



# NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

*To respect and revitalize restorative justice forms of justice  
through Indigenous laws and Pimatisiwin (way of life)*



## Chantelle Johnson, Restorative Justice Manager

Boozhoo, My name is Chantelle Johnson. I am originally from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway First Nation in Northern Ontario. I currently live and work from the beautiful city of Thunder Bay, along with my husband and two beautiful children who are my world. To date, I have been employed with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services for over 17 years in the Restorative Justice Program.

As the Restorative Justice Manager, I am responsible for running and expanding the vast Restorative Justice Program's under my umbrella. NALSC's Restorative Justice Program was created in 1996, to deliver Restorative Justice to the 49 First Nation communities in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory. Our current Restorative Justice Program portfolio includes Restorative Justice, Youth Justice, Pre-Charge Restorative Justice, By Law Restorative Justice, Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Restorative Justice, PARS Program, Youth Intervention & Prevention, Guns & Gangs Initiative, and the Community HUB Programs.

Let me tell you, It has been an amazing 17 years! I have gotten to see the program expand and grow, when we first started we had only 3 Restorative Justice Workers and to date our current program is over 25 workers. I have also seen how beneficial and needed these programs are to the NAN communities we service. Each of our programs are designed to work hand in hand and complement each other. A full list of programs and a detailed program descriptions can be found on our website @ <http://www.nanlegal.on.ca> and is also outlined in our "Navigating Though the RJ Department Newsletter".

Lastly, I get to be a part of the most amazing, talented, hardworking team of Justice Workers in Northern Ontario. These workers who will be introduced in this newsletter are a special brand of worker, each one of our team brings a little extra something special to the position. As I often find myself repeating "The success of this program is not because of one person.... It is the hard work of the whole team is what got us where we are today!"

Please enjoy this current edition of getting to know our RJ Team!

Meegwetch,  
Chantelle



# **Natasha Salatino-Mach, Assistant Coordinator**

Hello Everyone,

My name is Natasha Salatino-Mach and I am the Restorative Justice Assistant Coordinator within the Restorative Justice Department based out of the Thunder Bay Office, and have been working with this department for the past 4 years. I work hand in hand with the Restorative Justice Manager Chantelle Johnson and our Administrative Assistant Lauren Differ to ensure that all aspects of the program are running smoothly. This would include the general administration of the program assisting staff with programming and events and expanding the program with new projects. Over these past 4 years I have enjoyed working with all the different programs that relate to Restorative Justice, and am looking forward to seeing how this program will expand and provide additional services to the members of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. I am also looking forward to seeing more of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Communities, and being able to interact with more people to ensure the services are being provided.



# **Lauren Differ, RJ Assistant**

My name is Lauren Differ and I am the administrative assistant in the Restorative Justice department at NALSC. I work closely with Chantelle and Natasha out of our Thunder Bay office to ensure that referrals are distributed, travel is arranged, and staff have the supports they need to do their jobs effectively. While I am a relatively new employee at NALSC, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such an amazing team since being hired in January 2022. Everyday, I look forward to learning from my peers and the experiences and knowledge they have to offer, and look forward to helping them in their efforts to help provide culturally suitable justice programming in NAN communities.

# The RJ Team Leads



## RJ WEST TEAM LEAD

### Ralph Taylor

Boozhoo,

I would like to take this time to introduce myself, my name is Ralph Taylor and I come from the Bear clan of Ginoogaming First Nation. I work for Nan Legal Services under the Restorative Justice Department, and my role is the Restorative Justice Advocate Team lead. Throughout my work experience, I have been observing the justice system for many years and have continued discussing this topic with elders in various communities. I learned a lot in that time on how different communities' functions and the different types of services they have available. In my heart, I feel that these Justice Circles are the answer to the over representation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system and it is a process that I respect highly. I learned from the many teachings provided to me from the elders of various communities and use those teaching can assist my clients to the best of my ability. I look forward to visiting the communities once again now that the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided and do presentations relating to Restorative Justice and the services it provides. I also look forward to hearing the communities' opinions and taking your directions on how each community would establish a working relationship with the Restorative Justice Program.

