



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

Annual Report

November 26, 2025

Mission, Vision, Values

**Board of Directors and
Committees**

Staff Reports



2024-25

Northwestern Ontario Women’s Centre

Annual Report

2025/26

Table of Contents

NOWC Mission and Values Statements 1

Board and Committee Information 1, 2

Executive Director Report 3

Office Manager Report 9

Good Food Box Coordinator Report 10

GBV Navigator Report..... 16

Communications & Education Coordinator Report..... 17



Mission and Vision Statements

MISSION

To create and advocate for safe and supportive environments so that self-identified women can fully engage in their lives and communities

VISION

The Centre works with self-identified women to increase their access to knowledge, skills and resources so they can make informed and strategic choices. The Centre also advocates for systemic change to public policies and practices that impact their lives.

VALUES

Equality	Inclusivity	Intersectionality	Reciprocity
Relationality	Respect	Responsibility	

NOWC follows the Ontario Human Rights Code definition of gender identity. In our policies and communications, we attempt to use inclusive language and invite participation of trans and non-binary people.

Board Members (November 26, 2025)

Jennifer Chisholm – President/co-chair	Courtney Strutt
Airin Stephens	Lisbeth Espinoza
Nancy Johnson – Vice President	Christine Cherry-Callihoe
Sherrie-Lee Petrie	
Michelle George – Treasurer	Jan Oakley and Robin Hogan served until April 9, 2025; Tracey MacKinnon served until July 16, 2025 and Sierra Garofalo until Sept 8, 2025
Julianna Cronk	
Emily Brooks – co-chair	

Committees

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee provides the Board of Directors with guidance and recommendations relating to legal and policy obligations for the administration of the Centre. Objectives and responsibilities of the committee include ongoing review of the By-Laws and Policies; providing advice and recommendations to the Board of Directors in regard to compliance with By-Laws and Policies; provide support and communication to the Executive Director, with respect to Board directives as required; and the research and review of options in regard to the organizational structure of the Centre, for consideration of the Board of Directors.

Fundraising Committee

The role of the Fundraising Committee is to integrate fundraising opportunities and associated procedures into the Centre's mandate and operations; to develop an annual schedule of fundraising events and actions with accompanying guidelines, and to make recommendations to the Board regarding possible events or opportunities; to establish procedures conducive to encouraging new and maintaining current donations; and to research and advise the Board concerning funding and sponsorship opportunities.

Finance Committee

The role of the Finance Committee is to assist the Executive Director and Office Manager in understanding and tracking the full financial position and solvency of the NOWC; to provide board-level financial oversight and documentation of oversight; to provide guidance and/or recommendations to NOWC Board decisions on significant changes in revenue or expenditure; and to develop resources toward the Board's analysis and utilization of financial statements.

HR Committee

The HR Committee provides support and direction to the Executive Director regarding internal and external programs and to community liaison positions; consultation relating to the development of new programming, and maintenance of existing programming; evaluation of completed programs including assessment and reviews of program employees; hiring of program workers; assistance with media inquiries and response.

New – Ad Hoc Succession Planning Committee

The Ad Hoc Succession Planning Committee works with the Executive Director to develop a job description, job posting and onboarding of new Executive Director; and to plan the transition as this position changes hands.

Executive Director's Report 2024 - 2025

The statistics in this report are calculated over the most recent fiscal year, April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025. Events and activities during the first 7 months of the 2025/26 fiscal year may also be reported to give an up-to-date picture of our operations.

Staff, Students and Volunteers

I would like to recognize the efforts and dedication of our staff and volunteers – we have an amazing team and it is a joy and an honour to work with them. From April 2024 to present they are: Lori Gilbert (Office Manager); Sherry Scott (Good Food Box); Jen Hastings (High Risk / Gender Based Violence Navigation Project); Stephanie Simko (Communications and Education); Jessica Hayes (2024) and Taylor Campbell (2025) (LFO Legal Interns); Lisbeth Espinoza (LU Social Work Placement); Loveleen Goraya and Victoria Mohan (Pro Bono Law Students). In 2025/26, we have welcomed law students Emily Boyes and Rose Hejazi. We have been very fortunate to be able to support these students and interns who bring new energy, ideas and do a lot of good work for NOWC. I am also grateful for the many other enthusiastic volunteers and board members this year who helped with internal committees, the Good Food Box, moving and painting.

Early in 2024, we entered into a co-location agreement with Faye Peterson House to house one of their Sexual Violence Counsellors. This arrangement has moved with us to our new location. In this position, Stacey Hare Hodgins continues to bring more women to the Centre and take on our in-house referrals and remains an integral part of the NOWC team. She also works cooperatively on our education efforts.

