

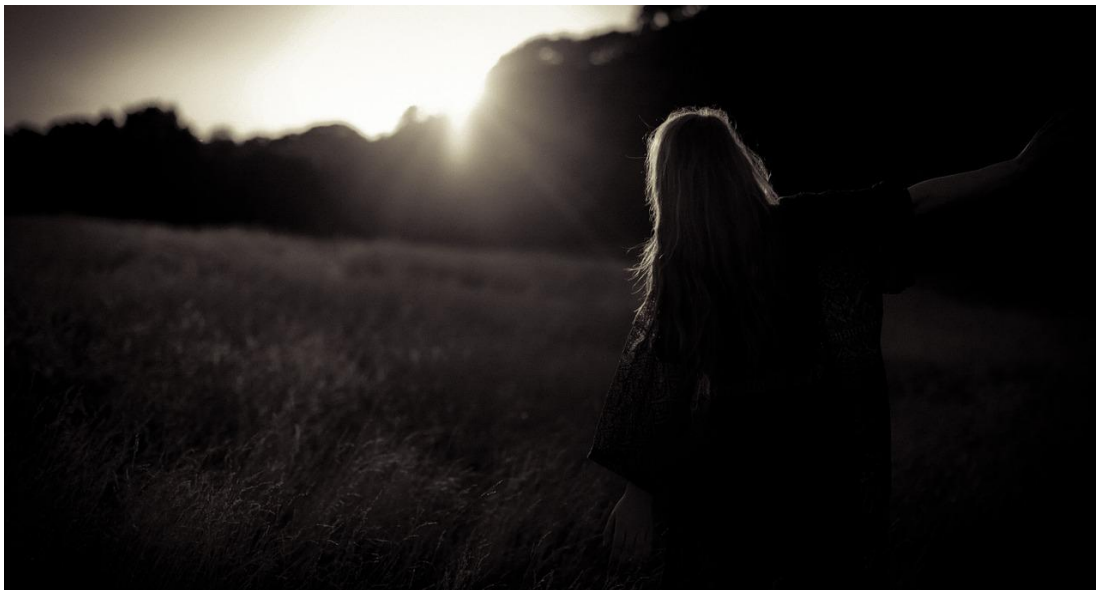


Thunder Bay and District
**Coordinating
Committee**
to End Woman Abuse

ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017

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)



“..what I do now is **believe** in myself. This is my **healing**, my journey, my life.”

“A lot of women should **encourage** one another that we can **help** each other.”

“..and I think the more I **talk** about it, there's a little less burden there”

“It's a lot of work and I'm still **doing** it.”

- From lessons learned through listening; experiences of help after sexual abuse/violence
Naadmaagewin Aboriginal Domestic Violence Committee

**BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS
2016 - 2017**

**Gwen O'Reilly
(Chair)**

Abi Sprakes

Melody McGregor

Susan White

**Debbie Zweep
(Co-Chair)**

Rosemary Scofich

Kaitlyn Fortier



For over 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.

M E M B E R S H I P

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Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre (NWC)

Anishinabek Police Service (APS)

Beendigen Inc.

Catholic Family Development Centre (CFDC)

Thunder Bay Police Services (TBPS)

Centr'Elles

Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay (CAS)

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

Faye Peterson House (FPH)

Lakehead Elementary Teachers of Ontario (LETO)

Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Marjorie House (Marathon)

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Thunder Bay Probation & Parole Services

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre (SA/DVTC, TBRHSC)

Thunder Bay Counselling Centre (TBCC)

Sexual Abuse Centre Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council

Department of Women Studies (Lakehead University)

Victim/Witness Assistance Program (V/WAP)

Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services (VCARS)

Metis Nation

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

In 2016/17 TBDCCEWA has welcomed many new members from various sectors, and we continue to try to broaden our membership. We have been fortunate to secure a new staff person in Katie Watson, and look forward to consistent coordination of our coordinating efforts with her capable assistance. We are still doing more talking than action on our public profile, including timely response to media and controversial court outcomes. Maybe this is the year we will actually take that on.

