

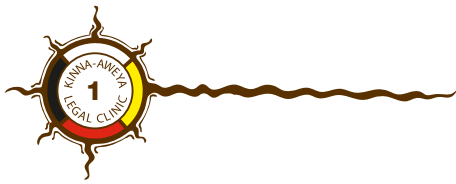
KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC

ANNUAL REPORT



Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
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2025/2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As we reflect on the past year, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is proud of the progress made in strengthening access to justice across the City and District of Thunder Bay. Despite increasing pressures on community legal clinics, our Board and staff have continued to respond with dedication, adaptability, and a strong commitment to the people and communities we serve.

NEW WEBSITE

Kinna-aweya launched a new website designed to make legal information, clinic services, and community resources easier to find and access. The updated website reflects our commitment to improving communication, increasing public awareness, and connecting people with timely legal support.

EVICITION PREVENTION PROJECT FUNDING EXTENDED

We are grateful to have received an extension of funding for the Eviction Prevention Project through March 31, 2028. This project provides critical support to tenants facing housing instability, eviction, and homelessness and remains an essential part of our poverty-law services.

PHASE TWO OF THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORK PLACE PROJECT

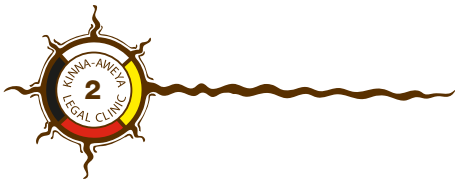
Funding has also been confirmed for Phase Two of the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Project through March 31, 2027. This next phase will allow the clinic to continue providing education, legal information, and support to individuals experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace.

SUCCESSFUL AUDIT REVIEWS

The clinic successfully completed Legal Aid Ontario's internal audit review and received another clean annual financial audit. These results reflect strong governance, responsible financial management, and the continued commitment of the Board and staff to accountability.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We were pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors: Sandi Boucher and Jennifer Chapman, representing Thunder Bay; Eugene Nabigon, representing Marathon; and Crystal Hill, representing Armstrong. Their experience, knowledge, and community perspectives will strengthen the Board's work and regional representation.



PROGRESS ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

As we approach the midpoint of our five-year strategic plan for 2023–2028, we have reflected on the progress made toward our priorities. The plan continues to guide our work in improving access to justice, strengthening community relationships, supporting organizational sustainability, and responding to the changing legal needs of our service area.

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA VISIT

In November, Kinna-aweya was honoured by a visit from representatives of the Supreme Court of Canada. This provided an important opportunity to highlight the realities of delivering legal services across Northern and rural communities and to share the valuable role of community legal clinics.

INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS

Legal Aid Ontario continues to transfer additional administrative and operational responsibilities to clinics, most recently in relation to insurance. These added responsibilities place increasing pressure on clinic resources and require careful management to ensure they do not take away from direct client services.

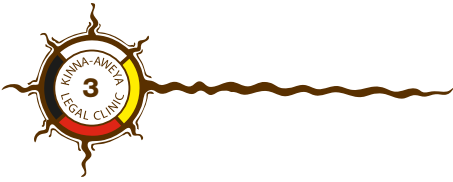
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND GRATITUDE

While we continue to navigate growing responsibilities and pressures, we remain grateful for the funding received from Legal Aid Ontario and our project funders. This support allows Kinna-aweya to provide essential legal services, advocate for individuals experiencing poverty and disadvantage, and respond to emerging community needs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our sincere appreciation to our staff, volunteers, community partners, funders, and Board members for their continued dedication and support. Together, we will continue advancing access to justice throughout the City and District of Thunder Bay.

Candace Davies
President of the Board of Directors





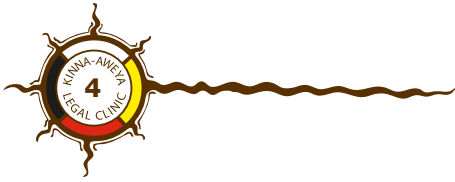
SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is an independent, non-profit organization with an Indigenous Board of Directors. We are funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The purpose of the legal clinic is to provide legal advice and assistance to residents of the District of Thunder Bay, particularly Indigenous people, who need assistance with poverty law services. The focus of the legal clinic is income maintenance and eviction prevention.



