



# NALSC Providing Legal Aid assistance

## Our Clients

NALSC Legal Aid helps low-income persons, with certain legal matters. NALSC Legal Aid have the authority to issue Legal Aid certificates to qualifying Community members from the Nishnawbe- Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations communities, in Northern Ontario

## Do you qualify for Legal Aid Certificate?

NALSC Legal Aid Program (NALSC) can issue Legal aid certificates to members of NAN Communities, who are financially eligible, and the legal matter must be covered by Legal Aid Ontario (LAO).

NALSC Legal Aid abides by the LAO guidelines in determining the financial eligibility of a person applying for legal aid. If you are eligible and face a serious legal matter, you can apply for a free Legal Aid Certificate.

Depending on your income, you may need to make monthly payments towards the cost of some or all of your legal fees. You will need to take a financial test to see if your gross income, from all sources, is within the range of the Financial Charts below.

## What if I do not qualify for a lawyer?

We may be able to help you either over the phone or if you are in court and need help immediately. Check the Financial Charts to see if you qualify.

Number of family members	How much money does your family earn in a year?	For family law cases where domestic abuse is identified
1	\$18,795	\$22,720
2	\$32,131	\$32,131
3	\$39,352	\$39,352
4	\$45,289	\$45,440
5+	\$50,803	\$50,803
Single boarders	\$12,330	

Number of family members	How much money does your family earn in a year?
1	\$22,720
2	\$32,131
3	\$39,352
4	\$45,440
5+	\$50,803

## ***Legal Matters that are covered***

Our Legal Aid Program can assist with legal matters on:

- Criminal Law (if custody is probable)
- Family Law
- Child Welfare
- some administrative law issues

NALSC Legal Aid cannot assist with legal matters related to: civil law, employment law, human rights, housing or social assistance.

## ***NALSC Duty Counsel***

NALSC Legal Aid provides Duty Counsel, on the day before court, called “Advance Day,” and on the day of Court Day, to assist people who appear in Court without a lawyer.

Duty Counsel assists people:

- in NAN Communities by providing *summary legal advice* on a variety of issues
- Provides *summary legal advice* without fees
- assist with legal & government forms

## ***NALSC Advice Lawyer***

**Do you need to speak to a Lawyer?**

NALSC Staff Lawyer(s) provides brief service or short summary legal advice to qualifying NAN community members. It applies only to questions for qualifying legal issues.

### **Advice Lawyer Hours:**

Monday, Wednesdays, Friday

1:00 pm- 5:00 pm EST

Email: [advicelawyer@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:advicelawyer@nanlegal.on.ca)

Toll-Free: 1-800-465-5581

Tel: (807) 622-1413

Fax: (807) 622-3024

*\*Collect calls are accepted*

## ***Apply for Legal Aid Directly***

**Legal Aid Direct Line:**

**1 (807) 935 - 7299**

**[gennishls@lao.on.ca](mailto:gennishls@lao.on.ca)**

**Toll Free: 1- 800- 465- 5581**

**Phone: (807) 622-1413**

**Fax: (807) 344- 6904**

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

**Hours: 9am – 5pm Eastern**

# Community Legal Workers

*Nishnawbe Aski Nation Community members residing on reserve or off reserve, can apply for Legal Aid Certificate by contacting one of our “Community Legal Workers” (CLW) serving your community.*

## COMMUNITY LEGAL WORKERS:

- Provide legal information and referrals to members of NAN communities.
- Liaise with justice personnel and First Nation leadership on court and justice issues.
- Complete legal aid applications with clients and help them find lawyers.
- Help clients navigate legal processes.
- Attend advance and list court days in NAN communities.
- Assist clients in completing routine forms.
- Make referrals to NALSC Programs.

## Courts

- Community Legal Workers (CLWs) attend court on advance and list days in each of the communities they serve.
- CLWs may also attend court in northern urban centres if there are NAN members requiring assistance.
- Duty counsel is available on advance and list days for community members with matters before the court.
- Duty counsel offers free summary legal advice to all community members on advance days without an appointment.



