

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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#16

## ACTION & ACCOUNTABILITY

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

- Many other cities are taking further steps to educate their communities and support solutions for GBV (i.e., York region). Gender-based violence is a structural problem that requires structural solutions.
- Services, policies and protocols are often weaponized by abusers against women and children.
- Thunder Bay City Council asked us to provide additional recommendations to help address IPV/GBV on a municipal level. What will accountability look like?

### ACTION

- Ensure Thunder Bay's Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory continues to prioritize GBV and specifically 2SMMIWG.
- Schedule an annual, GBV-dedicated meeting or presentation by TBDCEWA and Naadmaagewin IDVC to TBDSSAB, City Council.
- Develop mechanisms to do annual case reviews of IPV cases for all agencies and institutions concerned to track trends and measure improvement.
- All City and District services (and other organizations) should undertake and complete an internal policy scan to evaluate policies and protocols that form their current response to cases of GBV. This data should be collated and reviewed by the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory for compliance with existing laws and scholarship regarding effective response to GBV. The City / CSWB should then develop a minimum, mandatory standard policy for all services regarding differential response to clients, employees, and practices that encompass experience or perpetration of GBV.
- Fund court watch programs.
- Engage in collective advocacy for related community-based supports: housing, mental health and addictions treatment options
- Service Providers: avoid becoming complicit in abuser's attempts to exploit their ex-partners and children.
- Sanction those who are perpetrating violence and coercive control using power and privilege that is assigned to them as part of their job or position in the community.

GBV is a structural problem

### Resources

- Community Violence and Gender-Based Violence are Priority #4 in the Thunder Bay Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (2021-2025): <https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/Documents/ThunderBayDrugStrategy/CSWB-Plan-2021---2025---accessible.pdf>
- Building Accountable Communities (video series): <https://www.deanspade.net/projects/building-accountable-communities/>
- 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)
- IPV declaration map of municipalities: <https://www.buildingabiggerwave.org/actions/gbv-epidemic>
- Campaign launched to combat alarming rise in intimate partner violence (CTV News, Barrie): <https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/campaign-launched-to-combat-alarming-rise-in-intimate-partner-violence-1.6672917>
- Not Optional! 4 Building Blocks for Collaboration Between Local Governments & Community Organizations to End GBV: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/not-optional/Not-Optional-Infographic-EN.pdf>
- Stronger Together! 3 Reasons for Local Governments & Community Organizations to Collaborate to End GBV: <https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/infographics/stronger-together/Stronger-Together-Infographic-EN.pdf>
- Livable wage (November 2023): <https://www.ontariolivingwage.ca/rates>
- Interactive Policies Matter tool created by WomanACT illustrates how policies and policy areas intersect and impact women: <https://womanact.ca/research-policy/policy-impacts/>
- 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/>
- A Rights-Based, GBA+ Analysis of the National Housing Strategy (Prepared for the Canadian Human Rights Commission): <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-Rights-Based-GBA-Analysis-of-NHS-28-Sept-2021.pdf>
- Safe-at-Home Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence (CMHC): <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/nhs/nhs-project-profiles/2021-nhs-projects/safe-home-housing-victims-domestic-violence>



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