QUICK FACTS

- Staff made 314 appearances before the Landlord and Tenant Board (including Tenant Duty Counsel) and Social Benefits Tribunal
- 113 Eviction Prevention Project Matters
- 31 Birth Certificates obtained
- 541 Income Tax Returns completed
- 21 Drinking Water Class Action applications, 20 Boarding Homes applications, and 4 Indian Day School applications
- 41% of our clients identify as Indigenous



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

We are in the third year of our current Five-Year Strategic Plan. In March all Board and staff gathered to review our progress to date and update our annual work plans for the upcoming year. Our core directions keep us focused on the work of providing high-quality legal services to residents of the District of Thunder Bay:

- Grounding Our Work
- Strengthening Our Roots
- Growing Within Our Communities
- Living Our Values

This report highlights some of the casework, community development, public legal education, and law reform activities undertaken during the past fiscal year. Our staff and Board of Directors are the backbone of the agency. We thank the staff for their compassion, hard work, and dedication in providing high-quality legal services to the District of Thunder Bay, and thank the Board of Directors, who provide guidance and strategic direction to guide the work of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. Chi miigwech for your support and the time and effort you put in as volunteers on behalf of our organization and clients.

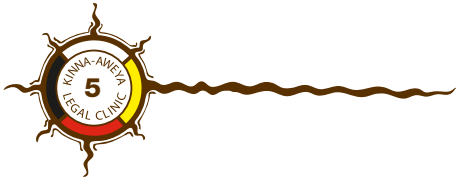
We are grateful to our primary funder, Legal Aid Ontario, who provides us with core funding. In addition, we receive funding from a variety of

sources, including the Government of Canada's Reaching Homes initiative, which is administered by the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and funds the Eviction Prevention Project; the Department of Justice funds the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Project, administered by the Northumberland Community Legal Clinic; the Advocacy Centre for Tenants in Ontario funds our Tenant Duty Counsel Program; and the Canada Revenue Agency helps fund the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

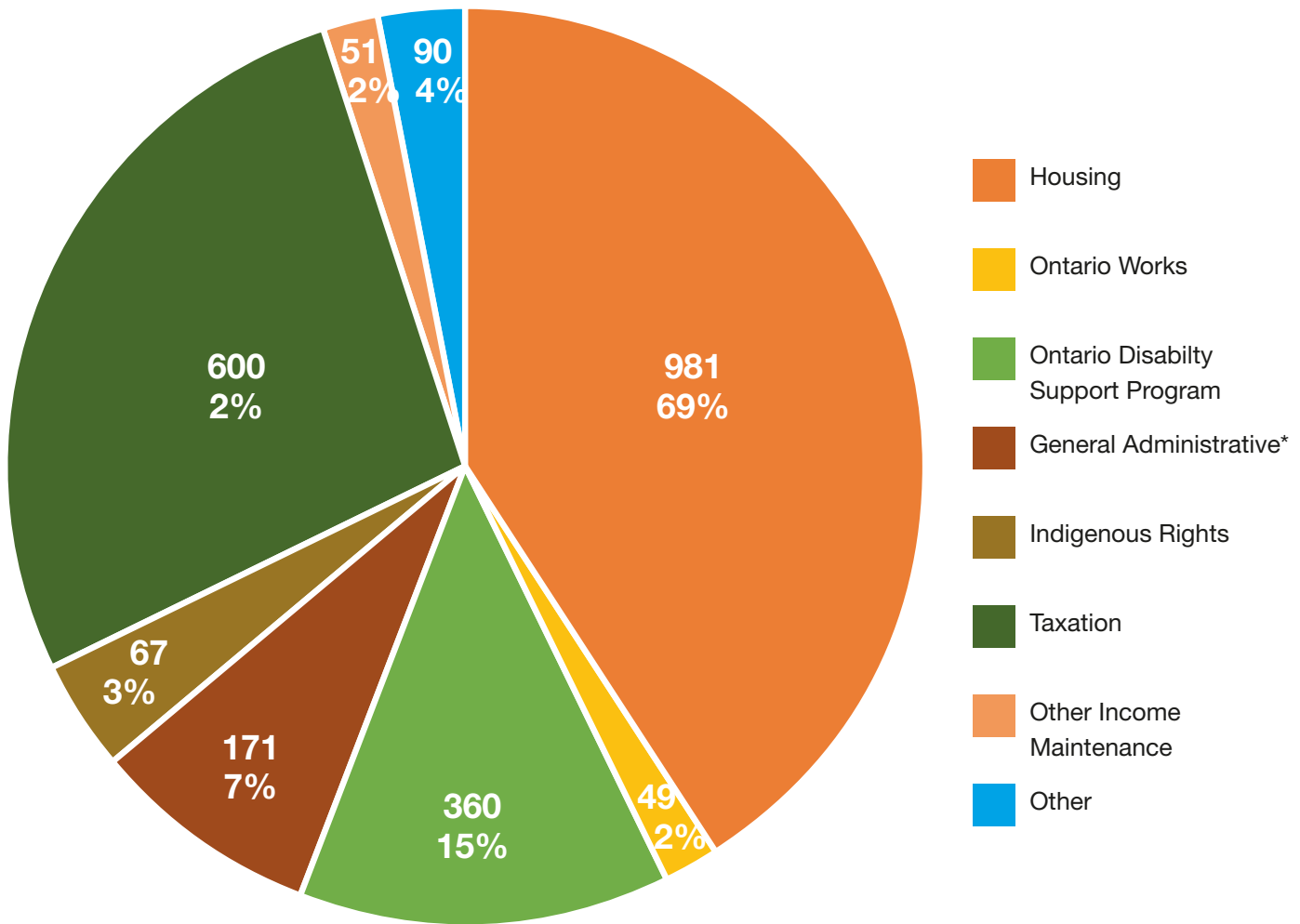
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Claire Littleton, Coordinator of Legal Services
Beth Ponka, Director of Administration



