



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.



If you're new to the Dispatch, or missed a few issues, past issues are archived on our [website](#).

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

On December 6th, 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.

The **Thunder Bay Labour Council** is once again hosting a December 6th vigil to honour and remember. Join at 6pm at the OPSEU Membership Centre (326 Memorial Avenue). Financial donations or donations of menstrual products and toiletries will be accepted, with donations going to **Beendigen**. We encourage you to attend if able, observe and stand in solidarity in your own ways (lighting a candle, reading victim's names, letter writing, etc)

December 6th Vigil

Please join us in commemorating

THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



DATE AND TIME:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH

6 PM TO 8 PM

LOCATION:

OPSEU BUILDING
326 MEMORIAL AVENUE
THUNDER BAY ON

For more information contact:

Gail Kelly - kellygailkelly@yahoo.ca

Emily Green - greenemilyunion@gmail.com

YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING A FINANCIAL OR DIRECT
DONATION OF SANITARY PRODUCTS OR TOILETRIES TO THE
EVENT. THESE WILL BE FORMALLY DONATED TO

BEENDIGEN-THUNDER BAY

TO SUPPORT THEIR WOMEN'S CRISIS HOME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

From the **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-minuterampage, 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

16 Days of Activism

against Gender-Based Violence

November 25 - December 10

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

November is the month when women's anti-violence advocates engage in **16 Days of Activism** (Nov. 25 - Dec. 10) to end gender-based violence. This campaign started in 1991 to call out and speak up on gender-based violence, and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

Check out [past campaigns](#) on our NOWC website and follow the recent "[What's New](#)" blog posts discussing initiatives, events, resources, and more relating to 16 Days of Activism!

Events & Programming updates from NWOC

Career Opportunity at the NOWC

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is currently seeking applicants for the full time, permanent position of Executive Director

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre provides frontline advocacy, support and information to local and regional women experiencing violence, poverty, human rights concerns or problems with access to justice, legal or administrative systems. We also provide public education and training on these issues.

A full job description is available [here](#). Deadline to apply is December 14th.

To Apply: please send resume and cover letter (applications will not be considered without a self written cover letter) to **Hiring Committee at Nowc1973@gmail.com.**



See you in the new year!

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre will be closed starting **December 24th** for a holiday break. The office will re-open on **January 5th**.

24/7 Crisis Numbers:

Assaulted Women's Helpline:

1-866-863-0511

Fem'aide: 1-877-336-2433

Faye Peterson House: 807-345-0450 or 1-800-465-6971

Talk4Healing Help Line: 1-855-554-4325

Ornament Fundraiser with Clay Collective

The Clay Collective NWO is pleased to host their annual ornament fundraiser, with proceeds going to the *Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre*.

Stop by the store in Goods & Co from now until the end of December, to pick up an ornament and support the cause!





At the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre, we believe survivors of sexual violence.

We are partnering with Faye Peterson House to offer a 6-part sexual violence education series. Sessions are open to self-identified women and girls (ages 18+) and will take place once a month from **6:30-8 pm at the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (278 Bay St, Suite #201).**

Join us on **Wednesday, December 3rd** for our next monthly sexual violence education session: *Sexual Violence/Harassment in the Workplace*, where we will discuss employment rights, legal options, and supports. We are excited to have two guest speakers for this Jill Hewgill - Paralegal at Algoma Community Legal Clinic. Both guests are part of the SHAPE Program (Sexual Harassment | Advice | Prevention | Education), which provides free public legal information and summary legal advice to workers experiencing workplace sexual harassment.

With two guest speakers:

**Kristy Keough - Staff Lawyer at
Kinnewaya Legal Clinic
& Jill Hewgill - Paralegal at
Algoma Community Legal Clinic**

Attendance at all sessions is not required.

Bus tickets and light refreshments provided. To register, please contact

Jen Hastings - navigator@nwowc.org / 807-935-8042 or

Stacey Hare Hodgins - sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org / 807-620-9156



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UPCOMING SESSIONS IN THE NEW YEAR:

- **January 7, 2026 - Online sexual violence** - How to recognize, resist, and report tech-facilitated sexual violence
- **February 4, 2026 - Intimate Partner Sexual Violence** - Unpacking coercive sex and sexual violence in intimate relationships

- **March 4, 2026 - Trauma in your body** - Exploring mindful movement to foster acceptance and growth

Attendance at all sessions is not required. Bus tickets and light refreshments provided.

To register, please contact **Jen Hastings** - navigator@nwowc.org / 807-935-8042 or **Stacey Hare Hodgins** - sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org / 807-620-9156

WE BELIEVE SURVIVORS



Sexual Violence Education Group for Self-Identified Women



Join us for a free 6-part sexual violence education series.

October 1, 2025 - How do you know if it is sexual violence?

- What is consent – what it means. How to give it and get it

November 5, 2025 - No, you didn't "deserve it": the myth of the perfect victim

- Challenging assumptions that reinforce stereotypes and victim-blaming

December 3, 2025 - Sexual Violence in the Workplace

- Employment rights, legal options, and supports

January 7, 2026 - Online sexual violence

- How to recognize, resist, and report tech-facilitated sexual violence

February 4, 2026 - Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

- Unpacking coercive sex and sexual violence in intimate relationships

March 4, 2026 - Trauma in your body

- Exploring mindful movement to foster acceptance and growth

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



**Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre
278 Bay St. Suite #201**

**Attendance for all sessions is not required.
Bus Tickets and Light Refreshments Provided.**

To register, please contact:

Jen - navigator@nwowc.org / 807-935-8042

Stacey - sharehodgins@fayepeterson.org / 807-620-9156



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FAYE
PETERSON HOUSE



Craftivism at the Women's Centre

Stay tuned for programming in the new year!



