

October 2021 Newsletter

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation



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NALSC will be recognizing **Thursday, September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

September 30 was created to give everyone an opportunity to recognize the horrific trauma and tragic outcome suffered by those who attended residential schools, which more than 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend between the 1870s and 1997. This was one of the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report that was passed by Parliament when Bill C-5 was passed.

Please take this time to support and honour the victims, survivors, their families, and communities.

If you need support for yourself or others close to you, please connect with someone. Below is a list of Resources that you can contact and connect with:

Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society

Toll Free 1-800-721-0066

<https://www.irsss.ca/>

NAN Hope

Toll Free 1-844-626-4673

Text: 1- 844- 626- 4673

<https://nanhope.ca/> with Chat feature

Indian Residential School Survivors and Family 24 Hour Crisis Line:

Toll Free 1-866-925-4419

<https://www.irsss.ca/faqs/how-do-i-reach-the-24-hour-crisis-line>

Talk 4 Healing

Services in Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Cree, English, French

24/7 culturally sensitive counselling, advice, and support to Indigenous women.

Toll Free: 1-855-554-4325

www.talk4healing.com

Hope for Wellness Help Line

24/7 Services in Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut

Toll Free 1- 855- 242- 3310

<https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/> with Chat Feature

Native Women's Association of Canada

In-house elders offering support, Monday to Friday 9- 11am and 1 – 3 p.m. Eastern Time

Toll Free: 1- 888- 664- 7808

<https://www.nwac.ca/>

MMIW Crisis Line

24/7 support to family, friends and community members impacted by the loss of a missing or murdered Indigenous woman, girl or Two-spirit person

Toll Free: 1- 844- 413- 6649

Crises Line

Toll Free: 1- 866- 996- 0991 (if your outside Ottawa)

<https://crisisline.ca/>



DAY OF MOURNING FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS REPLACES CANADA DAY

IN BEARSKIN LAKE FIRST NATION

On May 31, 2021, Bearskin Lake Chief and Council announced that Canada Day on July 1st will be a **"A Day of Mourning for Indigenous People"**. This was in response to the discovery of 215 unmarked graves of defenseless and innocent indigenous children, as young as three years old, on the former residential school grounds in Kamloops, British Columbia.

On July 1st, the community members gathered at the community feast site to honor and recognize their former residential school survivors. Chief Lefty Kamenawatamin's opening statement was profound as he informed and encouraged the residential school survivors to tell their stories and that he will believe them. Many of the survivors who were present went up to the stage and bravely told their heart wrenching stories, with a family member of two standing with them as support. There was a moment of silence at 2:15 p.m. in remembrance of the 215 unmarked graves. Two high school students read out 69 names of all former residential school students from the community. There was a photo gallery of some of the residential school survivors. Also, people released orange balloons in memory of their family and community members Eugene Kamenawatamin was the Master of Ceremonies.

After the presentation a feast was held. The delicious food of traditional meats, stews, bannock and desserts were prepared by the community members. Debriefing sessions were provided for a couple evenings by counselors, clergy and elders for the residential school survivors and family members who needed it.

The Bearskin Lake First Nation Chief and Council declared the community will no longer recognize Canada Day as a day of celebration of the country and looks forward to meaningful reconciliation and justice for our people sooner than later.



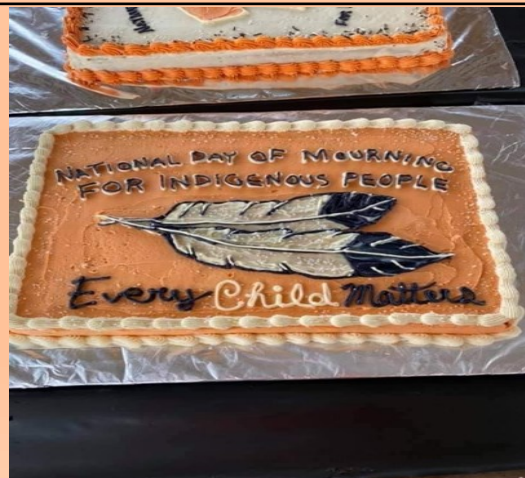
VWL Cecilia Fiddler and her sister Alexandra, standing with their Aunt Dora Beardy.



