

Restorative Justice Program

Community Accountability Conferencing (CAC), a restorative justice model, serves to put the responsibility for maintaining community peace and control back in the hands of the community. Charges referred or diverted by the police or court are facilitated by a Justice Committee. The offender, victim and their supporters, and others, meet in a Circle to discuss the wrongdoing. This allows the offender to gain an understanding of how the wrong has affected others, particularly the victim. Participants work as a group to see how amends can be made for the wrongdoing.

Community Youth Justice Initiative

The Community Youth Justice Initiative is modelled after the proven restorative justice model. The program helps youth diverted from the courts, police and probation officers. Circles take place to give youth the opportunity to fully understand their behaviour, take responsibility for and be accountable for their actions. The participants work together to develop a plan for how amends can be made for the wrongdoing.

Community Youth Intervention Initiative

The Community Youth Intervention Initiative works closely with probation officers. The program was developed to monitor and supervise youth who are the subject of a Pre-Sentence Report or who have received a sentence. Youth are assisted with their rehabilitation and reintegration by helping them to gain a better understanding of how their behaviour affects others and to make reparations to the community or by doing something for the victim directly.

Talking Together Program

The Talking Together model is an innovative method of dispute resolution. The program uses the Circle process which allows participants to engage safely in discussing plans for the children involved. The process looks at who has been affected and how they have been affected by family problems. An outcome of the Circle process is an Agreement which may be used as a basis for the Plan of Care and filed in court.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs and services, please contact us:

Executive Director

- Corporate Issues
- Staff Issues
- General Issues/Inquiries
- Public Relations

Area Director – Legal Aid Ontario

- Legal Aid
- Community Legal Workers
- Summary Advice

Restorative Justice Coordinator

- Restorative Justice Program
- Community Youth Justice Initiative

Talking Together Manager

- Talking Together Program
- Community Youth Intervention Initiative

Public Legal Education & Communications Officer

- Legal Education & Resources
- Organizational Information & Resources

Victim Witness Liaison

- Victim and Witness Assistance
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Process

Head Office: 684 City Road, Unit 14
Fort William First Nation
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1K3

Main Office: 86 South Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2V3

Branch Offices: P.O. Box 546
39 ½ King Street
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A8

c/o NAN Eastern Office
145 Wilson Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 2T2

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation



**86 South Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2V3**

Tel: (807) 622-1413

Fax: (807) 622-3024

Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581

www.nanlegal.on.ca

Background

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) was created to address the shortcomings in the administration of justice within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). In September 1989, NAN Resolution 89/40 created an interim board of directors, with directions to establish a corporation. NALSC was formally incorporated by Letters Patent on March 1, 1990, and in July 1990, the NALSC head office was opened at Fort William First Nation.

NALSC has grown steadily since 1990, working hard to develop a professional image and hiring qualified staff to carry out NALSC's mandate. Innovative and creative programs have made NALSC a leader and, at times, an example in alternatives to justice programs, and NALSC has met with success in these areas.

Mandate & Mission

Mandate: To promote creative community-based justice systems and to deliver on a wide range of law-related services including legal, paralegal, public legal education, and law reform services to the members of NAN.

Mission: To deliver the programs and services in a culturally appropriate manner sensitive to the unique values, customs and traditions of NAN communities.

Governance of NALSC

NALSC is governed by a Board of Directors who are members of a First Nation within NAN. The Board of Directors provide overall direction to ensure that NALSC serves the needs of the community members and that NALSC programs and services are delivered as mandated and in accordance with its mission.

The Board of Directors also ensure NALSC fulfills its financial and legal obligations to funders. The directors provide accountability and transparency of NALSC by delivering an Annual Report to the NAN Chiefs at the annual Keewaywin Conference.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of:

- Seven directors appointed by the Tribal Councils, and one director from the unaffiliated First Nations; three of the directors serve as either the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer for the Board of Directors;
- Three Elders from the East, West and Central NAN regions ; and,
- An ex-officio member from the NAN Executive (Deputy Grand Chief who holds the justice portfolio) sits on the board in a non-voting capacity.

Structure of the Corporation

NALSC is made up of a number of employees who work out of the Thunder Bay office, the branch offices and from offices located throughout the NAN region.

Management consists of the:

- Executive Director
- Financial Controller
- Talking Together Manager
- Restorative Justice Coordinator, and
- Area Director for Legal Aid Ontario (LAO).

Other staff include the Administrative/Support Staff, Community Legal Workers, Restorative Justice Workers, Community Youth Justice Workers, Talking Together Facilitators, Community Youth Intervention Workers, the Victim Witness Liaison, and the Public Legal Education & Communications Officer.

Office Locations

The head office is located in Fort William First Nation. The main office is located in Thunder Bay, and branch offices are located in Sioux Lookout and Timmins. NALSC services and staff can be accessed by contacting the Thunder Bay office.

NALSC Services

Legal Aid

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation and Legal Aid Ontario are responsible for the delivery of legal aid services to the members of NAN. If you require legal assistance, and you qualify for legal aid, NALSC provides legal aid certificates to those who meet the criteria.

Summary Advice

An Advice Lawyer provides short service and summary legal advice at our Thunder Bay office three (3) days per week. For quick legal advice or help with a relatively minor legal problem, call our office and ask to speak to the Advice Lawyer on Monday, Wednesday or Friday afternoons.

NALSC Programs

Public Legal Education

The goal of Public Legal Education (PLE) is to inform and educate the members of NAN about the Canadian legal and justice systems, and their rights and obligations within these systems. The PLE program is designed to benefit: 1) NAN community members by providing legal information and resources; 2) the justice personnel serving within the NAN territory; and 3) the general public.

Victim Witness Liaison

The mandate of the Victim Witness Liaison is to improve the quality of service to victims and witnesses of crime using a holistic approach by encouraging and empowering clients in a non-intrusive manner and by providing alternative justice options such as restorative justice. The Victim Witness Liaison provides information and support services, and referrals for victims and witnesses, as well as acting as liaison between police, justice personnel, service providers, families and Band Councils.