



NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Access to NALSC Court Information

[NALSC Advance Court Virtual Zoom Connection – April 2024](#)

[NALSC Northern Duty Counsel Calendar April 2024](#)

Updated Frequently



INSIDE YOU WILL FIND:

- Public Legal Education Info and Updates
- Legal Aid Info
- Youth Intervention Program
- Community Visits
- She Is Wise Conference
- TOH White Gala
- Pink Shirt Day
- Halloween photos
- Notice of program wrap up



Public Legal Education

PLE services are designed to promote a better understanding of the law and legal system. PLE is delivered in a manner sensitive to, and tailored to the needs of, the NAN communities. The delivery of PLE takes many forms:

- Community Visits
- Workshops & presentations
- Career Fairs
- Clinic Days
- Promotions & Booth displays
- Newsletters & Website

A Clinic Day provides Community members with an opportunity to access current Legal information and Legal assistance, whether or not they have a matter before the courts. Clinic Days will have a Lawyer present in the Community to answer any Legal Questions that people may have. It also gives an opportunity for Lawyers to spend time in the community. A Clinic Day can also be for Legal Presentations and/ or Workshops. The Public Legal Education & Communications Officer, Community Legal Worker and a lawyer would visit the Community or School to present on a various Legal Topics, e.g. bullying, YCJA, etc.

Public Legal Education Program has been busy!

In the Fall of 2023 myself and Ashley Richards, our Communications Coordinator, attended the PLEACC Conference held in Toronto for two days. Keynote speaker include Kimberly Murray. She shared her knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of public legal educators, in reconciliation. Many of the 94 Calls to Action of the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 2015 Final Report” reflect the need for deeper and broader education of the public about Canada’s long history of genocide of Indigenous peoples. What actions can, and should, public legal educators take?

Public Legal Education Program has been busy by Cheryl Suggashie PLECC



Public Legal Education/Communications

PLE/Communications Cheryl and Ashley were able to attend events being held in Thunder Bay and nearby communities.

In January, we were invited to set up a booth at Lakehead University for their open house, also in attendance was our HR staff. This event welcomed back indigenous students from Christmas Break, the intent was for students to learn about our programs and services and to also learn about our career opportunities.

In February, we were invited to Dennis Franklin Cromarty along with the HUB Coordinator Taina Martin for DFC's Parent/Guardian - Teacher Night. Parents/Guardians and Students were able to visit our booth and inquire about our NALCS programs and services.

In early March, we were at the Matawa Education Conference, not only did we have an info booth, but we also put on a presentation for Educators to learn about NALSC programs and services.

During March Break, we had the opportunity to travel to Dryden for the All Bands Hockey Tournament, we had a information booth set up at the Sioux Lookout Health Authority ID Clinic. We were able to engage with community members, conduct surveys, and have some give-away prizes! We also made our way to the arena for a few hockey games and to hand out some hockey pucks and clappers!



LEGAL AID



What Kinds of Legal Matters are Covered?

NALSC Legal Aid assists with legal matters on Criminal Law (if custody is probable), Family Law, Child Welfare, and some administrative law issues.

NALSC Legal Aid cannot assist with legal matters related to: civil law, employment law, human rights, housing or social assistance. You can contact a Community Legal Worker (CLW) for a referral.

DUTY COUNSEL

NALSC Legal Aid Program provides Duty Counsel, on the day before Court Day (Advance Day) and on Court Day. Duty Counsel assists people who appear in Court without a lawyer. They assist people in the community, by providing summary legal advice on a variety of legal issues.

Duty Counsel services include:

- summary legal advice without a fee, and
- assistance with legal and government forms.

ADVICE LAWYER

The Advice Lawyer provides brief service or short summary legal advice to qualifying NAN First Nations community members. This legal service applies only to questions for qualifying legal issues.

Advice Lawyer Hours

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. EST

Call (807) 622-1413

Toll-Free 1-800-465-5581

Email: legalaid@nanlegal.on.ca

Are you from a NAN Community?

Do you need to apply for Legal Aid Certificate?

