

# NISHNAWBE ASKI LEGAL SERVICES

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

2022



Nishnawbe-Aski Legal  
Services Corporation

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## *Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporations*

### *Community Legal Workers*

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If you are a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Community member residing on-reserve, or off-reserve, Community Legal Workers can assist with Legal Matters on Criminal Law (if custody is probable), Family Law, Child Welfare, and some Administrative Law issues. Community Legal Workers work with Justice Personnel, Advice Lawyer, Public Legal Education program, and are often the first point of contact for clients in the court process, they are available on Advance Day and Court Day. You can apply for Legal Aid by contacting a Community Legal Worker covering your area, or community:

**Serving Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake, New Slate Falls, Sachigo Lake, North Caribou Lake**

**(Weagamow):**

Jacob Mekanak

Tel: (807) 622-1413

Cell: (807) 630-9503

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

**Serving: Kasabonika, Kingfisher Lake, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin, Wunnumin Lake:**

Don Sainnawap

Tel: (807) 737-5201

Cell: (807) 738-5076

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

**Serving: Big Trout Lake (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug), Muskrat Dam, Lac Seul:**

Lloyd Comber

Tel: (807) 467-3225

Cell: (807) 464-3065

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

**Serving Eabametoong, Webequie, Nibinimak, Ogoki Post, Neskantaga:**

Robert Ostamas

Tel: (807) 622- 1413

Cell: (807) 632- 6339

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

**Serving Sandy Lake, Deer Lake, North Spirit Lake, Poplar Hill, Keewaywin, MacDowell Lake:**

Evangeline Meekis

Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581

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

**Servicing Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Peawanuk:**

Stella Kiokee- Koostachin

Tel: (705) 997- 1285

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

**Servicing Timmins:**

Madeline Kioke

Cell: (705) 221- 1113

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

**Serving: Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Hornepayne, Long Lake #58:**

Roberta Wesley

Tel: (705) 463-1155

Cell: (705) 373-2100

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

**Serving: Taykwa Tagamou, Wahgoshig, Moose Cree, Moose Factory, Moosonee:**

Jackie Edwards

Tel: (705) 268-5544

Cell: (705) 221- 1112

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

**Serving Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Cree, Chapleau Ojibway, Matachewan, Mattagami:**

Martha Kataquapit

Tel: (705) 268-5544

Cell: (705) 288-8900

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

**Serving Pikangikum:**

Darlene Suggashie

Cell: (807) 620-5441

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

**Serving Fort Severn:**

Angus Miles

Cell: (807) 212- 5948

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

You can also call our Office at:

Phone: (807) 622-1413

Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581

Fax: (807) 622-3024

Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm EST

<https://nanlegal.on.ca/>

### **Advice Lawyer Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. EST

### **Contact the Advice Lawyer by:**

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

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-465-5581

Phone: (807) 622-1413

*Services available in Ojibway, Cree, and English*



**ROBERT OSTAMAS**

Booshoo! Wachiya! Hello! My name is Robert Ostamas, and I am a proud member of Eabametoong First Nation. In late October 2021, I started working for the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation as a Community Legal Worker. The NAN First Nations I serve are: Eabametoong (Fort Hope), Marten Falls (Ogoki), Neskantaga (Lansdowne House), Nibinamik (Summer Beaver) and Webequie. My primary role is to provide services to individual members who need help in navigating the justice system and the legal and court processes. I also provide referral services on legal services and programs we have here at NALSC. Thus far it has been a great and fulfilling experience working here at NALSC. The thing I enjoy the most is meeting people and especially working for our people!

A little bit about me. I have two children, Macaulay and Coleman. They are in the early stages of adulthood. I enjoy reading. Topics I read on are Indigenous history and current events, Anishinaabe teachings and Indigenous newspapers such as Wawatay News, WindSpeaker, Turtle Island News and First Nations Drum. I also take time to learn how to read syllabics in Oji-cree & Anishinaabemowin languages. I am a huge fan of John Grisham's works. I have read most of his books, but my personal favourites are The Runaway Jury, The Client and The Rainmaker. I enjoy listening to music and playing the guitar. I am a huge Pittsburgh Penguins fan! I have been a fan since Mario Lemieux's first NHL game - on his first shift, taking his first shot that resulted in his first NHL goal! Magnificent!

For Members of Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie you can reach me at my email: [rostamas@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:rostamas@nanlegal.on.ca) or on my cell: (807) 632-6339 if you would like more information on the services NALSC has to offer.

In closing, I extend Holiday Wishes & a Happy New Year to You and Your Family!!! Stay Safe and Take Good Care! Kitchi-Miigwetch!

