

FALL 2022 DAGWAAGAN

NISHNAWBE ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For the past few months NAN Legal has been busy with events, community engagements, training Professional development, and working day to day. Inside you will find photos to browse through, helpful legal information, and updates from Various Programs and staff across NAN Territory.

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 LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

On September 13, 14, and 15, 2022 NALSC held their Annual General Meeting, at Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay, ON. In partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Police (NAP's), who presented on September 13th, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) who presented on September 15th. The Agenda was filled with Presentations and Resolutions to be passed by Chiefs and BOD. This was our first in person all Chiefs meeting since Covid.





VICTIM WITNESS LIAISON PROGRAM

Covid did not allow organizations to travel for almost three years, in which time we had to change the way our programs were conducted and conducive to the clients of NAN communities. Our much-awaited training in person finally occurred on September 13-15, 2022 at the Victoria Inn. We were finally able to meet in person all the new VWLW's that were hired:

Catherine Cameron - Kenora

Shiela Corston - Timmins

Ann Hamilton - Thunder Bay, welcome to the VWLP

We had much to learn, teach and share new information for the program to continue providing the services of our clients.

Invited guest speaker Teddy Syrette (Ozhawa Anung Kwe/ Yellow Star Woman) 2-Spirit from from Batchewana First Nation of the Anishinabek. His Advocacy Training for the LGBTQIA2S+ which he presented was very informative, and quite humorous! We also had a lesson in painting with oils as he is also quite the artist; painting while the presentation was quite soothing & relaxing. Teddy is always willing to share his knowledge if he is given enough time and notice.





The Team will slowly be able to travel to our NAN communities for Court, but still adhere to the Covid regulations as per the community requirements. Community visits as requested by the NAN FN Bands for presentations will also be conducted.

Information booths were set up at the recently at the NALSC/NAPS/NAN Summit in Thunder Bay and Northern College Pow Wow in South Porcupine.

Upcoming training for the Team will be forensic training, human trafficking, Indigenous Mediation training as well as database training.

For more information please visit our webpage at:
<https://nanlegal.on.ca/victim-witness-liaison/>

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**WWW.NANLEGAL.ON.CA / VICTIM-
WITNESS-LIAISON**

Fall, Hunting Season & Cultural Camp is upon us

"Know your Rights"



HARVESTING OUTSIDE YOUR TERRITORY? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL
SERVICES CORPORATION**
Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581
Tel: (807) 622-1413
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YOU MAY ALSO HAVE MESHAKE RIGHTS

What is Meshake?

- In Ontario, if you are married or in a common law relationship with a member of a different community or treaty, and your relationship is accepted by the community, then you have the right to hunt, trap or fish on their territory through "kinship".

What are the restrictions?

- The community whose lands you want to hunt, trap or fish on, must have a tradition of sharing harvests between families.

To speak to a lawyer, call Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services at 1-800-465-5581



HARVESTING OR HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING OUTSIDE YOUR TERRITORY? KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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If you have been charged and/or your property has been seized, contact our office if you are a band member from a NAN First Nation. Your rights are extremely valuable and you must do all you can to protect them.

You can make a complaint against a Conservation Officer by:

Telephone: 1-855-497-7445

E-mail: howareweddoing@ontario.ca

Online form: ontario.ca/form/make-complaint-or-compliment-conservation-officer

To speak to a Lawyer, call Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services at 1-800-465-5581

YOU HAVE SHIPMAN RIGHTS

What are Shipman Rights?

- Shipman Rights allow you to hunt, fish, trap, and harvest outside of your home community.
- You may share the wildlife harvesting rights of another community by "Sheltering Under" or "Borrowing" their treaty rights.
- The community whose land you are hunting, fishing, trapping or harvesting on must have a tradition of granting permission to people from other First Nations to use their resources.

How do I exercise my rights?

- You must get a written letter of permission from the Chief of the community where you wish to harvest. The letter must include:
 - (1) Your name;
 - (2) The species and quantity of fish or game authorized;
 - (3) The geographical area where permission is granted;
 - (4) The timeframe in which it may be harvested; and
 - (5) The Chief's signature.
- You must carry the letter with you and produce it to a Conservation Officer at their request, along with any other identifying document.

