

Quilts For Survivors



Past, Present and Future

Reflecting on our new studio space



STUDIO UPDATES & UPDATED HOURS |
UPCOMING EVENTS | MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD |
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Quilts For Survivors

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www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

To request a Sponsorship Package
please email Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

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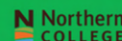
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Brown
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Honourable
Mention



From the Editor

Registration for our
2nd Annual Sewing Retreat
is open and there are limited
spots available.

We have less than 25 spots left!
**Get your ticket before they are
gone!**

You can click here to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2nd-annual-sewing-retreat-tickets-695394021237>



Karen Brown
Guest Speaker
Just Get It Done Quilts
I'm a quilter, crafter, mother, wife, daughter, businesswoman but not necessarily in that order. I love to make things and like nothing better than checking things off the list.

Vanessa Genier
CEO & Founder
A time to **come together** as an International community to **sew, learn and be inspired**, and to **meet other volunteers and QFS's own Quilter with a heart of gold, Vanessa Genier.**
Visit the City with a heart of gold and learn how we **give back to Survivors.**
Come be a part in Truth and Reconciliation.

ALREADY 50% SOLD!

2nd ANNUAL ORANGE YOU GLAD WE'RE SEWING RETREAT

When?
> September 27 - 30, 2024

Where?
> Timmins Ontario - Northern College

How?
> Tickets on Sale Now!
on Eventbrite

Price?
> \$225.00*
*Includes lunches, dinners, snacks and a traditional indigenous feast with traditional drumming, food and dancing.

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

For more information, please call us at 705-262-1853
or send us an email: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Thanks so much for your continued support. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!



Hey there!

I'm excited to share our latest monthly newsletter which is packed with many updates and new information for Quilters, Volunteers, and Survivors.

This month I am starting college, and I am taking Mental Health and Addictions. This will be offered online and I will be balancing school/work and youth council activities.

We have been busy at the studio getting unpacked and preparing for the sewing retreat. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's retreat! Our grand opening is also happening this month, if you are in the area please attend.

We love hearing from you, so please feel welcome to share your thoughts and ideas with us. We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

Thanks so much for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!

Katherine Jeremiah
They/Them

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



*Quilts
For Survivors*

**GRAND
Opening**

**Friday,
September 20th, 2024
11:00 AM**

*Please bring a spool of thread
as a donation*

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca
58 Legion Drive South Porcupine Ontario P0N1H0

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white knit beanie, glasses, and a red jacket. She is looking upwards and to the left. The background is a snowy forest with bare trees. The image has a torn paper effect at the bottom.

Message From Our CEO & Founder

By Vanessa Genier

“This month I encourage you to wear your orange shirt with pride.”

Takwakin, (Fall/Autumn) is fast approaching. This is a time of harvest, hunting, preparing, and our annual sewing retreat. It is also a time of reflection as we honour the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and proudly wear our orange shirts for Every Child Matters. It is important to remember that the **30th of September** is now two separate but equally important events. **Every Child Matters** started the **Orange Shirt Day** to acknowledge residential schools are a part of our history. Wearing an Orange shirt on this day symbolizes your choice to honour Survivors and show a collective commitment to always ensure that Every Child Matters.

I believe that wearing an orange shirt should just be the beginning of our commitment to the children of our nations and country. We need to take the steps to ensure that those who are in power make choices, create bills and legislation that fosters a continued commitment to the children of Indigenous Nations and the children of Canada. Indigenous culture teaches us to think of the next seven generations when we look to the future. I believe that if we as a country honour the treaties, think of the children and future generations and make decisions that protect our people and our land we will all have a bright and healthy future.

This month I encourage you to wear your orange shirt with pride. Take time to read about Phyllis Webstad, the Founder and Ambassador of the Orange Shirt Society. Also look at the **94 Calls To Action**. If you don't know who's land you live on do some research to know and understand the land you share with our Indigenous nations. Only together can we heal our nations, our people, and our land.