Bearskin Lake First Nation: Councillors Leon Beardy, Darlene Beardy, Chief Lefty Kamenawatamin, Deputy Chief Billy George



Colin Beardy - "I am a Grandson of a Residential School Survivor"



Every Child Matters cake for the Feast



Releasing of orange balloons



Releasing of orange balloons—some had relatives names written on them



Stage included children's artwork



Orange shirts that were given out



Photo gallery of children and survivors of Residential School



Photo gallery of children and survivors of Residential School



Hello everyone,

My name is **Gloria Turtle** and I work as a Community Youth Intervention worker and Youth Restorative Justice worker for Pikangikum. This past summer me and Chris introduced new sports to the girls ages 10 to 14. We had about 12 youth show up on Mondays and Wednesdays to participate in soccer, volleyball and baseball. At first they didn't know how to play the sports but in the second week they began to learn how to play. They met new friends and laughed with each other. But sadly we had to end the sports due to heavy smoke for a month and the community evacuations. Hopefully we will do this again next year. Overall I love working with the youth and getting to know each and every one that comes to participate in our activities. All are very unique and fun to be around with and will continue on with more new activities for this year. In closing I am very happy that they learned to play sports this past summer, to have fresh air and to be active.



Boozhoo, Aaniin, Wacheya,

My name is **Correen Kakegamic**. I am the new Executive Assistant with NALSC in Thunder Bay. I am a member of Sandy Lake First Nation, Treaty #5; but I have been living in Thunder Bay, ON for about seventeen years. I am a mother of 2, who are six and four years old. In May 2021, I graduated from the Master of Education program at Lakehead University. My aspirations in life are to help and serve my Anishnawbe nation – wherever my journey may lead, I want to be where I can learn and work with Indigenous people. I am grateful to be working with NALSC and looking forward to the experiences this new role brings me!



Miigwetch,

Correen Kakegamic

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig Prom—2021

On June 18th, 2021,

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig held their Annual Prom with the help of donations. The Restorative Justice Program assisted in answering their call; the Restorative Justice Program further requested donations from the entire Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services staff. The Restorative Justice Program also went to purchase Formal Wear from “Le Chateau’s” closing out sale.

Everything was sent up to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig, in time for their Annual Prom. The Youth have been working so hard all year, and so they got first pick at the Prom Dresses, and Dress Shirts.



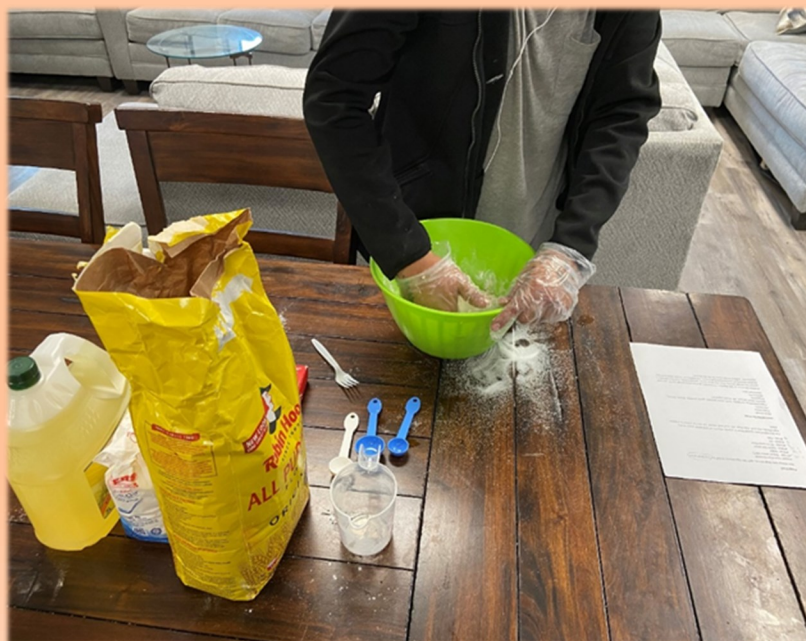
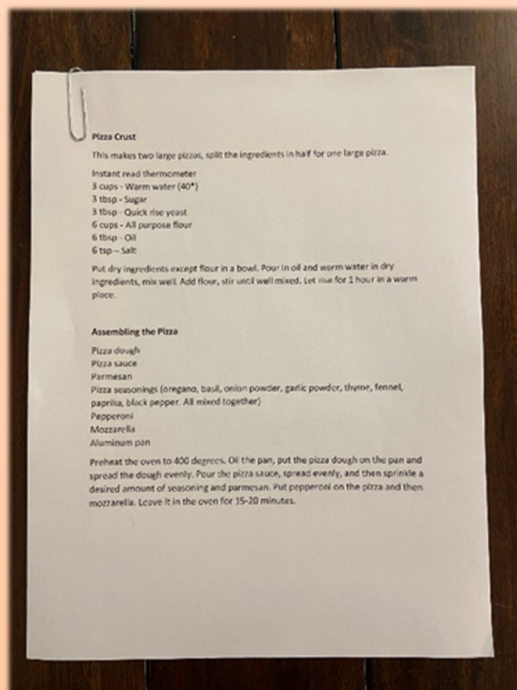