YOU HAVE ABORIGINAL, TREATY & CHARTER RIGHTS

What are my hunting, trapping and fishing rights?

- You have the right to hunt, trap and fish for personal, community and ceremonial purposes on your traditional territory without a license.
- Hunting and fishing rights are community-specific. Make sure your practice has a historical significance to your community.

What can get me in trouble?

- Unsafe hunting practices.
- Commercial sale or trade of fish and wildlife.
- Hunting on visibly occupied or private land.
- The fish or wildlife is at risk or endangered.

Who can stop me?

- Conservation Officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

What are my responsibilities?

- You must provide proof of your rights by showing your status card.
- You must show the fish, wildlife, or other item as requested by the officer.

What are my rights if I am stopped?

- If you are stopped for an inspection, you may leave and not answer questions if you are NOT being detained or arrested.
- If you are being detained or arrested, you have the right to know why, the right to speak with a Lawyer AND the right to stay silent.

Anti- Racism Anti- Hate Stories to Heal Relationships

Funded through the Anti-Racism Directorate of Ontario's Ministry of the Solicitor General, the project called "**Stories to Heal Relationships**" will collect **stories** and **experiences** through surveys, emails, and direct Community Engagements, sessions in Red Lake and in Sioux Lookout (TBA), and through requested virtual presentations, throughout NAN Territory. We have done a few Community Engagement session in Thunder Bay.

This will give Community Members the opportunity to share their experiences, on interactions between Indigenous peoples and various Service Providers in Northern Ontario, specifically with the Police.

The responses to this survey will be incorporated into "Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate presentation" and "Training Materials," which will be delivered to the Ontario Provincial Police, and to other Police Services in Northern Ontario.

This survey will be administered on an anonymous basis, and participation in this survey is entirely voluntary.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) will not accept any liability resulting from the use of any information collected as part of the "Stories to Heal Relationships" project

To take the survey please visit our website:

www.nanlegal.on.ca

- click "Public Legal Education"

- click the link on the right side to take the Survey:

<https://nanlegal.on.ca/public-legal-education/anti-racism-anti-hate-stories-to-heal-relationships-survey/>

Or Contact

"Public Legal Education & Communications Coordinator"

Cheryl Suggashie

csuggashie@nanlegal.on.ca

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Work Cell: (807) 620- 9253

Restorative Justice visit to Pikangikum



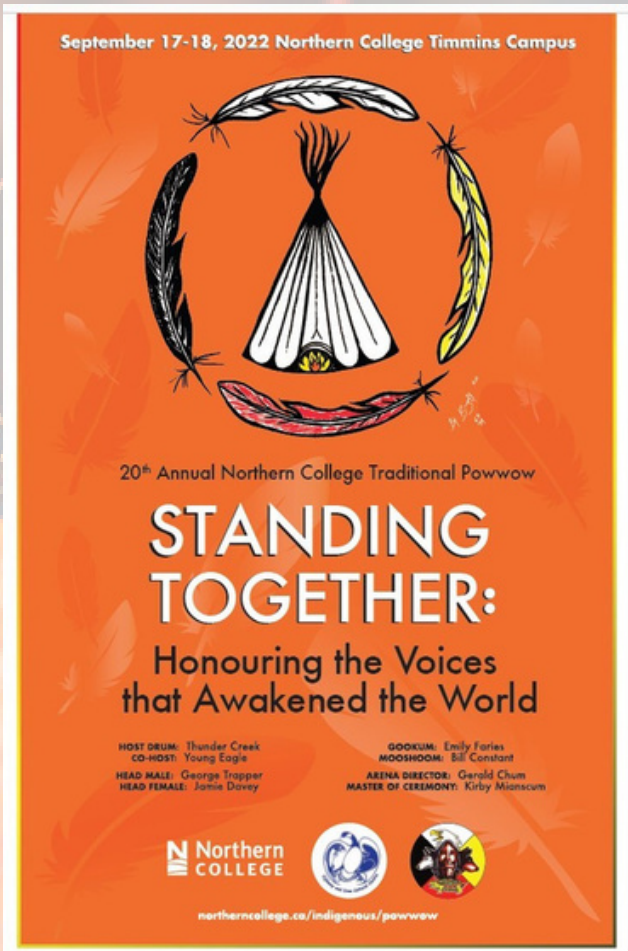
On September 22, 2022, NALSC's Restorative Justice Program visited Pikangikum ON. The workers checked in on their office, visited the community members, workers, and Various other Programs that Pikangikum has to offer.



