



WOMEN'S CENTRE & HERS



Supporting Women in Haliburton County

The YWCA has provided local services to women in Haliburton County since 1986. Over the past 39 years, our programs and services have grown in response to the demand from rural women who are experiencing violence.

Since 2020, the combination of increased stress, isolation, and job losses have led to a dramatic rise in violence. This is especially true for women living in rural areas like Haliburton County, whose physical isolation and lack of resources greatly increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence. Recent research has shown that factors such as the presence of firearms, limited anonymity, and sparse access to emergency services impacts women's ability to seek help or medical treatment when violence occurs.

Programming For Rural Women Where They Need It

To provide the very best support possible for women, with and without children, who are experiencing violence in Haliburton County, our Women's Centre provides:

- Emergency transportation to safety
- Flexible support by phone or in person at safe locations
- Danger assessment and safety planning by our Outreach Workers
- 24-hour support through our toll-free crisis line, paired with our Crossroads Shelter
- Accompaniment and/or transportation to medical appointments or case conferences
- Support and information about navigating systems such as Ontario Works and Ontario Disability, Family Court and Criminal Court, and Children's Aid Societies
- Virtual Legal Clinic, in partnership with Luke's Place: arrange and support web-based meetings with a lawyer knowledgeable about and sensitive to women fleeing abuse
- Access to Family Law lawyer at Women's Centre, or 2-hour free Legal Aid Form for help with Child Custody and Access, Human Trafficking or Immigration matters
- Housing information (rent-geared-to-income / social housing, market rent and referrals)
- Information to help better understand the effects of violence and trauma, both on women and children

HERS (Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace)

Two-unit rural safe space and support for women in Haliburton County region who are experiencing violence or abuse.

24-hour Support & Crisis Line

Immediate support including safety planning, risk assessment and referrals for women experiencing gender-based violence.

Transition & Outreach Services

Confidential support and practical resources including housing, income, supportive counselling, employment resources, etc. for women experiencing gender-based violence.

Family Law Info & Court Support

Planning, accompaniment and support for women navigating the complex Family Court system.

Supportive Counselling

Support for women healing from trauma, abuse and sexual violence.

YWCA Administrative Office
216 Simcoe St, Peterborough, ON
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info@ywcapeterborough.org

Women's Centre of Haliburton Cty
11 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden, ON
705-286-1942
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Office Hours | Mon-Fri, 9am - 4:30pm

Charitable Registration Number
12981 9819 RR001

www.ywcapeterborough.org



We're here for women and the people who love them. If you or someone you know needs help, contact us day or night.

24 Hour Support & Crisis Line:
CALL 1-800-461-7656
TEXT 705-991-0110



Secure Shelter Close to Home

The YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS) provides safe and supportive temporary accommodations for up to two families, so women can leave abusive situations without leaving their support networks, jobs, schools, family and friends behind. The units offer privacy, but families can still access support staff 24 hours a day.

Rural Realities: Why Is the Risk Higher?

Women’s experiences of abuse are more complex and dangerous when living rurally.

- Limited or no access to phones, computers, or networks to communicate for help
- No neighbours to hear what is going on and call for help, or open their door in an emergency
- No public transportation
- Police services that are far away and unable to respond quickly
- Firearms in the home which heighten the risk of homicide
- Higher likelihood of being known or recognized when seeking resources or support
- Animals or livestock that can’t be left behind for fear of injury
- No local Family Court location; women must travel to Lindsay for appointments and proceedings
- Extremely limited access to affordable housing, subsidized child care, and financial supports

Haliburton Support in 2023-2024:

1,121

nights spent at HERS by women and children, down from 1,540 in 2022-23

9

women stayed at HERS last year, up from 8 in 2022-23

279

clients received practical transition and outreach support in Peterborough and Haliburton

3,163

support and crisis calls received at Crossroads and HERS, up from 2,228 in 2022-23

About YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton provides safety, resources and support to help women safely escape violent situations, build upon their existing strength, and move forward in their lives. As a member of YWCA Canada, we are part of a global movement dedicated to ending gender-based violence in all its forms.

Our Vision

YWCA cultivates a just, equitable, inclusive community where all women, children, and gender-diverse people can thrive.

Our Mission

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton exists to help women and children in our communities live safely, eat well and know satisfaction and joy in their daily lives. We offer shelter, educational programming, counselling, and advocacy, in collaboration with the community and women themselves. The YWCA knows that its fiscal management, community reputation and most importantly, valued staff are the basis for these trusting relationships.

Inclusivity and Anti-Oppression

YWCA Peterborough Haliburton recognizes that systems of oppression and discrimination mutually reinforce one another. It is at these points of intersection where people are most vulnerable, and oppression is strongest. We acknowledge that the barriers women can face, including racism, classism, ableism, misogyny, and colonialism, require a sophisticated understanding of anti-racism / anti-oppression principles. We are committed to operating with a solid awareness about our individual privilege and an intersectional focus on systemic oppression in the lives of women and children.