

Woman Abuse Resources in Ontario

Assaulted Women's Helpline

This province wide helpline offers crisis counselling and referrals to shelters, legal advice and other help. It:

- Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Is free of charge
- Provides information in more than 100 different languages, including 17 Aboriginal languages

Toll free (Ontario)	Greater Toronto Area (GTA)	#SAFE
1-866-863-0511	416-863-0511	#7233 on your Bell Mobility phone
1-866-863-7868 TTY	416-863-7868 TTY	

Community Legal Education Ontario

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) has developed a useful fact sheet for service providers who work with immigrant women experiencing abuse. CLEO shares important information about domestic violence and a woman's immigration status. It also deals with some of the concerns that immigrant women who are abused may have. For example, a woman may be afraid that she and her children will be deported if she reports abuse by her spouse or sponsor. She may also be afraid of what could happen to the person who is abusing her. The fact sheet refutes these myths and outlines the steps a woman may take if she is in Ontario as a landed immigrant, refugee, domestic caregiver or if she has only temporary status. For more information about immigrant women and domestic violence, please visit www.settlement.org

Francophone Services

There are 18 francophone shelters and counselling services across Ontario. Francophone or French-speaking women can get crisis counselling and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling this toll free number: 1-877-FEMAIDE (1-877-336-2433). This toll free number will automatically connect abused women with the closest regional crisis line.

The *Neighbours, Friends and Families* program is also available entirely in French. Visit www.voisinsamisefamilles.on.ca for more information.

Kanawayhitowin

The Kanawayhitowin website is part of an Aboriginal campaign to address woman abuse in Aboriginal communities across the province of Ontario. Kanawayhitowin is a Cree word, which in English translates to "taking care of each others' spirit". As we journey through life, our spirit may encounter abuse and neglect. Everyone has the right to have their spirit protected and the responsibility to take care of the sacredness of life. This campaign has been adapted from the *Neighbours, Friends and Family* initiative to reflect a traditional and culturally-appropriate response to community healing and wellness. This campaign:

- Focuses on ending the isolation abused women feel
- Emphasizes the empowerment of Aboriginal men to take responsibility and make change
- Incorporates a variety of educational and awareness raising activities and materials (brochures, public service announcements, training video, CD ROM)
- Includes guidelines on how to implement interventions in your community
- Provides information about warning signs and safety planning

For more information, visit www.kanawayhitowin.ca



Education Services
Transforming Knowledge into Skills



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies
The voice of child welfare in Ontario

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQQ) Resources

Family Service Toronto provides a wealth of information and resources about intimate partner violence in LGBTQQ relationships. Numerous brochures, helplines and counselling resources are available on the following website: www.fsatoronto.com

The 519 Church Street Community Centre is a meeting place and focal point for its diverse downtown Toronto community. Within a supportive environment, it responds to the needs of the local neighbourhood and the broader LGBTQQ communities by providing resources and opportunities to foster self-determination, civic engagement, and community enrichment through social recreation, volunteerism, arts and culture, and community participation. The 519's Anti-Violence Program (AVP) has assisted hundreds of LGBTQQ individuals who have experienced abuse in same-sex/transsexual relationships. Visit www.the519.org or email avp@the519.org

Two-Spirited People of the First Nations is a Toronto-based organization that provides domestic violence counselling for two-spirited Aboriginal people. Two-Spirited has developed a number of brochures and resources for two-spirited women, men and trans-identified individuals experiencing domestic violence. For more information, visit www.2spirits.com

Native Women's Resources

Anduhyau Inc. is the second oldest shelter in Canada, and serves the city of Toronto. Anduhyau means "Our Home" in the Ojibwe language. Anduhyau shelter provides unique programs and services to Aboriginal women and children leaving abusive situations. For more information, visit www.anduhyau.org or call 416-920-1492 ext 221

Native Women's Centre offers safe, emergency shelter 24 hours per day, 7 days per week including all meals, emergency clothing and personal need items for all residents. Located in Hamilton, the centre also offers 24-hour counselling for residents, non-residents and past residents. Long distance or local collect crisis calls are accepted. The centre provides referrals for legal, medical, financial, housing, and employment services, as well as access to Native Traditional methods of healing, while remaining sensitive to other cultures. For more information, please visit: www.nativewomenscentre.com or call 1-905-664-1114 or toll free 1-888-308-6559