MEET & GREET: SIOUX LOOKOUT OFFICE

On the afternoon of September 21st 2022 NALSC hosted Meet & Greet Session and Fish Fry Lunch. It was rain or shine, in the back parking lot of 56 Front Street. We served fish, fries, burgers and more. Attendees were welcome to learn more about NAN Legal Programs and Services. There was free Draws to enter to win prizes!





Northern College Pow Wow
Timmins, ON Sept 17- 18, 2022.
Bottom left: Draw Winner Mia Nakogee. Bottom right: Victim Witness Liaison worker Siela Corston and Gladue Worker Colleen Tapas



2022 Red Lake Annual Pride Celebration



Red Lake Pride held their Annual Pride Celebrations on Friday August 19th, and Saturday August 20th, 2022. Red Lake-based Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) Gladue Writer, Leslie King, MC'd a number of the events, such as the Pride Flag-raising kick-off event on Friday morning.



NALSC set up an Information booth on the Saturday, at Keesic Beach. Keesic Beach is the location of documented historic and ongoing occupation by Anishinaabek in the Red Lake area, including generations of the Keesic family, who still live alongside the beach.



NALSC is a proud supporter of 2SLGBTQ+ community. We gave out pamphlets outlining its available resources for the 2SLGBTQ+ community, at our booth.

Please visit our webpage for a copy yours, you can listen to our Podcasts on supports, and browse through our numerous free resources.

<https://nanlegal.on.ca/2slgbtq/>

We look forward to continuing to show our support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Red Lake, and all other NAN Communities. Happy Pride!



2022 Red Lake Norseman Festival

July 16, 2022



Gladue Writer, Leslie King



Restorative Justice Worker. Shirley Keesic

Balmertown-based Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) Restorative Justice worker, Shirley Keesic, and Red Lake-based NALSC Gladue Writer, Leslie King, set up an information booth at the 2022 Red Lake Norseman Festival. The NASLC booth, along with a good number of other booths were set up in Phillip Thomas Vinet Centennial Park; a beautiful green space which was named in honor of Red Lake's previous beloved mayor, Phillip Thomas Vinet. Against the backdrop of bouncy castles, an entertainment mainstage (individual performers and musical acts), other vendors, a "Norseman train," aerial acrobatics, and a slo-pitch tournament, NALSC received in excess of 80 visitors at its tent.



The "Norseman Train" drives by the NALSC booth at the Red Lake 2022 Norseman Festival, while Shirley waves at the riders. Photo from Facebook Live video by Sol Mamakwa

Shirley and Leslie distributed scores of NALSC promotional items while also informing visitors of the work they and other NALSC workers do. Visitor's names were also entered into four separate draws and the draws took place on Monday, July 18, 2022, and the prizes were picked up by the four winners on the same day.



**Red Lake resident:
Zack Alderton
Winner of one of the
draws**



**Balmertown resident:
Phyllis Chowaniec
winner of a NALSC blanket**



**A slo-pitch tournament
part of the Red Lake
2022 Norseman Festival.
Photo from Facebook
Live video by Sol
Mamakwa**

Saturday, July 16, 2022, was a very hot sunny day. Many Red Lake-area residents attended the festivities. Ontario New Democratic Party Deputy Leader, and Member of Provincial Parliament, Sol Mamakwa stopped by the NALSC tent. Mr. Mamakwa included Shirley and Leslie in a Facebook live video. (NALSC gets their first mention at 2:04, and then appearances by Leslie and Shirley start at about 2:33.). A link to MPP Mamakwa's Facebook live video is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/solmamakwa/videos/604629077847530>



***Shirley Keesic & Leslie King at
NALSC booth.***

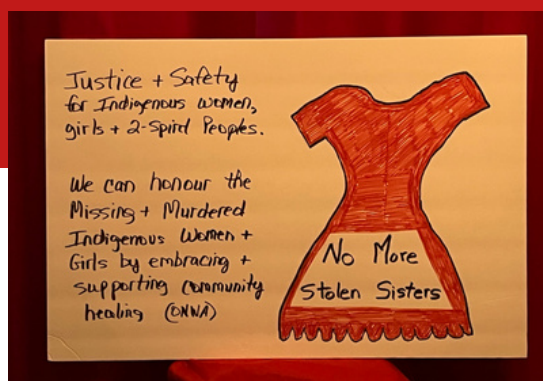
***Photo from Facebook Live
video by Sol Mamakwa***

Shirley and Leslie enjoyed interacting with members of the public during their one-day information booth at the 2022 Red Lake Norseman Festival and look forward to collaborating again, in the future or at other similar events!

