



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.



From our Summer Legal Intern

Hello Everyone!

I'm Rosie and I am the legal intern at NOWC this 2026 summer. I am a second-year law student at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and my main areas of focus are Indigenous and criminal law. I hope to represent vulnerable and marginalized community members who are susceptible to being misrepresented within the criminal and family legal systems. I aspire to work for Legal Aid Ontario upon graduating from law school and to remain in the Thunder Bay area.

Throughout my role this summer at the NOWC, I have learned how challenging and overwhelming navigating the legal system is from a community-based level. There are many people facing court files and matters with no legal education, background, or representation which poses many issues. The court system does its best to address matters as quickly and efficiently as possible and does not have patience for those who are struggling to keep up with all the new terms, processes, and forms.

Another major concern is the lack of lawyers within the Thunder Bay district that are available to take on new clients and a limited number of lawyers willing to accept legal aid certificates. While there are many people who do qualify for legal aid assistance due to their low income, there is the challenge of finding a lawyer willing to accept their certificate. In addition to there being many individuals who fall outside the legal aid bracket and are denied services while not being able to

afford their own private counsel. This has led to an overwhelming increase in self-represented litigants who struggle to advocate for themselves and may not receive equal opportunity as others who are able to afford and retain counsel.

There are many gaps and obstacles within the justice system that women face when coming forward with their claims of intimate partner violence. It has been rewarding to work at the NOWC which aids and supports individuals navigating the court system and providing resources. Through working here, I have seen the value and importance of the work that the NOWC offers within the community. There are many advocates within the community striving to combat the effects of gender-based violence, and I hope to carry the knowledge and momentum of activism into my future legal practice. I highly recommend law students to volunteer or intern at the NOWC!

"The new tort of intimate partner violence, as now recognized by Canada's highest court, charts a more accessible and inclusive path for survivors to pursue civil damages for the cumulative and devastating harm caused by abuse by their partner or former partner."

--- From Luke's Place statement,

"Supreme Court of Canada Recognizes Tort of Intimate Partner Violence"

The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized the new tort of intimate partner violence



Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia



The Supreme Court of Canada ("SCC") released the monumental decision of *Ahluwalia v Ahluwalia*, 2026 SCC 16, on May 15, 2026. Our NOWC Summer Legal Intern, Rosie, wrote about this new tort and what it means for survivors of intimate partner violence.

[Read Rosie's blog post here!](#)

Events & Programming updates from NOWC

Call for NOWC Board Members!

We are currently seeking self-identified women to sit on our volunteer Board of Directors, the strategic heart of our organization.

We encourage applications from women who have been subjected to intersecting oppressions or who see their lived experiences/realities reflected in our advocacy work. Fundraising, special events planning, finance, legal, or human resources experience an asset. No previous Board experience necessary.

Contact Lori at admin@nwowc.org or 807-935-8043 for an info package or to apply

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CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Since 1973, the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre has worked to improve women's safety and access to justice. We've launched programs to address economic inequality, food insecurity, and gender-based violence, while empowering women to share creative strategies with one another and be their own best advocates.

We work with self-identified women to increase their access to knowledge, skills, and resources so they can make informed and strategic choices around a variety of issues: poverty, child welfare, family and criminal law, immigration, sexual harassment, human rights, and more. We work to increase public understanding of issues that affect women such as violence, poverty, sexism, racism, sexual orientation, access to justice and human rights through presentations and information clinics. We also actively advocate for systemic changes in public policies that negatively impact women in our community.

We work and live on the traditional lands of the Anishinabek People, and the territory of Fort William First Nation - signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. We recognize that this and other territories and their people have been circumscribed and harmed by systemic forces of colonialism. This violence was first perpetrated by European settlers and continues to be perpetrated by our governments, institutions, and individuals. The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre remains committed to addressing these past and present wrongs by working to end racist and misogynist violence, and by building allyship and working in solidarity with Indigenous organizations and people.

Our small but mighty feminist non-profit is seeking self-identified women to sit on our volunteer Board of Directors, the strategic heart of our organization:

- ✓ We encourage applications from women who have been subjected to intersecting oppressions or who see their lived experiences/realities reflected in our advocacy work
- ✓ Fundraising, special events planning, finance, legal, or human resources experience an asset
- ✓ No previous Board experience necessary

Learn more at nwowomenscentre.org

REQUEST AN INFO PACKAGE
admin@nwowc.org | 807-935-8043

Ontario Thunder Bay United Way hydro one

FOLLOW THE

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S CENTRE
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ON INSTAGRAM AT @NWOWOMENSCENTRE

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre is now on Instagram! Follow us at [@nwowomenscentre](https://www.instagram.com/nwowomenscentre) for resources, community events, updates from the Centre, and more!

