

HISTORY OF THE OHSWEKEN OFFICE

As early as 1957, discussions between the Six Nations Band Council and the Children's Aid Society resulted in the provision of child welfare services to the Six Nations and also to the New Credit Reserve.

These services were essentially implemented by the Society through its Board and staff with input from the Reserve Councils. However, over the years, it was gradually realized that a more consistent and active degree of participation in all levels of programming by the residents of the Reserves, through their respective Councils, was both desirable and necessary.

This philosophy is reflected in the Six Nations Council Resolution of 29 July, 1977 which in part states, "That the Children's Aid Society be requested to employ Native People in all stages of their work on the Reserve

Prior to this, as a result of numerous discussions with Reserve representatives, the Children's Aid Society contracted the services of a community development specialist to "..... specifically work with the Reserves in the development of a Branch office to be located in Ohsweken". In September 1977, after a series of negotiations with the Council, the Department of National Health and Welfare, and with the encouragement and assistance of the Ohsweken Public Health Unit, the Children's Aid Society office was opened with a staff comprised of a supervisor, two caseworkers, a secretary-receptionist, and for one year, a community worker.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OHSWEKEN BRANCH

In general, objectives have been developed within the framework of the Child Welfare Act, which are; to ensure that the community's children are provided with appropriate protection, security and the chance to realize their potential.

More specifically, as they related to the Ohsweken office, objectives are to develop Native manpower and resources to enable the Society to carry out its legal mandate. Thus, such objectives could be stated as:

1. to develop effective counselling services;
2. to develop effective interworking relationships with the social service and educational systems;
3. to develop an effective referral process; and
4. to develop and expand Children's Aid Society services according to the desire and needs of the community.

APPENDIX I.

REFERENCES TO SIX NATIONS BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

Six Nations Band Council Resolution No. 17, dated 17 November, 1957:

"That the Council approve the Agreement between the Indian Department and the Children's Aid Society, Brantford, Ontario for the extension of service by the said Society, for a period of Two (2) years, in accordance with terms and conditions of the said Agreement. CARRIED."

Six Nations Band Council Resolution No. 8, dated 4 February, 1960:

"That this Council permit the Children's Aid Society to carry on with its work on the reserve on condition that the Children's Aid Society work with this Council. CARRIED."

Six Nations Band Council Resolution No. 19, dated 1 November, 1962:

"That this Council request the Children's Aid Society of Brant that prior to their decision in placing children of the Six Nations Band, who are now in the Mohawk Institute, into foster homes that such cases be referred firstly to the Advisory Board, appointed to consider admissions and discharges to and from this Institute. CARRIED."

Six Nations Band Council Resolution, dated 29 July, 1977:

"That the Children's Aid Society of Brant be requested to employ native people in all stages of their work on the Reserve, to correspond with a Draft of Recommendations prepared for consideration by the Children's Aid Society and the Six Nations Band Council. This is to include counsellors and office staff. CARRIED."