

## Attendance at Court

The Community Legal Workers attend court in each of the communities they serve including courts held in urban centres and other locations where NAN members may attend court.

Most of the communities are accessible by air and about one-third of the communities are accessible by road year round. More than half of all NAN communities are serviced by “fly-in” courts.

Court parties travel to the fly-in communities on a more or less regular basis and the schedules vary from 2 to 12 visits per year.

The CLWs are required to be available the day prior to and on the court day for all fly-in courts.

**Are you from a NAN community?**

**Do you need a lawyer?**

**Do you qualify for legal aid?**

**Is your case covered?**

To find out, call your local CLW.

For the phone number,  
see the back of this brochure.

Or call our Legal Aid staff  
at our Thunder Bay office.

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

**For a Community Legal Worker serving your community, please contact:**

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Muskrat Dam,  
Lac Seul & Pikangikum  
Tel: (807) 737-7981  
Toll Free: 1-866-468-5151

Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, Poplar Hill,  
MacDowell Lake, North Spirit Lake & Sandy Lake  
Tel: (807) 737-3106  
Toll Free: 1-877-851-1107

Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming,  
Hornepayne & Long Lake #58  
Tel: (807) 876-1672

Eabametoong, Neskantaga, Marten Falls, Nibinamik,  
Webequie & Mishkeegogamang  
Tel: (807) 622-1413  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581

Moose Factory & Moosonee  
Tel: (705) 658-2865  
Toll Free: 1-888-558-2865

Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan & Peawanuk  
Tel: (705) 997-1285  
Toll Free: 1-877-331-0144

Kasabonika Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin Lake,  
Wawakapewin & Wapakeka  
Tel: (807) 737-5201  
Toll Free: 1-877-851-1108

Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Matachewan,  
Chapleau Ojibway, Mattagami & Wahgoshig  
Tel: (705) 268-5544  
Toll Free: 1-866-859-3887

Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake, Sachigo Lake, Slate Falls  
& North Caribou Lake  
Tel: (807) 737-7295  
Toll-Free: 1-888-314-4417

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal  
Services Corporation

## COMMUNITY LEGAL WORKERS



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## **The Community Legal Worker**

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) has a number of Community Legal Workers (CLWs) who provide legal, paralegal, and law-related services in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) communities.

The CLWs are all members of NAN and most speak the language of the communities they serve.

The CLW is crucial to the operation of NALSC.

The CLW works with justice personnel and the communities to improve the administration of the Canadian legal system of justice and assists clients and their families in dealing with legal matters.

### **Legal Aid**

NALSC functions as an Area Office for Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) and has the authority to issue legal aid certificates to qualifying members of NAN.

NALSC employs an Area Director, LAO Coordinator and LAO Assessment Officers.

Community Legal Workers work closely with the LAO Area Office staff located at the NALSC Thunder Bay office. Where a member of one of the NAN communities requires the services of a lawyer, a CLW will help the member apply for legal aid.

CLWs also work closely with the Advice Lawyer located at the NALSC Thunder Bay office. Where they receive legal inquiries, the CLWs will refer these inquiries to the Advice Lawyer.

## **CLW Services**

- Take Legal Aid applications either by phone or in person
- Find lawyers for people who need legal counsel
- Assist and refer legal inquiries and short service questions to the Advice Lawyer
- Assist people on Advance Court Days and in court
- Assist the courts and Duty Counsel
- Help Defense Counsel with translating, arranging meetings, interviews with witnesses, and updating files
- Make referrals to other NALSC program staff, i.e. Restorative Justice diversions, the Talking Together circles, and the Victim Witness Liaison
- Update Chiefs and Councils when requested
- Help people understand the legal process
- Assist with Clinic Days and public legal education
- Serve as Commissioners for swearing affidavits

### **Public Legal Education**

Community requests for public legal education services are usually handled by the Community Legal Workers. The CLWs direct these requests to the Public Legal Education & Communications Officer (PLECO).

CLWs work with the PLECO, and assist the PLECO and/or a lawyer in conducting public legal education community workshops and presentations.

## **Community Visits**

The Community Legal Worker assists clients with various legal matters. The CLW functions as court worker, interpreter for clients and Defense Counsel, and as a channel for obtaining information and feedback from NAN members.

CLWs are often the first contact for clients within the legal system and they assist clients throughout the entire process from first contact to the final resolution of the problem.

The CLWs make frequent community visits to each community on a regular basis. Some CLWs reside in, and work out of, the communities they serve. Other CLWs are located in the Sioux Lookout and Timmins branch offices or at the Thunder Bay office.

### **Clinic Days**

The idea behind the Clinic Day is to have a lawyer present in the community to discuss legal issues with people in the community.

Clinic Days are a form of public legal education and provides NAN members with an opportunity to access legal information and assistance whether or not they have a matter before the courts. For lawyers, it is an opportunity to spend time in the NAN communities.

A CLW assists the lawyer and introduces him/her to the Chief and Council and other members of the community.

Any member of the community can discuss any type of problem with the lawyer - without appointment and without a fee.