

Wabanaki Legal News

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Volume 13 Issue 2

www.ptla.org/wabanaki

Summer 2010

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- *Compensation For Canadian Residential School Students*
- *Baldacci Requires Maine Agencies to Consult Maine Tribes*

Native American Unit Brings Racial Discrimination Case Against DHHS

Maine Human Rights Commission Agrees That Case Worker Discriminated

We are representing a Penobscot woman who had a problem with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). Our client reported that a couple of years ago, a case worker from DHHS visited our client's home. While there, the case worker made several racist remarks. Our client told us that the case worker said that Native people are dishonest.

We assisted our client in filing a charge of discrimination against DHHS. We filed the charge with the Maine Human Rights Commission (MHRC). The Commission assigned an investigator to look into the case. A little later, the investigator decided our client was right.

Earlier this year, we appeared before the Commission and

Please see **Discrimination**, Page 2



Birch tree at Indian Island.

MITSC Moves Forward With New Chairperson Jamie Bissonette

The year 2010 has already brought a lot of changes to the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission:

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has become a full member of the Commission. The Band is represented by Linda Raymond and Brian Reynolds.

At the July meeting the members unanimously elected a new Chairperson, Jamie Bissonette. Bissonette brings a wealth of experience to MITSC. Jamie is Missisquoi Abenaki. Among her accomplishments, she coordinates the Healing Justice Program for the American Friends Service Committee in New England and staffs both the Sipayik Criminal Justice Commission for the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Wabanaki Tribal Advisory Group to the Maine Department of Corrections. Over the past 30 years, Bissonette has worked with tribal communities in the ancestral region of her people, southern Canada and New England focusing on criminal justice and emerging tribal justice issues. She has also worked internationally, both in Mexico with native migrant farm workers as well as in South Africa.

An attorney from our Native American Unit, Paul Thibeault, has been appointed by Governor Baldacci as a State member of the Commission. Thibeault has more than 20 years of experience working as a legal advocate in Indian Country in Maine, Minnesota and North Dakota. He has worked closely with MITSC on several projects in recent years. When contacted by the WLN, Thibeault said:

“It is an honor to serve on the Commission with so many talented and dedicated people from both the State and the Tribes. I believe that the next couple of years are critical for MITSC and for tribal-state relations in Maine. In my opinion, we have made a very good start by selecting Jamie Bissonette as Chairperson. And we are very fortunate that John Dieffenbacher-Krall is staying on as Executive Director. In my view, Paul Bisulca did an outstanding job as MITSC Chairperson. He took a broad view of the mission of MITSC, and I agree with that approach. Most importantly, I want to see economic and social progress for people living in poverty on and near the Indian reservations in northern and eastern Maine. For the Settlement to work, MITSC has to work. But I am optimistic. I believe that with a positive approach by the State and the Tribes, the tribal communities can become engines of economic and social success for Indians and non-Indians in rural Maine.”

The Commission is currently trying to deal with several important issues, including:

- Implementation of Governor Baldacci's Executive

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Discrimination

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presented the case. The Commission heard both sides of the story. Afterward, the Commission voted in favor of our client. This means that the Commission decided that there were reasonable grounds to believe that DHHS discriminated against our client because she is Native.

The next step in the process is called conciliation. Conciliation is a chance for the parties to reach an agreement to settle the case. The Commission is part of the conciliation process. It tries to help the parties work out a settlement. Conciliation does not always work. If it does not, the person who has suffered discrimination is able to take the case to court. The law also says that the Commission has the power to go to court on behalf of the person who suffered the discrimination.

To read the entire MHRC decision in this case, follow the link:http://www.maine.gov/mhrc/investigation/rg/20100301_PA08-0627.pdf

As this case demonstrates, discrimination against Native people continues. It happens in many different ways. Maine Law protects you against discrimination based upon your status as a Native American. The law protects you from discrimination in:

- Access to and enjoyment of a public accommodation. Do others get served ahead of you or in other ways are you denied full and equal enjoyment at a restaurant, store, pharmacy, hospital, theater, swimming pool or other place of public accommodation?
- Education. Are you or your children treated differently in school?
- Employment. Do employers refuse to hire you even when you are the most qualified for the job?
- Hostile environment. Are you subject to racist remarks at work or at school?
- Extension of Credit. Do banks or stores refuse you credit for no good reason?
- Housing. Do landlords tell you vacant apartments are not for rent once they see you?