## **NALSC Lawyers List - Northeast Criminal/Family Panel**

### **JOANNE BARBER**

85 Pine St S, Timmins, ON, P4N 2K1 Tel: (705) 268-5188 Fax: 705-268-5189

### **ANDRE LEHOUX, FELIX CAMIRE**

1500B Highway 11 West P.O. Box 1750 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 Tel: (705) 362-6667 Fax: (705) 362-6668

### **BENJAMIN DAWKINS, Maisonneuve & Associates**

15 Balsam St. Timmins, ON Timmins, ON P4N 2C7 Tel: (705) 264-2385 Fax: (705) 268-3949

### **ELLERY, ELLERY & PRABUCKI - Justin Ellery, Kim Cogar**

135 Algonquin Blvd. E. Timmins, ON P4N 1A6 Tel: (705) 360-5879 Fax: (705) 264-3297

### **LYNN CAYEN, LYDIA LEHOUX**

93 Pine Street S. Timmins, ON P4N 2K1 Tel: (705) 264-0581 Fax: (705) 266-9223

### **NANCY COOPER - Nancy E. Cooper Law Office**

403-70C Mountjoy Street North Timmins, ON P4N 4V7 Tel: (705) 268-6099 Fax: (705) 531-3374

### **PIERRE DUMAIS**

P.O. Box 594 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 Tel: (705) 362-3012 Fax: (705) 362-4877

### **EVANS BRAGAGNALO & SULLIVAN, Paul Bragagnolo, Khalil Bhreiani**

120 Pine St. S. Timmins, ON P4N 2K4 Tel: (705) 264-1285 Fax: (705) 264-7424

### **WILLIAM VANBRIDGER, MICHAEL TOMASSINI, BEHN GVOZDANOVIC, MITCH KNIGHT VanBridger Law**

273 Third Avenue – Suite 200 Timmins, ON P4N 1E2 Tel: (705)531-5888 Fax: (705)531-5899

### **DONNA DORRINGTON**

250 Third Avenue Timmins, ON P4N 1E3 Tel: (705) 531-3274 Fax: (705) 531-3275 TF: 1-877-880-7037

### **JACKIE STRYBOS Law office of Lisa F. Barazzutti**

167 Third Avenue Timmins, ON P4N 1C7 Tel: (705)531-3200 Fax: (705) 531-3202

### **LUCIA MENDONCA**

93 Pine Street S. Timmins, ON P4N 2K1 P.O. Box 1896 135 Third Street West Cochrane, ON POL 1C0 Tel: (705) 531-3272 Fax: (705) 531-3273 Cochrane Tel: (705) 272-2116

### **STEPHEN BEAUDOIN, DOMINIQUE BOUCHER**

Box 1898 Cochrane, ON POL 1C0 Tel: (705) 272-4346 Fax: (705) 272-2991

### **SHARON SABOURIN**

20 Third Avenue Timmins, ON P4N 1B8 Tel:(705)268-1888 Fax(705)268-1894

### **PATRICIA FARIES**

3 Musko Drive, P.O. Box 239 Moose Factory, ON Tel:(705)658-2345 Cell:(705)-262-5077

### **JEREMY A. WAINWRIGHT**

19 Cain Avenue Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1T2 Tel:(705)335-8501 Fax: (705)337-1474

### **JAMIEE WASHBURN**

7 Cain Avenue Kapuskasing, ON Tel: (705) 705-478-1293

## **NALSC Lawyers List – Northwest Criminal Panel**

### **AARON GRUPP**

84 Brown Road Kenora, ON P9N 0B9 Tel: (807) 548-5303 Fax: (807) 789-3464

### **BEAMISH & ASSOCIATES - Michael McCarl, Matthew Angecone**

50 Queen St., PO BOX 1600 Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1C3 Tel: (807) 737-2809 Fax: (807) 737-1211

### **GREG IWASIW**

136 Mathson Street, South Kenora, Ontario P9N 1T8 Tel: (807) 467-8686 Fax: (807) 467-3111

### **JOHNATHON BILTON**

322 First Avenue Kenora, Ontario P9N 1W3 Tel: (807) 468-9598 Fax: (807) 467-8112

### **MACAULEY & PARTNERS - Karen Seeley**

4 Whyte Avenue, PO BOX 159 Dryden, ON P8N 2Y9 Tel: (807) 223-2254 Fax: (807) 223-3794

### **JOSHUA SZAJEWSKI**

214 Main Street PO BOX 1970 Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X8 Tel: (807) 468-9828 Fax: (807) 468-5504

### **HOOK SELLER - Phaedra Olinyk**

301 First Avenue, Suite 204 Kenora, Ontario P9N 1W2 1-833-447-5529

TIMOTHY TRIPP 56 Edgewater Drive Dryden, Ontario P8N 3J9 Tel: (807) 323-2573 Fax: (807) 270-0087

### **BRODSKY & CO. - Ryan Amy, Ashley Anderson, Caleigh Glawson**

363 Broadway Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3N9 Tel: (204) 940-4433

### **CAMPBELL GUNN INNESS - Danny Gunn, Aaron Seib, Kevin Warkentin, Kristen Jones**

780 -444 St Mary's Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3C 3T1 Tel: (204) 953-3690 Fax: (204) 953-3699 TF: 1-866-953-3690