Kitchi Meegwetch,

Vanessa Genier M.S.M
Founder and CEO
Aka Quilter with a
Heart of Gold



Past, Present and Future

By Vanessa Genier

Photography by Katherine Jeremiah

Reflecting on our new studio space



New Studio Space

I was taught that when you need to ask an elder, knowledge keeper, or the Creator for something you offer Tobacco. When I first heard about the potential new space I had mixed feelings. This was an old church. Not just any church - an Anglican church. According to Google the Anglican church ran about three dozen schools across Canada from 1820 till 1969. Thinking of working out of this space left me feeling uneasy. I had months before spoken with someone who was a member of a church that had also run residential schools. During our discussion he said how he believes that the churches need to be an active part in the healing of our past when it comes to their part in residential schools. He believes they can do this in part by helping with Quilts for Survivors.

When I was chatting with my parents and the board about the possibility of the studio being in a building that was at one time a church, they talked about how it is coming full circle. My mom talked about trusting that the Creator knows what we need, and we need to trust he knows what is best. We then came to the property not having been inside and prayed and laid tobacco down under a tree on the property.

About a week later I went into a meeting after seeing the space, with some members of the church and a staff member from the Mennonite Central Committee who had put into motion the possibility of using the building for our new studio space. It all came together rather quickly. The church is excited to work with us and allow us to use the entire space to continue our healing work. A local paper did an article on our move.

<https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/quilts-for-survivors-moving-into-former-south-porcupine-church-9369666>

The new space needs a bit of renos and electrical work to accommodate our needs. We have full access to the entire building. We have a great open space to sew and prepare quilts for shipping. We have a full kitchen to use for our lunches and potlucks. The basement is a great space for our longarms.

I believe that this space is what we need now and as we move forward on this journey. It will be a wonderful space to create, learn and grow in. It is exciting to be in the community of South Porcupine (part of Timmins) as we will be the only Indigenous organization in the surrounding area. We are honoured to have this space and honoured to be able to continue our work.



I believe that this space is what we need now and as we move forward on this journey.



TRUTH

QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS STUDIO SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

2024

Studio Hours

Welcome! Our studio is a safe space for everyone to come in and sew! We offer classes, events, and workshops.

Regular Hours

We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Closed	3 open 10am-6pm	4 open 10am-6pm	5 open 10am-6pm	6 Studio Closed	7
8	9 admin	10 open 10am-6pm	11 open 10am-6pm	12 open 10am-6pm	13 Studio Closed	14
15	16 admin	17 open 10am-6pm	18 open 10am-6pm	19 open 10am-6pm	20 Grand Opening 11am	21
22	23 admin	24 open 10am-6pm	25 open 10am-6pm	26 Studio Closed	27 Studio Closed 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat	28 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat
29 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat	30 Studio Closed 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat					

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers || *must register

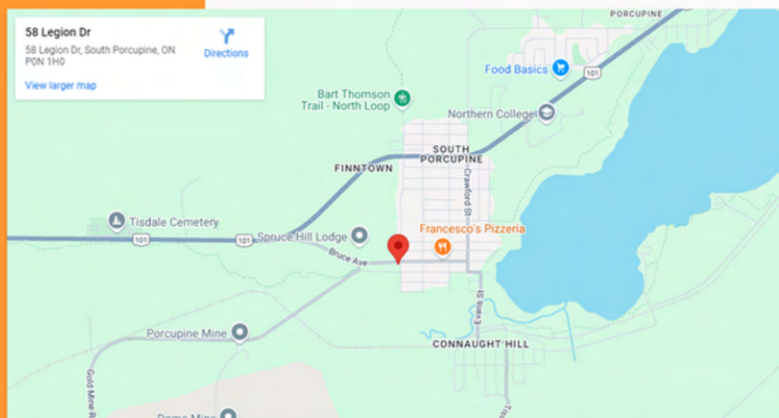
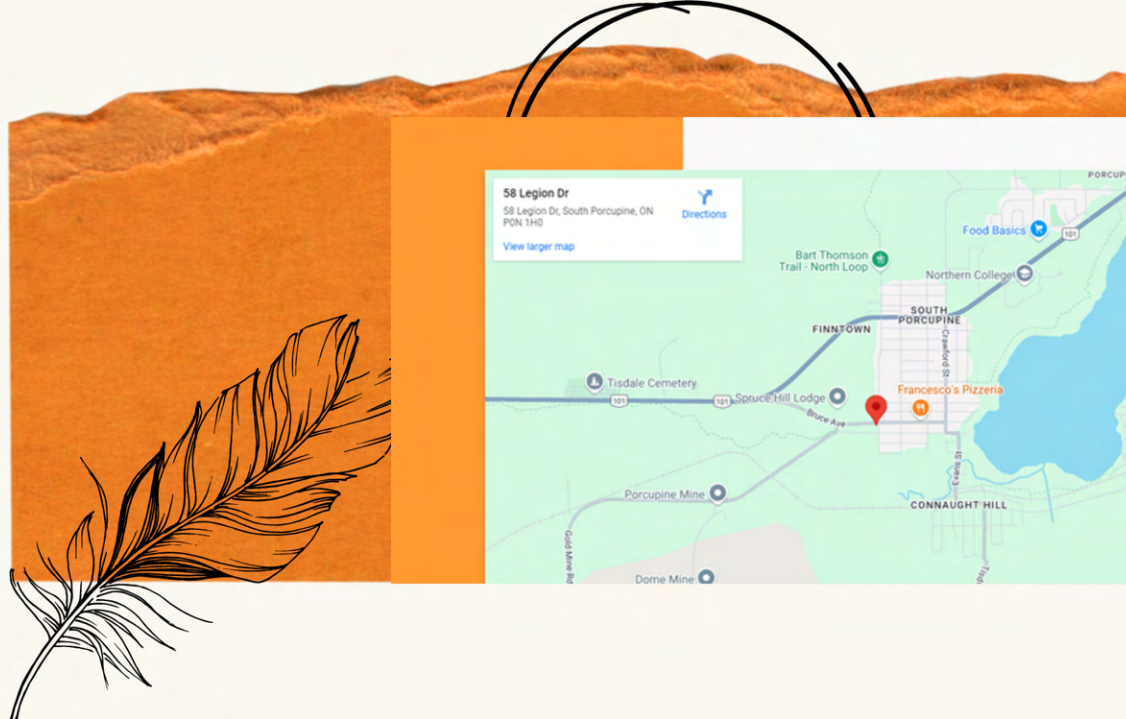


