



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE
EMPOWERING WOMEN BY PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO EXPLORE THEIR NEEDS

feminist DISPATCH

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is a non-profit, community-based feminist organization in Thunder Bay, Ontario. We work with self-identified women to increase their access to knowledge, skills and resources so they can make informed choices.

ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

NOVEMBER IS WOMAN ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

BELIEVE SURVIVORS

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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**.

Last year, our 16 Days campaign focused on promoting the **86 jury recommendations** from the 2022 Renfrew inquest into the triple murder of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam. We highlighted those recommendations that directly reflect the work we have been doing for years and speak to the reality of women facing the risk of **gender-based violence** (GBV), **intimate partner violence** (IPV) and **femicide**.

On September 25th, 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 a 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 the City of Thunder Bay recognize that gender-based violence is widespread and requires urgent attention across all jurisdictions. We emphasized the importance of integrating a response to local missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in this effort.

Thunder Bay City Council formally declared GBV and IPV an epidemic immediately following our presentation. 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. We will focus our 2023 16 Days campaign on these goals – efforts at the municipal and personal level that can address gender-based violence.

Watch for our 2023 16 Days' campaign launching November 25th on our [website](#) and [facebook](#).

View our 2022 campaign with clickable resource links: [16 Days Infographic](#)

Local media coverage:

where we are all teachers and learners. Absolutely no art, writing, knitting or group experience is required to come and hang out with us. Feel free to just come for a coffee!

We would love to see you!

Need more info? Get in touch with Stacey at communications@nwowc.org

Good Food Box



It's Holiday Fundraiser Season!

To raise funds in support of our GFB program operations, we sell fundraiser boxes of locally grown or produced goods several times a year. In 2022, we spent \$21,270.27 on locally made and produced goods for our Local Fundraiser Boxes and we raised \$11,155.00 for the Good Food Box Program!

As the 2023 holiday season approaches, why not get some of your shopping done while supporting the Good Food Box Program and local producers/makers at the same time?

These delightful holiday fundraiser boxes will be available to order from our [website](#) starting November 15th and ready for pick up at the Moose Hall on Dec. 21st from 3-5pm:

- Gift Box
- Goodie Box
- Holiday Morning Box
- 12 Jars of Joy

Of course, the December Locally Grown Good Food Box--last local box of the year--is available to [order right now](#) and will be ready for pick up on Dec. 20th at the Moose Hall.

Keep an eye on our [website](#), [facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for additional details on Nov. 15th!

Community Events + Additional Resources

November Commemorations + Dates of Significance:

- Woman Abuse Prevention Month
- **Financial Literacy Month**
- **Indigenous Veterans Day** - 8th
- Remembrance Day - 11th
- Trans Awareness Week - 13th-20th
- **Transgender Day of Remembrance** - 20th
- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** - 25th
- **Giving Tuesday** - 28th

EVENTS

- Nov 13 | 10am-3pm: **Birth Certificate Clinic** at Roots Community Food Centre. Make an appt. with Katie Watson: katie@rootscfc.org or 807-707-4906
- Nov 15th | 11:30am-12:30pm: **IPV & Family Violence Workshop** hosted by Beendigen for moms and moms to be. More info: 807-631-6182
- Nov 15th, 29th | 1:30-3pm: **Financial Counsellors** from Thunder Bay Counselling will be at Brodie St. Library giving out FREE advice (e.g.: reducing costs, help with taxes, etc.) on a drop-in basis
- Nov 16th | 7-9pm EST: **The Walrus Talks Gender-Based Violence** presented by the Canadian Women's Foundation
- Nov 20th | 5-7pm at The Study Coffeehouse: **Transgender Day of Remembrance** gathering hosted by the GEC + Pride Central. Email pride@lusu.ca for info.
- Nov 21st, 28th | 1:30-3:30pm: **Bead-i-Fall Drop-In Beading** hosted by TBIFC's Indigenous Mental Health and Wellness and Building Gender Diverse Communities Program
- Nov 23rd | **Where are you from?** A short film presented by OCASI and available for online viewing beginning at 2:30pm (pre-order available)
- Nov 28th | 1-2:30pm (EST): **We Can Get Better At This: A Conversation on Community Accountability and Building Our Collective Response to Sexual Harm** (virtual panel discussion) with Abolition X Podcast Hosts [@richiereseda](https://twitter.com/richiereseda) and [@indigomateo](https://twitter.com/indigomateo) in conversation with [@ajustcommunity](https://twitter.com/ajustcommunity)
- Nov 28th | 7-9:30 EST: **Doing the Work: Radical Solidarity for a Collective Future** with Rania El Mugammar (virtual workshop; Pay What You Can)
- Nov 29th | **Inclusive Voices, Collective Power**, a half-day virtual GBV symposium co-hosted by WomanACT, the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) and Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO)

RESOURCES:

