

Featured Programs

Office for the
Aging In-Home
Services

Indian Child
Welfare Act
(ICWA)

Technical
Support

Early
Intervention
Services

Kawennì:ios



K-9 Graduates



Good Words of Welcome



Shé:kon Sewa:kwékon,

Winter is now upon us, the cold weather is here, and I am hopeful that everyone had a great holiday season doing the most important thing, spending time with your families.

It is my honor to update our community on several key highlights of 2013:

- In August, I represented the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on a panel at the Saratoga Institute on Racing and Gaming Law conference. I spoke about the benefits of Tribal gaming to the North Country, and was able to educate the audience about the economic impact of our gaming operations in our region and our Tribe's operations.
- Tribal Council has reinvested in Federal lobbying, a valuable initiative. We engaged a federal lobbyist in Washington, DC (who is a member of the Onondaga nation), and have made two trips to meet with Congressional and Senate representatives. Two more rounds are scheduled in January. Our current strategy is to "make friends" with them, attend strategically identified fundraisers, set up direct meetings with representatives and/or staff, make them aware of our issues, and when we have made an impact we will be in position to directly ask for what we need.

» We have met directly with NY representatives such as Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's staff and Congressman Bill Owens and his staff.

- We have also attended fundraisers for Congressman Owens
- Fundraiser for Alison Lundergan-Grimes who is running for Senator in Kentucky which was hosted by Senator Martin Heinrich
- Fundraiser for Representative Raul Ruiz of California
- Fundraiser for Senator Bruce Braley of Iowa
- Fundraiser for Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy
- Fundraiser for Congressman Joe Garcia
- As has been updated at several community meetings, negotiations in the land claim settlement are on-going, and I can honestly say that I see a final settlement in the near future. This will benefit all *Akwesasbró:non*, as we will have the ability to reclaim land for Akwesasne from willing sellers. This will increase our land base, protecting our land for all future generations. As we have all stated "Land is more important than money". This is how we will reclaim land.

I also thank our community for coming out to vote on December 3rd at the Salmon River Central School Board of Education election. We were able to reclaim a seat on the Board of Education, and get one step closer to adequate representation for our students. Looking forward to May 2014, we will have the opportunity to re-elect Sheila Marshall, which will protect one of the two seats we currently have. We also have the opportunity to put two more Mohawks on the Board of Education, as the May 2014 election will have three seats open. We have slowly built positive community momentum for the Salmon River Board of Ed elections, our community needs to keep it building and growing, and win all three seats. Our students deserve that. Even if you do not have children in the school district, you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, or know children in the school district. They deserve adequate representation and they deserve your vote.

I was also honored to represent Akwesasne and our Code talkers at the Congressional Code Talkers Recognition Ceremony in Washington DC in November. It was a powerful ceremony, and a true honor to be there. We will now have the actual medal design produced, and we will be having a ceremony here in Akwesasne recognizing our Mohawk Code Talkers. Each Tribe received a gold medal (which will be going to the American Legion), and each Code Talker or their family will be individually receiving a silver medal. This will be a great day for Akwesasne.



Lastly, I thank our retiring Health Services Director, Deborah Martin, for her years of service to Akwesasne. We would not be as advanced as we are without her guidance and leadership. *Niawen:kówa* Debbie!

Michael Connors, Sub-Chief

On the Cover:

Police Commissioner Andy Cook, Chief of Police Andrew Thomas and K-9 Officer Taylor Smoke at the New York State Police K-9 Academy Graduation Ceremony held on December 17, 2013. K-9 Beny-Ward's Training Includes Searches and Scent Detection.

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In-Home Services

Tsi' Tetewatakens Office for the Aging Program Feature

By Doris A. Burns, RN / Case Manager

Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP)

Program Snapshot

Funded by New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) enables many frail older adults to remain in their homes. The program provides in-home care and other supportive services designed to supplement family care.

