

# Indigenous Service Initiatives in British Columbia

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- Indigenous people make up 6% of BC's population
- 65% of children in care are of Indigenous ancestry
- 41% of LSS's child protection clients self-identify as Indigenous (31 % of criminal law clients, 21% family law clients)

A photograph of Senator Murray Sinclair, an older woman with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a necklace. She is standing behind a wooden podium and gesturing with her right hand. In the background, a red flag is visible. To the left, a green banner with white text is partially visible.

SITY OF  
HEWAN

***"Reconciliation is not an aboriginal problem — it is a Canadian problem. It involves all of us."***

— Senator Murray Sinclair



“Understanding how the current justice system impacts on Indigenous peoples is important in order to address systemic roots of marginalization, denial of fundamental human rights, intolerance, indifference, racism, and discriminatory standards and practices impacting on Indigenous peoples”

- Grand Chief Edward John





Legal  
Services  
Society

British Columbia  
[www.legalaid.bc.ca](http://www.legalaid.bc.ca)

- services are designed to help people achieve early, stable and just outcomes, often without having to go to court.
- self-help websites and publications, legal information workers, telephone advice lines, educational workshops, Indigenous services, mediation and more.
- lawyers to represent clients in court for serious family, child protection, immigration and criminal matters

# What We Do



Publications distributed	77,428
Legal Information Outreach Worker client interactions	6,000
LSS website sessions	418,770
Family Law self-help website sessions	1,461,186
Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC website sessions	16,091
Criminal duty counsel clients	71,110
Immigration duty counsel clients	1,309
Family duty counsel and advice lawyer clients	31,866
Criminal law telephone advice for persons detained – calls handled	17,913
Family law telephone advice – clients served	2,343
Criminal representation	20,971
Family representation	3,807
Child protection representation	2,424
Immigration representation	1,064









# Indigenous Services Division







- GOAL
  - To improve access to justice for Indigenous people.
- VISION
  - A British Columbia where Indigenous people have equitable access to justice.
- MISSION
  - To promote access to justice for Indigenous people using a holistic approach that seeks out and includes Indigenous people, knowledge and perspectives.



# Aboriginal Website

aboriginal.legalaid.bc.ca

 **Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC**


  

