



# NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

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1805 Arthur Street East, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2R6  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581

Zoom Christmas Party 23 Sioux Lookout: 47 A Front Street, PO box 187, Sioux Lookout ON P8T 1A3  
Phone: 807-737-7981 Toll Free: 1- 866-468-5151 Fax: 807- 737- 7297

Art Contest in KI 24 Timmins: 119 Pine Street S. Suite 210, Timmins ON P4N 2K3  
Phone: 705-268-1105 Fax: 705-268-0012

Moose Carnival 2021 26 Kenora: 308 Second Street S. Suite 14, Kenora ON, P9N 1G4  
Please contact Thunder Bay Office for phone contact information

NALSC remains open, please continue contacting us. If we are unable  
to answer your call, leave us a message and we will call you right back!



## Victim Witness Liaison Program

**Wanted: Community Volunteers**

**Poplar Hill, Keewaywin, North Spirit, Cat  
Lake, McDowell Lake, Koocheching**

Looking to engage committed volunteer/s on a regular basis to support all aspects of programming and services. Support and referrals/linkage to community resources.

- Must be 19 years or older
- Able to complete orientation via internet or phone

### **Duties or Roles:**

Assist the VWLP Worker/Program in coordinating support plans, community activities, keep and hold cell phone or device.

**For more information - VWL Volunteer Program**

Contact Alison Napish - 807-464-6534

Sign-up form available

**MEEGWETCH!**

# Restorative Justice



Pikangikum Midnight Hawks (Broomball Team)

## Youth Intervention/Justice - Gloria Turtle

In early December we started our broomball team with 15 girls ages 10 to 14. We started our practices down the lake before the snow packed on high. At first we didn't know how to play broomball, but we got a very nice lady who volunteered to teach us, her name is Lola Suggashie. Lola has been helping us with each broomball activity and loves to play broomball. Despite the covid 19 that is going on, we make sure that our girls are safe, we have a thermometer we check before every practice, we have masks that we use from our office that is shipped from our Nan legal office in Thunder bay and we play to exercise.

In the beginning the girls didn't know each other, but now that I

watch them play together, I see a bond that they are becoming very good friends. They help, motivate and encourage each other. In the dressing rooms they use to be so quiet but now they are just so loud that they can be themselves now and that is a great feeling to be able to reach out to the youth and get them to make new friends. Most of all to be themselves around a group of friends. We do have rules set and they follow them. If one girl breaks the rules we put them on a 2 min time out, and that does work. When working with youth it is best to set up ground rules to follow. It is one of the best guidelines to use before starting any program.

Since winter is slowly disappearing and broomball will end for the season soon, we are thinking of getting the girls to play floor hockey and soccer. This would be a way for them to stay together and keep on exercising. Being active and being healthy is one of my priorities for youth today. Instead of video games all day, because they need to enjoy the outdoors and if we introduce them to new sports they will begin to love it. Hopefully next broomball season we will start as early as November and the girls really loved the broomball jerseys. Thanks Nan Legal for all the support from the Midnight Hawks broomball team.

**Written by: Gloria Turtle**

## Bylaw Worker - Martha Kataquapit

My name is Martha Kataquapit and I currently work under the bylaw program at NALSC and have been for couple years now. I feel that I am very fortunate to be working with and assisting the communities I service along Mushkegowuk, as well as other communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. One example of this would be Fort Hope and working with Jean Rabbit-Waboose; Reintegration Worker who is my fellow co-worker. Currently, we are in the process of assisting the community with their needs through sharing information about traditional laws, including the history of elder court, and I am very happy to have the opportunity to assist them in this.

Its been a year since I have had the

opportunity to travel to communities, with my last visit being on March 11th, 2021 to New Brunswick house in the Wabun area. This was to do a community presentation with the local members at the time along with the Justice community workers. I miss having this opportunity to connection with the NAN members during the difficult times of COVID 19, however I have continued connecting with them virtually to ensure I am providing them with the services they request. It is challenging to not be able to enter the communities and have that deep connection with the languages and continue building relationships filled with meaningful dialogue that in person meetings provide. However, to protect the commu-

nity members and respect the local laws of the communities we have been able to embrace the idea of providing services over zoom meetings, phone meetings and by emails. I have enjoyed our partnerships at the community level, including the communities' leadership, the local sergeants, the Justice teams, the by law teams and have appreciated the inclusion of the community members showing the diversity of our nation.

Again, my door is open to any community members and working partner to assistance in this important matter at the community's level to assist in ensuring their needs and safety are our top priority.

# Restorative Justice

Good day/Booshoo: My year in review...hmmmm....it has been very testing for sure! At first when it was announced staff were to work from home I thought, "Well, I work alone, so it didn't apply to me" I have been going to my office daily, which means no change. So, too bad, I had to get out of bed at my usual time 6:00 am, take a shower, my 2 cups of coffee & head to work. I did find the streets bare, no on around whatsoever, so people were complying to the new rules. Then, I thought how are to do our Circles? Well, after much thought and tried to be "formal" such as writing letters to clients. Well, that didn't go too well. So, after reviewing the case file synopsis I thought, I think I will contact the victim first, then the offender. I tried to get a hold of support workers in the communities but it was near impossible to do. I tried via email or even texting. Some responded, some not. I thought, "oh well, I tried". This last year sure has been trying. I know now once a client has reached out to me, I book them right

then. It was slow going at first, but now, wow!! Sure is busy..... Some clients are very co-operative, meaning they will do their requirements right away. While others, well, another matter. I think I've heard most people say, I can't do it because of COVID. Then it had me thinking of ways for them to do hours from home. So there is really no excuse. As long as the client practices the social distancing, face mask, and just complying to the rules, there really is no excuse other than medical.

Once this is over and things are back to "normal" there are new ways now to do Circles. If you can't travel to the community, then this past year experience is the way to do them. No excuses as an RJ Worker. But I have always put my clients first. They rely on NAN Legal to assist them deal with their matters. I have been asked about assisting in Legal Aid, etc. One comes to realize that First Nations rely on NAN Legal in many ways, not just court matters.

So after catching my breath, I pray & hope everyone stays safe and healthy. I've had medical issues as well this past year and it's scary! I never realized as you get older, your body can break down. Advice to the young people, keep healthy, and remember moderation, moderation, moderation is the key. I wished I would have looked after my body better....lol!

