



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.



June is National Indigenous History Month!

June is **National Indigenous History Month** in Canada, with **National Indigenous Peoples Day** on June 21st: 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.

SUNDAY JUNE 21



FWFN ANEMKI WAJIW POW WOW GROUNDS



POW WOW FOOD VENDORS CRAFTERS FEAST

Free Event,
Everyone is Welcome!

Celebrate at the National Indigenous Peoples Day Pow Wow and community event on June 21st at Anemki Wajiw (Mount McKay)

This event includes a sunrise ceremony, local crafters and vendors, and a community feast to celebrate Indigenous art, culture, heritage and resilience. Free to attend, there is a shuttle bus from the Fort William First Nation Arena to the pow wow grounds. For more information, visit [facebook.com/NADTBAY](https://www.facebook.com/NADTBAY)

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. Pride 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!

LOCAL SERVICES + RESOURCES:

- **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)

- **Two-Spirit & LGBTQ+ Mentor** (Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre)
- **Thunder Pride** (2SLGBTQ+ organizing committee)
- **Loud Women Collective** (feminist bookstore with gender gear)

Events & Programming updates from NOWC

Summer Solstice Feminist Potluck

Join the NOWC and community at a Summer Solstice Potluck!

 Monday, June 22nd

 Starting at 6pm

 Women's Centre (278 Bay St, Suite 201)

Contributions to the meal are welcome! RSVP not required, just drop in!



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

Thank you to all who attended and supported our **Sexual Violence Education series** this spring. This series will be taking a break for the summer - thank you to the Human Rights & Equity Office - Lakehead University and SADV Treatment Centre at TBRHSC for partnering on our May workshops. **Stay tuned for any upcoming workshops here in the fall!**

On May 11th, NOWC Executive Director Katie Bortolin joined Mary Jean Cormier to discuss **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** and the programming available to support survivors in Thunder Bay.

Listen to the [full interview](#) and read more on our blog below!

[Read more on our NOWC blog!](#)



Stay tuned for upcoming programming in the summer!



Become a NOWC Sustaining Donor

For 2026, the NOWC has a goal of securing 10 new monthly donors! The first ten new monthly donors will receive a beautiful pin hand-crafted by local artisan Feral Wife (featured in the photo!)

[Become a Sustaining Donor today!](#)

Why consider becoming a monthly or sustaining donor?

By giving a small amount each month, you help create a consistent source of revenue that allows us to respond quickly to requests from women using the Centre, such as hygiene supplies, water bottles, bus passes, grocery cards, Good Food Coupons, winter gloves/hats. Monthly support also allows us to meet our increased rent expense and other costs associated with moving, plan specific programs, keep our resource centre updated, and build our LU Bursary fund.

For more information on how to set up a monthly Donation through Canada Helps or by PAD through your financial institution, visit our ['Donate' page](#) or contact Lori at admin@nowc.org to arrange



GOOD FOOD BOX

June Orders

ORDER your GFB from your host site by **June 8th**

PICK UP from your host site on **June 17th**

[Order Online](#)



**Help! There's LEEKS in the system,
don't let the GFB sink!**

The **Leeks in the Boat** are back for the United Way Great Lighthouse Rescue 2026!

Our theme for this year's promotional video is "Don't let the LEEKS in the system sink us" – with 22% of households in Thunder Bay and the region are **food insecure** and fresh vegetables **cost on average 8% more year to year** (from March 2025 to 2026), it is more important than ever to support food security programs in your community!

We're asking for donations to help us continue to serve the 500+ families who rely on the GFB Program each month. **DONATE TODAY!**



Donate to Leeks in the Boat!

Monthly Locally Grown Fundraising Boxes

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

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.

Local fundraiser boxes are available monthly from July to December and are \$62 each. Included in the cost of the Locally Grown Fundraising Box is a \$20.00 donation.

Our July Boxes are available starting June 18th!

2026 LOCALLY GROWN GOOD FOOD FUNDRAISER BOXES

Food Security in our Hands
since 2005



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 15th | August 19th | September 16th |
October 21st | November 18th | December 16th

LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

Order online at www.goodfoodtb.org
in our 'Fundraiser' tab

For more information, email gfb@twowc.org

Learn more about our
Fundraisers!

Community Events & Resources

Commemorations and Days of Recognition for this month:

- JUNE is **Indigenous History Month, Pride Month, and 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**

EVENTS for INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HISTORY MONTH:

- **June 11th** | The **Thunder Bay Public Library** is hosting Drew Hayden Taylor, originally from Curve Lake First Nation, at the Waverley Library from 5:30-7:30pm 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. Poster with details above. Bus services to the Pow Wow Grounds are available. Email nadtbay@gmail.com with any questions or if you require further accommodations
- **June 27th** | Join the **Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre** for the **Two-Spirit and All Our Relations Coming Together Pow Wow** — a day of community, culture, and celebration at Confederation College (1450 Nakina Drive, Thunder Bay). Grand entry at 12pm and feast and closing at 4pm. Come together in a spirit of respect, inclusion, and celebration of Two-Spirit identity and all our relations. Everyone is welcome. For more information, email bgdc@tbifc.ca or call (807) 345-5840 ext. 9071

You're invited to...

Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre **Negahneewin** **Confederation College**

NIIZHOIJJACK-DINAWEMAGANUG KAMAMOWICHIGEYMIN

Two-Spirit and All Our Relations Coming Together Pow Wow

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Confederation College - 1450 Nakina Drive

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Host Drums: Ojibway Alliance & Charging Thunder Singerz | Schedule |
| Invited Guest: Dayna Danger | Warm Up: 10:30am |
| Head Dancers: Cam Pelky-Achneepineskum & Munzeroy Neekan | Grand Entry: 12:00pm |
| Arena Director: Nathan Moses | Feast & Closing: 4:00pm |
| MC: Reed Lecomte | |

Elder: Ma-Nee Chacaby

For more info or questions: bgdc@tbifc.ca | (807) 345-5840 ext. 9071

TRANSLATION BY MA-NEE CHACABY
ARTWORK BY FINN HILL & CAMERON PRICE


EVENTS for PRIDE MONTH:

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

Pride in the Park

Thunder Pride is hosting their Pride Festival on Saturday, June 6th from 12pm to 6pm at the

 Saturday, June 6 2026

 12pm to 6pm

 Friendship Gardens (102 Legion Track Drive)

This event will feature live entertainment and performances all day, local vendors, and community sponsors

[Learn more here](#)



Queer Poetry Showcase

Join [Sleepy G Events](#) in snapping your fingers and celebrate Pride Month with spoken poetry!

 Saturday, June 27, 2026

 Doors open at 1pm

 Roots Community Foods Centre (450 Fort William Rd)

Due to occupancy limits, there are limited seats available! Though it's optional, folks are encouraged to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

[Save your seats!](#)



Community Events

- **June 6th | Pride in the Park** hosted by Thunder Pride (details posted above)
- **June 7th | Kite Festival** at Chippewa Park from 11am to 3pm. Join for a family-friendly celebration filled with colourful kites, outdoor fun, and exciting activities!
- **June 22nd | Summer Solstice Feminist Potluck** at the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre
- **June 27th | Two-Spirit & All Our Relations Coming Together Pow Wow** hosted by [Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre](#) (see details above)
- **June 27th | Queer Poetry Showcase** hosted by Sleepy G Events 1pm at Roots Community Food Centre (poster above)

Resources

- Join the [Learning Network](#) for a free webinar on **June 11th at 1pm EST**, entitled "*The Tort of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Canada: The Supreme Court's Landmark Ruling in Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia, and What it Means for Survivors of*

- IPV.*" Designed for non-lawyers, the webinar will help participants understand how the new tort of IPV and the Ahluwalia decision will impact civil and family law cases, and other proceedings in court and beyond. [Register today!](#)
- **Their Collective** is hosting a virtual webinar, "**Representing Your Spirit - Ribbon Skirts: a Decolonized & Two-Spirit Perspective**" on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 2pm EST. The event is free or by donation. [Register today!](#)
 - **Luke's Place** has released a new report, "*Navigating Family Court Alone: Barriers and Gaps in Legal Representation for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence in Ontario.*" View the full report [here](#)
 - Join **CLEO** for a **Housing Law virtual conference** on June 17th and 18th, from 9:30am to 4:30pm each day. This event is free to attend and will focus on resources for community workers to help clients who have housing-related problems. [Register today!](#)
 - **LGBT YouthLine** is releasing **Patchworking Care: A Resource for 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Survivors of Sexual Harm** - read it [here!](#) This free guide includes a number of strategies for navigating the impacts of sexual harm, explores consent, boundaries, coping tools, and a wide variety of other topics.
 - **Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses** reviews mainstream media reports of femicides and shares a snapshot of their research monthly. The recently shared their [April Femicide Snapshot](#), additional insights can be found on their [website](#)
 - [raisingboys.ca](#) is a new platform offering practical, prevention-focused resources to help parents support boys in a world increasingly shaped by sexism, misogyny, online hate, exploitation, and unhealthy expectations around masculinity and relationships.

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 Caro 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 is currently one Sexual Violence Counsellor working out of Faye Peterson offering a 20-week individual counselling program.

To access counselling for any kind of sexual violence (recent or past), you can call Faye Peterson House's 24/7 Crisis Line: (807) 345-045. **You do not need to access shelter services or report to police to access counselling.**



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

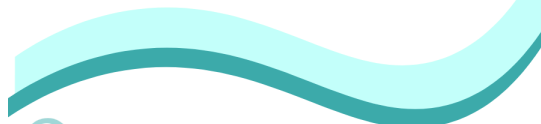
www.fayepeterson.org



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



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

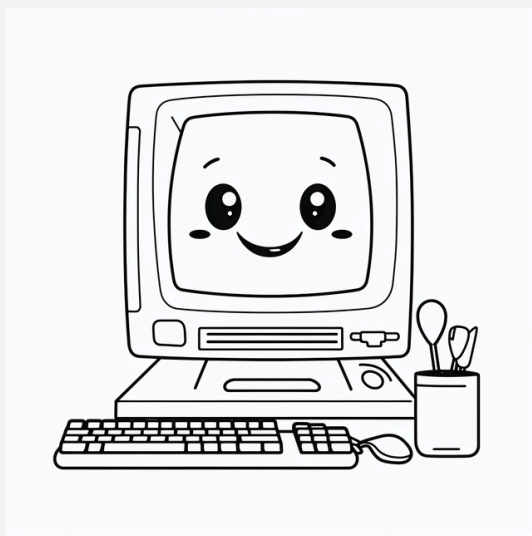
Mutual Aid Opportunity



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:

- Small, travel-sized lotions (scented and scent-free)
- Bus tickets, such as a [10 Ride Multipass](#)
- Large Ziploc bags, for carrying and storing to-go items
- New socks (individuals, in packs) - unworn please
- Fresh Co. or Tim Hortons gift cards
- mini first aid kits (or packs of Band-Aids)
- Oral hygiene: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, lip balm (travel-sized)
- Menstrual pads (light or regular)
- Depends (MED-LRG size) and 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 Caro at 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, Community and Social Services, Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation, and the Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

Support Our Work



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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

www.nwowomenscentre.org



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