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Six Nations Transitioning to Provide Its Own Child Welfare

(Ohsweken, ON) In 2016 Ogwadeni:deo (Six Nations Child Welfare) progressed to Stage C of the Child Welfare Designation Process. As part of Stage C, also referred to as the transition and implementation phase, the agency provided the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) with a presentation on their working service delivery model.

“Our service model will demonstrate inclusiveness, non-intrusive practices and collaboration with families, clans and service providers,” said Crystal Doolittle, Director of Ogwadeni:deo. “We are supporting the building of our community capacity to respond to situations that can be diverted from protection services and align with a community response approach.”

Earlier this year a Provisional Foster Care License was granted to the agency, enabling Ogwadeni:deo to recruit, train and assess potential caregivers. The license also allows the agency to place children with Alternative Care Homes, other family/community placements or repatriation.

“In April of this year we began providing training to all of our staff, Community Care Leaders, as well as potential and current caregivers. At this point in time four cohorts of the training have been completed and ongoing training is planned,” added Doolittle.

The agency has since applied and is awaiting notice of approval for capital funding to have its services accessible to the community. Following completion of the full designation process, the agency will promote community capacity, customary care and healing for Six Nations children and families.

For information on upcoming training sessions and/or Six Nations Child Welfare contact Ogwadeni:deo at (226) 227-2168 or visit www.sixnations.ca/CWD.

- 30 -

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