58 Legion Drive
South Porcupine Ontario
PON1H0
(705) 262-1853
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Updates

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah



Address

58 Legion Drive
South Porcupine, ON
CA

Phone

705.262.1853

Email

Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Sewing Space

We are working on getting our sewing space up and running!



Fabric Room

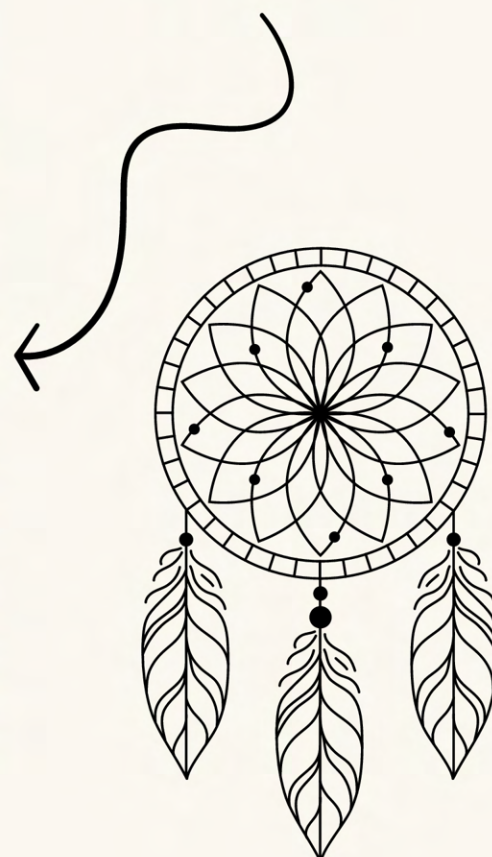
Marcy our fabric room coordinator, is busy setting up our new fabric room and patiently waiting for walls.



Workshops

For the month of September, we have our Sewing Retreat coming up! As for other workshops, we will have more in the coming months.

Our new space





Stories From Survivors & Volunteers

Story by The Orange Shirt Society

Orange Shirt Society - Quilts for Survivors Program

Since February, 2024, volunteers in Williams Lake, B.C. have gathered together once per week to learn, sew and share a meal together, in community, in honour of Indian Residential School Survivors. Getting together like this in the lead up to Orange Shirt Society's 10th Anniversary in September of 2023 was so successful, Phyllis Webstad and the team involved in the program felt strongly that making and gifting quilts should continue this year. On September 30th, 2023, we blanketed almost 50 Survivors around a sacred fire.