The goal of EISEP is to provide in-home services and support to older adults who have functional impairments in their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs). These in-home supports could include: housecleaning, cooking, shopping, dressing, bathing, or assistance with transferring in/out of bed/chair.

The program helps friends and family members care for an older person at home. It can also provide respite care to support the caregivers by giving them a break from caregiving.

Core Services Provided under EISEP

- Case Management
 - » Doris Burns, RN/ Case Manager helps older persons and their families assess their needs and develop an appropriate plan of care
 - » arrange care that is needed
 - » monitor that it is provided
 - » re-check at least annually for any changes needed

- In-home Services -- Consisting of Personal Care Level I (PCW I) and Personal Care Level II (PCW II)

- » PCW I provides assistance with IADLs such as housecleaning, cooking and shopping.
- » PCW II provides assistance with both IADLs and ADLs such as dressing, bathing, transferring in and out of a bed or chair. We have provided 4,000 hours of care in our program year through North Country Home Services.

- Respite care

» provide a few hours of care to give the primary caregiver a break from the stresses and strains associated with caregiving allowing them time to take care of themselves

- Other Services

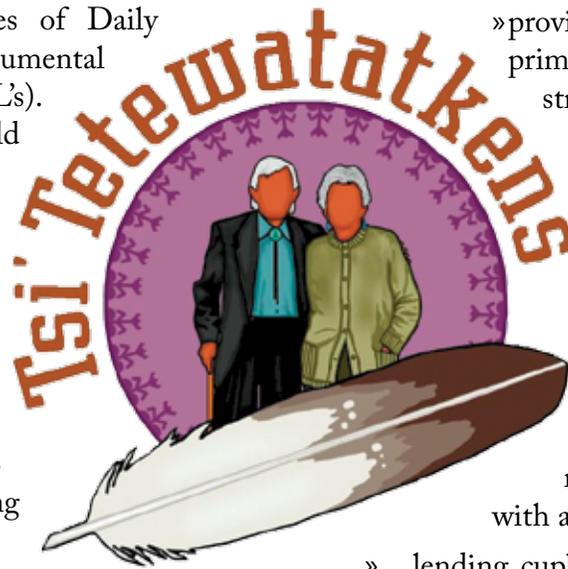
» non-medical services, items/goods and other supports to maintain or promote an individual's independence. This assistance helps an individual remain safely in the community with an acceptable quality of life.

- » lending cupboard with items like wheelchairs, shower chair and other items.
- » service to maintain, repair or modify an individual's home so that it is a safe and adequate living environment.

EISEP Eligibility

To be eligible for the program a person must be:

- At least 60 years old, and impaired in an ADL such as eating, dressing, bathing or toileting, or in two IADLs such as meal preparation, housekeeping or shopping



- In need of assistance and able to be maintained safely at home
- Not be a Medicaid recipient. The person who appears to be eligible for Medicaid must be willing to apply for Medicaid. EISEP can only serve this person temporarily while the Medicaid application is being processed.
- transportation services such as the bus pick up to the center and trips
- case management help with Medicare / Medicaid and other programs
- home delivered meals for homebound seniors and their caregivers
- housing-related programs where handyman, Andrew Person, makes minor household repairs
- Lifeline - personal emergency response systems (PERS). We currently have 30 seniors using this service
- Health promotion programs put on by Tewentahawih'tha'(Wente) Cole and Chanel Cook

Community Services for the Elderly (CSE)

The Community Services for the Elderly program provides community-based, supportive services to frail, low-income elderly who need assistance to maintain their independence at home.



Seniors Center Staff (L-R): Doris Burns, Doris Thomas, Kallen Martin, Leona Thompson, LoraLee LaFrance, Cynthia Sawatis, Tewentahawih'tha' Cole and Chanel Cook.

