



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.



We're taking a newsletter break for the next couple of months, but the Feminist Dispatch will return in the fall. If you're new to the Dispatch or missed a few issues, past issues are archived on our [website](#). Wishing you a safe and happy summer season!

P.S. If you find that the images in this newsletter don't load, try clicking on 'view in browser' at the top of the email.

From our Summer Legal Intern

Hello everyone!

My name is Jessica Hayes, and I am the legal intern for the NOWC this summer. I am a second-year law student at Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, and my main interests are family law and child protection. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay and completed my undergraduate studies at Lakehead University, majoring in music (opera performance) and minoring in women and gender studies. Having lived in Thunder Bay all of my life, I have become quite familiar with the issues women face here, especially in terms of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence. Living in the North presents unique issues for women, and we must look at these issues through an intersectional feminist lens to better understand the needs and perspectives of the most vulnerable or most impacted by an issue. I came to NOWC to learn more about these unique issues and needs and how I, as a future lawyer, can better help women, especially in the family and criminal court processes.

This summer, I have been participating in criminal court observation, which has provided me with much insight into how the legal system is failing women and potentially discrediting or criminalizing women in the context of intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviours. Based on general observations from our Court Watch project and our experience working with women taking their sexual assault cases through the criminal justice system, we have observed in recent months that sexual assault cases are not proceeding through the legal system in Thunder Bay due, in part, to practical hindrances. Some of the barriers we noticed that allowed for many sexual assault cases to be pushed through included judge shortages and availability, backloging issues claimed to still be because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and structural and procedural gaps within the system that impact women's safety, including lack of accountability for the accused by defence counsel and encouragement for the accused to wait out the 18-month deadlines established in *R v Jordan*, in hopes that the charges will time out. According to section 11(b) of the *Charter*, “any person charged with an offence has the right to be tried within a reasonable time”.^[1] Based on this, the Supreme Court of Canada established deadlines for when a trial must be completed in *R v Jordan* (30 months in Superior Court and 18 months in Provincial and Youth Courts), and an accused can file a Jordan application after a delay that exceeds these timelines.

In Ontario, this is what has been affecting violent crime cases, including sexual violence and child sexual abuse cases. As a result, those charged in these cases are not being held accountable by the criminal justice system, and sexual violence survivors who have had the courage to report do not see their cases proceed. Due to these observations, we have been working with organizations such as the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres and Luke's Place to advocate for survivors and bring attention to these issues to effect change. Although this work has been difficult, it has been extremely rewarding, and I have gained a lot of valuable insight into the court process.

Although it seems like it might be all doom and gloom over here, I can confidently say that with each reason for me to lose hope for humanity, there are double the amount of reasons for me to gain hope because there are so many wonderful people across the province that are working so hard to affect positive change. I have had the opportunity to work with and learn about many activists and advocates in our community who have been working to create practical and positive change in our City, which has been truly inspiring. Working at NOWC has exposed me to many avenues for social justice and change, and I have gained incredible knowledge and experience in this position. I am excited to take these tools and experiences and use them in my legal career to try to influence the justice system for the better!

[1] *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s 11(b), Part 1 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11.

NEW! Sexual Violence Program



Sexual Violence Program

Our Sexual Violence Program supports self-identified women aged 16+ who have experienced any form of sexual violence in person or online: sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, stalking or sex trafficking.

We aim to provide survivors with:

- a space to be heard, believed, and supported
- legal and systems advocacy, when appropriate
- free supportive counselling and other resources to rebuild their lives from the negative impacts of sexual violence

www.fayepeterson.org

SVP supports available at no cost:

- 24/7 crisis line: (807) 345-0450
- 10-week support groups
- Accompaniments (hospital, police, court), where appropriate
- Advocacy
- Referrals
- Public education
- 20-week individual counselling offered at two locations:
 - Faye Peterson House (807) 345-0450
 - Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (807) 620-9156

Our SVP is designed to serve the diverse experiences of members of our communities, including, but not limited to, Indigenous/Metis/Inuit, 2-Spirited, non-binary, LGBTQ, Black/racialized, disabled, sex workers, and sex trafficking survivors.



For more details about all of our programs and services, please visit:

www.fayepeterson.org



In partnership with:
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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To help meet the needs of survivors since the Thunder Bay Sexual Abuse Centre closed, Faye Peterson House has developed a Sexual Violence Program. There are three Sexual Violence Counsellors offering a 20-week individual counselling program. Two counsellors are based at the shelter, and one is based here at the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre where there is now a private counselling room for this purpose.

To access counselling for any kind of sexual violence (recent or past), you can call Faye Peterson House's 24/7 Crisis Line: (807) 345-0450. You do not need to reside at the shelter to access support from Faye Peterson House.

