



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

NISHNAWBE ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Printed by: Citi Centre Print
Thunder Bay, ON

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About NALSC

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) is a legal services office serving the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) communities in northern Ontario. NALSC was established in 1990 as a non-profit organization to address the shortcomings in the administration of justice within NAN.

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services has grown since 1990— working hard to develop a professional image and hiring qualified staff to carry out its mandate. Innovative and creative programs have made NALSC a leader and, at times, an example in alternatives to justice programs. NALSC has met with success in these areas.

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors provide overall direction to ensure NALSC serves the needs of NAN community members, and that NALSC programs and services are delivered as mandated and in accordance with its mission.

Board of Directors

Jim Beardy, Independent First Nations Alliance—Chair

Vacant, Wabun Tribal Council—Vice-Chair

Celia Echum, Matawa First Nations Management—Secretary/Treasurer

Frank McKay, Windigo Tribal Council

Simon Winnepetonga, Shibogama Tribal Council

Chris Kakegamic, Keewaytinook Okimakanak

Theresa Spence, Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

Tom Wassaykeesic, Independent Bands

Greg Koostachin—Elder NAN East

Sarah Waboose—Elder NAN Central

Abe Kakepetum—Elder NAN West

Anna Betty Achneepineskum, Deputy Grand Chief—NAN Ex-Officio

Management

Celina Reitberger—Executive Director

Mary Bird—LAO Area Director

Vernon Morris—Restorative Justice Manager, Youth Justice Manager,
Youth Intervention Manager

Joyce Crawford—Restorative Justice Manager, Youth Justice Manager,
Youth Intervention Manager, Victim Witness Liaison Manager

Carol Buswa—Talking Together Manager

Marlene Sabourin—Financial Manager

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Board Chair ANNUAL MESSAGE 2016 – 2017

It is a great honor to present an overview of the operation of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation for this past year. The Corporation continues to make good progress in creating and expanding unique programs that are culturally appropriate to First Nations communities.

With support from the Corporation, several communities are in the process of revitalizing their traditional justice system. Enforcing local by-laws, justice committee addressing minor felonies and charges, youth crime, and community peace keeping are some of the community justice initiatives undertaken.

Sub offices located in Sioux Lookout and Timmins provide greater support for our clientele consisting of a supervisor/office manager and various other essential staff. There is also an increase of community-based workers located at various communities throughout the catchment area; hopefully, this trend of expansion will continue to happen.

Another office is located in Kenora to accommodate a staff lawyer and a Community Legal Worker. As a result, this has expedited the court process for many clients from the northern communities.

Once again, our audit has presented fairly; many thanks to staff for the great work they do. The Corporation strives to keep the finances in good standing promoting accountability and transparency to our membership, clientele, and funders.

This year, NAN Legal Services Corporation lost one Board of Director, Ross Mamakeesic, representative of the Northern Chiefs Tribal Council. This individual was a very respectable member to the board. The board and staff appreciate his valuable contribution to the Corporation.

In addition, our long time employee and Executive Director of the Corporation, Celina Reitberger, has resigned after being with the firm for a substantial length of time. The Board of Directors and staff appreciate her outstanding contribution to the Corporation.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to all members of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation for the rest of this year.

May the Creator keep our nation strong!

Jim Beardy
Board Chair

Celina Reitberger, Executive Director - Annual Report

Change is in the air. Last year our long time PLECO worker left to work for NAN helping implement the inquest recommendations.

The new PLECO worker is Fred Jacob who brings a wealth of knowledge. He was a former Restorative Justice Worker, a renowned interpreter and linguist. Since his arrival he has been instrumental in setting up an in house radio transmission. We can broadcast without having to leave the office.

Tara Thompson finance clerk left for greener pastures. Her replacement Joanne Cheechoo did not miss a beat and is a valuable team member.

Seasonal Restorative Justice Worker Billy Kamenawatamin retired and is now a Band Councillor in Bearskin Lake. Annie Metatawabin went to work for her First Nation. We got funding for a Restorative Justice Worker to specialize in Sexual Abuse/Domestic Abuse cases. She now is back again working from Cochrane (serving Kashechewan, Attawapiskat and Fort Albany). Her depth of knowledge is incredible. We are pleased to have her back.

After much soul searching I decided to retire effective June 30, 2017. I will miss my colleagues and helping the people of NAN. However I leave confident that the corporation is on a strong footing and systems are in place, to ensure that it will continue to work smoothly and efficiently.

One of my proudest accomplishments is assisting communities to move forward with their own justice initiatives. This has been in the nature of writing proposals and providing support to communities. The following communities have received funding from the Ministry of the Attorney General to support justice initiatives.

1. Muskrat Dam – to reinvigorate their justice system
2. Sandy Lake – is in the 2nd year of their MAMEENIMWAYWIN ‘Talking To’ initiative
3. Mishkeegogamang – funding for a coordinator to develop Indigenous Peoples Court in the community
4. Weagamow – did their own proposal for Restorative Justice and we have agreed to support this initiative with training and material
5. Eabametoong – has received funding for youth healing (back to the land initiative) with a Restorative Justice component. We will support them in this.
6. Kasabonika – revitalizing QuyuK-Ka-chi-kay-win. At one point they handled all matters and the court only came into play if community banished offender to the mainstream court.
7. Attawapiskat – is working to bring back an Elders Panel
8. Bearskin Lake – is moving to By-Law Enforcement using the circle process. Only if that does not work will the matters proceed to court.

NALSC is expanding. We have received approval for three Gladue aftercare workers. They will assist clients who have with Gladue reports plan received lesser or no jail. These workers assist with follow up on Gladue report recommendations 'the healing plan'.

We have received funding for a new Youth Intervention worker for Wapakeka. We have confirmation from Operation Springboard for a Community HUB worker in Timmins. We now have 2 full time Victim Witness Liaison workers in the West, (Denise Spence in Red Lake and Wilma Carpenter in Sioux Lookout). As well there is a proposal for an extra Victim Witness Liaison worker in Thunder Bay.

We have hired an additional Restorative Justice worker on the coast Annie Metatawabin who specializes in more serious cases involving Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence. Some of our Youth Intervention workers are now doing Restorative Justice Circles part-time.

We have a Special Duty Counsel lawyer working out of Kenora to ensure better bail outcomes. Finally we are in the process of hiring a By-Law Enforcement Restorative Justice Worker for the communities of Cat Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Pikangikum, Weagamow and Bearskin Lake.

We have outstanding proposals including 2 aimed at doubling the number of Talking Together workers, doubling the number of Gladue workers, and a Youth Intervention/Restorative Justice worker for Mishkeegogamang.

Two important summits took place;

1. Gladue Training for participants from across Ontario took place in Thunder Bay November 29 & 30, 2016, Mary Bird was a lead organizer.
2. A Victim Witness Summit in Toronto January 16, 2017, which Joyce Crawford and her workers were instrumental in organizing.

In the fall I hosted a meeting at the Fort William First Nation with Peter Linkletter from Federal Corrections concerning the development of a Healing Lodge(s) in Northwestern Ontario. Moffat Makudo from the Multicultural Association in Thunder Bay is spearheading this effort.

The Indigenous Peoples Court officially began hearings March 6, 2017 in the court house in Thunder Bay. This court accepts referrals of more serious cases (not divertible). This could serve as a model for other Indigenous People Courts in NAN (e.g. Mishkeegogamang).

I attach for your information my community visits and other meetings.

In closing,

It has been a pleasure serving NAN people over the last 7 years as Executive Director and 8 years in other positions. You will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

Date	Activity	
April 4, 2016	Aboriginal Settlement Conference Suite (ASCS)	Thunder Bay Court House IPC planning
April 19, 2016	Executive Committee on Aboriginal and Diversity Issues (TBDP)	Meeting @ NALSC
May 9, 2017	(ASCS)	Thunder Bay Court House IPC planning
June 2, 2016	Aboriginal Advisory committee	Bora Laskin Law School
June 6, 2016	Executive Committee on Aboriginal and Diversity Issues	TBDP on Balmoral
June 9 & 10, 2016	Mushkegowuk Tribal Council	Orillia ON
June 14 2016	Board Meeting	Fort William First Nation
June 28, 2016	(ASCS)	Court House IPC planning
June 29, 2016	Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	presented on our Youth Intervention and Youth Justice programs
July 7, 2016	Aboriginal Peoples Court (formally ASCS)	Thunder Bay Court House Planning meeting
July 8, 2016	Mishkeegogamang	Attended with NAPS, OPP, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Kim Murray, Sheila Bristol Court Services Division and Regional Senior Justice J. Elder Re: court in the community
July 12, 13 & 14, 2016	Feathers of Hope - Champion	Best Western -NorWester Hotel & Conference Centre Focus on Child Welfare
July 27, 2017	Matawa Tribal Council	Eabametoong
August 3, 2016	Sioux Lookout	Open House for our new office
August 9, 2016	NAN Keewaywin	Taykwa Tagamou Nation
September 8, 2016	DFC	Student Orientation
September 9, 2016	Deer Lake & Poplar Hill	Met with Chief and Council
September 12, 2016	Executive Committee on	OPP Headquarters

	Aboriginal and Diversity Issues	James St. Thunder Bay
September 15, 2016	Board Meeting	Timmins Ontario
September 21, 2016	LAO	Quarterly meeting @ NALSC
September 27, 2016	Independent Police Director Review	Justice Tulloch Thunder Bay
September 28, 2016	Bearskin Lake	Assist Chief and Council with By-Law with Restorative Justice focus
October 4, 2016	Matawa Learning Centre	Presentation to students Know Your Rights
October 5, 2016	Healing Lodge	Fort William First Nation w' Peter Linkletter
October 6, 2016	Racial Profiling	TBIFC
November 29, 2016	Gladue Conference	Thunder Bay
December 7, 2016	Negahneewin Education Council	Confederation College
December 13, 2016	Matawa Tribal Council	Thunder Bay
December 14, 2016	Board Meeting	Thunder Bay
December 15, 2016	Shibogama	Met with Shibogama Chiefs in Sioux Lookout
December 20, 2016	Executive Committee on Aboriginal and Diversity Issues	Met with committee at the Thunder Bay Police Dept.
January 11, 2017	Negahneewin Committee Meeting	Presentation to Board of Governors
January 13, 2017	Cynthia E-W	Regarding Child Welfare
January 16 & 17, 2017	Victim Witness Conference	Conference with all NAN Victim Witness workers Toronto ON
January 20, 2017	Ontario Children's Lawyer	Meeting at NAN with OCL and DGC A.B.A.
January 30, 2017	Jenny Restoule	Consultation and Review of the needs of Indigenous Victim Services – Victoria Inn
February 10, 2017	Kate Forget OIPRD Lawyer	OIPRD - Thunder Bay Police Service Practices for Policing Indigenous People Systemic Review
February 5-9, 2017	Winter Road	Community and classroom visits to Poplar Hill, North Spirit Lake and Deer Lake
January 2 & February 13, 2017	Indigenous People's Court	Training for defence lawyers, Crown and court. Mary Bird did the February 6th training
February 14, 2017	Bryn Bamber	OJEN Matawa Learning Centre: Brad Battiston.