I can be reached @ rtaylor@nanlegal.on.ca or 807-629-3298.

I have many goals I would like to reach with relation to justice such as; assisting Justice committees and bringing the crowns to communities so that they can also learn about the communities as I feel it is important to understanding the clients they are serving. In closing I would like to give all my blessings and thank you for taking the time to read my introduction.



## Stallone Quequish



Community Engagement & Training Coordinator  
Youth Intervention Coordinator

Hello all my relatives, If you are new to NALSC welcome to the family. My name is Stallone Quequish and I am the Community Learning HUB facilitator and Youth Intervention Team Leader out of our Sioux Lookout location. I have been with NAN Legal for almost 4 years. I enjoy times here the most when we get a chance to gather and create memories at our staff gatherings and adventures.

Working alongside the Justice System and having clients with numerous backgrounds may get heavy but I feel we are blessed to help our people walk the good life with the assistance we provide. Whatever position you may hold here, I hope you enjoy the moments you give to others whether it is good or bad. We were all put here for a reason and our reason here at NALSC is to be the help others may need.

It has been blast and time has went by so fast since becoming a member of this family. As we all know for the past 2 years has been a HUGE struggle for the entire world. As we adjust to life again returning to In-Person activities and client appointments, I just want to say Welcome Back and let's continue to be the light in someone's darkness.

MEEGWETCH,  
Stallone



## RJ EAST TEAM LEAD

### Leahan Parrott

Boozhoo, Wacheya, Hello,

My spirit name is Golden Eagle Woman, my English name is Leahan Parrott.

I am a Matachewan First Nation Band member and grew up in the neighbouring small town of Matachewan.

One of the very few times I left home was to complete my B.A. at Laurentian University. I was fortunate enough to learn about Restorative Justice through a presentation done in our community and soon after became a Restorative Justice Advocate.

I started working for Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services in October 2000 and have been proud to be part of such a dedicated team.

The communities I serve include Matachewan, Beaverhouse, Wahgoshig, Chapleau, Timmins, and Constance Lake.

Restorative Justice has an important history, having been practiced by Nishnawbe since time immemorial. Over the past 21 years of dedicated service to my communities, I have enjoyed being part of a hard-working team that strives to promote community-based justice systems to all of our NAN members.



# Alana Odowa

Restorative Justice SADV Team Lead



Boozhoo! Hello!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Alana (Odowa) Lindstone. I am Red Rock Indian Band member. I grew up on a small First Nation community (Lake Helen Reserve) which is beside the famous Nipigon River. I have one son, a supportive husband and a loving family.

In 2019, I started to work for Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Service Corporation (NALSC) in the Restorative Justice By-Law Program for the central region. At the end of June 2020, I started a new role in the Restorative Justice Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence (RJ SADV) Program. This program provides services for all Nishnawbe-Aski Nation communities.

At the beginning of 2022, we were fortunate to have a Restorative Justice Youth SADV Worker to strength this program. Melanie Mohan started with NALSC as a Victim Witness Worker in August 2019 and then joined our RJ SADV Program this year. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to help shape and expand this program. Melanie and her husband live in Timmins, ON and have two boys.

Throughout the time of Covid, it became more apparent that there was a need for programming and/or educational resources for clientele that have domestic related offences. At the time of the development of this program, we incorporated the Duluth Model as a key component of this Indigenous Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Program (Ministry approved). Our key focus for this program is about planting educational seeds as an opportunity to provide change and healing.

Going forward, Melanie and I are in the process of developing the Restorative Justice Sexual Assault training manual. We will utilize and incorporate some of the training received from the Community Justice Initiative program. As we continue to grow and develop this program, we are always learning and expanding our knowledge.

Our main goal is to help break cycles of violence and abuse, by planting one seed at a time. It has been a world wind of progress and change; we look forward to the continuous growth of this program.

Miigwetch!

