



Cara Jones (left), Caroline MacRae and Emily Gosse of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) are organizing Feminist Fridays, which will take place weekly over the summer season. The events, which are part of the AWRC's Resisting Violence Project, will launch with *This is What a Feminist Looks Like* – a community art exhibition that celebrates gender equality – at the People's Place Library June 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. (Corey LeBlanc photo)

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Feminist Fridays

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Coming this summer – Feminist Fridays.

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) will host weekly events in the coming weeks that will celebrate gender equality, awareness, community and breaking the barriers while creating change.

The inaugural Feminist Friday will take place June 15, featuring a community art exhibit celebrating gender equality – *This Is What a Feminist Looks Like*.

The show will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at People's Place Library on Main Street in Antigonish.

"We have been gathering a lot of pieces," Cara Jones, one of the organizers, said, noting male artists have also made contributions to the upcoming event.

Since news of the show and other Feminist Friday activities began circulating in the community, Jones said she has started to hear many men greet her with 'I am a feminist,' whether it is from across the street or down the sidewalk.

"The response has been awesome," Jones said.

After the art show, there will be a feminist film screening and a discussion at the All-Of-Us Society for Art Presentation gallery space located at 319 Main Street (rear entrance).

Other Feminist Friday events in the works include a crafters' market, kids' art workshop and an end of summer concert.

Emily Gosse is working on a tourism related initiative aimed at getting visitors more involved in AWRC events, while providing wide exposure for the organization.

"We want to have as many public events as possible and get the community involved," Gosse said.

Jones said Feminist Fridays are about "breaking down the barrier of what feminism is."

"It is about achieving equal rights for all genders," she noted.

Gosse added it is about eliminating the stigma that surrounds feminism.

"It is not a dirty word," she said, noting that "anyone can be feminist."

"It's not that you hate men," Caroline MacRae, AWRC Resisting Violence Project co-ordinator, added.

As part of the Resisting Violence Project, groups of youth in communities – young women – have been working on anti-violence initiatives dealing with issues such as homophobia and sexual assault.

"Issues tied to violence against women," MacRae said.

Feminist Fridays will provide some exposure for program participants as they continue work on their projects.

"It provides a supportive environment for them to showcase their talents," Gosse said.

MacRae added it will be "exciting to get the community involved."

Gosse said Feminist Fridays is about raising awareness and getting the message out to create change.

"That's it in a nutshell," MacRae added.

For information call 863-6221 or visit www.feministfridays.blogspot.com