Both new and longstanding issues came to our table this year. Most notable is the creation of the Indigenous People's Court and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Indigenous Friendship Centre and others involved in this accomplishment - it represents a level of systemic change for which we should all be striving.

The addition of a representative from the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council on the TBDCCEWA fills a missing role at our table. We were able to provide input and help shape the City's CPC Community Safety Wellbeing Plan. We have discussed recent research that suggests many reports of sexual assault across the country are classed as unfounded by police. The issue of human trafficking is now a central concern, and member agencies are now creating protocols and services to address it.

In other systemic response work this year, we participated in a provincial research project to investigate the use of Mandatory Charging policies. I sat on an advisory council with the coordinating organization Building a Bigger Wave, and the researchers from University of Ottawa. The results have now been released, and they are interesting, but mixed. It appears that Mandatory Charging policies work well in some instances, and not at all in others. It will provide us with useful information to examine our own practices.

The perception that the incidence and severity of violence is increasing is motivating many sectors to respond more proactively. We are exploring collaboration with the Northwest Community Mobilization project, a new crisis intervention model or "Situation Table" being developed in Thunder Bay by the Mental Health sector. This model mirrors the TBDCCEWA structure in many ways, but does not yet incorporate an analysis of VAW. We hope our continued involvement will strengthen this approach.

This year, we have continued to coordinate more High-Risk meetings than ever before through CAS. Unfortunately, there seems to be no shortage of referrals for woman and children at high risk where

there is no current criminal justice involvement. We understand that there are also a significant number of offenders on the MAG Domestic Violence High Risk list.

I would not normally detail the following analysis in a Chairs Report, except that I believe this issue is urgent to address. The fact that the TBDCCEWA HR cases show up only on Child Welfare's radar is very concerning, as they have limited ability to make noncustodial perpetrator parents accountable, especially without support from the criminal court. As a result, state action to protect children invariably further disempowers women who are already at high risk of harm from their abusive partners. The outcome is that women are very reluctant to involve or cooperate with police or child welfare, therefore increasing their isolation and risk. I fear this circumstance is becoming the rule, not the exception.

It seems clear that this results from a combination of systemic gaps that require some significant structural changes (including courts) to address. I hope that the Community Collaboration Enhancement Process we have undertaken with consultant Heidi Rankin will elucidate some of the required changes. There is an urgent need to tackle this before more people are hurt or killed.

I am stepping down as Chair this year - it has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated individuals for so many years! I look forward to more good work as we collectively sharpen our analysis and push hard at the reluctant wheels of systemic change.

Gwen O'Reilly

Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre



REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR

This past January, I was welcomed into the Thunder Bay and District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse as the newly appointed coordinator. With guidance and support from the members of the committee, I have learned so much of the commitment and dedication that goes into strategically working together on collaborative initiatives to end woman abuse in our region. I would like to especially give my thanks to Gwen O'Reilly for ensuring a smooth and enjoyable transition in this new role.

My role as coordinator has enabled me in facilitating all aspects of committee activity. I am continuously working to support and aid in the ongoing efforts of our committee members, who dedicate themselves routinely to understanding the complex and challenging nature of violence against women. From February through June, I have worked to re-establish the role of a coordinator into the committee, as well as continue to organize committee operations. I have been coordinating and documenting monthly meetings, as well as attending meetings and presentations on behalf of the committee. I continue to update the website, and collaborate with community members and agencies to expand our diverse membership. Over the summer months, I will be recruiting members to join a media relations sub-committee in order to respond appropriately to issues in our region. We will develop a template for these responses and appropriate protocol to do so.

In partnership with Heidi Rankin and the Safe & Together Institute, I have been facilitating the Community Collaboration Enhancement Process project. After establishing participating agencies and collecting feedback, we have now completed the first stage of this project, and will be moving onto the second stage over the summer months. The second stage, which is the implementation of agency surveys, will see our members provide feedback to support the development of improved cross-system collaboration in Thunder Bay and Region. The third stage will be a two-day workshop in the fall.