Alana

# Vernon Morris

Booshoo, Wacheya

My name is Vernon Morris a new employee of the Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation hired to the Restorative Justice Bylaw Team and will be working out of the NAN Legal office in Sioux Lookout, Ontario.

I am a member of the Muskrat Dam First Nation and in my work capacity as Restorative Justice Bylaw worker I will be covering the NAN West catchment area of First Nation Tribal Councils and Independent communities. In an outreach capacity I will also work with other communities in the NAN territory as assigned.

The primary purpose of the Bylaw program is to give support to NAN First Nation communities which are developing and establishing their own community bylaw programs that may include indigenous cultural values and practices. We are aware that some First Nation communities already have a program in place and can use the NAN Legal Bylaw program to further enhance their efforts in addressing issues such as abuse of intoxicants, street drugs, underage drinking and other community social ills that are not necessarily law related. The Restorative Justice component of the bylaw program can be used to resolve disputes and as a tool to enforce community bylaws. Matters affecting the community would not necessarily have to appear in a court of law for resolution. Diversions from local law enforcement agencies (NAPS and O.P.P) and visiting courts can be accessed and processed before a formal charge can be laid by utilizing the Restorative Justice component of the Bylaw program.

The aforementioned items are just examples of how the bylaw program can be of use to our First Nation communities. It is our understanding that our community leaders and First Nation community residents are the most qualified to give direction on how this resource can be effectively used in their communities. I look forward to meeting with the people of the First Nation communities of the NAN territory in the coming weeks as the cloud of the Covid -19 virus passes us. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

My contact information is as follows: email address [vmorris@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:vmorris@nanlegal.on.ca), Cell phone number 807-738-5932



# JORDON AKIWENZIE

Restorative Justice By-Law worker, Eastern NAN communities

Hello, my name is Jordon Akiwenzie and I work as a Restorative Justice by-law worker for the eastern NAN communities. I'm from Moose Factory and enjoy going home when I get the chance. I'm an avid golfer and love travelling to new places when I can.

My primary goal in my position is to assist the person/people responsible for the Justice portfolio from your community to discuss By-law development and how Restorative Justice can be used to resolve By-law infractions. I'm available to give presentations about by-law development and give advice for the contents/structure of certain By-laws. I'm also able to facilitate Restorative Justice circles for by-law infractions that happen in the community."



## CHRIS BEARDY

Youth Restorative Justice/Youth Intervention Worker  
Community Learning HUB Facilitator

Hello Everyone,

My name is Chris Beardy and I am one of the workers out of Sioux Lookout, Ontario. I originally come from Kingfisher Lake. I cover Restorative Justice, Youth Intervention and facilitate Community Learning HUB every now and then. I have been with NAN Legal since February 2, 2019. During my time here I have done a lot of coverage such as court matters, youth activities and at times helping wherever I am needed. It has been a pleasure and learning experience working here with all of you.

The communities I mainly cover are Pikangikum, Kasibonika, Wunnumin Lake and Weagamow Lake. I also help communities that may not be my area if I am needed there.

Some of my favourite moments here are the training workshops, group trips, and team gatherings.

I look forward to bringing more assistance to this organization in every way possible while learning more skills, knowledge and anything else around the Justice System.

I hope you all enjoy your roles here at NALSC and I look forward to meeting with you whenever the time may come.

Chris Beardy



## DAVID CHOOKOMOLIN

Youth Restorative Justice/Youth Intervention Worker  
Community Learning HUB Facilitator

I've been with Nan Legal Services for the past ten years and I love the family atmosphere within the company. I think that is one of the reasons I keep coming back to Nan Legal Services. They treat you well, like family. I have been doing restorative justice circles for the Attawapiskat community since I joined the team. The one thing I love about my job is working with elders, and youth. Both have taught me a lot in the ten plus years. I find that the elders are very open to sharing their life experiences with those that are seeking their knowledge, and I feel that the youth we work with love that aspect of the teachings in the circles. The youth connects with the elder's life and comes to realization that we all go through the same stages in life and things will get better. This also gives the youth hope, new skills and gives them purpose in life. The circles will always provide that, just as long we keep the stories and history alive that the elders share with us. I just wanted to share little of what I learned working for Nan Legal Services. Everyday is a learning experience.