Cooking class for Indigenous Bail Verification Supervision Program Clients

Pizza cooking class at the “*KII-WE-YAN* Pikangikum First Nation *Bail Bed and Transition Home*,” in *Pikangikum First Nation*.

Photos submitted by Release & Reintegration Workers:

Brianna Owen and Morningstar Quill





Discharge Program

Holly Sitch – Discharge Coordinator

We have had an extremely busy 5 and ½ months this fiscal year with 245 clients being assisted home to date. The West region had 127, Central had 27 and the East had 83 clients. We have had 8 requests from other locations provincially as well.

Due to the number of discharges out of Kenora DJ over the last month, we requested and received permission to move our Sioux Lookout SUV to Kenora as one driver in that community is not enough. We are now in the process of hiring a second driver for Kenora to help offset the cost of the use of taxis to transport our clients. We are also recruiting a new driver in Timmins as there is a vacancy for this position also.

With such positive team, who are dedicated to make sure everyone can get home as quickly and as safely as possible, I see only success for the program.

Contact Information for Discharge Workers:

Lenard Comber – West Region – Sioux Lookout Office
Cell: 807-632-0316
Email: lecomber@nanlegal.on.ca

Karen Honan – Central Region – Thunder Bay Office
Cell: 807-630-6244
Email: khonan@nanlegal.on.ca

Bonnie MacDonald – East Region – Timmins Office
Cell: 705-221-8888
Email: bmacdonald@nanlegal.on.ca



Hello, my name is **Tom Borsfai**. I am the dispatch driver for Kenora. I also work for aboriginal child and family services as a 1:1 worker with at risks teens. In my spare time I like to fish and looking forward to getting some riding time on my new motorcycle.

Talking Together Program—Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution



Carol Buswa is a member of the Long Lake #58 First Nation and is the Talking Together Program Manager for Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services in Thunder Bay. Carol attended Lakehead University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Education degree. She also attended; Principals of First Nation Schools Six Nations Polytechnic Institute; and is an Associate Member of The Ontario Association for Family Mediation.

Carol has lived and worked in Northern Ontario for the last 35 years, working extensively with Aboriginal children, families, and communities, as an educator, administrator, and facilitator. She currently manages the Talking Together Program and received training in Family Mediation, Introduction to Child Protection Mediation, Family Group Decision Making, Advanced Family Mediation & Domestic Violence. She has also re-

ceived a Level 1 Certificate in Trauma Counselling for Front Line Workers through Gail Appel Institute-a division of the Hicks-Dellcrest Centre and Child Welfare Training. Carol has conducted several ADR Circles as a facilitator and does presentations within the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory and throughout northern Ontario.

As a lead in forward development of the AADR-bill 210 (Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution) strategy for Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation, and responsible for managing the Talking Together Program She works with five Facilitators and one Assistant-Coordinator. The Program has developed many partnerships and community networks within the 49 First Nations of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation as well as off reserve communities. Talking Together also provides AADR service to First Nation communities in the North Bay area through a special project with Community Counselling of North Bay (2014) and continues today. Since covid19 the TTP staff and program have adapted to change and uses more technology in providing service to its clients.

Currently, we are working on a new project My Journey Back Home specifically targeting youth aging out of the child welfare system. “My Journey Back Home” project is in process of providing an Alternative Dispute Resolution Facilitator and Aftercare Worker specifically for youth facing crisis, violence, human-trafficking, homelessness, drug addiction, mental health, lack of education, legal issues, lack of life skills, basic needs and who have lost their path in the life cycle journey.