Check out our IG page!

"Second Nature" film screening: August 26th at 6pm



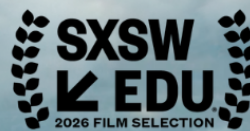
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JOIN US FOR A
SCREENING OF

THUNDER BAY
COUNSELLING
SOLUTIONS THAT CHANGE LIVES
DES SOLUTIONS QUI CHANGENT DES VIES

SECOND NATURE

A FILM BY DREW DENNY & ELLIOT PAGE



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 | 6PM - 9PM
@ NOWC (278 Bay St, Suite 201)

PWYC donations accepted at the door
Bring snacks and join the post-film discussion

RSVP to communications@nwowc.org | Drop-ins welcome

Join the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre & Thunder Bay Counselling for a special screening of the award-winning documentary, **Second Nature**, on **Wednesday, August 26th from 6pm-9pm at the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (278 Bay St, Suite 201)**

Pay-What-You-Can donations accepted at the door. Bring snacks and join the post-film discussion! RSVPs preferred (please contact communications@nwowc.org to RSVP), drop-ins are welcome!

Second Nature is a documentary that follows trans trailblazer Dr Joan Roughgarden as she introduces audiences to some of the 1500+ animal species who engage in same-sex sexual behavior and parenting, change sex, form matriarchies, and more, learning from queer, female, BIPOC and immigrant scientists along the way.

Watch the "Second Nature" trailer here



Thanks for visiting us at Busker's Festival!

Thanks to all who visited the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre Booth Street during the **BUSKERS FESTIVAL** on July 25th.

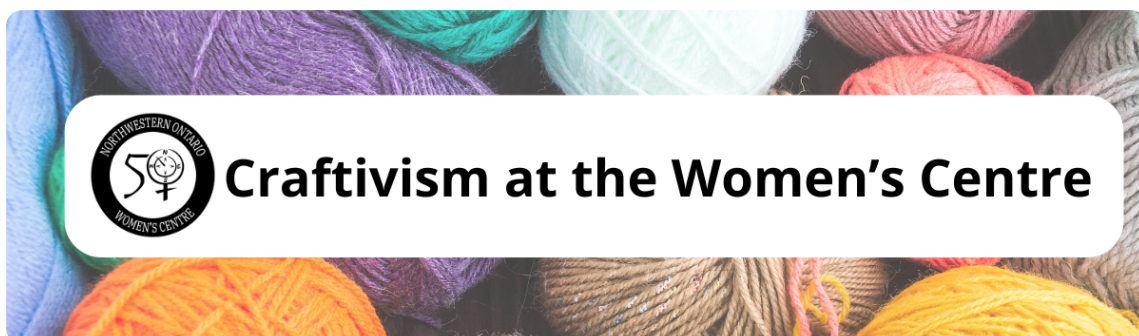
Big thanks to our volunteers, Gillian and Len, for setting up our booth, and to Bianca for helping to oversee the table - despite an injured foot! We had a very successful day thanks to your hard work!

[Read more about upcoming events](#)

Thank you to the Houssian Foundation

Thank you to The Houssian Foundation for their support of the NOWC through the Daylight Fund Grant. Your generosity will allow the NOWC to continue supporting women and non-binary folks in our community, by providing a safe and supportive environment to explore their needs

THE
HOUSSIAN
FOUNDATION



Stay tuned for upcoming sessions in the fall!



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@nwowc.org to arrange



GOOD FOOD BOX

August Orders

ORDER your GFB from your host site by **August 10th**

PICK UP from your host site on **August 19th**

[Order Online](#)

Monthly Locally Grown Fundraising Boxes

The **Locally Grown Good Food Fundraiser Boxes** are now available to order!

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

[Learn more about our Fundraisers!](#)

2026 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 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@nwowc.org

100 Sustaining Donors for 100,000 GFBs packed!

This summer, the Thunder Bay GFB is packing its' 100,000th Good Food Box!

To recognize this milestone of volunteer commitment and community collaboration, we are aiming to reach a total of 100 MONTHLY DONORS to help keep the program running. Any amount, any time – it all makes a difference! Even \$10/month makes a HUGE DIFFERENCE to our program.

