

Cheryl Suggashie

140A Redwood Avenue West
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1Z6
C# (807) 355 0341

Summary of Qualifications

- Efficient experience in working directly with Indigenous peoples, in non-profit organizations, who are in need of legal assistance. Also worked with six Chief's and their Council, and provincial stakeholders, funders and adhered to the Treaty Territory.
- I have a strong current understanding of the Justice and social issues in the Thunder Bay area; as I work directly with the Indigenous Youth, young families living on or off reserves, as well as Elders.
- Completed my Masters in Social Justice Studies, from Lakehead University. It required an assistantship with professors and working with third year students. My Practicum placement at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, updated research and everything was finalized through the ethics committee.
- Professional practice in fulfilling mandatory work plans, and/ or implementing programs and or information sessions. Experience in conducting presentations, information sessions, and sharing updated legal information as a vendor/ booth at any public engagement or event.
- Compassionate individual when working with cliental. Professional yet communication skills, experience in network building, sustaining strong relationships with external organizations, service agencies and resources in any given position.

Professional Experience

Nokiiwin Tribal Council, Thunder Bay ON

Community Legal Worker, funded by Legal Aid Ontario May 2018- Present

- Direct engagement to Nokiiwin Community members that are currently, or going to be in the Justice System, focussing in Criminal and Family Law. Assisted cliental in the Legal Aid Ontario process and acquiring Legal Aid Certificates.
- Coordinated summary legal clinics/ advanced court date in six semi isolated communities, contacted cliental. Some required extensive search because cliental had no phones or fixed addresses. I would connect the client to Duty Council, Nokiiwin's Restorative Justice worker, and/or victims support depending on their position and needs: ID Clinics, counselling services, John Howard Society, Kinna Aweya Legal Clinic, etc.

- I submitted quarterly reports with statistics, financials and narrative reports, as well as a Final yearly report. I was to report back to Legal Aid Ontario and Nookiiwin Tribal Council.
- I constantly have to keep up with legal aid Ontario updates, policy changes, legal changes and take required and necessary training, webinars, tutorials
- Pushed for Public Legal Education or Information Sessions in the communities, it required travel and budgeting. Topics included environmental law, basic rights, Pardons, Indian Day Schools, Wills and Estates, Family Law, Criminal Law and the Justice System.

Graduate Assistant, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay ON

Graduate Assistantship, September- April 2017, September- April 2018

- Assisted with launching the new "Indigenous Foods Circle" Committee, that is made up of Indigenous Organizations within Thunder Bay. It required professional up to date research, from all levels of Government, policies, and grassroots approaches.
- Worked as a team when applying for Grants, proposals, documents and reports. I networked and maintained strong relationships and communication with the committee, report back with data, for evaluation for future implementation, such as Terms of Reference and up coming meetings.
- Given Indigenous Issue(s) and topics from my Supervisor, to prepare lessons, facilitate tutorials and lectures to third year Undergrads, in the Indigenous Learning Program. I was to be available to students for assistance, questions, and discussions, with proper conduct and confidentiality.

Native Language Instructor's Program, Thunder Bay ON

Student Support Worker, June 2017- August 2017

- Coordinated activities, Orientation and Tutorials for Summer students and their families, coming from First Nations Communities within Ontario and Manitoba. To make their transition easier and safe, as there were numerous cultural and language barriers.
- Aid and support students with on and off campus resources available, recommended appropriate referrals: administration requirements, housing, child care, their Band and funders.
- Adhered to Lakehead Universities administrative requirements, following policies, and complete mandatory reports.

ONWA Charitable Foundation, Thunder Bay ON

Events Coordinator, June 2015- June 2016

- Reflect a positive image for the new non-profit foundation, with Urban Indigenous Women and children at the forefront.
- Developing a three year fundraising strategy, with communications strategies at the municipal and provincial level, through events, campaigns, letters and meetings.
- Researching and applying for non-Government Funds, Grants, donors and other charities, as a registered Charity, on behalf of ONWA's programs. Funds were to be used for education, scholarships, housing, emergency relief and programs at ONWA.

Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Camp Coordinator, June 2014- August 2014

- Worked directly with the *Anishinaabe Events Coordinator*. Designated duties to to Facilitators and trained Camp Counsellors. Upheld confidential communication with parents, and camp counsellors.
- Coordinated five weeks of programming, culture and traditional in nature, with nutritional meals, agendas for parents and rules for children.
- Collaborated with other aboriginal organizations, communities, guest speakers, supportive partners and conducted appropriate referrals.
- Responsible for Final Report that comprised of weekly budgets, and camp counsellors reports. Initiated and composed a "Training Manual" as reference future Coordinator and Counsellors.

Indian Friendship Centre, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth Worker, Dec 2013- March 2014

- Facilitated after school and weekend programming that were cultural, traditional and educational in nature, organized field trips. To develop Youth's leadership skills, confidence to engage them in the urban community.
- Achieved administrative and reception duties, completed quarterly and narrative reports, monthly meeting summaries and worked within a given budget in a fiscal year.
- Referred the youth to appropriate professional social services, worked diligently with other professionals, social workers, and family members.

Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Shingwauk Residential School Centre Researcher, January- December 2012

- Worked under the Founding Director of the “Shingwauk Project” and the Director of the SRSC, towards the “Shingwauk 2012 Commemoration Gathering & Conference” and assisted in the Shingwauk Residential School Archives.
- Coordinated events and activities that catered to Residential School Survivors; trained Volunteers, invited guest speakers, ordered promotional services, booked venues, catering, travel arrangements, and researching historical data.
- Communicated and made Referrals with First Nations communities, tribal councils, and external organizations in Canada; TRC, and other related Professions.

Education & Certificates

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay ON

Masters Degree in Social Justice 2018

with a Practicum Stream; Placement at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School

Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law and Justice, Minor in Political Science 2012

Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Law and Security Administration Diploma 2007

Volunteer work

Council Member, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Thunder Bay ON

Partake in sharing/ sentencing circles with victims and offenders. Encourage offender to accept responsibility and discuss their plan to have their charges withdrawn. Offenders will become an active in the Indigenous Community of Thunder Bay.

First Nations Rock the Vote Campaign, Kenora Riding

Travelled to First Nations community for the 2015 Federal Election, encouraging First Nations to vote, set up voting booths and followed Federal guidelines and criteria.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division’s Jingle Dress Program, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Program Coordinator Winter 2015. Guided Indigenous women, in making their own Jingle Dresses, with basic Teachings and Cultural protocols, and administering ceremonies.

“Walking with Our Sisters” Exhibit, Sault Ste. Marie ON

Volunteer Coordinator Spring 2014. Encouraged people to volunteer with the WWOS exhibit, set up and take down, following strict ceremonial protocols, in compliance with Facility policies.

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April 30, 2020

Human Resources

1805 Arthur Street East, Unit 100,
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2R6

Attention Human Resources,

My name is Cheryl Suggashie, I'm from Pikangikum First Nation. I am applying for the position of the "Public Legal Education and Communications Officer." I have my Masters in Social Justice Studies from Lakehead University. I learned the reality of Indigenous social issues, and how minimal access to Justice and Equality is to Indigenous community members. I have been working to change that in any way I can; through my work positions, volunteering or grassroots initiatives. I also work with the students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, in one of their classes. I teach students in sewing and designing Jingle Dresses, through traditional teachings and protocols. I also volunteer as a Council Member for the TBIFC's Aboriginal Community Council Program.

The majority of my experience has been working with Indigenous people in non profit organizations. I'm aware of current issues, and challenges Indigenous people face. Thus I have motivation and confidence to support Indigenous communities, to work their way out of the western legal and social systems, while catering to their social needs with a cultural approach, while respecting the territory I am on.

I have experience with administration obligations, I adhere to workplace policies and reports. I liaise and constantly network with other service agencies, and stakeholders. I have strong organizational and multitasking skills in order for my work to be done in a thorough and effective manner. I have a professional understanding of being respectful and loyal, in my workplace and keeping confidential and good relationships with cliental.

I look forward to hearing from you soon to discuss my Resume and what I can do for NAN.

Meegwetch,
Cheryl Suggashie