In closing, my wish for everyone is to be COVID-free, eat healthy, get your exercise, and stay out of trouble! Life is too short. As one of my Elders would say, "mee-ih-weh".

***Gitchi-meegwetch!***  
***Shirley Keesic***

As another year has gone by and with all of us adjusting to this new way of living. Not to mention, how we conduct business day to day within the NAN Territory for the clients we serve. This change was not always easy to adapt or even accept at times. However, we are still here and continuing the do the work as we move forward. I was always told, that when there's a negative situation a positive will follow.

Having this time, to explore what's available for the client during this time of COVID-19 as it relates to healing and programming. We noticed access barriers because of jurisdictions, cost and travel restrictions. Which had us to explore and "think outside of the box" and take on initiative to provide programming.

Many of the clients I work with are within the Court system because they have cause harm to their partner. Whether it was physically or to their personal property. When the Crown screens their file, some will be re-

ferred to our Restorative Justice Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program (RJ SA/DV). The Crown will ask for the individual to participate and complete a Partner Assault Response Program, however, with the barriers in place this made it challenging. We see the importance of an individual to participate in this program, so in the meantime, we utilize our Elder's for teachings during the Circle. I meet with the client before and after the Circle to discuss domestic violence education and awareness provide ongoing support. As part of the referral process, the RJ SA/DV program send the information to the NALSC Victim Witness program. The VW worker will reach out the victim and seek their input. Our programs work collaboratively, to provide ongoing support to the victim and the client (offender) in relation to healing and moving forward.

I am overly excited to announce that Nan Legal will have trained facilitators of the PAR program which will be de-

livered by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP) – Home of the Duluth Model. The PAR program will help individuals resolve conflict in a non-violent way, take responsibility for their behaviour, understanding the effects this may have on their children, partner and others that may be a witness to the behaviour. I can not express my gratitude for this opportunity and all our workers that will be certified trained facilitators. This will be taking place at the end of April 2021. Stay tuned for upcoming programming for members of the NAN Territory.

Miigwetch and stay safe!

***Alana Odawa***  
***Restorative Justice***  
***SA/DV Team Lead***



# Restorative Justice — Pre-Charge



**Hello, Wahchay** - my name is Amanda Hardisty I am a young indigenous woman from Moose Cree First Nation, a dedicated mother, spouse, student and a passionate justice advocate for my People. I am the Pre-Charge Restorative Justice facilitator based out of Cochrane. I service the communities of Cochrane, Wahgoshig, Matachewan, Mattagami, Chapleau, Taykwa Tagamou, Moose Factory, Fort Albany, Attawapiskat, Kitchensawan, and Peawanuck. Previous to my current position with NALSC, I worked for Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service for three years in the east region.

With my position with NALSC I intend on implementing change and advocating for our People in new ways to keep them out of a westernized justice system, to

focus on healing and rebuilding cultural and familial relationships within themselves and with the people around them. Cultural education and justice advocacy have been a cornerstone of my journey through life, and it is a passion I wish to use to help my People. My main goal with this program is to achieve that is the new protocol when dealing with Youth within the communities, as well as the Youth who are living in urban settings.

Through my time with NAPS, I was able to get first-hand experience of what life is like on a reserve. I experienced how our People suffer, and what it sometimes manifests into. And how their resulting actions can be so supremely harmful to themselves, their victims, and their community members. I seen that

our People need compassion, a chance to sit down and make it right, to come back to our ancestor's way of life and resolution. My plight has always been Justice for my People, and I plan on utilizing every opportunity I am given through NALSC to be that change needed.

I am so grateful to be a new member of the Restorative Justice team, and the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation family. I look forward to working with everyone and seeing what we can all accomplish together.



## **Hello, Booshoo, Bonjour**

My name is Zachary Borutski and I am the new pre-charge worker for the west NAN region based out of Sioux Lookout. I'm thankful to be part of the launch of the Pre-Charge program.

Since beginning my employment I have established community relationships, and assisted over ten NAN community members in referral's for pre-charge. I am looking forward to learning more about the NAN territory and working with the NALSC team.

**Please feel free to contact me at**

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation  
Sioux Lookout, ON  
Phone: 807-633-0879  
Email: [zborutski@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:zborutski@nanlegal.on.ca)



# Pre-Charge Referral Flow Chart



Developed by the Restorative Justice Program

*This referral process differs from the post-charge restorative justice referral process.*

# Gladue Program: A Year in Review

Waacheya, boosho and hello from the Gladue program. It is having been a challenging year, especially as we mark the first anniversary of COVID-19 since it was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom stated on March 11, 2020, to the world of the severity of the corona-virus illness spreading globally and the impacts it will have:

“This is not just a public health crisis, it is a crisis that will touch every sector...So every sector and every individual must be involved in the fight.”

That statement alone in regards to the health crisis also impacted the delivery of services, for NALSC, the Gladue program was impacted by court closures and delivery services to NAN clients. The Gladue writers and caseworkers began working from home when a “work from home,” directive was issued, and travel was restricted to comply with safety measures guidelines that were implemented.

## Gladue STATS

Gladue Reports	North West	North Central	North East	Total
2019- 2020	34	25	39	98
2020- 2021	10	13	16	39

Above is chart shows comparison from last year stats to this year reports:

- Gladue reports requests are drastically down from previous years due to Pandemic:
- Courts were suspended due to Pandemic and limited access to corrections for Gladue interviews.
- Over the phone interview were conducted and video conferencing.
- Social media such as Facebook faceting became increasing productive way for communication.
- Lawyers representing clients adjourning matters and further remands for in custody.
- Gladue caseworkers had to adjust to new norms due to covid in case management.
- Gladue caseworkers making referrals through virtual treatment and counselling.

Gladue program is very optimistic about future ways of communications and bridging services within NAN territory. Moreover, Gladue workers are finding innovative ways of communication through social media, bridging community services and engaging our clients during the Pandemic.

Gladue Flyer inserted to the living common areas of the Thunder Bay District jail, Kenora District jail, Monteith Correctional Complex and the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre. This is to ensure that the Gladue program makes awareness to NAN community members of their rights in the judicial system awaiting sentencing.

