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Servicing Thunder Bay & Surrounding First Nations

Aroland, Constance Lake, Eabametoong, Ginoogaming, Hornepayne, Long Lake #58, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, Webequie, and Thunder Bay

Servicing Sioux Lookout & Surrounding First Nations

Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake, Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Kasabonika Lake, Keewaywin, Kingfisher Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Lac Seul, MacDowall Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Muskrat Dam, North Caribou Lake, North Spirit Lake, Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, Sachigo Lake, Sandy Lake, Slate Falls, Wapekeka, Wapekapewin, Wunnumin Lake and Sioux Lookout

Servicing Timmins & Surrounding First Nations

Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Cree, Chapleau Ojibway, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami, Missanabic Cree, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, Wahgoshig, and Timmins

Servicing James Bay & Surrounding First Nations

Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, MoCreebec Council of the Cree Nation, Moose Cree, Moose Factory, Weenusk, and Moosonee



Testimonials from Talking Together Circle Participants:

“There is a feeling of safety in the circle, a place where we can share and be heard. After the circle, there is a positive feeling in the room.”

“Circle was helpful in returning the client’s children to her care and planning for success.”

“The format for this Talking Together circle was perfectly suited for this situation.”

“Circle strengthens the family unit. It helps break the cycle of family dysfunction and brings the family together.”

“The circle was great. Atmosphere was non-judgmental. Everyone was able to share openly and suggest solutions. No improvement needed. Thank you.”



TALKING TOGETHER PROGRAM



NISHNAWBE-ASKI LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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What is 'Talking Together'?

Talking Together is an innovative method of Indigenous Alternative Dispute Resolution (IADR) based on Traditional Talking Circles that has been used by First Nations since time immemorial to restore harmony to families and community.

By bringing people together in a non-judgmental way, a plan will emerge which has the support of the family and community. This provides an alternative to the Court process and returns control to First Nations concerning the planning and protection of their children.

Program Advantages

Talking Together recognizes the capacity of kin network to protect Indigenous children and emphasizes the importance of cultural continuity in placements.

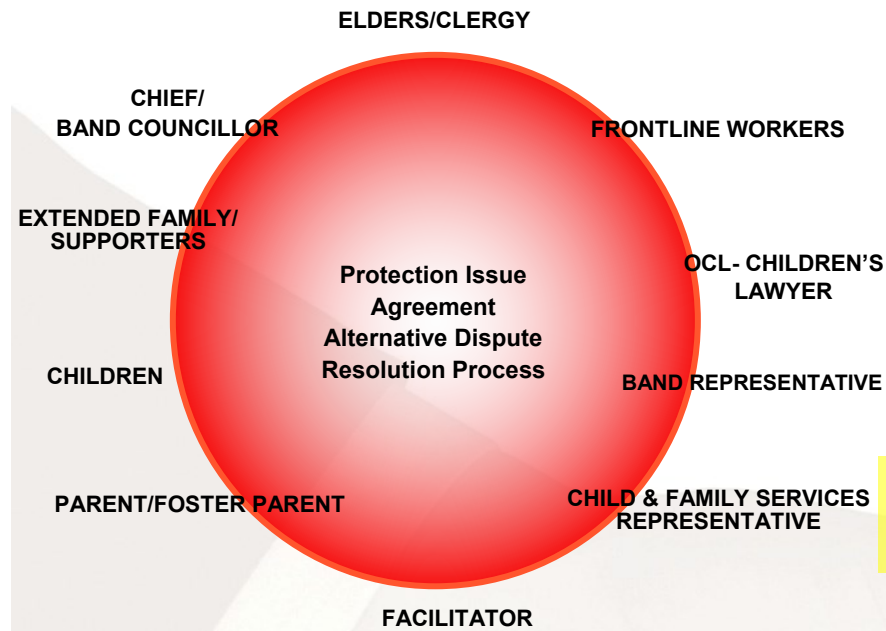
The process is a less intrusive method of dealing with family's who become involved with the child welfare system. It alleviates the need for the often costly and adversarial Family Law Court system.

The participants and community work as a group to resolve issues regarding child welfare and child protection concerns.



"There is no doubt that the services offered by this program are of great assistance to everyone involved, particularly the children." - Bernard R. Gosselin, Barister and Solicitor

Talking Together Circle



The Circle Process

The Talking Together Circle is composed of family members, front line workers, agency representatives, community Elders and community representatives.

The Circle asks the participants, "What brought you to the circle?"

When the agreement is reached it will be used as a basis for the Plan of Care and can be filed with the Court.

"This program empowers families that are in crisis because it allows them to have a say in what the final solution will be."

- Celina Reitberger, B.A., B.Ed., LL.B.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:
Indigenous Alternative Dispute Resolution (IADR) is a RIGHT!**



Alternative Dispute Resolution

From the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, PART IV (4)

Resolution of issues by prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution

17 (1) If a child is or may be in need of protection under this Act, a society shall consider whether a prescribed method of alternative dispute resolution could assist in resolving any issue related to the child or a plan for the child's care.

First Nation, Inuk or Metis child

(2) If the issue referred to in subsection (1) relates to a First Nation, Inuk or Metis child, the society shall consult with a representative chosen by each of the child's band and First Nation, Inuit or Metis communities to determine whether an alternative dispute resolution process established by that bands and communities or another prescribed alternative dispute resolution process could assist in resolving the issue.

Children's Lawyer

(3) If a society or a person, including a child, who is receiving child welfare services proposes that an alternative dispute resolution method or process referred to in subsection (1) or (2) be undertaken to assist in resolving an issue relating to a child or a plan for the child's care, the Children's Lawyer may provide legal representation to the child if, in the opinion of the Children's Lawyer, such legal representation is appropriate.

Notice to band, community

(4) If a society makes or receives a proposal that an alternative dispute resolution method or process referred to in subsection (1) or (2) be undertaken under subsection (3) in a matter involving a First Nations, Inuk or Metis child, the society shall give notice of the proposal to a representative chosen by each of the child's bands and First Nations, Inuit or Metis communities.