



Megan Walker, executive director of the London Abused Women's Centre, is pictured Tuesday with items promoting the Shine the Light on Woman Abuse initiative. The campaign, marking its third year, starts Thursday. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

# Shine the Light is reaching farther

## Free event

### Mix it up with the prosperity planners

Want to provide your input on the London Cultural Prosperity Plan? Come to the cultural mixer on Thursday.

This free event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the London Convention Centre (300 York St.). For more information and to register, visit [eventbrite.ca/event/4591754060](http://eventbrite.ca/event/4591754060). **METRO**

## Gathering

### Fanshawe College to celebrate convocation

Together with the family and friends of more than 1,200 graduates, Fanshawe College students will celebrate their convocation during three ceremonies at the London campus on Thursday and Friday. The college will also honour students with the highest academic achievement in each faculty with Dean's Academic Awards. **METRO**

## Bilingualism

## Growing. November campaign about woman abuse is spreading to other cities, continents



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A London campaign to create awareness about abuse faced by women is spreading across the province — and the globe.

As leaders prepare for Thursday's Shine the Light kickoff in Victoria Park, people in Toronto, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie, Woodstock, and even

Guyana are preparing for similar launches.

It's a testament to the success of the now three-year-old effort, said Megan Walker, executive director of the London Abused Women's Centre.

Aside from picking up attention from outsiders, the campaign has led to more requests for help and information. This summer alone, the abused women's centre received about 600 phone calls from victims or their family members.

"We have never seen that volume of phone calls to our agency," Walker said. "Throughout the month of November, almost every woman that comes in here says, 'Oh, we saw the bus (advertisement),' or 'Oh, we saw

### Lights on

- **Officials will flip the switch at 6 p.m.** Thursday on a Victoria Park tree strung with purple lights, marking the start of Shine the Light.
- **For a full event lineup, visit [lawc.on.ca](http://lawc.on.ca).**

the billboard."

Government leaders in Guyana caught wind of the campaign last summer when Walker visited the South American country. The spread across Ontario can be attributed to the efforts of a committee of abuse victims.

An initiative of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transitional Housing, the committee has members across the province and they jumped at the chance to bring the campaign into their hometowns, said Gabriela Cameto.

Cameto, 38, is heading up the Toronto effort.

Among other things, she's working to bring Shine the Light's message into schools and have the CN Tower lit in purple — the campaign's official colour.

"To me, being a survivor, I think it kind of reinforces us speaking out and eliminating stigma," Cameto said about the campaign. "It's something simple that everyone can do. You just wear purple."

## Western to host French forum

On Friday, almost 200 students from 10 schools in the London area will gather at Western University for the French for the Future local forum. Held annually, the forum offers students a day full of activities that highlight the benefits of bilingualism through the acquisition of French. The local forum also gives students enrolled in French immersion, core French, and French first-language programs the opportunity to meet up outside of school for a day entirely in French. **METRO**

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