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**Support For Designation**

We recently met with Ontario NDP leader and MPP Howard Hampton and Liberal party MP Roger Valley to discuss the designation process and gain their support. We have also received the support of five community leaders and Ogichidaa Gardner of Grand Council Treaty #3. And we have secured a number of resolutions to help our designation efforts.

The process for an agency to become a designated child welfare authority, through the provincial government is a two-phase process. Phase one consists of a documentation review by a review team organized by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Documentation was delivered to them and this process began in November 2004. Phase two consists of on-site interviews with staff, Board and community stakeholders. Both reviews will present recommendations, which will be addressed before designation can be considered.

**Wabaseemoong Independent Nation**

**January 25, 2005**

Approximately 300 community members gathered together with staff members to celebrate the official opening of the newly constructed sub-office. The new building has room to offer other community based programs and is a welcomed addition to the community landscape.

**Agency Training  
Schedule**

**Feb. 14**

Legal Services and Serious Occurrences in Rat Portage.

**Feb. 15**

On Call in Wabaseemoong

**Feb. 16**

Legal Services and serious Occurrences in Wabaseemoong

**Feb 21 – 25**

Prevention worker training

**March 21 – 24**

Prevention Worker training

**March 29 – 31**

Prevention Worker Training Concludes

**SPRING CEREMONIES**

Spring ceremonies for the agency this year will be held in Grassy Narrows First Nation on June 7 & 8. A Pow Wow will follow the summer ceremonies in July. Please contact us if you can assist in organizing these events.

*“Our Mission is to protect children and to heal and strengthen families through the provision of holistic, bi-cultural services that respect our Anishinaabe heritage, and that honours the values, customs and traditions of our people.”*

Aboriginal Child and Family Services has been honoured with a Grandmother drum, a staff and a Sacred Song. Visit our Website and check it out!

### **Bachelor of Social Work Program in Kenora**

The agency is negotiating with Laurentian University, through Seven Generations Education Institute, for an Honours Bachelor of Social Work program to be offered in Kenora.

This program would begin in September 2005 and be considered part-time. The courses would be delivered one or two weekends per month, from Friday evening to Sunday. A three-hour session is equivalent to two weeks on campus and each session would cover over two months of content on campus. The pace is quick and the assignments are regular.

The agency is happy to have received over twenty applicants from present staff. Contact Rozanna Redsky at the agency for further information.

### ***Kenora Chosen to Pilot new Prevention Worker Training Curriculum***

Our agency trainer has been delivering new curriculum endorsed by the Native Association of Children's Aid Societies of Ontario since January. The new curriculum consists of 16 modules, delivered in 5 clusters and the workers will receive certification upon completion.

### **Prevention Program Update**

- The agency has signed Service Agreements with nine of fourteen First Nations to enable the prevention program to continue in their community.
- On January 14, 2005, Doreen Parmeter was appointed to the position of Acting Direct of Prevention Services. This position will provide supervision and mentoring on cases and service provision. Contact Doreen at the Wauzhushk Onigum based office at 548-4971.
- The consultation process continues with Valdie Seymour and Associates.