**Robert Ostamas, Community Legal Worker**

**Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation**



# Governing Our Land



From Tuesday December 7-to Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> the Nation Rebuilding Leadership Forum Initiative 'Governing Our Land' Conference was held at the Ramada Inn. Delegates from each community that are part of the **Mushkegowuk** area attended the event. Attached below are some pictures. The Conference was hosted by the Ramada Inn who did an excellent job accommodating, and also taking Covid precautions in keeping everyone safe.





# Discharge Program

## Holly Sitch – Program Coordinator

The discharge workers and drivers have been extremely busy with a total of 388 clients transported home since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This is a huge increase in clients compared to the last fiscal year which was a total of 311 for the whole year.

We have had an increase in clients coming out of Thunder Bay and a decrease in Timmins and therefore had the SUV moved to Thunder Bay and two relief drivers were hired to take up the overflow.

We are assisting with Youth transportation and have had roughly ten that we have supported in getting to their homes.

Our name and reputation are getting out across Ontario as we assist with clients coming from Sudbury, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste Marie, Lindsay and many other locations.

We are working all through the holidays to make sure any clients who need our help has it; our team is available 24/7 if anyone needs us.

On behalf of the **Discharge Team**, we would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



Nishnawbe-Aski Legal  
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My name is **Wendy Capri** and I've recently joined the NAN Legal team as a **Gladue Writer** out of the Kenora office. I come from a background rich in child development, psychology and mental health and feel that these skill compliment each aspect of report writing and connecting with the people we collectively serve. I am certified under Royal Roads University and Indigenous perspectives society as a Gladue Writer. In my past work I have served the communities of Treaty 3 and have had the opportunity to get to know the intricate differences each one embraces. I am looking forward to learning more about the Treaty 5 and 9 communities and building positive working relationships within them. ***Miigwetch!***



New to the Nishnawbe-Aski Gladue team, I am the Red Lake Gladue Case Worker. I provide supports to the Gladue writers, as well as provide on-going services to clients participating in the Gladue program, pre- and post sentencing.

I have years of experience working in social services and have spent most of my career focused on understanding systemic barriers present for those struggling to find equitable supports. I have also worked directly with Youth who navigate the implications of social inequality and the impact this has on their ability to be competitive and reach their goals.

In addition to my front- line work, I also support our community Water Safety program as a certified Red Cross Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor. I am very connected to an outdoor lifestyle and am fortunate to have the beautiful Red Lake wilderness, at my backdoor.

I look forward to enriching my experience as a part of the Gladue program and Nishnawbe- Aski Legal Services.

**Diana Pine**

**Gladue Case Worker**





## ***Season's Greetings!***

Well this year has been a busy one. Completed Restorative Justice circles for 2021: 72 They don't stop, that's for sure. The work has to get done. I am pleased with the general overall outcomes. Most charges have been "stayed" or withdrawn. Even with the new policy in place whereby the court(s) stay or withdraw the charge(s) prior to client completing their Agreements, it has been challenging. Some are confused saying they don't need to do their hours or other. I have to inform them details of what has happened. Some comply, some don't. When they don't, I ask they contact their lawyer or duty counsel. Some understand, some don't. This is the first year for this new policy in place so time will tell. How do I know if a client has or has not completed their Agreements? Well, I check the Restorative Justice database and look at their file. This helps me to determine whether or not the client has complied. If they haven't, then I contact them (sometimes hard to do, so snail mail will have to do eg. post office).

For most of December, I have reviewed my client files, hoping I can close majority of them. This takes time since I rely on completed court dockets; otherwise I contact the Crown office or lawyer if they have one. Many of my clients ask: Do I still have to go to court? I tell them "yes" if they have not completed Restorative Justice. But if they have completed RJ, they are told "no", unless of course, they have new charges. It's unbelievable how many clients are not aware of this, so I am careful & review court dockets.

I have had clients wanting me to "arrest" someone in their community. Well, that is not possible since I do not have that kind of power. I think it's a "spur of the moment idea". Or, some will ask me to contact duty counsel for them. Other requests and I've acted on is to assist with changing their conditions. It was a learning experience for me. I realize I did not have to do this but I wanted to learn about how does one go about doing this. Through proper contacts, it was completed. When asked to go the extra mile, I do not hesitate because I ask myself, "How would I feel if someone just gave me the run-around & after all, aren't we a service provider to First Nations people? They need reliability and confidence in our agency as a legal service provider". So on that note, I say, think about your program and what you can do to "go the extra mile" and support our First Nations. They have a hard enough time with their struggles in the communities and we, as a professional corporation, should respect their concerns. "Where there is a will, there is a way".

## ***Merry Christmas 2021 & Happy New 2022!***

**Shirley Keesic**

**Restorative Justice Worker**

**Balmertown, ON**

## **MY JOURNEY BACK HOME – INTRODUCTION**

**MY JOURNEY BACK HOME PROGRAM** targets youth ages 12-29 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 their life cycle journey. MJBH program encompasses an Alternative Dispute Resolution process 'Talking Together' a traditional Circle approach. In a circle, there is no right or left, nor is there a beginning or an end. Every point (person) seated in a circle looks to the same center as the focus. The Circle process will focus on creating a plan of action personalized to the individuals needs going forward and will have positive supports all through their journey to help them achieve their plan.