		President regarding initiatives to further inquest proposals
February 15, 2017	Neskantaga	Visit regarding Victim Witness services for Quisses family
	Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Bora Laskin Law School
February 21-23, 2017	NAN Chiefs @ Valhalla Inn	Presentation at the Chiefs table on Children and youth; introducing 'Family Wellbeing Workers'
February 27, 2017	Indigenous People's Court	Opening Ceremonies
March 1, 2017	Radio Show	OJEN radio show with DFC students to discuss OIPRD
March 9, 2017	Board Meeting	Toronto, ON
March 14-16, 2017	Fort Albany Kashechewan and Attawapiskat	Meet with Chief and Council re: Band By-Laws and Bail Supervision initiatives.
March 21-23, 2017	Revitalization of Indigenous Systems Band By-Law Enforcement	NALSC Summit held in Sioux Lookout
March 30, 2017	Keewaywin First Nation	By-Law Enforcement and classroom visits.

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Report of the Area Director – Legal Aid Ontario - Mary Bird

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the Legal Aid Program at Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services for the period covering the fiscal year 2016-17.

Certificates

Legal Aid Ontario was in a deficit position of over \$30,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year 2016/17. As such, LAO will be reviewed the new certificate legal eligibilities that were given last year and has cancelled some. Some of the eligibilities that will be reviewed are indigenous persons with no criminal record; situations where there may be secondary consequences such as loss of a job, consequences in a related child welfare case, etc. NALSC was not invited to give input on these changes before they were implemented. We have raised our concern to Legal Aid Ontario about changes being made without NALSC's input.

The Gladue Program

Proposals had been submitted to the Ministry of the Attorney General for 3 further Gladue workers, 3 Aftercare workers and 1 Gladue Supervisor. As of 7 July 2017, the funding for the 3 Aftercare workers and Supervisor were approved.

New Staff

We are also pleased to announce that we have hired Sonny Manoakesick as the new worker for the KO communities. Sonny will be located in Sandy Lake instead of Sioux Lookout

We have hired a staff lawyer Shannon McDonnough to work out of Kenora and to service the Northwest Region. The focus for Shannon will be on bail court and assisting in Pikangikum. Shannon is an indigenous lawyer, originally from Nova Scotia, who practiced law in Toronto for four years. Shannon started 13 March 2017.

Lloyd Comber has commenced as the Community Legal Worker for Pikangikum and Kenora in custody matters. Lloyd is a member of Pikangikum First Nation and worked for several years with the court as an interpreter.

Panel Management

NALSC's role in panel management is still being discussed with Legal Aid Ontario. The December Quarterly Board meeting was held in Toronto. David Field, CEO of Legal Aid Ontario and the Law Society were invited to attend to discuss the concerns of NALSC which they did. The issues have not been resolved to date.

Staff Duty Counsel

Shannon McDunnough started work as our staff lawyer in Kenora on 13 January 2017. Shannon has been focusing on NAN citizens brought into custody in Kenora and on Pikangikum courts. Shannon has filled in as Duty Counsel in a couple of the other northern NAN courts when needed. We have received very positive feedback regarding Shannon and she has been successful in having people released on bail and often returned to their community at a very early stage. Shannon has also been instrumental in getting the Crown office to provide sufficient disclosure to all counsel when people are first brought into custody so that their bail matters can be dealt with quickly.

Shannon's position was created specifically to deal with the high rate of incarceration of NAN citizens in the Kenora District Jail and the failure to have people released when appropriate and to assist with the backlog in the northern courts with a particular focus on Pikangikum at this time. When negotiating for this position with Legal Aid Ontario, Legal Aid insisted that no new money should be spent on this position but that the funds would have to come out the GDR and Duty Counsel program.

We have requested the funding for Shannon's position for the fiscal year 2016-2017. LAO responded on 31 March that NALSC was in a surplus position of approximately \$40,000 in respect to Legal Aid funding. Unaudited financial statement for the fiscal year was provided to LAO which showed the NALSC unaudited Legal Aid statement was in a deficit at fiscal yearend (2016/17) of \$26,164.32. Our cost for Shannon from the date of her employment to 31 March 2017 was \$27,779.56 not including start up costs. Despite that we have calculated that the cost savings to Legal Aid for the same period \$25,946.95. This amount is under-estimated as this is based on the per diem savings of the GDR for each northern court Shannon attends and for certificate eligible clients she has assisted. As Legal Aid was delayed in setting up Shannon's purchase order number, there are clients from earlier on in her position that Shannon did not post in the system. This does not take into account the other cost savings such as cancellation fees for cancelled courts nor the fact that Shannon has taken a considerable work load off of the Legal Aid Duty Counsel reducing the Legal Aid Per Diem costs.

Legal Aid is now requesting that we take the funds for Shannon's position from 13 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 out of the retained surplus. It is our position that, the retained surplus is still in dispute and that as this position was to be funded by the savings to Legal Aid in the overall NALSC budget (including the GDR/Duty Counsel and certificate program), that those funds should be paid by LAO.

We are still negotiating for those funds.

Presentations and Programs

11 April 2016 - Interview with Michelle Richmond-Saravia, Ministry of the Attorney General regarding the Justice Liaison Program to provide input on the design and scope of a proposed Justice Liaison Program that would be funded by the Ministry of Attorney General for Ontario as recommended by Recommendation 6(b) of the Report of the Honourable Frank Iacobucci which states:

After obtaining the input of the Implementation Committee, the Ministry of the Attorney General provide broader and more comprehensive justice education programs for First Nations individuals, including:

(b) establishing First Nations liaison officers responsible for consulting with First Nations on juries and justice issues.

15 April 2016	Martha Loon and I participated in a teleconference with CLEO – Steps to Justice – and have agreed to be on the Content Committee for their proposed “Your Legal Rights Website”
27 and 28 April 2016	Attended NAN East Justice Summit. On the 28 th I presented a half day session with various stakeholders on Child Welfare Issues. Some good recommendations came out of that session and I will be providing a report.
9 May 2016	Indigenous Sentencing Committee Meeting Thunder Bay.
15 June, 29 June and 10 August 2016	Advance Day meetings in Thunder Bay with Senior Regional Judge, Police, Crown Attorneys, Court Management, Andreas Asmus LAO and Defence Counsel to try and use Advance Days to ensure matters are dealt with in a timely fashion, to address bail issues in remote communities and release conditions.
13 July 2016	Criminal Court Committee Meeting – ongoing meetings with various Justice Participants to provide input on new rules for Ontario Court of Justice.
22 July 2016	Pikangikum First Nation to meet with the community, Regional Senior Justice, Crown Attorney, Police, Restorative Justice Worker, Victim Witness Worker to discuss dealing with the backlog in the Pikangikum Courts and to try and develop alternatives to the Court system
25 July 2016	First meeting of the TRC Gladue Committee (we had four in total) I was invited to be part of this Committee by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Kim Murray. The Committee will be hosting a three day Gladue Summit in Thunder Bay in November for the entire province to develop a plan for improving the Gladue Program throughout the province. This initiative is part of the funding pledged by the Province of Ontario to expand the program.
27 July 2016	Presentation to Nishnawbe Aski Police Services.
9 September 2016	Our Summer Student did a presentation to Creighton Youth Centre regarding Safe Sobering Sites
12 September 2016	Legal Aid Ontario Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting
12 September 2016	Community Safety Meeting at Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
14 September 2016	Timmins Probation and Parole with George Edwards, Gladue Worker to present on Gladue Program
14 September 2016	Cochrane Friendship Centre for presentation to court workers on Child Welfare Issues.

- 22 September 2016 Attend at Kitchenunmaykoosib First Nation with Carla Tomi, LAO re introducing Duty Counsel Referral system to remote communities.
- 27 September 2016 Submissions to the Tulloch Committee on Police Oversight
- 18 October 2016 Meet with Pikangikum to discuss proposed Community Bail Supervision Program with Danny Morton, Indigenous Justice Division, MAG
- 19 October 2016 Meeting with Kenora judges and justices of the peace to discuss Community Bail Supervision Program with Danny Morton, Indigenous Justice Division, MAG.
- 21 October 2016 Presentation to Lakehead Law School Law Students Association on practicing law in the north.
- 27 October 2016 Delivered a session to the Law Society of Upper Canada Fall Continuing Legal Education program on Matrimonial Property Rights on Reserve.
- 9 November 2016 Roundtable Discussion at MP Don Rusnak's Office re racism in Thunder Bay.
- 15 November 2016 Cancelled Due to Airplane Mechanical Failure – Fort Albany presentation on Gladue and By-law enforcement
- 17 November 2016 Presentation to Legal Aid Ontario Staff on NAN programs
- 25 November 2016 Gladue presentation on Wawatay radio by Jennifer MacKenzie
- 28, 29 and 30 November 2016 Assisted in the organization and attended at the province wide Gladue Summit sponsored by the Indigenous Justice Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General.
- 13 March 2017 CLW Firearms Application Clinic Attawapiskat
- 14 March 2017 to 16 Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Attawapiskat– meeting with Chief and Counsel regarding By-law enforcement – community meeting regarding Gladue program and Community Based Bail Verification program with guest Danny Morgan from Indigenous Division of Ministry of the Attorney general
- 29 and 30 March 2017 CLW Community Visit Peawanuck

Projects

Safe Sobering Sites – Our summer student has completed a Safe Sobering Site proposal for Aboriginal Youth and I have made contact with Michael Gravelle's office regarding funding.

Gladue Database – Over the last year and a half, our summer and part time students have been working on a Database of services for NAN members in trouble with the law. We have now posted the first draft on our website available publicly. This is an ongoing project.

Indigenous Court Pikangikum – Our Debewin funded summer student put together proposals for an indigenous court for Pikangikum. As stated above we provided all the material to the community, met with them and will hopefully meeting again to move this along.

Thunder Bay Law Association Continuing Legal Education Program – In conjunction with the Friendship Centre, I worked with Frances Wesley to develop and present to the fall CLE in Thunder Bay a session on the Indigenous People Court Proposal to the TBLA lawyers.

We have developed and distributed a Know Your Rights Card for Commercial Harvesting which will be ready soon.

Criminal Court Committee Thunder Bay - ongoing

Safe Sobering Sites – Ongoing

- Meeting with Larry Joy, assistant to MPP Michael Gravelle re funding

Community Task Force – Meeting 1 December 2016 NAN Office

Advance Day Court Committee – Ongoing

Bail Supervision Program – Danny Morton of MAG have been working together to develop a Bail Supervision Program for Kenora. The first Community is to be Pikangikum. Danny and I met with the Chief and Council and community members and the community is very supportive of the idea. The hope is to hire a Bail Supervisor in the community to assist people who would not otherwise get bail and to assist them in complying with their bail conditions. The funding has been approved and we have posted the job.

