BearPaw Media and Education (BearPaw), a department of Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA), believes public legal education is a critical part of individual, community and social healing. BearPaw Media and Education is funded by Alberta Law Foundation.

Some Indigenous people often feel alienated by the criminal and family justice, child welfare and health care systems. NCSA’s history working for Indigenous people within these systems shows that Indigenous worldviews, cultures and traditions can support Indigenous people to better navigate complex systems and make informed and healthier decisions about their lives.

BearPaw strives to produce and distribute free, culturally relevant, public legal education resources created by Indigenous people, for Indigenous people, in Alberta. Our intent is to increase individual understanding and build capacity in creative ways that encourage Indigenous people to self-determine as they navigate through these systems.

BearPaw’s resources include a variety of media so individuals can decide which is best for them including: print materials, videos, workshops, and LibGuides (hardcopy and online) specifically for Indigenous people, organizations working with Indigenous populations, educators, students and researchers engaged in research with Indigenous communities and the general public.

All materials are free to use personally and in classrooms, workshops and programs across Alberta. Materials are available online at bearpaweducation.ca

**RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**VIDEO:** documentary, docu-short, animation, comedy, drama

**PUBLICATIONS:** wallet cards, postcards, full booklets, and pamphlets suitable for Indigenous individuals and communities, service providers and educators.

**PODCASTS:** Available on a range of legal topics.

**WORKSHOPS:** Free and accessible to Indigenous communities in urban and rural areas across Alberta. Each workshop can be tailored to the specific audience and adapted to meet your time requirements, generally

*NOTES ON ORDERING:* All publications are free based on availability. Shipping costs apply. If you are experiencing financial barriers to pay for shipping please contact bearpawlegal@ncsa.ca

**BEARPAW ORDERS CONTACT:**

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NEW! (RE)CLAIMING INDIAN STATUS

Since the passing of Bill S-3 and its amendments, thousands of Indigenous people are now eligible for Indian Status. These resources provide a thorough explanation of Indian Status answering common questions about eligibility, the application process and how to find government records that can assist you with your application. It also provides a historical overview of the Indian Act and sex-based discrimination including government Bills that changed the Indian Act and affected Indian Status registration.

Target audience: Indigenous adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

NEW! OBTAINING IDENTIFICATION AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Obtaining identification and the right to vote resources provide step-by-step guidance on how to get Alberta I.D. (driver’s licenses, Alberta I.D. card), how to legally reclaim your traditional name, how to apply for Indian status and how to vote in federal elections.

Target audience: Indigenous adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.
INDIGENOUS IDENTITY

What does it mean to be Indigenous today? Our resources provide information about the major historical events since European contact and their impacts on Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The publications define identifying terms (Inuit, Métis, and First Nations) and provides a brief overview of inherent and Treaty rights. While Indigenous identity is codified in law, our films Aboriginal Identity and Understanding Aboriginal Identity explore the complex issue of self-identification and the reclamation of cultural identities.

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years) and adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video
Understanding Aboriginal Identity (2014, 21 min, documentary)
Identity (Youth) (2006, 24min, documentary)

Publications
Aboriginal Identity: Terms and Definitions (pamphlet)

Workshop
Indigenous Identity

Podcast
Understanding Aboriginal Identity

CYBER BULLYING

Over the last 20 years, technological advancements have significantly changed the media and how young people relate to each other and engage in conflict. In an effort to reduce and prevent cyber bullying, our cyber bullying resources provide strategies to deter cyber bullying, highlight the long-term effects of bullying and share stories of its impacts on young people.

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years), their parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video
Cyber Bullying (2012, 23 minutes, documentary)

Publication
Click - Stories of Cyber Bullying (comic book)

Workshop
Cyber Bullying

Podcast
Cyber Bullying
YOUTH JUSTICE

Navigating the criminal justice system can be challenging and confusing. Our youth justice resources outline information about basic court concepts and how to navigate the court process (Court report), sentencing options for Indigenous youth (Section 38, Fighting Chance), conferencing (Section 19), and the legal consequences of failing to appear in court, and supports, services, and resources available.