Orange Shirt Society has been working with two wonderful volunteer quilters who lead our sessions, helping guide beginners through to expert sewers in multiple projects, whether it be small blocks, whole flimsies, binding and more. We owe Elaine Watt and Debbie Graham a big thank you and feel so grateful for their participation and expertise.

Margaret-Anne Enders and Venta Rutkauskas coordinate the program, engaging with the community at large to find sewers, order the delicious meals (a big shout out to Mint & Lime Catering for feeding us so well!), and now, to set up small 'blanketing' events for gifting the quilts.

Phyllis Webstad believes that we must continue to prioritize the 'Truth' before Reconciliation - at our events this June, for example, we are teaming up with two schools in District 27, whose students have also sewn quilts for Survivors, and we have invited several individuals to receive their blankets and share some of their stories with the audience of students and community members. We'll continue to work in this way, finding moments in and out of the public eye, to offer the beautiful works of handmade quilts to those in our community who deserve the comfort and the honour to know that **'Every Child Matters'**.

To have your story featured here please
email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Feel free to include a picture with your story as well.



Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah

September's Events
and Workshops

Class Quilt 2024/2025 - Block #1

You can still sign up for our class quilt for 2024-2025, all classes are taught over Zoom by Vanessa Genier our CEO & Founder. Sign up here ->

<https://forms.gle/o9wxaTCJXguhDrA98>

questions email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Grand Opening

Join us Sept. 20 for our Grand Opening at our new space at 58 Legion Drive, South Porcupine, Ontario from 11:00 am

2nd Annual Sewing Retreat

Quilts For Survivors will be hosting our **2nd Annual Sewing Retreat** from **September 27 - 30**.

We are excited to welcome all of you to our city and can't wait for you to join us in person or virtually.



Karen Brown
Guest Speaker
Just Get It Done Quilts
quilter, crafter, mother, wife, daughter, businesswoman but not necessarily in that order. I love to sew things and like nothing better than checking things off the list.

Virtual Tickets

Vanessa Genier
CEO & Founder
It's time to **come together** as an International community to **sew, learn and be inspired**, and to **meet other volunteers and QFS's own filter with a heart of gold, Vanessa Genier**.
Visit the City with a heart of gold and learn how we **give back to Survivors**.
come be a part in Truth and Reconciliation.

2nd ANNUAL ORANGE YOU GLAD WE'RE SEWING RETREAT

When?
>September 27 - 30, 2024*
*Times may vary

Where?
>Streamed from Timmins Ontario

How?
>Join Virtually by getting a ticket on Eventbrite

Price?
>Free*
*Donations are appreciated

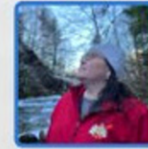
survivors.ca
call us at 705-262-1853
@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



OUR SPEAKERS



KAREN BROWN
Just Get It Done Quilts



VANESSA GENIER
CEO and Founder Of Quilts For Survivors

Any questions? Email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Updates

by Katherine Jeremiah



Donations



Donations can be made by EMT to:
Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
or through our Linktree

Linktree*

Check out our Linktree!
It has all our links such as our website,
Buy me a coffee, Our Wishlist ETC.
<https://linktr.ee/Quiltsforsurvivors>

Survey



Our Survey On Colonization &
Indigenous Land: Effects and
Conservation can be filled out here
<https://forms.office.com/r/QnUan79EBv>

Quilt Canada Binding



We are asking for a 2.5-inch binding joined
on the diagonal.

If you cannot attend please email
admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca for the mailing address
shipping begins in April 2025

Volunteering

We hope that you will take some time
once a week or even once a month to
come in and work a few hours or spend
the whole day with us at our studio. See
page 9 for full details.



Wishlist

Purchasing items off our Wishlist helps
us get things we need for the new
Studio or things that would help make
things easier for us in the Studio.
Thank you!

To purchase something from our Wishlist, please visit:
<https://mywishlist.online/w/5pxebt/quiltss-wishlist>

Quilts Quilts and More Quilts

In case you didn't hear we have now sent over **5,853** quilts.
That's amazing! Thank you everyone for your continued support!



General Info & FAQs



Volunteer Quilt Top?

You can find the pattern on our website www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca, We ask that you only send us **ONE block per volunteer**. Please make sure it includes your name, city/town, and how long you have been a volunteer.

