

# KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Boozhoo,

The Board and Management are pleased to present this annual report on the 2023/2024 fiscal year of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. I would like to provide you with a general update on some of the priority issues the Board has been addressing based on our new Five Year 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan, which was developed after our March 2023 Board and Staff Strategic Planning session.

Implementing our Strategic Plan this past year has been challenging. This has resulted in the expansion and growth of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic while continuing to provide quality legal service. The Board has worked hard at:

- Grounding Our Work by improving the quality of governance with regular Board training session, updating Board policies and making changes to our By-law to meet ONCA compliance
- Living Our Values by integrating cultural teachings and practices into the operations of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
- Strengthening Our Roots by promoting positive relationships with partners and Indigenous communities
- Growing Within Our Communities by increasing services to communities, expanding our office to accommodate programs, and continuously advocating for sustainable and increased funding.

These are just some of the areas that the Board has focused on and continues to work on this 2024 – 2025 fiscal year.

I believe that the commitment of Board and staff to Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is what makes our clinic strong. I would like to thank all of the Board of Directors for their dedication, the Management Team – Beth Ponka, Director of Administration and Claire Littleton, Coordinator of Legal Services and the staff of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic for all they do to make the clinic the success it is. I am grateful for their support as well as the support of community members.

Chi-miigwech,  
Alta Fenton





## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Boozhoo, Anii, Bonjour, and Hello from the Management Team of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic.

Claire and Beth work directly with the Board of Directors of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. The Management Team oversees the effective management of the organization to provide high quality poverty law services to the District of Thunder Bay with the support and contributions of our competent, committed, hardworking team of staff members.

Using the Clinic's Strategic Plan as our framework, we seek to maintain high quality professional standards, build collaborative partnerships, identify and address community needs, and incorporate Indigenous culture throughout the organization.

Some highlights over the past year include:

- We implemented a new intake model that matches caseworkers with their areas of expertise. This has worked very well for clients and staff.
- We receive funding through the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy for an Eviction Prevention Project. This project has assisted numerous clients to obtain food, clothing, housing, and various other supports.
- We expanded our office in Thunder Bay to the upper level of our current building, to accommodate our growing complement of staff.

- Like other community legal clinics in the province, we received an increase in funding to address ongoing funding challenges.

We would like to thank our primary funder, Legal Aid Ontario, the Government of Canada's Reaching Homes initiative for funding the Eviction Prevention Project, and the Department of Justice for funding the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Project, as well as our various community partners.

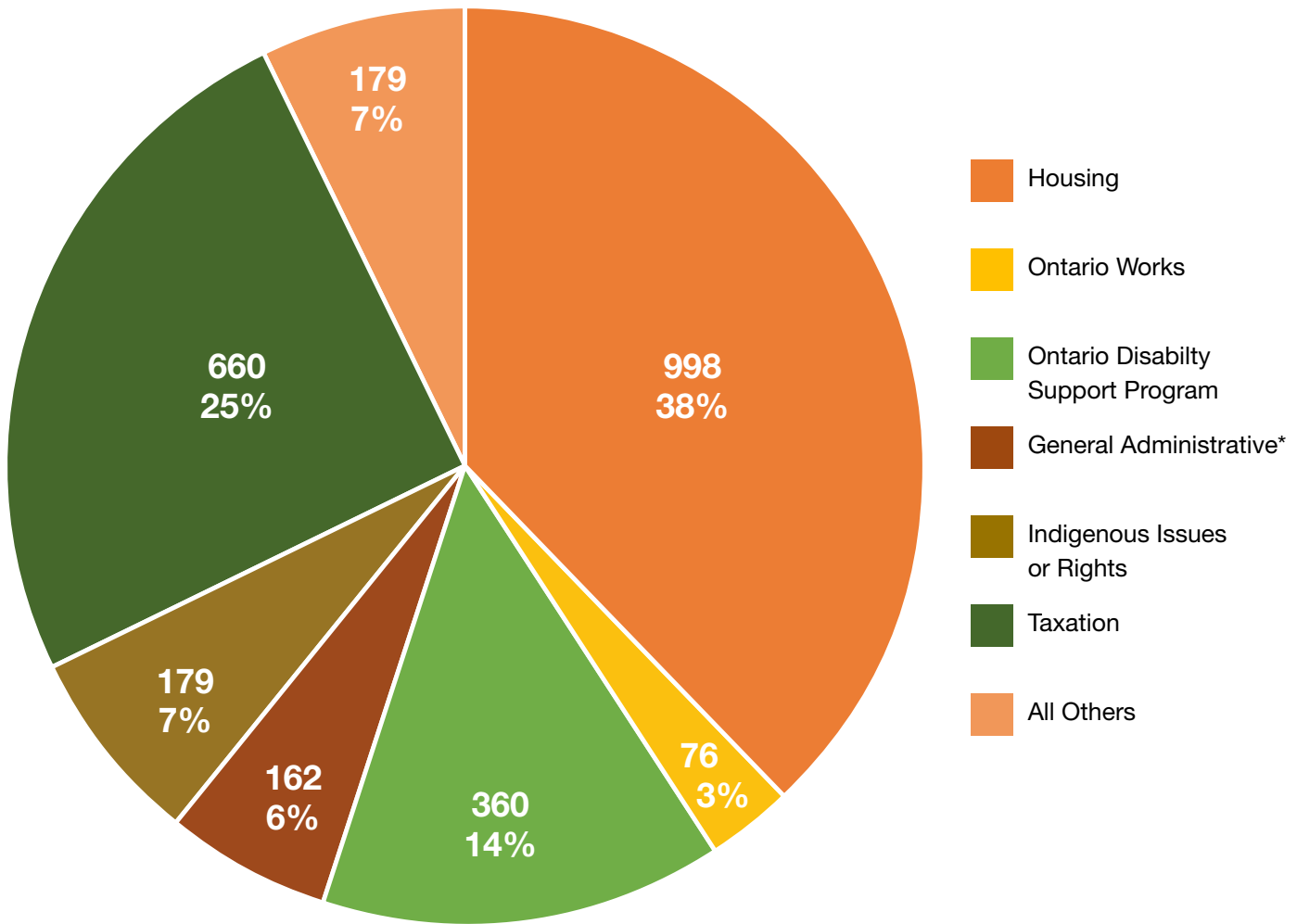
Most importantly, we would like to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment to Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. Chi miigwech for your support of the work of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic.