The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) administers a number of programs which are delivered by local Friendship Centres in the areas of health, justice, family support, and employment and training. The OFIFC also ensures that the healing and wellness needs of the local Aboriginal community are addressed by implementing the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy at the local level to reduce family violence, promote healthy lifestyles, culture based programming and healing. For more information, visit www.ofifc.org

The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) was established to promote the betterment and equality of Native Women. ONWA is a provincial organization founded in 1972 which represents Aboriginal women and their families on matters that effect the political, social, education, economic, and justice issues of our daily lives. ONWA addresses a wide range of issues including: Discriminatory Section of the Indian Act (Bill C-31), Family Violence, Native Housing, Employment Equity, Health, Education and Justice. ONWA has developed several reports on eradicating violence against Aboriginal women. For more information, visit www.onwa-tbay.ca

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) has implemented the *Family Violence against Immigrant & Refugee Women: Community Development Strategies*, an on-line training project. The training uses community development strategies as effective tools to prevent and address family violence in families who are new to Ontario. The program aims to enhance family violence prevention strategies to reach immigrant and refugee women, especially women without legal immigration status and women from racialized and low-income communities. For more information about this training, visit OCASI's website: www.ocasi.org

Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse

Founded in 1984, the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse (PCAWA) is made up of individuals representing various service agencies promoting a comprehensive and effective response to woman abuse in the Region of Peel. With the input of its ethno-specific service member agencies, the PCAWA has developed an intervention protocol and best practice guidelines for intervening in cases of woman abuse in Peel Region. To download a copy of the PCAWA guidelines, visit www.pcawa.org

Shelternet.ca

This website was created to provide reliable and up-to-date information for abused women, their family, friends, and colleagues in Canada. The website includes a searchable map for shelters across Canada, and is available to view in English, French, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi and Punjabi.

Women with Disabilities' Resources

Located in Toronto, *Springtide Resources* coordinates a number of programs meant to respond to the growing prevention, intervention and educational needs of those working towards ending violence against women and their children.

In response to community-identified needs, Springtide Resources set up the *Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women's Program* to address barriers to service for abused women with disabilities and Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing women. This program is designed to meet the needs of a range of service providers including managers, counsellors, shelter and crisis workers, victim service workers, police, health care providers and advocates. The program builds on existing group/organizations' strengths to create a more accessible, disability and Deaf positive environment for staff, board, clients and volunteers. For more information, please visit www.springtideresources.org.

Other Woman Abuse Counselling/Intervention Resources

Here to Help

YWCA Toronto's *Here to Help* is a 12-week program that provides a safe, compassionate environment for children 4-16 years of age who are exposed to woman abuse to cope with their feelings of pain, fear, anger and confusion. Children are encouraged to deal with issues such as problem solving and conflict resolution, the cycle of violence, self-esteem and safety planning through art and craft activities, games, stories and discussions.

The YWCA offers a group for children's mothers and caregivers who seek to learn positive strategies for dealing with the challenge of parenting children who have witnessed abuse. Women are encouraged to share and discuss their issues and experiences while gaining support, advice and understanding in a non-judgmental environment.

The *Here to Help* coordinator offers support to families through regular telephone contact and accompaniment to legal aid, social assistance and community appointments. For more information, visit www.ywca-toronto.org or email heretohelp@ywca-toronto.org

Learning Effective Anti-Violence in Families (LEAF) Program

Provided by *Catholic Family Services of Hamilton*, the LEAF program is an early intervention program for children aged 4-16 who have witnessed the abuse of their mothers. The LEAF program provides women and children with a safe place to discuss the abuse to which they have been exposed. The LEAF program is available to all individuals and families in the Hamilton/Burlington area, is free of charge, and is confidential. The service includes childcare, transportation assistance, snacks and wheelchair accessibility.

For more information, visit <http://www.cfshw.com/counselling/#leaf> or email intake@cfshw.com.