## Lawyer feedback for the gladue program during the pandemic;

“Terri Zoccole has been a tremendous asset to the administration of Justice. She has provided significant support to the Indigenous accused persons through the pandemic and her efforts are greatly appreciated,” Brennan Sacevich, Defense Attorney, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

“I want to thank you and your entire team for your response to the needs of our clients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be very difficult, even in the best of times, to communicate with persons living in the remote northern communities and in the jails. The coronavirus protocols and lockdowns compounded that problem but your team persisted and made the transition. Your team's dedication to the people we serve is evident in the detail of the Gladue Reports and Letters that they prepare despite the obstacles. With these great reports as my foundation, I have been able to secure more meaningful sentence hearings and fewer jail sentences which means better lives for my clients. Chi-miigwetch!” Nancy Cooper, Defense Counsel, Timmins, Ontario.

“The Gladue Program through NAN Legal has been very beneficial not only to the accused – but also to the lawyer and the Courts. The Gladue team provides valuable insights into the systemic and personal factors that bring an accused before the criminal justice system. An individual is more than the circumstances that bring them before the Courts- and the NAN team does an amicable job at bringing these other factors to the forefront. Couldn't be happier with the work that they do!” Tyler Hopkins, Defense Attorney, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

# Gladue Program



Leslie's Office in Red Lake, ON.

## (Half) Year Reflections

**Hello.** My name's *Leslie King* and I am a Gladue Writer based in Red Lake. My first day of work was August 31, 2020, so although I haven't been with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation for a year; I thought I'd share a few thoughts from my first half-year (before I forget them; I, and my memory "banks" are, after all, not getting any younger).

First of all, I'd like to say I am grateful to be employed during these pandemic times. I know there are many who are not so fortunate and so I have to remind myself that I'm lucky to be employed; and with an organization that has so many hard-working, talented and smart peeps. Which leads to my 1<sup>st</sup> half-year reflection:

I, like many others, I'm sure, did not get the chance to attend an Orientation Session because of the pandemic, and did not get a chance to meet some of my co-

workers face-to-face. So, some of those personal connections are missing (although I should maybe be thankful for some personal connections not being made; like, for example, personal connections with bad breath! Just kidding). But thanks to Zoom, I've been able to see many of my co-worker's faces and have been able to hear their voices and hear the many great ideas and thoughts that have been shared. I also kind of know who the quiet ones are and look forward to learning more about them and their ideas; maybe through another form of communication; such as this newsletter. I'm sure it'll be great when we can all get together again; but until then, there's Zoom.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> observation I'd like to make has to do with travel, or I guess, the lack of travel. And again, it is due to the pandemic and is connected to my first reflection about no Orientation Session. Because of the pandemic restrictions on travel, I was not able to travel to attend an Orientation Session and meet co-workers. What it has meant too, is that I have not been able to travel to Pikangikum First Nation, or the Kenora District Jail, to meet service users face-to-face to interview them for their Gladue Reports. This has meant the loss of the opportunity to make a personal connection with service users, which in turn could lead to more productive and meaningful exchanges of information. Telephone communication does have its limits when attempting to make personal connections with service users.

On the other hand, I wonder if there is a feeling of relief, for some, who maybe struggle with feelings of anxiety when it comes to meeting people face-to-face,

especially when the other person is some kind of official-sounding worker (Or maybe they're just worried the other person will be ugly? Just kidding). It may be that way for the worker too (not that they're worried the service user will be ugly), especially if maybe they've heard the person they are going to interview, can, for example, be a mean person to people outside their family or community. In those circumstances, a telephone call may be preferable. Point being, before I get too distracted, a face-to-face meeting, in many instances, may produce a more personal interview and thus a more meaningful Gladue Report; at least in the work I, as a Gladue Writer, do. It will be interesting to see if my Gladue Reports change after the lockdown is lifted.

Personal connections matter in the work we do, and in this Covid-19 era, with this loss of personal connections, it is encouraging to see all the good work that is still being done by this collective known as Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation [NALSC]. I am *glad* (shout out to the Gladue Team!) to be a part of this NALSC team and look forward to the day we can collaborate on a more face-to-face basis. Until then, keep up the great work, everyone and I look forward to reading about your work in future newsletters. Miikwech.

**NEED A GLADUE REPORT?**  
**ARE YOU A NAN MEMBER?**  
**WHY SHOULD YOU GET ONE?**

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services (NAN Legal) Call toll free 1-800-465-6581, ask for a Gladue worker who can get a request form to you. Fill it out, you have rights and one is to have a Gladue Report when you are before the court! A Gladue Report is different from a Pre-sentence report. A Gladue Report tells your story about your family and community. Call will go directly to NAN legal services. Ask for Gladue. They will transfer you to us! Mon-Fri 9-5pm. (807)622-1433.

# Gladue Program

## Giles Akiwenzie — Gladue Caseworker

**Wachey,**

My name is Giles Randall Akiwenzie. I am a member of the Chippewas of Nawash Band, still the proud owner/operator/captain of the unceded commercial fishing vessel 'KeeptheChange' and humbled to be one of the recognized 'ogitita/ogima' in my community.

I have accepted the job offer by Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services to be a Gladue Case Worker working out of the Timmins office servicing the North-east region. I will be assisting aboriginal people who

have come into contact with the criminal justice system and have chosen to participate in the Gladue program. I will be making recommendations to the Gladue writers on how justice or rehabilitation of the person could be done in a culturally appropriate setting with culturally appropriate services.

I am very happy to return to the NAN territory where the people remain strong with their connection to the land, language and culture. I shall do the best I can to reduce recidivism in the First Nations

communities I serve, and, will commit myself once again to promoting ways to overcome intergenerational trauma and help all clients of the Gladue program to reintegrate and recognize their valued position within the nation, the community and their family.

**If ever you need my help, I can be reached by**

**Office: 1 (705) 268-1105 ex. 206**

**Cell Phone: 1 (705) 288-0841**

**Email:**

**gakwenzie@nanlegal.on.ca**



**Wacheyay!**

**My name is Rutanya Iserhoff**

**Gladue Writer**

I'm from Fort Albany First Nation but I grew up in Timmins, Ontario. I am recent graduate of Nipissing University where I graduated from the Criminal Justice program. I've always had a keen interest in the law field. Working with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services as a Gladue Writer has been a

positive learning experience and I am happy for the opportunity to work with our Indigenous population. It has been a rewarding time thus far working with NALSC and I am continuing to learn and broaden my knowledge in the legal field.