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





## BREAKDOWN OF MATTERS BY AREA OF LAW



**Total Matters 2614**

\*includes ID services and commissioning/notarizing documents



## SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY

Kinna-awaya Legal Clinic has full-time offices in Geraldton, Marathon, and Thunder Bay. Legal workers travel throughout the District of Thunder Bay on a regular basis to provide in-person service to rural and remote communities where transportation is a barrier to accessing services.



## QUICK FACTS

- 46 birth certificates obtained
- 129 Eviction Prevention Program matters
- Staff made 177 appearances before the Landlord and Tenant Board (including Tenant Duty Counsel) and 117 appearances before the Social Benefits Tribunal
- \$6,789 reimbursed to MOU partners for ID





## CASEWORK HIGHLIGHTS

### **FIVE YEARS OF RETROACTIVE ODSP**

A client from a First Nation in our District asked for our help in obtaining Ontario Disability Support Program benefits. The client explained to us that they tried to apply for ODSP some time ago but they never received benefits.

Initially we assumed that the client was denied benefits and that they would have to restart a new application. However, with the help of the First Nations Ontario Works office, a nurse practitioner from Norwest Community Health Centres, and many emails and phone calls, it was confirmed that the client had been granted ODSP benefits in October 2019 but was never informed of the decision.

After providing all of the necessary paperwork to ODSP, the client received over \$45,000 in retroactive benefits back to 2019 and now receives ongoing ODSP benefits.

### **EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

After losing his job, our client applied for and received Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits for a period of six months. His employer challenged the decision by Service Canada to issue him EI Benefits because they maintained that he had lost his job due to his own misconduct. His EI benefits were stopped and he was told that he had to repay everything that he had received from EI over the previous six months. We assisted him in appealing this decision to the Social Security Tribunal. The Social Security Tribunal found that our client lost his job because the employer made a personal decision

to end the employment relationship, not because of our client's alleged misconduct. The appeal was successful and the client was found to be eligible for EI benefits.

### **\$55,000 OVERPAYMENT OVERTURNED BY SOCIAL BENEFITS TRIBUNAL**

A recipient of Ontario Works came to our office after an overpayment was declared against her for allegedly living with a spouse while collecting Ontario Works as a single person. Our client was living in a rental unit in a house owned by the father of her child. Their relationship had ended 20 years earlier but they remained friends.

After the decision to cancel her Ontario Works assistance, she was forced to find a new place to live because she could not afford her rent.

After a five-hour hearing held over two days, we successfully argued that because our client lived in a separate unit, her landlord should not be considered her spouse under the Ontario Works Act. The overpayment was reversed.

