



Ontario Native Women's Association

ONWA Gladue Program Information

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Program Description

ONWA's Gladue Program includes Gladue writing and Gladue Aftercare, both of which are available to Indigenous and female-identifying adults and youth navigating the criminal justice system.

Currently, ONWA's Gladue Program is available in the following jurisdictions:

Ottawa Area:

- Ottawa
- Napanee
- Pembroke
- Cornwall

Hamilton/Brantford Area:

- Hamilton
- Brantford
- Cayuga

ONWA's Gladue Program is also being offered and/or has been offered to individuals in the following jurisdictions:

- Montreal (virtual Aftercare)
- Simcoe (Gladue writing)
- Fort Frances (Gladue writing)
- Kenora (Gladue writing)

Gladue Aftercare provides the community member individual one-on-one and long-term support and case management while navigating the criminal justice system. Aftercare can be assigned as



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early as the time of arrest and can continue up to one full year post-resolution of the criminal matter.

Gladue Writing provides various versions of Gladue letters and reports to Indigenous females with criminal matters. All Gladue Writing seeks to tell the individual's story and provide the Court with individual and culturally appropriate sentencing options or bail release plans.

Gladue Writing

ONWA's Gladue writing is done by Gladue Writers who are trained through Dr. Jane Dickson's Gladue Writing program. All Gladue Writing is formally accepted through a "Letter of Intent to Write" which is written and submitted to requesting counsel via email, and a formal assigning of Gladue file to the assigned Gladue Writer and Aftercare worker.

All Gladue Writing is reviewed by the Justice Coordinator throughout the writing process and must follow the guidelines detailed in the "Gladue Writing Guidelines", follow the McGill Guide, follow the "Gladue Writing Template", and be on ONWA letterhead.

All Gladue Writing interviews are recorded and transcribed. No Gladue Writing interview shall take place before all consents, policies, and waivers are explained and signed by the interviewee. The current list of documents to be signed is as follows:

- Confidentiality Waiver
- General Consent to Gladue Interview
- Gladue Program Acknowledgment of Responsibility and Release of Liability Waiver
- Interviewee's Understanding of ONWA Policies
- Limited Release of Information
- Confidentiality Waiver for Bail

Currently, the following Gladue Writing is available:

Bail Letters

Bail letters are centred on a plan of care for Indigenous-accused women and girls. Bail letters are the shortest Gladue writing, spanning a few pages and taking 3 to 5 business days to complete. Questions asked during Bail Letter interviews surround support for the community member, where they will be staying, information regarding jobs, school, family, and programming available to support the individual upon release on bail. Bail Letters must have the "Bail Letter Appendix" attached to the document.



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Gladue Letters

Gladue Letters are requested at the finding or pleading of guilt when the Crown is asking for less than 90 days of jail time. They are very similar to Gladue Reports, however, are slightly shorter in length and depth. They focus on the community member's life, spanning from childhood to the current day, and include sentencing recommendations for the Court's consideration. Gladue Letters take approximately 4 to 5 weeks to prepare.

Modified Gladue Letters

Modified Gladue Letters can come at any point prior to the finding or pleading of guilt, as requested by defense counsel and agreed to by the Crown. Typically, these letters are written for the purpose of Crown-Defense negotiations when a proper IPC is not available. These letters include everything of a Gladue Letter and Report, except do not include any recommendations for sentencing considerations as the individual is innocent until proven guilty. Depending on the circumstances of the Modified Letter, there can be a timeline between 5 to 8 weeks. The Gladue Letter interview guideline is followed for these letters.

Gladue Reports

The most traditional piece of Gladue writing, and the longest/most in-depth, are Gladue Reports. These reports are requested at the finding or pleading of guilt when the Crown is asking for 90 days of jail time or more, or when a full report is more beneficial to the individual over a Gladue Letter. Reports take an 8-week timeline and are the most intensive interviewing, writing, and editing/reviewing process.

Status Update Letters

Status Update Letters are short pieces of writing that update the Court on all happenings in the individual's life between the time of Report/Letter submission to the Court, and the sentencing appearance. Status Updates only occur when the time between submission to Court and sentencing is more than 4 weeks. Status Update Letters typically only require one short interview between the Gladue Writer and community member and can be drafted on letterhead within a page or two. They can include updates to the recommendations as well, should they be required.

All Gladue Request forms must be emailed to Gladue email at gladue@onwa.ca



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Current Program Contacts

Justice Portfolio Manager: vacant (Mandy Tait-Martens temporarily mtaitmartens@onwa.ca)

Justice Coordinator: Shelbi Jonathan sjonathan@onwa.ca or gladue@onwa.ca

External Reviewer: Veronica Guido veronicaguido@gmail.com

Ottawa Gladue Writer: Sarah Agius sagius@onwa.ca

Ottawa Gladue Aftercare: (vacant)

Hamilton/Brantford Gladue Writer: Angela Nagy anagy@onwa.ca

Hamilton/Brantford/Ottawa Gladue Writer: (vacant)

Hamilton/Brantford Gladue Aftercare: Trish Patrick tpatrick@onwa.ca



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