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years), their parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Videos

Court Report (2017, 4 minutes, animation)
Fighting Chance (2011, 12 minutes, animation)

Publications

For youth: Youth Court Tips (postcard)
Muskwa Walleye Chop (comic book)

For service providers and/or educators:
Conferences and Section 19 of the YCJA (booklet)
Alternatives for Aboriginal Offenders Section 38 (booklet)

Workshop

Youth Going to Court

CHILDREN GOING TO COURT

Going to court to testify can be scary for children. Our resources provide information about the basic concepts of court, the court process, and common testimonial aids designed to keep children safe while testifying as a victim or witness.

Target audiences: Video and publication - 4-11 year olds, their parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities. Workshop and digital library – Parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video

Radiant Goes to Court (2017, 5 minutes, animation)

Publication

Radiant Goes to Court (colouring book)

Workshop

Children and Youth Going to Court
IMPAIRED DRIVING

Laws governing impaired driving (alcohol and cannabis) have changed significantly since 2018. Our impaired driving resources highlight important information about police roadside stops, driver rights, legal limits for alcohol and cannabis, penalties including license suspensions, ignition interlock programs and how to get your license back.

**Target audience:** Indigenous people of driving age, especially Indigenous young people (14-24 years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

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DISABILITIES AND THE LAW

The disabilities and the law resources provide information that reveals the myths and realities of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), explain how best to work with people with FASD in the justice system (sentencing, support mechanisms, and facilitating future success), reveal some of daily obstacles facing this community and points to other resources available in the community.

**Target audience:** Parents and/or guardian of a person living with disabilities, criminal justice professionals/service providers, and educators.

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JUST CAUSE – RIGHTS WITH THE POLICE

Just Cause – Rights with the Police resources aim to provide accurate public legal information about legal rights and obligations when interacting with the police.

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years) and adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

IDENTITY THEFT

Being a victim of identity theft can cause frustration and be time consuming. These resources explain how to protect yourself and what to do if you become a victim of identity theft.

Target audience: Indigenous adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

GOING TO COURT – These resources are currently not available as they are under review

Video
• Just Cause - Rights When Interacting with The Police (2011, 13min, comedy)
Publication
• Statement for Police (wallet card)
• What are my Rights when Interacting with the Police (card)
Workshop
• Just Cause – Rights when interacting with the police

Video
• Just Cause 2 – Identity Theft (2011, 6min, comedy)
Workshop
• Identity Theft

Video
• Going to Court (Under review)
Publication
• Going to Court (Under review)
Workshop
• Going to Court (Under review)
BREACH CHARGE

What happens if you disobey a court order? The breach resources explain the importance of following court orders (bail, probation, sentencing) when in the community and the legal consequences of the administration of justice.

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years) and adults (18+ years), parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

GLADUE DECISION AND REPORTS

The Gladue Decision is a landmark 1999 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that decreed judges must take the unique circumstances of Indigenous people into account in sentencing Indigenous people. Our resources provide information about the history and significance of the decision, legal milestones and the importance of upholding the ruling (videos) as well as preparation information for Indigenous people in conflict with the law.

Target audience: Indigenous people in conflict with the law, their families, lawyers, Gladue report writers, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

Indigenous women in Canada are at the highest risk of experiencing violence in their lifetime. Our resources highlight the stories of women who overcame traumatic family (video, podcast), and options to report to the police, hospitals or a sexual assault centre in urban and rural communities. The publication and workshop highlight important information about reporting such as time frames, evidence collection, who one could meet through the reporting process and their roles, and offers suggestions about what to do if you live in an isolated community.

Target audience: Survivors of sexual assault, family member or support person of a survivor, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

Video
The Right to Be Safe (2016, 22 min, documentary)

Publications
Reporting Sexual Assault (pamphlet)
Breaking a Lease & Domestic Violence (wallet card)
Emergency Protection Orders (wallet card)
Peace Bonds or Restraining Orders (wallet card)
No Contact Orders (wallet card)

Workshop
Reporting Sexual Assault

Podcast
The Right to be Safe (Domestic Violence)

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is hidden and poorly understood. Our resources explore patterns of intergenerational trauma, the impacts of elder abuse, and the role of restorative justice in the legal system.

