



Wabanaki Legal News

Volume 3 Issue 1

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Winter 1999



Pine Tree Welcomes New Attorney to Staff of Native American Unit

In September, Craig Sanborn became the new Staff Attorney for the Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal assistance, Inc. Pine Tree is a non-profit organization which provides free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) matters. The Native American Unit is headed by Eric Nelson who has worked for many years at Pine Tree on behalf of *Native Americans and migrant farmworkers.*

Craig is a member of the Penobscot Nation. Both of his parents are Native American. Craig's mother, June Cecilia Banks, was born and raised on Indian Island. His father, James Sanborn, was born and raised in the surrounding community. Craig has two sisters and two brothers. He is married to Diedre, who is currently working on her degree in English. The couple lives in Bangor and hopes to buy a house in the area sometime soon.

Craig was born in Okinawa, Japan, where his father was stationed during his military service. The family lived there until Craig was six. In Japan, Craig developed an interest in karate. After graduation from high school and service in the military, Craig went on to become an All American karate champion. He was on the U.S. National Karate Team where he won a Gold Medal at the National Competition in 1988.

After Craig's father retired from the military, the family returned to Maine, settling in York County. Craig attended high school at St. Thomas Aquinas in Dover, New Hampshire. He then joined the military, serving for six years. After winning his Gold Medal, Craig enrolled at the University of Maine in Orono, majoring in philosophy. Later, he transferred to the University of Southern Maine, where he finished his studies in the evenings. Next, Craig decided to go to law school to develop a "skill to be of service" to the Native population in Maine.

He chose the University of Minnesota.

While in law school, Craig joined the American Indian Law Student Association, where he served as treasurer. He took classes in federal Indian law. Craig's first summer job was with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Law Clinic in Minneapolis, representing Indians on ICWA issues in state court.

During his second summer, Craig worked in a private law firm in Minneapolis specializing in federal Tribal law all over the Midwest. While there, Craig handled a number of different cases. These included some family law and helping Tribes draft their own internal legislation. The area that Craig found most exciting, however, was helping Tribes to get "Treatment As a State" (TAS) status under the federal Clean Water Act. Craig characterizes TAS status as a "powerful tool" giving a Tribe the ability to control upstream polluters, in non-Indian Country, of the Tribe's water supply. This status, then, gives a Tribe influence which it would not otherwise have.

After finishing law school, Craig decided to return home to Maine. He started off in his own practice handling appointed criminal cases. When the job at Pine Tree opened up, Craig believed that he had found his "dream" job.

Craig notes that, in years past, some of Pine Tree's efforts focussed on Tribal matters, such as gaining recognition for the Micmacs. Craig is very comfortable with Pine Tree's newer focus on the problems of individual, low-income Indians. He believes that empowering individuals will ultimately "strengthen the Tribes as a whole." He is also pleased at the opportunity to work with members of *all* Tribes in Maine, both on and off Reservation.

Currently, Craig is handling cases involving many different issues. Among those cases are cross border rights; discrimination in school bussing; housing evictions, both on and off Reservation; poverty law issues such as disability claims; child support and custody problems; modification of parental rights and responsibilities; employment law; and some ICWA issues. Craig finds his new job to be "a lot of fun." He appreciates the unique perspective he is getting by travelling to all parts of Maine to get a feel for how Native Americans in the State perceive issues.

Craig will be setting up regular appointment times throughout the State for members of each Tribe. To get the schedule, call **1-800-879-7463**.



Compensation for residential school survivors

by Patricia Doyle Bedwell. Patricia is currently the head of the Transition Year Program at Henson College in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She received her law degree at Dalhousie University. She is a Micmac and grew up in Bangor, ME. She graduated from John Baptist High School. Patricia is married and has one son.

The Shubenacadie Residential School operated from 1930-1967 in Nova Scotia. Following the framework used by the Canadian Government in setting up the Western Boarding Schools for Indian Children, the Government and the Roman Catholic Church, which operated the School, tried to impose a system of assimilation and genocide upon the Mi'kmaq Children in Nova Scotia.

The Government philosophy at the time was stated by former Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Duncan Campbell Scott. He said that he wanted to continue the process of assimilation until "there was not one single Indian in the body politic." This goal of the government--to get rid of the "Indian Problem"--set the stage for the establishment of residential schools. The government believed that true assimilation would only happen if its efforts were directed at children, since adults were too set in their ways. Elimination of the "Indian Problem" is clearly the reason why the Shubenacadie School existed in the first place.