We can help you fight discrimination. You must file a complaint within 300 days of the incident, so please call us right away. Also, it is very important to get information about the discrimination as soon as possible. Write down the specific date, time, and place when the discrimination happened. Be sure to get the name or write down a description (height, weight, hair color, age, glasses?, etc.) of the offender. Also, get the names and phone numbers of any witnesses. You are also protected against retaliation for complaining about discrimination.

Portland Hearing on Racial Profiling Includes Testimony from Wabanaki Tribal Members

On June 26th, 2010, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) held a hearing in Portland called "Racial Profiling: Face the Truth" to gather testimony from members of Maine's minority communities about their experience with racial or religious profiling.

Racial profiling occurs when law enforcement agents target people for stops, searches or questioning based on a person's perceived race, ethnicity, nationality or religion, rather than because of any reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. Participants confirmed that racial profiling happens here in Maine.

"No one should feel targeted by law enforcement because of our race," said Newell Lewey of the Sipayik Criminal Justice Commission. "Native people, African Americans, immigrants and refugees alike have all experienced fear that we or someone we love has been stopped or detained because of our race." Lewey stated that, "Native People are easily profiled because we can choose to have Wabanaki license plates, which makes us an easy target for law enforcement."

You can call Pine Tree Legal Assistance at 1-877-213-5630 for help if you think that you have been a victim of racial profiling.

MITSC

Continued from **Page 1**

Order 13175 that directs state agencies to develop and implement policies to consult with the Wabanaki Tribes before developing legislation, rules, and policies that affect them. (See related article on page 4.)

- A dispute between the Penobscot Nation and the State concerning licensing of duck hunters on the Penobscot River. The current dispute arises from the fact that both the State and the Nation claim sole ownership of the Penobscot riverbed.
- Examination of the potential impact in Maine if the United States government signs the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Offensive high school nicknames, especially the continued use of the nickname "redskins" by two Maine high schools. (See related article on page 5.)

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 17 at 9:30 AM at the Fish & Wildlife Building at the Dorothea Dix Complex (formerly BMHI), 650 State Street in Bangor. The meetings are open to the public. MITSC developments can also be followed at the Commission's website: www.mitsc.org.

Former Residential School Students in Canada Can Get Payments

Former students of Canadian residential schools are entitled to receive money to address the harms and abuses they suffered at the schools. These are the boarding schools that operated throughout Canada for over a century. About 80,000 former students are still living.

The Canadian Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement of 2007 sets out the right to these claims. This settlement resulted from a class action lawsuit known as *In re: Residential Schools Class Action Litigation*. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of First Nations, Inuit, Inuvailuit, and Metis community members. The claims were against the Canadian government and various churches that operated the schools. Under the settlement, former residential school students may make two types of claims.

The first type of claim is called the Common Experience Payment (CEP). This provides payments to all former students of recognized Canadian Federal Residential Schools. Former students are eligible for the CEP. The family of a former student who has passed away may also receive the payment as long as the former student died after May 30, 2005. Payments for the first year spent living at a residential school are \$10,000, and \$3,000 for each year after that. A partial year can count as a year.

To file a claim for a Common Experience Payment call the Settlement Administrator at 1-866-879-4913 or go to the website - www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca - and request a CEP claim form. The deadline to apply to receive a Common Experience Payment is September 19, 2011.

The claim form will ask you to show records that you lived at one of the residential schools. If you do not have these records you can still fill out the claim form and send it to the address given. The Canadian government will contact you if more information is necessary.

The second type of payment is for those who suffered sexual or serious physical abuses at a residential school. To file this claim you must go through an Independent Assessment Process (IAP) in person in Canada. This process takes place out of court. You will not be asked to face the person who abused you. You will need to seek the assistance of a Canadian lawyer to help you file this type of claim. Any student who lived at one of the schools may be eligible. Also, a person who was not a student but was invited to take part in a school activity may be eligible. The settlement's administrator, available by calling 1-866-879-4913, may be able to provide a list of Canadian lawyers who can help you at low cost.