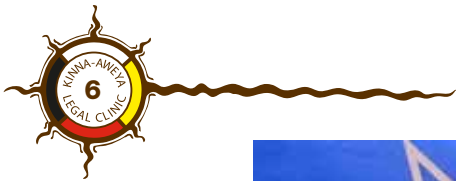


BREAKDOWN OF MATTERS BY AREA OF LAW



Total Matters 2369

*includes ID services and
commissioning/notarizing documents



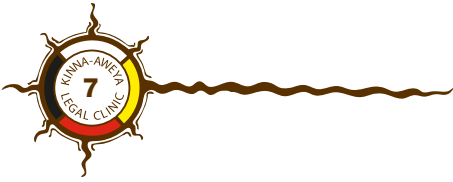
Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic was nominated for the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce's Not for Profit Excellence award. This award is presented to a not-for-profit organization that exemplifies excellence and innovation in their programs, projects, and partnerships. A gala event was held in May and the award went to Our Kids Count. Congratulations! And congratulations to all 12 nominees.



Beth Ponka, Jenni Chapman and Sandi Boucher at the Gala Event.



Claire Littleton and Sandi Boucher at the Gala Event.



CASEWORK HIGHLIGHTS

ODSP OVERPAYMENTS

We have had a significant increase in the number of ODSP overpayment files. Overpayments happen when ODSP determines that a recipient has received more income than they were entitled to. This can happen for any number of reasons. Our office has had a lot of success recently at the Social Benefits Tribunal in appealing these decisions.

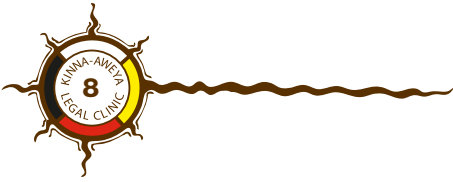
In March 2026 we had a significant overpayment overturned completely by the Tribunal, which determined that ODSP had breached the rules of natural justice required of administrative decision makers. In our client's case, the decisions were confusing, changed over time, and failed to provide sufficient clarification to our clients who were trying to understand what their overpayment was about. The Tribunal stated that ODSP's decisions must provide sufficient information so that people can meaningfully understand what was decided and why. Decisions must be in understandable language with sufficient detail to explain the reasons why they decided as they did. Our appeal was successful and the overpayment was rescinded.

BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE IN THE NORTH

Our clients experience challenges in accessing medical care, which affects their ability to demonstrate their eligibility for disability benefits. Many clients do not have a family doctor and receive care and form completion from locum physicians. Disability adjudicators question how well the physician knows the patient or how many times they have seen them. This can affect how convincing they find the evidence from the doctor, even though this is completely out of the patient's control.

Similarly, adjudicators question why our clients have not seen specialists, implying that their conditions must not be serious if they have not seen a specialist. The lack of specialist intervention sometimes simply reflects how hard it is to access care in the North. Clients have challenges managing travel to appointments, including arranging accommodations, meals, and care for family members. An appointment that would take one hour for someone living in Thunder Bay might require a day or two of travel for someone living in Marathon.

In one case, a client was forced to cancel an out-of-town specialist appointment because social assistance travel funds were not provided in time. When the appointment was rescheduled, our office assisted with submitting preapproval documents and following up on the advanced funding. Even with our help, the client still did not receive their funding until the day before travel. In the end, they were able to see the specialist and were ultimately granted disability benefits.



TENANT DUTY COUNSEL

Caseworkers continue to provide services for tenants at the Landlord Tenant Board as Tenant Duty Counsel. As Tenant Duty Counsel, caseworkers can attend Landlord Tenant Board hearing blocks and provide unrepresented tenants with free legal advice. On occasion caseworkers are able to step in and help a tenant request an adjournment or make an argument on a point of law that the tenant wouldn't have been aware. There have been a number of times recently when caseworkers were able to help get an eviction application dismissed, or have the hearing adjourned so that the tenant can retain our services. As Tenant Duty Counsel, caseworkers are able to connect and serve tenants that were not able to retain our services before their hearing, allowing us to reach more community members and help keep more tenants housed.