**MY JOURNEY BACK HOME "Nih Keewaywin" FACILITATOR** – My name is Madonna Hardy, I am from BZAFN – Rocky Bay FN. I have extensive background in working with our people from Justice, Child Welfare and NAN Legal's Talking Together Program. My role as the MJBH Facilitator is to provide an Alternative Dispute Resolution process: 'Talking Together' is a traditional ADR Circle approach. This model allows youth to have a voice and be part of the decision making. All the while in a safe environment to share, speak freely, and be acknowledged in a respectful traditional manner and most importantly to empower and build on strength, skills, and resiliency through a holistic approach with their supporting participants and family in the Circle, including an elder of their choosing. After Circle rounds and discussion with the individual about the needs and struggles, they will be supported by designated services and participants will continue to engage respectfully and assist the youth in resolving issues and help develop his/her plan incorporating the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the individual.

### **MY JOURNEY BACK HOME FACILITATOR**

**Madonna Hardy**

[mhardy@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:mhardy@nanlegal.on.ca)

807-629-1829



**MY JOURNEY BACK HOME AFTERCARE WORKER:** Hello, my name is Kristy Martyn, Aftercare Worker for My Journey Back Home Program. I have 20 years' experience working in the addictions and mental health field and I am truly passionate about what I do, with my clients always being my number one priority. My role as an Aftercare Worker is to offer ongoing positive support in assisting the youth in navigating systems and develop community connections while also ensuring the tasks and actions are complete. Some of these supports may include traditional supports and activities, educational goals, employment and training, advocacy, life skills, mental health, addiction, housing, legal services, and human-trafficking awareness. I will continuously follow up with my clients to ensure they stay on the good path and always be available to them for ongoing support. The principal is that they attain their goals from the plan and gain success on their journey.

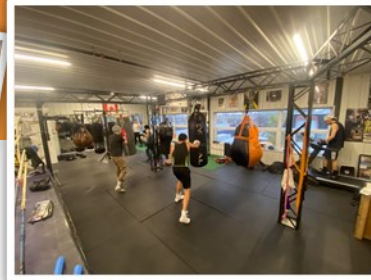
### **MY JOURNEY BACK HOME AFTERCARE WOKER**

**Kristy Martyn**

[kmartyn@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:kmartyn@nanlegal.on.ca)

807-633-9731

# NALSC YOUTH INTERVENTION



This November, 8 youth from Kashechewan as well as 2 NALSC Youth Intervention workers attending a boxing training camp in Montreal. The boxing training was hosted by the Donnybrook Boxing Club while jogging occurred at different places such as McDonald Park, Summit Woods, and on the third day of training camp they even ran up the stairs of Mont Royal and reached the peak. Every youth completed all of their training on this trip and in spare time did homework as well as sightseeing and shopping. They hope to continue their training from the community and someday participate in a competition.



A flight of stairs on Mont Royal. We jogged up the stairs and did pad work at the top.



# Federal Indian Day School Class Action

The deadline for applying for the Federal Indian Day School is quickly approaching; July 13, 2022  
You can find more information on their website:

<https://indiandayschools.com/en/>

It includes Claims Form, List of Federal Indian Day School, who can submit, Claims Process, Updates and Contact information. NALSC will do its best to support survivors

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](http://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/>

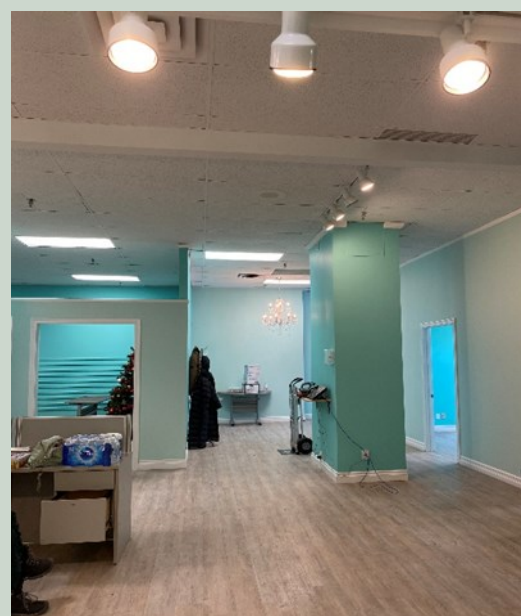


# Fall Feast & Ceremony

On November 12, 2021, NALSC conducted their Fall Feast at their Head Office, in Fort William First Nation. It was Coordinated by Restorative Justice By-Law Worker, Ralph Taylor. Elder Jimmy Mishquart conducted a Pipe Ceremony, Prayer, and smudged the office, and blessed our Eagle Feathers we have in our possession. There will be an update on the Eagle Feathers in the near future. It was a great turn out, we had staff come from the Administration, Finance Department, Talking Together Program, PLE, Restorative Justice and guests from the Thunder Bay Police Department. We had a sharing circle, and a lunch was served, following social distancing protocols.



