

The Indigenous Courtwork Program provides advocacy services to Indigenous people involved in the Canadian justice system to help ensure they understand their rights, options, and responsibilities when appearing before the courts.

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Funded by:



MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Indigenous Criminal Court Work Program

NE-CHEE FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE



INFORMATION WE PROVIDE:

- The nature and consequences of the charge(s) service users are facing.
- The rights, responsibilities and options of the service user under the law including alternative justice processes.
- Information on Court procedures
- Disposition or direction given by the court or community to the offender.
- Appropriate resources to enable service users to address the underlying problems (ie housing challenges, mental health, addictions etc), which contribute to their charges. When appropriate the Courtworker will follow-up on these referrals.



In the Community:

- Courtworkers can conduct public legal education workshops for the Indigenous community.
- Courtworkers can aid in the development of preventive programs to reduce the crime rates in their communities.

The Indigenous Criminal Courtworker will NOT:

- Provide legal advice
- Act as a language interpreter for the court
- Act as a probation officer
- Select a lawyer for their clients, BUT will provide a list of lawyers.



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- Liaising between service users and criminal justice personnel to help overcome communication barriers (may include being able to provide appropriate information to the court and/or speaking on behalf of the accused).
- Informing justice officials about concerns of the Indigenous community and the perspective of Indigenous alleged accused.
- Promote understanding within the Indigenous community of the existing criminal justice system.