On one occasion a caseworker was able to assist a single father of four whose Landlord was trying to evict him so the Landlord could move in. We were able to obtain an adjournment for his matter and then represent him at a later hearing after we had the time to find a number of LTB decisions that were helpful in supporting his arguments. In another case we were able to discover that the Landlord had not given an elderly tenant enough time to be able to void their eviction notice for rent arrears. When we pointed this out at the hearing, the Landlord was prevented from being able to get an eviction order.

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT WIN

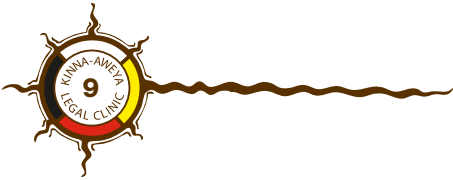
The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) cut off a parent caring for five children, all between the ages of one and ten, from receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and assessed an overpayment of more than \$40,000. The parent relied on the CCB to pay rent and provide food for her children. She came to our office for help. She and her children went four months without this essential income. Our office was eventually able to help temporarily restore a portion of the benefit. During the 14 months our office had the file open, the amount of the alleged overpayment fluctuated from \$4,000 to more than \$40,000, without any explanation from the CRA. The CRA also failed to clearly explain the reasons for its decision.

After our office filed two objections with the CRA and obtained assistance from the Member of Parliament's office and our colleagues at the Income Security Advocacy Centre, the matter was finally resolved. Our client's overpayment was reduced to zero, and she received over \$18,000 in benefits owed to her.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

2025 - 2026

- **\$2,933,703 in retro and one-time benefits obtained for our clients**
- **\$53,795 per month ongoing benefits for our clients**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THUNDER BAY URBAN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The TBUAAC is comprised of representatives from various Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, community members, and government partners. The TBUAAC meets regularly to develop strategies to address issues in the urban Indigenous community. The TBUAAC is connected to the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy and is a member of the National Urban Indigenous Homelessness Caucus.

MARATHON INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE UPDATE

We have been working with community members the past year to investigate what would be required to establish an Indigenous Friendship Centre in Marathon. We have reached out to both the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre to gather information and explore potential next steps and opportunities for collaboration and support. We will coordinate more community meetings in the coming months to continue these conversations, gather more input, and look at ways to support the community in moving forward with this initiative.

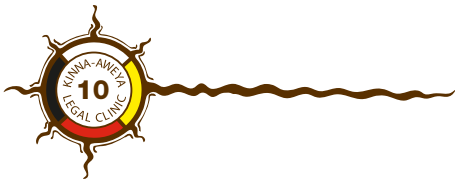
EQUINOX / GREENSTONE GOLD MINE HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS PROJECT

Transforming Assets into Community Impact
Volunteers from the Greenstone Harvest Centre and staff of Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic were approached by Equinox Gold/Greenstone Gold Mine to lead a

project to distribute essential household furnishings and appliances to low-income individuals and families residing within the Municipality of Greenstone, with a specific focus on households receiving social assistance. The generous inventory of furnishings and appliances was provided by Equinox/GGM following the decommissioning of approximately 20 homes in the MacLeod townsite area. Initially acquired from residents, these properties were fully furnished and utilized to house staff during the three-year construction phase of the Greenstone Gold Mine. With construction complete and the mine now fully operational, the MacLeod townsite area was scheduled for demolition to facilitate future mine expansion. Rather than discarding the contents of the homes, Equinox/GGM elected to donate them to the community of Greenstone. To ensure the donations reached those with the greatest need, a comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey was conducted. This process highlighted a critical shortage of basic household items among vulnerable residents, including beds, tables, and essential appliances.

Through coordinated outreach and careful assessment, the project team successfully matched available furnishings with the specific requests of local residents. The response from the community was overwhelming, providing much-needed relief to individuals and families for whom replacing or purchasing essential furnishings independently was financially impossible. The project successfully supported a total of 98 households within the Greenstone area.





NEW DIRECTIONS SPEAKERS' SCHOOL

New Directions Speakers' School provides a free, 14-week course twice a year, teaching public speaking and leadership skills in an environment of peer support. The school's main purpose is to develop public speaking and leadership skills and to raise awareness of social justice issues. Training focuses on effective communication, public speaking and group facilitation, combined with discussions on social justice issues and other related topics. Guest speakers present on a variety of issues relating to disability, poverty, housing issues, and unemployment.

The school is open to anyone who is an injured worker, living in poverty, or facing other economic challenges. The school attempts to address and overcome barriers to participation and promotes an atmosphere of peer support and mutual aid.

The most recent graduation was in March 2026, and seven students presented their graduation speeches.

If you would like additional information on New Directions Speakers' School or would like to learn how you can participate or volunteer, please email at: speakersschool@gmail.com



GOOD FOOD BOX PROGRAM

The Good Food Box is a non-profit program for families and individuals who want to purchase quality, fresh, local produce at a lower price than shopping at grocery stores. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is a host site for the Good Food Box in Thunder Bay. Interested residents can sign up and have their box of produce delivered to the legal clinic monthly. The Good Food Box is a program of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre.