Revitalization of Indigenous legal systems – we were successful in receiving a grant to assist at least three NAN communities through the development and enforcement of “Intoxicant By-laws”. Work has been ongoing in a number of communities.

Indigenous Court Pikangikum – We are still working on the issue of the huge backlog in Pikangikum, including developing a more culturally appropriate justice delivery. Large numbers of Pikangikum members are still being removed from the community and remain in custody pending disposition of their charges that are delayed by the backlog. On 7 December 2016, I participated in a teleconference with the Regional Administrative Justice Hoshizaki, Assistant Crown Attorney Pieter Joubert and Trial Coordinator Cory Turcotte regarding management of Pikangikum court to try and implement some of the ideas discussed with the community.

We received funding from Debewin through Lakehead Law School and the Law Foundation for a Law Student for 13 weeks to assist putting together the proposal for a Special Court for drinking/driving offences in Pikangikum to be forwarded to the Chief Justice for approval. This is being supported by the Assistant Crown

Attorney for Pikangikum, the O.P.P. and the Regional Senior Justice. It is hoped that by redirecting these types of charges (which constitute approximately 30% of the charges before the court in Pikangikum) to programming that this will be more effective in reducing the incidence of drinking and driving in Pikangikum than the criminal court solution of imposing high fines and then jail. We are intending to attend again in Pikangikum with Deputy Grand Chief Achneepineskum and Regional Senior Justice Elder to meet with Chief Dean Owen and council to discuss this project. The Law Student is Molly MacDonald. She started working on Monday 2 May 2016

Memorandum of Understanding – the MOU between NASLC and LAO has expired. We have requested negotiating a new MOU with LAO during our August quarterly meeting. LAO advised that they would be providing a draft MOU for review and discussion. However, that has not happened, as such, I prepared a draft MOU which was presented to LAO in the Board Meeting held in Toronto in December 2016.

LAO has proposed protocols for if and how NALSC should be involved in Service Delivery and Governance and oversight including budget pressures and panel management. These proposals were discussed with LAO by the Board at the December Board meeting in Toronto.

Courts

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| 2 March 2016 | – Kenora Courts Stakeholder meeting in Kenora by telephone. Topics included court security, managing bail courts, the use of video courts and interpreter services issues |
| 9 March 2016 | Pikangikum Court with Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, Jodie-Lynn Waddilove, Executive Assistant/Legal Counsel to Kim Murray ADAG, Nikki Loutit, Assistant to Deputy Grand Chief and Heather Baillie, NALSC LAO coordinator, |
| 29 March 2016 | - Meeting with Regional Senior Justice Joyce Elder, Justice Joyce Pelletier and Celina Reitberger re: proposal for Specialized court for Pikangikum |
| 4 April 2016 | - Meeting with Indigenous Sentencing Court Proposal Committee – inaugural meeting |
| 11 April 2016 | - Follow up meeting with Jaimi O’Hara Aboriginal Initiatives, LAO re interpreter services – proposal to be forwarded by Jaimi to LAO to have LAO fee schedules for interpreters match that of Ministry of the Attorney General |
| 13 April 2016 | - Pikangikum Court to follow up on effectiveness of the new First Appearance Court - This has since been cancelled and the court has returned to two list courts per month |
| 14 April 2016 | Kenora Court to monitor Pikangikum matter to ensure that client needs are met – meeting with local defence counsel for input on proposed Special Court for Pikangikum |
| 19 April 2016 | Meeting Cochrane Region Criminal Justice Modernization Committee by telephone – Issues included diversion and providing information to persons at first appearance. Translation of information for people attending courts. |

Statistics

Firearms Applications and Renewals

Attawapiskat – 19
Kashechewan – 42
Fort Albany – 32
Peawanuck - 30

Gladue Program – In this fiscal year we received 64 requests, 9 were carried forward, 52 completed, 9 are in process, 2 are awaiting confirmation and 2 were referred to other offices.

Legal Aid Statistics

Attached as Appendix “A” – GDR/Duty Counsel Expense Report, Certificates and Charts

Advice Lawyer

Attached as Appendix “B” – Advice Lawyer

Respectfully submitted by

NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES
MARY BIRD – Area Director – Legal Aid Ontario

Appendix “A”

**Legal Aid Ontario
Monthly Expense Report**

Period: Mar - 17

		Budget				Actuals			
		Actual	Budget	Variance	% Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Variance
Duty Counsel - Criminal									
50000	Criminal DC	447,773	182,500	(265,273)		2,049,963	1,945,000	(104,963)	
51000	Criminal DC Adult	1,722	794	(828)		15,808	9,129	(6,680)	
52000	Criminal DC Youth	730	439	(292)		4,031	4,304	273	
55000	DC Guaranteed Daily Rate	202,150	201,878	(273)	(0.1%)	1,832,257	2,205,523	573,265	
		652,375	386,611	(265,764)		3,701,860	4,163,955	462,095	
Duty Counsel - Civil									
61100	DC Family Court - OCJ/UFC	0	287	287		899	1,894	994	
63000	Advice Lawyer - General	10,885	6,819	(4,065)		78,667	77,109	(1,559)	(2.0%)
65000	Advice Lawyer - Special	0	406	406		0	3,942	3,942	
		10,885	7,513	(3,372)		79,567	82,944	3,377	4.1%
		10,885	7,513	(3,372)		79,567	82,944	3,377	4.1%
TOTAL		663,260	394,124	(269,136)		3,781,427	4,246,899	465,472	

		Budget			Actuals		Actuals	
		Forecast	Budget	Variance	March	YTD	March	YTD
Duty Counsel - Criminal								
50000	Criminal DC	0	1,945,000	1,945,000	0	0		
51000	Criminal DC Adult	0	9,129	9,129	24	170	\$72	\$92
52000	Criminal DC Youth	0	4,304	4,304	12	58	\$61	\$70
55000	DC Guaranteed Daily Rate	0	2,205,523	2,205,523	260	3,168	\$778	\$516
		0	4,163,955	4,163,955	296	3,394	\$2,204	\$1,081
Duty Counsel - Civil								
61100	DC Family Court - OCJ/UFC	0	1,894	1,894	0	8		\$150
63000	Advice Lawyer - General	0	77,109	77,109	83	528	\$131	\$149
65000	Advice Lawyer - Special	0	3,942	3,942	0	0		
		0	82,944	82,944	0	0		
		0	82,944	82,944	83	534	\$131	\$149
TOTAL		0	4,246,899	4,246,899	379	3,928	\$1,760	\$983

Weekly report for the week ending
31-MAR-17

WEEKLY				YTD	
Weekly report for the week ending 31-MAR-17				ISSUED	EST DEMAND
REGION	DISTRICT	MRT	MAJOR	ISSUED	EST DEMAND
NALSC	D-302		Criminal	44	41
			Family	7	6
			Immigrator	0	0
			Civil	0	0
	Total NALSC			51	47

ISSUED	EST DEMAND
2,618	2,396
396	355
0	0
14	14
3,028	2,765

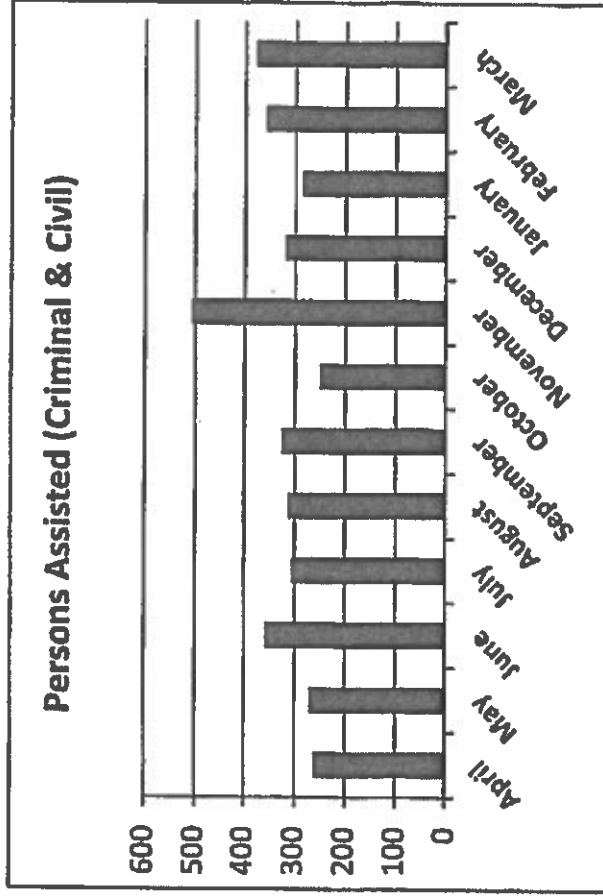
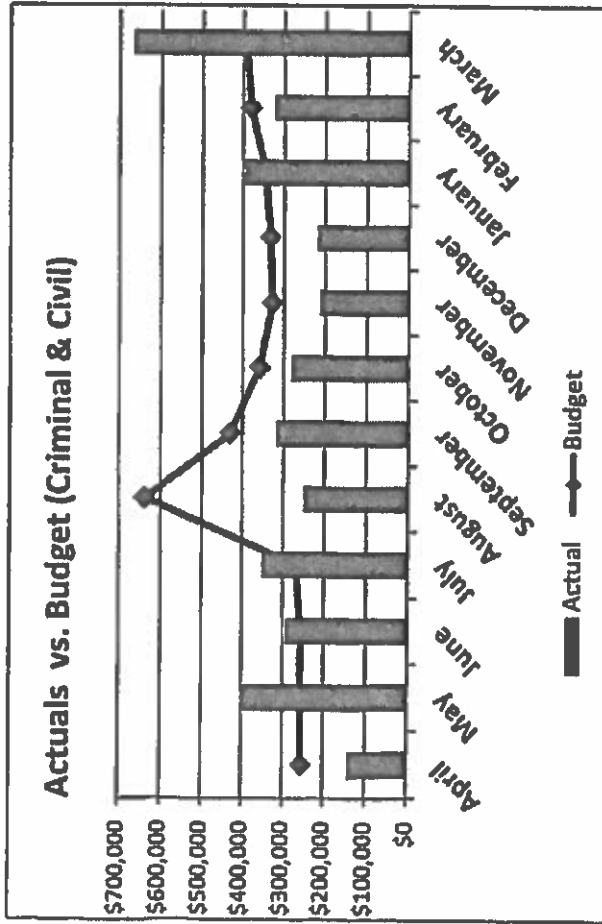