Connect with NALSC Legal Aid directly:

Legal Aid Direct Line:

Tel: 1 (807) 935 - 7299

Email: gennishls@lao.on.ca



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Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581
Phone: (807) 622-1413
Fax: (807) 344-6904
www.nanlegal.on.ca

Hours of Operation: 9am – 5pm Eastern

Services available in Ojibway, Cree, Oj-Cree & English
COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED

ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICES INDIGENOUS JUSTICE CONFERENCE



On the week of February 12th, NAN Legal Staff travelled to Toronto for Aboriginal Legal Services Indigenous Justice Conference.

This conference highlighted best practices for Indigenous Justice Workers, self-care techniques, and updates from federal and provincial representatives.

BYLAW MEETING

NALSC Management and Staff participated in a Bylaw meeting with NAPS and NAN.



YOUTH

Intervention

Easter Weekend Event with HK Higher Knowledge



Higher Knowledge (HK) is a Hip Hop artist & Youth Worker. He is Indigenous to Kuskatan and Collasayu in Central/South America, but grew up on Canada's West Coast. In 2023, his music album, "The Knowledge Of Good and Evil", was nominated at the International Indigenous Hip Hop Awards Show. HK had a rough upbringing growing through foster care, gangs, jail, PTSD, and poverty. As he got older, these difficulties became fuel for his rhymes, and he found healing through storytelling & music. Now, Higher Knowledge, promotes themes of redemption, reclamation, warriorhood, and overcoming struggle in his songs.

HK was in Timmins Easter Weekend (March 29th – March 31st), performing his music & facilitating a workshop that he developed called "The Foster Kid Survival Guide".

"The Foster Kid Survival Guide" is a multimedia presentation about his experiences living through & healing from trauma. He uses pictures, videos, memes, poems, rap songs, & his speaking skills to explain how he was able to survive numerous obstacles in his life, achieve sobriety & mental wellness, and come to a place of thriving in his journey. HK believes that his experiences and growth from a lifetime of foster homes, street entrenchment, abuse, gang life, prison, CPTSD has given him invaluable tools which he uses to overcome & become his best self. Through this presentation he hopes to share these tools with others so they too can live their best lives!

IF HE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT TOO



HK - Higher Knowledge

4h · 🌐

Another AMAZING time with the youth and community out here on Mattagami traditional territories in Timmins Ontario! 🥰👏👍

I was very fortunate to be invited to perform a mini concert for the kids and to present my workshop "The Foster Kid Survival Guide" 🦁🐾🔥 The youth are naturally so genuine and creative and it really helped fill my cup hanging with them this weekend. We even got to see some of the youth come out of their shells and perform 🥰 wow so much emotion and power in their voices. It made me emotional and also made me really miss running a music program like the Hip Hop Drop back in East Van ❤️ You know when I engage these kids I don't have a magic wand that can take their trauma or pain away, or fix their families, or change the machines of oppression we exist within. However, if I can help encourage them to find their own power and voice within, to realize how amazing and worthy they are within, sometimes it's enough to get through the day and see hope for the future ❤️❤️

Huge shout out to NAN Legal, especially to Naomi, for helping facilitate everything! megwiitch, hiy hiy, padiush, muchas gracias, thank you for everything!!! 🙏👏👍

Now to journey back to Coast Salish territories... it's a good life! 🗣️💯

P.S. I love how the older boys were trying to look so stoic and hardcore with me with their bunny ears on LOL 🤔😂👍

[#HigherKnowledgeMusic](#)

