



**Legal
Services
Society**

British Columbia
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Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Indigenous Justice Services Initiatives

Between:

The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia and Legal Services Society

This MOU outlines the proposed relationship between the Legal Services Society (LSS) and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC).

The parties recognize the importance of establishing a foundation upon which they can support each other's mandates and move forward on key Indigenous Justice service; initiatives, including better access to justice services and the implementation of preventive justice measures.

As key players in BC's justice system, the parties recognize:

- NCCABC's leadership and expertise in Indigenous Justice service delivery, and acknowledge its relationships, networks and collaborative approach to meeting Indigenous client needs,
- LSS's commitment to increase access to justice for Indigenous peoples (First Nations Metis and Inuit) in BC and to being a leader in the journey to reconciliation in Canada, and
- LSS has a dedicated Indigenous Services Division whose work is focused on ensuring legal aid services meet Indigenous people's needs, are developed through engagement, and seek to empower and achieve early and lasting solutions to legal challenges.

The parties will:

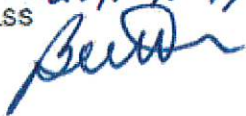
- Determine how best to support each other's independent mandates through cooperation and collaborative partnerships, and
- Identify and support key Family, Criminal and Civil Justice priorities (e.g. Parent Legal Centres, Gladue, First Nations/Indigenous Court, Family Courtworkers, Core Training Competencies).

All parties commit to designate one representative and one alternate with authority to represent the interests of their respective organization, while respecting the governance of each.

The initial objectives of this commitment include determining ways to work together and achieve better outcomes for our Indigenous clients, such as collaboration in Parent Legal Centres.

Given the importance of raising the awareness of Indigenous Justice issues, and improving service to the Indigenous peoples of BC, this document and the resulting initiatives will be shared externally as deemed appropriate by all parties.

In the spirit of cooperation, the parties agree that this is a living document that will evolve as the relationship is defined and a foundation for working together is established.

Name: MARK BENTIN
Title: CEO
Date: 28/10/2019
LSS


Name: HUGH BRAUER
Title: PRESIDENT
Date: October 18, 2019
NCCABC