If you're interested in counselling at the Women's Centre location, you can reach Stacey Hare Hodgins (BA, HBSW, MA, RSW) directly at (807) 620-9156 or sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org.



**GOOD
FOOD
BOX**

June Orders

ORDER your GFB from your host site by **June 10**

PICK UP from your host site on **June 22**

[Order Online](#)



Cheers to our UW Great Lighthouse Castaway team, Leeks in the Boat, aka this year's *top fundraising team*--thanks to the generosity of our supporters! Together, we raised \$5,395.00 (not including matching donations) in support of the Thunder Bay Good Food Box Program! **THANK YOU** for supporting a grassroots community-based food security initiative!



Good Garden Box Pick Up!

Friday, June 14 from 9am - 1pm

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre
73 N. Cumberland St., Suite 101



Good Food Groove

for the Good Food Box Program

Come as you are! No dance experience necessary. No partner required. No right or wrong moves. Groove led by "groove leader" Gloria Ranger.

Three ticket options available.

STANDARD TICKET*: \$15

SUPPORTER TICKET*: \$25 (includes a \$20 donation to the GFB - Tax Receipt Issued)

GFB VOLUNTEER TICKET*: Admission is free for all GFB volunteers! Contact Sherry to register.

GOOD FOOD GROOVE!

GROOVE NIGHT FUNDRAISER
IN SUPPORT OF THE THUNDER BAY GOOD FOOD BOX PROGRAM!

Good Food for all

Join us as we **TURNIP THE BEET** in support of the Good Food Box Program!
Thursday June 20th, 7-9pm

COME AS YOU ARE. NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. NO PARTNER REQUIRED. NO RIGHT OR WRONG MOVES. GROOVE LED BY "GROOVE LEADER" GLORIA RANGER.

HELD AT ROOTS COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE (450 FORT WILLIAM RD)
DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 - AS A COURTESY TO OTHER DANCERS, PLEASE ARRIVE BY 7PM.
GOOD FOOD SNACKS SERVED AFTERWARDS.

Tickets available at www.GoodFoodBoxTB.org

- STANDARD TICKET: \$15
- SUPPORTER TICKET: \$25* INCL. \$20 DONATION TO THE GFB - TAX RECEIPT ISSUED
- GFB VOLUNTEER TICKET: ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL GFB VOLUNTEERS - CONTACT SHERRY TO REGISTER

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE The Thunder Bay Good Food Box is proudly administered by the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (since 2005)

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION



WHEN?

Thursday, June 13, 2024
@ 1:00pm

WHERE?

**Northwestern Ontario Women's
Centre**

73 Cumberland St. N, Suite 101,
Thunder Bay

LUCLS AREAS OF SERVICE:

Service areas to be discussed include:

- Minor Criminal Offences
- Provincial Offences
- Tenant Rights
- Small Claims Matters
- Employment Law

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



807-346-7815



legalservices.law@lakeheadu.ca



Lakehead University Community Legal Services



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY | **Community
Legal Services**

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law



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National Indigenous Peoples Day
 Journée nationale des peuples autochtones

JUNE 21 Marina Park Thunder Bay

EVENT IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**POW WOW ¼ FOOD VENDORS
 CRAFTERS ¼ AND FEAST**

Sunrise Ceremony with Elder John Gagnon at 5:30
 (THE SUN RISES AT 5:56AM)

**Parking for Elders, Drummer and Dancers
 located in the parking area beside Skate Park.
 (limited spots)**

All additional designated parking available
 at the South end of Marina Park near
 the Condominiums and
 Court Street Parkade

**12PM
 OPENING
 CEREMONIES**

**1PM
 GRAND ENTRY**

**5PM
 FEAST**

**7PM
 POW WOW ENDS
 AND GIVEAWAYS**

Host Drum-Thunder Mountain • Co-Host Drum-New Life – Oshki Bimaadiziwin Drum
 MC-Ron Kanutski • Arena Director-Todd Genno • Eagle Staff-Gene Bannon, Fort William FN
 Elders-John Gagnon (Sunrise Ceremony), Aaron Theriault, Sheila Decorte, Carmela Moses (Spiritual Advisors)
 Head Dancers-Kelvin Redsky and Georgina Redsky • Cultural Coordinator-Sean Stevens



please message us on Facebook or email: nadtbay@gmail.com with any questions or if you require further accommodations.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Pride
 MONTH

Take part in fun events, support 2SLGBTQIA+-led initiatives, and explore affirming resources!