Chart Data			
Total Expense - Actual and Budget			
Month	Period	Actual	Budget
April	1	140,413	255,056
May	2	398,722	256,765
June	3	294,460	257,597
July	4	351,893	270,100
August	5	249,526	638,757
September	6	317,523	428,937
October	7	281,583	359,222
November	8	212,045	327,798
December	9	218,354	333,636
January	10	395,563	344,646
February	11	322,734	381,262
March	12	666,196	393,123

Legal Aid Ontario NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES DUTY COUNSEL EXPENSES PERIOD Year End 2015/16									
	YEAR TO DATE				# PERSONS ASSISTED			\$/PERSON ASSISTED	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	\$ VARIANCE	% VARIANCE	MONTH	YTD	MONTH	YTD	
DUTY COUNSEL – CRIMINAL									
CRIMINAL DC	1,798,817	1,435,000	(363,817)	(25.4%)					
CRIMINAL DC ADULT	13,898	9,120	(4,769)	(52.2%)	0	0	\$79		\$60
CRIMINAL DC YOUTH	1680	4,304	2,623	(61.0%)	23	230	\$61		\$60
55000 DC GUARANTEED DAILY RATE	1576,974	1,815,523	238,549	13.1%	7	28	\$570		\$492
	3,391,369	3,263,955	(127,414)	(3.9%)	269	3,208	\$1,488		\$978
					299	3,466			
DUTY COUNSEL – CIVIL									
DC FAMILY COURT – OC/JUFC	280	1,894	1,614	85.2%	2	4	\$70		\$70
ADVICE LAWYER – GENERAL	86,276	77,109	(9,167)	(11.9%)	26	455	\$171		\$190
ADVICE LAWYER – SPECIAL	0	3,942	3,942	100.0%	0	0			
	86,556	82,944	(3,612)	(4.4%)	0	0			
	86,556	82,944	(3,612)	(4.4%)	28	459	\$164		\$189
TOTAL	3,477,925	3,346,899	(131,026)	(3.9%)	327	3,925	\$1,375		\$886

Appendix “B”

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Legal Aid Ontario-Duty Counsel Statistics
Thunder Bay Advice Lawyer
Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Stats

TOTALS					
Criminal	141	Phone Call	407	Male	234
Family	191	Walk In	113	Female	289
Employment	22	Email	0		
Civil	76	Follow Up	3		
Admin	0				
Estate	25				
First Nation	24				
Treaty	0				
Other	44				

Matawa			Windigo	
Aroland	10		Bearskin Lake	10
Constance Lake	20		Cat Lake	10
Eabametoong	49		Koocheching	0
Ginoogaming	10		North Caribou	13
Hornepayne	0		Sachigo Lake	5
Long Lake #58	19		Slate Falls	2
Marten Falls	14		Whitewater Lake	0
Neskantaga	16		Total	40
Nibinamik	10		Wabun	
Webequie	16	Beaverhouse	1	
Total	164	Brunswick House	3	
IFNA		Chapleau	12	
Kitchenuhmaykoosi	10	Matachewan	19	
Lac Seul	15	Mattagami	11	
Muskrat Dam	6	Wahgoshig	1	
Pikangikum	11	Total	47	
Whitesand	0	Mushkegowu		
Total	42	Attawapiskat	16	
Independants		Chapleau Cree	0	
Flying Post	1	Fort Albany	15	
Mishkeegogamang	31	Kashechewan	1	
Mocrebec	0	Missanabie	0	
Sandy Lake	40	Moose Cree	17	
Weenusk	9	Taykwa Tagamou	4	
Total	81	Total	53	
Keewaytinook Okimakanak		Shibogama		
Deer Lake	14	Kasabonika Lake	12	
Fort Severn	8	Kingfisher Lake	2	
Keewaywin	9	Wapekeka	1	
MacDowell Lake	1	Wawakapewin	4	
North Spirit Lake	3	Wunnumin Lake	14	
Poplar Hill	1	Total	33	
Total	36	Other	27	

TOTAL CLIENTS ASSISTED = 523

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Appendix “A”

**Legal Aid Ontario
Monthly Expense Report**

Period: Mar - 17

		Budget				Actuals			
		Actual	Budget	Variance	% Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Variance
Duty Counsel - Criminal									
50000	Criminal DC	447,773	182,500	(265,273)		2,049,963	1,945,000	(104,963)	
51000	Criminal DC Adult	1,722	794	(828)		15,808	9,129	(6,680)	
52000	Criminal DC Youth	730	439	(292)		4,031	4,304	273	
55000	DC Guaranteed Daily Rate	202,150	201,878	(273)	(0.1%)	1,832,257	2,205,523	573,265	
		652,375	386,611	(265,764)		3,701,860	4,163,955	462,095	
Duty Counsel - Civil									
61100	DC Family Court - OCJ/UFC	0	287	287		899	1,894	994	
63000	Advice Lawyer - General	10,885	6,819	(4,065)		78,667	77,109	(1,559)	(2.0%)
65000	Advice Lawyer - Special	0	406	406		0	3,942	3,942	
		10,885	7,513	(3,372)		79,567	82,944	3,377	4.1%
		10,885	7,513	(3,372)		79,567	82,944	3,377	4.1%
TOTAL		663,260	394,124	(269,136)		3,781,427	4,246,899	465,472	

		Budget			Actuals		Actuals	
		Forecast	Budget	Variance	March	YTD	March	YTD
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52000	Criminal DC Youth	0	4,304	4,304	12	58	\$61	\$70
55000	DC Guaranteed Daily Rate	0	2,205,523	2,205,523	260	3,168	\$778	\$516
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31-MAR-17

WEEKLY				YTD	
Weekly report for the week ending 31-MAR-17				ISSUED	EST DEMAND
REGION	DISTRICT	MRT	MAJOR	ISSUED	EST DEMAND
NALSC	D-302		Criminal	44	41
			Family	7	6
			Immigrator	0	0
			Civil	0	0
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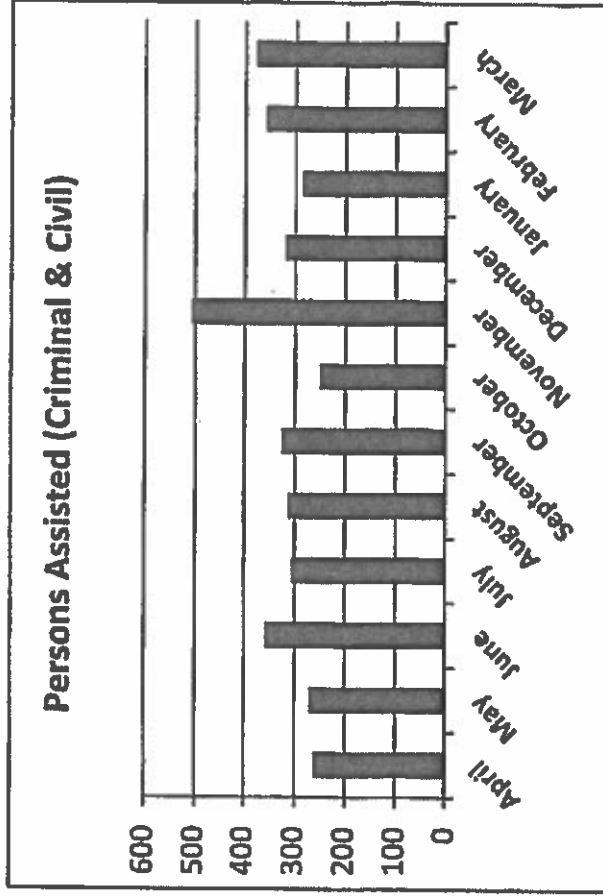
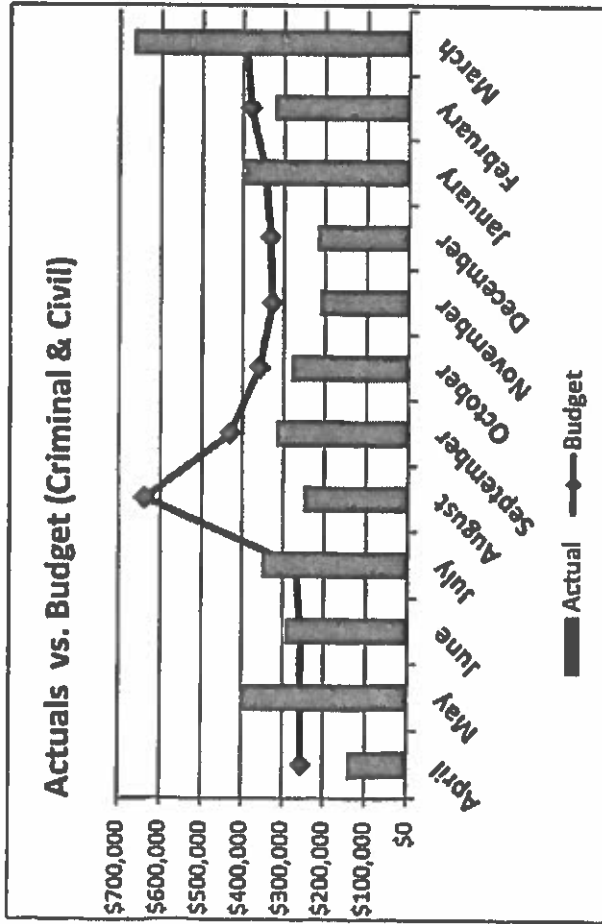


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March	12	666,196	393,123

Legal Aid Ontario NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES DUTY COUNSEL EXPENSES PERIOD Year End 2015/16									
	YEAR TO DATE				# PERSONS ASSISTED			\$/PERSON ASSISTED	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	\$ VARIANCE	% VARIANCE	MONTH	YTD	MONTH	YTD	
DUTY COUNSEL – CRIMINAL									
CRIMINAL DC	1,798,817	1,435,000	(363,817)	(25.4%)					
CRIMINAL DC ADULT	13,898	9,120	(4,769)	(52.2%)	0	0	\$79		\$60
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55000 DC GUARANTEED DAILY RATE	1576,974	1,815,523	238,549	13.1%	7	28	\$570		\$492
	3,391,369	3,263,955	(127,414)	(3.9%)	269	3,208	\$1,488		\$978
					299	3,466			
DUTY COUNSEL – CIVIL									
DC FAMILY COURT – OC/JUFC	280	1,894	1,614	85.2%	2	4	\$70		\$70
ADVICE LAWYER – GENERAL	86,276	77,109	(9,167)	(11.9%)	26	455	\$171		\$190
ADVICE LAWYER – SPECIAL	0	3,942	3,942	100.0%	0	0			
	86,556	82,944	(3,612)	(4.4%)	0	0			
	86,556	82,944	(3,612)	(4.4%)	28	459	\$164		\$189
TOTAL	3,477,925	3,346,899	(131,026)	(3.9%)	327	3,925	\$1,375		\$886

Appendix “B”