The project target is for youth ages 16-29 encompassing ADR Circle support services of My Journey Back Home project. The facilitator will take on referrals and do an intake and follow up with client within 24-48 hours. The project will target Indigenous youth and those transitioning out of the Child Welfare System. The Facilitator would provide an Alternative Dispute Resolution process ‘Talking Together’ a traditional ADR Circle approach. This model would allow youth, to make decisions, share, speak freely, and be acknowledged in a respectful traditional and safe manner but most importantly empower and build on strengths, skills, cultural care, and resiliency. The project would give the opportunity for the youth and their participants to experience a holistic approach with their supporting participants and family at the Circle, including an elder of their choosing. We look forward to working with our youth and organizations in the Thunder Bay area.

Overall, I have enjoyed my journey with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services and look forward to continued progress within the organization in the best interests of community and our people. Miigwech.

*Good day,
My name is **Heather Napash**,
I'm from Constance Lake First
Nation and grew up in Thun-
der Bay.*



I am a Talking Together Facilitator for the Talking Together Program. I have been working with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation since 2013. I started as a student placement from the Confederation College. I have enjoyed every opportunity I was able to experience working with community members from the NAN First Nations.

My role as a facilitator is to schedule an Aboriginal Alternative Dispute Resolution (AADR) Circles with families from NAN First Nations who have an open protection file with Child Welfare Agencies. We ask the client who they want to attend the AADR circle as support participants. The ultimate goal is for the participants to come together to have an open discussion surrounding the concerns from both parties (family and agency). Every situation is unique because each family needs are different. I am honoured to work and listen with the family and participants involved in the circle in their decision making. All the decisions come from the participants involved.



*Hello everyone. My name is **Melissa Sutherland** and I am a member of Taykwa Tagamou Nation.*

I am the Talking Together Facilitator for Timmins and Area. I service Timmins, Beaver House, Chapleau, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami, Missanabie Cree, Taykwa Tagamou and Wahgoshig. I started with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Talking Together program the year of 2020. I am originally from Moosonee, Ontario and relocated to Timmins, Ontario in '2001'.

Talking Together is a restorative approach for dealing with child welfare issues. The goal of Talking Together is to bring participants together to discuss family problems in a non-judgemental way. The Circle is composed of family members, front line workers, agency representatives, community elders and Band Council representatives. In the Circle, participants look at whos been affected and how they have been affected by the problems that the family is experiencing. Secondly, in the Circle , participants are asked: What can be done? If and when an agreement is reached, it is used as the basis for the plan of care.

Being able to work within this program is a blessing. I am very thankful to be employed with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services.

Thank you



Hello,

My name is **Ricarda Ritch** and I'm the Talking Together Facilitator for Sioux Lookout and area. I have been working with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services for almost 2 years. When I'm not working I enjoy hunting, fishing and camping with my husband and children.

My name is **Zelda Watt**, and I am the Talking Together Program Assistant/Coordinator at Nishnawbe-aski Legal Services Corporation. I started working for the organization and its' member First Nations in September of 2001. I love my job and it has been a wonderful journey working alongside my colleagues, Child welfare agencies, partnership and stakeholders, and all the amazing people of our Nation.

In my spare time I enjoy fishing and moose hunting.



Hello,

My name is **Mary Pearce**. I am a Talking Together Facilitator in the North East region (Nipissing/Parry sound)

I currently reside in the District of Nipissing.

I have been with TTP for just over a year, prior to becoming a TTF, I worked in the field of Housing and Homelessness.

In my spare time, I enjoy going camping, and drag racing with my family.

Mary Pearce



Watchay! My Spirit Name is , **“Raining Eagle Feathers.”** I am Wolf Clan and my medicine is Sweetgrass.

My social name is **Susie Cheechoo.**

I am the Talking Together Facilitator for the James Bay coastal communities of Moosonee, Moose Factory, MoCreebec Council of the Crees, Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan

I am a Jingle Dress Dancer who dance and pray for the wellness of our people. I am learning to sing and play hand drum songs which one day I would like to open up a Circle with an honor song for the children and their families.