The official Canadian website for IAP claims contains a Frequently Asked Questions section available at www.iap-pei.ca/nwz-faq-eng.asp. This website can walk you through the process in greater detail.

Those who qualify are entitled to between \$5,000 and \$275,000 depending on the type of abuse and resulting harm. The deadline to register for the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) is September 19, 2012.

If you attended an Indian residential school and wish to file a claim call
1-866-879-4913
www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca

The deadline to apply is *September 19, 2011*

If you suffered sexual or physical abuse call
1-866-879-4913
for lawyer referral

The deadline to register is *September 19, 2012*

In addition to payments, the settlement also created Native Healing programs including mental health and emotional support for former students, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to document and preserve the experience of survivors, and national commemorative projects.

Questions: Call the Settlement Administrator toll free at 1-866-879-4913 regarding the Canadian Residential Schools Settlement, how to apply for a Common Experience Payment or an Independent Assessment Process. Or go to the official Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement website:
www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca

SOURCES: Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto:
www.aboriginallegal.ca

The Native American Unit at Pine Tree Legal Assistance gives free legal help to low-income Native Americans. The unit's priorities are cases involving an individual's status as a Native American, including:

- ♦ *Race discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit*
- ♦ *Jay Treaty / cross border rights*
- ♦ *Tribal housing*
- ♦ *Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) issues*
- ♦ *Civil rights violations*

Call us at **1-877-213-5630**(Machias) or **1-800-879-7463**(Bangor). Contact information for Pine Tree's statewide offices can be found on page 8.

The **Wabanaki Legal News** is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. The views expressed by individual authors are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.

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Danny Mills, Debi Beal

Wabanaki Legal News is online @:

www.ptla.org/wabanaki

Pine Tree's Nan Heald Receives Award

On May 16 The Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation presented the 2010 Justice Louis Scolnik Award to our own Nan Heald, Executive Director of Pine Tree Legal Assistance.

The Scolnik Award, established in 1989, honors members of Maine's legal community who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the protection of civil liberties. The award is named for former Maine Supreme Court Justice Louis Scolnik. Justice Scolnik was a founder and the first president of the Maine Civil Liberties Union.

“Nan Heald's commitment to justice and improving legal access for all Mainers is extraordinary,” said Shenna Bellows, Executive Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union. “We honor Heald for her work to improve Maine's civil justice system, expanding access to justice for everyone.”

Nan is remembered in Maine's Native communities for her work early in her career at Pine Tree to help secure federal recognition for the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. As a result of Nan's work and the work of many others, the Micmacs became a federally recognized tribe in 1991.

As Executive Director of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Heald has helped expand access to justice for traditionally disadvantaged groups including Native Americans and young people. For over two decades, she has worked to improve Maine's civil justice system and she has passionately and consistently focused attention on the effects of poverty in the lives of Maine residents.

Nan has been instrumental in expanding PTLA legal services to include IRS tax disputes, housing discrimination, foreclosure assistance services with a focus on predatory lending, and in developing KIDS LEGAL, the first statewide children's legal services project in Maine.

Where legal aid and pro bono services are lacking, Heald has actively promoted the need for expanded self-help resources, including the development of user-friendly legal education materials and other self-help tools in a wide range of topics on PTLA's nationally acclaimed websites, including www.ptla.org, www.helpmelaw.org, and www.kidslegal.org.

“Maine is a better place because of Nan Heald's efforts,” says Bellows. “She has engaged the public in an ongoing dialogue about the legal needs of the poor and encouraged new levels of support for legal services to meet those needs.”

Executive Order Calls for State Agencies to Consult Maine Tribes

On February 25, 2010 Maine Governor John Baldacci signed an executive order requiring state agencies to meet with tribes before passing laws or rules that could affect Wabanaki people. The order calls on each agency to draft policies and guidelines for meeting with tribal governments. According to the order these policies should promote:

- two-way communication between Maine's agencies and tribes
- positive relations between state and tribal governments
- methods for meaningful and timely input by tribes
- similar communication efforts by tribes

One of these policies includes the appointment of representatives from each state agency. These officials will act as liaisons between the state and tribes. They will report to the head of each agency after consulting tribal governments.