**"Until next time, I hope everyone had a great
summer"**

Submission by Gladue Worker Leslie King

RED DRESS CAMPAIGN



On May 5, 2022, the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre hosted a walk in Red Lake to honor, remember and raise awareness about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) (& 2SLGBTQ+ community members) in Red Lake and across Canada. Red Lake-based, Gladue Writer, Leslie King, was among the approximately 60 individuals who took part in the walk and submitted the following.

The walk began downtown Red Lake and proceeded west along Howey Street, turned south onto Highway 105 and ended in the parking lot by the Dan Kucheran Ball Field. Once walkers reached the parking lot, ceremonies took place and speeches were given about MMIWG(2S). Participants were encouraged to offer prayers regarding community members and/or family members who are part of the MMIWG(2S), while offering tobacco ties to the sacred fire. Songs were also sung on hand drums.



It was a beautiful day to part take in the walk for MMIWG(2S). Leslie enjoyed taking part in the day's activities and hopes to participate again next year.

Eagle Feather

Sioux Lookout, ON. Photo of Police Cadet accepting an Eagle Feather from Restorative Justice Worker, Ralph Taylor. The Eagle Feather was blessed and feasted at our Sioux Lookout Office, and has been presented at the Courthouse. The Eagle Feather is now available as an option, when one wish's to use the Eagle Feather in the Court room.

Stay tuned for amore elaborated update, coming soon to many Courthouses.



Biographies

Ann Hamilton

Ann Hamilton is a member of Lac Seul First Nation and is excited to have recently joined the Victim Witness Liaison Team in the Nan Legal Thunder Bay office. Her passion is working with people and helping individuals get empowered and begin their healing journey.

Ann comes with a background in health and second career in justice and social matters. She grew up beside the Rainy River and has a great love for the water and going back to the family farm for visits. She enjoys canning/preserving fruits and vegetables in all seasons, especially a variety of jams/jellies and hosting large dinners for family/friends.

Amanda Ratte



My name is Amanda Ratte, my current position is Indigenous Verification Bail Worker. My goal is to gain clients and help them in specific areas needed such as attending court, being there for support, helping them and educating them on services that we have here in Timmins that would be beneficial to them. I have background and have worked with people who suffered from addictions and people who suffered from mental, emotional and physical abuse. I love what I do, I have the education necessary and have had the privilege and honor of helping many others. I hope with the new bail bed program that we can accommodate and give wider options to those who cannot return home or who experience homelessness when being released.

Shiela Corston

Hello to you all, my name is Shiela Corston (Nickoshie). My position at Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation is the new Victim Witness Liaison worker located in Timmins. I have always advocated with strong passionate support for our people through all my resources and knowledge. I am a Moose Cree First nation member. I grew up in Longlac, graduated high school in Thunder Bay Port Arthur Collegiate Institute. I have several diplomas and a Bachelor of Social Work from Algoma University. My greatest achievement is raising my 3 boys who are all now young men. I love all sports and my favorite one is walking to help with my self care. Meegwetch.



My Journey Back Home

A method for
Dispute
Resolution,
for ages 12-
29. Based on
Traditional
Circles, a
process that
has been
used since
time
immemorial,
to restore
harmony.

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"Servicing the City of Thunder Bay"



"Memory of our Seven Youth"

"It is hoped that MJBH program can fill the gaps with opportunities to guide youth and to break the negative cycle to find success on their journey to a good life."