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Legal Aid Ontario-Duty Counsel Statistics
Thunder Bay Advice Lawyer
Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Stats

TOTALS					
Criminal	141	Phone Call	407	Male	234
Family	191	Walk In	113	Female	289
Employment	22	Email	0		
Civil	76	Follow Up	3		
Admin	0				
Estate	25				
First Nation	24				
Treaty	0				
Other	44				

Matawa			Windigo	
Aroland	10		Bearskin Lake	10
Constance Lake	20		Cat Lake	10
Eabametoong	49		Koocheching	0
Ginoogaming	10		North Caribou	13
Hornepayne	0		Sachigo Lake	5
Long Lake #58	19		Slate Falls	2
Marten Falls	14		Whitewater Lake	0
Neskantaga	16		Total	40
Nibinamik	10		Wabun	
Webequie	16	Beaverhouse	1	
Total	164	Brunswick House	3	
IFNA		Chapleau	12	
Kitchenuhmaykoosi	10	Matachewan	19	
Lac Seul	15	Mattagami	11	
Muskrat Dam	6	Wahgoshig	1	
Pikangikum	11	Total	47	
Whitesand	0	Mushkegowu		
Total	42	Attawapiskat	16	
Independants		Chapleau Cree	0	
Flying Post	1	Fort Albany	15	
Mishkeegogamang	31	Kashechewan	1	
Mocrebec	0	Missanabie	0	
Sandy Lake	40	Moose Cree	17	
Weenusk	9	Taykwa Tagamou	4	
Total	81	Total	53	
Keewaytinook Okimakanak		Shibogama		
Deer Lake	14	Kasabonika Lake	12	
Fort Severn	8	Kingfisher Lake	2	
Keewaywin	9	Wapekeka	1	
MacDowell Lake	1	Wawakapewin	4	
North Spirit Lake	3	Wunnumin Lake	14	
Poplar Hill	1	Total	33	
Total	36	Other	27	

TOTAL CLIENTS ASSISTED = 523

RJ and CYJP Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Restorative Justice & Community Youth Justice Program:

Restorative Justice Circles continue to be a method of achieving alternative justice in our communities. In specific criminal offences, a circle is created to promote the repair of damage caused by the crime as well as healing between the victim and the offender. It is a meaningful way to address the harm and restore trust and balance between relationships. The statistics show that our First Nations people continue to be over represented. With this program alleviates the numbers of future crime.

We continue to work on youth and adult diversions from our NAN communities. The majority of our referrals received are from the courts (lawyers, crowns), probation services and community members. Our field workers focus is attending court and working closely with communities to ensure ADR matters are completed in a timely manner. They have been very busy throughout the NAN Territory and there has been positive praise with work performance from all stakeholders including the court system.

In the interest of skills enhancement, program managers map out a professional development agenda for the RJ staffs as per the availability of training resources and training opportunities in the area of ADR.

Community Youth Intervention Program:

As in previous years the Community Youth Intervention Program will release a newsletter to highlight all the hard work and the activities that promote culturally sensitive approaches. This issue is now available and was released in March 2017.

We continue to incorporate the prevention program component to focus on working with young persons before they find themselves in conflict with the Law. This prevention work component has seen an incredible increase of youth attending and it has been a success.

NALSC realizes that there exists a disparity of justice services in the NAN territory in comparison to the mainstream society. It is the desire of the NAN First Nations that a balanced distribution of program resources should be achieved by accessing additional program funding. This is an on-going issue that program managers at NALSC are constantly addressing.

Victim Witness Liaison:

The focus of Victim Witness Liaison continues to provide services to victims and witnesses of crime by using a holistic approach to support and empower clients in a non-intrusive manner. We, offer alternative justice options such as the Restorative Justice Process. Other services include information, support, referrals, liaison and assisting with completing Criminal Injuries Compensation Board applications for our clients.

The victim witness programs in the west and central area continue to bloom. Referrals are consistently being received. We continue to network about our program via newsletters, radio broadcast, and community visits. This past year, we have focussed on networking and educating our stakeholders and communities by providing presentations about our program.

Currently, we have 4 Victim Witness Liaison Workers in the NAN territory. Recently, we have been approved by the Ministry of Attorney (MAG) for additional workers as this is much needed due to the high volume of referrals.

Staff Training:

We continue to offer professional development for the staff so that they may continue to enhance and maintain quality services to our clients and communities.

Staff participated with the following training;

August 2016-Thunder Bay, NALSC all staff gathering & Strategic Planning

September 2016-Thunder Bay, NALSC First Aid Training

November 2016-Workers did attend a three day conference in Ottawa, called; Restorative Justice Facilitator Training focused on how to response to harmful incidents that seeks the direct inclusion of all.

December 2016- Sioux Lookout NALSC Office Open House – Program promotion & Networking

A “Mental Health First Aid” training event is scheduled to happen in Thunder Bay with the John Howard Society on September 20 -21/17. This type of training is a first for our Youth Intervention staff and we are all looking forward to attending.

Throughout the year In House Training is also provided to staff by the Program Managers, Joyce Crawford and Vernon Morris.

Conclusion:

NALSC realizes that there exists a disparity of justice services in the NAN territory in comparison to the mainstream society. It is the desire of the NAN First Nations that a balanced distribution of program resources should be achieved by accessing additional program funding to all services we provide. This is an on-going struggle that program managers at NALSC are constantly addressing.

Lastly, we continue to offer culturally sensitive service delivery to our clients by being visible in the communities, attending court and being a strong advocate for our First Nations people.

2016-2017 Restorative Justice Program and Youth Justice Program Annual Statistics

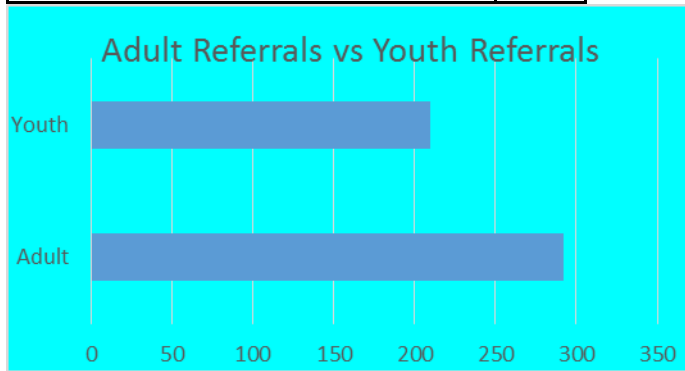
Referrals Referral Source:	
Crown	189
Lawyer	48
Legal Aid	5
Police	8
Probation	3
NAPS	1
CLW	15
YJ	1
YI	3
Self	10
Other	14

Total Referrals:	297
Total Files Opened/Closed/Carried Forward:	
Carried Forward:	206
+ Opened:	297
- Closed:	290

Files Opened by Primary Offence:	
Theft	84
Assault	67
Mischief	18
Break & Enter	3
Take Motor/Vessel w/o Consent	17
Breaches	1
Impaired	1
Drinking Under Age	8
Domestic	11
Possession	36
Other	51

Total Opened	297
Files Opened by Charge (Pre/Post):	
Pre-charge	38
Post-charge	259

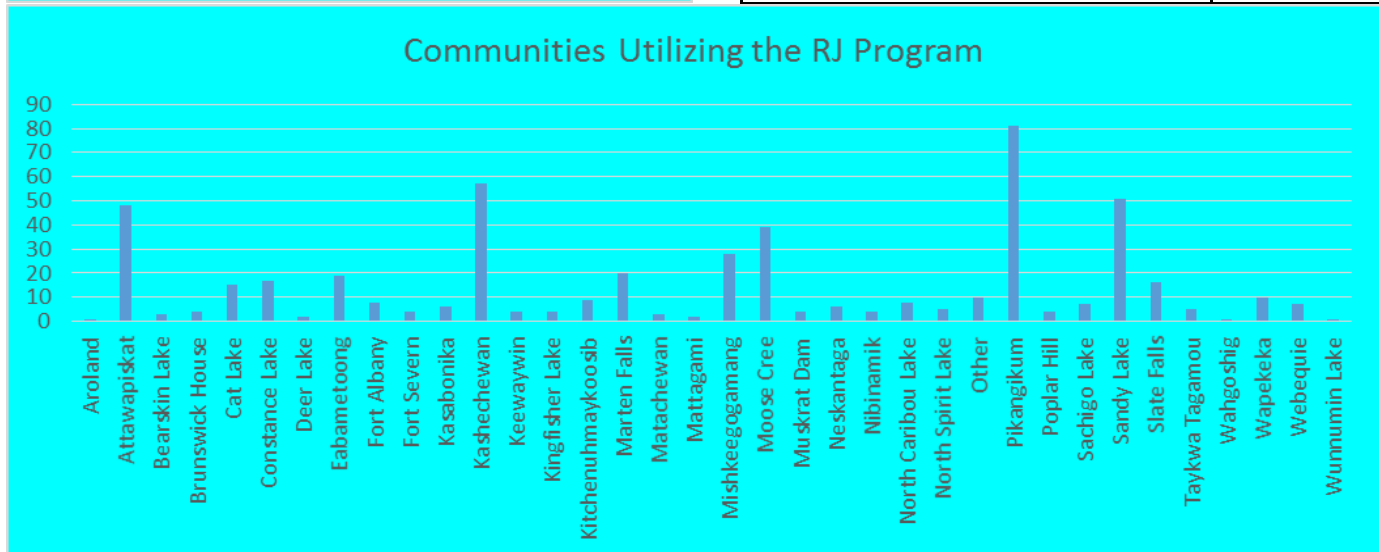
Total Open Files (at end of period):	213



Total Opened	297
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Files Closed by Outcome:	
Charges Stayed	6
Charges Withdrawn	217
Community Conflict Resolved	23
Community Diversion Incomplete	3
Conditional Discharge	15
Referred Back to Court	26

Total Closed	290



Talking Together Program-Annual Report 2016-17

The Talking Together Program has gone through a number of changes this past year, and some of the changes include staffing, programming, office space and administration processes. Overall, the Talking Together Program continues to be busy with referrals, proposals and service delivery to the Treaty #9 members on and off reserve.

Some of the highlights this past year include the office reconfigured to accommodate another station to allow for another space at the 109 Mission Road location. It now houses the manager, two facilitators, one program assistant/coordinator and one administrative/reception support and two other staff from finance.

As for other staff, we have facilitators located in Pickle Lake, Timmins and North Bay (CCCN project) and working towards obtaining a facilitator in Moose Factory/Moosonee. However, due to challenges in obtaining a worker in that area, our next step is to house the position in Timmins where they will travel extensively up the coast.

Talking Together Program staff attended the Reconciliation through Culturally Appropriate Child Welfare Practices Conference by Association of Native Child and Family Service Agencies of Ontario & MNAASGED Child and Family Services held in Sarnia April 26-28, 2016.