Goals and Objectives:

- Reduce nursing home placement and enable our seniors to remain in their homes promoting participation in family and community life
- Enable access to information and assistance to sign up for programs
- Support caregivers who care for their elderly family members

The range of community services include, but are not limited to:

- Home Care Worker, Cynthia Sawatis, provides in-home services. She currently serves nine people each week

Eligibility

- Must be 60 or older. Program focuses on individuals who are disabled, those living alone and those over 75 years of age;
- Those who receive home delivered meals, homemaker/personal care, house-keeper/chore services and must be assessed and in need of these community-based long term care services.

Contact

Contact the Office for the Aging at 518-358-2963 for more information on this program or any of the other services offered. ♦

Monthly Tribal Meeting

Tsiothóhrha/December 7, 2013
Chaired by Chief Beverly Cook

Agenda

1. Welcome - Chairperson
 - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. MOU with Veterans Association
 - Retha Herne
3. Fish Consumption Advisory
 - Tony David
4. Broadband Quarterly Update
 - Jason Hall
5. Land Claims Update
 - Michele Mitchell
6. Report on Federal Lobbying Activities
 - Sub-Chiefs Connors and Thompson
7. New Business
8. Reading of Action Items
 - Tribal Clerk
9. Adjournment

Action Items from October Meeting

1. Look into having our own Tribal motor vehicle department.
2. Provide a presentation/update on a traffic light at Cook Rd/Route 37.

Follow-up on Action Items from November Meeting

1. Information on how the agenda is set and how the time and length of the monthly meeting is determined.

In accordance with the Tribal Procedures Act Sections VII. A. 6., the Chief who is chairing the meeting shall decide upon the final agenda for the meeting. Furthermore, Section VII. A. 5. states that if a Member wants to have an item on the Agenda s/he must call the Council's office no later than close of business on the Monday before the scheduled meeting. Lastly, Section VII. B. 1. states that Monthly Tribal Meetings will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn no later than 1:00 p.m.

2. Why does the AMC have both a NYS & SRMT liquor license and not just a SRMT liquor license?

Under federal law, it is a requirement to sell alcohol on any Indian reservation throughout the country that the seller comply with both State and Tribal alcoholic beverage laws. In addition, in order for a Tribal Alcoholic Beverage Law to be considered valid, it must be sent to the Department of Interior and published in the Federal Register. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has had an alcoholic beverage control law on the books since 1993. The Ordinance was submitted to the Department of Interior for publication and was published and in effect as of June 17, 1994. The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino has obtained both licenses since first authorized to sell alcohol by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council in 1999.

3. Does the SRMT have an Eminent Domain Law?
The Tribe does not have an Eminent Domain Law,

however the Tribal Procedures Act states in Section IV. C. 8. that the three (3) Chiefs shall exercise all legislative and executive powers of the Tribe including to regulate the use and disposition of all land within the jurisdiction of the Tribe, including but not limited to, the enactment of ordinances providing for the manner of making, holding and revoking assignments of tribal lands or interest therein. Furthermore, the Tribe has exercised Eminent Domain in the past.

4. Issue a press release on the SRMT's stand on the Michigan vs. Bay Mills Indian Community.

Tribal Council issued a letter to the Executive Council of the Bay Mills Indian Community requesting that they issue an immediate and limited waiver of its sovereign immunity. Chief LaFrance attended the Supreme Court hearings and will provide a brief verbal update of the proceedings.

5. Presentation on the MBP building and parking lot (will it be used for anything?).

A structural, HVAC and environmental analysis report of the building has been recently completed. Once this report has been reviewed by Administration and Tribal Council, options will then be developed. Once further information is available it will be reported.

6. An update on the Ethics Commission board.

Currently the Ethics Commission has submitted extensive proposed amendments to Tribal Council for review and comments. Once the Ethics Commission and Tribal Council agree on the final proposed amendments, pursuant to the Tribal Procedures Act, community notice and a comment period (and referendum if necessary) will then be scheduled.

7. Information on the 1099 form.

1099 forms are not provided to individuals or companies who provide goods to the Tribe. A

review of tribal records indicate the supplier(s) of wood products have not received 1099 forms in the past.