GOOD FOOD BOX

December Monthly Box

Order your GFB from your host site by **December 8th**
PICK UP from your host site on **December 17th**

[Order Online Today!](#)

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 (WSB) contains a mix of locally grown and. Box includes potatoes, carrots, onions, and much more! We will also provide information on how to store your veggies along with hearty recipes too!



Order your Winter Storage Box today!

Orders open until December 8th! You can order through your neighborhood host-site, or via our webstore. WSBs available for pickup along with the regular GFBs on December 17th.

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@mwowc.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 December Box is currently available to order!

Order your Fundraising
Box today!

Holiday Fundraiser Boxes

IN SUPPORT OF
THE THUNDER BAY



Tis the Season for Fundraising!

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 will be available to order from our website starting November 7th, and ready for pick up on December 17th between 3-5pm at the Moose Hall.

STOCK IS LOW ON ALL BOXES, order yours today to not miss out!

Order your boxes today!



Holiday Morning Box

\$62.00 each. Grab your coziest blanket, put on the kettle, and pre-heat the oven! This Holiday Morning box is a locally-sourced gift basket with all the fixings of a holiday morning treat

Order today!



12 Jars of Joy

\$102 each. No sneak peeks here! 🙈 12 Jars of Joy is a locally-sourced gift basket featuring edible and non-edible products.

Order today!



Local Gift Box

\$62.00 each. The classic combination of treats and gifts, a perfect gift basket for anyone! 🎁 This Locally Made Gift Box features locally-sourced goodie and gift items

Order today!

Community Events & Resources

Image by Finn Simard

meme making

creating safer spaces
building gender diverse communities

ft./ Finn Simard
December 8, 2025: 5-7pm

Location: Definitely Superior Art Gallery
115 Cumberland St N
& or online option.

Enjoy snacks. Make new friends. Check out
the juried art show | theme: *Liminal*

Scent-sensitive policy, with exception to smudging.

For more info & to RSVP, contact Jayal
by email: bgdc@tbifc.ca or phone:
807-345-5840 ext. 9071

Finn Simard is a member of Couchiching First Nation; He is an interdisciplinary artist, research fellow, policy analyst and owner of Contrary Company and graduated from OCAD University with an MA in Art, Media and Design.



MEME-MAKING workshop ft./ Finn Simard Join **TBIFC** and **Def Sup** for an evening of meme-making. This event is part of the creating safer spaces | building gender diverse communities project. To RSVP, contact Jayal by email: bgdc@tbifc.ca or phone: 807-345-5840 ext. 9071

- 🕒 December 8th, 5 - 7PM - in person or online
- 📍 Definitely Superior Art Gallery (115 Cumberland St N)

Community Events

- **December 3rd | Sexual Violence Education Session** at Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (see above post for details)
- **December 6th | December 6th vigil** (see above post for details)

- **December 8th | Meme-Making Workshop with TBIFC and Def Sup** (see above post for details)
-

Resources

- **P.A.C.E. Warming Centre** is now open every day: weekdays from 8am - 8:30pm and weekends from 9am - 8:30pm.
- The **Care Bus** is now running for the 2025/2026 winter season, 7 days a week from 1:30pm-9:30pm. Expanded hours will be available for the months of January and February from 9:30am-9:30pm. The bus is free for anyone that needs a safe place to stay warm and get around town. You can reach a Harm Reduction Outreach Worker during Care Bus hours by calling 807-632-9732.
- **Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses** reviews mainstream media reports of femicides and shares a snapshot of their research monthly. You can read the November report and their annual report on their [website](#)
- The **Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children** is hosting a webinar "*Designing Trauma- and Violence-Informed Policies, Training, and Response Plans to Address Intimate Partner Violence at Work*" on December 9th at 1pm. [Register today!](#)
- **Respect at Work: National Survey from Western University** is a study examining workers' experiences of harassment and violence at work. If you are 18 years of age or older and have been employed in the past 2 years, you are eligible to participate. Complete the survey before December 9th at bit.ly/natsurvey2025

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.



PETERSON HOUSE

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

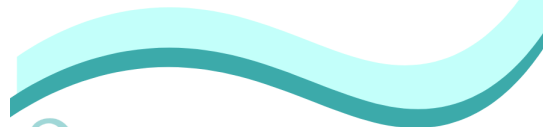
www.fayepeterson.org



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.

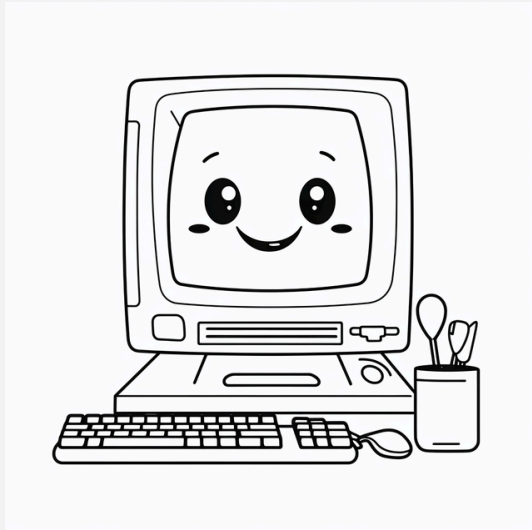
Mutual Aid Opportunity



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

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

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



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

278 Bay Street, Suite #201, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1R8

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

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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