

Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network
– to develop and maintain a
new relationship between the
criminal justice system and the
Mi'kmaq and Indigenous people
of Nova Scotia.

MLSN was initiated by the Nova
Scotia chiefs to develop and
maintain a sustainable justice
support system. This will ensure
fair treatment of all Mi'kmaq
and Indigenous people in the
justice system.

Office Locations

Cape Breton Office

29 Medicine Trail
Eskasoni, Nova Scotia B1W 1G4
902-379-2042
1-877-379-2042

Millbrook Office

803 Willow Street
Millbrook, Nova Scotia B2N 6N8
902-895-1141

Dartmouth Office

15 Alderney Drive, Suite 1
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 2N2
902-468-0381

Kentville Office

495 Main Street, Unit 201
Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 3W5
1-877-379-2042 and ask for
program contact details



**Mi'kmaq
Customary
Law Program**

About

Mi'kmaq Customary Law Program works with Indigenous and Mi'kmaq communities to find meaningful and culturally appropriate ways to hold the wrongdoers accountable. The lasting benefit of this process is the renewal of community interest, involvement, and support in the healing process of the indigenous victim, wrongdoer and community. This process is necessary for future growth and strength of indigenous justice initiatives and revitalization of Mi'kmaq customary law perspectives in Nova Scotia.

The Process

A talking circle is arranged to rediscover the traditional Mi'kmaq and indigenous method of the community dealing with a wrongdoer who has broken the law. A judge, a lawyer for the accused, crown attorney, police officer may also sit in some or all the circles.

An individual may be accepted into the program if they accept responsibility for the offence and willing to make amends to restore balance and harmony within oneself and community. The circle is guided by MLSN caseworkers and discuss the following: What happened, why it happened, what the impact is, and what is needed to repair the harm and suggest ways to decrease the chance of it happening again.

The Goal

The goal of the circle is to provide an alternative to the formal court process that is more inclusive to the needs of the indigenous and Mi'kmaq community and offender. We help circle participants understand the social conditions contributing to crime and offer an alternative that is culturally sensitive. During the circle process, we help the wrongdoer develop an action plan that is culturally relevant for the healing process that may involve community supports and engage the commitment of all participants.

Types of Circles

Justice, Healing and Sentencing Circles. Talk with MLSN staff to determine which best suits your needs.