This photo was taken a few years ago, by the Ottawa River in Ottawa, ON. Every time my family would go sit by the Ottawa River, the Geese would always come to visit us. So one day, I decided to show up in my Jingle Dress and Hand Drum. That afternoon, the Geese ended up eating from the palms of our hands . That day, I had told the Geese that I would never eat them again. But living in Moose Factory and going out on the land during the Spring Hunt was impossible not to eat a goose. (Lol)

I move forward in helping families in NAN communities with the guidance of the Seven Grandfather Teachings of Love, Respect, Honesty, Humility , Wisdom, Courage and Truth
Meegwetch

For Further Information and to set up a Talking Together Presentation Virtually, Please call or email:

Susie Cheechoo– Talking Together Facilitator

Work phone: 705-288-5500

Email: scheechoo@nanlegal.on.ca

Are you interested in learning about Gladue?



Our Gladue team can provide you with virtual presentations

- Learn about Gladue Principles
- Learn about recommendations for alternative sentencing, other than imprisonment, e.g. restorative justice, healing circles or culturally appropriate treatment options

- Learn about the roles of Gladue writers and caseworkers
- Learn about the Gladue process and the information needed to complete a report



If interested, please contact appropriate staff member in your district.

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Gladue Writer

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Team North Central

Terri Zoccole

Gladue Admin & Caseworker

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tzoccole@nanlegal.on.ca

Team North East

Shannon Naveau

Gladue Caseworker

(705) 288-9007

snaveau@nanlegal.on.ca

Melanie Henderson – Gladue Writer

Hello, my name is **Melanie Henderson**. I am a registered band member of Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba outside of Winnipeg, although I spent most of my life in Ontario and going to my mother's reserve, which is North Spirit Lake First Nation. I grew up in Ear Falls, Ont., then moved to Thunder Bay before moving to Alberta for seven years, eventually coming back to Thunder Bay. I graduated from Lakehead University with a BA in Political Science in 2016.

I currently work in the Gladue Program as a Gladue writer. Before being hired with the Gladue team, I was hired in August 2017 as an HR Clerk/Receptionist. I appreciated being given a chance to work at Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services and learned as much as I could in my administrative role. I used to read all about each program NAN Legal had to offer and Gladue was a program I had been interested in from the start. I eventually applied to be a Gladue writer and was hired in February 2019.

I find fulfillment in helping our people. I enjoy the feeling of speaking and interviewing my clients. I enjoy completing their reports and learning their sentencing outcomes. I am constantly learning new things about how to navigate the criminal justice system with the help of my co-workers. I appreciate our Gladue team and look forward to returning to the office and doing in-person interviews with our clients.

-Melanie Henderson

Jennifer Stienke – Gladue Writer

Hi, my name is **Jennifer Stienke**. I recently joined the Gladue team as a Gladue writer in July 2021. I graduated from the University of Ottawa with an Honours Bachelors of Social Science in criminology with a minor in psychology in June 2020. During my schooling, I was volunteering at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, where I learned about Indigenous culture and assisted the Mental Wellness department with computerizing their files. I'm very passionate about prison reform and finding alternatives to sentencing to assist the rehabilitation of an offender. I'm really excited to be part of the Gladue team to share and expand on my knowledge of Indigenous peoples in the legal system.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig Youth Intervention Mini Festival Activities

300+ Participants (Youth and Adults)

August 18th-21st, 2021

Activities: Balloon Bust, Tug of War, Egg Toss, Bingo, Mud Pit, and Musical Chairs

I helped out with KI Youth Intervention workers (Joshua Matthews, and April Chapman)

We had hosted activities in cooperation with Choose Life and other community leaders.

We had a lot of participants that we lost track and forgot about the participation list we were keeping track off. The activity that seemed the most fun to me was the mud pit, they had let in 50+ years first. Then the 21+. After those age groups, it was the youth's turn.

They had to find golf balls that were marked with a number. Any ball found was guaranteed a prize. There was a number of high end prizes such as cash, iPhone 12, gaming system, and etc.

I think the activity that youth enjoyed more was musical chairs, we had limited chairs. The kids couldn't wait their turn to play. We had to rotate them, it was hard but we got it done. The prizes were cash, if you got in the top 2. You would get a cash prize.

The other one we as workers had to participate in is the egg toss and the tug of war. There wasn't much participants for the tug of war because the field was wet and muddy.

