

DAKOTA OJIBWAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

"Indian control of Indian Development"

**Canupawakpa Dakota Nation****Long Plain First Nation****Swan Lake First Nation****Birdtail Sioux First Nation****Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation****Sioux Valley Dakota Nation****Waywayseecappo First Nation****Dakota Plains Wahpeton First Nation****Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation****Council of Chiefs Chairman's
Message**Chief Ken Chalmers, Chair
DOTC Council of Chiefs

On behalf of Council of Chiefs I congratulate and express our best wishes to the leadership that has been elected in three of our member First Nations, namely Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, and Waywayseecappo First Nation. In Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Chief and, members of Council elected were: Chief Irvin McIvor and Councillors Chris Racette, Herman Richard, Lance Roulette and Stanford Roulette all assumed office in October 2010.

In January 2011, by-elections were required for the Band Council of Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. The successful candidates were Viola Eastman, Brendan Eastman, Glenn Brown and Mervin Demas.

In Waywayseecappo First Nation, Chief and members of Council elected were: Chief Murray Clearsky and Councillors Wallace Clearsky, Tim Cloud, Harvey Cloud, Anthony Longclaws, Desmond Mentuck, and Melville Wabash all assumed office in February 2011.

DOTC looks forward to working together with each of its member First Nations -individually and collectively- to help meet the needs and expectations of the larger membership.

The relocation of Dakota Ojibway Police Services to their new premises has been completed. The Police Service is now located at the Rufus Prince Building in Long Plain/Portage. To mark the event, the Grand Opening was held at the premises on December 3, 2011. In addition to our Chiefs and staff-members, the occasion was attended by Hon. Andrew Swann, Justice Minister of Manitoba along with Diane Samuels, Manager/Aboriginal Policing Directorate as representative of Canada.

Policing and Housing are two major areas of preoccupation at this time. Instead of the prevailing approach of operating agreements of 1-2 year duration, DOPS has been trying to attain a multi-year agreement with Manitoba and Canada. This would allow for forward-planning and also provide with some sense of certainty to the level of services that our members can and should expect in line with those received by others elsewhere across Canada. On the matter of housing, DOTC Administration and the two housing authorities (DOTCHAI and DOFNHAI) continued to assist the member First Nations of DOTC with the process and requirements of distributing housing units as they mature.

December is festive season and the year comes to an end. DOTC held its Christmas Party at the Canada Inn on Regent. Entertainment was provided by Comedian Jerry The Big Bear. We had good representation of leadership and staff.

Message from the CEORobert Daniels, CEO
Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council

This is the first issue of Volume 2 of the DOTC Newsletter. To date, our objective has been and continues to communicate in an effective manner information to our members. Our members have a right to know of the initiatives and services being undertaken by Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council- their Tribal Council!

I join the Chair of Council of Chiefs in congratulating those elected for positions of Chief and/or Council in Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation. On behalf of DOTC Administration, I too join Chief Chalmers, Chair/DOTC Council of Chiefs, in assuring that we will work together to help provide the required services and initiatives.

During the last quarter of 2010-11, in addition to housing and policing, other notable events took place. Among these were the 3rd annual Land Environment Action Fund (LEAF) workshop. Held over 2.5 days, the workshop brought together advisors, leadership and relevant staff-members from the 9 member First Nations. Also in attendance were representations from INAC, Manitoba Stewardship and Neegan Burnside. While everyone appreciated the need for a healthy and sustainable environment, the main issue is the need for resources to carry-out all the requirements that INAC asks of the First Nations.

DOTC also hosted the Transfer Payments Workshop. Invitations were sent to leadership, advisors and band-managers. Presentations were delivered by INAC. The objective of the workshop was to inform First Nations of the impending changes to the funding agreements with INAC. While documentation was circulated at the workshop, INAC is the best source of contact to ensure that everyone has the relevant information.

Last but not least, in February 2011, I had the opportunity to attend the national conference of Aboriginal Financial Officers of Canada held in Vancouver. At the conference, the His Honour Steven L. Point, Lt. Governor of British Columbia, was one of the luncheon keynote speaker. His Honour has served as an elected Chief of the Skowkale First Nation for 15 years, as the tribal chair of the Stó:lō Nation Government, and was honoured as Grand Chief by the Chiefs of the Stó:lō Tribal Council. The Lt. Governor spoke on the issue of leadership. What was amazing, as he progressed through his speech, the audience was silent and in rap attention to every word spoken. Given space constraints for this issue, for the next issue, I will provide further details on content of the speech- as it warrants to be read by all.

