

# THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF BRANT

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 6, 1995  
**TO:** Chairman, Services Committee  
**FROM:** Roy A. Walsh, Executive Director  
**RE:** Native Services Branch Update

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Subsequent to the announcement of a 5% reduction to all children's Services by the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Six Nations Band Council placed the agreement on hold. They are requesting an exemption to the restraint and if it is not granted they will at that point make a decision whether or not they wish to proceed.

Assuming that the devolution process will not proceed in the foreseeable future, I would like to place the following considerations before you. I believe these are a number of options for us to consider:

1. Request the Minister to relieve the Brant CAS of the jurisdiction for Six Nations' Child Welfare.
2. Return service levels to the pre-devolution period and negotiate a protocol for Six Nations service delivery.
3. Integrate the direct service mandate into the Brantford service structure and maintain a local physical presence at both Six Nations and New Credit.

### Current Situation:

Three years of devolution planning has significantly impacted negatively upon the stability of service delivery at the Native Services Branch. Over that period the uncertainty has severely impaired our ability to recruit, train and retain sufficient qualified first nations staff to effectively carry out our responsibilities.

Currently we are short staffed in; supervision, child protection and resource development. Approximately 50% of all clients are living off reserve and overall case numbers are low.

Whatever option or combination of options we choose we cannot responsibly carry out our mandate by maintaining the status quo.

Consideration of Options:

**Option I - Request Jurisdictional Change**

While this is an available option to request, it is not one that would be acceptable to the province insofar as it would require direct service delivery by the province or the transfer of jurisdiction to another society. Insofar as our jurisdiction is bounded by Brant County and the Six Nations reserve is contained within these boundaries it is highly unlikely that another society would be open to extending its' jurisdiction.

In short while the option is there to request, the feasibility and time involved in reaching a favourable decision would further exacerbate the current service to children and families.

**Option II - Pre-Devolution Service Levels**

The problem of uncertainty might be relieved, the task of recruitment, training and retention will continue to be significant and the potential for placing children at risk due to uneven and inconsistent service delivery will continue to persist. Further maintaining an infrastructure to support current service demands is not warranted on a cost-effective basis.

Developing a protocol with Six Nations re: the involvement of their existing prevention services with our service delivery would be a progressive approach to shared responsibility for children at risk. However, protocols while serving to coordinate service delivery are not as effective as an integrated service delivery.

**Option III - Integration into Brant Service Structure**

This option would require the redeployment of a number of direct service staff to the Brant CAS service units and would ensure a more consistent standard of service delivery to all first nations residents. Likewise, recruitment of qualified staff would be enhanced and vacancies would not place undue pressure on service delivery. Training and working alongside experienced staff would enhance productivity.

Further to the above, the existing supervision and support functions and physical accommodations would accommodate the direct service delivery enabling significant savings to be achieved. In order to ensure a local presence, it would be appropriate to maintain a physical location in both communities to ensure accessibility for clients and security for staff during contentious visits and office recording.

The estimate of expenditure savings to be achieved is approximately \$120,000 annually.

**Recommendation:**

It is my recommendation that we pursue the implementation of Option III and similar to the New Credit Protocol, we invite Six Nations to develop a protocol governing the delivery of service to Six Nations Band members on reserve.

**Implementation Plan:**

- Maintain the integration of Foster Care resources at Brant
- Integrate children in-care services and Adoption with the Permanency Services Unit at Brant
- Re-deploy Protection services within Unit I at Brant
- Re-deploy Intake services within the Intake Unit at Brant
- Terminate the existing leased office space at Ohsweken
- Explore office space with Six Nations and New Credit
- Reduce staff complement by:

1	Supervisor
.5	Intake
1.5	Clerical Support
1	Social Work Case Aide

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Executive Director

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