



WINTER 2022 BIBOON



NISHNAWBE ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

ACCESSING COURT INFORMATION

Documents are posted on our website's homepage on a monthly basis:
www.nanlegal.on.ca

Click the highlighted links provided labelled:

- » NALSC Advance Court - Virtual Zoom Connection
- » NALSC Northern Duty Council Calendar

**check back frequently as updates can be made throughout the month*



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NISHNAWBE ASKI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IRENE LINKLATER

APPRECIATION TO ALL STAFF – SIGNING OF NEW LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

On October 20, 2022 at our Thunder Bay office, after a year long negotiation process that began at an in-person meeting in Sioux Lookout in the fall of 2021, we had the signing of new Legal Services Agreement, between Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services (NALSC) and Legal Aid Ontario (LAO); The NALSC main table negotiation team was led by the Executive Committee Members – Chair Jim Beardy, Co-Chair Frank McKay, Secretary Treasurer Jason Batise and guidance from Elder Barney Batise. Most of the negotiations were held by virtual mode with one meeting in Toronto on May 4, 2022. Legal Counsel was provided by Falconers LLP Julian Falconer, Asha James, Shelby Percival, and financial support by Diane Dunford, Silver Foam Consulting Inc., Irene Linklater Executive Director and Don Rusnak Director of Legal Services assisted as members on the technical team.

The Board wishes to express appreciation to all NAN LEGAL STAFF – You on the front-line and administration offices across NAN communities for your consistent hard work and commitment to advising on NAN client legal services required. The success of the negotiation was all due to your dedication and excellence to improving the legal services to our people in the justice system and judicial process for a better tomorrow.

For the Joint Announcement go to our website:

<https://nanlegal.on.ca/announcement-by-nan-legal-and-lao/>

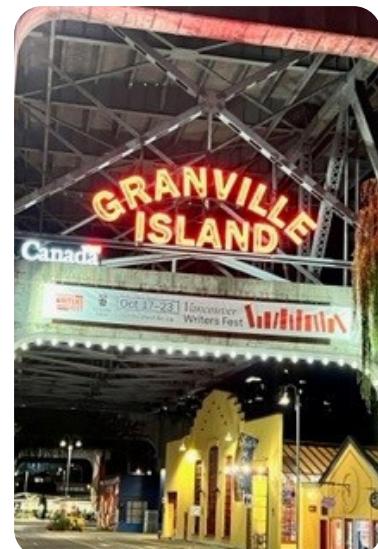


NANLEGAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2022

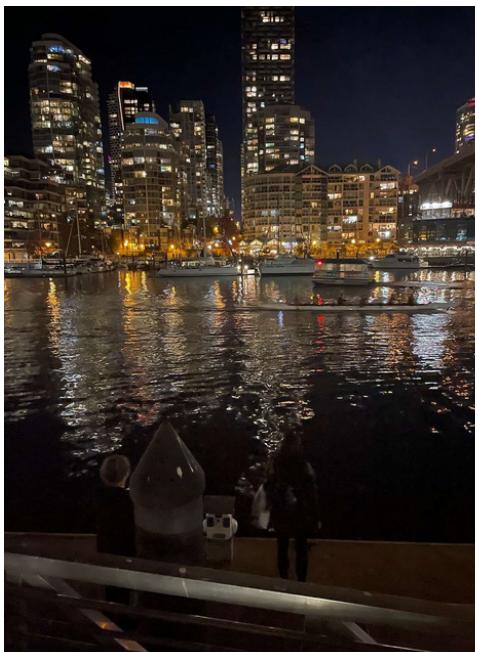
The Board of Directors approved by motion to holding a Board Retreat this year that began with a Call For Proposals to hire a consultant. Superior Strategy's Proposal for Consulting Services, a local First Nation owned business and consulting company was chosen for contracted services. The "start-stop-continue" approach was a successful tool used as the framework for scribing feedback from the retreat session. As noted by Superior Strategies "It encourages people to rate performance on three key dimensions: what should be started, stopped, and continued. This approach allows for more accurate and actionable feedback and encourages participants to provide reasoning and suggestions for improvement." Some of the Board were able to attend by Virtual mode, and managers attending in-person included Irene Linklater, Executive Director, Don Rusnak Director of Legal Services, Tara Thompson Financial Controller, Colette Shwetz HR Manager, Chantelle Johnson Restorative Justice Manager.

