



Indigenous Youth Justice Program

Liam Gould, Youth Facilitator

Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network



Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network (MLSN)

- Initiated in 2002 by Nova Scotia Chiefs, and Supported by the NS -CAN Tripartite Process as a result from the Donald Marshall Inquiry
- Only Indigenous Justice organization established in Nova Scotia.
- MLSN was created to bring justice support programs for all indigenous peoples across Nova Scotia who are in conflict with the Law.
- MLSN Offices are located across Nova Scotia: Eskasoni, Millbrook, Kentville and Dartmouth
- Over 20+ staff



About Me - Liam Gould

- I am a son, brother, uncle and good friend
- Youth Facilitator at Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network
- Dalhousie University Graduate with Bachelor of Arts Degree (Class of 2022)
- Facilitating the Indigenous Youth Justice Program, hired in May 2022.
- Working with Youth that are at risk to become involved in the child welfare system and/or the criminal justice system.

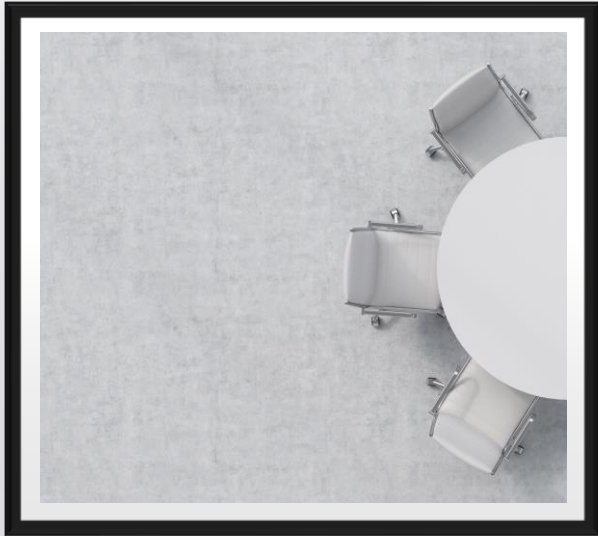


MLSN provides the following services:

- Mi'kmaw Customary Law Program
- Indigenous Court Worker Program
- Gladue Program (Reports and Aftercare)
- Victim Support Services
- Bail Verification and Supervision;
- Indigenous Youth Justice Program
- Partners in Learning and Change (Education and Learning)



Professional Development



- Took multiple training sessions to prepare to facilitate sessions with youth
- One on one sessions and full circle Sessions
- Training such as LTOA, IYSOW, TAPWE, Re-storying your story.



Listening to One Another Program (LTOA)

- The LTOA is community driven program for Indigenous Youth, and their Families, and the program provides topics of community history on substance abuse, bullying, and peer pressure. The training consists of:
 - Forming partnerships;
 - Community engagements to build trust;
 - Cultural adaptations;
 - Working together as a community.



IN SEARCH OF YOUR WARRIOR



NCSA
Native Counselling Services of Alberta

- Created under the Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- For men to explore their acts of violence and understanding how violence shaped their lives
- On the first steps of healing and learn how to deal with their anger in alternative ways.



Partnerships in Action

- Partnering with Mi'kmaw Customary Law Program and the Mi'kmaw Courtworker Program
- Attend youth justice circles in Mi'kmaw Communities
- A young person may be referred to the Indigenous Justice Program as part of a community justice process.
- Facilitator works weekly with youth to complete sessions from training required (TAPWE, ISOYW, ETC) or work with cultural teachings (Smudge, Sweat, Pipe Ceremonies, teaching from elder)
- Working on developing partnerships with other organizations and schools across Nova Scotia
- Crown Attorney and MLSN Indigenous Youth Justice Program have struck partnership to connect with youth BEFORE arraignment stage to engage earlier.



Challenges

Difficulty in locating suitable resources in surrounding communities in Cape Breton

Engagement with the schools across Unama'ki

Low and policing engagement for pre-charge referrals

- There is reluctance on the part of youth to participate in cultural activities or group sessions.

Personal development challenges.



Successes

Branching out more

Becoming a role model

More involved in courts

Attending more events in the communities

Taking part in the restorative process.



My vision as a Facilitator

- To help the youth escape the world of violence, and justice system
- Not to have a criminal record
- Break the cycle of the on-going traumas
- Lead them in the right direction
- Reconnect them with their Mi'kmaw Culture
- **It is never to late make a difference**





QUESTIONS?