Prevented from speaking their language and separated from their families and communities, children at the School learned to feel ashamed of their culture and of who they were as Mi'kmaq people. The goal of the School--to teach Aboriginal children vocational skills--reflected the racism of the times. School authorities decided that Aboriginal children had limited intelligence and could only learn housecleaning or labor skills. They also decided to teach the children at a slower pace. Children only completed grade 8 by the time they left school at 16. They left the school with a poor education and little or no skills likely to result in good jobs. In some residential schools, teachers were not even qualified to be teachers.

When I went to law school, I began to wonder about the issue of compensation for survivors of residential schools. Many members of my family had attended residential school. Some of my law school friends from the Mi'kmaq community had also attended residential school. My mother gave me the idea to write my Master's Thesis on the subject. As I explored the law, I discovered various legal avenues for pursuing this claim.

The basis for the legal action taken recently against the Shubenacadie School by the Association for the Survivors of the Shubenacadie Residential School is

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PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization which gives free legal help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems.

Due to federal budget cuts, Pine Tree has lost over half its staff. As a result, Pine Tree can help only a small number of people who call us. We have given high priorities to the following kinds of cases:

- Eviction from public housing
- Home foreclosures
- Domestic violence
- Problems with Medicare or Medicaid
- Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits (food stamps, TANF, Social Security, unemployment, etc.)

If you are low-income and need legal help in one of these areas, call the nearest Pine Tree office. If you are a farm worker with employment problems, call the Farmworker Unit at 1-800-879-7463.

Pine Tree also has a Native American Unit in Bangor. The number is 1-800-879-7463. Call the Unit if you are a low-income Native American with civil legal problems.



Claim Your Earned Income Credit

If you worked in 1998, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC. If you raised one child in your home in 1998 and your family earned less than \$26,473, you can get up to \$2,271. If you raised more than one child in your home in 1998 and your family earned less than \$30,095, you can get up to \$3,756. If you weren't raising a child, earned less than \$10,030 in 1998, and were between ages 25 and 64, you can get up to \$341.

If you were raising children in 1998, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, **not** Form 1040EZ. **Be sure to attach Schedule EIC.** If you weren't raising children in 1998, file the return you would normally file.

VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for **free**. To find the VITA site near you, call 1-800-829-1040. Be patient -- the line is often busy. **Remember, paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.**



1998 Welfare Update

Health care benefits for children expanded

The editor wishes to thank Maine Equal Justice Partners for the following article.

Maine children in families with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines (\$30,435 for a family of three) are now eligible for free or low cost health coverage. Effective July 1, 1998, the State raised the income cut-off for families eligible for Medicaid from 133% of the federal poverty level to 150%. In addition, the State is now offering a "Cub Care" program to families with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level. Cub Care offers the same coverage as Medicaid for a small premium.

To figure your eligibility, look at the following chart:

Family Size	Maximum monthly family income for Medicaid*	Maximum monthly family income for Cub Care**
2	\$1,357	\$1,673
3	\$1,707	\$2,105
4	\$2,057	\$2,536
5	\$2,407	\$2,968
6	\$2,757	\$3,400
7	\$3,107	\$3,831
8	\$3,457	\$4,263

* For Medicaid, if you have wages from work, you can take some deductions before comparing your income to the chart. You can deduct the standard work deduction of \$90 and child care that you actually pay up to \$175 per child for children over 2, and \$200 per child for children under 2.

** Unlike Medicaid, there are no deductions from wages for working parents. If you have a child under 1, however, that child can qualify for Medicaid if your family income, after work-related deductions, is less than the Cub Care maximums.

Facts about Cub Care:

☛ There is no asset limit in order to be eligible. Family assets such as cars, real estate, savings accounts, etc. do not affect a child's eligibility for Medicaid or Cub Care.

☛ For both programs, children will be eligible for the entire benefit package available under Medicaid. The Medicaid benefit package is very comprehensive. It includes all preventive health visits as well as in-patient and out-patient hospitalization, speech, hearing and physical therapy, pharmacy needs, mental health services, dental and vision services, and most other

services needed for any medically necessary health care services that a child may need.