The session focused on NAN LEGAL 5-Year Strategic Plan 2021-2026 to the four key pillars, Legal Services, Restorative Justice & Traditions, Financial Stability, Collaboration & Partnerships. The four priority issues identified for day two included,

1. Growth Strategy – to the development of a new operational model.
2. Succession Planning – at all levels of the board, management, and program staff.
3. Legal Aid Services Agreement – LAO/NAN LEGAL signing and announcement
4. Incarceration, inquests, custody deaths, and wrap-around services (life stabilization)



The location of the Board Retreat was based on research to connecting with other First Nations involved in advancing direct change and decision making in the administration of the justice system at the community level, on legal orders and law reform. The B.C. First Nation Justice Council (BCFNJC) accepted our invitation to meet and present to the Board in Vancouver. The presenters pointed to the significant strides made set out in the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, since the signing of the three-party Justice Strategy in 2020 with the First Nations Justice Council, Province of B.C., and Canada. A key success is the establishment of 3 of 15 planned Justice Centers and expansion of Gladue Reports. Their journey is one of collaboration amongst the First Nations working together and this approach continues in the implementation of their Strategy to champion their collective vision set out in the Strategy. The Strategy is built on four Foundations, with four Pillars and a total of 25 Strategies and 42 Lines of Action: The four Pillars are – Core Values, Structures and Processes, Roles, Responsibilities and Capacities, Laws and Policies, To learn more one needs only to visit on line at (www.bcfnjc.com). The message learned was the importance of leadership and collaboration that includes Elders and Knowledge Keepers as integral to the criminal justice and child welfare reform, and the singular pursuit of not waiting for others to develop our own inspirational justice strategy. While in Vancouver we were able to take in some sights. Most of all we look forward to maintaining a networking and relationship with BCFNJC.



NAN LEGAL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

The NAN LEGAL Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay. The AGM Theme "Investing in Community Based Justice Strategy" that is based on the mandate of NAN LEGAL as set out in the NAN Chiefs in Assembly Resolutions. This was the first in-person AGM that was chaired this year by NALSC Board Executive Member Secretary-Treasurer Jason Batise. A virtual attendance option was in place. The agenda dealt with financial audit financials report from the Auditor Meyers Norris Penny and the Annual Report highlighted by Executive Director Irene Linklater. A presentations on creation of the dual mandate of NAN LEGAL was provided by Rosie Mosquito a member of Bearskin Lake First Nation and one of two appointed to undertake field research on models of Indigenous Justice on Turtle Island in the formation of NAN LEGAL mandate. Rosie explained that she went to Iqaluit and prior to his time as former NAN Grand Chief, Bentley Cheechoo visited the Navaho Nation. Restorative Justice Staff, Alana Odawa and Melanie Mohan presented on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, followed by a presentation by Falconers LLP. Associate Asha James on an update of the new Legal Services Agreement and Funding Model between NAN LEGAL and LEGAL AID ONTARIO.



NAN LEGAL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

There were 4 Member Resolutions debated and passed namely
Member Resolution No. 01/ Accepting of NALSC Annual Report and Audit
Member Resolution No. 02/ Satellite In-Person Fly-In Courts in NAN Territory and Ongoing Inequality and Access to Justice Issues
Member Resolution No. 03/ Investing in Community Based Justice Strategy for Mino Pimatisiwin

Member Resolution No. 04/ Skylar's law initiative to register and monitor convicted serious personal injury offences

NAN LEGAL Staff provided legal service and justice program information tables in a separate room and vendor tables were made available at no cost to the Artisans.

This was another successful cost -saving collaborative joint AGM planning with NAPS and NAN. The 2023 AGM is planned to be jointly developed once again tentatively set aside for September with dates and hotel to be confirmed.





Finance Controller

TARA THOMPSON

Hi everyone!

For those who don't know me yet I am Tara Thompson and I am the Finance Controller for NALSC. I have worked with Nanlegal for almost 10 years now and have really enjoyed my time that I have spent here meeting all the staff and getting to know a little more about each of the communities we serve. I am a very proud member of Red Rock Indian Band, a mother of 3 great kids, grandmother to 2 beautiful babies and a wife of 26 years to my husband and life long best friend. I spend most of my free time at the arena, our camp, or travelling. I work out of the Fort William First Nation office and am just a phone call away if you have any questions or need my help.