## **NALSC Lawyers List - Thunder Bay Criminal Panel**

**ATWOOD SHAW LABINE - Gil Labine, Neil McCartney, Kate Brindley, Brooke Rogers**

501 E. Donald Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6N6 Tel: (807) 623-4342 Fax: (807) 623-2098

**BIRD & THATCHER - Francis Thatcher, Mary Bird**

215 Camelot Street Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4B2 Tel: (807) 345-6001 Fax: (807) 344-7221 TF: 1-800-925-6001

**DEBAKKER & ASSOCIATES - Johnny deBakker, Charles D. Fox**

217 Algoma Street South Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3C3 Tel: (807) 345-2356 Fax: (807) 345-0941

**LEON NICOL**

79 S. Court Street Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4T7 Tel: (807) 344-0000 Fax: (807) 344-0002 TF: 1-888-487-2484

**MATTHEWS LAW - Kevin Matthews, Sherry Abotossaway**

105 North May Street, Suite 214 Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3N9 Tel: (807) 476-0744 Fax: (807) 476-0488

**PM LAW OFFICES - Michael Hargadon, Justin Blanco, Ryan Green**

34 N. Cumberland Street, Suite 816 Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4L3 Tel: (807) 344-0099 Fax: (807) 344-2777

**PETRONE HORNAK GAROFALO MAURO - S. George Joseph, Umberto Agostino**

76 N. Algoma Street Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4Z4 Tel: (807) 344-9191 Fax: (807) 345-8391

**COURTIS DESMOULIN LAW OFFICE - Andrew Desmoulin & Emily Morris**

136 McKellar Street N. Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3Z1 Tel: (807) 623-3000 Fax: (807) 623-1251 TF: 1-877-266-6646

**RONALD POIRIER**

395 Fort William Road Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Z3 Tel: (807) 345-2909 Fax: (807) 344-8391

**TYLER WOODS**

138 Mission Road Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1K6 Tel: (807) 622-4777 Fax: (807) 622-4656

**SHARON SCHARFE**

P.O. Box 26055 300 Memorial Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3Y2 Tel: (807)286-1536

**ROBERT ATATISE**

Unit A - 138 Mission Rd Fort William First Nation P7J 1K6 Tel: (807)623-7717 Fax: (807)623-3263

**DON RUSNAK**

138 Mission Road Fort William First Nation P7C 1K6 Tel: (807) 286-5515 Fax: (807) 286-1152

**RICHARD GARRETT**

204 - 1159 Alloy Drive Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6M8 Tel: (807)577-7775 Fax: (807)-577-2746

**DAVID SHANNON**

205 - 50 S. Water Street Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6Y9 Tel: (807) 768-8494 Fax: (807) 683-0677

## ***Overall NALSC's Legal Aid Program provides:***

- Legal Aid Certificates to NAN community members
- prepares Lawyers Lists, with contact information & take legal cases by region.
- maintains a Roster of Duty Counsel Lawyers for Advance and Court Days in NAN Communities
- Has a rotation of Lawyers who provide free Summary Legal Advice and referrals without appointments.

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## ***Finding NALSC Court Information on our website:***

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

*From the Homepage, scroll down to “NALSC Court Information”  
Click on the ORANGE LINKS labelled:*

- **NALSC Northern Duty Counsel Calendar June 2024**
- **NALSC Advance Court Virtual Zoom Connection – June 2024**

*Documents will list*

- *Zoom Connections to connect into court.*
- *Toll Free number to connect into court.*
- *State which Communities have court, and whether they are Virtual or Fly-In (in person).*

*\*Documents are updated frequently throughout the month*



# Meet our Legal Aid Staff

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## **Doreen Stone** **Manager of Legal Aid**

*My name is Doreen Stone, I am a member of the Eabametoong First Nation. I have been with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal for 28+ years working in the Legal Aid Department. I am a graduate of the Aboriginal Law and Advocacy Program and the Business Administration program. My new role with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services is the Manager of Legal Aid.*

*My role as the Manager of Legal Aid, is to oversee the daily operations of the legal aid department. I monitor Court Schedules, Court Charters and Applications, overseeing my staff to ensure that services are provided to the members of NAN.*

*Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services administers the Legal Aid Certificate program under the Legal Aid Services Act 2020. We offer certificates for Criminal and Family matters for those members who qualify both legally and financially.*

*The Legal Aid department has faced many obstacles in the new year as we continue to grow and provide services for the members of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. We have dedicated staff who continue to provide the best services to NALSC and the clients they serve. We continue to face aircraft shortages which impacts the delivery of in-person court services. We currently have 3 full-time lawyers available to provide legal advice and brief limited services.*

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# Staff Lawyers



**Megan Wood**  
**Staff Lawyer**

*Megan enjoys learning about NAN Territory and providing practical legal advice to NAN members in the areas of family and child protection.*

*She enjoys working with the Legal Aid team and providing some support to the Gladue program. She believes that knowledge is power and is passionate about access to quality public legal education materials.*