☛ In order to apply, you should know that both Medicaid and Cub Care will be run by the Department of Human Services. A 2-page child health application will be used for both Medicaid and Cub Care. It is much simpler than the old Medicaid application form. You can get forms from any DHS office. You should also be able to get them from health care providers' offices and social service agencies. DHS will mail you an application on request. Fill it out and mail it back to DHS.

☛ If your family income goes over the Cub Care income guidelines, you should know that once a child is eligible for Cub Care, that child will remain eligible for a period of 6 months even if the family income goes over the income guidelines. An exception to this rule is for children who turn 19. They will lose eligibility in the month they turn 19.

If your family income is still over the income limit at the end of the 6-month period, your child will become ineligible at that time. However, the family will be allowed to buy Cub Care coverage from the State at cost for 18 months after losing Cub Care. That price should be much lower than the cost of private insurance. If a family's income goes down during the 6-month period and your children become eligible for Medicaid, your children will be enrolled in the Medicaid program instead of Cub Care. **You must report changes in circumstances (such as a change in income or an addition to the family) within 10 days of that change.**

☛ If your family qualifies for Medicaid, there will be no fee. If your family qualifies for Cub Care, you will have to make a small premium payment to get coverage. The monthly premium will run from \$5 to \$30 a month depending on your income and the size of your family. DHS will give Cub Care families stamped, addressed envelopes to make your monthly premium payments. You may choose to pay for one month at a time or for all months in the 6-month enrollment period.

☛ If you have lost income since you last reported your income, check the guidelines to see if you are eligible for Medicaid and not responsible for a premium. Remember to report any change in your income to DHS within 10 days.

If you owe a premium and do not pay it, you will get a notice at the end of a grace period that your child will lose Cub Care coverage. The grace period lasts until the end of your child's 6-month enrollment period. If you can't pay for the last month of the 6-month enrollment period, the grace

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a concept called "fiduciary responsibility."

Fiduciary responsibility is an idea protected by the Canadian Constitution, which is the highest law in the land. The fiduciary relationship between Aboriginal people and the Crown is not exactly a formal trust but, as the courts say, it is trust-like.

The Supreme Court of Canada has found that the Government has a fiduciary responsibility towards Aboriginal peoples. This idea was expressed in a 1984 Aboriginal case where the Government leased land on behalf of a Tribe but did not get a fair market price for the lease. The Court stated that the Government owed a duty to the Indians to act in their best interest in dealings with third persons. The Court described this duty as a fiduciary one. This fiduciary relationship is not a trust, but is trust-like in character. In Canadian law, this fiduciary relationship is *sui generis*, or unique.

Under the Indian Act, the Canadian Government took responsibility for educating Status Indian people. The Indian Act codifies, or defines, the responsibilities taken on by the Government. The Government's fiduciary responsibility, therefore, includes educating Indian people.

This *sui generis* fiduciary responsibility is protected by the Canadian Constitution. The Supreme Court has stated that the honor of the Crown is at stake when the Government deals with Aboriginals. It is not hard to see that the Government breached its honor by treating the Mi'kmaq children so badly.

In other words, the Government needs to honor the commitments made to Aboriginal Peoples and to act in their best interests. While courts have not yet fully defined the nature of this relationship, there is an argument that the Catholic Church also owes a fiduciary responsibility. The Catholic Church took care of the Mi'kmaq children in place of their parents. Both the Federal Government and the Catholic church had a responsibility to take care of the Mi'kmaq children properly. By beating those children and isolating them from their families and communities, the Federal Government and the Church failed miserably in their responsibility.

Another legal avenue supporting a claim for compensation is called "vicarious liability." This means that an employer can be held responsible for the actions of his employees. In other words, the Catholic Church could be held responsible for the actions of its nuns and priests employed by the Church. In a case involving residential schools, the Supreme Court of British Columbia has found that the United Church and the Federal Government were responsible for their employees' behavior.

The question of compensation for survivors of residential schools is a major concern in Canada. More than one thousand cases have been filed throughout the country on behalf of survivors. These lawsuits have claimed that sexual, physical, spiritual, and mental abuse have occurred. The suits have been filed against individual priests and nuns as well as churches and the Government. The British Columbia suit has been successfully upheld as far as the British Columbia Supreme Court.