Become a
Sustaining Donor today!



Read more about our
100 for 100,000th here!

Community Events & Resources

Commemorations and Days of Recognition for this month:

- August 1 is **Emancipation Day**
- August 1st to 7th (first week of month) is **World Breastfeeding Week**
- August 9th is **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**
- August 17 to 21st (third week of month) is **Public Service Pride Week**

Community Events

- **Live on the Waterfront** | **Every Wednesday** throughout August (5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th), join for a free night of music with the community. Line-ups for each evening can be found [online](#)
- **August 15th** | **4th annual Summer Matsuri Festival** at **West Thunder Community Centre** from 4:30-9:30pm. Join for an evening celebrating Japanese & Asian food, featuring entertainment, shopping and fun!
- **August 15th & 16th** | **Festival of India** at **Marina Park** **rescheduled due to wildfire conditions in July** Join for the annual celebration to enjoy spectacular music, east Indian Dance, drama henna Tattoo, exhibits, Yoga show and much more! A free feast is also available to all!
- **August 26th** | **Film Screening "Second Nature"** at the NOWC (details above)

Resources

- Join **OCASI** and the **Canadian Centre for Housing Rights** for a webinar, "Gender Based Violence & Rental Housing Basics" on **August 11th from 1-3pm EST**. [Register today!](#)

- The [Ending Sexual Violence Association](#) (ESVA) of Canada recently released a report: "[Stronger Workers, Stronger Survivors: A Strategy to Strengthen the Gender-Based Violence Workforce in Canada](#)." Join ESVA and the [Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children](#) on **August 13th from 1-2pm EST** for a webinar debriefing this report. [Register today!](#)
- The [Learning Network](#) has released a new backgrounder, "[Neurodivergence and Gender-Based Violence: Supporting Neurodivergent Survivors in GBV Contexts](#)". Read it [here](#) today
- Join [Chanterelle Alliance](#) for a webinar, "Open Forum: Artificial Intelligence in Feminist Workplaces" on **August 26th 1:30-2:30pm EST** for an open forum to discuss the use of AI tools in our feminist workplaces. [Register today!](#)
- [Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses](#) reviews mainstream media reports of femicides and shares a snapshot of their research monthly. The recently shared their [June Femicide Snapshot](#), additional insights can be found on their [website](#)

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

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



MUTUAL AID OPPORTUNITIES



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.

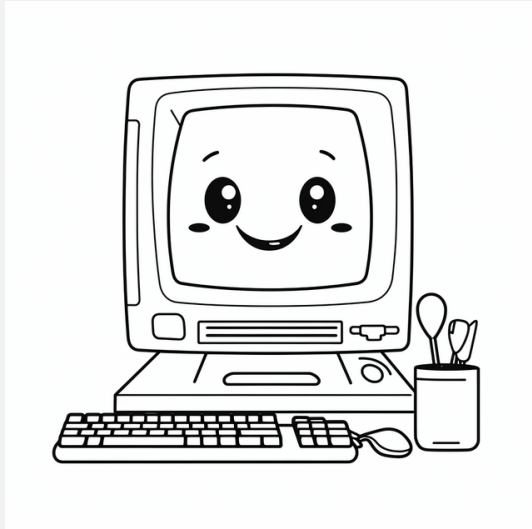
Informed by our conversations with women who visit the Centre, we share a monthly list of mutual aid items and ask our community to help us bring our new walk-in space to life through community donation requests:

- Packs of new underwear & new socks
- Gently used seasonal clothing (sweater, tshirts, pants) **we have limited capacity for clothing, no large drop offs please**
- Personal hygiene/toiletries items (travel size lotion, lip chap, sunscreen, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Rain poncho, umbrellas
- Large Ziploc or other reusable bags, for carrying and storing to-go items
- Matches
- Cell phone charging chords
- Nonperishable snack & to-go items (juice boxes, soft granola bars, oatmeal, crystal light)
- Bus tickets, such as a **10 Ride Multipass**

Survivor Request for Items:

- We have a request for new or gently used dressers for a newly housed woman and family. Please email navigator@nwowc.org to coordinate donation

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 Lori to make alternate arrangements at admin@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 Clinics
- 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, The United Way Thunder Bay, the City of Thunder Bay, the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBSSAB), the Hydro One Energizing Community Grant, and the Houssian Foundation's Daylight Fund Grant.

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



Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

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www.nwowomenscentre.org



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