



Thunder Bay and District  
**Coordinating  
Committee**  
to End Woman Abuse

ANNUAL REPORT  
2014 - 2015

**Woman abuse** involves the intent by a woman's intimate partner (dating, common-law, legally married or estranged) to intimidate her, either by threat or by use of physical force on her person or property. The purpose of the assault is to control her behaviour by the inducement of fear, either by forcing her to do what he wants or by preventing her from doing as she wishes. Underlying all abuse is a power imbalance between the victim and the perpetrator.

— Joint Committee on Domestic Violence (1999)



*Two things need to occur to end violence against women; we need women's equality and we need to hold men accountable for their violence. Currently, society does not hold men accountable, they blame women and the systems designed to support abused women also hold women accountable or create so many barriers women give up and return to abusive situations. I believe a first step is to get men to see VAW as a man's issue and have men hold violent men accountable for their violence while supporting women's advocates.*

— Research Participant, *Traps and Gaps: An Effectiveness Assessment of the VAW Service System in Thunder Bay and District* (2007)

**BOARD  
OF  
DIRECTORS**

**2014 - 2015**

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Kaitlyn Fortier

Janet Knowles

Melody McGregor

Gwen O'Reilly  
(Chair)

Liisa Leskowski  
(Secretary-Treasurer)

Rosemary Scofich  
(Vice Chair)

Debbie Zweep



For nearly thirty years, the Thunder Bay and District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (TBDCCEWA) has worked to improve the development and coordination of services for those affected by violence against women.

Funded in part by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, we operate as a non-profit independent coordinating committee governed by a Board of Directors elected from our membership.

## OUR VISION

**We envision a community where women and children are safe, valued and free from abuse.**

We recognize the gendered and racialized nature of intimate partner violence, and work collaboratively to effect necessary change at the systems level.

We believe that everyone is ultimately accountable for the safety of women and children, and we support the sharing of appropriate information in effort to ensure it.

We value diversity, believe in shared responsibility, and actively engage in respectful collaboration at our table and within our community.

## OUR MISSION

We work with a network of individuals, groups and organizations to establish and support a comprehensive and effective community response to end woman abuse. We advocate for the safety and wellbeing of women and children, for the accountability of men who use violence, and for a safer, healthier community for everyone.

Informed by an Anti-Oppressive and Anti-Racist framework, we aim:

- ❖ To ensure that there is an effective and coordinated response to violence against women in Thunder Bay and the surrounding District;
- ❖ To ensure that the fundamental causes of violence against women and children, whether perpetrated by institutional or social structures, patriarchy, social policies or agencies, are addressed within the social system's response to women abuse;
- ❖ To advocate for changes in laws and policies that govern systemic responses to violence against women.

*Domestic Violence is a crime that is different from other crimes in two ways: the likelihood of repeat violence is common and at most times predictable, [and] the victim is known in advance.*

*— from the Opening Statement of the Hadley Inquest Jury Verdict and Recommendations (2002)*

# **M E M B E R S H I P**

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Beendigen Inc.

Catholic Family Development Centre

Centr'elles

Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

Faye Peterson House

John Howard Society of Thunder Bay & District

Lakehead Elementary Teachers of Ontario (LETO)

Marjorie House

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)

Probation & Parole

Sexual Abuse Centre Thunder Bay

(formerly Thunder Bay Sexual Assault/Abuse Counselling & Crisis Centre)

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (TBRHSC)

Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services

Thunder Bay Counselling Centre

Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Thunder Bay Multicultural Association

Thunder Bay Police Service (Bail Safety Program)



# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The TBDCCEWA has seen a productive year of rebuilding and renewal in 2014/15. After a year or so without a staff person, we hired Stacey Hare Hodgins as Coordinator, whose efforts have greatly increased the committee's productivity. Over her short tenure, she has already developed a new website and other communication and accountability protocols that have increased our public profile and internal efficiency. We have also seen a welcome increase in membership, with representation from a wide variety of sectors.