Thanks,

Tara Thompson
Financial Controller
Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services



Finance Coordinator

JOANNE CHEECHOO



Hello, my name is Joanne Cheechoo a member of Eabametoong First Nation and I have been with NAN Legal since February 2017 my background is mostly in the finance area and have been enjoying my time here at NAN Legal. My husband Randy and I have been married for 30 years, we have 4 boys well I mean young men and grandparents to three handsome grandsons and three beautiful

granddaughters. I love spending time with our grandchildren and watch them grow into independent young people as they grow so fast. On my spare time, I am an Independent Distributor for GelMoment and do home parties for ladies that love to do their manicures. My hobbies consist of playing pool; I play league during the year from September to March and have competed in numerous pool tournaments in Las Vegas, Thunder Bay, Duluth and Wisconsin areas. I play 9 ball, 8 ball, Scotch Doubles and Teams. My biggest wins were in World Champions in Las Vegas; in 2016 I won Ladies VNEA 9 Ball Singes, 2022 my husband Randy and I placed 3rd for BCA Scotch Doubles. 2022 In Thunder Bay; I won the 8 ball tournament at the Moose Hall in March and Place 2nd at the Elks Lodge 8 ball tournament in March as well. And most recent, our Team won the Elks Grey Cup Pool Tournament in Nov 2022. In Superior Wisconsin, my husband and I placed 2nd in the Scotch Doubles Tournament in Oct 2022. I am very proud to have accomplished so much as I have been playing pool since 2005. My other summer hobbies include golfing, fishing, camping and sitting by the fire pit with family and friends.

Travel / Payroll Coordinator

HOLLY SITCH

Travel

Once a Travel Arrangement Request has been received, I assist the staff with making travel arrangements they have requested by sending in purchase orders to vendors, booking flights, rooms, and vehicle rentals. After all bookings have been made an email with go to the staff travelling as well as the manager with all travel documents needed.

Payroll

I review the timesheets to make sure that any lieu or leave requests are accurate. I will notify Managers if there is a discrepancy which needs to be addressed. Reminders will be sent out prior to the deadline to have timesheets in to Managers so that they can be reviewed and then approved.



LEGAL AID TRAINING

Toronto | October 3rd- 7th 2022



This years training was the first in-person training where all of our Community Legal Workers, Legal Aid Assessment Officers, and Managers got to all meet in person since Covid-19.

Our first day of training was called "Restorying your Story" by Life Circle Consulting, Facilitators from Kingston, ON. Our topic included Helping Victims Reclaim their future. It was a heavy topic but we also had some good group and hands-on exercises, and got through it together.

The second day we received training from Community Legal Education Ontario, on helping clients with Legal Problems and Navigating "Steps to Justice" Workshop. This covered how to identify legal issues, and how to find reliable information and practical steps to share with clients.

Our third day we all went to visit the Gladue Court, at the Ontario Court of Justice, with M.A.G's Shaunna Kelly. There we met the court party, stayed during a court session, and received updates regarding their new courthouse.



- ***Life Circle Consulting***
- ***Community Legal Education Ontario***
- ***Gladue Court, Ontario Court of Justice***

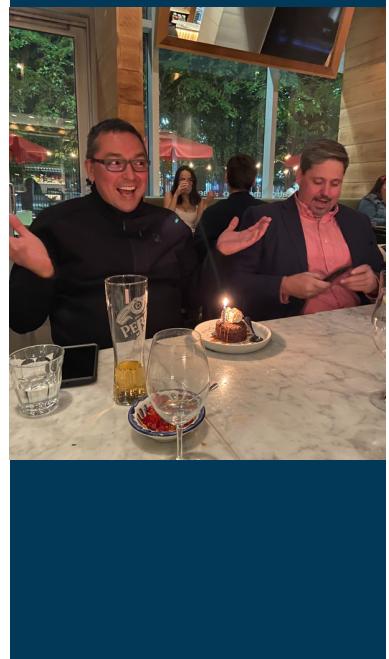


Legal Aid Team

When our days in Training were done the Legal Aid Program went to have supper, we walked around downtown Toronto, visited shops and restaurants, rode the subway and even attended the Bryan Adams concert.



*Director of
Legal Services
Don Rusnak's
Birthday*



How to Apply for Legal Aid

In some cases, the Government of Ontario will deliver Legal Aid certificates allowing you to access a lawyer free of charge up to a certain number of hours. These certificates are administered through Legal Aid Ontario. Legal Aid Ontario delivers Legal Aid certificates in three main areas of law: criminal, family and immigration law.

If you are charged with a criminal offence, you may be eligible for Legal Aid Ontario. Usually, only individuals who are facing a jail sentence if they are found guilty will be eligible for Legal Aid, but some exceptions apply.