The executive order was at least in part a response to frustration over tribal-state relations brought forth by Wabanaki tribes. As reported by Indian Country Today, in the past, the State did not believe that it was required to seek input from tribal representatives before making changes to state policy that affected tribes. For example, recent changes to MaineCare and the Native American tuition waiver program did not include consultation with tribal representatives.

As noted in the articles referenced below, supporters of the order say that it demonstrates the State's acknowledgment of a government to government relationship between tribes and the State. Critics of the order say that the new requirements do not go far enough to fix the lack of communication between the state and tribes. Many think that the order is an improvement over currently strained relations.

Sources:

Indian Country Today, March 30, 2010, Gale Courey Toensing, *Tribal Leaders: Maine Governor's Consultation Order is a Step Forward*, <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/national/89265277.html>

Bangor Daily News, February 24, 2010, Kevin Miller, *Tribes Praise Executive Order*, <http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/137642.html>

SENIORS, if you are at least 60 years old and have questions about:

Paying Bills ★ *Being Harassed by Debt Collectors* ★ *Reverse Mortgages* ★ *Identity Theft*
Fraud or Scams ★ *Getting Public Assistance*

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY CAN HELP

Call their helpline at 1-800-750-5353 to get in touch with their Consumer Law Project today!

Symposium Questions Indian Nicknames and Mascots

This May a symposium called, "Respectful or Disgraceful: Examining Maine School Use of Indian Nicknames and Mascots" was held in Bangor.

As reported in the Portland Press Herald, representatives from the three Maine Tribes who attended said that schools who use American Indian nicknames do not honor their tribes. One topic at the symposium was the use by two Maine schools of "Redskins" as their nickname. Those schools are Wiscasset and Sanford high schools. Chief Rick Phillips-Doyle of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point said that the term "Redskins" is particularly offensive to him because it conjures up images of scalping. The term "Redskin" hits close to home here in Maine for many Indians. Penobscot historian James Francis explained at the symposium that British settlers were once offered a price for the scalps of Penobscot people. The 1755 Proclamation of Phips set a bounty for the killing of men, women and children in Maine. Francis stated, "If you understand the history of the Penobscot people, then there's nothing to cheer."

One perspective presented at the symposium is that the use of Native American nicknames in schools presents an image of Indians as relics of the past, and hides economic and social issues that Native Americans currently face in Maine. Efforts to change these nicknames are "... beyond political correctness," said Wayne Newell, a leader among the Passamaquoddys, "It's the right thing to do."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights agrees. In 2001 the Commission called on all non-Native schools with American Indian nicknames to change their name. The Commission stated in their report that "the stereotyping of any racial, ethnic, religious or other group, when promoted by our public educational institutions, teaches all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable, which is a dangerous lesson in a diverse society."

The event in Bangor was organized by author Ed Rice and co-sponsored by all four of Maine's tribes along with the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (MITSC). MITSC was involved in passing the Maine law that caused the renaming of places with offensive names in Maine. MITSC is now taking an active role in encouraging Wiscasset and Sanford to change their names from "Redskins." Because Wiscasset high school will soon be consolidated with other schools, MITSC believes that now is a great opportunity to change the nickname. MITSC has contacted the consolidating schools to encourage them to go ahead and drop the name "Redskins." As for Sanford, a subcommittee of MITSC is working to promote a community-based approach that will encourage Sanford High School to voluntarily choose another nickname.

In contrast to offensive place names, there is no specific Maine statute that makes Indian nicknames and mascots illegal. For that reason, MITSC is not taking formal legal action. But there are some possible legal remedies for Indian people who are directly affected by offensive school nicknames such as "Redskins." For example, Federal and State anti-discrimination laws prohibit public schools from

supporting an environment that is racially hostile to some of its students. An Indian student may be able to claim that a school's Indian mascot creates a racially hostile environment. Another possible legal claim could be for infliction of emotional distress. This distress could be caused by the teasing that is often inspired by having a school nickname such as "Redskins." A third possible legal remedy is related to a student's First Amendment right to free speech. When Indian students go to a public school, they are associated with its nickname and mascot, even if they don't agree with it. This can be considered a violation of the students' constitutional rights.