For 2011, DOTC and its staff looks forward to working with member First Nations and its members to help ensure that we all work together to make a difference in the quality of health and life.



Dakota Ojibway Health Services

I am Litonya Desjarlais and as of December 6th, 2011 have joined the Dakota Ojibway Health Team, as Director of Health. My home community is Swan Lake First Nation and I am very excited to have the opportunity to work within my home Tribal Council area. I am looking forward to visiting and working with the Health Teams in 9 all member First Nations of DOTC. Listed below and discussed are major areas of focus.

Caroline Bercier is Tribal Nursing Officer (TNO)/ADI/HIV AIDS Program Coordinator. She was selected by the FNIH Immunizations Program to receive sponsorship to attend the 9th Canadian Immunization Conference – “A Global Challenge for the 21st Century”, in Quebec City, Quebec from Dec. 5th-8th, 2010. Caroline was requested to submit a poster abstract for the DVD, “Pandemic Influenza – Experience of First Nations in Manitoba”, which was produced by DOHS and FNIH in partnership. The abstract was a success and received recognition at the 9th Canadian Immunization Conference.

Sherri Daniels is Health Analyst with a primary role to provide support to the DOHS Program Coordinators and to the Health Director. She serves as an Alternate for the staff members to various meetings and; provides an analytical perspective to on specific topics/issues. Other areas of responsibilities are to ensure that DOHS and DOTC remains updated with external activities, for example, a Manitoba Health Council, that could have an impact on the DOTC communities.

Darwin Ironstand serves as National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)/FASD Program Coordinator. The program seeks to increase the awareness of/and understanding First Nation youth suicide prevention while engaging front-line workers, youth, parents, families and the community in the development and implementation of suicide prevention activities. It also works to strengthen and facilitate collaborative community-based approaches and linkages within/and across agencies and organizations. Darwin facilitates and provides support to community –based workers dealing with Building Healthy Communities, Brighter Futures and National Native Alcohol Drug Abuse Programs.

One of our many objectives is to increase the recognition of suicide risk factors, warning signs, at-risk behaviours, high-risk groups within the First Nation population, and the provision of effective intervention targeting key community members, front-line workers, youth workers, educators, and the police. In an effort to address/meet these goals, we have coordinated numerous trainings to support skill development and enhance community response to crisis: “When Turtle Met Rabbit: An Introduction to Aboriginal Family Systems”, Advanced Suicide Prevention Training, Critical Incident Stress Management, Community Trauma Postvention Training, Straight Talk Training, Tattered Teddies Training, Peer Support Training and Safe Talk Training.

Amanda Mentuck has the position of Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF)/NNADAP Program Coordinator. The Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) Program is a project within the DOHS. The AHTF program has been conducting community health surveys in a number of DOTC communities seeking information on mental health and addictions needs and experiences at the community level. The surveys will help to identify successful aspects of community programming, as well as areas that can be improved.

Litonya Desjarlais -Director 1-204-988 5370

Fire Prevention Safety Program

Some of the activities I have been working on in the Fire Prevention Program for the months of October to December are as follows:

1. Providing inspections for day-cares and schools

I attended the Birdtail Sioux First Nation and inspected both the school and daycare. Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and inspected both the school and daycare. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, the daycare/headstart was inspected. Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation and Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation had their schools inspected.

I am conducting follow-ups with each community.

2. Fire prevention activities for the Christmas season

During the Christmas season I had provided pamphlets to the D.O.T.C. communities on Fire Prevention during the Christmas Season. The intent was to provide members of D.O.T.C. with awareness on safety and fire prevention.

3. Scheduling practice sessions for fire departments

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation, and Birdtail Sioux First Nation were the four communities that had requested basic fire training in the community. An example of training would be training for breathing apparatus’ (B.A.) and fire truck training. This was for the communities to keep updated on training techniques and activities.

We were very saddened to hear a community member of Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation lost her life in a house fire. Staff members of DOTC send out their condolences to family and friends of Daphne Benjo.