The murders and attempted murders of women and children in Thunder Bay this year are on our minds and at the top of our agenda. It is yet to be determined whether or not, or which part of the systemic response failed these families. It has, however, provided an urgent incentive to reinstate and strengthen our community based High Risk Process and to find a way to work collaboratively with the MAG HRT. Many of the concerns discussed at the TBDCCEWA table this year could have been contributing factors: release of perpetrators with previous DV charges/breaches; use of Gladue principles in bail court; erosion of Partner Assault services; risk assessment and police training.

To this end, we have been contacting the local judiciary to meet and discuss some of these critical issues. Our persistence (and Stacey's cogent letter writing) has finally resulted in an opportunity to meet and present our concerns. We hope that this opportunity will lead to future collaboration with justice players.

With respect to some of the broader policy issues, many of our members presented to MPPs at the Provincial Select Committee on Sexual Violence hearings earlier this year. Although presenting on behalf of their respective agencies, it was clear that the exchange at the TBDCCEWA table helped dovetail our different perspectives into a seamless picture of the incidence and response to sexual violence and other VAW in Thunder Bay.

It is my hope that these efforts will continue to build communication and trust between all sectors in collaboration regarding the systemic response to VAW. Effective working relationships among service providers are one of the best safety measures we can offer those experiencing violence.

Gwen O'Reilly

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre

# REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR



Last November marked the beginning of my role as the Coordinator of this longstanding inter-agency committee.

By facilitating all aspects of committee operations, I support the ongoing collaborative efforts of a dedicated group of advocates who work hard to better understand and address the complex reality of violence against women in our community. From December through

June, I worked to re-organize and stabilize the committee, expand and diversify the membership, coordinate and document the monthly meetings, liaise with criminal justice professionals, and design a new website to increase public awareness of the TBDCCEWA and its function in the District.

On June 10th, I attended my first meeting with the Violence Against Women Working Group as a representative of the TBDCCEWA. The VAW Working Group provides support and recommendations to the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council to ensure that VAW is prioritized in the Community Safety Audit and as part of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy.

To the Board of Directors and the entire membership: thank you for this opportunity to work and learn with you. Thanks especially to Debbie Zweep and Gwen O'Reilly for their professional guidance as I settled into the role of supporting this dynamic (and growing!) organization.

I am grateful to be part of an ongoing and meaningful dialogue that validates survivor experiences, and I look forward to supporting the committee's continued efforts to keep women and children safe.

Respectfully,  
Stacey Hare Hodgins

## EVENTS

Interagency workshops and other public events provided relevant learning and networking opportunities for the Coordinator. Members also attended, facilitated and/or co-hosted these events.

**OWD Knowledge Exchange: Collaborative Responses to Sexual Violence** on Dec 4th

**An Evening of Poetry and Remembrance** on Dec 6th  
(hosted by the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council)

**Sexual Violence: Barriers to Reporting/Responding to Survivors** (a community conversation hosted by the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre) on Dec 16th

**Facilitation and Effective Communication** on April 17th (presented by the Program Training and Consultation Centre in collaboration with TBDHU)

**Enhancing Community Collaboration/Capacity Building Using a Perpetrator Pattern Based Approach to Domestic Violence** (Safe & Together Model) on April 23rd (hosted by Thunder Bay Counselling Centre, with Beendigen, Catholic Family Development Centre, Faye Peterson House, Marjorie House, Geraldton Family Resource Centre and Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services)

**National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2015**  
Shaping our Future Together: One Child At a Time

**Enhancing Community Collaboration/Capacity Building Using a Perpetrator Pattern-Based Approach to Domestic Violence**

Training will focus on increasing community collaboration related to children impacted by domestic violence perpetrators behaviour. The training will benefit all service providers working in the areas of domestic violence, child welfare, victim services, social services, police services, the justice system and community mobilization. Realistic strategies will be provided to move our community towards a comprehensive and proficient response to domestic violence. The training will also demonstrate how a perpetrator pattern, child centered, survivor strength based approach (the Safe and Together Model) can support and advance practices that will support and strengthen our network of assessments, referrals and partnerships needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and their parents.