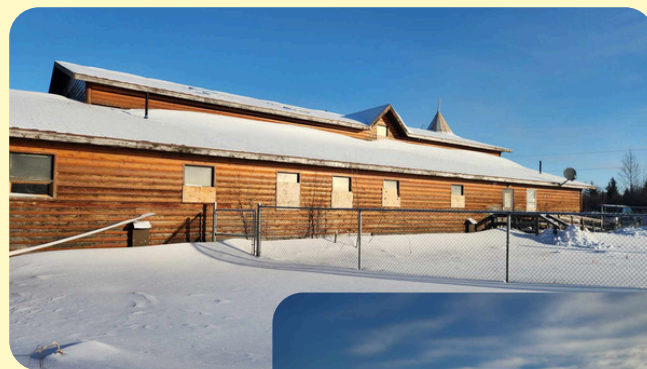


COMMUNITY VISITS

Attawapiskat

On Jan 17, 2024, staff from Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services hosted an Open House in Attawapiksat First Nation. Our goal was to raise awareness of the many legal services and programs our agency has to offer. We wanted community members, leadership, frontline workers to have an opportunity to gather information, gain knowledge, share their thoughts, idea's & concerns, and to have fun. This open house was a definite success and we had over 80 visitors. Throughput this full day, we met so many amazing, and friendly community members with fantastic ideas , insider tips, wonderful sense of humour, and we were able to make important connections and form new relationships.

We had plenty of staff on hand to share their program information; Restorative Justice Program, Leahan Parrott, Natasha Salatino-Mach, Melanie Mohan, Kenneth Sackaney, Youth Intervention and Youth Justice Program, Stallone Quequish, Naomi Fletcher, Pre Charge and By Law Program, Jordan Akiwenzie, Victim Witness Liaison Program, Alana Odawa Lindstone, Talking Together Program, Heather Napash ,and Community Learning Hub, Taina Martin.



COMMUNITY VISITS

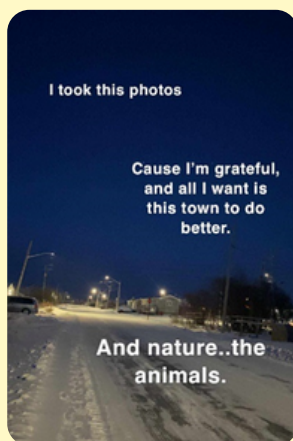
Attawapiskat Scavenger Hunt

During NAN Legal's open house in Attawapiskat, Ontario, many youth and community members participated in a scavenger hunt. This hunt required going into the community and taking photos according to the instructions. They had to take a photo of something that they would like to change in their community, something that they like/love about their community, something they think is beautiful, something they are grateful for, and the last prompted them to take a picture of their choosing. The amount of participation for this scavenger hunt was amazing and we got to hear from so many community members their perspectives of what they want to change about their community, and things that they love.

One youth took a photo of the community and expressed how grateful they are for the nature and animals, while expressing that they just want their town to do better. Another youth was grateful for their boots. Anybody who has been up North knows how cold it could get, so having boots to keep your feet warm is essential and not everybody has boots. That same youth took a photo of the artwork that is in their local gymnasium, telling us how beautiful some of the artwork in the community is. The last photo I want to share is one by a youth that goes by T.K. Something that this youth would like to change in their community is to stop the drug dealers, because it causes overdoses. There are way too many people passing away because of overdosing.

It was great to hear all the participants answers and see from their point of view, how they view their own community. It was clear that they love their community and the people in it, which we saw when we went there. It was an honor meeting so many people from Attawapiskat.

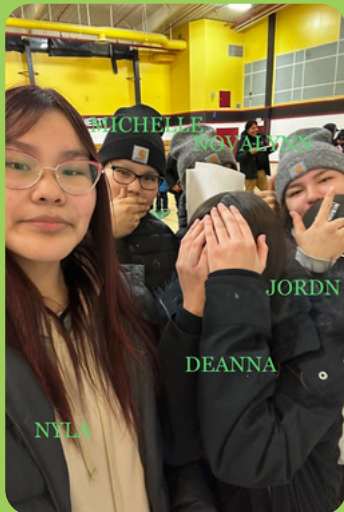
Written by: Naomi Fletcher – Youth Intervention Worker



COMMUNITY VISITS



Talking Together Program visits Brunswick House First Nation and Chapleau Cree to present NALSC programs and services.



Youth in Attawapiskat;
Nyla, Michelle, Novalynn,
Deanna, Jordn.

Miigwetch for sharing
your picture!