The fire prevention program will be starting Fire Prevention workshops in corporation with the day cares, head start and school programs. I am working with the communities on scheduling and addressing issues that they may have. . We’re currently negotiating with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (I.N.A.C.) to allocate the appropriate funding to make these workshops and ongoing activities continue throughout the year.

The CPR and First Aid Training along with the Fire Extinguisher Training are available for your communities. Inspections of daycare and head start programs are underway with schools to follow.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to call.

Stacy Pratt - DOTC Fire Prevention Officer

Work Number: 1-204-239-8297 | Email: fireprevention@dotc.mb.ca

Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS)



The Police Service completed the move of its Headquarters to the Rufus Prince Building at Long Plain/ Portage la Prairie, and I would like to thank all those attended our open house on December 3rd, 2010. We were especially honoured to have the Justice Minister, the Honourable Andrew Swan in attendance. He noted, "Policing is not easy. It's not easy no matter where in the Province of Manitoba you may be. We expect a lot from the officers both on and off duty. It's not an easy job to be policing communities but we know that by the leadership being shown at the Dakota Ojibway Police Service is a tremendous police service."

November 14th – 20th was National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness Week and, DOPS was recipient of a NAAAW grant for its addictions awareness efforts and commitment to communities. This allowed for delivery of presentations to the high school students on risk reduction related to drug/alcohol abuse. Drug and alcohol education awareness is an ongoing effort and DOPS will continue to focus on youth and play a primary role in these areas. At the conclusion of each school presentation, there was a contest, challenging the students to create a slogan that represents a positive message for addictions awareness week. The winning slogan has been developed into a school banner so its message continues throughout the year.

The Police Service was once again selected as a recipient of the Enbridge Safe Community Program grant. The grant for this year was used towards audio / visual presentation equipment and several portable defibrillators. The Safe Communities Program provides funding for safety and training equipment for emergency responders of communities that are located along Enbridge's pipeline corridors. The audio-visual equipment will provide better presentations and training to community groups and staff.

Our strategic goals for 2011 include- Expansion of the Police Service, Expand community programs and crime prevention initiatives, Enhancement of illegal drug enforcement capacity, Staffing and recruit field training initiatives and Expansion of police dispatch services. Plans are in place and members and staff will be working diligently with the communities to achieve these goals. In addition, with spring just around the corner, preparations must be made to handle the anticipated spring flooding. DOPS will be working with the affected communities to ensure the safety and security of community members.

DOPS members once again participated in the "Toys for Tots Program", distributing hundreds of Christmas gifts to kids in Birdtail, Canupawakpa and Sioux Valley.

D.A. (Doug) Palson, Chief of Police
Dakota Ojibway Police Service
1-204-856 5370

DOTC Social Development Program

During the months of October-December, the Social Development Program was engaged in activities listed and described below.

In November, the Social Program Director guided and assisted the Community Active Measures (CAM) Representative with the organizing and scheduling of the Youth Survey that needs to be completed for Canupawakpa Dakota Nation (CDN). In addition, during the on-site visit to CDN the Director also was engaged with the staff to plan the next steps in regards to correcting deficiencies within the Income Assistance Program of the First Nation. This was followed by travelling with the CAM Rep to meet with Brenda Smoke, Junior Advisor/Social Development based at the corporate head-office of DOTC, so that the latter could be provided with program updates for Long Plain, Sandy Bay and Swan Lake. Round of updates for the CAM Rep were completed with an introductory meeting with the relevant staff of Roseau River.

In the same month, the Social Director attended a two-day monthly meeting of the Social Development Advisory Technical Group (SDATG). The meeting, hosted by SERDC, was a forum of meeting and interacting with representatives from HRDC, ASETS AGREEMENT HOLDER REPS; HEALTH CANADA; FNIH REPS and Provincial Representatives to plan and develop a training session in case-management and capacity-building in service delivery by Income Assistance Administrators; Employment and Training Staff; Health and Wellness Workers. At the same time, we also met with staff from the University of the North to discuss training focusing on Manitoba for Income Assistance Administrators involving curriculum development, certificate or diploma courses, assessments in accordance with Canadian Adult Achievement Test (CAAT), Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR). The start date for the south will be September 2011. The INAC staff, Rick Mason/Social Development Operational Specialist was also at hand to discuss any issues.