Sources:

THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, May 16, 2010, Steve Solloway, *Solloway: It's more than a name and a mascot.*
[Http://www.pressherald.com/sports/solloway/its-more-than-a-name-and-a-mascot_2010-05-16.html](http://www.pressherald.com/sports/solloway/its-more-than-a-name-and-a-mascot_2010-05-16.html)

STATEMENT OF U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS ON THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN IMAGES AND NICKNAMES AS SPORTS SYMBOLS.
[Http://www.usccr.gov/press/archives/2001/041601st.htm](http://www.usccr.gov/press/archives/2001/041601st.htm)



Maliseet Tribal Offices

OUTREACH SCHEDULE

Passamaquoddy Tribe

Indian Township-Clinic at Peter Dana Point:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Sipayik Tribal Courtroom:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

To make an appointment call: 1-877-213-5630 or
255-8656

Penobscot Nation

Penobscot Tribal Courtroom

Last Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm

(changes to schedule announced in Tribal Newsletter)

To make an appointment call: 1-877-213-5630 or
1-800-879-7463

Houlton Band of Maliseets

Housing Authority

Last Wednesday of each month from 1pm-4pm

To make an appointment call: 1-877-213-5630, local
764-4349

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

The Clinic

Last Wednesday of the month 9am-12pm

To make an appointment call: 1-877-213-5630, local
764-4349

CASE NOTES

Helping Families Get Disability Benefits

We helped an Indian grandmother who was trying to get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) child disability benefits for her granddaughter. The grandmother became the legal guardian after the tribal child welfare office and tribal court decided that the child could not safely be returned to the custody of her Indian parents. The child had severe psychological problems that created safety hazards and made it hard for her to focus on schoolwork and other activities. We helped the grandmother do the paperwork for the SSI application. We also obtained strong medical evidence that showed that the child met the standard for child SSI disability benefits. It is different than the standard for adults. It took several months but the claim was approved. The child received a substantial amount of back benefits. She also gets ongoing monthly benefits. With that money, the grandmother is able to do many things that will help her granddaughter overcome her disability. Some of these things are:

- More access to health care and supportive services
- Educational materials
- A computer and appropriate software
- Transportation to Native American cultural events
- Native American books and language materials
- Materials for Native crafts
- Safety items for the house
- Cable TV and DVD's including The Discovery Channel

The NAU encourages Indian family members to contact us concerning kids who might be eligible for SSI Disability benefits.

Complaint Alleges Harrassment of Blueberry Rakers

In the last edition of the Wabanaki Legal News we reported that many Canadian-born Indians were harassed when they crossed the border into Maine for the 2009 blueberry harvest. For example, they told us they were confined in separate rooms, aggressively questioned, and detained for up to three hours despite having appropriate documents. Also, dogs were used to search many vehicles. Non-Indians crossing the border at the same time were not treated in the same way.

On behalf of several individuals, we are preparing formal complaints to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In an attempt to resolve this dispute without filing formal complaints, we sent a detailed letter outlining our clients' concerns to the Area Port Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Portland. He agreed to have a meeting with us on July 16, 2010. CBP lawyers from Boston also attended the meeting. The CBP officials stated that the extra security measures last summer were because of concerns about

possible unintentional transmission of a blueberry fungus called *Valdensinia*. However, the CBP has not made any public written statement that clearly says that the fungus was the reason for extra security. They have also refused to provide any of their internal communications from 2009 that may have mentioned the fungus. As of the time this newsletter was going to press, the CBP had not given us any definite assurance that rakers will not have similar problems this year when crossing the Maine border.

In the meantime, we encourage rakers to contact us if they are harassed at the border this year.



Aroostook Band of Micmac Drum

Are You Doing Your Own Divorce? Or Parental Rights Case?