# ELTON CROWE

Youth Restorative Justice/Youth Intervention Worker  
Community Learning HUB Facilitator



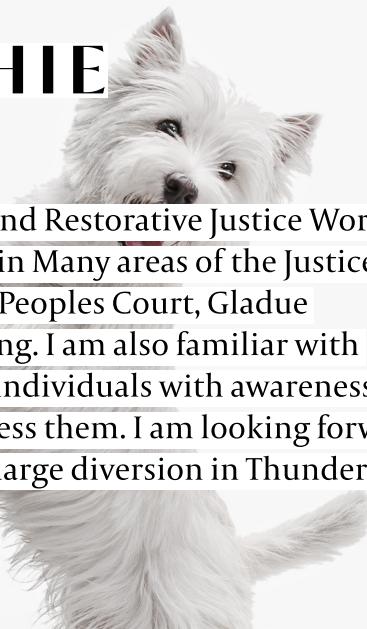
Hi my name is Elton crow I live in Sandy lake I have worked for Nan legal since Nov 2021 I like being in the outdoors , boating ,fishing, hunting, all year long and enjoy all sports and try be active year long , and love participating in sports events for the community, just a little something about myself and hope you have a great year !!!



## STEVE DOKUCHIE

Pre-Charge Worker

Hello, my name is Steve. As a Pre-Charge and Restorative Justice Worker I can offer my knowledge and experience in Many areas of the Justice Field such as Bail knowledge, Indigenous Peoples Court, Gladue Knowledge/Training, PAR and Asist Training. I am also familiar with many Community Resources. I can assist individuals with awareness of the available Resources and how to access them. I am looking forward to continuing my work promoting Pre-Charge diversion in Thunder Bay and its surrounding communities.