Last January, the Federal Government offered an apology for its treatment of Aboriginal children in residential schools. However, this apology is wholly inadequate. Many Aboriginal leaders do not think the apology is enough compensation for the hurt they suffered in residential schools. The Government has also earmarked approximately 350 million dollars, over three years, for a "healing fund" available to the more than six hundred reserves in Canada. According to one Chief, this translates to approximately \$30,000 per reserve. However, the healing fund is not the only relief that victims may be entitled to and does not prevent people from suing the Church or the Government.

Abuse at the Shubenacadie Residential School has had a far-reaching impact and created a ripple effect throughout the Mi'kmaq Nation. The abuse affected not only the children who attended the school, but the adults left behind in their communities as well. It has even affected the second and third generations. As survivors often felt obliged to leave their reserves, never to return, and go to Boston or Maine, some second generation children grew up away from their communities and did not learn the Mi'kmaq language. In Canada, some Mi'kmaq survivors even lost their Indian status under the Indian Act. This may create problems if compensation is limited to those people who live only in Canada on a reserve.

Given this far-reaching harm, some people feel that the entire Mi'kmaq Nation should be compensated. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples has recommended that the Government hold a public inquiry to assess the damage done to Aboriginals by the residential schools. In addressing the impact on the Mi'kmaq Nation, however, the Government must make sure that survivors who may have lost their Status are included as members of the Nation.

The Mi'kmaq Nation has now taken the question of compensation into its own hands. The Association for the Survivors of the Shubenacadie Residential School has filed a class action suit in Nova Scotia. Membership in the Association is open to all survivors. Your Status is not important. In order to become a member, all you need to do is join and

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fill out a questionnaire for the lawyer representing the Association. The questionnaire merely asks you to outline your experience at the School.

In Nova Scotia, there are some unanswered questions about whether a class action can be heard. However, the mere filing of the lawsuit has caused the Federal Government and the Roman Catholic Church to take notice of the survivors. As one elder told me:

There could never be enough money to take away the hurt and the lost years. One injury that will be hard to put a dollar value on is the loss of potential. See what our people have done despite residential school--they have gone to law school, they have become community leaders, they have written books. I wonder what we would have accomplished if we hadn't gone to residential school. I wonder what we could do if we had a decent education that respected who we are as Mi'kmaq people.

Dollars will never be enough, but it's a beginning.

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period will be 6 weeks after the date the last payment was due. If you miss payments for any, or all of the months in the 6-month enrollment period, your child will not be allowed to re-enroll for the number of months that you did not pay, up to a maximum of 3 months. For example, if no premium were paid for four of the six months, you would have to wait three months before being able to enroll your child again.

☛ If you already have private health insurance but believe that you can't afford it, there are some options you might consider, depending on whether your child is eligible for Medicaid or Cub Care.

Medicaid. Eligible children can be enrolled in Medicaid even if they are covered under a family member's private insurance policy. If a child is covered by private insurance, the Medicaid program will "wrap around" that coverage, making sure that the child gets any services covered by Medicaid that are not covered by the private policy. If you have been paying for private insurance for a child living with you and that child becomes eligible for Medicaid, you can drop the private coverage without affecting your child's eligibility for Medicaid.

Cub Care. Children actually covered by a group health insurance plan within 3 months of applying for Cub Care are not eligible for Cub Care unless:

- Your child lost coverage because a parent changed jobs or lost a job for a reason that was not his or her fault; OR
- The employer is not paying at least 50% of the cost

of your child's coverage; OR

- The cost of covering the whole family under the plan is more than 10% of your family's income; OR
- DHS finds that you had other good cause for dropping the insurance; OR
- Your child's policy is very limited. For example, the policy just covers dental care or a particular disease, such as cancer.

In any case, your child is eligible for Cub Care if he or she has been without insurance for any reason for 3 months. If you have access to a group insurance plan, but have not actually enrolled the child in that plan, then your child is eligible for Cub Care.

☛ Two groups of children are not eligible for Cub Care, even if their incomes are low enough. These are children who have access to coverage under a state employee health insurance program and children who are inmates in a public institution or patients in an institution for mental health. These exceptions are required by federal law. These exclusions do not apply to Medicaid.