8. Does SRMT Council have legal authority to rescind land deeds in accordance with TCR 2009-69?

Yes, in addition to the Tribal Procedures Act which states that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Council regulates the use and disposition of all land within the jurisdiction of the Tribe, the Land Dispute Resolution Ordinance, TCR 2011-19 (which replaced and superseded TCR 2009-69), Section IV. F, states that the Tribal Council reserves the right to correct or amend deeds due to error.

**PUBLIC NOTICE of
Final Action to Adopt the
CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**Issued by the Tribal Clerk of the Saint Regis
Mohawk Tribe**

December 18, 2013

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, working in conjunction with the Judicial Oversight Commission, and pursuant to the Tribal Procedures Act puts forth the attached Code of Judicial Conduct. The Code of Judicial Conduct sets forth standards of conduct binding on all of the judges of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court and is required by the Judicial Oversight Commission Ordinance (TCR 2011-44), which provides an independent forum to provide oversight of Tribal Court Judges.

The Ordinance has been presented at three public meetings, on October 23, 2013, November 6, 2013 and at the monthly public meeting on November 9, 2013. In addition, a public comment was received by the legal department. This comment requested clarification, which has been incorporated into this final draft.

Final Action to adopt the Code of Judicial Conduct shall be taken at the Tribal Council Work Session scheduled for January 21, 2014. ♦

Calendar

Tsiotbohrokó:wa / January 2014

- 1 - **New Year's Day** - Tribal offices, Health Services and Transfer Station closed
 - 4 - **Tribal Monthly Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building Lobby
 - 13 - **Social Security Administration** - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
 - 16 - **Broadband Providers Meeting** - 5:00 p.m. - Community Building Lobby
 - 20 - **Martin Luther King, Jr Day** - Tribal offices, Health Services and Transfer Station closed
- Tuesdays - Tribal Council Work Sessions - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council Boardroom

New Faces

Louise M. David	Habilitation Aide	Family Support
Amanda J. Lord	Habilitation Aide	Family Support
Steevi I. King	Health Promotion Mentor	Health Services - Lets Get Healthy
Verda M. Lyons	Registered Nurse	Health Services - Medical Clinic
Jamie A. Snyder	Cooks Helper	Early Childhood Development Program
Olivia J. Cook	Prevention Educator	Health Services - Alcohol Education
Donna M. Bishop	Registered Health Info Tech	Health Services - Business Office
Ryan Decilles	Pharmacy Clerk	Health Services - Pharmacy
Jeremiah M. Lazore	Custodian	Maintenance
Matthew Phillips	Custodian	Maintenance
Charles D. Tarbell	Custodian	Maintenance
Jordan R. Rourke	Technician	Broadband
Everett P. Cook	Traditional Healer Liaison	Health Services - Mental Health

Donations

Community Events - \$1,000

Funeral Assistance - \$4,000

Jobs

- Health Services Director** - Health Services
- Nurse Practitioner** - Health Services
- Business Office Clerk** - Health Services

Current tribal job postings at www.srmt-nsn.gov
 Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort positions are posted at www.mohawkcasino.com
 Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at www.myaerc.org

K-9 Police Academy Graduates

Officer Taylor Smoke and Beny-Ward Join Tribal Police

News Release

Congratulations to Officer Taylor Smoke and his K-9 partner, Beny-Ward, on their graduation from the New York State Police K-9 Academy on December 17, 2013. Early in 2013, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police received a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a K-9 response unit for Akwesasne. K-9 Beny-Ward, a German Shepherd from Slovakia, is the newest addition to the Tribal Police family, serving as a dual purpose K-9 patrol dog. In the twenty-week New York State Police K-9 training academy, held in Cooperstown, NY, the K-9 Team underwent a strenuous program including obedience, agility, narcotics detection, veterinary first-aid, helicopter orientation and land navigation training. Along with this training, K-9 Beny-Ward is also certified in tracking and building and area searches, with the ability to help Officers locate a suspect or even find a lost child or Alzheimer's patient.