If you are in the middle of a separation with your common-law spouse and have children with them, you may also be eligible for Legal Aid to determine parenting time and decision-making responsibility (formerly known as “custody”). You may also be eligible for Legal Aid if you are looking for assistance to obtain child or spousal support from your former spouse. Please note that Legal Aid does not cover divorce.

If you are facing immigration issues such as a detention review, or an immigration appeal or wish to complete an application to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds and Legal Aid Ontario determines that your case has merit, you may be eligible for Legal Aid Ontario. (Please note that these immigration issues are unlikely to apply to NAN community members, and only concerns individuals who do not have Indian status, are not Canadian citizens or Canadian Permanent Residents).

To apply for Legal Aid, contact your Community Legal Worker (CLW). Your CLW will also ask you about your financial situation, as Legal Aid Ontario is only available to individuals who are under a certain financial threshold. The financial threshold will depend on how many individuals are living in your household.

You can find contact information for the CLW in your community here:

<https://nanlegal.on.ca/legal-aid/community-legal-workers/>

Staff Lawyers

The Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) has Staff Lawyers in Thunder Bay and Timmins. Staff Lawyers can provide summary / general legal advice in the areas of Family and Criminal Law.

*Please note that staff lawyers cannot represent clients in court, but can provide different options, including referrals to different legal services, to clients depending on the circumstances they face.

For Summary Legal Advice in Family Law contact
Oana Cristea (Timmins)
Megan Wood (Thunder Bay)

For Summary Legal Advice in Criminal Law, contact
Sarah Munsch (Thunder Bay)
can assist across NAN Territory

To reach Staff Lawyers, please contact NALSC's main line: 807-622-1413 and ask to be connected to a Staff Lawyer in the area of law that you need assistance in. If you are not able to reach Staff Lawyers right away, please leave a voicemail so we can return your call at their earliest convenience.

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Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation
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GLADUE TRAINING

Ottawa | November 15th- 17th 2022



Professor Jane Dickson was our instructor the first two days and provided updates on the “court direction on the form, substance and tone of” Gladue Reports, as well as “court and counsel perceptions of Gladue and Gladue documents.” In addition to being a law professor who conducts research in the area of Gladue, Jane is also an instructor at the Indigenous Perspectives Society: Centre of Excellence in Community Education, where she provides Gladue Writer Training. One of our Senior Gladue Writers, Lenny Carpenter, (based in Timmins) was one of Jane’s students. Jane also writes Gladue Reports and her reflections on the process and outcomes of Gladue Reports were informative and helpful.

Our Senior Gladue Writers, Bryan Phelan (based in Kenora), and Lenny Carpenter, shared their perspectives on writing Gladue Reports in Northern Ontario. From all reports, their session was well received. Following their presentation, Senior Gladue Caseworker, Terri Zoccole, spoke about the role of the Gladue Caseworker and also provided information about the Gladue database, including the importance of good case notes.

More in-depth reporting on the training, as well as pictures, are forthcoming in the Gladue Program’s next newsletter.



Gladue Program in Ottawa

A few of photos of our Gladue Team meeting held in Ottawa. A Gladue Writer Professional Development Workshop facilitated by Jane Dickson, PhD (Law) Gladue Educator. It was a two day workshop that focused on Gladue Best Practices, Court and Case Update, Troubleshooting Common Challenges as well as Researching and Relating Sentencing Recommendations. Overall the sessions presented were a positive and collaborative learning experience for our Gladue Team as a whole. In closing Jane was gifted a Blanket that Illustrated the Treaty 9 territory that we serve.

Day 3 consisted of a Presentation done by our own Gladue Writers Lenny Carpenter and Bryan Phelan, and Gladue Caseworker Presentation by Senior Admin Caseworker Terri Zoccole. It was refreshing that we were able to finally meet together in person as a group.

Miigwetch everyone!

