



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 25, 2018

Six Nations Achieves Designation to Provide Its Own Child Welfare

(Ohsweken, ON) Today, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) notified Ogwadeni:deo (Six Nations Child Welfare) of their successful completion of the Child Welfare Designation Process.

“Six Nations welcomes the news that we have achieved designation status,” said Chief Ava Hill. “Nia:weh to the community for their patience, contributions and continued involvement. Although there is still work to do, we are excited to have a community-based agency that works with our children, families and existing services”.

As of January 29, 2018 the Six Nations Agency becomes active for the delivery of child protection services in accordance with the *Child and Family Services Act (CFSA)*. Services will be provided to Onkwehonwe on the Territory, in the City of Brantford and in the County of Brant. A phased transfer process for existing Six Nations clients has been initiated between Brant Family and Children’s Services (BFACS) and Ogwadeni:deo (OGD). The process will be inclusive of both families and services providers to ensure service and/or information gaps are prevented. A protocol also exists between the two agencies to further ensure continuity of service during the transition period.

“This is a significant accomplishment made possible with much work and support of our community members, working group and commission members, community programs and staff,” said Arliss Skye, Director of Six Nations Social Services. “We are looking forward to a community celebration in early March.”

The agency, with its head office located in Ohsweken at 2469 Fourth Line, will operate Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am-9pm. An after-hours service will also be in place to ensure 24-hour coverage and response to child protection concerns. During the transition period, those wishing to report new concerns of child abuse and/or neglect are asked to continue contacting Brant Family and Children’s Services at (519) 753-8681 until April 1, 2018. All other reports or inquiries can be made through Ogwadeni:deo at (519) 445-1864.

“I am overwhelmed with many emotions at this time. The journey leading us to this day has been long and filled with many lessons,” expressed Crystal Doolittle, Director of Ogwadeni:deo. “Our community has awaited a change to the Child Welfare System and most important to our own service model, filled with community values, pride and inclusivity. I am anticipating the road ahead of us will continue to be filled with lessons as we endeavour to empower change for our people one family at a time. We will do the best we can to continue to communicate openly and provide opportunities for inclusion in our ongoing service delivery, development and evaluation of our processes.”

- 30 -

For more information about Ogwadeni:deo visit: www.sixnations.ca/CWD

Contact:

Victoria Racette

Communications Officer, Six Nations Elected Council

(519) 445-2201

adpr@sixnations.ca

Six Nations of the Grand River is the most populated First Nation in Canada, with more than 26,000 members. Located in Southwestern Ontario, between Brantford, Caledonia, and Hagersville, it is the only First Nation in North America wherein all six Haudenosaunee Nations – Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga and Tuscarora – live together. Six Nations Elected Council is committed to building a strong, prosperous and healthy community through key investments in community priorities, including infrastructure, education, health, culture and land rights. Follow Six Nations Elected Council on Facebook or Twitter @SixNationsEC