Beginning on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project will launch a walk-in, Family Law Courthouse Assistance Program at the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court on Indian Island.

On the last Tuesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 2pm a volunteer, family law attorney will be available to provide free legal consultations for low income people who have, or are likely to have, family matters litigated in the Tribal Court. Participants must meet financial guidelines to qualify for this service and will be screened at the conference.

INDIAN ISLAND TRIBAL COURT COURTHOUSE ASSISTANCE PROJECT (INDIAN ISLAND CHAP)

Last Tuesday of every month 10am to 2pm
Beginning Tuesday, August 31st, 2010

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT COURTHOUSE ASSISTANCE PROJECT (PLEASANT POINT CHAP)

Date and Time TBA:
Approximately August 2010
Further notice will be made in the
Passamaquoddy Newsletter

Sponsored by:
Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project

Questions? Call Jim Mitchell at 942-9348

Border Crossing Update

After a series of delays and “technical issues” the Canadian government has finally begun to hand out new ID cards. The new card is known as the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). The new card might also be referred to as the “Secure INAC Card”.

Here are some updates:

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) began issuing the SCIS on December 21, 2009. SCIS cards will replace the old Certificate of Indian Status cards (which were often called “INAC cards”).
- As of July 6, 2010 the Canadian government has issued over 7,000 SCIS cards. The government has sent the cards to people in First Nations throughout Canada.
- The Canadian government will hold a second round of applications for the cards later this year.
- INAC will phase out these older cards once they fully circulate the new SCIS cards.

Right now, both the old INAC card and the new SCIS cards can be used to enter the United States by land. However, travelers should check the policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. DHS will honor the old cards “for a reasonable transition period into 2010” according to the Canadian government. For more information about this, go to <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/index-eng.asp>. However, the US still has the power to control how long this period will last. Sooner or later, the old INAC card will no longer be valid for entry into the United States.

Air travel requires different forms of identification. Generally, passports are the only valid forms of ID for entering the U.S. by air. There are a few other documents that can be used to enter the United States by air. For more information, go to:

www.dhs.gov/files/crossingborders/travelers.shtm.



Big Brook on Maliseet Tribal Land

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCIES

AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS:

www.micmac-nsn.gov

Administration	764-1972 1-800-355-1435
Micmac Head Start Program	768-3217
Health Department	764-7219 1-800-750-1972
Micmac Housing	764-1972
Child and Family Services	764-1972

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS:

www.maliseets.com

Administration	532-4273 1-800-564-8524(in state) 1-800-545-8524(out of state)
Maliseet Health Department	532-2240 or 1-800-640-2266
Maliseet Health Clinic	532-4229
Maliseet Housing Authority	532-7637 or 532-9140
Indian Child Welfare	532-7260 or cell: 866-3103
Social Services and LEAD	532-7260 or 1-800-532-7280
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program	532-6401 or 694-1353(24/7)

MALISEET TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

www.maliseets.com/tribal_courts.htm

Court Administrator 532-4273 x 217
e-mail: tribal.courts@maliseets.com

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION:

www.penobscotnation.org

Administration	827-7776 or 1-877-736-6272
Indian Health Services	827-6101 (and after hours emergency answering service) or 817-7400
Penobscot Housing Dept.	817-7370
Penobscot Human Services	817-7492
Indian Island Police Dept	817-7358 (dispatcher) 827-7188 (emergency) 827-6336 (business)
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline	631-4886 (24/7)
<u>PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM</u>	
Director of Tribal Court	817-7342
Clerk of Courts	817-7329

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE:

PLEASANT POINT www.wabanaki.com

Administration	853-2600
Pleasant Point Health Center	853-0644
Pleasant Point Housing	853-6021
Domestic Violence-Peaceful Relations	853-0644 ext. 555 or 274
Emergency:	853-2613
Police Department	853-2551
Social Services	853-2600 ext. 264 or 261
<u>TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM</u>	
www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm	
Clerk of Courts	853-2600 ext. 278

INDIAN TOWNSHIP www.passamaquoddy.com

Administration	796-2301
Indian Township Clinic	796-2321
Indian Township Housing	796-8004
Indian Township Child Welfare	796-5079