**Kevin Romyn**  
**Staff Lawyer**



*Kevin joined Nan Legal as a staff lawyer in January of 2023 working out of the Sioux Lookout office aiding in both criminal and family law.*

*Originally from Northwestern Ontario, Kevin moved to Sioux Lookout in 1993 where he maintained his own Law Practice for 30 years. Over the years he worked extensively with Nan clients in the Nan communities located in the Kenora Court District.*

*In his new role as a staff lawyer he continues to assist Nan members primarily in the Kenora Court District. Services Kevin provides include but are not limited to initial review and advice in both criminal and family law. Referral to private counsel, assistance to self-represented clients with court proceedings including judicial pretrials and sentencing.*

*Outside of work Kevin enjoys the outdoors fishing and hunting, boating and snowmobiling. Kevin also enjoys travel and looks forward to many future adventures.*

# Staff Lawyers



## **Arturo Acosta** **Staff Lawyer**



*Arturo Acosta (Art) is originally from Brantford, ON, but has found his new home here in Thunder Bay.*

*Art completed his undergraduate degree at Wilfrid Laurier University majoring in Criminology. He then went on to study law at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, Lakehead University and has predominantly practiced criminal law, both defence and prosecutions. However, most recently he has completed the Family Law Skills and Practice certificate at Osgoode Hall, as he would like to develop a family law practice.*

*Art has had the unique opportunity to work under numerous prominent and well-respected criminal defence lawyers here in Thunder Bay. He now applies all the valuable guidance and experience provided by those Mentors, throughout those positions, in his role as the Criminal Law Staff Lawyer at the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, within the District of Thunder Bay.*

*As the Criminal Law Staff Lawyer, for the District of Thunder Bay, Art focuses much of his time serving members of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, as Duty Counsel, within the First Nation communities of Mishkeegogamang, Fort Hope, Webequie, Ogoki Post, Summer Beaver, and Lansdowne House. Art is grateful to be one of the first lawyers to be given the task of establishing and developing the Criminal Law Staff Lawyer Program at NAN Legal.*

*Overall, Art's favorite aspect of the position is that his work assists all members and stakeholders of the criminal justice system.*

# Legal Aid Assessment Officers

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**Jocelyn Rae**  
**Senior Assessment Officer**

*Hello! My name is Jocelyn Rae, I am a member of Sandy Lake First Nation. I started working for Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services May 2010, first as Restorative Justice Assistant and then moved to Legal Aid Department as the Assessment officer in January 2011.*

*I started my new position as Senior Assessment Officer on March 4 of this year. So with the new job title, comes with new tasks, learning to prioritize my workload between lawyers, judges, crowns and the people of the North. I enjoy working with a variety of people, everyday is different and you learn something new everyday!*

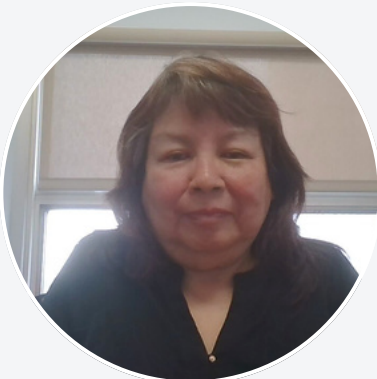
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**Francesca Mainville**  
**Assessment Officer**



*Francesca came to NAN Legal last May as a Discharge Planner and is now a Legal Aid Assessment Officer. In 2021 graduated from the Paralegal Program in Southern Ontario. New to Thunder Bay – via Sarnia and Toronto. She comes with over 20 years experience in community development and program development working with families as well as assisting those in jeopardy of eviction within the Social Housing sector.*

*She enjoys spending time with her family, doggies and luv's working with her plants – If she has time left over...swimming is her go-to activity.*



**Helen Yesno**  
**Assessment Officer**

*Hello. My name is Helen Yesno. I am a member of Eabametoong First Nation. I started working for NAN legal in 1997 – 2016 as a receptionist and then gradually assisted with Legal Aid department in different capacities. I am back as a Legal Aid Assessment Officer.*

*I look forward to helping out in any way I can. I love to golf and will be golfing all summer. Some of the activities I enjoy is outdoor cooking, fishing, crafts and walking.*

# Community Legal Workers



## **Darlene Suggashie** **Community Legal Worker**

*Gooooood afternoon from the lil world of Darlene Suggashie, I am the Community Legal Aid worker for NAN Legal, and I am based out of Pikangikum ON. This is my 4th year with the organization and I love it, I work with great, hard working people, plus its never a dull moment.*