Keynote speakers Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, First Nations Child & Family Caring Society, Alex Bezzina Deputy Minister, MCYS, Dr. Marie Wilson, Former Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Practitioners, community members, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders were brought together to highlight best and promising practices in community-based child welfare prevention programs and services, and to dialogue on ways to best support Aboriginal children, families and communities. Educational and practical topics included; Approaches to reconciliation in child welfare, Aboriginal approaches to child welfare, culturally informed mainstream child welfare practices, Aboriginal approaches to alternative dispute resolution, Successful community-based prevention and intervention programs and services and new and emerging research in Aboriginal child welfare. We presented the Talking Together Program on day one and two of the conference, both presentations were successful with large number of participants attending. Most importantly, participants appreciated the mock Circle where a lot of good dialogue ensued throughout each presentation. Since then we have received requests for presentations from individual groups and organizations. All staff gained new learning, sharing and education on discussions, workshops and presentations that they can apply to their daily work activities here at Talking Together.

As part of a MCYS AADR project Six Nations Justice Program was the successful candidate in developing an AADR curriculum. They visited a number of communities across Ontario; and conducted focus groups and one on one interviews with individuals who practice AADR. The outcomes of the core curriculum are to: Increase the capacity of existing Aboriginal ADR facilitators to provide effective Aboriginal ADR services, and to build consistency in the provision of training to facilitators across the province, and increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal ADR services among CASs, the legal community (e.g. judiciary, legal counsel for children/families) and other relevant community partners (e.g. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community agencies) to promote the uptake of Aboriginal ADR services as an alternative to court in child protection disputes.

Project assistant Stephanie Morningstar connected with our office and has met with a number of our facilitators as a group and individually. Currently, they are tentatively scheduled to come to Thunder Bay to provide their new AADR curriculum training to our staff.

One of the initiatives TTP is working on is an expansion to the program. We have developed and submitted a couple of proposals, one to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services \$384k and one to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for \$774k. We are looking for dollars to hire more facilitators and administrative support to address the carryover referrals in the program and to continue to reach families who are in need of AADR in the Treaty#9 area on and off reserve. The proposals also include capacity building in each area and working with other organizations i.e. Victim Witness Services, Shelters, Hospitals, Treatment Centers...etc. One of the main targets that need to be addressed is additional workers in the coastal communities to address the high number of referrals. In addition to the above we are planning to look at Mediation as part of expansion and hope to develop a plan that entails mediation services along with AADR.

As a follow up to previous meetings with Marion Jocko OCL-Office of the Children's Lawyer, Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum and Carolyn Leach OCL counsel, Talking Together has worked diligently to send OCL notice forms out when there is a need for legal representation for a child where a prescribed method of ADR is proposed. The Children's lawyer may provide legal

representation to the child if appropriate when resolving issues relating to a child or a plan for the child's care. This has been a new process for us but is an important one when representing the child. As part of a tracking strategy TTP is in process of completing the notice form for ADR proposed under the Child and Services Act. Once the form is completed and reviewed OCL will be able to provide support to the child based on case criteria. This process may slow down some continuity of the program but it is our hope that the child will receive more support in their child protection matter

A number of updates have been made to our referral most importantly OCL contact and level of risk. This ensures level of urgency and quick response to the file and client.

NAN's Child Welfare Summit took place on February 21-23, 2017 here in Thunder Bay and TTP staff participated throughout the week. As part of NAN's reform strategy we engaged in breakout sessions (Partnerships, Advocacy, Strategic Planning, Wholistic Wellness and Community Values, Better Outcomes for Children and Youth, and First Nations Jurisdiction) over a two day period. On the last day Celina presented the Talking Together Program and shared success stories and how the process of using a circle in a restorative practice can put families and communities back together.

During NALSC April training we invited Cynthia Wesley-Esquiaux to participate in our Talking Together mock Circle. She is serving as the 1st Indigenous Chair on Truth and Reconciliation on behalf of Lakehead University Thunder Bay and Orillia campus. The Circle went well lead by Heather Napash from the Thunder Bay office. It gave Cynthia and NALSC staff the opportunity to learn about the TT Circle process and how it could be utilized by families, agencies, organizations and communities.

A number of staff participated in a Residential Program: Beauty for Ashes designed to educate and train individuals on how to interact with, work with and respond to those whose lives have been impacted by trauma, domestic violence, abuse & neglect. It built on effective communication skills and staff joined others in a healing journey by exploring stories and events that touched their lives. Topics were presented through large group training and explored in a small group setting. This program was instrumental in strengthening staff morale, aftercare, debriefing and building on skills needed when working with our clients and each other.

Talking Together has worked with Sam Wesley Regional Coordinator Ininiwak E Wichihitochik Victim Services on a presentation that was developed via Mamowihitowin of the Omushkegowuk Resolution No. 2016-09-15 Support for Nishnawbe Aski Nation Legal Services Talking Together Program. We had a number of tele-meetings and worked diligently with Sam and her staff to do a training/presentation in Timmins. We had 12-15 participants with most coming from the coastal communities. We also had a strategic planning session in the afternoon on how Talking Together can be utilized in the communities. It was a great start to a new relationship in capacity building. We hope to follow up with a conference call meeting with Sam and her staff within the next quarter.

Activity Overview

Meetings

TTP Staff Meetings (8), Advisory Committee Meetings (3), Moose Factory Health Service Meeting (1), NALSC Strategic Planning Meeting (1), AADR Curriculum Six Nations Focus Group Meeting (2), Kunuwanimano Meeting (1), NALSC TTP CAS Meetings & Consults (11), CCCN Meetings (5), Children's Aid Society Nipissing/Parry Sound Meeting (1), Moose Factory Payukotayno CFS Meeting (2)

Presentations and Training

Northern College, Dilico (3), Children's Aid Society Nipissing/Parry Sound, Geraldton Career Fair, Association of Native Child & Family Service Agencies Conference-Sarnia, Moosonee IFC, Kunuwanimano Kapuskasing CAS, AADR Symposium Toronto, Tikinagan Thunder Bay Office, Neskantaga FN, Pelican Falls Career Fair, Temagami FN, Confederation College, Slate Falls FN, Ininiwak E Wichihitochik Victim Witness Moose Factory & Coastal Area, Nipissing FN CCCN, Dokis FN CCCN, Wasaukasing FN CCCN, NALSC Open House FWFN, NALSC Open House Sioux Lookout, NALSC Staff Training, Cultural Competency Training TIFC, NAN Summit, Court (31)

Talking Together Program Statistical Report April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Talking	# Open	New Client	# of Cases	# of	# of Cases	# of	# of	# of Circle	# of
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Together Program Service Area	Files Carried Forward at April 1/16	Files Opened During the Year	on Wait List at end of Fiscal Year	Circles Held during the Year	where Agreement reached during the Talking Together Circle	Children who are the focus of Talking Circle	Families Involved	Participants	Participant Surveys Completed and Returned
James Bay	19	20	23	35	5	116	39	181	50
Timmins	16	34	19	54	14	103	50	308	111
Sioux Lookout	15	27	32	19	6	91	42	111	51
Thunder Bay	16	35	31	27	11	118	51	155	128
Total	66	116	105	135	36	428	182	755	340

**Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Talking Together Program
Participant Satisfaction Surveys-April 2016-March 2017**

A total of 342 surveys were completed by circle participants - April 2016-March 2017.

Did you understand why the Circle was convened?

Yes - 285

No - 0

Somewhat – 10

Not Selected - 30

What was your role in the circle?

CAS Representative 69

Parent 67

Family Support 42

Family Service Worker 38

Lawyer 1

Extended Family 19

Community Resource 29

Counsellor 7

Other 38

Band Council Rep 11

Elder 27

Please indicate the extent to which you believe the circle was helpful to YOU

Very Helpful 198

Helpful 134

Not very helpful 2

Please indicate the extent to which you believe the circle was helpful to OTHERS

Very Helpful 207

Helpful 131

Not Very Helpful 1

Please indicate the extent to which you think the Circle Facilitator was prepared for the circle

Very Well Prepared 222

Prepared 118

Not Well Prepared 2

Please indicate the extent to which you think the Circle Facilitator remained neutral throughout the process

Very Neutral 219

Neutral 112

Not Very Neutral 2

How likely is it that you would recommend the circle process to someone else who was in need of an alternative dispute resolution?

Very Likely 240

Likely 83

Not Very Likely 3

Not Selected 2

Some of the Comments/Feedback

- Circles are always so positive & 99% of the time the outcome is positive & great.
- Very well prepared and very positive experience.
- The circle was excellent. I enjoyed the frank & open discussions & the prayers. This is an absolutely essential process to Aboriginal ADR.
- This is my first circle, everyone was able to communicate and cooperate.
- The circle was nonjudgmental. Participants were supportive and encouraging to the family.
- All the things we did today were pretty awesome things made sense today. Everything worked out.
- A strong supportive circle is a good step for the family.
- Always honoured to help families in the TTC process. Keep up the excellent work!
- Very helpful & neutral kept the main goals in mind and meeting on track. Thank you so much.
- We need to be able to share this information to others who need help.
- To spread the work so that other families can use the circle as a means to settle disagreements.
- Circles provide great opportunity for all to participate and continue the journey in a positive productive way!
- Circles bring the families back together.
- Wonderful work – keep it up.

- Great work, very happy with progress and focus on the children.
- Circle was very good, good plan, good outcome for family.
- It was very neutral & helped all parties involved to understand the child protection concerns/risk/safety.
- Everything was very good-everyone seemed to listen well and treat each other respectfully. Thank you for your help.
- The circle was very good. I felt safe in the circle and able to speak freely.
- This circle was very beneficial in planning for the family.
- Sharing with grandparents and Child Care workers was good to hear and listen!!
- I feel that the Circle accomplished much and has set a direction for the better for all concerned. Very Well Done!
- Very positive, uplifting for my client and myself as the case manager.
- Steps are important-a great effort at planning and prep on everyone's part was refreshing.
- Always satisfied with the Circle process. Keep up the great work!

