

**WE ARE  
OPEN**

AND WE ARE HERE TO  
**HELP**



Learn more by visiting [endthecycleofabuse.com](https://endthecycleofabuse.com)

## **“WE ARE OPEN”**

### ***Regional Shelters Open and Ready to Help those Facing Abuse and Violence***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020**

***WE’RE OPEN AND HERE TO HELP.***

That’s the message area shelter service providers want to share.

“COVID-19 may mean social distancing and isolation but for those facing domestic violence, isolation means no contact with extended family, friends or co-workers”, said Janine Lafreniere, Executive Director of Nipissing Transition House. “Our fear is due to the pandemic, and the rules around social distancing and isolation, some may feel they have no place to go for help.”

Five regional emergency women’s shelters are working together to send the ‘we’re open and here to help’ message to anyone experiencing abuse during the pandemic.

“People in need of assistance may think we are closed” said Lafreniere. “We’re open and here to help those in crisis trying to flee an abusive relationship”.

Women and children are at a greater risk of experiencing abuse, particularly when isolating at home during COVID-19. Access to help may seem more difficult. They may not be able to leave or seek help because an abusive partner is isolating at home with them 24 hours a day.

“We appreciate the Stay Home advisory to keep everyone safe from COVID-19, but these times are creating extraordinary challenges for the vulnerable.”

If you or you know of someone in an abusive relationship are in of need help, please contact the following shelters in your area:

**Nipissing Transition House, North Bay** (705) 476-2429

**Ojibway Women's Lodge, Nipissing First Nation** (705) 472-3321  
*24 hour crisis line open, shelter location closed until further notice*

**Crisis Centre–Four Elms Emergency Shelter, North Bay** (705) 474-1031

**Mattawa Women's Resource Centre** (705) 744-5567

**Horizon's Women Centre, Sturgeon Falls** (705) 753-1154

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***For more information contact:***

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