A core component of training includes handler protection (backup) for Officer Smoke and any other officer in need of assistance. Chief of Police, Andy Thomas proudly attended the graduation and shared, "I had a chance to speak with one of the Canine Handler Instructors who stated he was very pleased with Taylor and Beny-Ward's performance. Beny-Ward is one of the top canines ever trained at the Academy. The Superintendent commented on Taylor and Beny-Ward's first day on the job since graduating

which resulted in a 28 lb marijuana seizure. I'm so proud of our K-9 Unit."

K-9 Beny-Ward is considered a dual purpose Police K-9, as his training includes both police patrol work and scent detection. His namesake comes from Lucy Ward, the beloved Business Manager of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police who lost her battle with cancer in August of 2010. Officer Smoke, a four-year member of the Tribal Police stated, "Lucy was respected and loved by everyone in our department; we undoubtedly found it fitting to name our K-9 'Beny-Ward' to honor a lost member of our police family. It is my hope, by doing so, we will honor Lucy and her family by showing how much she meant to our police agency."

Officer Smoke says Beny-Ward is trained to be "on duty" at work, but his demeanor quickly shifts to reflect his family life at home. He's gentle, well-mannered and very affectionate toward his family, especially Zoe, Taylor and Chloe's one-year old daughter.



Proud Parents of Taylor, Diane and Doug Smoke Attended Ceremony

While police work is one of the K-9 Team's main duties, they are also available upon request to educate the public with demonstrations and presentations to any program or classroom interested in meeting Beny-Ward. Officer Smoke "wants the community to have access to Beny-Ward and to interact with him as much as possible. After all, he is our community's K-9." ◇

Technical Support

Tribal Administration Program Feature

By Alice Herne, Tech Support Supervisor

The overall mission of Technical Support Office is to provide support to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe staff in the area of Information Systems. The Technical Support Office is part of the indirect pool and has a staff of three; Supervisor, Tech Support Specialist and Network Security Specialist.

The big exciting change to the SRMT information systems and the community is the completion of the fiber optic network built by the Broadband Initiative. The Tribe's departments and programs use the internet and email services to access, send and receive information. The fiber network will increase the speed dramatically. The internet has a wealth of information however, in the digital world, there are many sites and individuals who use the internet to steal information for personal gain or to disrupt the flow information.

Below are some tips to protect your personal information and computers.

Password Tips

- Use cryptic passwords that can't be easily guessed and protect your passwords.
- Don't share your passwords and avoid writing them down.
- Characteristics of good, cryptic passwords:
 - » Contain a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols.
 - » Minimum of 8 characters in length.
 - » Difficult to guess (e.g. don't include real words or personal information like user name, names of family members, places, pets, birthdays, addresses, hobbies, etc.).
 - » Make them easy to remember so you don't have to write them down.

Internet Protection / Awareness

- Don't respond to email, instant messages (IM),

texts, phone calls, etc., asking you for your password. You should never disclose your password to anyone.

- Malicious links can infect your computer or take you to web pages designed to steal your information. Only click on links from trusted sources. Never click on a mystery link unless you have a way to independently verify that it is safe.
- Malicious attachments can infect your computer. Don't open unsolicited or unexpected attachments. If you can't verify an attachment is legitimate, delete it.
- Don't give private information to anyone you don't know or who doesn't have a legitimate need for it -- in person, over the phone, via e-mail, IM, text, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Protect information when using the internet and email.
- Don't log in to web sites or online applications unless the login page is secure. Don't enter personal or sensitive information online unless you are using a trusted, secure web page.