TALKING TOGETHER PROGRAM–COMMUNITY VISIT/EVENT/PRESENTATIONS EVALUATIONS-APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017

Participants are surveyed at community visits and presentations – Two Hundred and Twenty Five (225) surveys were completed and returned, and the following are the responses and comments:

RATE FROM 1-5(1=POOR/5=EXCELLENT)	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of the presentation was good	1	1	4	38	182
How likely are you to use the information you learned?	5	14	28	56	121
How useful were the hand-outs?	2	9	8	64	137
The meeting room was appropriate	1	3	4	17	150
What is your overall satisfaction of this session?	2	2	6	46	165
Please rate the overall coordination of the event	0	1	5	60	133

Some of the Comments/Feedback

- I liked the talking together circle. It gave me an idea of how they work and the process of it. The presentation was excellent and I learned a lot of new information. Very useful.
- The presentation flowed easily from point to point for the process. Would like to invite you to do a small presentation to our clients.
- Excellent presentation! I've been in many circles and have seen great success with family reunification.
- It was very informative a constructive way to think about child welfare. Keep up the good work. Strong circle, strong people.
- The presentation was very thorough. I really enjoyed the mock presentation in the cultural room.
- Very useful and thank you for sharing – always encouraging to hear success stories – gives HOPE!! Thank you!
- I like how the speaker was very informative when questions were asked. I came in late but thank you for handing out information booklets. This will be very important to know if I work in the field, that way families can be connected to support.
- Presenters spoke at a perfect pace. It wasn't forced or sounded robotic. Thanks for coming to our classroom today!!
- Speakers were clear and knowledgeable and passionate about the program and content they were sharing. All new information to most people in the group so it was very helpful. Thank you!
- I never know about this program, it would be good to see more presentations like this around the community to inform more people.
- From the information given the goal/process was clear and interesting. Responsive/answered questions thoroughly. Showed strong passion for what's being done and why. Didn't know much about this organization/program, but I find it interesting/good to know that this is available, it's more healing/working towards best interest of children and working with families as a whole, instead of getting involved with court (and other things) this offers culturally competent resources.
- I liked that it let me know that there are other agencies and options out there that I can utilize if needed. Very informative. Good job.
- Role playing the circle really helped to understand how everything works and what exactly goes on.
- The script circle allows the learner to visualize your sessions. Thank you for extensive knowledge and tips for facilitation. Full training must be awesome.
- Talking Together Program seems like a useful alternative to turn to when Children Services are involved

LL.º Δσ-ΓΡΑΔ.º Α-ΓΡΑΔ.º-ΥΠΔΕΛΠ ΡΑ-ΓΡΑΔ.º 2016-17

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2016 – 2017 Financial Statements

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Financial Statements
March 31, 2017

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

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Management's Responsibility

To the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Board of Directors is composed entirely of Directors who are neither management nor employees of the Organization. The Board is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Board fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Board is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the Organization's external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the Board of Directors to audit the financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Board and management to discuss their audit findings, as required.

June 27, 2017


Celina Reitberger

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations, and changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matters

The supplementary information contained in the schedules is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not part of the basic audited financial statements. The information in the schedules was derived from the accounting records tested in forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

Thunder Bay, Ontario
June 27, 2017

MNP LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash	438,876	404,965
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	135,511	129,198
Prepaid expenses	724	4,123
HST receivable	291,882	220,370
	866,993	758,656
Capital assets (Note 4)	77,368	35,039
	944,361	793,695
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 5)	283,306	331,560
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	199,777	-
Government remittances payable	37,030	16,626
	520,113	348,186
Contingencies (Note 7)		
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets	77,368	35,039
Unrestricted	375,403	410,470
Restricted	(28,523)	-
	424,248	445,509
	944,361	793,695

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Invested in capital assets</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
Revenue					
Legal Aid Ontario	2,144,196	-	-	2,144,196	2,031,227
Law Foundation of Ontario					
Law Foundation of Ontario	30,760	-	-	30,760	-
Department of Justice	498,910	-	-	498,910	498,910
Ministry of Attorney General	558,807	-	-	558,807	192,000
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	1,749,368	-	-	1,749,368	1,621,478
Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing	107,790	-	-	107,790	179,390
Springboard	120,000	-	-	120,000	81,409
Other revenue	41,576	19,800	-	61,376	88,906
Interest income	-	6,690	-	6,690	7,540
Internal management fees	-	213,616	-	213,616	215,765
Internal administration charge	185,000	-	-	185,000	151,888
Add: prior year deferred revenue	-	-	-	-	99,910
Less: current year deferred revenue	(94,777)	-	-	(94,777)	-
Less: repayable to funder	(4,521)	-	-	(4,521)	(27,653)
Total revenue	5,337,109	240,106	-	5,577,215	5,140,770

Continued on next page

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Invested in capital assets</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
Expenses					
Administrative	96,748	-	-	96,748	66,193
Advertising	30,414	-	-	30,414	30,710
Amortization	34,964	-	-	34,964	22,848
Annual meetings of members	21,429	-	-	21,429	24,281
Bank charges	1,164	-	-	1,164	1,372
Board of Directors - meetings	60,169	-	-	60,169	41,720
Community partnership	11,000	-	-	11,000	11,000
Computer	31,368	-	-	31,368	24,390
Consulting fees	-	-	-	-	1,613
Elder honorarium	16,697	-	-	16,697	24,393
Executive committees - meetings	5,116	-	-	5,116	4,448
Insurance and security	13,538	-	-	13,538	15,521
Internal administration charge	-	185,000	-	185,000	151,888
Internal management fees	213,616	-	-	213,616	215,765
Janitorial	17,511	-	-	17,511	19,169
Law society fees	12,166	-	-	12,166	303
Lease rentals	14,254	-	-	14,254	14,254
Library	5,161	-	-	5,161	7,920
Miscellaneous	73,244	31,785	-	105,029	8,130
Office supplies	125,644	36,014	-	161,658	151,176
Professional fees	36,685	-	-	36,685	29,539
Program evaluation	-	-	-	-	5,174
Rent and utilities	332,198	-	-	332,198	319,472
Salaries and benefits	3,373,359	20,577	-	3,393,936	3,122,812
Telephone	82,403	1,797	-	84,200	80,572
Training	101,390	-	-	101,390	114,652
Travel	652,014	-	-	652,014	533,500
Workshops/circle expenses	38,344	-	-	38,344	46,265
	5,400,596	275,173	-	5,675,769	5,089,080
	(63,487)	(35,067)	-	(98,554)	51,690
Other items					
Capital assets acquisitions included in expenses	42,876	34,417	-	77,293	42,436
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(20,611)	(650)	-	(21,261)	94,126
Net assets, beginning of year	-	410,470	35,039	445,509	351,383
Change in invested in capital assets (Note 10)	(7,912)	(34,417)	42,329	-	-
Net assets, end of year	(28,523)	375,403	77,368	424,248	445,509

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Excess of revenue over expenses	(21,261)	94,126
Amortization	34,964	22,848
	13,703	116,974
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(6,313)	(7,999)
HST receivable	(71,512)	(20,151)
Prepaid expenses	3,399	-
Accounts payable and accruals	(48,254)	42,213
Government remittances payable	20,404	1,770
Deferred revenue	199,777	(99,910)
	111,204	32,897
Investing		
Purchase of capital assets	(77,293)	(42,436)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	33,911	(9,539)
Cash resources, beginning of year	404,965	414,504
Cash resources, end of year	438,876	404,965

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2017

1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (the "Organization") was incorporated by Letters Patent dated March 31, 1990 without share capital under the Canada Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization and thus is exempt from income taxes under the Income Tax Act ("the Act").

The Organization was formed to plan, develop, deliver, coordinate and administer the provision of legal education and restorative justice, for the people of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation in a manner sensitive to and respectful of their unique cultural heritage.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada using the following significant accounting policies:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash held in chartered banks and petty cash.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined.

Amortization is provided using the straight-line method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives.

	Years
Computer equipment	3 years
Computer software	1 year
Furniture and fixtures	5 years
Leasehold improvements	5 years
System database software	5 years

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

The Organization performs impairment testing on long-lived assets held for use whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset, or group of assets, may not be recoverable. The carrying amount of a group of long-lived assets is not recoverable if the carrying amount exceeds the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows from their use and disposal. If the carrying amount is not recoverable, impairment is then measured as the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its fair value. Fair value is measured using prices for similar items. Any impairment is included in excess of revenue over expenses for the year.

Leases

A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership is classified as a capital lease. At the inception of a capital lease, an asset and a payment obligation are recorded at an amount equal to the lesser of the present value of the minimum lease payments and the property's fair market value. Assets under capital leases are amortized on a straight-line basis, over their estimated useful lives. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and rental payments are expensed as incurred.

An arrangement contains a lease where the arrangement conveys a right to use the underlying tangible asset, and whereby its fulfillment is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset. After the inception of the arrangement, a reassessment of whether the arrangement contains a lease is made only in the event that:

- there is a change in contractual terms;
 - a renewal option is exercised or an extension is agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement;
 - there is a change in the determination of whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset; or
 - there is a substantial physical change to the specified tangible asset.
-

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Revenue recognition

The Organization uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions and reports on a fund accounting basis. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the Restricted Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the Unrestricted Fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized in the Restricted Fund depending on the nature of the restrictions. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the Unrestricted Fund when earned.

Fund accounting

The Organization reports using fund accounting, and maintains three funds.

The Unrestricted Fund reports the Organization's revenue and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities.

The Restricted Fund reports assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to program delivery that are funded with restricted contributions.

Invested in capital assets reports the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to capital assets.

Allocation of administration and management expenses

The Organization engages in various programs. The costs of each program include the costs of personnel, insurance, rent, utilities and other expenses that are directly related to providing the program. The Organization also incurs a number of general support expenses that are common to the administration of the Organization and each of its programs.

The Organization allocates certain of its general support expenses by identifying the appropriate basis of allocating each component expense, and applies that basis consistently each year.

Contributed materials

Contributions of materials are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of operations and changes in net assets when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary.

Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

Accounts payable and accruals are estimated based on historical charges for unbilled goods and services at year-end.

Deferred revenue is estimated based on management's assessment of the unspent amount of funding received as at year-end.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenue over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2017

2. Significant accounting policies *(Continued from previous page)*

Financial instruments

The Organization recognizes its financial instruments when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value, including financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in a related party transaction with management. Financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in all other related party transactions are initially measured at their carrying or exchange amount in accordance with CICA 3840 *Related Party Transactions*.

At initial recognition, the Organization may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any financial instrument at fair value. The Organization has not made such an election during the year.

The Organization subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. All other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in the excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the current period. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at amortized cost or cost.

3. Accounts receivable

	2017	2016
Staff receivable	7,495	3,951
Receivable from funders	128,016	125,247
	135,511	129,198

4. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2017 Net book value	2016 Net book value
Computer equipment	408,062	380,382	27,680	19,092
Computer software	62,995	62,995	-	-
Furniture and fixtures	202,893	161,396	41,497	14,267
Leasehold improvements	43,082	34,891	8,191	1,680
System database software	20,000	20,000	-	-
	737,032	659,664	77,368	35,039

5. Bank indebtedness

At March 31, 2017, the Organization had lines of credit available to it totaling \$100,000 (2016 - \$100,000), none of which were drawn (2016 - \$nil).