MY JOURNEY BACK HOME "Nih-Keewaywin"



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What is 'My Journey Back Home'

My Journey Back Home is an innovative method of dispute resolution designed for youth 12-29 based on traditional circles. This process has been used since time immemorial to restore harmony between family and community members. By bringing My Journey Back Home and their supports together in a non-judgemental way, a plan will emerge which has the support of the community and allows the voice of our youth to be heard in a safe place. This provides an alternative to the judicial process.

Some proposed issues for an ADR-MJBH: Domestic Violence, Human-Trafficking, Basic needs, homelessness, drug addiction, mental health, lack of education, legal issues, lack of life skills.

Program Supports:

MJBH Facilitator will provide an Alternative Dispute Resolution process known as 'Talking Together' a traditional ADR Circle approach that allows youth to make decisions, safely share, speak freely, and be acknowledged in a respectful traditional manner.

The MJBH Facilitator & MJBH Aftercare Worker along with all participants of the Circle will assist youth in resolving issues and help develop their plan incorporating the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the individual. The process assists the youth in navigating systems and develop community connections which may include: traditional supports and activities, educational goals, employment and training, advocacy, life skills, mental health, addiction, housing, legal services, and human-trafficking awareness.

The CIRCLE is a voluntary process. Participants may include YOUTH, Family, First Nation Band Council Representatives. Discussions will allow the youth to have a voice in a safe place to share and be heard.

When a plan of care/agreement is reached the MJBH Aftercare Worker will continue to support the individual. Our goal is to utilize traditional ADR.

The goal is to provide ongoing supports and advocate to the youth for easier access to services and resources, and who are dealing with issues as homelessness, mental health, addictions, unemployment, lack of education, involvement in corrections, basic life skills and etc.

ELDERS/CLERGY

CHIEF/
BAND COUNCILLOR

FRONTLINE WORKERS

EXTENDED FAMILY/
SUPPORTERS

COMMUNITY
RESOURCE

CHILDREN

INTAKE/PRIME WORKER

PARENT(S)/CAREGIVER(S)

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE

FACILITATOR

Protection Issue
Agreement
Alternative Dispute Resolution

The process would allow Youth who leave care to make an easier transition to independent living and gain life skills, education increase level of physical and emotional well-being and to gain supports and resources that would assist them when moving into adulthood. It is our hope to partner with YOU to support the youth needing services, safety supports and develop a path to 'their journey back home.'

Alternative Dispute Resolution

"defined as a process to resolve disputes out of the judicial system"

ADR-includes negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. It allows parties to combine these methods and tailor the rules to fit their needs.

Aboriginal ADR seeks to restore collective harmony between both parties, unlike the western-based Dispute Resolution system that bases its judgement on the evidence adduced.

ADR encompasses mechanisms used in resolving disputes outside of adversarial litigation. ADR seeks to restore collective harmony between both parties in a case.

Your Right: To an ADR Approach

The Child and Family Services Act mandates the following: If a child is or may be in need of protection, a children's aid society must consider whether a prescribed method of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) could assist in resolving any issue related to the child or a plan for the child's care (section 20.2 (1)).

The Court, at anytime during proceeding with consenting of the parties, may adjourn the proceeding to permit the parties to utilize a prescribed method of ADR to attempt to resolve the issues in dispute (section 51.1)



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Timmins & Area
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Toll Free: 1 877 268 0335

James Bay & Area
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Servicing Thunder Bay & Surround First Nations

Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Hornepayne, Long Lake #58, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, Webequie, and Thunder Bay

Servicing Sioux Lookout & Surrounding First Nations

Beausart Lake, Cat Lake, Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Kaskinong, Keewatin, Kingfisher Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuwug, Lac Seul, MacDowell Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Muskrat Dam, North Caribou Lake, North Spirit Lake, Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, Sachigo Lake, Sandy Lake, Slate Falls, Wapekeka, Wapekegawin, Wunnumin Lake and Sioux Lookout

Servicing Timmins & Surrounding First Nations

Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Cree, Chapleau Ojibway, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami, Mississauga Cree, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, Wahgishig, and Timmins

Servicing James Bay & Surrounding First Nations

Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, McCrechee Council of the Cree Nation, Moose Cree, Moose Factory, Weenusk, and Moosonee

Testimonials from Talking Together Circle Participants:

"There is a feeling of safety in the circle, a place where we can share and be heard. After the circle, there is a positive feeling in the room."

"Circle was helpful in returning the client's children to her care and planning for success."