 Home  Your family  Your rights  On reserve  We can help 

 **Have you been charged with a crime?** 

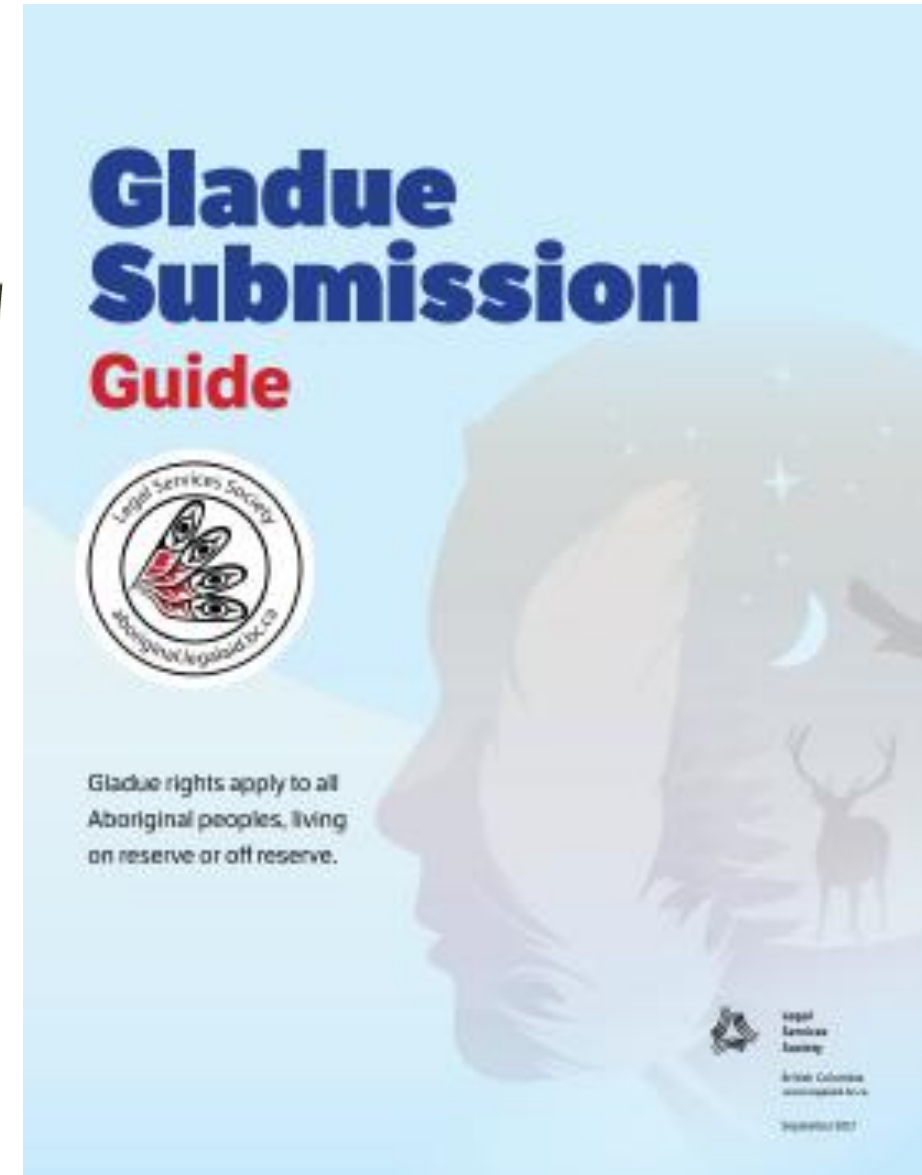
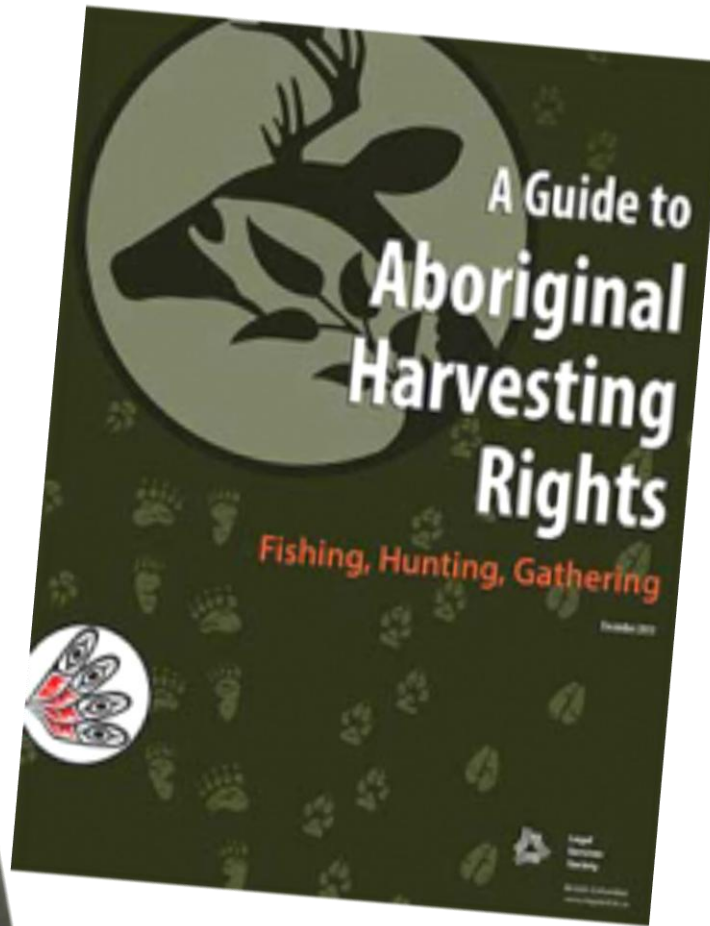
Aboriginal legal rights at bail and sentencing — Helping you and your community heal

[Learn more](#)