6. Accounts payable and accruals

	2017	2016
Trade payables and accruals	93,385	131,325
Amounts repayable to funders	22,794	47,273

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2017

Salaries and benefits payable	167,127	152,962
	283,306	331,560

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2017

7. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue consists of unspent contributions externally restricted for delivery of various programs. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the specified expenditures are made. Changes in the deferred revenue are as follows:

	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of year	-	99,910
Amount received during the year	285,760	162,510
Less: Amount recognized as revenue during the year	(85,983)	(262,420)
Balance, end of year	199,777	-

8. Contingencies

The Organization is contingently liable to its funding agencies for any expenditures that it may have made in contravention of the contracts/agreements with these agencies. The actual amount of the contingent liability, if any, is currently not determinable.

9. Commitments

The Organization has entered into a lease commitment with Moose Cree Properties that expires on March 31, 2018 with annual costs of \$7,066 plus HST, payable on a monthly basis.

The Organization has entered into a lease commitment with 757592 Ontario Inc. that expires on April 30, 2019 with payments of \$7,479 per month including HST.

The Organization has entered into a lease for a number of photocopy machines with Compugen Inc. that expires on November 30, 2019 with payments of \$1,082 per month plus HST.

The Organization has entered into a lease for a postage machine with Neopost that expires on January 31, 2021 with quarterly costs of \$1,088.

The amounts payable over the next five fiscal years related to the above leases are as follows:

2018	114,872
2019	107,082
2020	20,486
2021	3,264
	<hr/>
	245,704

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2017

10. Change in invested in capital assets

The change in invested in capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2017	2016
Purchase of capital assets	77,293	42,436
Amortization expense	(34,964)	(22,848)
	42,329	19,588

11. Economic dependence

The Organization's primary source of revenue is grants from various government agencies. The grant funding can be cancelled if the Organization does not observe certain established guidelines. The Organization's ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon maintaining its right to follow the criteria within funding guidelines. As at the date of these financial statements, the Organization believes that it is in compliance with these guidelines.

12. Financial instruments

The Organization, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

13. Subsequent event

Effective April 1, 2017, the Organization was granted designation as a Registered Charity by Canada Revenue Agency. To be designated a registered charity, an organization must use their resources for one or more of the following purposes: relief of poverty; advancement of education; advancement of religion; and/or other benefits of the community it serves.

The Organization will now be able to issue tax receipts for donations, must spend a minimum amount on charitable activities and will continue to be exempt from paying income tax.

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 1 - Schedule of Legal Aid Ontario Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 <i>(Unaudited)</i>	2016 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
Revenue		
Legal Aid Ontario	1,881,866	1,868,717
Internal administration charge	185,000	151,888
Other revenue	19,769	12,959
	2,086,635	2,033,564
Expenses		
Advertising	6,269	12,425
Administrative	3,977	3,856
Annual meetings of members	21,429	24,281
Bank charges	710	959
Board of Directors - meetings	45,739	22,710
Computer	23,020	12,425
Consulting fees	-	213
Executive committees - meetings	5,116	4,448
Insurance and security	12,971	14,212
Janitorial	15,901	17,483
Law society fees	12,166	303
Lease rentals	14,254	14,254
Library	5,161	7,920
Miscellaneous	-	837
Office supplies	39,257	38,871
Professional fees	25,604	20,225
Rent and utilities	162,816	168,797
Salaries and benefits	1,520,757	1,458,976
Telephone	51,629	50,631
Training	18,450	22,614
Travel	128,526	130,924
Workshops/circle expenses	982	6,200
	2,114,734	2,033,564
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(28,099)	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 2 - Schedule of Department of Justice - Aboriginal Justice Directorate Revenue
and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Department of Justice	498,910	498,910
Expenses		
Advertising	1,004	2,723
Bank charges	454	413
Board of Directors - meetings	13,980	13,920
Computer	2,322	2,089
Consulting fees	-	1,400
Insurance and security	90	215
Internal management fees	37,000	37,000
Janitorial	1,611	1,686
Miscellaneous	-	2,025
Office supplies	7,873	8,467
Professional fees	2,200	2,200
Rent and utilities	29,895	26,962
Salaries and benefits	310,144	284,093
Telephone	17,347	15,151
Training	9,390	10,971
Travel	64,032	86,760
Workshops/circle expenses	1,998	2,835
	499,340	498,910
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(430)	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 3 - Schedule of Ministry of Attorney General - Victim Witness Liaison Revenue
and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 <i>(Unaudited)</i>	2016 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
Revenue		
Ministry of the Attorney General	349,807	192,000
Less: repayable to funder	(1,753)	-
	348,054	192,000
Expenses		
Advertising	2,838	710
Elder honorarium	100	100
Insurance and security	123	215
Internal management fees	29,158	16,516
Office supplies	11,355	7,605
Professional fees	2,200	-
Rent and utilities	15,967	15,487
Salaries and benefits	146,255	104,468
Telephone	4,504	4,207
Training	1,374	1,250
Travel	132,982	41,213
Workshops/circle expenses	1,198	229
	348,054	192,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 4 - Schedule of Talking Together Program Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	550,800	599,214
Other revenue	21,806	15,262
	572,606	614,476
Expenses		
Advertising	9,939	11,383
Board of Directors - meetings	450	5,090
Computer	5,921	8,761
Elder honorarium	12,247	18,380
Insurance and security	142	449
Internal management fees	19,800	16,809
Miscellaneous	454	603
Office supplies	17,822	20,013
Professional fees	2,200	2,200
Program evaluation	-	4,624
Rent and utilities	41,330	30,463
Salaries and benefits	378,502	362,173
Training	12,373	11,621
Travel	63,802	114,169
Workshops/circle expenses	7,624	7,738
	572,606	614,476
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 5 - Schedule of Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing	107,790	179,390
Expenses		
Administrative	3,000	3,000
Advertising	500	750
Computer	105	1,115
Elder honorarium	3,650	5,913
Internal management fees	14,796	36,781
Office supplies	4,835	3,597
Rent and utilities	-	10,896
Salaries and benefits	63,489	74,650
Training	2,461	4,275
Travel	13,417	36,652
Workshops/circle expenses	1,537	1,761
	107,790	179,390
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Schedule 6 - Schedule of MCYS - Community Youth and Justice Initiative Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	471,268	395,953
Other revenue	-	810
Less: repayable to funder	(2,004)	(27,653)
	469,264	369,110
Expenses		
Administrative		
Insurance and security	29,808	18,995
Internal management fees	90	215
Office supplies	38,078	34,994
Miscellaneous	20,715	12,702
Professional fees	13,424	-
Rent and utilities	2,200	2,200
Salaries and benefits	20,051	14,099
Training	251,076	210,348
Travel	9,579	4,877
	84,243	70,680
	469,264	369,110
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 7 - Schedule of MCYS - Community Partnership Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	11,000	11,000
Expenses		
Community partnership	11,000	11,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 8 - Schedule of MCYS - Integration Services Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 <i>(Unaudited)</i>	2016 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
Revenue		
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	716,300	615,311
Expenses		
Administrative	45,711	37,713
Internal management fees	50,000	44,669
Office supplies	6,849	9,355
Miscellaneous	59,365	-
Professional fees	2,242	2,528
Program evaluation	-	550
Rent and utilities	40,281	32,868
Salaries and benefits	409,940	382,102
Training	38,381	54,500
Travel	45,847	23,615
Workshops/circle expenses	17,684	27,411
	716,300	615,311
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 9 - Schedule of GLADUE Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 (Unaudited)	2016 (Unaudited)
Revenue		
Legal Aid Ontario	262,330	162,510
Add: prior year deferred revenue	-	99,910
Less: repayable to funder	(764)	-
	261,566	262,420
Expenses		
Administrative	1,734	1,977
Advertising	1,998	2,719
Insurance and security	123	215
Internal management fees	10,600	10,000
Office supplies	12,081	8,703
Professional fees	40	186
Rent and utilities	15,531	15,908
Salaries and benefits	182,678	187,683
Telephone	8,924	9,045
Training	6,992	4,544
Travel	19,820	21,414
Workshops/circle expenses	1,045	26
	261,566	262,420
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 10 - Schedule of Community Learning HUB Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 <i>(Unaudited)</i>	2016 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
Revenue		
Springboard	120,000	81,409
Expenses		
Administrative	3,233	652
Internal management fees	8,484	18,996
Rent and utilities	6,327	3,992
Office supplies	4,433	2,638
Salaries and benefits	78,525	47,222
Workshops/circle expenses	165	65
Training	2,390	-
Travel	16,443	7,844
	120,000	81,409
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 11 - Schedule of Access to Justice - On the Front Line Legal Information
Training Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Law Foundation of Ontario	30,760	-
Less: current year deferred revenue	(17,397)	-
	13,363	-
Expenses		
Office supplies	424	-
Salaries and benefits	11,206	-
Workshops/circle expenses	280	-
Travel	1,353	-
Elder honorarium	100	-
	13,363	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 12 - Schedule of NAN East Justice Summit Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Ministry of Attorney General	59,000	-
Expenses		
Administrative		
Internal management fees	9,286	-
Salaries and benefits	5,700	-
Workshops/circle expenses	10,000	-
Travel	5,832	-
	28,182	-
	59,000	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 13 - Schedule of Indigenous Legal Systems Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Ministry of Attorney General	150,000	-
Less: current year deferred revenue	(77,380)	-
	72,620	-
Expenses		
Advertising	7,867	-
Salaries and benefits	10,787	-
Travel	53,366	-
Elder honorarium	600	-
	72,620	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
Schedule 14 - Schedule of Unrestricted Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Internal management fees	213,616	215,765
Interest income	6,690	7,540
Other revenue	19,800	59,875
	240,106	283,180
Expenses		
Miscellaneous	31,785	4,665
Office supplies	36,014	39,225
Salaries and benefits	20,577	11,097
Telephone	1,797	1,538
Travel	-	229
Internal admin charge	185,000	151,888
	275,173	208,642
	(35,067)	74,538
Other items		
Capital assets acquisitions included in expenses	34,417	15,332
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(650)	89,870



A Symbol of Unity

The Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services symbol combines the traditional elements of the Aboriginal community with those of the Euro- Canadian tradition.

Designer Roy Kakegamic weaves a scales of justice theme into the symbol using a balancing peace pipe. The pipe is recognized as the historical sacred symbol for bringing understanding between different people.

The peace pipe is balanced on a tipi, which is the ancestral symbol for the home. On each side of the tipi is a feather hanging from the peace pipe. One side of the tipi is coloured white and the other side black symbolizing the need for understanding of the two sides of every story. In the middle of the tipi is a red opening, an open invitation to the coming together of both sides.

The three elements: the peace pipe, tipi and feathers are contained in a circle - the circle of life - without beginning or end. This creates the fourth element in the design. Each of these elements represents one of the four directions of the compass. This theme is repeated again in the four sacred colours in the symbol: red, yellow, white and black.

Combined, the elements in the symbol show that Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services represents the co-existence of two parallel systems of justice leading from conflict toward balance; from understanding to trust; and, from union to peace.