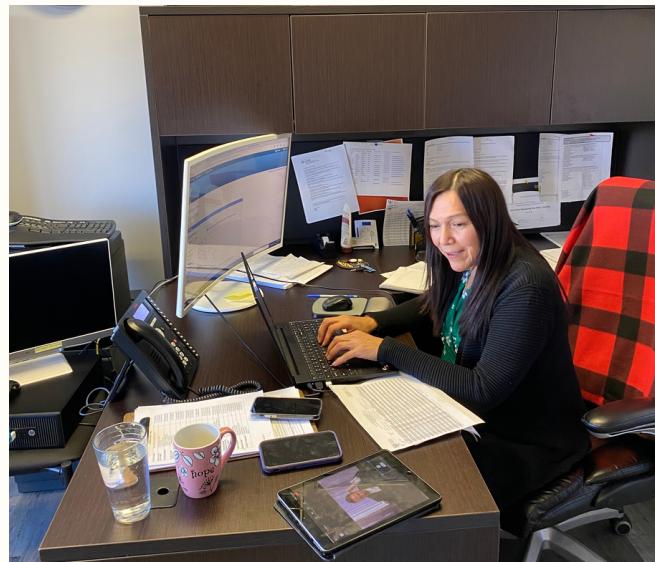
*Submission by
Gladue Case Worker Shannon Neveau*

*Jane Dickson
PhD (Law)
Gladue
Educator*



From our Timmins Office

Our Community Legal Workers **Madelaine Kioke** and **Jacqueline Edwards** from our Timmins Office have been super busy, running court all the way to Moosonee. Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services workers, including Gladue Writer **Lenny Carpenter**, were also present at the **Omushkegowuk Youth Treaty Conference**, held October 25th- 27th 2022.



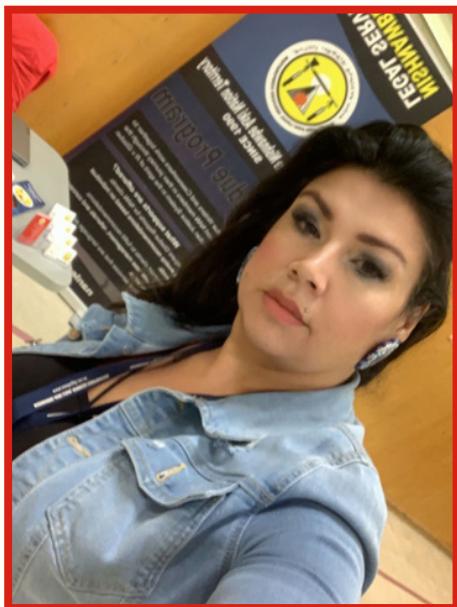
Omushkegowuk Youth Treaty Conference Past, Present, and Future

- Omushkego Nation Rebuilding Initiative
- Weenusk First Nation
- Attawapiskat, Ontario
- Kashechewan First Nation
- Fort Albany First Nation
- Moose Cree First Nation
- Taykwa Tagamou Nation
- Chapleau Cree First Nation
- Missanabie Cree First Nation





In the late fall Gladue Worker **Shannon Neveau** went to network with **The Living Space** and **Ontario Native Women's Association**. Shannon also participated in NAN's Community Wellness Bar-B-Q at the **Timmins Native Friendship Centre**



Meeting with Department of Justice

Director of Legal Services Don Rusnack, Gladue Manager George Edwards, Restorative Justice Coordinator Natasha Salatino Mach, Restorative Justice Assistant Lauren Differ and myself went to Ottawa to meet our Department of Justice Contacts: my favorite Line Laport. It was a great rewarding trip where we got to present our needs within our Programs.

Don Rusnak took us to Parliament Hill to meet most of the Justices. We also met Prime Minister Justice Trudeau. Everyone was happy. I thought it was pretty neat myself. My favorite part of the trip was when I got to meet Justice Lametti with my Restorative Justice Team. We had a good conversation about how much more funding is needed, to go into Community Justice Programs, especially for so many NAN Community members in the Northwestern Ontario.

Chantelle Johnson
Restorative Justice Manager



Meeting with Department of Justice



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



Justice Minister David Lametti



Indigenous Service Minister Patti Hadju



Minister of Health Jean Yves Duclos

Restorative Justice | Pikangikum

Greetings, My name is Gloria Turtle and I am from Pikangikum. I work as a Part time Youth Intervention Worker for Nan Legal after hours and somedays in the afternoons. Christmas is fast approaching and this is one of my favorite holidays, I have started my second activity for this year. The first contest I did was a contest for, "The most ugliest Christmas tree" and "The most prettiest tree". This was to get the parents to interact with their children in decorating their tree together and to have a few laughs here and there. I love to bake this time of year and my second activity with the youth involved with the elders.



I wanted to get the youth to bake Christmas cookies for the elders. They delivered the cookies to them and the elders were so happy to get a cookie from the youth. A youth that use to join in my activities from the previous years helped me in baking with the youth. This youth had no problem in interacting with the younger youth. We need more of these older youth to help the younger youth in activities that they enjoy.