*I enjoy helping the people in my community with the process of filling out the application and getting them in touch with a lawyer if they should need my help, and vice versa with the lawyers, getting ahold of their clients or if they even need an interpreter. This field of work is teaching me a lot when we go to workshops/conferences, also spending time with my other colleagues is always a lot of fun so, as my coworkers usually hear me say "I guess, that's it, hi" hehehe, booshoo to you all.*

*ps. my furball pets would like to HI to the NAN community*

### **PIKANGIKUM**

**Tel: (807) 773- 5587, Cell: (807) 620- 5441**

**Email: dsuggashie@nanlegal.on.ca**

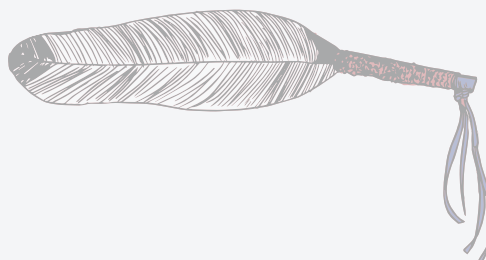
## **Jacob Mekanak** **Community Legal Worker**

*Serving Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake  
New Slate Falls, Sachigo Lake, North Caribou Lake  
(Weagamow) Mishkeegogamang (New Osnaburgh)*

### **SIOUX LOOKOUT OFFICE**

**Cell: (807) 630-9503**

**Email: jmekanak@nanlegal.on.ca**



# Community Legal Workers



## **Jacqueline Edwards** **Community Legal Worker**

*Wacheyay Misaway,*

*My name is Jackie Edwards. I am originally from Attawapiskat First Nation and grew up there. I left home in 2003 to pursue my post-secondary education for almost 4 years. I am currently working with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services as a Community Legal Worker since 2013 in Timmins.*

*I speak Cree fluently and it is a great asset and opportunity to help clients that cannot understand or speak English, as well as for those with limited English. I enjoy helping people who do not understand our justice court system. I navigate the legal processes.*

*I take legal aid applications and help find lawyers. Also, I make referrals within our NALSC programs or direct them to other resources or stakeholders. I am very happy and grateful to be part of Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation.*

*Serving: Taykwa Tagamou First Nation, Apitipi Anicinapek Nation (Wahgoshig), Moose Factory, Moosonee and Cochrane.*

### **TIMMINS OFFICE**

**Tel: (705) 268-5544 ext. 204, Cell: (705) 221- 1112**

**Email: [jedwards@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:jedwards@nanlegal.on.ca)**



## **Madeline Kioke** **Community Legal Worker**



*I'm the Community Legal Worker for Timmins, Gogama and Chapleau courts; serving the First Nations of Beaverhouse; Brunswick House; Chapleau Ojibway; Chapleau Cree; Matachewan and Mattagami.*

*I'm a member of the Attawapiskat First Nation, lived in Timmins for 31 years, originally from Moosonee and Moose Factory. I served Moosonee/Moose Factory in 2009/2010, and Timmins since October of 2019 on contract as the CLW then was hired as Permanent in September 2021. I love the outdoors; enjoy camping, canoeing, hiking, walking, beading, moccasin making and music. You can come and see me at the Timmins office.*

### **TIMMINS OFFICE**

**Tel: (705) 268-5544 ext. 203, Cell: (705) 221- 1113**

**Email: [mkioke@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:mkioke@nanlegal.on.ca)**

# Community Legal Workers



## **Roberta Wesley** **Community Legal Worker**

WACHEYA , BOOSHOO MIISIIWAY. First and Foremost, I would like to acknowledge our Land of Constance Lake. I've been residing here for 25 years.

I have had several Roles and Responsibilities living here in Constance Lake. My educational background Has always been in the helping fields, I graduated from Cambrian College with Highest Honors in the Native Community Care & Counselling Development Program. I recently Graduated from the Mini Business Program with York University.

*My Expertise in Leadership is as follows:*

- Strategic Planning & Management
- Managerial Finance
- Leading Transformation
- Proposal Writing
- Marketing Strategy
- Political Acuity
- Business Ethics, Social responsibility, Negotiation Skills.

*I've entered my 15th year with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services. I continue to service our people in the Justice System in the provincial courts such as family, Youth, and Criminal and always advocating for Restorative Justice, and Gladue Hearings, as well the Talking Together Program and for Healing.*

*On my spare time I am the Chair of Education, I served 10 years as Vice President with Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). I have extensive knowledge in Board Practices, Human Resources, By-Laws and Policies, Strategic Planning, Program Development as well Advocacy Boards involving Child Welfare. I've attended 2 UN Forums on Indigenous Peoples in New York in 2016 as a group for ONWA to advocate for the MMIW and the Sex Trade. In 2017 Bonn, Germany spoke at a high panel event on Climate Change and how it affects our Indigenous Peoples.*