Target audience: Indigenous Elders and their families, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

Video
Hidden: Elder Abuse in Aboriginal Communities
(2011, 13 min, docu-drama)

Publication
Elder Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (booklet)

Workshop
Elder Abuse
PARENTING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Our resources provide user-friendly guides for new parents about legal parental rights and responsibilities and outline the difference between the criminal code understanding of discipline (Section 43 - Spanking law) and traditional Indigenous views of discipline. Our video addresses how traditionally gentle Indigenous child-rearing methods were disrupted by residential schools’ use of corporal punishment.

Target audience: Indigenous parents, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video
Parenting & Discipline (2012, 13 min, documentary)

Publications
Parenting and Discipline (booklet)
Parenting Legal Rights and Responsibilities (booklet)

Workshop
Parenting-Legal Rights & Responsibilities

Podcast
Parenting and Discipline

DIVORCE

Our divorce resources provide public legal information about your legal rights to property (on and off reserve), child custody, child or spousal support orders, and outline the divorce process in family court (self-representation, mediators).

Target audience: Indigenous Adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video
Divorce 101 (2014, 10 min, animation)

Publications
Child and Spousal Support Orders (wallet card)
Parenting and Guardianship Orders (wallet card)

Workshop
Divorce

Podcast
Divorce Options
CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY ENHANCEMENT ACT

A parent or guardian has rights and responsibilities during any involvement of the child welfare system. Our resources aim to help Indigenous parents or guardians understand their rights and responsibilities so they have the knowledge they need to advocate for themselves and their children through the process. Our videos address the traditional role of kinship and grandparents in child rearing (Right to Love), family reunification (A New Hope), cultural connection plans (Raising the Spirit) and more.

Target audience: Indigenous parents and/or guardians, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

Video
Taking Control (Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act) (2010, 20 min, drama)
Making It Home (Foster Child/Biological Parent Rights) (2009, 4-6 min, animation)
The Right to Love (Kinship) (2015, 20min, documentary)
Raising the Spirit (Cultural Connection Plans) (2015, 7 min, animation)
A New Hope (Appeals and family reunification) (2015, 7 min, animation)

Publications
Taking Control (brochure)
Child Apprehension: What You Need to Know (wallet card)

Workshop
The A-B-C’s of Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act

Podcast
Applying to terminate a Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO)
KINSHIP, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Our kinship and foster care resources aim to provide information about the legal process of becoming a kinship or foster care home, reunification with a biological family, and how to make a cultural connections plan for foster, kinship or adoptive homes who have an Indigenous child in their care.

**Target audience:** Indigenous people who have been in kinship or foster care, Indigenous families, and support workers, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

### Video

- **Making It Home** (Kinship/Foster Care) (2009, 4 min, animation)
- **The Right to Love** (Kinship) (2015, 20 min, documentary)
- **Raising the Spirit** (Cultural Connection Plans) (2015, 7 min, animation)

### Publications

- **Every child Deserves a Family** (brochure)
- **How to Find Your Biological Family** (brochure)

### Workshop

- **Kinship and Foster Care**
- **How to Find Your Biological Family**

### Podcast

- **Kinship Care**
- **Foster Care**

MONEY MATTERS

Our money matters resources highlight public legal information on the laws that apply to payday loans in Alberta, including those that protect the consumer. They also address the potential consequences of an unpaid payday loan including consumer rights when dealing with debt collection. These resources are intended to help learn how to deal with debt, deferred payment plans and the cost, repayment, credit counselling and bankruptcy.