### **NAVIGATING LANGUAGE BARRIERS AT THE LANDLORD AND TENANT BOARD**

Our clients were an elderly couple who spoke very little English and had entered into an unrealistic payment agreement when they attended a Landlord and Tenant Board hearing on their own. Our office represented these tenants at a subsequent Landlord and Tenant Board hearing, during which the landlord provided false information and the tenants had great difficulty





expressing themselves due to the language barrier. We filed a Request for a Review of the Order and a new hearing was scheduled. Prior to the hearing date, we were able to negotiate a new payment agreement with the landlord and preserve the tenancy.

### **MANDATORY SPECIAL NECESSITIES TRAVEL BENEFIT**

Our client had an appointment to meet with his health professional to have the Mandatory Special Necessities (MSN) Travel Form completed. The client's appointment was cancelled and his MSN Travel was no longer approved. We contacted the client's ODSP caseworker and explained the client's situation. His travel benefit was approved so that he could attend his remaining medical appointments for the month and have enough time to get the required information submitted to ODSP.

### **EVICION AVERTED, TENANCY PRESERVED**

Our client contacted us for assistance in trying to preserve her tenancy. She is a single mother with three children living in a rental unit in a remote community. Her landlord wanted her to move out and persuaded her to sign an agreement to end her tenancy. She was not able to find a new apartment and therefore could not move out in accordance with the agreement. The landlord obtained an eviction order based on the agreement and a date was scheduled by the Sheriff's office for her locks to be changed. We helped her file a motion to set aside the eviction order and assisted her as Tenant Duty Counsel on the day of her hearing. In the end, the Landlord and

Tenant Board agreed to set aside the eviction order and her tenancy was preserved. Our client and her three children did not lose their home.

### **CANADA CHILD BENEFITS**

A client contacted our office for assistance to get Canada Child Benefits (CCB) for her two children retroactive to 2013. Despite the fact that she had an order of protection against her ex-spouse and custody of the children, he continued to receive the CCB from the time that they separated. Although she provided Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) with a plethora of evidence in support of the fact that she was the custodial parent and primary care-giver of the children, they refused to issue the CCB to her. We filed two appeals to the Tax Court of Canada and worked with the office of our client's Member of Parliament. The client is finally receiving CCB payments however, the amount is reduced by 50% with no explanation from CRA. We continue to fight for this family to resolve this appalling situation.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

We obtained **\$3,616,720** in retroactive and one-time benefits for clients.

In addition, many of our clients receive on-going monthly benefits in perpetuity. This is money spent in our local economy to buy food and clothing, and to pay rent.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM**

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is a program administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) that supports community organizations, such as Kinna-awaya Legal Clinic, to host free income tax clinics for people with low income. Our branch office staff held several free income tax clinics in First Nation communities within our catchment area. All of the free tax clinics were well attended and over 500 income tax returns were completed.

### **NEW DIRECTIONS SPEAKERS' SCHOOL**

Kinna-awaya Legal Clinic is a founding member of the New Directions Speakers' School. The school's main purpose is to develop public speaking and leadership skills and to raise awareness of social justice issues. 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.



### **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.

### **GOOD FOOD BOX**

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-awaya Legal Clinic is a host site for the Good Food Box in Thunder Bay.







## LAW REFORM

### **STEERING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

One of our staff lawyers is the co-chair of the provincial Steering Committee on Social Assistance. In the past year, she has established regular monthly meetings between legal clinic representatives and the Registrar and Associate Chair of the Social Benefits Tribunal. These meetings give legal clinic staff the opportunity to raise issues of concern to our clients and communities and to advocate for the implementation of processes that enhance access to justice. In the past year, clinic representatives have raised issues related to adverse experiences of Indigenous appellants, experiences of trans and non-binary people appearing before the Tribunal, lack of access to technology required to participate in video hearings, and procedural fairness at the Tribunal. As the co-chair of the provincial committee, our staff lawyer has taken a leadership role in establishing a positive working relationship with the Tribunal and advocating for the interests of our clients.

### **CANADA CHILD BENEFIT (CCB) SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY**

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is working with the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) to address systemic changes needed in the delivery of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) – particularly CCB reviews. We are developing a background paper for the Minister of National Revenue outlining our concerns with the CCB eligibility review process. Our hope is to improve the review process so that our clients are not cut off the benefit, which has become so essential for families to meet their basic needs.