Security Tips

- Look for https (not http) in the URL to indicate that there is a secure connection.
- Be especially careful about what you do over wireless. Information and passwords sent via standard, unencrypted wireless are especially easy for hackers to intercept. **Most public access wireless is unencrypted.**
- Set laptops and mobile devices to "ask" before joining networks so you don't unknowingly connect to insecure wireless networks.
- Be extremely careful with file sharing software. File sharing opens your computer to the risk of malicious files and attackers.
- Secure laptop computers and mobile devices at all times

- Lock them up or carry them with you at all times. Remember: Phones and laptops get stolen from cars, houses and offices all the time.
- Shut down, lock, log off or put your computer and other devices to sleep before leaving them unattended. Make sure they require a secure password to start or wake up. Also set your computer and portable devices to automatically lock when they're not being used.
- Make sure your computer is protected with reputable anti-virus and all necessary security "patches" and updates.
- Don't install or download unknown or unsolicited programs to your computer. These can harbor behind-the-scenes computer viruses or open a "back door" giving others access to your computer without your knowledge. ◇

The SRMT Broadband Initiatives Program is pleased to announce a special community meeting on January 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lobby of the Community Building.

Two service providers, Flint Communications and Wideband Networks, will be presenting their voice and data service offerings and pricing packages. Television programming options will be offered at a later date.

Community members will have the opportunity to sign up with the provider of their choosing.

It is important that everyone who wants service to sign up with one of the providers in order to ensure services even if you were on the prior list.

FMI:
Broadband
Initiatives
Project at 518-
358-2105.

Early Intervention Services

Community & Family Services Program Feature

By Heather Durant, Benefit Services Manager

Early Intervention refers to therapeutic educational and medical services provided to children from birth to three years of age. Early Intervention is intended for children who are identified as having or being at-risk of developing a disability. Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, or IDEA is the Federal law that provides funding for Early Intervention Services. Early Intervention incorporates many different services that infants and toddlers with disabilities need in order to reach their potential. These services may include speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, educational services and transportation that allow families access to service locations.

Evaluation

Each child must receive extensive evaluation for developmental delays. These assessments are scheduled and monitored by a service coordinator. The service coordinator may be involved in the actual assessment or she may simply schedule other professionals to assist in this process. The results of the evaluation help the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team identify the areas for which services are needed.

Natural Environment

The core philosophy of early intervention is the provision of services in the child's natural environment. This means that various therapeutic services take place in the child's home, daycare, or in neighborhood facilities whenever possible. Coordination of these services requires planning, scheduling and helping families access the services.

Service Coordinator

The primary duties of the early intervention service coordinator are to plan, organize and oversee the implementation

of early intervention services needed by families. In addition, the coordinator must maintain the required paperwork for early intervention clients. The coordinator then monitors and evaluates the services provided and adjusts them according to families needs.

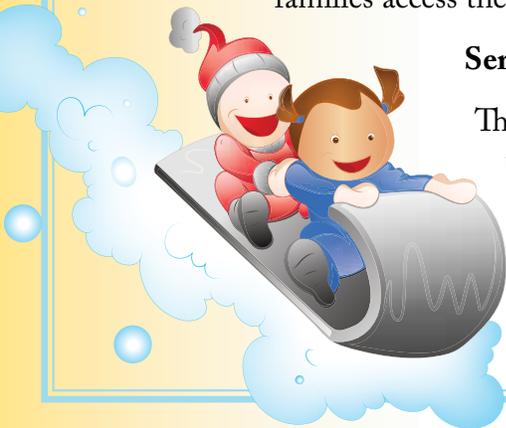
IFSP

IDEA requires the development of an IFSP for each early intervention client. A team of professionals works with the family to determine which services are needed for the child. Goals are developed for each service area. The IFSP is the binding contract between the service professionals and the client family that outlines the services and goals for the child. The IFSP states specifically the dates on which the services will begin, how often the services will be provided, and which professionals are responsible for each service.

Monitoring

The early intervention service coordinator is responsible for monitoring the services provided to the client family. This may involve communication with the family and service professionals, gathering data concerning the child's progress, and troubleshooting scheduling for the family and professionals. As services are implemented, the service coordinator may need to make changes to the IFSP with the assistance of the team and family in order to best meet the needs of the child. The monitoring process includes ongoing evaluation of services and the progress of the individual child.

