



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.

December 6, 1989 | Montreal Massacre

**WE REMEMBER**

**NATIONAL DAY  
OF REMEMBRANCE  
AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**



*We're coming back with the Feminist Dispatch! With a new Coordinator in the Communications & Education role, the November and December newsletters will offer small update of all NWOC programs, events, and resources. We will have a more fulsome e-offering of feminist analyses, program updates, event announcements, and resources starting in the new year.*

*If you want to catch up on past issues or are new to the Dispatch, check out the archive on our [website](#).*

*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.*

**December 6th is National Day of Remembrance  
and Action on Violence Against Women**

Today we remember the 14 women killed in 1989 in the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique, the many missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit

people, and all of the women and girls who have been taken by femicide to date. The list is far too long. They are all loved and deeply missed by their families, friends, and communities.

from [Rise Up! Feminist Archive](#):

*On the evening of December 6, 1989, a man with a rifle entered a classroom in L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, separated the women and men, then claimed he was "fighting feminism", called the women "a bunch of feminists" and shot nine women, killing six of them. He moved on through the college shooting more women. During his 20-minute rampage, he murdered 14 women and injured 10 other women and four men before taking his own life. His suicide note blamed feminists for ruining his life and included a list of 19 prominent Quebec feminists who he also planned to target.*

*What became known as The Montreal Massacre occurred as feminists were winning victories in the fight for control of their bodies and against violence. This included the Canadian Supreme Court's landmark decision in 1988 declaring that the Criminal Code provision making abortion criminal was unconstitutional, as it violated a woman's right to security of person under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There was also growing activism across the country demanding that gender-based harassment and violence in all its forms, including partner violence, sexual assault, and workplace harassment and violence, be recognized and stopped.*

In Thunder Bay, the Northern Women's Centre (now known as the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre) was holding its Annual General Meeting on the evening of December 6, 1989. The women in attendance would not find out about the Montreal Massacre until hearing about it on the radio afterwards. Learn more about the local response by feminists and the immediate backlash by anti-feminists, by reading Joan Baril's piece: "[The Centre of the Backlash](#)."

## December Commemorations & Dates of Significance

- [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) - December 3rd
- [International Day of the Volunteer](#) - December 5th
- [National Day of Remembrance and Action on VAW](#) - December 6th
- [Human Rights Day](#) - December 10th
- [International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers](#) - December 17th

**Events & Programming updates from NWOC**

# December 6th Vigil

OPSEU Membership Centre  
326 Memorial Avenue 6 P.M  
Sponsored by the Thunder Bay &  
District Labour Council.

## December 6th Vigil

Friday, December 6 @ 6pm

The Thunder Bay Labour Council is hosting a December 6th vigil to honour and remember.

Join at 6pm at the OPSEU Membership Centre (326 Memorial Avenue)

We encourage you to attend if able, or observe and stand in solidarity in your own ways (lighting a candle, reading victim's names, letter writing, etc)

WE ARE  
**CLOSED**

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 20TH  
THROUGH TO  
JANUARY 6TH

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON



**GOOD  
FOOD  
BOX**

## Office closed for the holidays

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday from all of us at the Women's Centre! Please note our holiday closure dates. We are looking forward to reconnecting in 2025.

24/7 Crisis Numbers:

Assaulted Women's Helpline: 1-866-863-0511

Fem'aide: 1-877-336-2433



## Craftivism at the Women's Centre

We will return with some Craftivism sessions  
in the new year! Stay tuned for an update :)



# GOOD FOOD BOX

## December Orders

ORDER your GFB from your host site by **December 9th**  
PICK UP from your host site on **December 18th**

[Order Online](#)



# TIME! TO UPDATE!

Location Update for  
**DECEMBER**



# GOOD FOOD BOX

## Pack Location for December!

After temporarily relocating last month, we are happy to report that we will be packing and offering pick ups **at the MOOSE HALL (434 Fort William Rd) once again.** You can read more about our location update We thank you for your patience and support as we navigate these changes!