*Roberta was 1 of 4 who developed an Alternative Dispute Resolution model in Child Welfare to assist families through holistic healing rather than the court system and dealing with Child & Family Services. Roberta has been involved in various areas such as Child Welfare, Violence against Woman Campaigns, Education Protests, Mental Health, Justice, and Debriefing. ADR, she's a Mediator, Aftercare, Breaking Cycles, Healing Circles, Facilitator, Youth Mentor, as well a great leader and activist for our people. Grief & Loss. Roberta has this special Gift and approach with all walks of life.*

*Roberta is a mother of 2 boys and 1 daughter A GOGO of 1 Princess too Beautiful for earth, and 3 Grandsons, Roberta is an awesome public speaker; she shared as a facilitator with the Circle of Care Group for ONWA in Thunder Bay. Facilitated many staff retreats, as well organized many youth and elders gatherings.*

*To this day she continues to volunteer her spare time in hopes she will reach another spirit and empower them to make changes in their current lifestyles. She has a heart of gold that continues to empower and support indigenous, Metis, an Inuit Peoples all over the world. Roberta is pro-active in all areas that are of high importance to our People.*

*Roberta was raised on the land, until she was 6 yrs. old. She has many gifts of her cultural and traditional teachings. She truly believes in respecting and helping others, she believes in family and communities to have what they deserve as some are not fortunate enough to have that gift in their lives. One of her greatest Gifts is to ensure people have that last bit of happiness before leaving on their journey. By way of sharing laughter, being a good listener, being non-judgmental, a strong shoulder to lean on with an infectious smile that shines on for miles.*

*Together we can all Break the Cycle....*

**CONSTANCE LAKE**

**Tel: (705) 463- 1155 , Cell: (705) 373- 2100**

**Email: [rwesley@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:rwesley@nanlegal.on.ca)**

# Community Legal Workers



## **Robert Ostamas** **Community Legal Worker**

*I'm originally from Eabametoong First Nation. I've been with NAN Legal Services since 2021 as a Community Legal Worker. I am based out of the Thunder Bay office. I service five Matawa remote first nations: Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik and Webequie.*

*I enjoy travelling up to the communities. Most of all I truly enjoy helping our People of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation...One of the things I also enjoy doing is researching about our Anishinaabe Peoples history -- concerning contact with our visitors from Europe and from around the world to our ancestral homelands in Turtle Island. When the Non-Indigenous Peoples washed up onto our shores, we saved them, dried them up, clothe them, fed them and we taught them how to survive, we also taught them how to harvest food, how to shelter themselves, farm, build homes, we taught them about everything they need to survive and thrive. Most importantly, we helped our visitors create a home in our homelands -- which is now Canada and the United States of America. I am so proud of our Anishinaabe People!*

**THUNDER BAY OFFICE**  
**Cell: 807-632-6339**  
**Email: [rostamas@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:rostamas@nanlegal.on.ca)**



## **Don Sainnawap** **Community Legal Worker**

*Don is the Community Legal Worker for the following Shibogama communities: Wunnumin Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wapekeka, Kasabonika Lake, Wawakapewin. Don is based out of Sioux Lookout, and has been working for Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation since 2002.*



**SIoux LOOKOUT OFFICE**  
**Tel: 807-737-5201, Cell: 807-738-5076**  
**Email: [dsainnawap@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:dsainnawap@nanlegal.on.ca)**



# Community Legal Workers



## **Stella Kiokee-Koostachin** **Community Legal Worker**

Wacheeya!

*My name is Stella Kiokee-Koostachin and I am an Attawapiskat First Nation Band Member.*

*I have been with NALSC for close to 20 years now, I first started with NALSC on October 4, 2004 where I was temporary hired as a Community Legal Worker on a full time basis, I was finally offered the full time position of the Community Legal worker on April 1, 2006. As a CLW, we are appointed as a Commissioner as well. I am stationed in the Community of Attawapiskat and I service the James Bay Communities of Peawanuck, Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, and Fort Albany. I am fluent in both English and Cree as my first Language. My main role as a Community Legal Worker is mainly to assist and Navigate clients through the Legal Justice system. I also assist clients with Firearms Application, Commissioning delayed statement of birth forms, or assisting with any other documentation they require. As a Commissioner of Oaths, we are also limited to what we can Commission. We, CLW's, also cover each other's communities when a CLW is not able to be there. As a CLW, we are expected to do our community visits and to be visible within each of our communities. I enjoy my work as a Community Legal Worker and enjoy meeting new people, enjoy working with my colleagues, and enjoy working with all the justice personelle that we have come to know over the years.*

*Since Covid, it has been difficult in the getting back to the regular routine of Criminal Courts, since than, each community has been set up with the Starlink where the Community can log unto the Virtual Courts, when live courts cannot be present, so that clients do not have to worry about getting Bench Warrant when they cannot log unto courts, or when they do not have a device or a phone to call into courts.*

*I encourage those that are out of the community and may need help with their legal matters to contact me either through my email or contact number provided and i will gladly assist you.*

Meegwetch!