The Benefit Services Manager works in conjunction with Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties in providing Service Coordination services. For more information or any questions pertaining to Early Intervention Services, you may contact each County directly by calling 315-379-2276 for St. Lawrence County or 518-481-1673 for Franklin County. You may also contact Heather Durant, Family Support Benefit Services Manager, at 518-358-9481. ♦



Education Update

Financial Aid Workshop

The college application process can be a confusing time for parents and students. The Higher Education Program recognizes these challenges and is hosting a financial aid workshop in partnership with SUNY Potsdam and NCSTEP. Students and parents will be guided through the FAFSA application process and given information about other federal grant opportunities. Norma Sunday will be available to answer any questions about the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education's Post Secondary Program. High school seniors and parents are strongly encouraged to attend on *Tsiothohrkó:wa*/January 9, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Center.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Students will be entered into a drawing to be held in June. If you have any questions regarding the workshop please call Rod Cook at 518-358-2272 ext. 247.

Graduate Classes

St. Lawrence University will be offering the following graduate classes at the Community Building:

EDAD 560A: Current Problems in Educational Leadership (3 sem. hrs.)

A seminar dealing with educational problems, issues and concerns. Students will be expected to investigate, research, and discuss selected educational issues. The course format will include lectures, analysis of case studies and group discussions coupled with independent study. A project developed in the area of student interest is required.

Start Date: January 21, 2014 5:00-7:45 p.m.

Dr. William Collins

EDUC 581A: Principles and Practices of Guidance Counseling (3 sem. hrs.)

Start Date: January 23, 2014 5:00-7:45 p.m.

Mr. Lawrence Casey

For more information and to register, please contact Rod Cook at 518-358-2272 extension 247.

JOM

Activities in Tsiothohrkó:wa/January

- Movies and Lunch (Christmas Break Activity)
- Bowling and Lunch (Christmas Break Activity)

Careers

Starting January 15, the JOM program will have guest speakers promoting careers in law enforcement.

Exam Prep

JOM will be focusing on review and exam preparation for the Regent's exam.

Computer Available

The Higher Education Program has an in-office computer available for use. Students are now able to type letters of intent, work on their FAFSA and research scholarships. Printer access is available.

Get Involved!

Upcoming Events for Tsiothohrkó:wa/January

- 1/6 Mohawk Education Committee Meeting at the Casino HR Building 4:30 p.m.
- 1/13 Salmon River School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 1/16 Massena Central School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Who Would've Thought?

By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager

I wouldn't have. Not in a million years. There has been some recent information brought to my attention that wood pellets used for pellet stoves may be producing Carbon Monoxide in dangerous amounts. You think, well, it is burned in a stove so yeah, it could. But wait, I am not talking while it is burning. I am talking about while it is being stored. In the past few years, there have been some deaths because of it. I don't know how many people have pellet stoves but I do know that they burn cleaner than a conventional wood stove as well as hotter.

So what are pellets? Pellets are a compressed form of wood or grass. They can be made from sawdust or other wood products and are compressed into a 6 mm diameter and 25 mm length cylinders. Because of the high pressure of the press, these don't require any binders and/or glues. There are many materials that can be used to make pellets: sawdust, wood, grass, rice husks or even wheat husks which are considered waste products.

They are all natural with no additives. That's why this is so confusing to me. There are studies being done as I write this on why and how this happens. Hopefully, one day there will be an answer. But until then, there are things you can do to be safe.

First: don't store any type of pellets in your basement or any room attached to your home.

Second: make sure the room where the pellets are stored is ventilated either mechanically or by windows. The more ventilation the better.



Pellets are Made From Natural Materials and Contain No Additives



Ventilation is a Critical Part of Pellet Storage

Third: make sure that the room the pellets are kept in has a carbon monoxide detector. One that gives a number rather than just beeps at a certain level would be better and can be checked before entering.