## **Aaniin - Wachay - Hello!**

Since January and reopening, the Gladue team in Timmins have been quite busy in assisting our clients as the courts have reopened as well. We continue to work in staggered schedules and maintain safe practices due to the Covid 19 virus. It has been trying times but keeping a positive outlook is so important to our mental health during this pandemic. With that being said I am grateful to be part of a supportive, caring and wonderful staff! Be safe and stay healthy everyone!

**Miigwetch**

**Shannon Naveau**



Back row: Lenny carpenter (Gladue Writer) Melissa Sutherland (Talking Together Facilitator) Jackie Edwards (Community Legal Worker) Madeline Kioke (Community Legal Aid) Melanie Mohan (Victim Witness Liaison) Rutanya Iserhoff (Gladue Writer)

Front row: Trisha Wesley (Indigenous Bail Worker) Martha Kataquapit (Bylaw Worker) Shannon Naveau (Gladue Caseworker) Catherine Gull (Indigenous Bail Worker) Adam Mack (Public Legal Education)

## Legal Aid

### **A year in review for NALSC.** Submission by

Roberta Wesley Community Legal Worker for Matawa Drive-in Communities.

This year I celebrate 11 years with our vastly growing organization. I would like to firstly acknowledge our



Justice Dino DiGiuseppe

Chi Gaashaaminamondoo, for protecting all my colleagues of our organization during the worldly pandemic. We have walked together on this very difficult journey not only to shake off most of the fears associated with continuing to service our people through this time is truly a blessing. We must continue to walk together through the storms and again make it through another cycle.

As well I'm sharing this picture of a great man we lost during this pandemic which really affected my role as a CLW for my area. He surely was for our people and left to paradise way to soon, so on behalf of NALSC he truly was a great judge to work with for the years we had in his Court Room Justice DiGiuseppe. One of my last courts with him was March 5th & 6th, 2020 and both days

he made it clear to everyone in the court room when I would speak and said now this is the woman who has the most control of the courtroom and the expertise of locating someone we sometimes can't locate.

His last words to me was "Miss Wesley don't ever retire before me...you're always one step ahead of me, you know how I think and what my outcome will be so with that said, you're a great asset to our satellite courts"

Our department in LAO went through some difficult times, with one of our most experienced colleagues taking ill and having to leave us, daily prayers to her as well for her recovery, it's hard on us because we're practically family.

## Summary Advice Lawyer

**Boozhoo, my name is Robert Atatise.** I am one of the contract per diem Summary Advice Lawyers for NAN Legal Services Corporation. I have had the pleasure of working with this wonderful organization for approximately 3 years. I take great pride in my role and enjoy assisting the members of NAN. The experience has been amazing and I am humbled to have the opportunity to work among such great staff, lawyers, communities, managers, and leaders, all who are dedicated to serving NAN, especially in these trying times of Covid-19.

I just wanted to remind the folks of NAN that the **Summary Advice Lawyer Clinic** is operational remotely, with lawyers available to assist with your general legal questions. Summary Advice Lawyers are available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1pm – 5pm EST and are on standby to assist you in navigating the legal process, whether family law, criminal law, employment law, wills and estates law, etc.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to NAN Legal Services Corporation and allow the dedicated Summary Advice Lawyers an opportunity to assist you with your legal questions. A meeting can easily be scheduled with a summary advice lawyer in advance though staff by phone or email and can often take place on the same day.

I wish the continued health and safety of the NAN community. Thank you very much. Chi-Miigwetch.

Best regards,

*Robert Atatise*

# Legal Aid

**It will be one year our office has been closed due to COVID and staff working remotely from home.**

- Staff are adjusting to working remotely from home and available by cell and email to assist persons with legal aid, referrals and general inquiries.

**The Advice Lawyer is available:**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

- All northern courts are held virtually at this time. Our office started scheduling virtual advance days and the first one was held in January 2021.
- The Community Legal Worker, Duty Counsel, NALSC staff and Crown are available for persons who need assistance prior to their court day.
- Advance days are scheduled the day before court from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. (EST) and held by zoom.
- The Community Legal Workers are forwarding notices to communities of upcoming advance courts.

*For more information, please email: [legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca).*

Enclosing the Community Legal Worker contact information.

**Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation  
Community Legal Workers**

<b>Don Sainnawap</b> Tel: (807) 737-5201 Cell: (807)738-5076 Fax: (807) 737-7297 Toll Free: 1-877-851-1108 Email: <a href="mailto:dsainnawap@nanlegal.on.ca">dsainnawap@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	c/o Legal Aid Ontario - Sioux Lookout P.O. Box 187, 47A Front Street Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A3	Kasabonika Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wapekeka, Wa- wakapewin, Wunnumin Lake
<b>Rita Chapman</b> Tel: (807) 737-7981 Cell: (807)-738-0020 Fax: (807) 737-7297 Toll Free: 1-866-468-5151 Email: <a href="mailto:rchapman@nanlegal.on.ca">rchapman@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	c/o Legal Aid Ontario - Sioux Lookout P.O. Box 187, 47A Front Street Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A3	Big Trout Lake Muskrat Dam, Lac Seul,
<b>Lloyd Comber</b> Tel: (807) 467-3225 Cell: (807)464-3065 Fax: (807) 467-2761 Toll Free: 1-844-767-3225 Email: <a href="mailto:lcomber@nanlegal.on.ca">lcomber@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	308 Second Street South Suite 6 Kenora, ON P9N 1G4 Address all mail - ATTENTION: Lloyd Comber	Deer Lake, Kee-Way-Win, MacDowell Lake, North Spirit Lake, Poplar Hill,
<b>VACANT –</b> Please call 1-800-465-5581 Email: <a href="mailto:legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca">legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca</a>		Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake New Slate Falls, Sachigo Lake, North Caribou Lake (Weagamow)
<b>Jacob Mekanak</b> Tel: (807) 622-1413 Cell: (807)630-9503 Fax: (807) 344-6904 Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581 Email: <a href="mailto:jmekanak@nanlegal.on.ca">jmekanak@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services 1805 Arthur Street E., Unit100 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2R6	Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Marten Falls, Nibinamik, We- bequie, Mishkeegogamang
<b>Stella Kiokee-Koostachin</b> Tel: (705) 997-1285 Fax: (705) 997-7234 Toll Free: 1-877-331-0144 Email: <a href="mailto:skoostachin@nanlegal.on.ca">skoostachin@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	P.O. Box 152 Attawapiskat, ON P0L 1A0	Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Peawanuk,
<b>Roberta Wesley</b> Tel: (705) 463-1155 Cell: (705)-373-2100 Fax: (705) 463-2255 Toll Free: 1-855-463-1155 Email: <a href="mailto:rwsley@nanlegal.on.ca">rwsley@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	37 Wawaskashoo P.O. Box 236 Constance Lake, ON P0L 1B0	Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Hornepayne, Long Lake #58
<b>Vacant</b> Tel: (705) 268-5544 Fax: (705) 268-5682 Toll Free: 1-866-859-3887 Email: <a href="mailto:legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca">legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	119 Pine Street S. Suite210 Timmins, ON P4N 2K3	Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibway, Chapleau Cree, Matachewan, Mattagami
<b>Jackie Edwards</b> Tel: (705) 268-5544 Cell: (705) 498-3787 Fax: (705) 268-5682 Toll Free: 1-866-859-3887 <a href="mailto:jedwards@nanlegal.on.ca">jedwards@nanlegal.on.ca</a>	119 Pine Street S. Suite210 Timmins, ON P4N 2K3	Takway Tagmou, Wahgoshig, Moose Factory, Moosonee
<b>Darlene Suggashie</b> Cell : (807)620-5441 <a href="mailto:dsuggashie@nanlegal.on.ca">dsuggashie@nanlegal.on.ca</a>		Pikangikum
<b>Evangeline Meekis</b> Cell : (807)212-4275 <a href="mailto:emeekis@nanlegal.on.ca">emeekis@nanlegal.on.ca</a>		Sandy Lake
<b>Angus Miles</b> Cell : (807)212-5948 <a href="mailto:amiles@nanlegal.on.ca">amiles@nanlegal.on.ca</a>		Fort Severn

# Public Legal Education



**Booshoo**, Cheryl Suggashie here reporting from the Thunder Bay Hub. I have been working from home for the most part since I started at NALSC back in October. It still has been a busy work atmosphere. I enjoy working with the Managers and the rest of the NALSC workers, assisting and learning where I can.

I have been learning to navigating and update NALSC's Website. We started a Website Committee and had a Training Session- we are still ironing out the finer details. I have been updating our numerous documents and folders of NALSC's PLE presentations, brochures, posters, cards etc. on various Legal Topics, and developing new ones, as well as posting Podcast and developing radio ads with Wawatay.

I have been taking advantage of online training, webinars, and information sessions best suited for my position, and participating in various meetings within NALSC Programs. In February I had the pleasure of assisting with Registration for the Special Chiefs Assembly on Justice, and it was a full few days, with a learning curve. Towards the end of March, I will be assisting with delivering

a PLE session in one of the NAN Communities, through the Radio Station. I am always searching for Creative ways to deliver PLE sessions, and topics during Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown. Since our last Newsletter NALSC has hired two other PLE Workers, out of the Timmins and Sioux Lookout Office, which is exciting. They have been helping hands on updating our PLE Resource page on the website, please check that out! We will be getting into routine of distributing Quarterly Newsletters so please stay tune.

**Cheryl Suggashie**  
**Public Legal Educator**  
**&**  
**Communications Coordinator**

**Watchiyeh Misiway!** My name is Adam, I'm the new **Public Legal Educator** based in Timmins. I'm looking forward to meeting NAN community members and assisting with building a better understanding of the westernized legal system. Since I've started in December I've seen a lot of difficulties surrounding our communities especially considering the pandemic restrictions. The NAN region has so much resilience and it's being shown everyday in the face of many of our communities that are oppressed and are always seemingly forgotten. Meegwetch to everyone in the NAN territory for the continued examples of leadership and resilience.





# Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporations

## Legal Presentation:

# ARSON

The community of Eabametoong is invited to participate in NALSC Presentation on Arson. Please join "Public Legal Educator" Cheryl Suggashie & "Release and Reintegration" Worker Jean Rabbit Waboose, along with other guests for a Legal & Educational information on Arson; what it entails, the causes and effect, what happens when Arson has been committed, and avoiding the act of Arson.

**Date: March 30th 2021**

**Time: 12pm– 3pm**

**Location:** Tune into your local Radio Station

- Translation services provided
- Question and Answer period
- There will be prizes for participation

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

For more information you can call/ text

Cheryl Suggashie  
807- 620- 9253  
Email [csugashie@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:csugashie@nanlegal.on.ca)

Jean Rabbit Waboose  
807- 631- 5542  
Email: [jrabbitwboose@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:jrabbitwboose@nanlegal.on.ca)

# Public Legal Education

## *Presentation on Arson*

n March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 NALSC's PLE Program will be presenting on Arson, for the community of **Eabametoong**, from 12pm to 3pm. PLECC Cheryl Suggashie and Release & Reintegration worker Jean Rabbit- Waboose have been working together towards the event. Logistics and Coordination began in the winter, and with various community lockdowns throughout NAN Territory, and travel restrictions, Jean came up with the idea of presenting through the community Radio Station. This was a great start in moving forward.

Presenting through Eabametoong's Radio Station is ideal because it will reach the whole community. The timing was also coordinated so that the whole community would already be listening in. An invitational Poster for the PLE Arson Presentation went out into the community.

The PLE will include guest speakers from NAN, NAP's, Eabametoong Community Members and Translator, and ofcourse our workers from NALSC. A few of our guest speakers will be calling in from Thunder Bay. There will be participation draws and great prizes such as iPads and gift cards. From here NALSC and the community of Eabametoong will continue to work together.

Stay tuned for our next Newsletter for a complete follow up of NALSC's PLE on Arson.