**ATTAWAPISKAT**

**Tel: (705) 997- 7234**

**Email: [skoostachin@nanlegal.on.ca](mailto:skoostachin@nanlegal.on.ca)**





## Legal Aid Staff



### **Ashley Richards** **Communications Coordinator**

*Boozhoo,*

*I am Ashley Richards, I am a member of Ginoogaming First Nation and I'm the Communications Coordinator here at NAN Legal.*

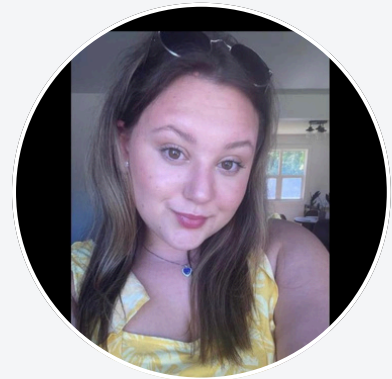
*I work very closely with the Public Legal Education Lead Cheryl, together you might find us at certain events with a booth or holding presentations in the communities. I've been with NAN Legal for two years now, first starting in the position of Legal Aid Assistant. When I'm not at the office, I usually spend my spare time at the rink or running around the city (literally).*

*I truly enjoy being able to engage and make connections with community members, it's rewarding to be able to give back and leave a positive impact.*

*Miigwetch!*

### **Carly Winters** **Legal Aid Assistant**

*Carly is the new Legal Aid Assistant located in the Thunder Bay office. Currently, she is still learning her role, however, Carly provides administrative and communicative support for the Director of Legal Services and is eager to help anywhere that is needed in the Legal Aid Department.*



*Carly graduated from Durham College with a Paralegal Diploma, and she is presently studying to obtain her Paralegal License. On her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, swimming, hiking, camping, and fishing. Working towards a career in legal representation, she couldn't be happier to have recently joined our team!*

# Community Justice



## Teah Buffalo

### Community Justice Coordinator

*Teah works closely with the satellite fly-in court project team to provide administrative support where needed. She provides service to the Starlink internet and video conferencing units that are located in the northern fly-in communities.*

*She also coordinates and supports the Community Justice Navigators in their work and their duties within these northern communities to ensure the functionality of this equipment.*



## Gregory Larsen

### Community Justice Navigator/PLE Officer

*Gregory is a recent addition to the NAN Legal team starting in April 2024. In his role, he is tasked with the coordination and set-up of systems and associated infrastructure for fly-in courts and Justice system use. He operates from the Thunder Bay office.*

*Gregory is a lifelong Northerner and loves where he comes from. His background includes serving as an Adjudicator for 5 years with Tribunals Ontario by appointment of the Attorney General as well as serving in the public interest on the Council of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario by appointment of the Minister of Health. Gregory has among other things also provided health sector mediation services and worked in senior leadership roles in banking. His education includes an LLM (Master of Laws) in Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall Law School, an undergraduate degree in Health Administration, as well as a college Business diploma.*

*Additionally, he holds the Q.Med (Qualified Mediator) designation, has numerous professional development accreditations (many in law, and mediation) and is a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute.*

# Public Legal Education

*The Public Legal Education and Communications Officer works with CLW's and other NALSC Programs to receive requests from communities for clinic days, workshops, presentations and more information on legal topics*

*PLE is an activity that seeks to provide people with an opportunity to acquire free legal information about the law and Justice System, court process, thus improving access to justice, giving NAN Community members the information needed to:*

- Help them understand the law, how to deal with legal issues that affect their lives, and how to use opportunities and the protections offered by the Justice system.
- Inform and educate NAN Community members about their own rights and obligations within the Legal System
- Keep the community members of NAN informed of new developments & changes in law and policy.
- Engage in Preventative Law by delivering PLE Activities
- Provide Legal information in plain language, easy-to-understand format
- Ensure community members of NAN are aware of the Programs and Services offered by NALSC.