"The format for this Talking Together circle was perfectly suited for this situation."

"Circle strengthens the family unit. It helps break the cycle of family dysfunction and brings the family together."

"The circle was great. Atmosphere was non-judgmental. Everyone was able to share openly and suggest solutions. No improvement needed. Thank you."

TALKING TOGETHER PROGRAM



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Talking Together Program

A restorative approach for dealing with child welfare issues. The program is an alternative dispute resolution option created in 2002 to address the child welfare needs of families from the NAN communities

What is 'Talking Together'?

Talking Together is an innovative method of dispute resolution based on traditional circles held in First Nations and used since time immemorial to restore harmony between family members.

By bringing people together in a non-judgmental way, a plan will emerge which has the support of the community. This provides an alternative to the Court process (that frequently results in children being removed from their home community) and returns control to First Nations concerning the planning and protection of their children.

Program Advantages

Talking Together recognizes the capacity of kin network to protect Aboriginal children and emphasizes the importance of cultural continuity in placements.

The process is a less intrusive method of dealing with family problems and protection issues, alleviating the need for the often costly and adversarial Family Law Court system.

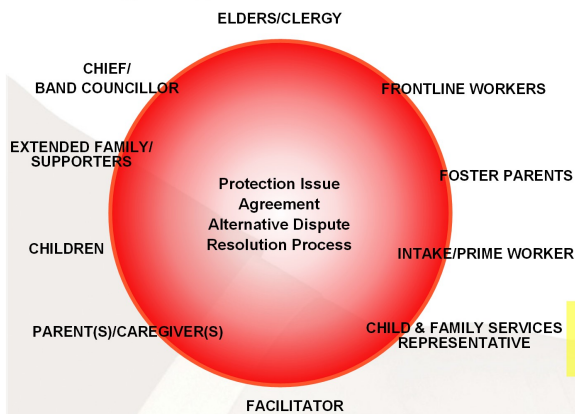
The participants and community work as a group to resolve issues toward healing.

The process looks at who has been affected and how they have been affected by the problems the family is experiencing; thus, provides an opportunity for participants to work together to repair the harm.



"There is no doubt that the services offered by this program are of great assistance to everyone involved, particularly the children." - Bernard R. Gosselin, Barister and Solicitor

Talking Together Circle



Alternative Dispute Resolution - Aboriginal Approach (Bill 210)

From the Child & Family Services Act, R.S.O 1990, CHAPTER C.11

Resolution of issues by prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution

20.2 (1) If a child is or may be in need of protection under this Act, a society *shall* consider whether a prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution could assist in resolving any issue related to the child or a plan for the child's care. 2006, c. 5, s. 5.

Where child is Indian or native person

(2) If the issue referred to in subsection (1) relates to a child who is an Indian or native person, the society *shall* consult with the child's band or native community to determine whether an alternative dispute resolution process established by that band or native community or another prescribed process will assist in resolving the issue. 2006, c. 5, s. 5.

Children's Lawyer

(3) If a society or a person, including a child, who is receiving child welfare services proposes that a prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution be undertaken to assist in resolving an issue relating to a child or a plan for the child's care, the Children's Lawyer may provide legal representation to the child if in the opinion of the Children's Lawyer **such legal representation is appropriate.** 2006, c. 5, s. 5.

Notice to band, native community

(4) If a society makes or receives a proposal that a prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution be undertaken under subsection (3) in a matter involving a child who is an Indian or native person, the society *shall* give the child's band or native community notice of the proposal. 2006, c. 5, s. 5.

(*SHALL* = indicates that something will or ought to happen in the future)

TALKING TOGETHER PROGRAM

The Circle Process

The Talking Together Circle is composed of family members, front line workers, agency representatives, community Elders and community representatives. The Circle looks at who has been affected and how they have been affected by the problems the family is experiencing.

Secondly, the Circle asks the participants, "What can be done?" If an agreement is reached it will be used as a basis for the Plan of Care and can be filed with the Court.

"This program empowers families that are in crisis because it allows them to have a say in what the final solution will be."
- Celina Reitberger, B.A., B.Ed., LL.B.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:
Aboriginal Child Protection Alternative Dispute Resolution is a RIGHT!



