

Sandy Lake First Nation Video Conferencing Pilot Project

Sandy Lake First Nation has been selected to initiate a unique pilot project that will increase its community's access to justice through the use of video conferencing.

What is video conferencing?

Video conferencing involves conducting a meeting between two or more participants at different locations. It uses special equipment, phone services and computer networks to transmit audio and video so that conference participants may communicate with each other. You are able to see, hear and carry on a meeting as if you were in the same room. The reality is that everyone is in separate locations.

Who can use video conferencing?

Sandy Lake First Nation community members can use the video conferencing equipment. It can be used to:

- meet with your lawyer to discuss your case before court;
- to meet with your probation officer regularly;
- to meet with the crown for trial preparation; and/or
- to meet with a Support Worker from the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

As well, video conferencing can be accessed by justice service providers within the Kenora area to the people of Sandy Lake for a variety of pre-trial and other out-of-court issues. Service providers include Crowns, police, probation officers, and victim support workers. Examples of service provider's use:

- Probation providing supervision to client offenders in Sandy Lake;
- Trial preparation to victims and other witnesses in Sandy Lake;
- Safety planning for victims in Sandy Lake; and
- Defence counsel/client meetings.

During this pilot project video conferencing will mainly be held between Sandy Lake First Nation community members and justice service providers in Kenora, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout.

Why video conferencing?

The intent of video conferencing is **not to replace existing face to face service where it is already happening**, but rather to enhance or complement it through increased justice-related video conferencing access into the community.

Other examples of when video conferencing can be used are:

- bad weather prohibits you from flying out of the community or your justice service provider from flying into the community;
- you have responsibilities at home that prohibit you from leaving the community, ex. Child care; elder care, etc...
- you are ill or are looking after someone who is ill.

Where/How do I access the video conferencing equipment?

The Justice video conferencing equipment is located at the Sandy Lake First Nation Band office. A private video conferencing suite has been set up for the community's private use.

If you have any questions, are interested in seeing a demonstration, would like more information about this service or would like to schedule a video conference with a justice service provider, please contact Tammy Fiddler, Remote Justice Support Worker at:

Telephone: 1-807-774-3421 or 1-807-774-5121
Or by Email: sandyrjw@knet.ca.

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