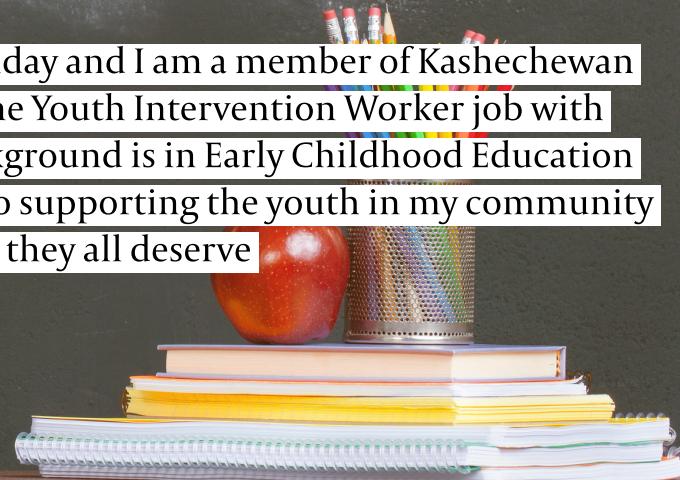


## SHEILA FRIDAY

Youth Intervention Worker -  
Kashechewan

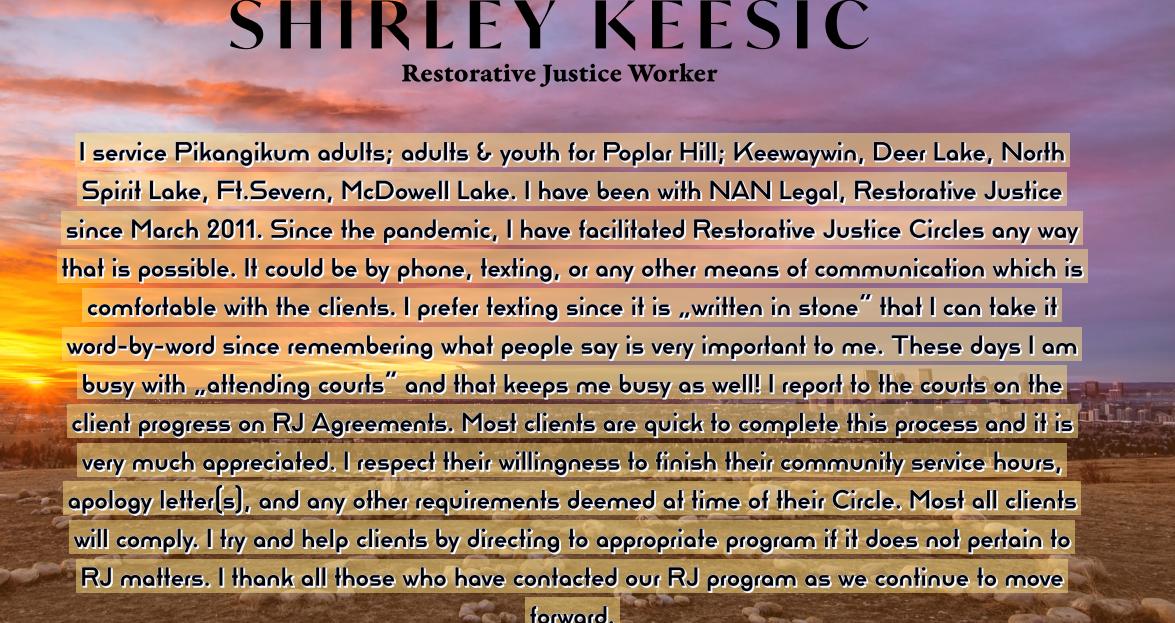


Wachay! My name is Sheila Friday and I am a member of Kashechewan First Nation. I just started in the Youth Intervention Worker job with NAN Legal. My education background is in Early Childhood Education and Teaching. I look forward to supporting the youth in my community to live the healthy, happy lives they all deserve



# SHIRLEY KEEVIC

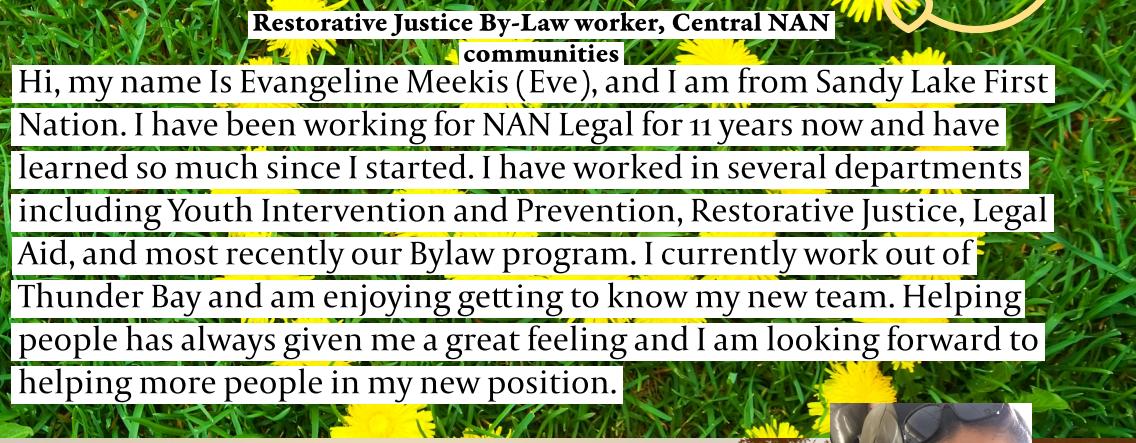
Restorative Justice Worker



I service Pikangikum adults; adults & youth for Poplar Hill; Keewaywin, Deer Lake, North Spirit Lake, Ft. Severn, McDowell Lake. I have been with NAN Legal, Restorative Justice since March 2011. Since the pandemic, I have facilitated Restorative Justice Circles any way that is possible. It could be by phone, texting, or any other means of communication which is comfortable with the clients. I prefer texting since it is „written in stone” that I can take it word-by-word since remembering what people say is very important to me. These days I am busy with „attending courts” and that keeps me busy as well! I report to the courts on the client progress on RJ Agreements. Most clients are quick to complete this process and it is very much appreciated. I respect their willingness to finish their community service hours, apology letter(s), and any other requirements deemed at time of their Circle. Most all clients will comply. I try and help clients by directing to appropriate program if it does not pertain to RJ matters. I thank all those who have contacted our RJ program as we continue to move forward.