**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

**TIME:**  
8:30-4:30 (lunch included)

**REGISTRATION:**  
Email Karen Scott or call 684-1877, until April 17<sup>th</sup>

**\*Registration is required for catering purposes**

**LOCATION:**  
Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Treatment Centre  
1700 Dease Street  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7C 5H4


**HOSTED BY:**

**THUNDER BAY COUNSELLING CENTRE**  
1000 Main Street, Suite 100  
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 5H4


Support for this Event from:  
**Department of Justice  
Ministry of Community and Social Services**

**Workshop by Heidi Rankin, MPA**

Heidi, the National Training Coordinator for David Mandel & Associates, has over 20 years experience in the sexual and domestic violence field. She has worked in crisis counseling, program and policy development and advocacy in both the United States and Canada. As a member of the Prince Edward Island Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Heidi helped develop a child welfare domestic violence screening protocol. Heidi received a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in domestic violence from University of Colorado at Denver, the only program of its kind in the United States. In her current role she delivers Safe and Together to diverse audiences nationally and internationally.



The National Day of Remembrance and Action of Violence Against Women is held each year to remember the 14 women killed at Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in 1989. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that tragic event. We will be honouring and remembering these Women, murdered and missing Aboriginal Women and all Women who suffer violence.



You are invited to attend  
**"Remembrance through poetry"**  
hosted by  
Thunder Bay and District Labour Council  
everyone welcome  
December 6, 2014  
4 pm – 6 pm  
Labour Center on Fort William Road  
(across from Intercity Mall)  
Light refreshments  
for further information contact [opousandra@shaw.ca](mailto:opousandra@shaw.ca)  
or call Sandra at 630-4751

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE: BARRIERS TO REPORTING / RESPONDING TO SURVIVORS**

Join us on December 16th for a community conversation on Sexual Violence: Barriers to Reporting / Responding to Survivors

Panel Discussion Led by:  
Melinda McGrogan  
Professor & Director, Centre for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Treatment Centre of the Thunder Bay Health Sciences Centre

P.C. Carolyn Gaudin  
and Laura O'Brien  
Domestic Violence Unit, Thunder Bay Police Service

Pat Menonowski  
Executive Director  
(Thunder Bay)

Shannon O'Keefe  
Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre  
Ministry of the Attorney General Witness Assistance Unit

**THERE ARE 460,000 SEXUAL ASSAULTS in Canada every year**

**OUT OF EVERY 1000 SEXUAL ASSAULTS**

- 33 ARE REPORTED TO THE POLICE
- 29 ARE RECORDED AS A CRIME
- 12 HAVE CHARGES LAD
- 6 ARE PROSECUTED
- 3 LEAD TO CONVICTION
- 997 ASSAILANTS WALK FREE AMONG US!

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 16TH, 1PM-3:30PM**  
**LAKEHEAD LABOUR CENTRE**

Bus tickets & childcare reimbursements available on request. Light snacks and refreshments provided.  
To RSVP or for more information, contact the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre located at 630 Central St.  
**345-7802 or [NWCENTRE@TBAYTEL.NET](mailto:NWCENTRE@TBAYTEL.NET)**