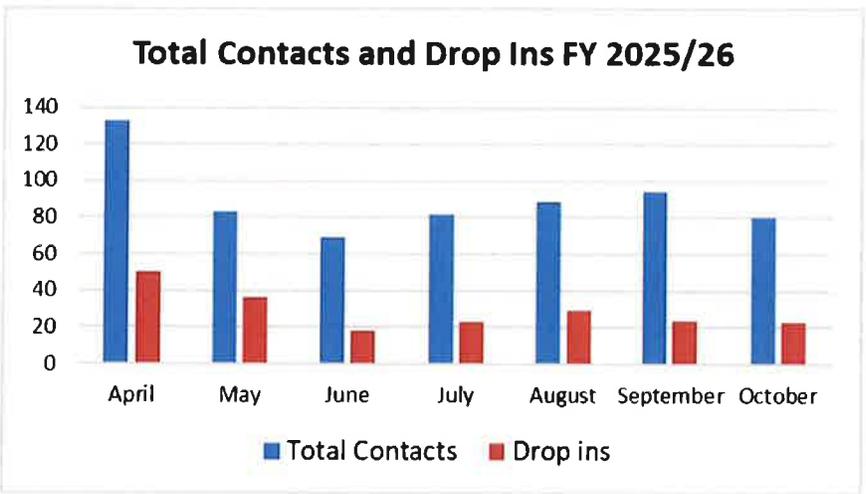
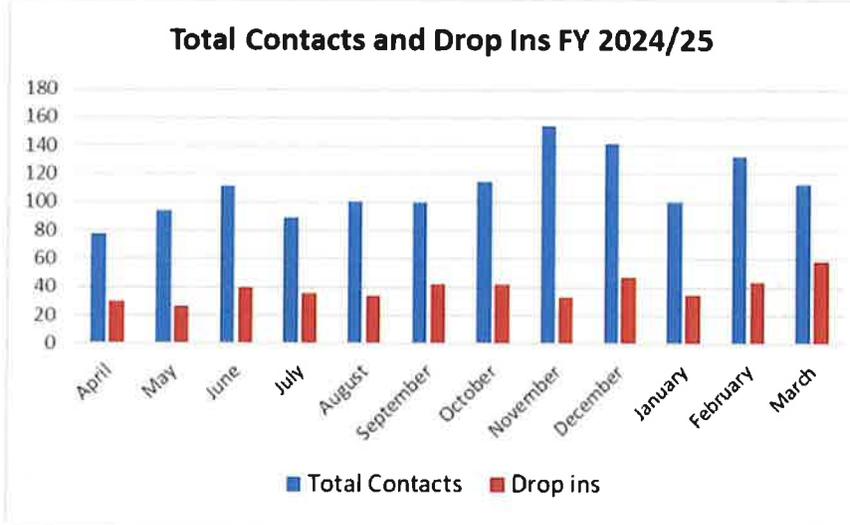
Physical Premises

Early in 2025, we were told we would be renovicted from our comfortable and affordable space at 73 Cumberland to make way for a new training centre. This was a difficult and expensive transition for us, especially after having to move only 6 years before. We were fortunate in that the previous landlord had forgotten that we had signed a longer term lease, and so we were able to get some compensation for the dissolution of that contract. This covered our moving costs and helped us afford the significantly increased monthly rent in our new space at 278 Bay Street. A lot of effort went into the many logistical and physical tasks required to shift our operations. I am grateful for the many additional hours of both paid and unpaid work put in by Lori, Steph, Jen, Stacey, Sherry and Lisbeth, and anyone else we could convince to hold a paintbrush. We were happy to receive donations of original artwork from Maria Albizurez and Taylor Campbell. The new space is not perfect and will require some further renovations to make it more functional, but we have made it our own. The major restriction is that it is not accessible, so this year I will be applying for a grant to build a ramp in the back of the building.

Our Work with Women: Advocacy, Information and Support

We logged 1331 direct contacts in 2024/25, a slight increase over the previous year (1,311). For the current year (April to October 2025/26), our numbers are slightly lower on average when

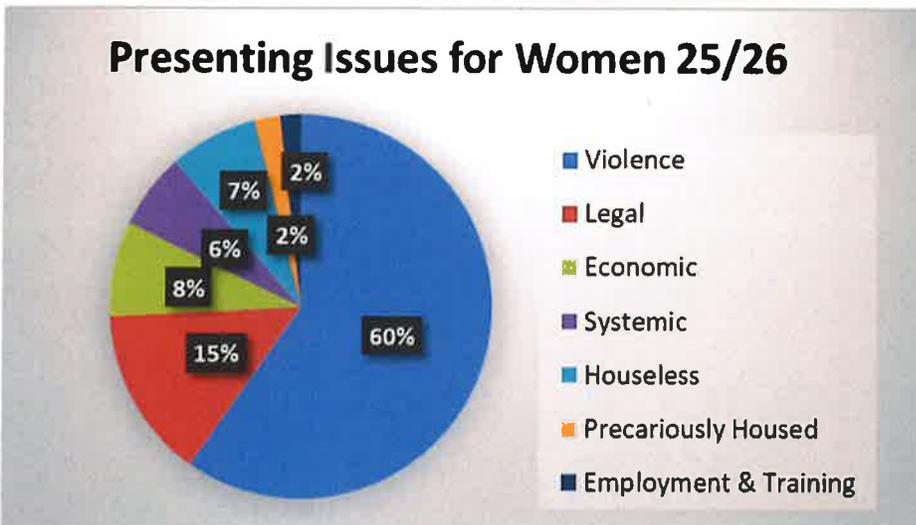
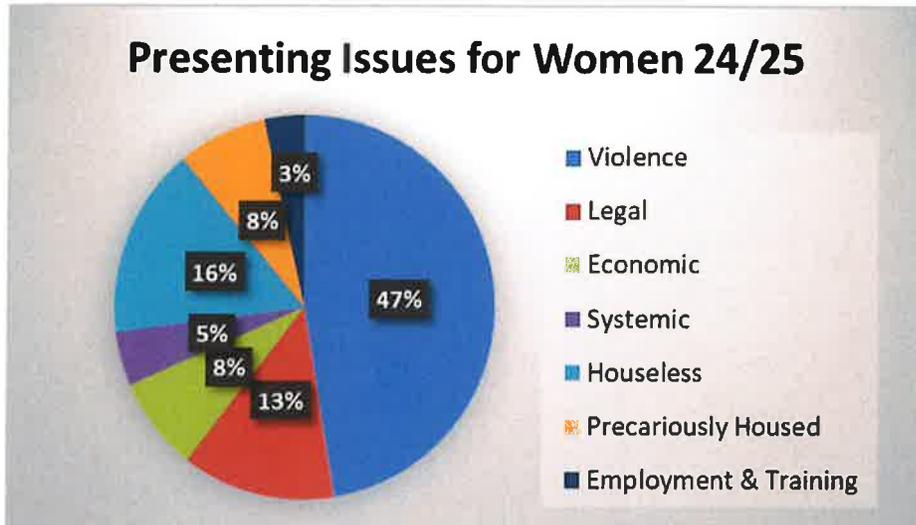
compared to the same period last year, likely due to our change in location. We continue to see many houseless or precariously housed women who drop in for supplies and support.