## EVANGELINE MEEKIS

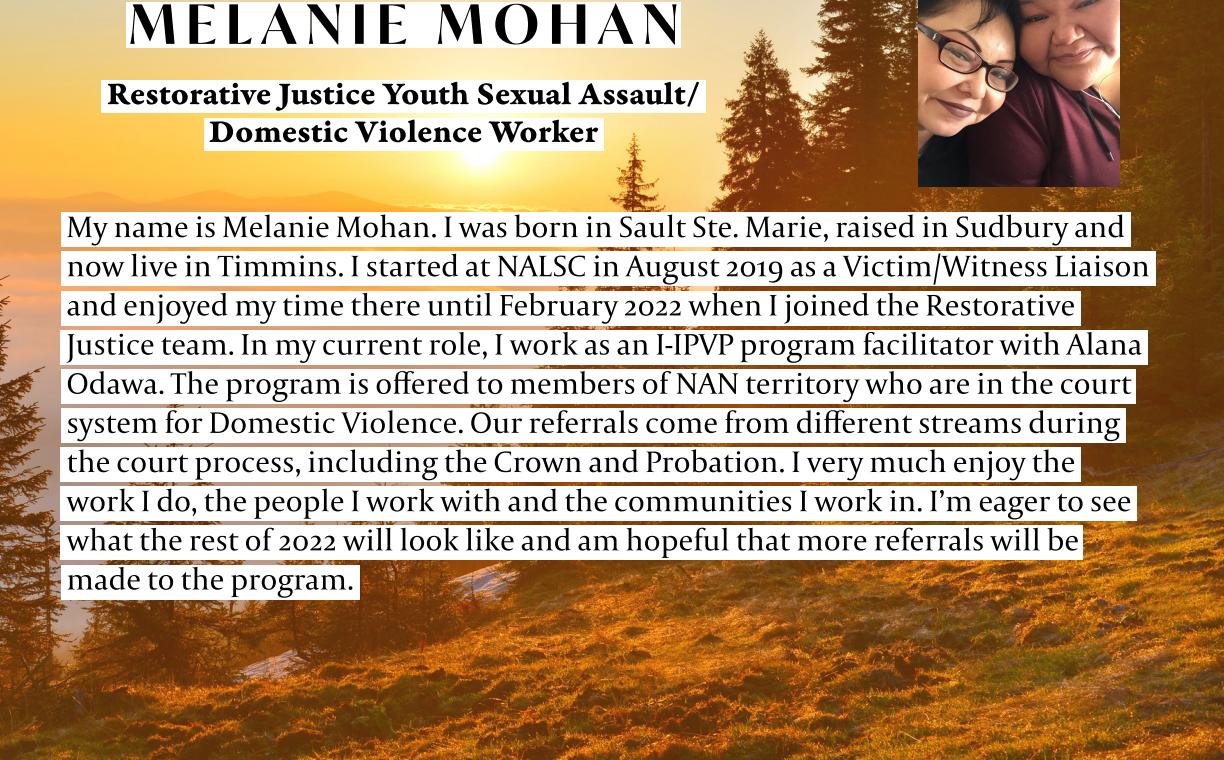
Restorative Justice By-Law worker, Central NAN communities



Hi, my name is Evangeline Meekis (Eve), and I am from Sandy Lake First Nation. I have been working for NAN Legal for 11 years now and have learned so much since I started. I have worked in several departments including Youth Intervention and Prevention, Restorative Justice, Legal Aid, and most recently our Bylaw program. I currently work out of Thunder Bay and am enjoying getting to know my new team. Helping people has always given me a great feeling and I am looking forward to helping more people in my new position.