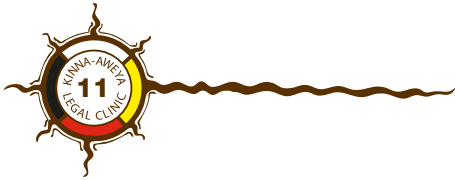
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's branch offices participate in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Through the CVITP, we provide free assistance to people with low income and a simple tax situation to file their income tax returns, ensuring they receive the benefits and credits they are entitled to.



Canada Revenue
Agency

Agence du revenu
du Canada

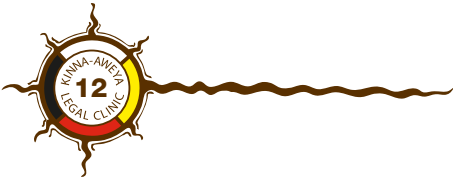


VISIT BY THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA – 150TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

On November 18, 2026, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic hosted the Supreme Court of Canada as part of their 150th Anniversary Tour. We were honoured to welcome three Justices from the Supreme Court, including The Honourable Suzanne Côté, The Honourable Malcolm Rowe, and The Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, as well as the Chief Justice of Ontario, The Honourable Michael Tulloch.

Clinic staff and members of our board of directors shared an overview of poverty law and the community legal clinic system, the history and ongoing work of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic, and access to justice barriers faced by our clients and community members. The visiting justices had the opportunity to tour our Thunder Bay office to better appreciate what frontline community legal clinic practice looks like. Our visitors were appreciative of the work we do in the community and of our efforts to support access to justice for our clients.





LAW REFORM

We heard from clients who have completed treatment for addiction to substances and have moved on to a supportive residential after care program. There are several such programs in Thunder Bay designed to assist individuals to stabilize their lives and gain independence following completion of a residential drug and alcohol treatment program. Individuals in residential after care programs funded by the Ministry of Health may not be eligible for Ontario Works assistance, including prescription medication coverage. The Ministry of Health does not provide prescription coverage for individuals in residential after care programs either.

The result is that residents who have just completed residential treatment programs might not be able to access medications such as methadone or suboxone, as well as other essential prescription medications. Some individuals have to pick between residing in a supportive after care program that will help them stabilize their lives as they transition to independent living, and being able to afford life-sustaining prescription medications, including medications that will help them to manage addiction to substances.

We met with community partners, researched this issue, canvassed our colleagues across the province about how widespread this issue is and how it is being addressed in other communities, explored the possibility of test-case litigation, and wrote to our Members of Provincial Parliament to seek a solution. We continue in our efforts to find a solution for community members who find themselves stuck in this impossible situation.

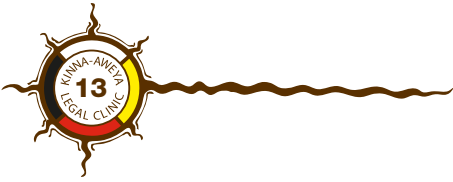
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic partnered with Lakehead University on a research project led by George Drazenovich and supervised by Dr. Mirella Stroink, titled, “The Impact of Income Support Surveillance Practices on Social Assistance Recipients’ Capabilities”. An excerpt from the report states: *Many people on social assistance feel stressed, watched, controlled, and treated as incapable. Strict rules, constant monitoring, and sudden benefit cuts create deep trauma.*

The main recommendation flowing from the research is to reinstate and expand Universal Basic Income (UBI) — a simpler, fairer system proven in Ontario’s 2017–2019 pilot. The report can be accessed on Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic’s website: www.kalc.ca.



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's mandate includes public legal education and community development work.

Public legal education (PLE) is an important way of helping individuals and communities understand their legal rights, responsibilities, and available legal services. Many people face legal problems but may not know where to seek assistance, how to protect their rights, or how the legal system works. Public legal education seeks to address these challenges by making legal information accessible, understandable, and relevant to everyday life.

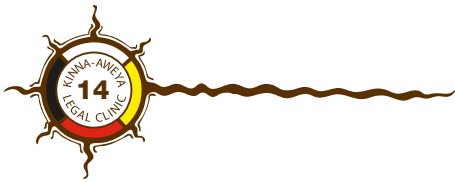
In 2025/2026 we provided many PLE sessions and presentations about clinic services to community members and partner organizations within the District of Thunder Bay. These included presentations at Roots to Harvest-Community Food Centre, McKellar Place, Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre, Aguasabon Medical Clinic, J.E Stokes Medical Clinic and the Seniors Expo at Peninsula Manor in Marathon.

Community events also provide valuable opportunities for Kinna-aweya to engage in outreach and connect with community members and service providers. We recently participated in Nokiiwin's Unity Gathering on Anemki Wajiw (Mount McKay).

