

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

DAY
#15

COMMUNITY

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

- If we continue to blame victims and do nothing, nothing will change and women and children will continue to be harmed and killed.
- Rates of Intimate Partner Violence in Thunder Bay are 2 times higher than Ontario's provincial rate and 1.5 times higher than that of all of Canada
- 44% of women (6.2 million) in Canada have experienced IPV in their lifetime. Indigenous women (61%) were more likely to have experienced IPV in their lifetime (since the age of 15) when compared to non-Indigenous women (Statistics Canada, 2021). High rates of GBV against Indigenous women are inseparable from the ongoing impacts of colonization.
- 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).
- 62 women and children were killed in 52 weeks in Ontario (2022-2023 Annual Femicide List, OAITH)
- There is a clear link between perpetration of IPV and mass casualties; women and gender diverse individuals comprise more than half of the population. IPV IS A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE.
- "The impact of spousal violence ultimately extends to every member of society. Any party with a relationship to the victim, from the children to employers, may consciously be aware of how the violence affects them. Persons and entities with no direct relationship to the victim are also affected, at the very least through the allocation of public funds" (Government of Canada, 2009).
- "The most direct economic impact is borne by primary victims. Of the total estimated costs, \$6.0 billion was incurred by victims as a direct result of spousal violence for items such as medical attention, hospitalizations, lost wages, missed school days, and stolen/damaged property" (Statistics Canada, 2019).

ACTION

- Develop and implement diverse and engaging multi-format public education initiatives to strengthen prevention efforts and help create sense of community accountability
- CWK Recommendation #16: Review policies to ensure the timely, reliable, consistent, and accurate dissemination of information, including the use of emergency alerts and media releases, where the police are aware of circumstances that could put the public in danger, and that the focus is on safety when developing policies regarding what information to share with whom and when. Consideration should be given to disseminating information through alternative methods where cellular service is not consistently available.
- Focus on addressing root causes and reducing vulnerabilities as part of GBV prevention, an approach most important for BIPOC and other vulnerabilized women: "At the community level, it is also important to note that neighbourhood risk factors are among the most salient and consistent predictors of violence (Herrenkohl, Lee, & Hawkins, 2012). Community interventions must therefore focus on reducing poverty, increasing safety and neighborhood cohesion, and economically empowering women in addition to addressing gender norms and attitudes (Popkin, Acs, & Smith, 2009; World Health Organization, 2009)" (Etherington & Baker, Preventing Revictimization and Use of Aggression Following Girls' Maltreatment: A life course approach, 2018).
- Create a public memorial to honour and grieve women, children, and 2SMMIWG killed as a result of GBV/IPV. This memorial would provide a gathering place to host commemorative vigils, as well as a place for community members to visit anytime
- Be active in your own sphere of influence (personal, professional, or community level)

Intimate partner violence is a public safety issue

Resources

- Intersectionality: https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-15/
- Gender-based violence: Teaching about its root causes is necessary to address it: <https://theconversation.com/gender-based-violence-teaching-about-its-root-causes-is-necessary-to-address-it-215046>
- Immigrant women and international students at higher risk for intimate partner violence: https://www.thespec.com/news/canada/immigrant-women-and-international-students-at-higher-risk-for-intimate-partner-violence/article_d15b876f-5996-5c99-a421-55f1226422d0.html
- Expanding on Lessons from a Rural Inquest: Addressing Questions and Providing Support for Action: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/backgrounders/expanding-on-lessons-from-a-rural-inquest/index.html>
- Summary of the Mass Casualty Commission's Final Report Through a Gender-Based Violence Lens: <https://endingviolencecanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/GBV-Summary-of-Mass-Casualty-Commissions-Report.pdf>
- Stronger Together! 3 Reasons for Local Governments & Community Organizations to Collaborate to End GBV: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/stronger-together/index.html>
- An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada (Government of Canada, 2009): https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/p0.html#sum
- Joint Statement on the Release of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2022): <https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Final-Joint-Statement-on-NAP.pdf>
- Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People (2021): <https://metiswomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LFMO-MMIWG-Report.pdf>
- NWAC's Action Plan to End the Attack Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People (2021): <https://nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/NWAC-action-plan-English.pdf>
- Reconciliation with Indigenous Women: Changing the story of MMIWG, a report from ONWA (2020): https://www.onwa.ca/_files/ugd/4eaa9c_be059fe0cd844671839aef58558d893d.pdf
- Missing Voices in Hate and Harassment Data With Nasreen Rajani: <https://canadianwomen.org/blog/missing-voices-in-hate-and-harassment-data-with-nasreen-rajani/>
- Taking Action in Our Spheres of Influence: Intersectional Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Gender-Based Violence Framework: <https://www.oaith.ca/assets/library/Taking-Action-In-Our-Spheres-Of-Influence.pdf>



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EMPOWERING WOMEN BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO EXPLORE THEIR NEEDS



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