## MELANIE MOHAN

Restorative Justice Youth Sexual Assault/  
Domestic Violence Worker



My name is Melanie Mohan. I was born in Sault Ste. Marie, raised in Sudbury and now live in Timmins. I started at NALSC in August 2019 as a Victim/Witness Liaison and enjoyed my time there until February 2022 when I joined the Restorative Justice team. In my current role, I work as an I-IPVP program facilitator with Alana Odawa. The program is offered to members of NAN territory who are in the court system for Domestic Violence. Our referrals come from different streams during the court process, including the Crown and Probation. I very much enjoy the work I do, the people I work with and the communities I work in. I'm eager to see what the rest of 2022 will look like and am hopeful that more referrals will be made to the program.

# QUINCY O'KEES

## Guns and Gangs Worker Fort Hope



My name is Quincy O'kees and I am the Guns and Gangs worker in Fort Hope, Ontario. I have lived in Fort Hope all of my life and this is where I enjoy life the most. I have been with NAN Legal since May 2022. Some of the work I have done since May has been fishing, blueberry picking, boating and Spring Hunting. I really enjoy the times I get to spend with the youth doing on the land activities. Some of my highlights since being here as been our recent trip to Niagara Falls for our group training this past summer.

This past summer I enjoyed assisting local baseball and summer games here in Fort Hope. Some of my goals within the next 6 months are a moose hunting camping trip, ice fishing with the youth, and fall/winter trapping. NAN Legal has been an amazing experience by giving me the opportunity to do the things I love doing the most which is being ON THE LAND and guiding our youth.

I look forward to doing more here at NALSC as the Guns and Gangs worker with our local youth. Also, looking forward to meeting with everyone in person in the near future.

Thank you,  
Quincy O'kees



## KEN SACKANEY

**Restorative Justice Worker,  
Matawa Communities**

The name is Ken; my band is Constance Lake First Nation, but my family originated from Fort Albany. I've been with NAN Legal for 5 years starting out as a part-time youth intervention worker. Eventually going full time with dual roles with restorative justice in Fort Albany.

My focus in Fort Albany was prevention. My role was to provide the youth with engaging activities in a structured environment, as it was beneficial for their growth. The main activity was basketball. Focusing on discipline, hard work, and dedication would achieve results. The basketball teams won numerous regional tournaments in the James Bay, Quebec Cree First Nations, and with our proudest moment being the girl's high school team qualifying for Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association. Other activities included providing workshops for multimedia arts and partnering with local organizations to do full community events.

I took the role of restorative justice for a personal reason. When I was 19, I was accused of shoplifting in Sudbury. The court experience was traumatizing, and I was initially upset that I was wrongfully accused. I knew the consequences of having a criminal record for my future employment. I had to hire a lawyer; the fees were a financial burden as I was not educated about legal aid. My case resulted in a diversion program like Restorative Justice.

This experience inspired me to become a restorative justice facilitator. I started in Fort Albany and eventually assisting the neighbouring James Bay communities.

In 2021, I needed a change of scenery within the organization. I transferred to Thunder Bay to broaden my horizons, where I am now servicing the Matawa communities. I am looking forward to meeting more communities, establishing new strategies to improve services to members of Matawa.

## RYAN SAKAKEEP

**Restorative Justice - Pre-Charge  
Worker**

My name is Ryan Sakakeep, I am from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inniniuwug currently residing in Thunder Bay.

I am a pre charge worker looking after Matawa Communities and I also look after Restorative Justice and Pre Charge in my home community. I started with NAN Legal Services on July 12, 2022 and I am enjoying my work and getting to know my fellow employees. I was previously with NAN as one of the original Youth Intervention Workers back in March 2007. I was with the corporation for 7 and a half years before I got elected to council. I worked in education, health, pandemic, helped with NAN Legal from time to time before I took some time off to look after my mental health. Then here I am back at NALSC, full circle.