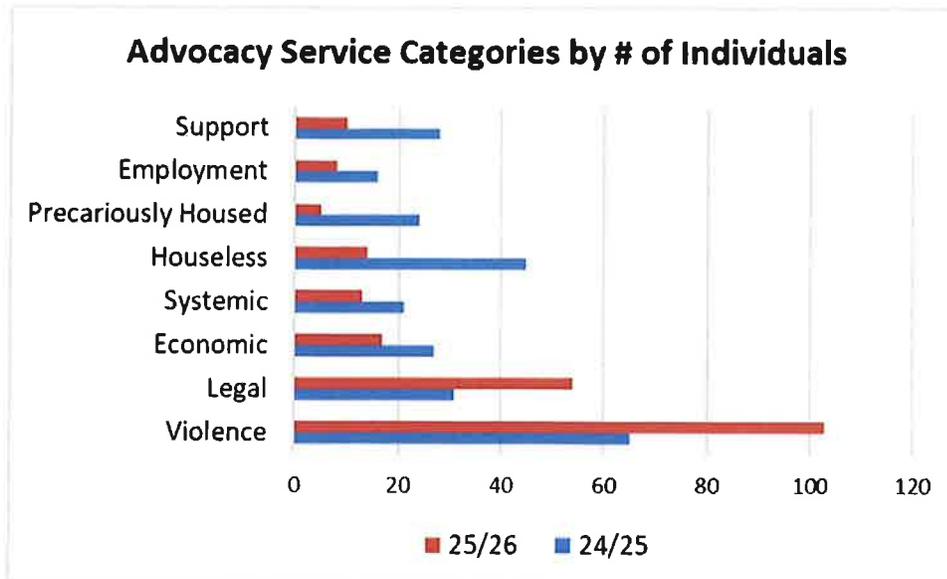
Referrals and calls for advocacy services around gender-based violence and family law are our most common service requests. Requests for support from women experiencing violence decreased over 2024/25 (averaging 20 requests per month versus 23), however, over the first 7 months of 2025/26 it has jumped to an average of 28 requests per month. We regularly receive institutional referrals, such as police, CAS, and VWAP and have been working much more closely with the Crowns and VWAP office this year. There have also been many high-risk cases to deal with this year (see GBV Navigator’s report). Call volumes for the Good Food Box continue to account for a large proportion of contacts (831 calls or 60% of total contacts in 2024/25), and we still receive many requests for free or subsidized boxes. (See GFB Coordinators’ report).

The charts below categorize our service contacts (excepting Good Food Box) into seven of the most common presenting issues when women request assistance. This data is collected from our general log and does not accurately represent intake from specific programs. Any one woman may obviously have issues across categories, and may contact the centre multiple

times, so this data also does not represent unique individuals. You can see the large increase in the proportion of requests for help with GBV between the two periods.



The chart below shows the actual numbers of individual women, broken down by presenting issue. The additional category “Support” often applies to houseless women needing supplies, or requests that don’t fit into other categories. You can see that the first 7 months of 2025/26 have already surpassed 2024/25 requests for the entire year in Legal and GBV categories. The number of individuals requesting GBV Navigation service has more than doubled in the 5 years since inception.



Public Education and Events

In 2024/25, Steph Simko, our Education and Communications Coordinator, organized, promoted and tracked our various events. She was also responsible for Feminist Dispatch, our amazing monthly e-newsletter. Please see the Education and Communications report for more details. After a brief summer hiatus, Steph is back managing our online presence (including troubleshooting the tricky GFB website) and using her impressive video creation and editing skills to promote our programs and fundraising. Jen and I have provided both in-service and more formal presentations and training to a variety of audiences this year, including TB Multicultural Association, CAS, Naadmaagewin IDVC, ONWA, Bora Laskin School of Law and others. Since the spring of 2024, we have hosted five legal clinics or related events, included a well attended book launch with lawyer Pamela Cross at Bora Laskin, our day long workshop on restorative justice and sexual assault, called “Full Disclosure” and a workshop on Feminist Legal Litigation hosted by LEAF. Sherry and Steph have also coordinated various fun and fundraising events such as Good Food Groove and United Way campaigns. Our annual International Women’s Day flag raising event focused on the local criminal case of nonconsensual distribution of intimate images and featured speaker Karen Slomke.

Current Projects, Programs and Related Funding

Please see separate reports for individual staff and programs and projects. Project names and details are listed in the chart below.