**Public Legal Education & Communications Coordinator**  
**Cheryl Suggashie**

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Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

## Experiencing Loss and Where to Turn

*Danielle Wood, NALSC*

Losing a loved is one of the most difficult human experiences. Community resources are available to support those experiencing grief and loss, including the NAN Hope Mental Health and Addictions Support Access Program at 1-844-NAN-HOPE or [nanhope.ca](http://nanhope.ca). If you or someone you know is experiencing loss or feels triggered by the content in the next few pages, please do not hesitate to reach out, help is available 24/7.

### Mailing Address:

1805 Arthur St. East  
Unit 100  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 2R6

Tel: (807) 622-1413  
Fax: (807) 622-3024

Email: [info@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:info@nanlegal.on.ca)

Website:  
[Http://www.nanlegal.on.ca](http://www.nanlegal.on.ca)



There are many steps to take when a loved one passes on, starting with making funeral arrangements through a funeral home. The funeral home will provide applications for Canada Pension Plan Death and Survivor's Benefits. They will also provide a copy of the Death Certificate. The deceased loved one's personal items and property, their estate, also have to be managed. The next three steps are to find out if the deceased person has a will, if the person has status as an Indigenous person under the *Indian Act*, and if they were ordinary resident on or off reserve.

A will is a written document that gives instructions on what should be done to an estate after someone passes away. A copy might be with their personal items or their lawyer, if they have one. It is also important to know whether they have a status card, or Secure Certificate of Indian Status, then to find out whether the person lived on or off reserve.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) provide estate services under the *Indian Act* for Indigenous persons with status who lived on reserve, or for ordinary on-reserve residents. ISC describes an ordinary on-reserve resident as someone whose primary address is on reserve and may only live temporarily off reserve to access services, education, or care. Estate management for persons who do not meet this criteria, are through the province, territory or country that they lived in.

For assistance with next steps, contact your lawyer, a legal clinic, ISC or CIRNAC, or Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation.

### **Indigenous Services Canada Crown-Indigenous Relations Northern Affairs Canada**

Phone: 1-800-567-9604

Email: [aadnc.estates-successions.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.estates-successions.aandc@canada.ca)

### **Advocacy North for Elders and Seniors - Sudbury Community Legal Services**

Phone: 1-800-697-8719

### **Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation**

Phone: 1-800-465-5581

Email: [info@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:info@nanlegal.on.ca)

## NAN Small Estates Administration Changes

A close family member has passed away, how do you deal with their belongings and property?

Starting April 1, 2021, new court rules in place to simplify small estate administration worth under \$150,000.

Cleaning out a loved one's home after their death can be emotionally, physically, and financially hard. And then to make the whole task even worse is dealing with the legal "probate" side. Good news, the Ontario government is making it easier to apply to become an administrator, an executor or estate trustee and get the ball rolling to settle the deceased affairs if there are no disputes.

It seems obvious, but you must **first** look for a Will because a person may have named the person, they want to be in charge to deal with their "Estate". An **estate** is the property you own at the date of your death. This includes real property, which is property like land, buildings, and houses. It also includes personal property, such as jewelry, furniture, and bank accounts.

The **second** step is to figure out what falls in the "Estate basket." Not all the property a person owns when alive is included in the estate. Any property for which the deceased signed documents in which he named someone, a [designated beneficiary](#), to get it upon death, will not be part of the estate.

The **third** step is getting as many copies of the death certificate as there are assets to settle and decide if Ontario is the province with jurisdiction over the affairs of the deceased loved one.

The **next** steps are where the changes start.

- 1) You can now apply for probate and receive probate certificates by email.
- 2) No need to post bond in small estates unless a beneficiary is a minor or deemed incapable.
- 3) Now there is a "**Small Estate Certificate**," which has the same effect as probate, or a Certificate of Appointment of Estate Trustee, except it is limited to receiving and managing the estate assets listed in the probate application **not all** the deceased's assets.
- 4) The forms are simpler and no need of an affidavit of service.

The new forms are available on the internet under the form number.

74.1A	Application for a Small Estate Certificate
74.1B	Request to File an Application for a Small Estate Certificate or an Amended Small Estate Certificate
74.1C	Small Estate Certificate
74.1D	Registrar's Notice to Applicant in an Application for a Small Estate Certificate or Amended Small Estate Certificate

A step-by-step guide will be created by Advocacy North for North for Elders & Seniors in collaboration with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation to make it easier to navigate this new process for small estates. In the meantime, if you have questions, you can speak to a lawyer or call Advocacy North at -

**1-800-697-8719.**

*NALSC would like to acknowledge Madeleine Hebert, Advocacy For Elders and Seniors, for the updated information.*

# What happens to your estate if you die without a will and live off First Nation?

## Upcoming changes announced by the Ontario Government for surviving spouses who will soon receive more if their spouses die without a will

When a person dies **without** a will, each Canadian province and territory provides for a compulsory scheme to distribute the deceased's property, which is typically between the testator's surviving spouse and children and alternately to other relatives.

Some provinces and territories provide a spouse with a "preferential share" before dividing the rest of the estate between the spouse and children.

A surviving spouse in Ontario once the law is passed by the government should be **entitled to \$350,000, up from \$200,000**, as their preferential share of their spouse's estate if that spouse dies without a will.

Under Ontario estate law, a surviving spouse receives **all** property in an estate when the married couple had **NO** children, and the deceased spouse did not have a will.

If the couple has one child, the surviving spouse will receive the preferential share of the estate (soon up to \$350,000) plus one-half of the rest of the property in the estate, with the other half going to the child. If the couple has two or more children, the surviving spouse will receive the preferential share, plus one-third of the remainder of the property, with the other two-thirds divided among the children equally.

When the value of property in the Estate **is less** than the preferential share, the surviving spouse receives **all** the property in an estate whether the couple had children or not.

You need to write a will if you do not like this way of distributing your assets. The preferential amounts are also different if you live on First Nation (see chart below).

