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Tikinagan Child and Family Services

Tel: (807) 737-3466
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Toll Free 1-800-465-3624

July 23, 2010

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services
86 S. Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2V3

ATTENTION: Arlene M. Dodge

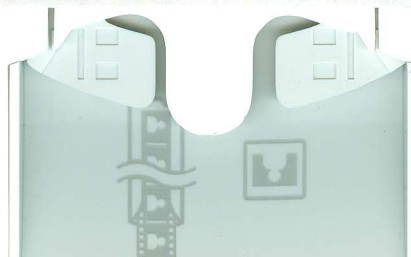
Re: Protocol Agreement

Please find enclosed an original signed copy of the "Talking Together" Protocol Agreement. We have kept the second signed copy for our records.

Sincerely,

Micheal Hardy,
Executive Director

P.O. Box 627, Sioux Lookout, Ontario. P8T 1B1



TALKING TOGETHER PROTOCOL

I. PREAMBLE

"Tikinagan Child and Family Services and Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation are committing to providing services to families that will ensure the safety of the child, the well being of the family, and a strengthening of the community."

II. HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP

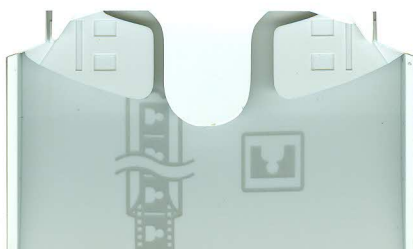
- i) On December 10, 2005 it was agreed that Tikinagan Child and Family Services (hereinafter "Tikinagan") and Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (hereinafter "NALSC") would work together and established a project titled "Talking Together". The Protocol was formed in response to the rise in Court cases.
- ii) Tikinagan utilizes the use of Customary Care Agreements from the development of the Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin (Native Service Model for Child Welfare Services), which reduces court cases. Both agencies have identified the need for a revised protocol to set out how Talking Together will operate in these circumstances.
- iii) It is acknowledged that this Protocol needs to be evolutionary and flexible. Therefore, the parties agree to review the protocol bi-annually at least sixty (60) days before the two year anniversary of the signing of the protocol.

III. TIKINAGAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

- i) Tikinagan is a mandated Childrens' Aid Society, a non-profit Native Child and Family Services organization serving 30 First Nations in the western portion of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (hereinafter "NAN"), as well as the communities of Allanwater, Pickle Lake, Savant Lake, Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout.

IV. NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

- i) NALSC is a unique organization representing NAN. NALSC is managed by a Board of Directors who are representative of the NAN communities.



V. MISSION STATEMENT

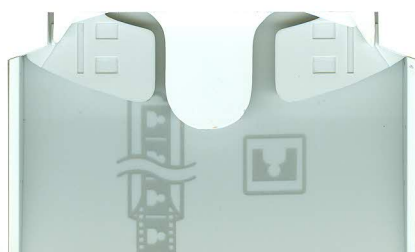
- i) Tikinagan and NALSC recognize the importance of continuing to develop the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process in order to meet the diverse cultural needs of the NAN members.

VI. DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

- i) The Talking Together program is based on “Traditional Circles” that involves the child (ren), extended family members, service providers, and community members, Chief and Council and the Talking Together Facilitator.
- ii) The rules of the traditional Circle apply whereby:
 - Everyone has agreed to participate in a Talking Together Circle
 - Everyone is equal
 - Everyone is given a chance to speak
 - Everyone is listened to respectfully
 - Comments are framed in a non-judgmental way
 - All information is confidential
 - All decisions are by consensus to form an effective plan to bring about resolution of outstanding child welfare concerns
 - All Circles involve a continuous development of planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- vii) The successful implementation of this framework is the shared responsibility of all employees of Tikinagan and NALSC.
- viii) To ensure proper file management of the Talking Together Circle process, Tikinagan and NALSC employees/Facilitators shall provide full disclosure.

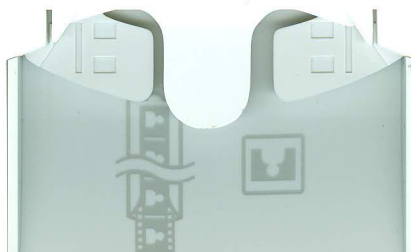
VII. RELATIONSHIPS

- i) Tikinagan and NALSC shall maintain an open, cooperative relationship with regular contact regarding the Talking Together service in order to facilitate the process, and work towards success of this initiative.



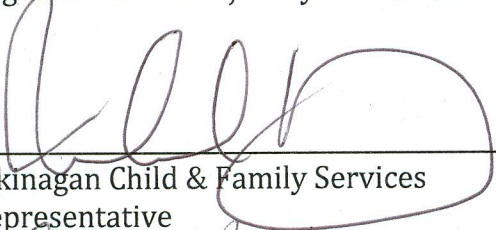
VIII. TRAINING

- i) Tikinagan and NALSC agree to provide ongoing training with respect to both programs, both at the agency and community level through the following process:
 - a) Offer training bi-annually and to inform, include and invite each other to the training or to offer said training jointly.
 - b) Any training done at the community level will also be done jointly or be inclusive of the other agency.
 - c) Share relevant third party training opportunities with each other as they arise.



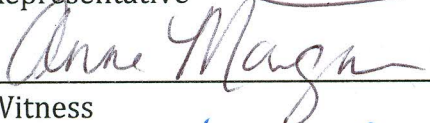
SIGNATURES

Tikinagan and NALSC agree to the terms of this protocol to ensure that the Talking Together service is jointly coordinated and delivered.



Tikinagan Child & Family Services
Representative

July 23, 2010
Date

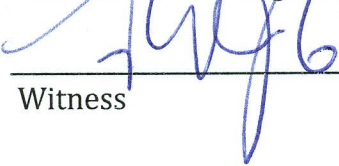


Witness



Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

July 21/2010
Date



Witness