In September, Kinna-aweya will continue its outreach efforts by hosting information booths at the Confederation College Connections Fair, Urban Abbey, the Service Providers Expo, and Rockin' Recovery. These events provide opportunities to share information about our programs and services, build relationships, and strengthen connections within the community.

MCKELLAR PLACE

There is a large residential complex in Thunder Bay that rents to many seniors and people with disabilities. There have been a number of news articles concerning serious maintenance and repair issues in the building, brought forth by the residents. Two of our staff lawyers, along with the Eviction Prevention Project team, presented two tenant rights workshops. We provided information on their rights and responsibilities as tenants and how to assert those rights within the *Residential Tenancies Act* framework. We also provided information to tenants who may want to organize or complete their own tenant applications. We have participated in ongoing stakeholder meetings concerning the state of this building to help ameliorate the impact on the most vulnerable tenants in our city.



EVICTON PREVENTION PROJECT

The Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) provides housing system navigation and support to help individuals and families maintain stable housing and prevent homelessness. The project supports clients with a range of housing-related needs, including rental arrears, housing applications, subsidies, documentation, and connections to community resources and services. Sarah, Jess, Ann, and Brittany work together to support the project and respond to the diverse needs of clients accessing EPP services. Current EPP funding is in place until March 31, 2028.



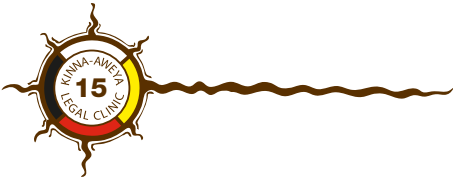
 Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

Canada 

SUPPORTING SENIORS THROUGH THE EVICTON PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) continues to assist a growing number of seniors who are living independently with little or no support system in place. Many are left to navigate complex health, financial, housing, and social service systems on their own, often while managing significant medical, mobility, cognitive, or age-related challenges. There are limited services available to support people aged 60 and over with the day-to-day challenges of maintaining stability unless those services are accessed through a medical provider or another established support system. Unfortunately, many seniors do not have a primary care provider or the connections needed to access these supports.

EPP has seen that many of the challenges seniors face can be resolved or significantly reduced with timely, compassionate assistance from someone who understands how to navigate these systems. A phone call, completed form, explanation of a letter, connection to the right service, or advocacy on their behalf can make the difference between stability and crisis. Our seniors are too often left vulnerable and unassisted. Through the EPP, we are helping bridge these gaps, providing seniors with the guidance and system navigation they need to remain safely housed, financially stable, and connected to the supports available to them.

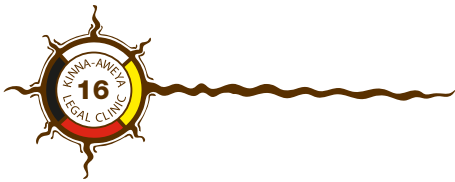


SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE (SHIW) PROJECT – PART II

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic was part of a collective of over 20 community legal clinics in the province who received funding for three years to hire part-time staff to deliver Public Legal Education Sessions to community members and agencies on sexual harassment in the workplace. Funding for this project ended in March 2024. In March 2025 the Department of Justice granted an additional two years of funding for a new iteration of the SHIW Project. With this funding, Kinna-aweya hired a part-time lawyer, Kristy Keough, to provide legal advice to people in Ontario experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace. As of July 2026, the project has transferred to staff lawyer Molly MacDonald, who is based in the Thunder Bay office.

People seeking this service can call the toll-free SHAPE hotline at 1 833 677 5146 for free, confidential legal advice and information.





ADVOCACY NORTH FOR ELDERS & SENIORS

Advocacy North for Elders & Seniors is a program of the 10 northern community legal clinics. We provide free, confidential legal advice to Elders and seniors (60+) on Wills, POAs, scams, abuse, issues with senior homes, and capacity issues. Megan Stuckey, the program staff lawyer, is hosted by the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic. She travelled to Kinna-aweya's catchment area three times this year, visiting Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Geraldton, Longlac, Marathon, Nipigon, Red Rock, Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay, and Whitesand First Nation. The highlight of the year was providing a two-day Wills & POA Clinic in Whitesand First Nation in November. Over eight hours in office, we were able to meet with 15 clients, and provide 9 with Wills and POAs.