**Delivery of PLE:** NALSC's PLE Program is delivered in a manner sensitive to, and tailored to the needs of NAN communities:

- Community visits
- Workshops & Presentations
- Career Fairs
- Clinic Days
- Promotions & Booth displays
- Newsletters & Website
- Virtually Zoom or Teams

**Legal Education topics can include:**

- Band By-Laws
- Child Welfare
- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- Firearms Act
- Harvesting Rights
- Hunting and Fishing rights
- Human Rights Law
- ID Clinic
- Indigenous and Treaty Rights
- The Justice System
- Class Action Settlements
- Wills & Estates
- Power of Attorney
- Youth Criminal Justice

**PLE Contact Information:**  
ple@nanlegal.on.ca  
(807) 620- 9253

*You can also make a specific request of a legal topic of your choice.*

# Employment Rights

If you are having Employment Law issues, in relation to Civil law issues, you can connect with the below contacts:

1. <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/law/clinic> “Our office is open Monday through Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm. If you need legal assistance, call our office (807) 346-7815 or email [legalservices.law@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:legalservices.law@lakeheadu.ca) to book an intake appointment.”
2. Law Society of Ontario – Law Society Referral Service – Free 30 Min Consultation <https://lsrs.lso.ca/lsrs/welcome>. Phone: 1 (855) 947-5255

## Looking for Alternatives to Court for Family Matters?

What is the difference between Mediation and Collaborative Family Law?

### MEDIATION

- A voluntary process where two parties come to a fair agreement
- Less expensive than court process (and there are funding programs available)
- Conducted by a Social Worker, Psychologist, or Lawyer
- They do not tell you how resolve issues – they make suggestions
- They screen both parties to ensure they are good candidates for the process
- Can be done together at a table or in separate rooms
- If you agree with the outcome, take it home and consider it before signing
- If you don't agree: try again or go to court

### COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW

- More expensive than Mediation
- Faster and cheaper than the court process but your interests are still protected by a lawyer
- Focused and directed by you for your family
- Four way meetings between each spouse and their lawyers to create a solution that meets your family's unique needs and legal requirements
- You are not able to work with these lawyers if you use the court process

NOTE: WHERE THERE IS A HISTORY OF ABUSIVE OR CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR, THESE ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS ARE LESS LIKELY TO WORK. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, TALK TO A PROFESSIONAL ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

If you would like more information on alternatives to Court, call NANLEGAL on WEDNESDAYS from 1pm to 5pm or visit <https://stepstojustice.ca/guided-pathways/dispute-resolution-guided-pathway/>

## *Legal Aid Training in Ottawa*



*In March 2023, staff visited Ottawa and were able to visit Parliament Hill to meet with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.*



*Staff outing with Darlene, Cheryl, Jocelyn, Jackie and Ashley.*



*Legal Aid Team group photo in a courtroom of the Supreme Court*

*Staff tour of the Supreme Court of Canada*



## Legal Aid Events & Community Visits



*Legal Aid Staff visit Kasabonika. A PLE Presentation was done on all NALSC Programs, sharing free available legal resources with the community.*



*Legal Aid Staff visit Attawapiskat, pictured with Chief Judy Sylvia Koostachin-Metatawabin. A PLE presentation was done at the Elementary School for all grades.*



*All Staff Training, held in Thunder Bay. The entire organizations was able to meet (post covid) and celebrate with a Christmas Dinner*



*All Staff Training & Gathering. Legal Aid staff pictured, got to celebrate their Years of Service and received an Award.*

*Aboriginal Legal Services Justice Leaders Training in Toronto*





# Vancouver - Justice as Trauma Conference



Myrna McCallum spoke about her vision on what is trauma informed, and how the whole Conference came to be. It was considerably needed among legal professions in Canada. Research was gathered among the Indigenous community and internationally. Speakers spoke on how to deliver Trauma Informed Legal education.



# Legal Aid does the WHITE GALA



NALSC Legal Aid Staff attended the Tournament of Hope White Gala, with speakers; Sol Mamakwa, NAN Leadership, TOH Organizers, and Elders. Proceeds supported the Tournament of Hope, bringing NAN Youth to gather in Thunder Bay for hockey, broomball, and volleyball, with a strong focus on mental health awareness. TOH was created to help support the NAN youth and NAN communities that have experienced a spike in suicides over the past few years. TOH aims to help bring hope to everyone in the NAN Territory.



# Legal Aid Candidids



# Office Locations



## Thunder Bay Office

CHAPPLES BUILDING  
101 NORTH SYNDICATE AVENUE, SUITE 101  
THUNDER BAY, ON | P7C 3V4  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-465-5581  
TEL: (807) 622-1413  
FAX: (807) 622-3024



## Timmins Office

119 PINE STREET SOUTH, SUITE 210  
TIMMINS ON | P4N 2K3  
TOLL FREE: 1-866-859-3887  
TEL: (705) 268-1105  
FAX: (705) 268-0012

## SIoux LOOKOUT OFFICE

37 FRONT STREET  
SIoux LOOKOUT ON | P8T 1A3  
TEL: (807) 737-7981  
FAX: (807) 737-7297



## KENORA OFFICE

308 SECORD STREET SOUTH  
SUITE 14  
KENORA ON | P9N 1G4  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-465-5591