- **Critical Rage**, (J. Komorowski and C. Peacock, *Guts*, Issue 12, March 27, 2023)
- **Short Takes** by Carrie Baker, Dahlia Balcazar, and V Varun Chaudhry on Sara Ahmed's *The Feminist Killjoy Handbook* (2023) in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*
- **How women in Israel and Palestine are pushing for peace — together** (S. Byrne, *The Conversation*, October 17, 2023)
- **Canada's health-care crisis is gendered: How the burden of care falls to women** (J. Smith, *The Conversation*, October 22, 2023)
- **Talking with Children About Tragic Events** (Dougy Center: The National Grief Center for Children & Families)
- **AI-generated misinformation: 3 teachable skills to help address it** (J. Hodson, *The Conversation*, October 3, 2023)
- Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre inducted into **2023 Women's History Month web exhibit**
- **We Will Win: Guide to Campaign Messaging in Support of Trans Youth** (created by LeBlanc (& co.) Communications, Momentum, Egale Canada, and The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual and Gender Diversity)

PODCASTS + VIDEOS:

- *Don't Call Me Resilient* (S6:E5): **Why the Israel-Gaza conflict is so hard to talk about**
- **Healing Comes in Waves** hosted by Farrah Khan
- **Therapy for Black Girls** hosted by Dr. Joy Harden Bradford

- Dori Tunstall on [using decolonization to change systems](#) (2m18s YouTube video from Gender and the Economy)

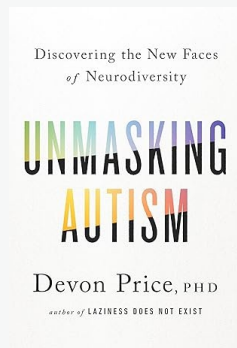


Mutual Aid Opportunity

While we continue to advocate for changes to policies and practices that make women disproportionately vulnerable to violence and poverty, we know that access to some basic material items can still be helpful. We also recognize the importance of taking care of one another, and we know that many NOWC supporters might appreciate an opportunity to extend support to women in our community in other ways. Informed by our conversations with women who visit the Centre, these items would be especially helpful lately:

- [adult monthly bus pass](#)
- reusable water bottles
- new socks, underwear
- winter gloves or mitts
- grocery or Tim Hortons gift cards
- prepaid phone cards
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- menstrual pads (light or regular)
- Poise pads (for incontinence)

If you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop by the Women's Centre (M-Th between 9:30am and 5pm) or get in touch with Stacey at communications@nwowc.org to make alternate arrangements.



Loud Women Book Club

The Loud Women Collective's monthly book club reads exclusively feminist non-fiction covering a wide range of topics, encouraging learning, personal growth, and allyship. Thunder Bay chapter typically meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month in store at Goods & Co Market. The book for November is [Unmasking Autism](#) by Devon Price. Check out the LWC for availability.

[Find out more](#)

From the Feminist Archives

[Rise Up!](#) is a digital archive of feminist activism in Canada from the 1970s to the 1990s

- [Women Unite!: An Anthology of the Canadian Women's Movement](#)
- 49 years ago: [The Northern Woman](#) - Vol. 1, Issue 14 - November 1974
- 32 years ago: [Pandora](#) - Vol. 6, Issue 4 - November 1991

Gender-Based Violence: How we can help

Our Gender-Based Violence Navigation Advocate provides support for women who are experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) physical and/or sexual violence or coercive control by a partner, family member

or acquaintance. Women navigating various court systems may also access court advocacy.

We can help by:

- Ensuring that women who are experiencing or at high risk of gender-based violence have access to ongoing and appropriate support and referrals
- Coordinating with Violence Against Women service providers to ensure that critical information is shared
- Assisting with preparing for court
- Ensuring coordination between legal sectors (criminal, family, immigration etc.)
- Providing court accompaniment and emotional support

This service is intended to enhance the effectiveness of the existing VAW response, not duplicate or replace it. For more information or to make a referral, contact Jennifer:

Email: navigator@nwowc.org Phone: (807) 935-8042



Computer Space Available

Women can access a computer or video conferencing in a private space at the Women's Centre for:

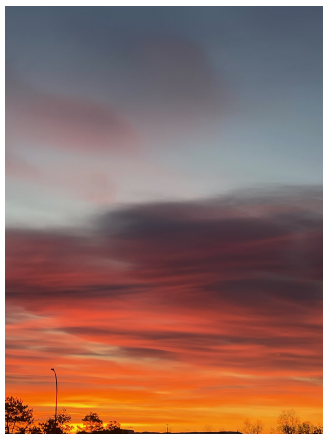
- Counselling or Healthcare Appointments
- Job Interviews
- Virtual Legal Clinic
- Lawyer's Appointments
- Virtual Court Matters

Email navigator@nwowc.org to reserve the space.

Contribute to the Feminist Dispatch!

Submit a photo of your original artwork, a short piece of writing, a helpful resource, or a link to a community event that aligns with our **mission**! All newsletter-related inquiries and submissions can be directed to Stacey at communications@nwowc.org.

Want to check out past issues? They're archived on our website in PDF format (the links within the PDFs are active): <https://nwowomenscentre.org/newsletter/>



When you drive to work in the dark, but then get a view like this...

Helping Women Find Their Way Since 1973!

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre relies on government funding and private donations to continue our work. We gratefully acknowledge the support of volunteers, donors, and the Investing in Women's Future Program of the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation, and the

Support Our Work

AAGB
V

Advocac
y

Good Food
Box

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What's
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