Fourth: Put up signs/placards: "**DANGER-RISK OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING** - There is a danger to life from odorless carbon monoxide and lack of oxygen. Check atmosphere before entry with an appropriate device. No entry for unauthorized persons." Keep children away from the storeroom and make sure access to the space is either limited or locked.

If you have any questions or need a space checked out to see if there is any carbon monoxide buildup give us a call at 518-358-5937 and we will come out and check it for you.

So for the safety and well being now and for the next seven generations be sure to well ventilate pellet storage rooms. ◇

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Division of Social Services Program Feature

By Haley Cree, ICWA Coordinator

Nationwide, Native children are removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances. They enter the foster care/adoption system outside of our jurisdiction. Fortunately, we have the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a law that advocates for children going into care who are members (or eligible for membership) of a federally recognized tribe. Congress passed this law in 1978 after recognizing high rates of Native American children being taken from their homes and sent to boarding schools. Judges, attorneys, caseworkers, public and private adoption agencies are required to abide by this federal law to ensure Native American children stay connected to their culture. Child welfare professionals are required to ask if the child could be Native American, and have a responsibility to contact the Tribe/Nation the child may be affiliated with prior to choosing the best option for the child to reside. Placement preferences are to be followed when dealing with a Native American child:

1. A member of the child's extended family
2. Other member of the child's Indian nation
3. Other Indian families

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is the only Nation in New York State that has our own ICWA program; we've been running since 1982. Our program employs one coordinator and one administrative assistant. Our mission is to provide a strong, peaceful foundation to help children feel hopeful, confident and connected to their roots. ICWA works with multiple agencies to serve each unique family. We have support from New York Child and Family Services and the National Indian Child Welfare Act to help promote the ICWA law and our program to the unified court systems throughout the country. The ICWA program is under the Division of Social Services, which allows us access to preventive

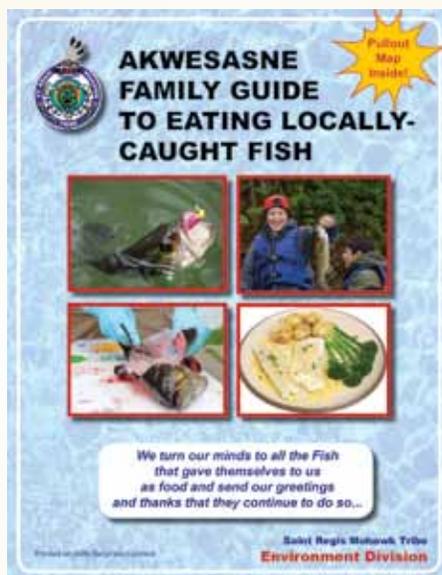
and intensive preventive program services. We currently have 13 open cases and 19 children in our care. Ten of these children are placed with foster homes and nine have reunited with their families. Four children live in Akwesasne and fifteen live off territory. We would like to see our Mohawk children grow up in our community. To accomplish this, we need our community's help. If you feel you may be a strong foster parent candidate, please contact ICWA at 518-358-2728. ◇



Fish Advice Guide Available

By Mary La France, Environmental Health Educator

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Environment Division is proud to announce the new *Akwesasne Family Guide to Eating Locally Caught Fish*. The development of the guide was made possible from a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to work in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health to seek input from the community to



improve communication about the risks and benefits of eating locally caught fish.

This new guide incorporates the most recent fish contaminant data from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and was designed specifically for the Akwesasne community for all families.

- SRMT Environment Division
- SRMT Community Building
- SRMT Diabetes Center of Excellence
- SRMT Indian Health Services
- www.srmtenv.org

Get Your Copy at These Locations

- MCA Administration 1
- MCA Administration 2
- MCA CIA 3
- Kawehnoke Medical Center
- Kanonkwatsheriio

Have questions? Curious to know what this means for your family? Invite us to talk about what this means with you and your family by contacting Mary La France to schedule a family meeting by calling SRMT Environment Division 518-358-5937 ext. 136. ◇



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