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When  
you die  
without  
a will

off  
First  
Nation

Married Spouse with no children – Spouse receives 100%

Married spouse & children – **First \$ 200,000 (soon to \$ 350,000)** goes to spouse – remainder split between children and spouse

Children but no spouse - Estate divided amongst children – If a child has died, their share is passed to their children

---

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When  
you die  
without  
a will

on First  
Nation

Married Spouse with no children – Spouse receives 100%

Married spouse & children – First **\$75,000** goes to spouse – remainder split between children and spouse

Children but no spouse - Estate divided amongst children – If a child has died, their share is passed to their children

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## Example for an Estate worth \$ 250,000

(If deceased did not have a will)

If one spouse and one child

OFF First Nation	ON First Nation
<b>Spouse gets first \$ 200,000</b>  Spouse gets $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$ 50,000 = \$ 25,000 (i.e. amount above \$ 200,00)	<b>Spouse gets first \$ 75,000</b>  Spouse gets $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$ 175,00 = \$ 87,500 (i.e. Amount above \$ 75,000)
<b>TOTAL : Spouse \$ 225,00</b>  <b>Child \$ 25,000</b>	<b>TOTAL : Spouse \$ 162,500</b>  <b>Child \$ 87,500</b>
<b>Under the proposed law, the child would receive Ø because the Estate is worth less than \$350,00</b>  <b>Spouse would get all of the \$ 250,000</b>	<b>NO changes</b>



# 2020 Zoom Christmas Staff Party

On December 18th 2020, the entire Staff at NALSC had their annual Christmas Party via Zoom. With Covid-19 still lingering around and with all Staff working hard during these tough times, some of the Staff worked together to develop an amazing Christmas Show, with Comedian Ron Kanutski! The entire NALSC Staff got to have a very well deserved day filled with laughs, some amazing karaoke singing from Red Lake to Constance Lake, Virtual Bingo Games, some networking and introductions along with some great prizes!



## NALSC CHRISTMAS SHOW

### WITH RON KANUTSKI

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

\*ALL TIMES ARE IN EASTERN TIME

10 am- 11 am Staff Meeting 9am central time

11:30 am Ron Kanutski Comedy Show

12:00 pm Christmas Spirit Fashion Show

Staff will have this chance to show their Christmas Spirit:

Ugly Christmas sweater 1-3 PRIZE

Best Christmas P's 1-3 PRIZES

Best Christmas look: mask and/or hair 1-3 PRIZES

Best Festive Zoom Background 1-3 PRIZES

12:15 pm -2:00 pm BINGO (15 Bingo Games)

2:00 pm- 2:30 pm ZOOM KARAOKE

\*Have your name entered into a draw for 3 big prizes

\*Sign up in attach or email us

2:30 pm Announcement of all Winners

2:45 pm Ron Kanutski's closing

3:00 pm Close

Be sure to download the Zoom app on your computers, laptops and/ or cell phones



# ART CONTEST IN KI

By April Chapman & Josh Matthews

The art contest was designed to give the young artists of KI a platform to showcase their work and allow them to express themselves through art. Allowing them to think of something else rather than the pandemic. The contest was broken up into two ages groups first age group was 5-12 years old. Group two was 13-18 years old.

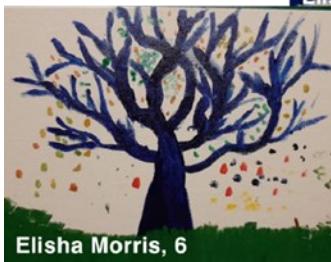


The event was about a weeklong beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 and ending on February 8, 2021 giving the artists a lot of time to create these art pieces. Each piece of work was phenomenal, each participant displayed their own style in their art and did it with a sense confidence and pride within their work. On this page displays the 5-12 category

**first place winner is,  
Cyntira Nanokeesic, 12**

**Second place,  
Nessa Cutfeet, 11**

**Third place,  
Elisha Morris, 6**



# ART CONTEST IN KI

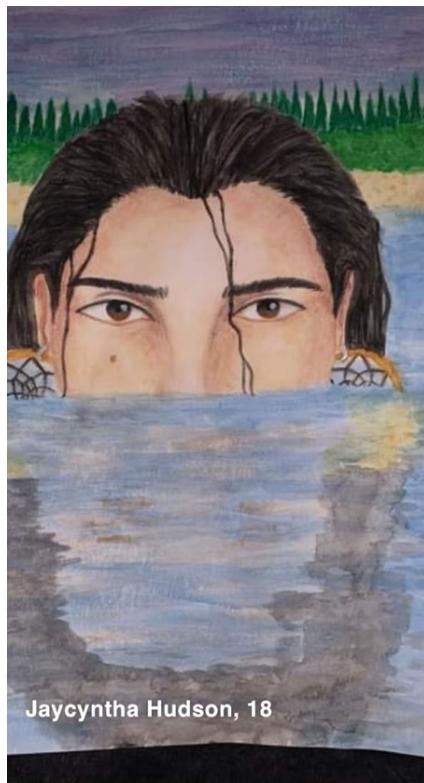
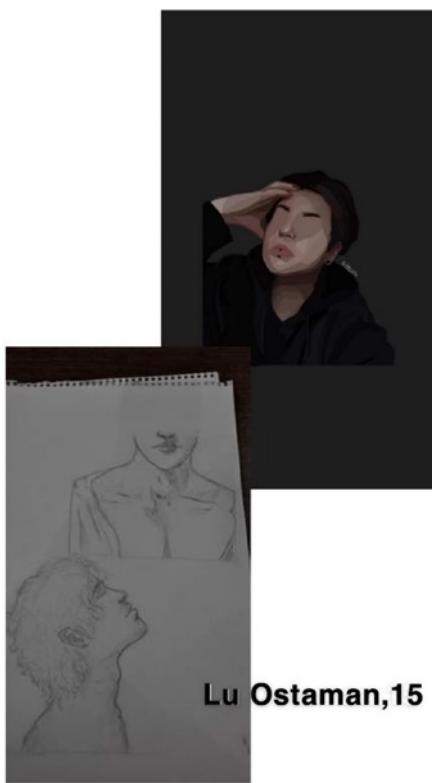
It was a tough call for the judges to make the decision for the winners for both divisions, all art pieces were judged on creativity, originality, use of colour, and style. All art pieces blew it out of the park with how skilled these amazing artists were. Winners for the 13-18 category are as followed

**First place - Lu Ostaman, 15**

**Second place - Jacyntha Hudson, 18**

**Third place - Clarissa Cutfeet, 14**

The event was very popular and a big success, it really sparked an interest in the youth. For their prizes we gave them more art supplies for their future art work that has yet to come, they received art kits, canvases, paint and paint brushes, sketch books and pastels.