I would like to thank all our members for the opportunity to work alongside you in this capacity, and for guiding and supporting me as I learn the various roles of being the coordinator to such a diverse and progressive organization. I look forward to supporting present and future initiatives and projects with a committee which continues to focus on creating a community where women and children are valued, safe and free from abuse.

With gratitude,
Katie Watson

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.

“Through the Looking Glass: One Woman’s Pursuit of Justice, Healing and Forgiveness” with Shannon Moroney on May 31st (Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services and Sexual Abuse Centre)

It Takes a Village with Sheldon Kennedy on March 29th (Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services)

Legal Options After Sexual Assault: Part I – Assessing Your Legal Options, Part II – Navigating the Justice System on November 7th, 21st (Northwestern Ontario Women’s Centre)

Indigenous Peoples Court in Thunder Bay on May 4th (Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre)

North West Community Mobilization Education Sessions on March 6th, 8th, 16th, 24th Planning Day on April 13th (CMHA, Crime Prevention Council)

Lessons Learned Through Listening: Experiences of Help After Sexual Abuse/Violence on May 25th (Naadmaagewin Aboriginal Domestic Violence Committee)

Drop the Line Campaign – Video Contest in May 2017 (Sexual Abuse Centre Thunder Bay, Centr’Elles)



MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to be made up of a diverse group of stakeholders which help us to better connect with our community and aid in the safety of women and children. We have welcomed members from many sectors over the past few years, which has allowed the TBDCCEWA to better reflect on the unique circumstances of Thunder Bay and Region. Efforts will continue to be made to consistently bring in new members from all sectors in the coming year. By consistently updating our membership and inviting new folks to sit at our table, we strengthen our committee and unite forces to see change.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the course of the summer, the Coordinator will continue to work on the Community Collaboration Enhancement Process: Stage Two, alongside the participating agencies. The completion of the surveys will permit the Safe & Together Institute to gather data and information on our unique and diverse region and create a two-day workshop which will take place in the Fall of 2017. The goal of this project is to produce a self audit on key domestic violence-informed practices, and develop an action plan for change to improve intra/interagency domestic violence informed practice. Participating agencies will also receive data on progress toward implementation of these changes.

A strategic plan for media relations is in development in order for the TBDCCEWA to address ongoing issues in our community, media and controversial court decisions. A sub-committee will be assembled to come up with a template as well as a term of reference list in order to effectively respond in a timely manner, which is scheduled to begin over the summer months. Efforts will be made to strengthen the TBDCCEWA's role in the community, and expand our membership to include an even wider range of input. It is also with hope that we strengthen our linkage to other tables to ensure the greatest level of communication is reached, specifically in regard to high risk cases that have drastically risen this year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Crisis Homes Inc. Schedule ID - BPS - Other - Adults' Social Services

<u>For the year ended March 31</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	(Over) Under <u>Budget</u>	201 6 <u>Actual</u>
Revenue				
MCSS grant	3,690	3,690		3,690
Expenditures				
Wages and benefits	3,690	3,690		3,690
Excess of revenue over expenditure for the year				

Crisis Homes Inc. Schedule IE - Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee

<u>For the year ended March 31</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	(Over) Under <u>Budget</u>	2016 <u>Actual</u>
Revenue				
MCSS funding				24,517
MCSS one-time grant - Ontario Women's Directorate Project	24,517 4,000	24,517 4,000		
	28,517	28,517		24,517
Expenditures				
Advertising, website and signage				563
Board meeting expenses	339	490	(151)	75
Computer/ LAN				
Insurance	928	1,110	(182)	1,011
Ontario Women's Directorate	4,000	4,000		
Other services		10,743	(10,743)	575
Rent				
Salaries and benefits	23,250	11,451	11,799	18,675
	28,517	794	723	20,899
Excess of revenue over expenditure for the year		723	723	3,618