The following information appeared in the MAIN Update Spring 1998 Newsletter. The editor wishes to thank the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN) for allowing use of this information. You can get information about MAIN, including its newsletters, on the web at www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/default.htm#anchor272773.

Medicaid Now Covers More Low Income Parents

New Department of Human Services rules allow many working parents and others with low incomes to get Medicaid, even if they are not getting TANF benefits (formerly AFDC). You may be eligible for Medicaid if:

- ☛ Your income is less than the poverty level; **AND**
- ☛ You are a parent in either a single parent family; a two-parent family where one parent is incapacitated; or a two-parent family where the principal wage earner is unemployed or working less than 100 hours a month; **AND**
- ☛ Your assets are within the limits allowed by the TANF program. Remember, some assets don't count. For example, you can own one car, regardless of its value, and still qualify. You can also own your own home.

You may also be eligible if you are 18 or 19 years old without children. Before this change, this age group lost eligibility for Medicaid with an income just over 50% of the poverty limit.

The chart on the next page will show you what the poverty level is for your size family. Compare your family income to this chart to see if you are eligible for medical help.

If you are working, you can take some
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deductions from your earnings before comparing your earnings to this chart. Working parents can deduct the following from their gross incomes:

1. the standard work deduction of \$90 a month; and
2. your actual child care expenses up to these limits: For each child under two, you can deduct your expenses up to \$200 a month; for each child over two, you can deduct up to \$175 a month. You can also deduct up to \$175 a month for the care of an incapacitated adult who lives with you and also gets Medicaid.

Monthly Federal Poverty Levels

Family Size	2	3	4	5	6	7
Poverty Level	\$905	\$1138	\$1371	\$1605	\$1838	\$2071

If you think that you may be eligible for Medicaid because of this change, go to your local office of the Department of Human Services and ask for a Medicaid application.

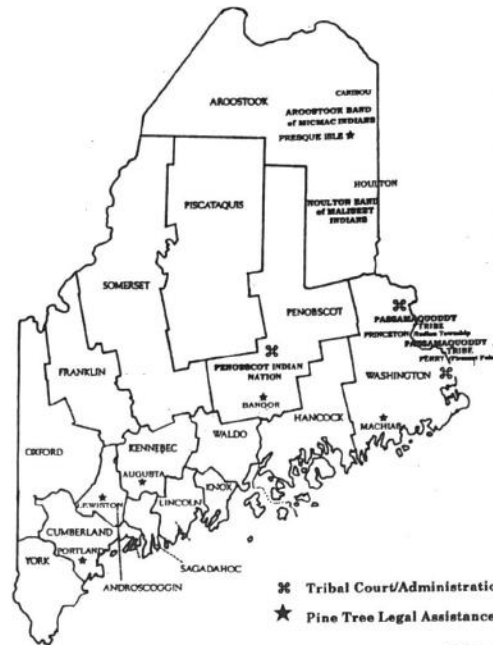
Food stamps and SSI restored to legal immigrants and Canadian-born Native Americans in Maine

The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 hit legal immigrants and Canadian-born Native Americans very hard. Even though those immigrants were here perfectly legally, most were cut off from SSI and food stamps about a year ago. Canadian-born Native Americans were erroneously included in this group. SSI was restored to many families late last summer. Food stamps have not yet been restored, although there is a bill before Congress which would help.

In order to help these families, the Maine Association of Independent Neighborhoods (MAIN) asked Representative Elizabeth Mitchell to sponsor a bill in the Maine Legislature to restore these benefits in Maine. With some changes, the bill passed.

As of July 1, 1998, legal immigrants who are disabled and otherwise eligible for SSI disability benefits are able to get those benefits. Legal immigrants who think they might be eligible should apply at their local DHS office.

As of September 1, 1998, legal immigrants are also eligible for food stamps in Maine. DHS will buy food stamps from the federal government and give them to eligible legal immigrants just as it would to anyone else. The Maine Legislature only funded this program through June 30, 1999. MAIN intends to work with the Legislature to try to convince lawmakers to fund this program permanently.