EVENTS:

- PRIDE [Calendar of Events 2024](#) (Thunder Bay, May 30 - June 29)

RESOURCES:

- [The ArQuives](#): Canada's largest LGBTQ2+ Archives
- [Canadian Centre for Gender + Sexual Diversity](#): empowering gender and sexually diverse communities through education, research, and advocacy
- [Egale](#): resources/education in English and French, including [Pride Safety Toolkit](#)
- Fierté Canada Pride (national association of Canadian Pride organizations): [Stories of Two-Spirit Indigenous LGBTQ+ Indian Residential and Day School Survivors](#)
- [LezSpreadtheWord: Ma-Nee Chacaby](#)
- [The Ontario Human Rights Code](#): Gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation are protected grounds
- [NFB – 2SLGBTQI+](#): Featuring a wide range of stories about identity, family, community and everyday life, this selection of films explores the multitude of 2SLGBTQI+ realities and experiences in Canada and abroad
- [Queer as Fact](#): Queer history podcast covering content from around the world and throughout time
- Syrus Marcus Ware & adrienne maree brown: [The Pleasures of “Post-Binary” Community](#)
- [Rainbow Health Ontario](#): creates opportunities for the healthcare system to better serve 2SLGBTQ communities
- [Rainbow Railroad](#): helps LGBTQI+ people escape state-sponsored violence around the world
- RiseUp!: A digital archive of feminist activism in Canada (1970s-1990s): [LGBTQ+ Organizing](#)
- [Senior Pride Network](#): Older 2SLGBTQI+ Issues
- [The519](#): A registered charity and City of Toronto agency with an innovative model of Service, Space and Leadership
- [Trans Lifeline](#) provides peer support. Toll-free in Canada: (877) 330-6366
- [TransCare+](#) supports the health, care and wellness of trans and gender diverse communities through our programming, research, and advocacy

LOCAL SERVICES + RESOURCES:

- [Loud Women Collective](#) (feminist bookstore with gender gear)
- [NorWest Community Health Centre](#) (health and counselling services)
- [The Other 10%](#) (Children's Centre)
- [Creating Safer Spaces Project](#) (Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre)
- [Pride Central](#) and Gender Equity Centre (Lakehead University)
- [Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay](#) and [Thunder Pride](#)

Community Events + Additional Resources

JUNE is host to [Indigenous History Month & Indigenous Peoples Day](#) (21st), [summer solstice](#) (21st), [Seniors Month](#), and [Stop Cyberbullying Day](#) (16th)

EVENTS

- June 8th | 12-5pm: Annual [Two-Spirit Pride Pow Wow](#) at Current River Park (TBIFC)

- June 14th | 10am: **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Flag Raising & BBQ** at 55 Plus Centre on River Street
- June 22nd | 1-2:30pm ET: **ARCC Activist Workshop: Colonialism in Reproductive Healthcare, Past and Present** with Dr. May Sanaee, Associate Professor with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Alberta
- June 28th - 30th: **Fort William First Nation Annual Summer Pow Wow**
- by June 28th: **Nominate a Muslim woman for the CCMW's 2024 Women Who Inspire Awards**

RESOURCES

- [age BIG](#) (local)
- [Age Friendly Thunder Bay](#)
- [A quick guide on sexual image based abuse](#) (YWCA Canada)
- [Supporting Youth Experiencing Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence](#) (Learning Network)
- [Tech Safety Canada](#) (Women's Shelters Canada)
- [The Facts about Online Hate and Cyberviolence Against Women and Girls in Canada](#) (Canadian Women's Foundation)
- [Unacceptable: Responding to Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence](#) (LEAF)

PODCASTS:

- *Don't Call Me Resilient* (S5: EP37): [Trans scholar and activist explains why trans rights are under attack](#)
- *Little Eyes, Little Ears: Centering Children & Youth in GBV Work* (S1:EP5): [More than 'Sibling Rivalry': Understanding and Addressing Sibling Abuse](#)
- *Indigenous Climate Action Pod*
- *On Aging: Canadian Conversations*
- *Queer as Fact*



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](#)
- new socks
- Fresh Co. or Tim Hortons gift cards
- mini first aid kits (or packs of Band-Aids)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, lip balm

- sunscreen
- sun hats
- 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 to make alternate arrangements: communications@nwowc.org.

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**
- 41 years ago: ***Fireweed: A Feminist Quarterly – Issue 13 – Summer 1982***
- 34 years ago: ***Pandora – Vol. 5, Issue 4 – June 1990***

Gender Based Violence: 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:

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

[Find out more](#)

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 communications@nwowc.org.

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 Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

Support Our Work

[AAGBV](#) [Advocacy](#) [Good Food Box](#) [Public Education](#) [What's New](#)



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

73 Cumberland St. N., Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4L8

(807) 345-7802 | ed@nwowc.org

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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