# Moose Country Winter Carnival 2021

## Community Yahtzee Walks:

During the Moose Country Winter Carnival 2021, NAN Legal Services (Heather Faries) along with Payukotayno Family Services (Roberta Echum & Melissa Blackned) and John R Delaney Youth Centre (Doug Jef- fries, Caleb Turner & Colby Kapashesit) organized and hosted a successful weekend of Yahtzee Walks for the communities of Moose Factory and Moosonee.

Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> was quite a warm but snowy day, where a total of 40 families/

teams registered and came out to participate and enjoy the Yahtzee Walk in Moose Factory. The next day Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>, despite of the lower temperatures and brisk winds, Moosonee families did not succumb to the cold as there were a total of 35 families/teams that came out and enjoyed themselves.

Quite the eventful weekend, as participants moved from one station to the next, with a total of 4 stations. Team members take turns at a roll of the die at each location throughout the community and end up back at the first post for their final roll of the die. The winners are determined by the highest plays (Yahtzee, Full House, Sm/lg Straights, etc).



# PINK SHIRT DAY

February 24th is Anti Bullying Day. A few of our NALSC Staff members wore a Pink Shirt to symbolize a stand against Bullying. Check out the Pink Shirt with our Nishnawbe Aski Legal Corporation Logo on them!



# Land Based Harvesting

## Maple Tree Tapping

### ***What is maple tree tapping?***

- Starch is stored in trees over the winter which they convert to sugar as they start to wake up for the warmer seasons. The sugar is found in the sap which is collected, boiled down, to create syrup and sugar.

### ***When is the right time to tap a tree?***

- At the end of Winter and beginning of Spring, when the temperatures are low at night and above freezing in the day, pressure is created and sap flows for a few weeks.

### ***What maple trees can be tapped?***

- Not all trees are equal, but most maple trees will do. Birch trees are also tapped to make Birch Syrup which has a much stronger but equally delicious flavour.
- Choose trees are big and strong, so that they are mature enough to heal without harm. One tap can be put per foot in diameter with up to a few taps per tree.
- Trees that have been tapped in previous seasons, can be tapped again. The locations of the taps need to be moved from season-to-season to allow the tree time to heal.

### ***Where should I tap the trees?***

- Tree taps should be installed at waist height to allow gravity to help the sap flow.

### ***How do I tap the trees?***

- Using a clean drill bit, drill a hole into the trunk of the tree. The size of the bit will depend on the size of the tap. The smaller the bit, the less harm to the tree. A 5/16" bit is most recommended.
- The hole depth will vary on the size of the tree, the width of its bark and its age. Drilling too deep can harm the tree. Generally, holes should be one-inch-deep after the bark.
- Take your time when drilling your hole. Mark your depth on your bit so you know when to stop. Drill on an upward angle to assist with creating a downward flow. Watch the sap flow.

### ***How do I collect sap?***

- There are a number of ways to collect the sap flowing from the hole. Spiles are easy to install and can be found at hardware and outdoor supply stores. You can also use a straw or a clean wood chip to create your tap. Your tap should be on a downward angle from your drilled hole.
- Anything can be used to hold the sap, as long as it is clean, safe and food grade. Food-grade buckets and piping is available for this purpose.
- Buckets need to be checked frequently. Sap can be stored in the fridge until it is ready to be boiled down to a sugar or syrup.
- Lay tobacco to thank the tree for the most wonderful offering.

### ***Why tap trees?***

- Every season is an opportunity to connect with the land, learn, reflect, be together and show thanks.



By: Tamara Spence - Red Rock Indian Band

## Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation

Join us in welcoming a few of our new Board Members to the 2020-2021 Board of Directors

**Chair: Independent First Nation Alliance**  
Jim Beardy

**Vice Chair: Windigo First Nations Council**  
Frank McKay

**Secretary/Treasurer: Wabun Tribal Council**  
Jason Batise

**Director: Shibogama Tribal Council**  
Simon Winnepetonga

**Director: Unaffiliated Member of Mishkeegogamang First Nation**  
Tom Wassaykeesic

**Director: Keewaytinook Okimakanak**  
Vontane Keno

**Director: Mushkegowuk Council**  
DGC Rebecca Friday

**Director: Matawa**  
Lisa Echum

**Ex-Officio Nishnawbe Aski-Nation Corporation**  
Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox

**Nishnawbe Aski- Nation Youth Council Representative**  
Ashley Bach

**Elder East**  
Barney Batise

**Elder West**  
Vacant

**Elder Central**  
Sarah Waboose



### About NALSC

On March 1, 1990, Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation was created to address the shortcomings in the administration of justice within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN); and to improve access to justice for members of NAN.

Since 1990, NALSC has grown steadily and worked hard to develop a professional image, and to hire qualified staff to carry out the corporation's mandate.

Innovative and creative programs have made NALSC a leader, and at times – an example, in alternatives to justice options. NALSC has met with success in these areas.

### Mandate

To promote creative community-based justice systems and to deliver on a wide range of law-related services including legal, paralegal, public legal education, and law reform services to members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

### Mission

To deliver the programs and services in a culturally appropriate manner sensitive to the unique values, customs and traditions of NAN communities.

### Programs & Services

Legal Aid	Restorative Justice
Public Legal Education	Community Legal Workers
Gladue Workers	Victim Witness Liaisons
Youth Justice	Youth Interventions
Community Learning HUB	Talking Together

#### Head Office

138B Mission Road  
Fort William First Nation, ON  
P7J 1K7  
Phone: (807) 474-4377

#### Administrative Office

100 - 1805 Arthur Street E  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 2R6  
Phone: (807) 622-1413  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581  
Fax: (807) 622-3204

#### Timmins

119 Pine Street South -  
Suite 210  
Timmins, ON  
P4N 2K3  
Phone: (705) 268-1105  
Fax: (705) 268-0012

#### Sioux Lookout

37 Front Street,  
Sioux Lookout, ON  
P8T 1A3  
Phone: (807) 737-7981  
Toll Free: 1 866-468-  
5151  
Fax: (807) 737-7297  
56 Front Street,  
Sioux Lookout, ON  
P8T 1A3

#### Kenora

308 Second Street  
South, Suite 14  
Kenora, ON  
P9N 1G4

**Website:** [www.nanlegal.on.ca](http://www.nanlegal.on.ca)