACT\\_Quick-Guide-for-Employees-on-Domestic-Violence.pdf](https://womanact.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WomanACT_Quick-Guide-for-Employees-on-Domestic-Violence.pdf)
- What it takes to become a Trauma Informed Organization: [https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/2017/KnowledgeHub\\_Learning\\_Network\\_Webinar\\_IWK\\_TIC.pdf](https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/2017/KnowledgeHub_Learning_Network_Webinar_IWK_TIC.pdf)