## QUICK FACTS

- **51% of our clients voluntarily self identify as Indigenous**
- **We served approximately 2,614 people in 2023-24**
- **131 clients were assisted with their Drinking Water applications**
- **30 clients were assisted with their Indian Day School applications**
- **570 clients were assisted with their Income Tax Returns**
- **97 ID Bank clients**



## TENANT DUTY COUNSEL

The Tenant Duty Counsel Program (TDCP) is a program of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants in Ontario and is funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The TDCP provides funding for legal clinic staff to provide advice, legal assistance, resources, and referrals to unrepresented tenants on the day of their hearing at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB).

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic staff regularly assist as Tenant Duty Counsel (TDC) at hearings of the LTB. All of the hearings are online via Zoom. Until recently, it wasn't possible for staff acting remotely as TDC to be able to see a tenant's documents, because they are in a different location. However, the LTB has now set up a system that enables TDC to obtain the relevant documents via email, while the hearing is in progress.

On one occasion, this allowed us to step in where a tenant and a landlord had already agreed to a payment plan that included the risk of eviction if the tenant did not meet the strict terms of the agreement. We were able to review the eviction notice, realized it was defective, and we were then able to advise the tenant not to enter into the agreement. Instead, we requested that the eviction application be dismissed on the basis of the defective notice. The case was dismissed and the tenancy was preserved.

## EVICITION PREVENTION

The project staff developed the "Housing Application Group" which is held monthly at a public library space. The Housing Application Group helps clients find and apply for private-market rentals and rent-geared-to-income housing.

A single male living in an encampment lost both his wife and daughter within a short period of time. He was struggling with grief and addiction, and lost his housing. This individual had intentions of living with family, however they turned him away, resulting in him being homeless. We assisted in completing a rent-geared-to-income (RGI) application and connected him to various resources. He was extremely diligent in attending all groups and appointments. He eventually was successful in securing a bed in a local male shelter. Through his dedication and continued commitment, he was housed in one of their long-term beds. We assisted in applying for several private market units during his time at the shelter, with no success. He remained determined and continued to connect with service providers. Finally he was offered a rent-geared-to-income unit. We assisted in obtaining funding through the Housing Security Fund to cover last month's rent and start-up funds.

Funding for the Eviction Prevention Project is provided by the Government of Canada's Reaching Homes Homelessness Strategy and administered by our local community partner, the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre.





## INDIGENOUS LEGAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The leadership of the 11 community legal clinics located in Northern Ontario determined that an Indigenous Legal Needs Assessment was required to overcome data limitations, address service gaps, and identify wise practices for providing culturally appropriate services to Indigenous clients. Indigenous & Community Engagement Inc. (ICE) was hired to undertake this work, starting in 2019. The project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was completed in March 2024.

Community consultations and focus group meetings were held throughout the catchment areas of the 11 northern Ontario community legal clinics. Key findings include:

- Serving Indigenous legal needs in Northern Ontario is challenged by factors relating to geography, housing, poverty, and available resources.
- Wise practices for community legal clinics to improve services to Indigenous clients will likely require a mixture of training and increases in service capacity.
- Reliable, ready access to interpreter services can help build stable relationships with Indigenous clients.
- There are barriers that can result in Indigenous people refraining from accessing the services of community legal clinics, including lack of transportation, hours of availability, lack of access to reliable internet for virtual meetings, and cultural barriers.

- Incorporation of Indigenous values and understanding of Indigenous issues is important to build trust with Indigenous clients.
- The pursuit of a case with an Indigenous client can be complicated by limited resources, community legal clinic mandates, and the differences between provincial, federal, and First Nations band jurisdictions.

Miigwech to everyone (kinna-aweya) that participated and gave their time and insights. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic values the sharing and knowledge in this important report and will continue to work to address the barriers experienced by Indigenous people in accessing our services.

The full final report for the Indigenous Legal Needs Assessment can be found on Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's website: [www.kalc.ca](http://www.kalc.ca).





## PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

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

In 2023/2024 we provided many public legal education sessions and presentations about clinic services to community members and partner organizations. These included presentations at Elevate NWO, the Nipigon Public Library, the Marathon Public Library, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Health Centre, North of

Superior Programming, the George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Ontario Works, the Thunder Bay Addiction Centre, and the New Directions Speakers' School. Building strong relationships with community partners and helping people learn about their legal rights are essential to ensuring that community members are well-positioned to advocate for themselves on issues of importance to them.

