



Women's Place of South Niagara Inc.
8903 McLeod Rd
Niagara Falls, ON L2H 3S6

Amanda Braet, Director of Development and Stewardship
905-356-3933 ext. 240
Amanda@wpsn.ca
womensplacesn.org

For Immediate Release

WOMEN'S PLACE TO LAUNCH NEW ONLINE 50/50 RAFFLE TO SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES IN SOUTH NIAGARA

NIAGARA FALLS, ON, May 12, 2021 – This spring, people looking to support women and children experiencing domestic violence in South Niagara will have a new way to help their local women's shelters that also gives them a chance to win! On Saturday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m., Women's Place will be launching their first ever online 50/50 raffle with a minimum guaranteed jackpot of \$2500. Tickets will be available at www.womensplace5050.ca until June 30 at 11:59 a.m. Individuals from across Ontario are eligible to participate.

There will be three ticket options to choose from:

5 chances to win for \$10

60 chances to win for \$20 or

150 chances to win for \$40

Individuals who purchase their tickets before 11:59 a.m. on June 1, will also be entered to win a \$500 Early Bird cash prize.

The spring raffle is the first of three 50/50 draws that Women's Place plans to host in 2021. The raffles will help to offset the fundraising revenue that has been lost as COVID-19 restrictions continue to cause the cancellation of events like the Women's Place Book Riot, a much-loved

community event which has been called off for second year in a row this spring. In a typical year, the Book Riot raises approximately \$72,000 to help provide emergency shelter services, 24-hour phone and text support, counselling and other critical domestic violence services offered by the agency.

“The pandemic has created a very difficult situation for shelters across Ontario,” says Women’s Place Executive Director, Jennifer Gauthier. “We know that increased isolation in our homes and other tensions created by COVID-related restrictions are creating a dangerous situation for women and children across Niagara. Our shelter staff is reporting an increase in the severity of physical violence that our clients are experiencing. We also anticipate a steep increase in the number of women who will reach out to our shelters, especially once the stay-at-home order is lifted. While women are at increased risk, our shelters are also losing much of the fundraising revenue that we depend on from community events to support survivors. We really hope that our community will embrace our new 50/50 raffle and are really excited about this new initiative.”

For additional information about this raffle or Women’s Place, please contact Amanda Braet, at 905-356-3933 ext. 240 or amanda@wpsn.ca, or visit womensplacesn.org. We also invite you to visit our [Media Relations](#) page for visual assets related to this campaign.

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