Unfortunately, we have had very little direct project funding this year – our large cross sectoral application to the Province’s Ontario Action Plan on GBV last fall was not funded. We have partnered on several other efforts this year (2025/26) including the Barbra Schlifer Legal Clinic (Toronto) Risk Assessment pilot and a Women’s Economic Safety project delivered by Thunder Bay Counselling Centre. Our GBV Navigation is funded through a partnership with Faye

Peterson around sexual violence prevention education and will be supported in the year to come by the Risk Assessment pilot. We did manage to secure Hydro One’s Energizing Communities grant which will cover some engagement and other activities for the Good Food Box program’s 20th Anniversary in 2025/26.

Sherry, Steph and company have put a lot of energy into fundraising for the GFB in the past couple years and as a result we are doing well in terms of our internal contribution to the GFB operating budget, despite cuts to our United Way funding.

Project / Program Name	Funder	Staff & Activities
Investing in Women’s Futures	Office of Women’s Social & Economic Opportunity (MCSS)	Exec Director & Office Manager: Core operations & direction; Portion of Navigator wages
Education and Communications	Unrestricted; Hydro One	E&C Coordinator: Legal Education Clinics; Newsletter; Websites; social media
Gender Based Violence Navigation (Individual and Cross Sectoral Response) RISA Risk Assessment Pilot	Faye Peterson House; MCCSS IWF (NAP); Barbra Schliker Legal Clinic RISA project	High Risk & GBV Navigator; GBV advocacy; court watch; HR Protocol
Good Food Box Program; Empowered Self Defense NOW!	United Way; CTB; TBDSSAB; Hydro One Energizing Life fund; fundraising & unrestricted funds	GFB Coordinator: GFB Food Security Program; Participant workshops; Self Defense training

Committee Work and External Liaison & Advocacy

I provide representation at most of these, except where otherwise indicated.

Internal	External
Human Resources Committee	Thunder Bay and District Coordinating Committee to End Women Abuse (co-chair)
Governance Committee	VAW and Child Welfare Leads Committee
Good Food Box Board	MAG Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee
Fundraising Committee (Lori)	Food Action Network NWO - Executive
Finance Committee	Food Access Table (FAN NOW)
Succession Committee	Provincial GBV Epidemic Advocacy Group
	Situation Table (Jen)
	Newcomer Legal Clinic Advisory LU Newcomer Legal Clinic
	Partner Assault Response Advisory

	Thunder Bay Counselling Centre
	TBCC Economic Safety Project

We continued our Provincial advocacy efforts on GBV in 2024/25. I attended a retreat for Provincial GBV advocates to discuss the direction of GBV policy and action in Ontario. This group has developed into a cross sectoral advocacy group which prepared materials for distribution for both elections in 2025. We are currently watching the Bill 173 theatrics as the government declares GBV “Endemic” versus “Epidemic”.

Strategic and Financial Planning

In 2024/25 our operating budget was slightly higher than the year before, despite the drop in project revenue. We are still managing about the same revenue (\$453,632) in 2025/26. Many women’s organizations were holding their breath waiting for cuts to the Federal WAGE program, which, due to much lobbying, did not happen. So, we anticipate making an application there in the coming year. The Finance Committee has continued to meet regularly. Unfortunately, we have still not solved the pension issue - last years application for pension benefits through OP Trust Select was denied so we are now investigating a group contribution plan. I am hoping to spend the winter consolidating files and financials in preparation for new leadership in 2026 and will stay on in some capacity until at least year end (March 31st).

In Conclusion

Our Succession Committee has been working hard towards finding new leadership, and hopefully that search will result in someone who will bring inspiration and exciting new directions for the Women’s Centre. I expect this will be the last annual report I write for NOWC – I am sorry it is not more visually stunning! Hopefully, the content will suffice. It is hard to imagine not being here, doing this work, when there is so much yet to do, and so many amazing women to do it with. I intend to step back but not disappear when the time comes. Many more feminists and gender activists are turning their keen analysis on the current epidemic of gender-based violence at the highest levels. Although NOWC is somewhat disadvantaged by our official service silo, we are one of the only equity seeking organizations with a comprehensive analysis of GBV. We have also so far managed to avoid institutionalization. This means that we are well positioned to continue to lead on social justice issues in this community and Region.

Respectfully submitted by Gwen O’Reilly, ED

Office Manager's Report, 2024-25

My role at the Women's Centre is to provide administrative support for all programs, which includes bookkeeping, payroll, charitable receipts, assisting with funding applications and reports, compliance with government reporting requirements, arranging and documenting Board meetings, as well as meeting with the Fundraising and Finance Committees.

Summary for 2024-25

- Increase in platforms operating for GFB transactions, changes to the website sales and learning how to bring their data into the accounting software so that all necessary information is captured.
- Created Board Binders and continue to give occasional Pop Quizzes about the statements to engage the Board in their financial information
- Hosted a few craftivism sessions after the program funded by CWF ended.
- Arranged International Women's Day flag raising ceremony with speaker Karen Slomke
- During the Canada Post strike, began using more online payments and e-transfers
- By November last year, the building on Cumberland was up for sale and finally sold, resulting in our eviction.
- By March Gwen and I were meeting with the new property manager about exterior locks, keys and other details of the transition. I also began contacting service providers, vendors, moving companies, and others about the details of our relocation.
- Community Fundraising on our behalf reached \$13,301 during the last fiscal year, with monthly and one-time donations of \$9,307, and \$68 other fundraising for a total of \$22,676. We received many in-memoriam donations last year and continued to receive donations in support of the 50th Anniversary well into 2024. (Numbers for Unrestricted only, doesn't include GFB donations/fundraising).

