



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 **September!** 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!*

June is National Indigenous History Month!

June is **National Indigenous History Month** in Canada, coinciding with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. This day is an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

It's a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada. [See a list of events in our "Community Events" section below!](#)

Happy Pride Month!

Pride Month is when 2SLGBTQI+ communities and allies come together to spotlight the resilience, celebrate the talent, and recognize the contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. It commemorates the **Stonewall riots** of June 1969, which marked a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTI+ rights in the United States and beyond. Since then, Pride Month has grown as a **global movement**, encompassing celebrations, activism, and solidarity. Pride Month serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by LGBTI+ communities globally, from stigma, discrimination, violence and rights violations.

Take part in fun events, support 2SLGBTQIA+-led initiatives, and explore affirming resources!
Full calendar of events can be found on Thunder Pride's [Facebook page](#)

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)
- [Pride & Gender Equity Centre](#) (Lakehead University)
- [Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay](#) (social movement)
- [Thunder Pride](#) (2SLGBTQ+ organizing committee)



Embroidery hoop artwork, stitched by Steph, the queer artist behind [Owl Eyes Arts Hoop](#) is a rainbow fabric, with the words 'Queer Stories Matter' stitched in white.

Events & Programming updates from NWOC



**BIG NEWS:
We are moving!**



Big news: the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre office is moving! We have enjoyed the years of growth in our Cumberland Street North location; thank you to all who joined our events, workshops, and drop-ins here – we leave with a lot of warm memories in this space!

Our Cumberland St Office will remain open until **June 18th for regular Good Food Box pickups**; we will then be closed for the official move **June 19th until June 24th.**

Our new location will be Suite 201 at 278 Bay Street. Our first open day in the new space will be **June 25th.**

We are looking for volunteers to assist with packing, painting or moving our smaller belongings. If interested, please contact Lori at admin@nwowc.org

Fundraiser with Lovely Body Products

Treat yourself and support the NOWC! Sarah at **Lovely Body Products** is running a fundraiser with us - check out the [listing of products](#) available! 20% of sales from these listings go to the Women's Centre!

Fundraiser runs until June 14th, take a look and shop today!



Craftivism at the Women's Centre

We will be taking a break for the summer months to settle in after our move! Stay tuned for programming in the fall!



GOOD FOOD BOX

June Orders

Order your GFB from your host site by **June 9th**
PICK UP from your host site on **June 18th**

Order online today!

The LEEKS IN THE BOAT are back !

The Good Food Box Program will be participating in the 3rd annual **United Way** Great Lighthouse Rescue this month! Help us continue to serve the 500+ families who rely on the GFB Program each month!

Donate today!



"Once there was a Little Leek, who wanted to support their community..." 🍷
Our theme for this year's United Way of Thunder Bay Great Lighthouse Rescue is **MANY LEEKS KEEP THE BOAT AFLOAT** – watch our video below to hear the story of the Little Leek and the GFB!



2025 LOCALLY GROWN GOOD FOOD FUNDRAISER BOXES



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

Boxes available July through December
Pick up Dates - 3rd Wednesday of the month:
July 16th | August 20th | September 17th |
October 15th | November 19th | December 17th

LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE
Order online at www.goodfoodtb.org
in our 'Fundraiser' tab
For more information, email gfb@uwowc.org

It's that time of the year again! **The Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes** are returning!

Local fundraiser boxes are available monthly from July to December and are \$62 each (this new pricing includes a \$2 online processing fee). Included in the cost of the Locally Grown Fundraising Box is a \$20.00 donation.

Our Locally Grown Boxes are packed with a sampling of the best & freshest locally grown & produced goods from a number of local farms and producers.

Our July Boxes are available starting June 18th!

[Learn more about our fundraisers!](#)

Community Events & Resources

JUNE is host to **Indigenous History Month, Pride Month, & Seniors Month**

- **June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**
- **June 16th is Stop Cyberbullying Day**
- **June 21st is Indigenous Peoples Day and the Summer Solstice**

June is Indigenous People's History Month!

June is **National Indigenous History Month** in Canada, coinciding with the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. This day is an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It's a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada.

EVENTS for INDIGEOUS PEOPLE'S HISTORY MONTH:

- **June 19th** | The **Thunder Bay Public Library** is hosting David A. Robertson (celebrated author of *All The Little Monsters* and *52 Ways to Reconcile*) at the Waverley Library from 6-8pm as part of the Indigenous Author Series. **Register today** – spots are limited!
- **June 21st** | Join the National Indigenous People's Day celebration at the Anemki-Wajiw Powwow Grounds on Fort William First Nations. Full details are in poster below! Bus Services to the Pow Wow Grounds are available. Email nadtbay@gmail.com with any questions or if you require further accommodations

JUNE 21 FWFN
ANEMKI WAJIW
POW WOW GROUNDS

National Indigenous Peoples Day
Journée nationale des peuples autochtones

**POW WOW
FOOD VENDORS
CRAFTERS AND FEAST**

| 12PM | 1PM | 5PM | 7PM |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|----------------------------|
| OPENING CEREMONIES | GRAND ENTRY | FEAST | POW WOW ENDS AND GIVEAWAYS |

**SUNRISE CEREMONY WITH ELDER JOHN GAGNON AT 5:30
(THE SUN RISES AT 5:56AM)**

Host Drum - New Life - Oshki Bimaadiziwin Drum • **Co-Host Drum** - Young Thunder Singerz
MC - Ron Kanutski • **Arena Director** Orville Councillor • **Eagle Staff** - Jan Ritchie
Elders - John Gagnon (Sunrise Ceremony), Sheila DeCorte (Spiritual Advisor)
Head Dancers - Kelvin Redsky and Georgina Redsky • **Cultural Coordinator** - Sean Stevens

**EVENT IS FREE.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Parking: Located at the Fort William First Nation Arena with Bus Services to the Pow Wow Grounds on Amenki Wajiw by First Student.

