



Kahnawá:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

Housing Analysis Underway

For immediate release

(Kahnawá:ke – 15, Seskehkó:wa/September 2006) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke's Social Development Unit (SDU) has announced that the Housing Department has contracted Tawatohni'saktha Consulting to conduct a "Review & Analysis of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake Housing Department Program".

The firm of Gaston St-Pierre Associates has also been contracted as an advisor to the consulting team utilizing their experience with First Nations Housing to focus in on the areas of provincial & federal housing strategies and programs.

"While Kahnawake's Housing Program is widely considered a trendsetter amongst First Nations Housing Programs, the Housing Department understands that gaps have developed between the community's needs & the current housing program," said Director of Social Development Mike O'Brien.

The objectives of this analysis are to determine the most efficient & effective manner of meeting community's needs and make the necessary changes to the structure of the programs including financing options, policies and procedures. Areas to be addressed include:

- the options for the financing of new home construction;
- reacting to a projected increase in home construction and renovation;
- enabling community members to acquire a new home;
- an overhaul of the current social housing infrastructure and
- revising policies and procedures to more effectively serve the community.

It is expected that the overall timeframe to complete the review will be approximately one year. The Community Needs Assessment Phase (focus groups) is currently underway with an evaluation of the results scheduled for the fall. Recommendations will be developed for the new year with a full implementation plan scheduled for the summer of 2007.

Although the review is scheduled for one year, the community will not have to wait a year for the full effect of these changes. The Housing Program will be modifying policies and procedures as well as implementing new initiatives throughout the next year as the opportunities arise.

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