On December 10, 2021, NALSC Restorative Justice By-Law Worker, Ralph Taylor and Elder Jimmy Mishquart conducted another Pipe ceremony, Prayer, and Smudge to bless our new Office location in Thunder Bay: The Chapple's Building. NALSC is still in the process of renovations. There will be official updates in the New Year.





# 2021 Staff Christmas Party

On Tuesday December 14 all Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services staff had their annual Christmas Party, via Zoom. It was a good day for all staff to have some fun! Staff dressed up in their Christmas Themed outfits, we sang Karaoke, played multiple games, had an intense session of Bingo, and there was plenty of extraordinary prizes to go around. After a year of hard work, during Covid- 19 restrictions, with unforeseen circumstances, the staff pulled together and had a great day. Below are some photos from the Timmins Staff, during our zoom Christmas Party.





**Joanne Cheechoo: Finance Coordinator**



## Timmins Office



# Kii-we-yan Bail Bed and Transitional Housing NAN Legal - Bail Verification and Supervision Program

Box 323 Pikangikum, ON P0V2L0

Email Referral to: bowen@nanlegal.on.ca; msquill@nanlegal.on.ca

## Referral Form

Name of referring agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty Counsel [ Retained Counsel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email/ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In Community Supervision or Bail Bed Program: \_\_\_\_\_ If not accepted to Kii-we-yan, do you authorize NAN Legal IBVSP to forward referral form, CPIC, and synopsis to Nechee FC BVSP? \_\_\_\_\_

Date forwarded to Nechee FC BVSP \_\_\_\_\_ Referring agent notified? \_\_\_\_

### Client Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

In custody at: Pikangikum FNT [ ] Kenora District Jail [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Current charges and alleged offence dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Court Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled bail hearing: \_\_\_\_\_ In-person/By Video

Crown consent to release: \_\_\_\_\_

Outstanding Charges: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Court Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ In-person/By Video

Any additional information or comments (Employment, No Contact Order) \_\_\_\_\_

BVSP ONLY - Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Synopsis & CPIC Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted to program: \_\_\_\_\_ Added to waitlist: \_\_\_\_\_ Declined at this time: \_\_\_\_\_

Require additional information from referring agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted referring agency to advise of decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Decision of Community Panel: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pikangikum & NALSC Partnership

Pikangikum Health Authority, in partnership with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, and the Ministry of the Attorney General Indigenous Justice Division, are pleased to announce that the Indigenous Bail Verification and Supervision Program (IBVSP), with NALSC, is now accepting direct referrals to the “Kii-we-yan Bail Bed Program” in Pikangikum in First Nation.

True to our name; “Kii-we-yan” allows the client to remain "close to home" in Pikangikum and is only for members of Pikangikum First Nation. This Program is the First of its kind, in a First Nations community in Canada. The Program is determined to “reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system, to focus on culturally relevant services, and reduce the community and family separation, by which reducing the trauma that separation causes,” (Grand Chief Fiddler)

IBVSP and the Kii-We-Yan staff members will take a “guided and holistic view to eligibility based on: Indigenous traditions & practices and world views, honor the presumption of innocence, understand the prejudice and legacy of Colonialism and displacement, reduce the unique barriers that Indigenous Peoples face, while connecting the client to their community and focus on the strengths of the client.” (Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation)

Understanding that a significant barrier to make Bail, for Indigenous Peoples in Northern Ontario, and the requirement of an address, or even a place to live, the Program expanded into a Bail- Bed Program. Kii- We- Yan and NALSC seeks to maintain the confidence of the courts to monitor the clients while allowing for personal program development and growth, remaining in the community, maintaining their employment, and encouraging the client to develop a program specific to their interests.

IBVSP will accept Referrals from Judges, Crown Attorneys, Community Legal and Resource Workers, Police Officers, and the Leadership of the Community, Chief and Council.

A complete Referral will require a Referral Form, CPIC, and Crown Brief Synopsis. Referrals will be reviewed as they are received, and clients accepted into the Kii- We- Yan Program will be placed on a waitlist until a bed becomes available. Once decided, IBVSP will notify the Referring agency by email. We do not disclose the reason for the decision.



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138B Mission Road  
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Nation, ON  
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100 - 1805 Arthur  
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Thunder Bay, ON  
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Sioux Lookout Office  
37 Front Street,  
Sioux Lookout, ON  
P8T 1A3

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