For the egg toss, everyone had their partner ready but for some people who didn't have a partner, we would step in as their partners. We tried our best even though we would not win anything ourselves.

All in all, we had a lot of fun, and enjoyed every minute of it. I hope to return next year for the activities.

- Chris Beardy



Mud pit with youth and their parents. They are trying to find marked Golf Balls to win prizes



April Chapman naming people for the Participation Draw



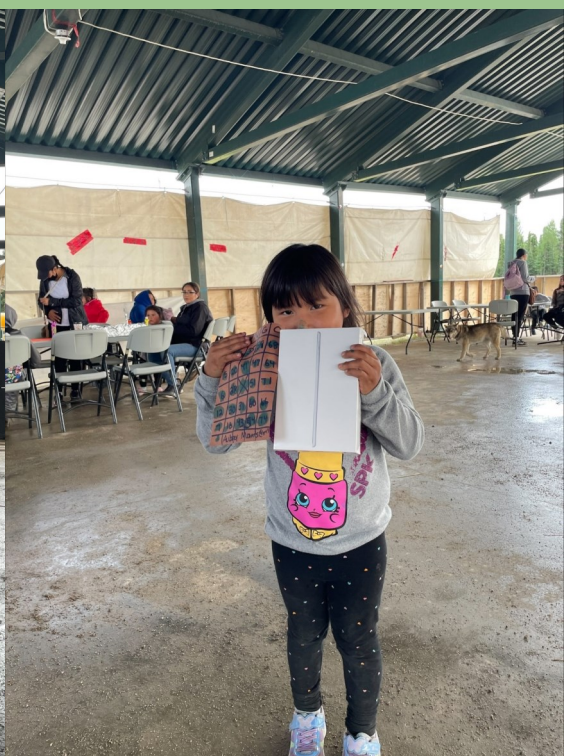
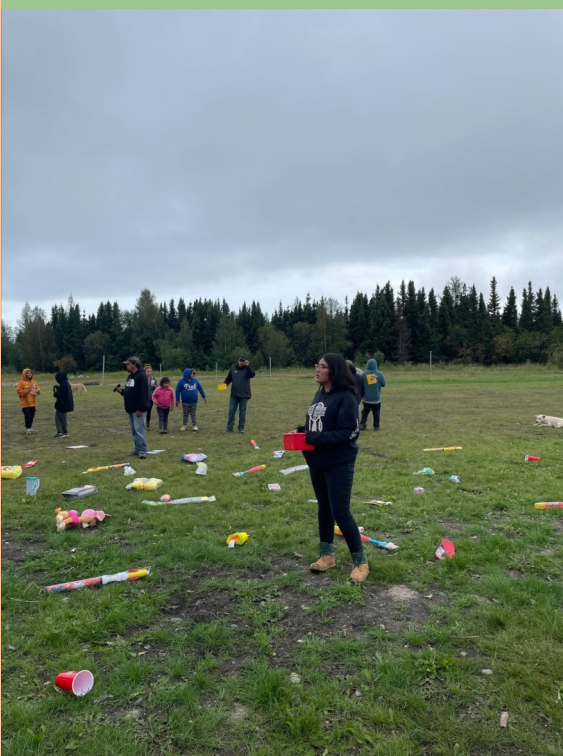
Josh Matthews helping a girl put on a balloon

Egg toss



Bingo Winner with her custom-made Bingo Card

Adults go in the mud pit to find gold balls



April Chapman preparing for dice game

Musical Chairs

Bingo Winner and her Custom Bingo card

Thunder Bay Evacuee Activity Report

Throughout July and August, Thunder Bay has been home to communities from all over Northern Ontario who had been evacuated due to the out-of-control wildfires that have been spreading rapidly over the summer. During this time, we in the Restorative Justice Department had the amazing opportunity to spend time with these individuals and host family friendly events for the kids to have fun and promote community bonding. After speaking with some of the evacuees we found out that although they greatly appreciated the fun events for their children, what they really wanted was to be able to have homemade cooking and cook for their families. So, to help out we put together a big family event at the Valhalla where there were art activities, fun outdoor waterslides, and bounce castles for the kids to play, and a cookout kitchen set up for members to use. The kids had an amazing time, and everyone came together to make soup and bannock for everyone plus a few extra dishes. We were very proud to be able to assist our NAN members and make their time away from home a little bit more fun.