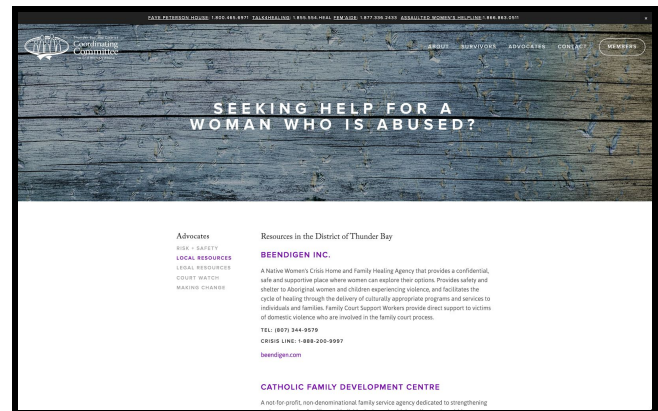
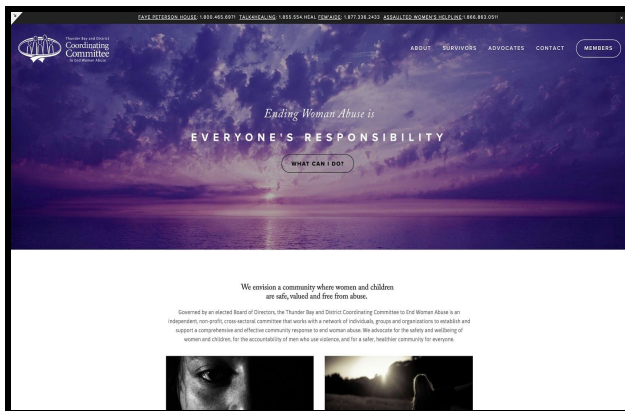


## WEBSITE

To revitalize the online presence of the Committee, the former website was archived and replaced by a new website developed and maintained by the Coordinator. The website went live in May 2015 and will continue to evolve with user feedback and additional resources. In addition, a new email address (coordinator@endwomanabuse.com) was created to correspond to the domain name.

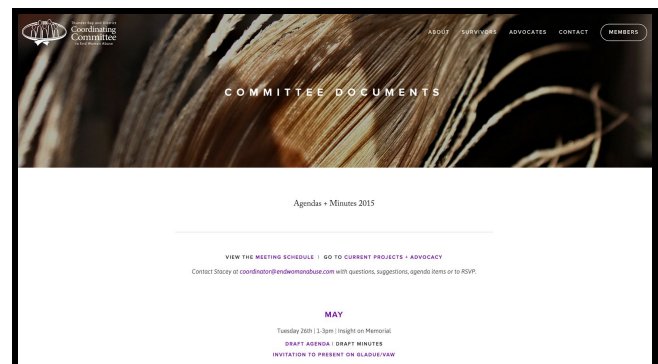
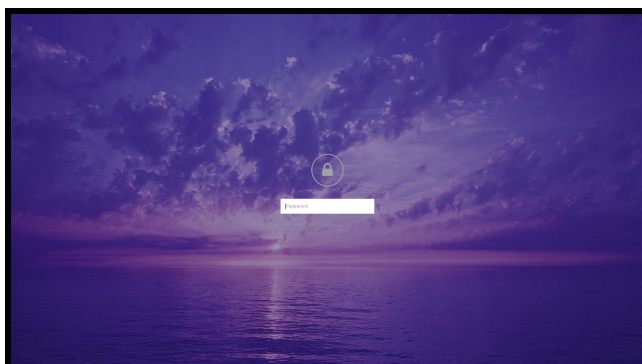
The intention behind [www.endwomanabuse.com](http://www.endwomanabuse.com) is twofold:

1. To increase public awareness and accessibility of the Committee with a user-friendly website that functions as an up-to-date resource for survivors of woman abuse, the service providers who support them, and the advocates working to end violence against women in general.



2. To provide an accessible and effective communication tool in support of the membership.

Within a password-protected Members' portal via the main site, there are two organized collections: Committee Documents (meeting agendas, minutes, links, policies) and Current Projects + Activities (updates, notes, links). Members can easily stay informed about ongoing business, and conveniently bring any errors, omissions, questions and suggestions to the Coordinator's attention.