**PINE TREE
LEGAL
ASSISTANCE**
OFFICE HOURS



City Hall 3d Fl. Conference Room
Lewiston, ME Mon. 1:00-4:00
Phone Intake: 784-1558
Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

OFFICES

39 Green St. Augusta, ME
Phone Intake: 622-4731
Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

61 Main St. Bangor, ME
Phone Intake: 942-8241
Hours: M-F 8:00-3:00

12 Cooper St., Machias, ME
Phone Intake: 255-8656
Hours: T-Th 8:00-4:00

88 Federal Street Portland, ME
Phone Intake: 774-8211
Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

373 Main St. Presque Isle, ME
Phone Intake: 764-4349
Hours: M-F 9:00-12:00

Native American Unit
61 Main Street
Bangor, ME
Intake: M-F 8:00-3:00
(800) 879-7463

Farmworker Unit
61 Main Street
Bangor, ME
Intake: M-F 8:00-3:00
(800) 879-7463

Volunteer Lawyers Project
88 Federal Street
Portland, ME
Phone: 774-4348 or (800) 442-4293

Families who "play by the rules" can continue to get TANF help after five years

If you are now receiving TANF and are worried about the five-year cut-off, you can now breathe a sigh of relief. Under federal law, a state cannot use federal money to help families with an adult who has received federal TANF help for over 60 months in that person's lifetime. However, during the last Maine legislative session, a bill was passed to help. Under the new legislation, families who have followed all the program rules and who still need help after five years can continue to get assistance.

In order to qualify for this safety net, it is important to avoid getting sanctioned and to play by the rules. Many families have gotten a notice of sanction from ASPIRE for missing a meeting, even though the family had good cause to miss the meeting, such as a broken down car or sick family member. Now, it is even more important to tell your ASPIRE worker that you had good cause to miss a meeting and to appeal the decision if the sanction is not lifted.



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

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*The articles in this paper are meant to give information, **NOT** to give legal advice. No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts.*

We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:

Wabanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME 04401. Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.

INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES



CRISIS

(available 24 hours a day)



- Adolescent Crisis Stabilization.....1-800-499-9130
- Adult & Child Abuse/Neglect.....1-800-452-1999
- Domestic Violence: Penobscot.....1-800-863-9909
or 947-0496
- Aroostook.....1-800-439-2323
or 769-8251
- Washington.....1-800-432-7303
or 255-4785
- Mental Health:.....1-800-245-8889
- Poison Control Center:.....1-800-442-6305
- Rape Crisis:.....1-800-310-0000
- Youth Crisis Stabilization:.....1-800-499-9130

HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Federal Fuel Assistance Program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority gives states fuel assistance money to distribute to residents who need help with fuel bills. To find out if you qualify, call your nearest Community Action Agency or the Maine State Housing Authority (1_800-452-4668).

The following Community Action Programs offer emergency fuel assistance (HEAP) in your area:

Aroostook County.....768-3053 or 1-800-585-3053
Washington/Hancock Counties.....1-800-828-7544
Penquis/Bangor.....973-3630

If you can't pay your heating bill, check to see if you can get onto a payment plan. Your electric utility offers special payment plans for low income customers during the winter.

LEGAL SERVICES (Other Than Pine Tree):

Maine Lawyer Referral and Information Service:

For a \$20.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your area for a one half hour consultation or review of your paperwork.

Telephone: 207-622-1460

1-800-860-1460

Tel-Law:

Tel-Law has a number of different recorded messages to answer your basic questions about the law. It operates 24 hours a day. There is no fee other than the fact that it is a toll call outside the Augusta calling area.

Telephone: 207-622-1470

Volunteer Lawyers Project:

If you meet the Pine Tree eligibility requirements, the Volunteer Lawyer's Project can give you legal advice or informational materials for free, or will refer you to a private lawyer who may handle your case without charge. There is a telephone helpline on Wednesday evenings to help you with family law questions.

Telephone: 207-774-4348

1-800-442-4293

Legal Services for the Elderly:

If you are age 60 or over, Legal Services for the Elderly can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

Telephone: 1-800-750-5353

Penquis Law Project:

This group gives legal representation to low and moderate income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in the following kinds of cases: Protection From Abuse, Divorce and Separation, Child Support Enforcement, Alimony, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Wills, and Powers of Attorney. The fee depends on several factors, including your annual income and the complexity of your case.

Telephone: 207-973-3671

University of Maine Student Legal Services:

If you are an undergraduate student at the University, you can get free or reduced cost civil legal services.