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE (SHIW) PROJECT

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 a part-time staff member to deliver PLE sessions to community members and agencies, on sexual harassment in the workplace. Esma Haider partnered with the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre to provide information and assistance to precarious workers who were vulnerable to sexual harassment.

The funding for this project ran out in March 2024; however, Legal Aid Ontario has provided funding for a northern region staff person to provide information and advice on sexual harassment in the workplace. The position will be based in Sault Ste. Marie, with outreach services access via phone and online.

Canada



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada



## PARTNERSHIP WITH BORA LASKIN FACULTY OF LAW AND PRO BONO STUDENTS CANADA

Our partnerships with the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Pro Bono Students Canada, help address the need for lawyers in the north. We provide volunteer and placement opportunities and when possible, hire them to join our staff.

Matthew Jollineau, a graduate of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, started as a volunteer at Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic in 2021 through Pro Bono Students Canada. He has been with us every year since, either as a volunteer or working with us on contract. Here is his story:

Many students enter law school hoping to be able to make a difference, but then find few opportunities to learn how to work in a field of law where they can actually make a difference. I was extraordinarily fortunate to find one of those opportunities. I began volunteering with the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic in my first year of law school, assisting clients with Birth Certificate applications.

When I returned to school for my second year, I was very lucky to be able to work part-time as the clinic's ID Services Coordinator, assisting Ontario Works recipients with Birth Certificate Applications and training Ontario Works caseworkers to assist their clients with these applications. That summer I began a new position as the intake worker, which I continued through my practice placement with the clinic through the fall semester. After a return to classes for the Winter semester, I was then hired into a contract staff lawyer position. In October, I will be called to bar, and my first hearings as a fully

licensed lawyer will be as a clinic lawyer, here at Kinna-aweya. Many of the people I went to school with still say how they wish they could have had the opportunity that I've had to learn so much from the amazing people here at Kinna-aweya.



**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY





## ADVOCACY NORTH FOR ELDERS & SENIORS

The staff lawyer for Advocacy North, Megan Stuckey, is hosted by the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic but visits the Kinna-aweya region each spring and autumn. This unique project provides legal education and services to seniors across all of northern Ontario. In the last year, the staff lawyer visited the Kinna-aweya region three times, providing services in Whitesand First Nation, Thunder Bay, Red Rock, Nipigon, Geraldton, Marathon, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, and Pic Mobert First Nation. The staff lawyer provides client services in health centres, hospitals, libraries, and sometimes even in the clinics.

As well as in-person visits, the program hosts Webinars for Seniors via Zoom which is attended almost exclusively by seniors in the Kinna-aweya region. Between in-person visits and the Webinars, PLEs have been provided at senior homes, clubs, First Nations, libraries, and even community BBQs. Advocacy North has also developed a booklet, Building a Basic Will while Living on Reserve, which is now available through the Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) website.

The Advocacy North staff lawyer provided her first ever PLE in French in Geraldton this year!

Advocacy North remains committed to maintaining a regular presence in the communities of this vast region.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

• Clients Served	35
• Public Legal Education (in person)	14
• Public Legal Education (webinars)	14
• Days Spent in Region	34





## CULTURAL COORDINATOR

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's Indigenous Cultural Coordinator, Ann McGuire, has led staff through each of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and is now focusing on the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. At each weekly staff meeting, we discuss and learn an Ojibwe word of the week.

On July 31st we celebrated the anniversary of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic (opened in 1978). This picture shows our display of timbits and coffee with our wall mural by Ryan Pooman in the background and one of our tobacco (asemaa) plants.



Staff in our Thunder Bay office wearing red in solidarity with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on Red Dress Day.



## MARATHON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS GALA

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic proudly accepted the Employee Satisfaction Award at the Marathon and District Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Business Awards Gala held in June. The gala recognizes the district's businesses, organizations and individuals based on various award categories.

The Employee Satisfaction Award underscores Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's steadfast commitment to creating a positive and enriching work environment that promotes employee growth, development, and well-being. Through initiatives such as professional development opportunities, employee recognition programs, and a supportive leadership team, our clinic has fostered a culture of collaboration, trust, and empowerment.

As a community-focused organization, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic understands that nurturing a supportive and inclusive workplace culture has a direct impact on the quality of service we provide to our clients. By prioritizing employee satisfaction and engagement, our clinic not only enhances internal operations but also strengthens our ability to serve the community effectively by providing accessible legal services and making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and families in the Thunder Bay and District area.

As we look to the future, our clinic remains dedicated to upholding our core values and ensuring that employee satisfaction remains a cornerstone of our organizational culture.