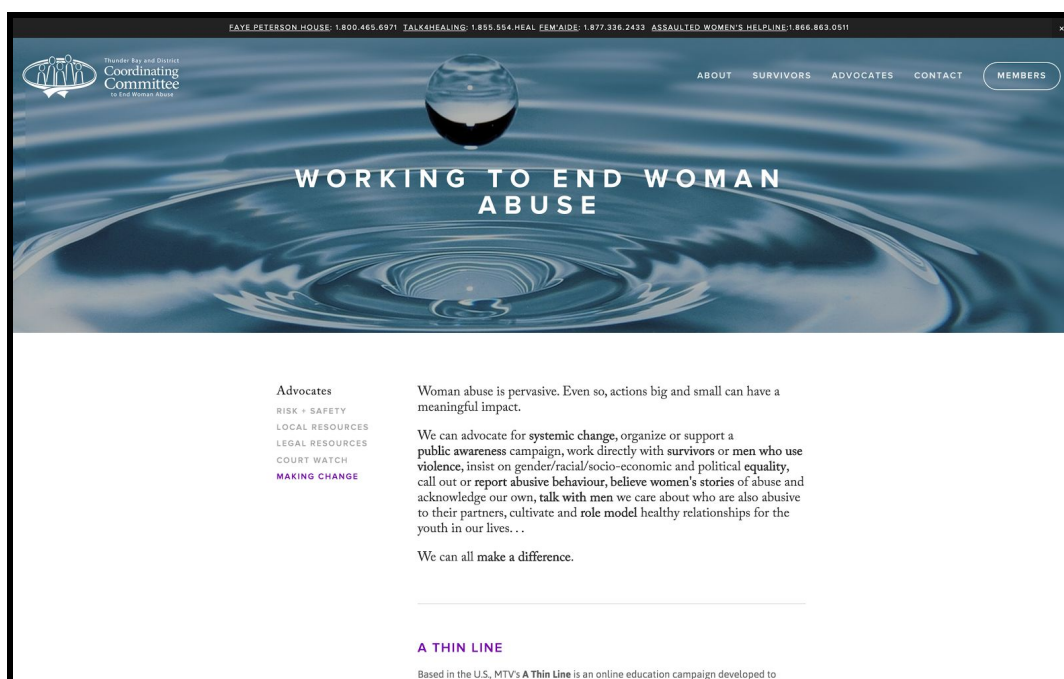
## MEMBERSHIP

Efforts were made to expand the TBDCCEWA membership to better reflect the diversity of our community. In 2014-15, we welcomed twelve organizations. The TBDCCEWA includes stakeholders from Aboriginal and francophone communities and reflects the VAW sector (shelters, counselling and family services, partner assault response program), justice sector (police, corrections, victim services), health sector (public health, domestic violence/sexual assault treatment), education sector, child welfare services, settlement/immigration services, and community-based feminist organizations.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Following our written requests to meet with criminal justice professionals, TBDCCEWA has gladly accepted an invitation to present our perspective on VAW, Gladue principles and bail court, and participate in a roundtable discussion with other stakeholders, at the Annual Regional Meeting of Justices of the Peace Northwestern Ontario in Thunder Bay in August 2015.

Over the next few months, a strategic planning session will be organized for the Board of Directors, new resources and a blog will join the website, and efforts will be made to strengthen community linkages, particularly where high risk domestic violence cases are concerned.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year End March 31, 2015

MCSS funding for DVCCC 2014/15			
Revenue			\$24,517.00
	prior yr end adjustment		\$ (301.00)
			<b>\$24,216.00</b>
Expenses			
	Wages	\$17,397.45	
	rent	600.00	
	telecom.	289.14	
	insurance	1002.24	
	food	258.32	
	firedog	524.91	
	signs	300.00	
	advert	474.58	
	ipad	814.42	
	misc	105.00	
		\$21,766.06	
	Admin	\$ 2,450.00	
			<b>\$24,216.06</b>
Net Income			<b>0</b>

As a Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committee (DVCCC), we receive some annual funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).