



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Utilizing the Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Restorative Justice model, Community Youth Justice Workers (CYJWs) process youth diversions from the courts, police, and probation officers in the communities that they serve.

Once diverted, the CYJWs will begin to plan for a justice circle to take place where the youth will be given the opportunity to fully understand their behaviour and how it has affected those around them in a way that is culturally suited to them.

Through the involvement of the victim, offenders, and the community, the CYJWs will facilitate healing circles toward a resolution that affords reparation, healing, and successful re-integration, while preventing further harm.

## OUR CLIENTS

Our clients include:

- Youth between the ages of 12-17 at the time of diversion
- Youth who are in trouble with the law
- Youth who want to make positive and healthy lifestyle changes
- Youth who are serious about taking responsibility for their actions and behaviours

## EXAMPLES OF COMMON REFERRALS

Common charges that may be referred to the program as either pre-charge or post-charge referrals include:

- Theft
- Assault
- Break and enter
- Breaches
- Bullying
- Uttering threats
- Mischief

The referring party will consider all of the circumstances of the incident before deciding if the program is a good fit.

## PRE-CHARGE VS. POST-CHARGE EXPLAINED

**Post-Charge:** The client has already been charged by police, and the case is already being dealt with in court and is in the hands of the Crown. These referrals are sent to us by crown attorneys.

**Pre-Charge:** Police may, at their discretion, refer clients to us **without/before** charging them. If the client does not participate in programming with NALSC, we refer it back to the officer, who can then charge the client. These referrals are sent to us by police.



## INTENT OF THE PROGRAM

The Community Youth Restorative Justice (CYRJ) Program aims to guide youth toward a better understanding of how their behaviour affects others in their community. Once a referral is made, youth will work toward making amends by mending harm and giving back to their community in a meaningful way.

Through the process, youth will gain a new understanding of the cause and effect of their behaviour, learn to identify potential triggers, and learn positive life skills. The program also encourages youth to develop new skills and interests, as well as build meaningful connections within their communities.