Telephone: 207-581-1789

Chief Advocate, Department of Corrections:

The Advocate refers civil cases of inmates of the State correctional system, including the Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Center, to attorneys under contract with the Department of Corrections.

Telephone: 207-287-2711

TDD: 207-287-4472

Patient Advocate, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services:

The Advocate refers civil cases of patients at state mental institutions or clients of the Bureau of Mental Health and Retardation to attorneys under contract with the Bureau.

Telephone: 207-287-4228

TTY: 207-287-1798



Inmate Advocate Office, Department of Corrections:

This office gives paralegal and advocacy services for Maine State Prison inmates.

Telephone: 207-354-2535, ext. 303

SOCIAL SECURITY:.....1-800-772-1213
Bangor Area.....990-4530

DISCRIMINATION:

Housing Discrimination.....1-800-669-9777
Human Rights Commission.....624-6050
ME Civil Liberties Union.....774-5444

CONSUMER RESOURCES:

• Consumer Mediation Service:

The Attorney General's Office gives this service free of charge. If you want to file a consumer complaint against a business call between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. weekdays. Or write to State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333.
Telephone: 626-8849

• Lemon Law Arbitration:

If you buy a car that has serious defects, the Attorney General's Lemon Law Arbitration Program can help you.
Telephone: 626-8848

• Utility Complaints:

The Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission can help you settle problems with any utility in the State.
Telephone: 1-800-452-4699

• Low Income Telephone Service Help:

If you qualify for Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF, SSI or Fuel Assistance, call your local telephone company to see if you qualify for a reduction on your monthly telephone bill.

• Employment/Labor Information:

ME Job Service/Aroostook.....532-9416 or 764-0351
ME Job Service/Penobscot.....561-4600
ME Job Service/ Washington.....454-7551
State Bureau of Labor
(wage or child labor complaints).....624-6410
US Dept. of Labor (Wages and Hours Division).....945-0330

• Housing:

Maine State Housing Authority.....1-800-452-4668
Farmers Home Administration.....947-0335

• Insurance:

Bureau of Insurance.....624-8475

• Mobile Homes:

Manufactured Housing Board.....624-8612
Manufactured Housing Association.....623-2204
(mediation for mobile home residents) or 1-800-698-3335
Maine State Housing Authority.....1-800-452-4668
TDD.....1-800-452-4603

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAPS):

These agencies give information, outreach, job training, educational programs, day care, housing information and referral, fuel/energy assistance, insulation and furnace repair, surplus food, transportation and Emergency Crisis

Intervention Program benefits. Not all services are given by all agencies.

Aroostook County Action Program

800 Central Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
1-800-432-7881 or 764-3721

Penquis Community Action Program

262 Harlow Street,
Bangor, ME 04401
973-3500

Washington-Hancock Community Agency

Maine and Maple Streets
Milbridge, ME 04658
546-7544



TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and AGENCIES

Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians.....764-1972
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.....532-4273
Penobscot Indian Nation.....827-7776
Passamaquoddy Tribe.....796-2301 and 853-2600

PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

Court Administrator (George Tomer).....827-7776
Clerk of Courts (Clara E. Mitchell).....827-5639
Tribal Prosecutor (David Gray).....827-5639
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r (George Tomer).....827-5639
Regular Sessions: First Wednesday of the month.
Special Sessions as needed.

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM

Indian Township Division:
Clerk of Courts (Wanda Doten).....796-2301
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r (John Dana).....796-2301
Pleasant Point Division:
Clerk of Courts/Administrator (Dorothy Barnes).....853-2600
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r (Edward Nicholas).....853-2600
Regular Sessions: One Friday per month at each division. Special Sessions as needed.

OTHER TRIBAL AGENCIES

• Tribal Governors Council.....941-6568
• Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.....622-4815

HEALTH SERVICES

• Penobscot Indian Health Center.....827-6101
• Maliseet Health Center.....532-2240
• Micmac Health Center.....764-6968
• Pleasant Point Health Center.....853-0711
• Indian Township Health Center.....796-2321
• Wabanaki Mental Health Association, NPC.....990-0605
or 990-4346

Web Sites of Interest To Native Americans:

Nipmuc Indian Association
of Connecticut.....<http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/>
Pine Tree Legal
Assistance.....<http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/wabanaki.htm>
Index of Native American Resources on the
Internet.....<http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/>