**Target audience:** Adults (18+), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

### Video

- **Just Cause 3 – Money Matters** (2016, 19 min, comedy)

### Publication

- **PayDay Loans** (booklet)
- **Deferred Payments** (booklet)

### Workshop

- **Money Matters**
HUNTING AND FISHING

For Indigenous people, the traditional right to hunt is an important part of family and community tradition and identity. Today, Canadian law requires that anyone in possession of a non-restricted firearm needs to have a Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL). Our resources explore Firearms Licensing for Adults and Minors, how both Indigenous Natural Law and Canadian Law can walk side by side in the name of safety (Hunting Firearms) and the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous people and Alberta Fish and Wildlife (Common Ground).

Video

Common Ground (2015, 12 min, docu-drama)
Hunting Firearms (2018, 16 min, docudrama)

Workshop

Indigenous Hunting, Fishing & Trapping

NATURAL LAW

Indigenous natural law has existed for thousands of years. Our natural law resources highlight an understanding of traditional Indigenous worldviews and offer ways to consider incorporating that knowledge into contemporary society.

Video

Wahkohtowin (2019, 29 min, documentary)
Environmental Law (2007, 17 min, documentary)

Target audience: Indigenous adults (18+ years) and youth (12-18 years) who hunt, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

Target audience: Indigenous youth (12-18 years) and adults (18+ years), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities

Publication

Muskwa: Fearless Defender of Natural Law (comic book)
EMPLEYMENT RIGHTS

Our employment rights resources aim to demystify basic employee and employer rights and responsibilities in the workplace. They also provide overviews of some Alberta labour laws including taxes for First Nations people, workplace harassment, the rules of being “let go”, and what you can do if you experience racism in the workplace.

**Video**
Moving Forward: Employment Rights in the Workplace
(2013, 17 min, documentary)

**Workshop**
Employment Rights

**Podcast**
Employment Rights

LANDLORD AND TENANT RIGHTS

Our landlord and tenant rights resources highlight the legal rights and responsibilities of tenants and expectations of landlords upon moving in and while in residence, moving out of rental properties and the steps to take to break a lease when leaving domestic violence situations in Alberta.

**Video**
Just Cause 2-Tenant Rights (2014, 6 min, comedy)

**Publications**
Moving In: Renter Rights and Responsibilities (pamphlet)
Breaking a Lease & Domestic Violence (wallet card)

**Workshop**
Landlord and Tenant Rights

FINES

In Alberta, unpaid tickets can block individuals from accessing services at Alberta Registries. Our resources outline what you need to do if you need fine reductions, payment plans, and other options.

**Publication**
Fines: What You Need to Know (wallet card)
Unpaid Tickets (poster)
By-Law Tickets in Alberta (wallet card)

**Workshop**
Traffic Violations & Bill 9 – A Guide To Driving Offences

**Target audience:** Indigenous people entering the workforce, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

**Target audience:** Indigenous people who rent or are seek accommodations, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

**Target Audience:** Indigenous adults (18+), service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.
EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The law gives parents the right to make decisions about their child’s education. Our school resources provide public legal information about learning disabilities in schools (assessment process, development of an Individualized Program Plan, and how to work with the school’s recommendations for the child) and Alberta’s School Act (suspensions and expulsions, how to advocate for your child, and your rights and responsibilities through the process).

**Target audience:** Parents and/or guardians of Indigenous children and youth in Alberta schools, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

**Videos**
- Suspensions and Expulsions in School (2017, 5 minutes, animation)
- Learning Disabilities in School (2017, 8 min, animation)

**Publication**
- Suspensions and Expulsions in School (wallet card)

OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES THAT IMPACT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

BearPaw Legal Education also offers resources on social issues such as lateral violence, the criminalization of HIV in Canada, residential school and historic trauma and human rights.

**Target audience:** Indigenous adults, service providers and educators working with Indigenous communities.

**Video**
- Lateral Violence (2006, 20 min, docu-drama)
- The Criminalization of HIV in Canada (2013, 32 min, documentary)

**Podcast**
- The Criminalization of HIV

To download resources, book workshops or for orders using a credit card to pay for shipping, please go to: bearpaweducation.ca

Find us on social media apps

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Fax/Phone: 780-451-4002
E-mail: bearpawlegal@ncsa.ca

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