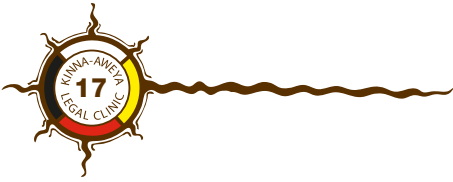
Year in Review

- 9 PLEs in person
- 5 Webinars
- 36 Clients Served
- 15 Days Spent in Region



Megan Stuckey
Staff Lawyer



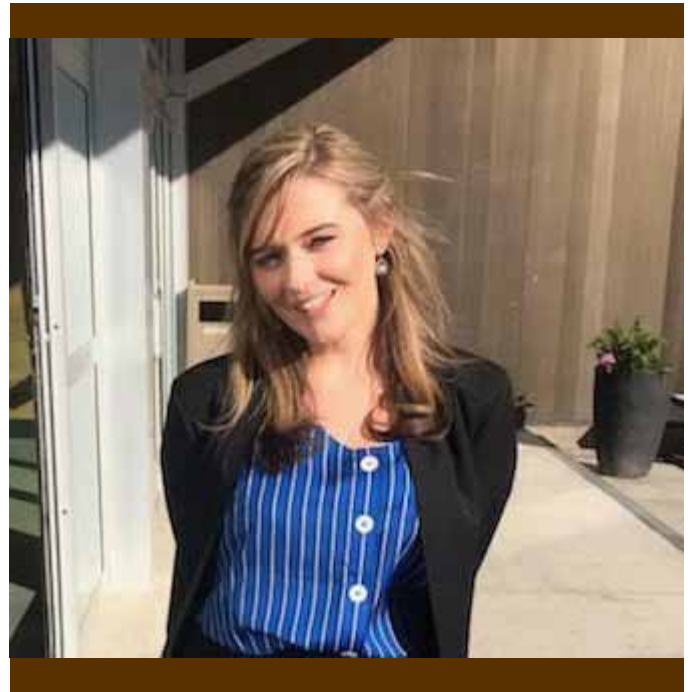


HBSW Placement Student Experience – Brittany Bocock

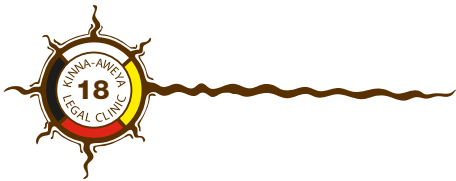
I had the incredible opportunity to complete my HBSW placement at Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic from January to June where I was able to learn from the Kinna-aweya team, community partners in the Thunder Bay community, and clients as they sought Kinna-aweya's support in navigating systems. This experience provided me with a deeper understanding of the barriers individuals face when accessing essential services and the important role that legal clinics serve in helping people navigate these systems.

I have been fortunate to assist with matters related to housing, particularly working with individuals to preserve their tenancies and make their housing more sustainable when facing an eviction. I supported people navigating social assistance systems such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW). I have also had the privilege to work with clients navigating Canada Child Benefit (CCB), pandemic-era benefits (CERB), and addressing other tax related issues with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Beyond this, Kinna-aweya team was particularly encouraging for myself and law students to participate in training, educational opportunities, and community development. This included being able to attend the Northern Regional Training (NRT) Conference. We had the remarkable opportunity to engage and learn about all the different projects and community development taking place across our region.

I am exceptionally grateful to everyone at Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic for welcoming me and providing me with such a valuable placement experience.



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Law Foundation of Ontario Summer Student – Minahil Choudhary

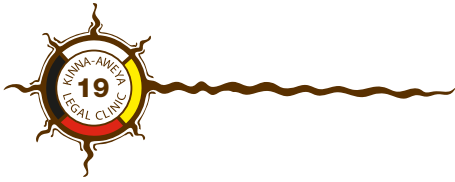
As a summer law student at Kinna-aweya legal clinic, I have had the opportunity to learn fundamental legal skills as well as important professional development skills. During my summer at the clinic I personally witnessed the importance of collaboration between the clinic's lawyers and community legal workers, their communication with clients and their attention to detail. I was able to see how strong professional development skills, alongside legal skills, contribute to positive outcomes.

I have had the pleasure of being mentored by an incredible team that views legal problems holistically. Kinna-aweya has embodied the idea of tackling the root of the problem. So while assisting clients with their legal matters, I have seen how clinic work includes supporting clients in several other ways. This can include helping clients facilitate ways to adhere to re-payment plans for rental arrears or offer counselling resources for a variety of reasons. In this way, Kinna-aweya helps address the root of the problem and supports clients in preventing similar situations from arising again.

As a student I have had the opportunity to sit in on Ontario Disability Support Program and Landlord Tenant Board file openings, assist with gathering evidence and creating submission packages. I also have my own ODSP files under supervision. With these files I put into place what I have learned over the summer. Near the end of the summer I did my first ODSP denial hearing at the Social Benefits Tribunal. It was an incredible moment for me to practice my oral advocacy and the things I had been learning. From the start of the summer I watched the progression of an ODSP file, and to be able to do the hearing myself, and have it be a positive outcome for the client, was such a meaningful experience.

I am eagerly looking forward to continuing to learn from the team at Kinna-aweya legal clinic as I continue my practice placement in the fall.





MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN

The Moose Hide Campaign is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement that engages men and boys to end violence against women and children. The campaign started in B.C. over 10 years ago along the Highway of Tears and is gaining momentum here in Thunder Bay with its annual walk that addresses gender-based and domestic violence. Local partners are the Ontario Native Women's Association, Lakehead University and Confederation College. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic staff attended the event at Confederation College including Brittany and Minahil our placement students. We all wore our pins to support the Moose Hide Campaign.



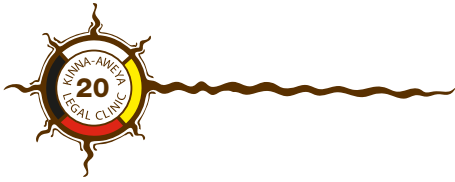
SAVE THE DATE!

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY
IN CEREMONY ♦ MAY 20, 2027

48TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic provided coffee and light refreshments in each of our offices on July 31, 2026, to celebrate our 48th anniversary.



UNSHELTERED EXISTENCE

I met a man today,
(a boy really)
His childlike qualities enhanced,
But childhood innocence had been replaced,
by pain and sorrow so deep it reflected in his
eyes.

He silently cried out for help,
Grasping at a thread of hope,
almost invisible.

I sat and talked with him
And for a moment,
Something,
Seemed to flicker within his desolate stare.
A slight recognition perhaps
of a time
long since past,
when someone had cared for him.
But now he was alone.

And as I turned to leave,
a sudden sadness filled my heart.
I saw hope's glimmer
begin to fade,
like the last dying embers of a fire
left to burn for too long a time on its own.

Tracey-Kathleen Lasook
November 1992

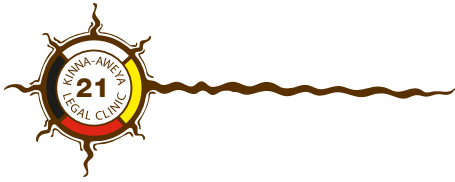
DONATIONS TO SALLY'S PANTRY AND OTHER CLIENT SUPPORTS:

Michal Jarzenbinski
Matthew Hill
The Edgeview Restaurant in Nipigon –
Brian and Germaine
Alkainyah Emmanuel Deopah
Community Legal Education Ontario
Carolyn Colquhoun

Chi Miigwech for your contributions and support.

Sally's Pantry was founded to commemorate Sally Colquhoun, our former Coordinator of Legal Services who retired in 2022 after 34 years of service. Sally's Pantry provides food and clothing to clients who are struggling and need a little bit of extra help.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Candace Davies President, Nipigon
Terrence Franck Vice-President, Thunder Bay
Sandi Boucher Treasurer, Thunder Bay
Jennifer Chapman Secretary, Thunder Bay

Mark Celeiro Director, Geraldton
Eugene Nabigon Director, Marathon
Crystal Hill Director, Armstrong

STAFF MEMBERS

GERALDTON OFFICE

Chantal Walterson	Community Legal Worker/Licensed Paralegal
Pam LeBlanc	Administrative Assistant

MARATHON OFFICE

Brandi DeJonge	Community Legal Worker
Madison Morgan	Administrative Assistant

THUNDER BAY OFFICE

Jessica Barry	Administrative Assistant/EPP Housing Systems Navigator
Brittany Bocock	HBSW Placement Student/Community Legal Worker
Teri Hofer	Executive Assistant
Cindy Johnson	Executive Assistant
Minahil Choudhary	Law Student
Matthew Jollineau	Staff Lawyer
Kristy Keough	Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Legal Advice Lawyer
Kelly King	Intake Worker/Community Legal Worker
Tracey Lawrence	Community Legal Worker/Licensed Paralegal
Claire Littleton	Coordinator of Legal Services / Staff Lawyer
Molly MacDonald	Staff Lawyer
Melanie MacKenzie	Community Legal Worker/Licensed Paralegal
Ann McGuire	Indigenous Cultural Coordinator/EPP Housing Systems Navigator
Beth Ponka	Director of Administration
Sarah Racine	Housing Systems Navigator - Eviction Prevention Project
Caycie Soke	Staff Lawyer
Terri Zeleny	Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Kevin Nold	Social Service Worker Placement Student



Candace Davies, 5 years as an AGM delegate, pictured with Beth Ponka



Holly Deschamps 25 years of service as an AGM delegate, pictured with Candace Davies and Beth Ponka



Melanie MacKenzie, 15 years of service as a Community Legal Worker, pictured with Candace Davies

Chi miigwech for your years of service and commitment to Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic!

KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC

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LEGAL AID ONTARIO
AIDE JURIDIQUE ONTARIO



Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic



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www.kalc.ca

FRONT COVER

The Seven Grandfather Teachings guide the work of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility and Truth

BACK COVER

Photo of Ouimet Canyon by Beth Ponka