## 2023 AGM SERVICE AWARDS

At our Annual General Meeting held in October 2023, Service Awards were presented by Alta Fenton, President of the Board of Directors, to the following people:

- Tracey Lawrence – 30 years of service - Staff
- Cindy Johnson – 25 years of service - Staff
- Miriam McCutcheon – 25 years of service - Staff
- Chantal Walterson – 25 years of service - Staff
- Teri Hofer – 20 years of service - Staff
- Theresa (Tess) Ray – 15 years of service - AGM Delegate
- Robert Fenton – 10 years of service – AGM Delegate



**Tracey Lawrence**



**Cindy Johnson**



**Miriam McCutcheon**



**Chantal Walterson**



**Teri Hofer**



**Theresa (Tess ) Ray**



**Robert Fenton**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Alta Fenton</b>	President	Thunder Bay
<b>Candace Davies</b>	Vice-President	Nipigon
<b>Cindy Whittington</b>	Secretary/Treasurer	Thunder Bay
<b>Mark Celeiro</b>	Director	Greenstone
<b>Terrence Franck</b>	Director	Thunder Bay
<b>Angela Nodin</b>	Director	Armstrong
<b>Theresa (Tess) Ray</b>	Director	Marathon

Thank you to Robyn Medicine (Thunder Bay) and Andrea O’Nabigon (Greenstone), who served on the Board of Directors during this past year. Chi miigwech!



Chi miigwech to our Elders, Helen Young Brizard and Nathaniel Moses.





## STAFF MEMBERS

### GERALDTON OFFICE

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

### MARATHON OFFICE

Miriam McCutcheon                      Community Legal Worker  
Brandi DeJonge                              Administrative Assistant

### THUNDER BAY OFFICE

Jessica Barry                              Administrative Assistant/File Digitization Clerk  
Jennifer Chapman                              Bora Laskin Faculty of Law IPC Student  
Kim Facca                                      Community Legal Worker/Registered Social Worker  
Teri Hofer                                      Executive Assistant  
Cindy Johnson                                      Executive Assistant  
Matthew Jollineau                                      Lawyer Candidate (call to Bar of Ontario in October 2024)  
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 (On Leave)  
Melanie MacKenzie                                      Community Legal Worker/Licensed Paralegal  
Allister McGillivray                                      Staff Lawyer  
Ann McGuire                                      Cultural Coordinator  
Beth Ponka                                      Director of Administration  
Sarah Racine                                      Housing Systems Navigator - Eviction Prevention Project  
Caycie Soke                                      Staff Lawyer (On Leave)  
Terri Zeleny                                      Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

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### FRONT COVER AIMKI MUSHKIKI by Sinclair Sabourin

THUNDER BIRD Incorporal Being • SWEAT LODGE Represents Ceremonial Practices

FOUR TREES Represents people from the four directions • FOUR CIRCLES With one half circle connected to the wings signify the elements

The Elders in the lodge are interpreting the Seven Grandfather Teachings and show how it is important to our own well-being. Knowing our position of the mind, body and spirit gives us the balance we need at the centre of our being that allows us to better understand our spiritual connection with the elements as we live each day. Our purpose is in the relationship with our relatives the water beings, the underground beings, the four-legged, and the winged beings. We aspire to be moved by seeing, hearing, speaking, smelling, tasting, feeling and touching, and our imagination leads us forward.

Sinclair Sabourin is a self-taught visual artist of Anishinabek ancestry. Mentored by Norval Morrisseau in his earlier years, Sabourin is inspired by stories, traditional teachings, and ceremonies passed on by his elders. He focuses on conveying an appreciation for the traditional way of life through his paintings, hopefully to be appreciated by future generations and the contemporary art world.

### BACK COVER Photo of Aguasabon Falls by Beth Ponka, September 2024



# KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC

## THUNDER BAY

86 S. CUMBERLAND STREET  
THUNDER BAY, ON P7B 2V3  
PHONE 807-344-2478  
TOLL FREE 1-888-373-3309

## GERALDTON

404 MAIN STREET, UNIT A  
GERALTON, ON P0T 1M0  
PHONE 807-854-1278  
TOLL FREE 1-866-875-4952

## MARATHON

#101-52 PENINSULA SQUARE  
MARATHON, ON P0T 2E0  
PHONE 807-229-2290  
TOLL FREE 1-866-389-1477



LEGAL AID ONTARIO  
AIDE JURIDIQUE ONTARIO



Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic

[www.kalc.ca](http://www.kalc.ca)