[Read more here!](#)

**2024**  
**LOCALLY GROWN**  
**GOOD FOOD FUNDRAISER BOXES**



**Annual fundraiser  
in support of the  
Thunder Bay  
Good Food Box program**

Local Fundraiser Boxes are \$60 each  
Price includes any applicable taxes as well as  
a \$20 donation to Thunder Bay Good Food Box.  
Charitable receipts issued.

Our **LOCALLY GROWN BOXES** are packed with a sampling of the best & freshest locally grown & produced goods from a number of local farms & producers, including:  
Morning Moon Farm, Root Cellar Gardens, Veg-e-tate, Sleepy G Farms, Pitch Creek Farm, Bears' Bees & Honey, Brule Creek Farms, Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, Mountain Stream Orchard, Vanderwees Greenhouses, B&B Farm, Bill Hunt Farms, Belluz Farms, and more!

Boxes available July through December;  
Pick Up Dates—3rd Wed. of the month\*:  
July 17th | August 21st | September 18th  
October 16th | November 20th | December 18th

Limited quantities available  
To purchase a box please visit  
[www.goodfoodboxtb.org](http://www.goodfoodboxtb.org)  
For more information e-mail: [gfb@nwowow.org](mailto:gfb@nwowow.org)

To raise funds in support of our GFB program operations, the Women's Centre sells fundraiser boxes of local goods several times a year.

There are just ONE MONTH left in the season: order your **DECEMBER** Local Box GFB by December 9th.

Boxes are \$60 each and include a \$20 charitable donation to the Good Food Box Program. This month's pick up is on December 18th (3:30-5pm) at the **Moose Hall on Fort William Rd.** Order your Local Box on our website today!

Order Online

Looking to stock up on storage crops for the winter? This is your chance to load up your pantry with Good Food! We are offering the **WINTER STORAGE BOX** once again.

The Winter Storage Box will contain a mix of locally grown and locally sourced goods from Sleepy G Farms, B&B Farms, Westfort Foods and other local providers. Each box includes 10 lbs of potatoes, 5 lbs of carrots, 5 lbs of onions, and much more! We will also provide information on how to store your veggies along with hearty recipes too.

Order your box by **DECEMBER 9TH**; you can order through your neighborhood host-site, or via our webstore. WSBs available for pickup along with the regular GFBs on December 18th.

## Winter Storage Box is back!



Order Online

**Holiday  
Fundraiser  
Boxes**




IN SUPPORT OF  
THE THUNDER BAY



**GOOD  
FOOD  
BOX**

# Tis the Season for Fundraising!

**BOXES ARE SOLD OUT OR NEARLY THERE!** To raise funds in support of our GFB program operations, we sell fundraiser boxes of locally grown or produced goods several times a year. These delightful holiday fundraiser boxes are available to order on our website and ready for pick up on December 18th (pick up location TBD!)

-  Holiday Morning Box (\$60 each)
-  Local Gift Box (\$60 each)
-  12 Jars of Joy \*SOLD OUT\*

As always, a portion of each box is a direct donation to the Good Food Box Programs and charitable receipts are provided. Why not get some of your holiday shopping done while supporting the Good Food Box Program and local producers/makers at the same time?

**BOXES ARE STILL AVAILABLE, BUT QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED! ORDER YOURS BEFORE THEY SELL OUT!**

Order your HOLIDAY BOX today!