Police Department 796-2704
TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM
www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm
Clerk of Courts 853-2600 ext. 278
 (when court is in session call: 796-2301 ext. 205)

STATEWIDE CRISIS SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DHHS Child Abuse 1-800-452-1999(24 hour)
 1-800-963-9490(TTY)
DHHS Adult Abuse and Neglect 1-800 624-8404

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Maine Coalition to End DV 1-866-834-HELP(24 hour)
Houlton Band of Maliseets Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program 694-1353 (24/7) or 532-6401
Penobscot Indian Nation Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program 631-4886 (24/7) or 817-7469
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations 853-2613 or 853-0644 ext. 555 or 274
Spruce Run 1-800-863-9909
Penobscot County

Battered Women's Project 1-800-439-2323
Penobscot County
The Next Step 1-800-604-8692
Washington County

RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

Rape Response Services 1-800-310-0000
Penobscot County
Aroostook Mental Health Center 1-800-550-3304
Crisis Line Aroostook County 1-888-568-1112
Downeast Sexual Assault Svcs. 1-800-228-2470
Washington County

OTHER SERVICES

Youth Crisis Stabilization 1-800-499-9130
Statewide Suicide Referral Line 1-800-568-1112
Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

2-1-1 MAINE & COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

2-1-1 MAINE www.211maine.org
 2-1-1 Maine is part of a national movement to centralize and streamline access to health and human service information and resources. The state of Maine has thousands of programs offering all types of health and human services. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember universal number and website for non-emergency help.
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS bring community resources together such as heating assistance and other utility issues, subsidized housing, child care, and transportation services for disabled people. Call 2-1-1 for your local program.

LEGAL SERVICES

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

www.ptla.org
 Pine Tree Legal represents low-income people with legal problems.
Portland: 774-8211 **Lewiston:** 784-1558
Augusta: 622-4731 **Bangor:** 942-8241
Machias: 255-8656 **Presque Isle:** 764-4349
Farm worker Unit: 1-800-879-7463 or 942-0673
NEW NATIVE AMERICAN UNIT #: 1-877-213-5630

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

www.vlp.org 1-800-442-4293
 If you meet its eligibility requirements, the VLP can give you legal

advice or informational materials for free. In some cases the VLP may provide a referral to a private attorney for free representation.

Intake hours are:

Monday and Tuesday - 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm
 Wednesday and Friday - 9am to 12pm
 Thursday - 1pm to 4pm

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

www.mainelse.org 1-800-750-5353

If you are age 60 or older, LSE can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

PENQUIS LAW PROJECT

www.penquiscap.org 1-800-215-4942

This group gives legal representation to low income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in cases involving domestic relations, including divorce, protection from abuse, child support and visitation. Priority is given to people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

www.drme.org 1-800-452-1948

This group offers advice and legal representation to people with disabilities.

BANGOR COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.ptla.org/ptlasite/cliented/family/pclsa.htm 941-3040

Volunteers are available at the Bangor District Court once a month to help you fill out family law and small claims court forms, serve forms, calculate child support, and answer questions. For upcoming dates call Holly Jarvis at 941-3040.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

WABANAKI HEALTH & WELLNESS ASSOC.

www.wabanaki.org 990-0605

Wabanaki provides culturally-sensitive psychological and social services to the Native American populations of Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and parts of Washington Counties.

WABANAKI VOCATION REHABILITATION

207-532-2021

MAINE INDIAN TRIBAL STATE COMMISSION

www.mitsc.org 817-3799

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

www.ssa.gov/reach.htm

Statewide 1-800-772-1213
Bangor Area 990-4530
 941-8698 (TTY)
Presque Isle Area 764-3771
 764-2925 (TTY)

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

www.maine.gov/mhrc 624-6060
 TTY 1-888-577-6690

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

To file unemployment claims online:
www.maine.gov/labor/unemployment
 To file unemployment claims by telephone:
 1-800-593-7660

Or go to your nearest Career Center:
www.mainecareercenter.com
Bangor 561-4050
Calais 454-7551
Houlton 532-5300
Machias 255-1900
Presque Isle 760-6300