My other activity that I am planning on hosting is a ice fishing gathering for the youth. A whole day of ice fishing and having a fish fry after. They will learn to fillet fish and will enjoy ice fishing if it is introduced to them. It will teach them patience and a way to survive by catching their food for the day 😊

I have fun with the youth and that's why I accepted the part time job that was offered, Thanks Nan Legal for the support and having such awesome coworkers.



DISCHARGE PLANNING PROGRAM

New Discharge Program Coordinator : Bonnie MacDonald

Our Program is expanding rapidly and is becoming widely known in Ontario. We have been receiving increased referrals from Youth Facilities across Ontario. It becomes a little more complicated for the sixteen and under as they need to have an escort. In some cases, the facilities will charter a plane. The isolated communities are difficult in terms of an escort going to the community and returning the same day as return flights are not always available on the same day.

When working with Penetanguishene (Central North Correctional Centre) Toronto East, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Kenora released clients, we have multiple airlines to choose from but in the Timmins area if the clients are going to the James Bay and Hudson's Bay Coast we have two airlines and they are booked up days ahead of time. Some releases are staying with friends or family in Timmins until the flight goes out ,which could be up to ten days at a time. We are unable to house them for more than a night or two at the very most.

We are receiving excellent feedback from family members, legal counsel, correctional facilities, young offender agencies and every other referral source. Referral sources have thanked us for the efficient service we provide to get our clients home as safely and as quickly as possible.

We have had some families being reunited with their family members, after, in some cases, many years. They have lost touch with them and because of Mental Health and or Addiction issues have been unable to find them.

The service we provide has proven to be invaluable to all referral sources and it has reduced homelessness in our communities somewhat. We hope to continue providing a safe release for our clients and at the same time reassure family members that their relative is well cared for with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation Discharge Program.

We have developed a congenial, respectful and professional relationship with the facilities across Ontario. What we hear daily is how much they appreciate the Discharge Program, and in terms of growth it seems we will get much busier with more Correctional facilities learning about the program. As of April of this year we have recorded 767 Discharge Travel Plans.

Our team was able to meet in Thunder Bay in November for only a few days because Mother Nature dictated our time together. It was a belly laughing good time and yes we even learned a few things. Being together, in person, establishes a stronger bond and allows us to share new ideas on how to make the Program work easier and more efficiently.

Our Discharge Drivers are invaluable to this service and we thank them for their hard work, and at times challenging situations on the road. Their dedication and willingness to wait long hours for releases and drive even longer hours is really appreciated. We are lucky to have such an amazing team that we can count on.

VICTIM WITNESS LIAISON PROGRAM

Best wishes to Gillian Schaible and Catherine Cameron and may they have great success with their future endeavors

During the last couple of months, it has been busy for the VWL program. We worked the Mamakwa/ McKay Inquest in Thunder Bay. It was a great effort by the team that we were gifted a pair of moose hide mittens by the families which will be framed and displayed at the Thunder Bay office. The Inquest was a great learning experience for the team. Keeping families fed & supported throughout the inquest. One of the elders turned 89 and we presented her a birthday cake.

During the month of November, six of the VWL staff attended & successfully completed Training in Toronto for Mediation. This was a great experience for the team to use their skills on different capacity of mediation.

Courts are opening in the North & this will be busy for VWL. Trials are picking up & more cases going to Diversion.

Human Trafficking presentations are scheduled for communities in the East & will be presenting with various corporations.

MMIWG meetings with OPP are coming up soon. These entail with other indigenous services across Ontario.

Thank you
New Victim Witness Manager: Ann Hiller





Program Facilitator *My Journey Back Home*

LORILEE LESSARD

My name is Lorilee Lessard, Program Facilitator for My Journey Back Home Project. I am a recent graduate of a Professional Counselling Diploma focusing on Mental Health and Addictions. I have a strong enthusiasm for working with clients who suffer with addictions and mental health along with other barriers that have affected them on their life journey. My role as a Program Facilitator is to provide a traditional/alternative circle approach to resolving issues that at risk youth are facing. The Talking Together Circle is used to empower youth to arrive at safe and acceptable resolutions to their at-risk matters. The youth can speak freely, be acknowledged, and share in a safe, respectful, traditional environment and to empower and build on strengths, skills, and resilience through a holistic approach, while being supported by a participants and family in the circle including and elder of their choice. The Circle discusses the individuals needs and struggles and focused on them being supported by designated services and participants to resolve their issues and help develop a plan incorporating the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the individual.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From everyone at
Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation*

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