End of March to date

- Began inventory of library/resource materials while boxing books, and created a new database. The database was completed by volunteer Heidi Applegate after we were settled in the new location.
- Arranged movers, coordinated volunteers for packing, tracked relocation costs
- Contacting potential Board member candidates and following up
- Our previous cleaner through Avenue II has retired, and they have provided a new cleaner.
- I submitted a successful application to City Archives for their Women's History Exhibit, to recognize Gwen's contribution to the community. The process involved collecting many photos of Gwen at different points in her career, from various sources – only a couple of them were used in the online exhibit, but I'm confident that the Board will find some use for them.
- Community fundraising, monthly donations and one-time donations to date have resulted in \$14,812 toward our Unrestricted fund (this does not include GFB donations and fundraising), and I estimate that by the end of March we will reach about \$16,000.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Gilbert



**GOOD
FOOD BOX**

GOOD FOOD BOX

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

Prepared for:
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre
Board Of Directors
Annual General Meeting, Nov. 2025



The Thunder Bay Good Food Box (est. 2005) is a non-profit, volunteer powered, food security program, that aims to improve access to healthy fresh produce by making low-cost boxes of fresh fruit & vegetables available at 39* locations around Thunder Bay and throughout the region.



Information in this report is taken from the 2024 GFB annual report and 2025 biennial survey of customers, volunteers & host-sites. Thank you to our placement student Lisbeth Espinoza for all her hard work in compiling & analyzing the 2025 surveys

**39 Host-Sites (November 2025)*

Prepared by:
Sherry Scott
November 2025

The Thunder Bay Good Food Box
c/o Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre 278 Bay St.
suite #201 | tel: 807-345-7819 | email gfb@nwowc.org

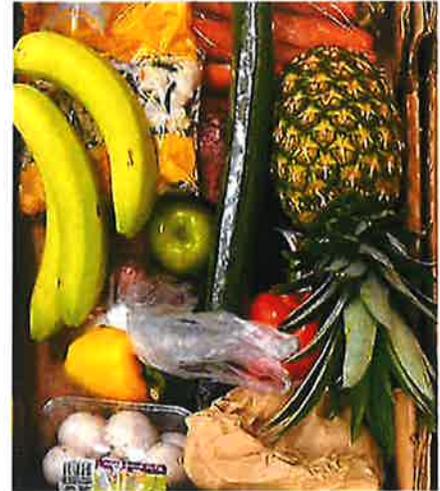
THE BOXES

Good Food Boxes (GFBs) - Food Security Boxes

GFBs are low cost (\$22), food security boxes, purchased and distributed through our host-site network. They are intended to assist folks on low and fixed incomes, as well as those facing other barriers to access (ie. transportation), improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Total number of GFBs sold this reporting period:

Date	QTY GFBs (2025 for comparison)	AVG/mo.
Q2 - 2024	1532 (1828)	510 (609)
Q3 - 2024	1567 (1664)	522 (555)
Q4 -2024	1808*	603*
Q1 - 2025	1608	536

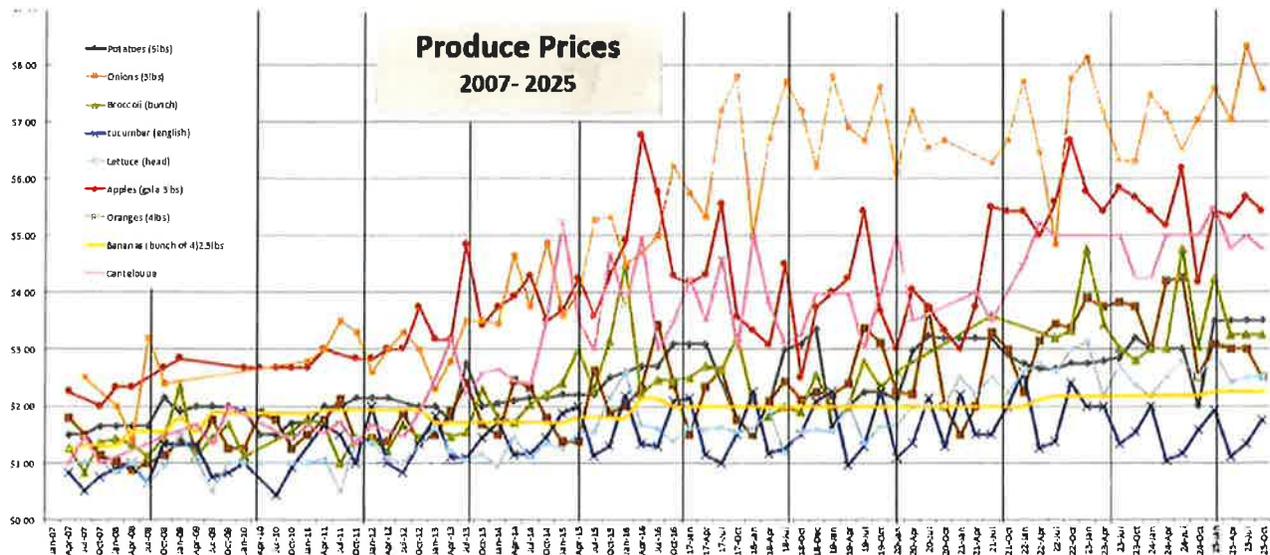


*boxes sold includes December Winter Storage Boxes

During reporting period we averaged 543 Boxes/ mo. so far in 2025, (Jan-Oct) we've averaged 566/mo.