Please enjoy the updates, pictures, and the firsthand reports of the RJ staff ☺



Thunder Bay Victoria Inn/Chippewa Park Waterslide, Bouncy Castle, and Painting July 27th, 2021, Victoria Inn 30+ participants We had Funtastic Castles come to Victoria Inn for a waterslide with fire evacuees from Pikangikum and Poplar Hill Youth.

They had so much fun on the waterslide, for the other group of youth and some volunteers inside the hotel we held a painting contest. We gave away prizes the first prize being Beats Solo headphones. We asked securities that were working at the hotel pick the paintings they liked.

July 29th, 2021, Chippewa Park 150+ participants Pikangikum evacuees from 3 different hotels in Thunder Bay came to Chippewa. I really enjoyed working, I even brought my kids to Chippewa for the waterslide, bouncy castle, and some painting. My kids had the most fun in the bouncy castle and if they needed to cool off, they would go on the waterslide. It was pretty awesome seeing the families get together and take their minds off the fire that was threatening their home.

~ **Chris Beardy** – *Youth Justice/ Youth Intervention Worker for Pikangikum & Kingfisher Lake*



On Saturday, July 31st NAN Legal hosted an event at the Valhalla in Thunder Bay for the Deer Lake community members. They were evacuated in mid July due to the forest fires. Not all Deer Lake residents were staying at the Valhalla, according to some members they were in other cities. It was a nice afternoon; we had many families come and enjoy the blow-up water slide from Fun-Tastic Castles. Many of the children, were so happy and enjoyed their time playing with their friends and cousins. The kids had many laughs and made up their own games while playing. It was nice to see so many come together and enjoy the afternoon. While the kids were playing, some of the youth and adults did some artwork. We supplied art kits with canvas and paper and had some pretty awesome artwork.

Having this opportunity to be together and enjoy an afternoon outside with some of the Deer Lake community members, was refreshing and a nice change of scenery. We did some draws for the participants, and everyone was very thankful. During our time there, it was mentioned that the ladies missed cooking for their families. So, this created an idea to have a cook out with soup and bannock.....they were so excited for this and our team started a plan. Stay tuned for our next get together with Deer Lake residents.

~ **Alana Odawa** – *Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Restorative Justice Worker*



On Tuesday, August 10th, NAN legal RJ hosted an event at the Valhalla inn in Thunder Bay for the Deer Lake community members who were currently staying at Valhalla Inn due to forest fires near the community. We had a blow-up water slide and two bouncy houses from Fun-Tastic castles, we also had a cook-out for the adults and children, we cooked hamburger macaroni soup and had 5-6 people from Deer Lake cook Bannock. It was a fun-filled afternoon, it rained on us a bit but that didn't stop us from sharing stories and eating good food. It was great to get to know some of the people from Deer Lake, hear their stories about family recipes and how they learned to cook. One of the ladies that made Bannock even folded Klik slices into her Bannock and it was amazing! A lot of us from NALSC that were at the event have never tried that, so it was a very exciting treat! After a full year of not gathering due to COVID it was nice to have a small gathering like this in Thunder Bay for the people of Deer Lake.

~ **Liz Johnson** - *Restorative Justice Worker – Matawa Communities*



During the fire evacuations we did events for the evacuees.

First event was at Victoria Inn – Poplar Hill/Pikangikum

- Water slide
- Painting contest

This event was a very good turn out

Second Event was at Chippewa park – Pikangkum/ Polar Hill

- Water slides
- Bouncy Houses
- Painting contest

Last Event was Valahalla – Deer Lake

- Bouncy Houses
- Water slides
- Cookout
- learned how to make klik in a Bannock

Well attended, all events were good turn outs.

~ **Derek Atlookan** – *Pre-Charge Youth Restorative Justice Worker*

Submitted by:

Chantelle Johnson - RJ Manager

Natasha Salatino Mach - RJ Coordinator

Alana Odawa - Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Restorative Justice Worker

Liz Johnson - RJ Worker Matawa Communities

Derek Atlookan - Pre-Charge Restorative Justice Worker, Thunder Bay

Chris Beardy - Youth Justice/ Youth Intervention Worker for Pikangkum & Kingfisher Lake



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