Sponsors: Fort William First Nation, Wasaya, Domtar, Confederation College, MAAWAWE CITY OF THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO POWER GENERATION, BMO, Lakehead University, Indigenous Initiatives, TC Energy, ENBRIDGE, KINROSS Great Bear, MANITOBAH, hydro one, STAL UTILITY, ISC, Northern, Lakehead Public Schools, THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, Thunder Bay Public Library, Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales, THUNDER BAY INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, RMC, ACADIA BROADCASTING.

Events for PRIDE MONTH

Full calendar of events can be found on Thunder Pride's [Facebook page](#)

EVENTS & WEBINARS:

- **June 2nd | “Eat your Backyard” 6pm – 7:30pm at Mary J Black Public Library:** join speakers from Superior Seed Producers for an evening of garden-related discussion. This month will focus on pests and No registration required!
- **June 3rd | Join EAPO, CNPEA and CREVAWC** for a presentation to learn how **It’s Not Right! Neighbours, Friends and Families for Older Adults** is being powerfully reimagined in ethnocultural, Inuit, and Indigenous communities

across Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Quebec. See [here](#) for more details or [register](#) today

- **June 11th** | Join **CLEO Connect** for a webinar presentation, “Supporting LGBTQI+ refugee claimants in Canada” from 12:30-2pm EST. This webinar aims to help community workers better understand the difficulties LGBTQI+ people face in making refugee claims and what they can do to support them. **Register today!**
- **June 13th** | Join **Thunder Bay 55+** for the annual **Elder Abuse Awareness** Walk and BBQ. The day begins with a 10am Flag Raising at City Hall, then attendees can join in a 1km walk around the Grandview paths before returning for a BBQ at 12pm on the 55+ Centre’s back patio. To register, call 807-684-3066
- **June 23rd** | Join the **Chanterelle Alliance** on Monday, June 23 from 2–3pm EST for a collaborative, hands-on workshop to co-develop feminist principles that respond directly to the government’s priority areas: the economy and Canada’s security. Come ready to engage, contribute ideas, and build with fellow feminist organizers. **Register today!**

RESOURCES

- **Where to Get Food in Thunder Bay: A List of Programs and Services (updated)**
- **Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC)** has launched a Community Lending Library of free rentals of air-purifying equipment to help make public events safer and more accessible. See their [full poster](#) for details!
- **Parents Like Us** is an unofficial guide to caring for a young person who uses substances. This is a resource written for parents by parents and was shaped by the voices and creativity of both caregivers and youth with lived experience in Thunder Bay.
- **Behind Closed Doors** is a public education campaign by **Aura Freedom** shedding light on the femicide emergency occurring every 48 hours in Canada. This campaign focuses on Intimate Partner and Familial Femicide and the reality that women and girls are most often killed by the men closest to them. Check out the website or follow @AuraFreedom on Instagram for updates
- **“You are a Flower”**: a Comic created by **Vincy Lim** in collaboration with the **Learning Network**. It explores themes of self-expression, healing, and resilience through a unique art style inspired by zine culture. The comic invites readers to reflect on their own experiences and find strength in sharing their stories. Read more [here](#)

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 or by phone (807) 935-8042.

Sexual Violence Program: Supporting Survivors

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.



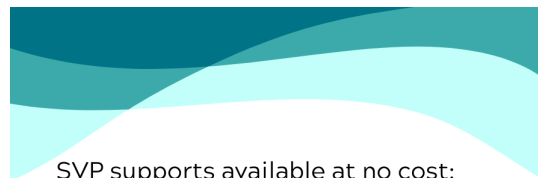
Sexual Violence Program

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

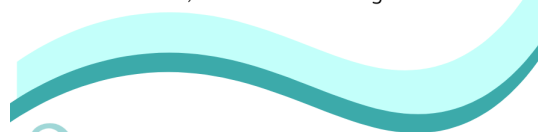
www.fayepeterson.org



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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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.

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.

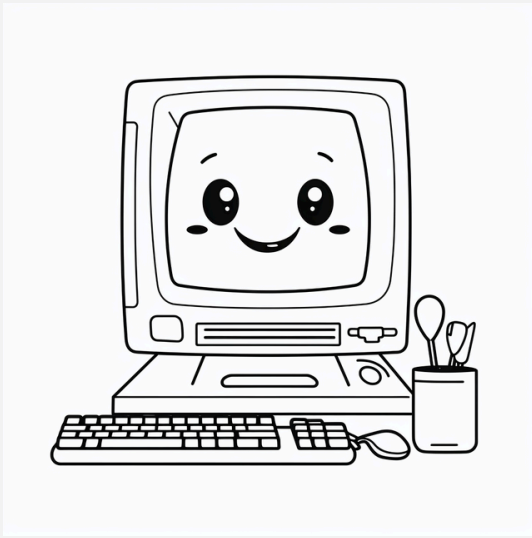
Mutual Aid Opportunity



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:

- Bus tickets, such as a [10 Ride Multipass](#)
- new socks
- Fresh Co. or Tim Hortons gift cards
- mini first aid kits (or packs of Band-Aids)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, lip balm
- 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.



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



*Good dog Bruley is enjoying the flowers for the Good Food Box
HANGING BASKET Fundraiser*

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,

Support Our Work

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Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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www.nwowomenscentre.org



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