Food Costs and Subsidies

We recognize that as cost of living increases faster than wages and entitlements; it becomes increasingly difficult for folks to afford a healthy diet (diagram below tracks our produce prices of commonly boxed items). To further assist customers who may struggle to afford the full price of a GFB, we offer Good Food Coupons (GFCs) in \$5, \$10 and \$22 denominations. **The GFB currently issues \$500 worth of coupons each month via TBDSSAB funds, and \$260 monthly via GFBs sustaining donor fund.** Host-sites also have the option to purchase GFCs for their own clientele.



THE GFB BOARD



- **GWEN O'REILLY - Executive Director**
Administrative Liaison for the Centre
- **SANDY KENNEDY - pack volunteer, HS coordinator (LAPPE)**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2016
- **SHEENA CAMPBELL - HS coordinator (IFC)**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2022
- **LARK MASK - GFB pack volunteer**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2022
- **BEVERLEY GOODCHILD - HS coordinator (AZA)**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2023
- **ALIA WURDEMANN-STAM - producer partner (Morning Moon Farm)**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2023
- **KIM MCGIBBON - community partner (TBDHU)**
GFB Board of Directors since Sept. 2023
- **MISTY BERNST - HS coordinator (OKC)**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2024
- **ROBERT MATEJKO - GFB pack volunteer**
GFB Board of Directors since Jan. 2024



...the other Board
The GFB Presentation Board!
Used around town to promote the GFB at information fairs.
This image is of our booth at the 55+ information fair (March 2025)



THE CUSTOMERS



CUSTOMERS SERVED

2024 **Belly Stats** (extrapolated estimates of bellies fed based the number of boxes reporting): in 2024, the GFB fed **14,793 bellies** or 2.3 people sharing each box. Our 2025 customer survey results indicate that 33% of the bellies being fed are seniors/elders (55+), 44% are adults, and 23% Children and youth (0-17ys old). It is also estimated that in 2024 we served **1245 unique households** (1280 in 2025 Jan.-Oct.)

INCOME SOURCES

According to our most recent customer survey (2025):

- 36% of our GFB customers reported receiving paid employment
- 29% reported receiving Old Age Security (OAS)
- 13% reported receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- 5% reported receiving Ontario Works (OW)
- 17% reported other incomes (i.e. spousal support, refugee and asylum claimants, respite care assistance etc..)

SURVEY SAYS...

According to our most recent customer survey (2025):

- 67% of customers reported that 50% or more of their monthly fruits & vegetables comes from their Good Food Box
- 85% of customers report the GFB increases their daily intake of fruits & vegetables
- 54% of customers (with Children) report that their children have tried new kinds of fruit and vegetables because of the GFB



THE HOST-SITES

The Host-Sites are the customer access points (for purchase and pickup) of the Good Food Box. They are located throughout Thunder Bay and across the district. **Host-Sites during this reporting period:**



#	HOST SITES	Administered by:	Accessibility	On-line orders
1	Northwestern Ontario	NOWC staff	Open to the Public	YES
2	Moose Hall (Co-ordinated by)	NOWC staff	Open to the Public	YES
3	Communities Together for	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	NO
4	Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic	Clinic Staff	Open to the Public	NO
5	TBPL - Mary J L Black	Library Staff	Open to the Public	YES
6	TBPL - Brodie Library	Library Staff	Open to the Public	YES
7	Thunder Bay 55+ Centre	City Staff	Open to the Public	YES
8	NorWest Community Health	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	YES
9	Ontario Native Women's	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	NO
10	Our Kids Count - McKenzie &	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	NO
11	Kakabeka via Norwest	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	YES
12	Lappe & surrounding area	Community Volunteer	Open to the Public	NO
13	Schreiber & surrounding area	Community Volunteer	Open to the Public	NO
14	Upsala & surrounding area	Agency Staff	Open to the Public	NO
15	Animbiigoo Zaagi'igann	First Nation Staff	For members	NO
16	AETS	Agency Staff	For members	NO
17	Fort William First Nation	First Nation Staff	For members	NO
18	Anishnawbe Mushkiki (Golf	Clinic Staff	For clients	NO
19	Children's Aid Society	Agency Staff	For clients private	NO
20	Dilico	Agency Staff	For clients private	NO
21	Indigenous Friendship Centre	Agency Staff	For clients	NO
24	Adelaide Apartments	Community Volunteer	For residents	NO
25	Andras Court	Community Volunteer	For residents	NO
26	Assef Court	Agency staff (NCHC)	For residents	NO
27	Castlegreen Co-op	Co-Op Staff	For residents	NO
28	Clarke Towers	Community Volunteers	For residents	NO
29	HAGI Residence	NOWC staff	For residents	NO
30	Jasper Place	City Staff	For residents	NO
31	Manion Court	Community Volunteer	For residents	NO
32	Metro Lions	Community Volunteer	For residents	NO
33	Patterson Court	Community Volunteer	For residents	NO
34	Shuniah (Brad Tucker)	Community Volunteer	PRIVATE	NO
35	Wardrope	Community Volunteers	For residents	NO



New Host-Sites (starting since April 1st 2025) include;

Michikan Wiichhiwehwin
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administered by First Nation Staff

BAY VIEW TOWERS
administered by Agency Staff

LATINO community HS
administered by volunteer

LEGION MANOR
administered by volunteer

KAMINISTIQUA
administered by volunteers

THE VOLUNTEERS

"it gives me a sense of purpose and I feel valued for my contributions"

"I enjoy the community feel and accomplishing so much together"

The Heart & Soul of the GFB program!