SHE IS WISE

Nibwaakaa Inaadziwin

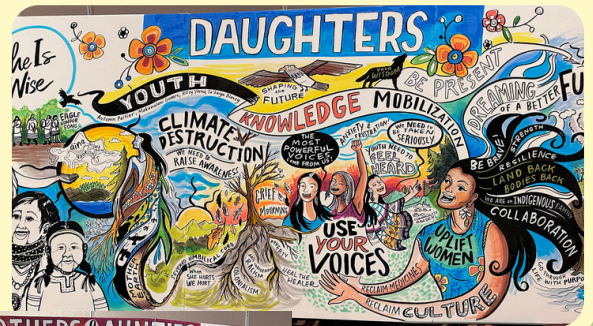
A conference hosted by ONWA.

In January 2024, staff members from various departments had the opportunity to attend the “She Is Wise” conference hosted by ONWA. Each day had memorials being drawn, the drawings show the topics of discussion during the conference!

Day One was dedicated to Grandmothers, the Knowledge Keepers. They had panels of speakers and the Firebrand Grannies to speak about looking to our past to shape our future.

Day Two was dedicated to Mothers and Aunties, Bridging Generations and Holding our world together.

Day Three was dedicated to Daughters, they had trailblazing and talented young women that we were able to listen to, through the Youth Panel of speakers and singers/performers.



Inuit Throat Singers performed a variety of songs with some including drumming. Participants had some fun with a Throat Sing Battle!



TOURNAMENT OF HOPE WHITE GALA



NALSC Staff had the opportunity to attend the Tournament of Hope White Gala, the Gala featured speakers such as Sol Mamakwa, NAN Leadership, TOH Organizers, and Elders.

Proceeds from tickets purchased to attend supported the youth involved in the upcoming tournaments in Tournament of Hope.

Youth from across Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory gather in Thunder Bay for a week-long tournament of hockey, broomball, and volleyball. TOH organizers say the tournament will serve as a youth summit, with a strong focus on mental health awareness.

TOH was created to help support the NAN youth, the NAN communities have experienced a spike in suicides over the past few years, TOH aims to help bring hope to the NAN Youth and Communities.



PINK SHIRT DAY 2024



On February 28, 2024, NALSC staff wore pink in recognition of Anti-Bullying. This day is especially important for our youth who may be experiencing bullying. We remind the youth that bullying stops here, and we should lift each other up!

Choose Kindness, you never know who needs it!

Spread
Kindness

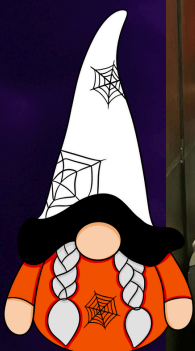


Kindness
MATTERS





We forgot to share NALSC's staff Halloween photos in our previous Newsletter, so we are sharing it now! We have some very creative staff! WOW Happy Spring 2024!



NOTICE: PROGRAM WRAP UP

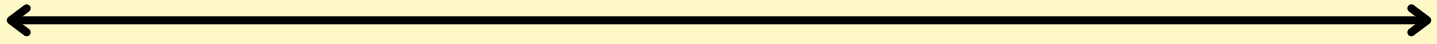
In January 2024, the Discharge Program that operated through NALSC, will no longer provide services as the program has wrapped up. During the time the program operated, we arranged for the safe and timely travel for more than 3000 indigenous persons being released from custody in Northern Ontario.

If you require information regarding Discharge assistance, please contact SOLGEN:

Tel: 416-326-5000

Tol-Free: 1-866-517-0571

Fax: 416-326-0498



NALSC's Programs and Services

Legal Aid

- Staff Lawyers & Summary Advice (Criminal and Family)
- Duty Counsel
- Community Legal Workers
- Public Legal Education

Bail Verification and Supervision Program

Community Release and Reintegration Program

Gladue

- Gladue Caseworkers
- Gladue Writers

Restorative Justice

- Community Youth Justice
- Community Youth Intervention
- Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Services
- Community By-Law
- Community Learning Hub
- Guns & Gangs Services
- Pre-Charge Diversion

Victim Witness Liaison Program

Talking Together Program



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT WE'RE UP TO!

You can find us on our Facebook page “Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services” and keep up to date with what we’re up to! We will post our events, community visits, career opportunities, and more!

Make sure to like and follow our page!



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