Please mail to:

Quilts for Survivors 58 Legion Drive, South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0

What kind of fabric is used?

100% cotton quilting fabric

What size of blocks are needed?

16.5 inches square

Are there any restrictions on the blocks?

Our Fabric Restrictions are posted on our website. No Religious fabric, School related fabric, Travel related fabric, Graphic illustrations or images, or Gang related fabrics.

You can always check with us by emailing: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Can I donate something other than a block or a quilt?

Yes! We are accepting monetary donations, supplies, and more. Please visit our Wishlist, see page 15 for the link and more information.

Can we donate tops or completed quilts?

Yes, tops should be 48" x 64" or lap size.

Completed quilts can be any size.

Please mail to:

Quilts for Survivors

58 Legion Dr South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0

To ship directly to a Survivor please

email: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

- Include a picture of the finished quilt & card (if you're sending one)
- Advise if you need a label or digital file from us
- Confirm you can ship within 2-3 business days of receipt of the address we provide

Once all of the requirements are met you will receive an address from us.

For more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

MEET THE KIDS



As many of you may not know our CEO & Founder Vanessa Genier M.S.M. has five children.

All five children help out with Quilts For Survivors.

Kat - Studio Manager & Oldest

Michael - Was Head longarmer & Oldest boy

Kendrick - Studio Assistant & middle child

Wallace - Youngest boy

Josée - The baby



Messages From Our Board

Board Member Clara W

Good day All

The month of September brings another season; another season of changes and opportunities. We were forced to relocate and faced the challenges of securing a location and because of our relationships and friends we have developed over the years Quilts for Survivors was able to secure new space. The great space offers opportunities for growth and program development. Thanks very much to our community partners and we look forward to working in the new studio

Another very exciting event that is fast approaching is the **Second Annual Sewing Retreat**. Our number of participants tripled this year and it will be interesting to see what targets Vanessa will set for tops or completed quilts.



September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;

the day honours children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools. I would like to share a couple of pictures. The picture of the young man that is circled is my father John Weesk; he had attended St. Anne's residential school in Fort Albany Ontario and St Therese in Fort George Quebec. My father was a survivor and lived a full life; he passed away in February at the age of 84. The second picture is of myself (3rd from right) with a group of fellow students at St Anne's in Fort Albany. I was fortunate that I only attended three years because our family moved south due to my father's work as an electrician. My father and I received our quilts in November 2021 along with my mother, older brother and Aunt. My brother passed away from cancer 7 weeks later, he loved his quilt.

Thank you Vanessa, staff and volunteers for your work and dedication to "offering comfort to survivors".

Meegwetch

Board Member Cheryl M

Greetings from the city with the heart of GOLD. We are on the move again. This time a bigger and longer stay. If you all remember our CEO 'the quilter with a heart of GOLD' asked the Creator some 3 years ago how she could serve her people on their healing journey. The Creator told her to use her gift of quilting. So that is what she did. She sent out the word and there we were at her home, ironing, sewing, smudging, loving, and prayers in each quilt together. But we soon realized that we were going to need to make more than 18 quilts as requests started coming in, So we put our tobacco down and asked Creator for a place as we needed more room and Vanessa needed her home back. An answer came and we were gifted a 3-bedroom apartment, all expenses paid.

We were there for over a year sending out our healing quilts. This place was also becoming too small and the landlord needed his space back. So we once again trusting in Creator put down our tobacco and waited. Not long after the ED from Kunuwanim Child and Family Services offered us a home (again, no charge). So we moved in. It is a beautiful place close to water and surrounded by trees. We were very happy there and made a lot of quilts but once again Creator had different plans for us and we found ourselves on the move again. We put our tobacco down, prayers sent up and the Creator has given QFS a whole building free of expense for 5 years. No one could have arranged this with this turnout if the Creator wasn't leading. QFS is one way the Creator is bringing about reconciliation, through our beautiful volunteers and allies. QFS is truly blessed and humbled by the Creator. Till next time take care you all.

Meegwech

Follow Quilts For Survivors

NEVER MISS A THING!

Stay up to date!



**Check us
out online**

WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA

Catch the freshest News
Updated frequently
Read anytime, anywhere



@Quiltsforsurvivors

Phone number (705) 262-
1853



QFS Donations

Quilts for Survivors
website

Buy me a coffee

Request a Quilt