## Community Events & Resources

### EVENTS, UPDATES

- Waddington and Pottinger Law LLP – Thunder Bay’s only all-female law firm – was featured in a recent [TB NewsWatch Spotlight](#).
- The [PACE Warming Centre](#) is open everyday: weekdays 7:30am to 7pm, weekends 9am to 7pm

### RESOURCES

- [Beyond December 6](#) (1991) directed by Catherine Fol (28 mins) is a short film that speaks with an École Polytechnique shooting survivor a year after the tragedy
- The Scholar and Feminist Online have released Issue 20.1 (Fall 2024), entitled [Rage, Struggle, Freedom](#), explores transformative modes of feminist organizing in the face of global crises defined by militarism, state violence, and structural abandonment.
- The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children has released a new backgrounder resource, [“Understanding Afro-Indigenous Experiences of Gendered Violence and Healing Pathways”](#). This Backgrounder provides an overview of the historic and contemporary contexts that contribute to gender-based violence in Afro-Indigenous communities and share insights from the [Proclaiming Our Roots](#) project.
- [Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario](#) is hosting an educational webinar on December 10th to provide older Canadians with the basic knowledge and skills for how to use AI tools. [Register](#) today!

# Gender Based Violence: We Can Help

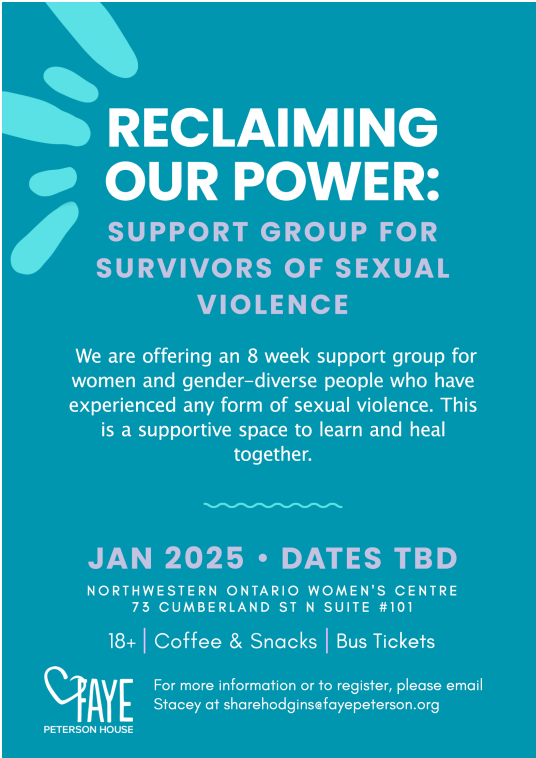
Our Gender Based Violence Navigation Advocate provides support for women who are experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) physical and/or sexual violence or coercive control by a partner, family member or acquaintance. Women navigating various court systems may also access court advocacy.

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 at [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto:navigator@nwowc.org) or by phone (807) 935-8042.


## Sexual Violence Program: Supporting Survivors



**RECLAIMING  
OUR POWER:**  
SUPPORT GROUP FOR  
SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE

We are offering an 8 week support group for women and gender-diverse people who have experienced any form of sexual violence. This is a supportive space to learn and heal together.

**JAN 2025 • DATES TBD**  
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE  
73 CUMBERLAND ST N SUITE #101  
18+ | Coffee & Snacks | Bus Tickets

 For more information or to register, please email  
Stacey at [sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org](mailto:sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org)

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.

Starting January 2025, we are offering an 8 session weekly support group for women and gender-diverse people who have experienced any form of sexual violence. This is a supportive space to learn and heal together. Dates are still being determined, but you can still register.

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

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



## 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](http://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](http://www.fayepeterson.org)



In partnership with:  
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

[www.nwowomenscentre.org](http://www.nwowomenscentre.org)



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## 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 Steph to make alternate arrangements: [communications@nwowc.org](mailto:communications@nwowc.org).



## Computer Resources Available

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

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

To book an appointment, please contact Jennifer at 935-8042 or [navigator@nwowc.org](mailto:navigator@nwowc.org)

## 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](mailto:communications@nwowc.org).



*Sunshine in a wintry forest*

***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](mailto:ed@nwowc.org)

[www.nwowomenscentre.org](http://www.nwowomenscentre.org)



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