



**Laurie Sherry-Kirk C. Med., M.A. SJES
Indigenous Dispute Resolution Practitioner**

Greetings, I am Mohawk from Six Nations Grand River Territory and Anishinaawbe. I have been actively involved in dispute resolution since completing the collaborative professional alternative dispute resolution and family mediation program offered by Brock and York University (Atkinson College) in 1999. With over 20 years of experience and training in workplace mediation, family mediation and Indigenous dispute resolution, I also hold a Chartered Mediator designation with the ADR Institute of Canada and received certification as a Gladue report writer from the British Columbia Justice Institute in 2014. To expand my knowledge base I completed a Master's degree in Social Justice and Equity Studies in 2014 and I am now currently completing a PhD in Social Work at McMaster University. My work at the university seeks to highlight the healing potential that Indigenous approaches to dispute resolution has for facilitating culturally responsive healing pathways for Indigenous people who are involved with the child welfare system.

In practice as an Indigenous dispute resolution circle facilitator, I consider it a privilege and honour to put into practice the traditional teachings and ceremonial practices that have been gifted to me by my Anishinaawbe and Onkwehonwe teachers. It is so rewarding to see how actively making use of traditional healing and ceremonial practices can be helpful for coordinate a culturally responsive approach for helping First Nations kids grow-up in their own families and communities.

Noongwo g' miigwechweyaannaa GizheManido minik miinigwezii' anan miinwaa maanagooing (Today we give thanks to the Creator for our good fortune and what we have been given). Niá:wen