The GFB is a volunteer powered program. We rely on volunteers to pack the boxes, deliver the boxes, administer host-sites and guide our board of directors.

In 2024 we had 164 unique volunteers on our roster (so far in 2025 jan-oct we have welcomed 191 unique volunteers). In 2024 this incredible volunteer crew contributed 4412 volunteer hours

Volunteer Discounts: volunteers are offered a \$7 discount towards the purchase of their Good Food Box (\$15 with discount). In 2024 we issued 515 volunteer discounts for a total value of **\$3605.00**



We hosted a 20yr anniversary BBQ for the GFB volunteers, on September 25th, 2025 - 70 were in attendance!



According to our most recent customer survey (2025):

80% of volunteers say they feel more connected to the community through volunteering with the Good Food Box

91% of volunteers say they have made friends and met new people through volunteering at the Good Food Box



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE - GFFBS

LOCALLY Grown/Made - Good Food FUNDRAISER Boxes (GFFBs)



Supporting Local Growers, Producers and Makers while raising funds for the Thunder Bay GFB program. Each Locally Grown/Made Box sold includes a charitable donation (either \$20 or \$40 depending on the box).

image: Marcelle Paulin at her Sleepy G Farm, Pass Lake ON



Our 5 Locally Made Boxes (Valentine, Mother's Day, Holiday Gift, Holiday Morning and Jars of Joy) support local area artisans and makers.

We offer 7 Locally Grown GFFBs - - the locally grown Garden Box in June, followed by a curated box of of veggies (sourced from our partners) each month July through December



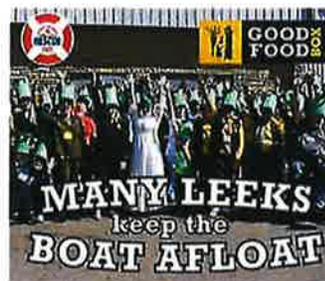
- we raised \$10, 375 through the sale of LG/M - GFFBs
- we spent \$40,488 on locally produced goods!
- we purchased goods from 29 local growers & makers



...in other fundraising news... since April 2025 we've:

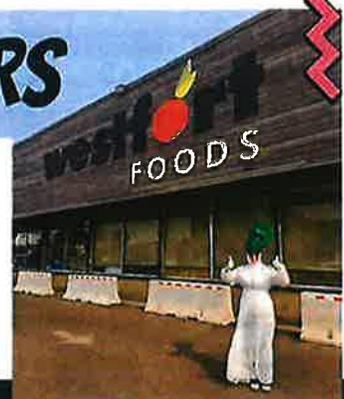


Our K&A Penny-A-Litre fundraiser raised \$4407.64 for the GFB program!



Our Many Leeks Keep the Boat afloat fundraiser with Uway Tbay raised \$14564.14

FUNDERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

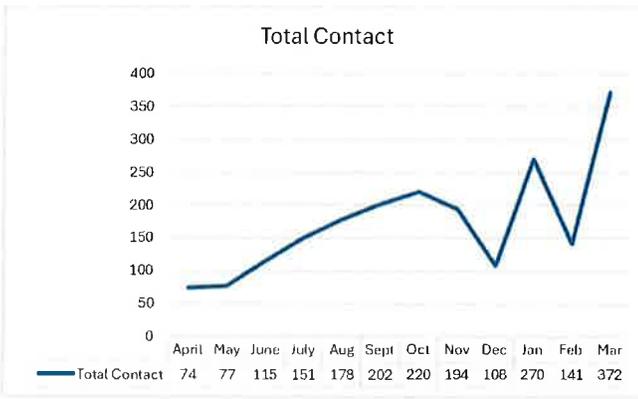


GENDER BASED VIOLENCE NAVIGATION ADVOCATE (GBVNA)