As a pre charge worker, I am responsible for holding circles with offenders to help repair the damage caused by their offences, rather than get charges laid and go through the court process. It is at the discretion of the NAPS officer who received the call to make the referral to NAN Legal Pre Charge Program. Activities can include counselling, letters of apology, restitution, community service, cultural activities, hunting and fishing, and helping at sporting events. Community service does not have to always be manual labor, it can be fun and creative. My only restriction is community service cannot be performed anywhere when someone makes monetary profit such as stores or places of business.

Once a referral is completed, I will be in contact with the person involved and set up a time and date for a circle, either in person or on zoom. Then we will all come up with an agreement and we would keep in contact until everything is finished. This is an alternative to being charged with an offence and going through court, as we all know it has been a challenge due to travel restrictions due to the pandemic.

I look forward to working with you from now until April 2022

# Mary Spencer, Youth RJ Worker



Aanii my name is Mary Spencer and I am a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. I started working for NALSC in 2016 as a Youth Intervention worker while I was living in Kashechewan. My role soon expanded to include Restorative Justice in Kashechewan and I thoroughly enjoyed both positions. I used my experience as a 2012 Olympian in boxing to teach the youth in Kashechewan how to box and to use their skills in a good way. In 2019 I was inspired to continue my journey as a boxing athlete and took a leave from NALSC to pursue a professional career. During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, I was invited to continue my work with NALSC using online platforms. I was thrilled to continue working with the community of Kashechewan and as pandemic restrictions were lifted, I was even able to accompany two groups of youth from Kashechewan to boxing training camps in Montreal, Quebec. Today I serve as a part-time Restorative Justice worker for Kashechewan and I look forward to assisting with youth programming in the future.

## Gloria Turtle, Youth Justice/Youth Intervention Worker

Hello everyone, my name is Gloria Turtle. I am from Pikangikum, a reserve north from Red Lake. I have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and a dog name Bob. I love to go fishing and working on new projects by sewing. This year I learned to make homemade quilts and homemade curtains. The sewing machine has been my friend this past year and would like to see more youth in learning with me as I learn too. I work with Nan Legal as a part time Youth Intervention Worker. We recently took a trip out to Toronto Niagara Falls and I was so glad I went to the workshop, a part of me lifted and what was in my heart was finally released. The workshops are very helpful. I also enjoyed my very first massage and getting splashed by the Niagara Falls was so refreshing. The hotel was very nice and the hotel staff were very helpful and their early morning greetings started my day with a positive mood. Thanks Nan Legal for the trip.

My job has been a big part of my life by meeting new youth and earning their trust is one of the many accomplishments that indicates you are doing a great job. I enjoy being a part of the team and learning new strategies along the way on how to keep the youth busy and have fun. For the month of September, I am working on a new healing project for the youth. I noticed a lot of youth are struggling with anxiety and would like to help them by introducing them to walking and trying out new food. There are lots of ways in coping with anxiety and this is one project I will pray will work. Thanks for taking the time to read my update. Meegwetch.

## Troy Williams, Youth Justice/Youth Intervention Worker

Hello, my name is Troy Williams I am the Youth Intervention/Restorative Justice Worker out of Fort Albany I wanted to share a bit of myself I am 29 years old and have been working for Nan for about a year but I have been working with youth for 6 years. I take a lot of pride in what I do, when it comes to the youth I offer a lot of programming such as open gym, basketball, volleyball and baseball. I also do big community events with several committees such as Christmas events, holiday events, and out of town events which gives the youth an opportunity to explore out of their comfort zones. I enjoy what I do here at Nan and will continue to work with youth as long as I can.





# LETTING LOOSE AT THE FALLS

## LEAHAN'S DID YOU KNOW????



1. You fart on average 14 times a day, and each fart travels from your body at 7 mph.
2. Your fingernails grow faster when you are cold.
3. A typical cough is 60 mph while a sneeze is often faster than 100 mph.
4. Your feet typically produce a pint (1.21 lbs) of sweat every single day.
5. All babies are born with blue eyes.
6. Hot water will turn into ice faster than cold water.
7. Close to 20 per cent of First Nations communities are under a drinking water advisory, a stat that has remained remarkably consistent for the past 25 years.



For More  
Information:

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

