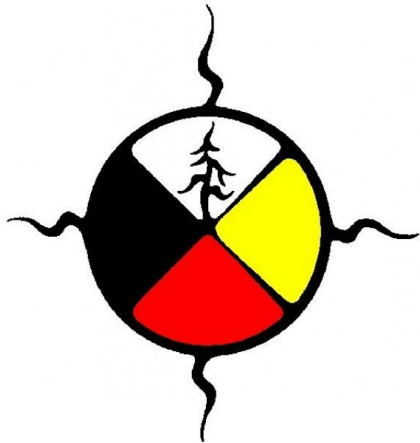


OUR VISION

ONWA is a unified voice for equity, equality, and justice for Aboriginal women through cultural restorations within and across Nations.



Our primary concern is the direction and future of Aboriginal women. In order to enhance the quality of Aboriginal women's lives, ONWA represents Aboriginal women and their families throughout Ontario in a host of areas, such as political, social, economic and justice issues, that affect their daily lives.



Funding provided by Ministry of Attorney General

The Ontario Native Women's Association's Aboriginal Victim and Family Liaison (AVFL) program has liaison workers in:
Thunder Bay and Kenora



www.onwa.ca

Head Office

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Fort William First Nation, ON P7J1J7
Tel: (807) 577-1492 · Toll Free: 1-800-667-0816

Thunder Bay Satellite Office

380 Ray Boulevard, Thunder Bay ON P7B 4E6
Phone: (807) 623-3442 · Fax: (807) 623-1104



Aboriginal Victim and Family Liaison

“The Missing and Murdered
Women Initiative”

*A Voice for Aboriginal Women
and their Families*

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- Prevention and awareness raising initiatives: Programs and presentations aimed at raising awareness amongst community members and service providers about the AVFL program and violence against Aboriginal women.
- Programming aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the issues related to murdered/missing women and their families.
- Resource materials and education regarding the criminal justice system for victims and/or families.
- Resources and education for service providers regarding culturally sensitive approaches to assisting Aboriginal victims and/or their families.
- Traditional ceremonies and approaches to healing in order to help victims and their families recover from the impact of the crime and provide a means for service providers to learn about traditional Aboriginal approaches to healing and wellness.

ABOUT THE AVFL PROGRAM

ONWA's Aboriginal Victim and Family Liaison program provides culturally relevant services, guidance, support and advocacy for Aboriginal women who have experienced violence and the families of missing and murdered women throughout Northwestern Ontario. Through providing support and guidance to victims and/or their families as they engage with and work through the criminal justice system and/or recover from the trauma of the crime, the AVFL program aims to raise awareness in communities about the criminal justice program (including court processes) and existing support services as well as increasing knowledge, expertise and competence within the justice system and among service providers in helping Aboriginal women and their families.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Advocacy and guidance for victims/families engaging with the criminal justice system:

- Assistance with understanding the criminal justice process for victims of abuse and the families of missing and murdered women
- Support at meetings with police, the courts and other service providers
- Court support
- Crisis and emergency response for victims/families in need to due to violence and/or death
- Financial support for emergency expenses

Immediate and long term services and supports for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence:

- Assistance accessing treatment for STIs/STDs
- Assistance accessing Women's Shelters
- Access to ONWA's Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Community Health Outreach and Community Wellness programs

Healing services:

- Talking circles
- Cultural healing
- Referrals to contemporary counseling
- Guidance from elders' resource groups
- Referrals