# Indigenous Publications



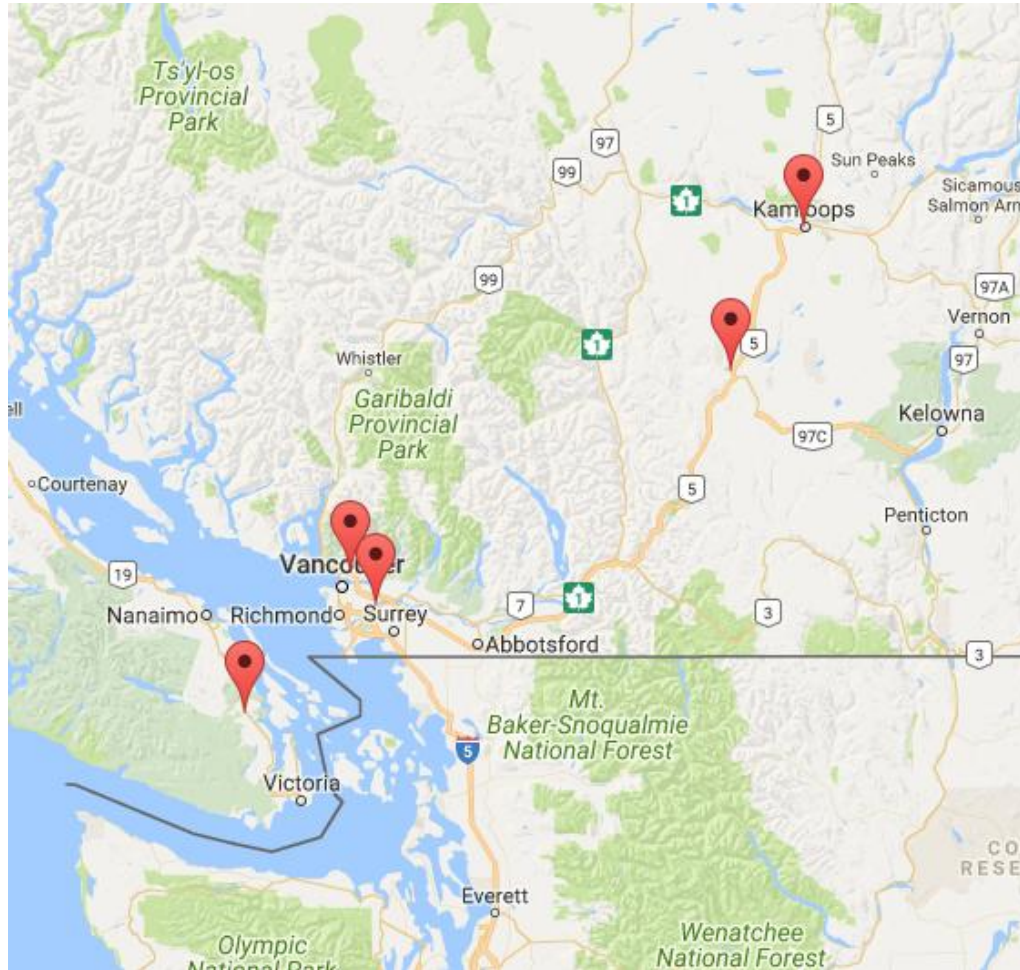
# Aboriginal Community Legal Workers



- Paralegals who provide legal information and limited advice about:
  - Family and child protection law,
  - Indian Residential School claims ,
  - Housing,
  - Wills and Estates
- participate in negotiations
- attend court, prepare forms and letters
- Talk on client's behalf to:
  - Child protection authorities
  - Legal aid lawyers
  - Band authorities
  - Makes referrals to other agencies

# First Nations Courts

- We support First Nations Courts in 6 Locations



- New Westminster
- Kamloops
- Duncan
- North Vancouver
- Merritt
- Prince George
- Duty Counsel
- Elders



# LSS Gladue Initiatives



## Gladue Reports

- are produced for either bail or sentencing hearings.
- paint a complete picture of the Aboriginal offender including information about background, community, and the specific circumstances

## Gladue Resources

- Your Gladue Rights booklet
- Gladue Rights at Bail and Sentencing infographic poster
- Gladue Submission Guide
- Gladue Report Guide

# Grand Chief on the Parents Legal Centre pilot:



- “The PLC is a pilot project that takes a new approach to child protection by focusing on early intervention and the integration of non-legal social services to support parents.”
- “The PLC’s holistic approach to working with families has translated into changing approaches in the way that MCFD and the justice system respond to child protection cases.”
- “During my engagement, I heard strong support for expansion of the PLC pilot to better serve Indigenous communities across the province (Recommendation 16).”
  - At page 97-98



*"The PLC is a pilot project that takes a new approach to child protection by focusing on early intervention and the integration of non-legal social services to support parents.*

*The PLC's holistic approach to working with families has translated into changing approaches in the way that MCFD and the justice system respond to child protection cases."*



# Community Services



- We provide training and support for community workers and advocates who assist LSS clients and low-income people.
- LSS also partners with organizations in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities to connect them to legal aid and other resources.

## 2016/17 Community Services

### Training and Outreach

Intermediaries reached through LSS workshops and conferences	1,168
Legal Information Outreach Worker interactions	6,000
Direct one-to-one client assists by Community Partners	12,302

### Aboriginal Services

Aboriginal Community Legal Worker client interactions (Duncan and Nanaimo)	1,269
Duty Counsel client assists at First Nations' Court	321
Gladue reports completed	79

# ReconciliACTION

Reconciliation is  
forged in truth  
and justice.  
Without truth,  
justice is not  
served.



end