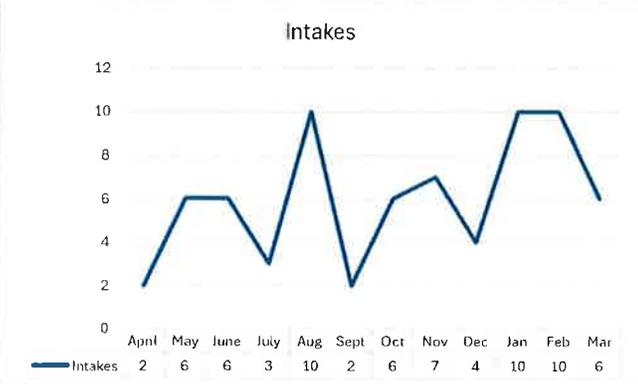
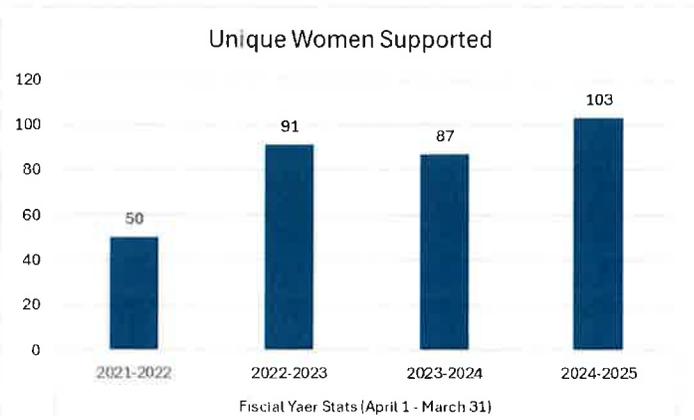
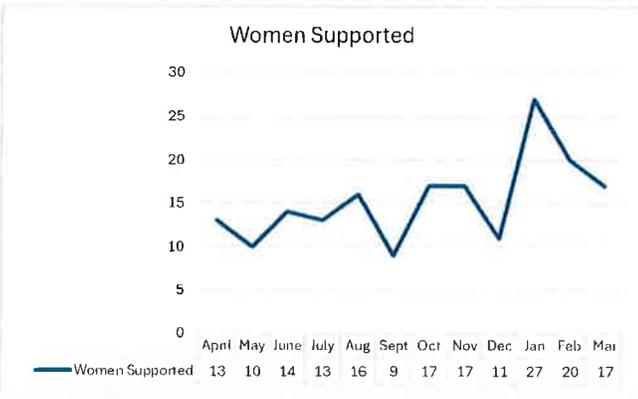
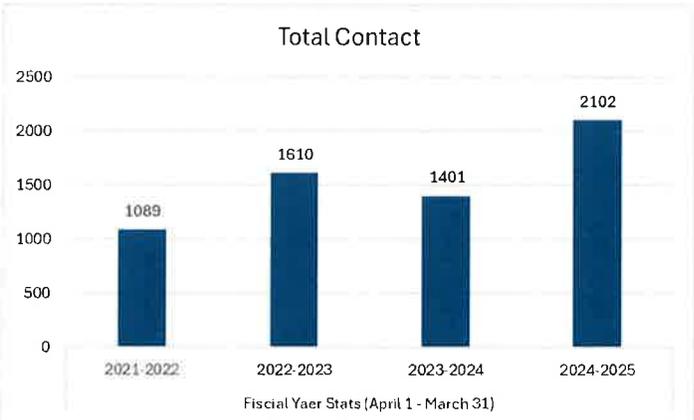
Prepared for the NOWC AGM by Jennifer Hastings

Here are some highlights from April 2024 - March 2025.

- I sat on various community tables including the Thunder Bay District Coordinating Committee to End Women Abuse (TBDCCCEWA), the VAW Leads Table, the Thunder Bay Situation Table, the PAR Community Advisory Table and the Domestic Violence Court Advisory Table.
- I coordinated and supported the Full (Dis)Closure gathering with Stacey and Jayal from the IFC. Full (Dis)Closure was a space to be heard, believed, and validated knowing that our systems continue to silence, disregard and further harm those who have already been subjected to abuse and violence. 21 folks attended. Keynote presenter Marlee Liss talked about her experience as the first survivor in North America to pursue a restorative justice process through the court system. This presentation was followed by guided movement and arts-based activities to foster well-being, creative self-expression, and peer connections
- I met with Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic and the Income Security Advocacy Centre to share the NOWC's perspective on issues with the Child Tax Benefit
- I supported 2 women who spoke at the Standing Committee on Justice Policy for the Study on Intimate Partner Violence
- I met with the Deputy Crown Attorney about risk assessments
- Presentations:
 - To shared the High Risk Protocol with Naadmaagewin IDVCC
 - I joined NOWC staff and presented the High Risk Protocol and support we provide at Kinna awaya Legal Clinic
 - I presented at the interpreter training with the Thunder Bay Multicultural Centre
 - I presented on the high risk protocol at the regional coordinating committee meeting



**TOTAL WOMEN SUPPORTED
BY THE GBVNA
APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025
103**



Communications & Education Coordinator

Prepared for the NOWC AGM Meeting – November 26, 2025

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

This report is a summary of the Communications & Education position to date. This position extended past its March 31st end date until June 2025; I completed contract work in July and August to keep socials and GFB website running through the summer. I returned part-time on October 14th with a May end date for this position.

Below are the key responsibilities of the role and the goals for the Communications & Education Coordinator (CEC) position:

- manage routine NOWC public education efforts (ex, regular legal clinics and virtual education campaigns)
- maintain existing NOWC & GFB virtual platforms including websites, social media accounts and online events
- produce and distribute promotional content for NOWC events and programs as well as coordinating content creation and distribution of NOWC's monthly newsletter, Feminist Dispatch
- manage publicity requests/ requirements from funders and assist with the coordination of media events.

Highlights from earlier this year (April to June):

- Templates made to centralize all social media (for NWOC and GFB) into one scheduler/hub for consistent access and content planning
- Created two 'How To' guides for maintaining GFB (posting items, email reminders, etc) & NWOC website (updating pages, blog posts, etc). Continuing to update as needed as resource for staff and students
- Assisted with June 2025 move into new office space; painted "We Believe Survivors" mural

Upcoming projects for the Comms & Education role:

- Tech support for upcoming RISA Training
- Assisting GFB with deliverables for Hydro One grant, including: researching and trialing new food box combinations, host meaningful and educational events related to food sovereignty, and refresh our approach to our social enterprise ie fundraising boxes and initiatives

Report prepared by

Steph Simko



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is a non-profit feminist organization.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of volunteers, donors, our funders and numerous community partners.



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