The Program Director also attended the initial INAC Compliance Review of the Income Assistance Program for Roseau River. The best compliance rate that the First Nation attained was 94%. Any deficiencies cited will be corrected once the report is completed.

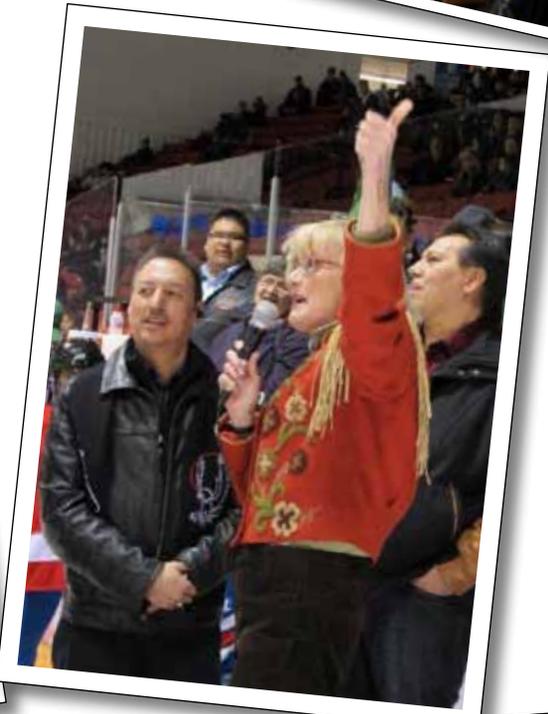
Monthly scheduled on-site to each of the member First Nations were completed- Whereas Birdtail has well managed and administered their Income Assistance Program; Canupawakpa is working to further improve their status. The latter however is maintaining monthly issuance up to date. Monthly visits to the First Nations were completed for the month of December. This included evaluation of the program for Waywayseecappo, meeting with Sioux Valley with staff regarding training and use of Work Opportunities Program (WOP). For the program, focus will be more with assisting Canupawaka Dakota Nation in working towards all requirements are met.

Tim Wasicuna, Director, Social Development
1-204-855 2921

DOPS RELOCATES TO RUFUS PRINCE BUILDING! GRAND OPENING - DECEMBER 3, 2010



WINTER FEST 2011 - BRANDON



DOTC Housing Authority Inc. (DOTCHAI)

DOTCHAI has market properties available for rent in Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. Rent varies to location. Please call the head office in Portage la Prairie for further info 204-856-5550.

CONTRACTORS needed for renovation projects in Brandon, Virden, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. CONTRACTOR MUST SUPPLY MATERIAL AND LABOUR. Call DOTCHAI office 204-856-5550.

DOTCHAI staff and Board Members attended a 2 day strategic planning meeting at Elkhorn Resort November 18 & 19 on the matured units. The Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council of Chiefs will be making the decision as to what will happen to the assets as they mature. Appraisals were completed on all matured units of DOTCHAI.

Long Plain First Nation has purchased the Plainsman Apartments in Portage la Prairie.

Phase II Brandon project, funded by Manitoba Housing Authority is on schedule. The additional 6 newly constructed family units will be ready for occupancy in May. It is very exciting to see new construction on DOTCHAI lots. In the last 2 years, Manager was able to acquire funding for the 21 additional family units. DOTCHAI is working with Manitoba Housing to secure funding for additional units in Winnipeg.

The DOTC Council of Chiefs called for a review of DOTCHAI. Ramona Tkachuk was hired to complete the review. Our understanding is that the review is in the process of being finalized.

Working together with On-Reserve Inspection Services, DOTCHAI completed 81 CMHC Physical Inspection Reports.

Michelle Meeches, Manager
1-204-856 5550.

On-Reserve Housing Infrastructure

The On Reserve Housing Technical Services (ORH) continues to work with the member First Nations of DOTC that have been successful in getting allocated housing funds from the following program areas.

2010/2011 – Sec 95 – Band Owned Rental Program

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2010/2011 – CMHC – CEAP Renovations

2010/2011 – Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRAP)

2010/2011 – INAC Market Based Housing – Homeownership Renovation.

The ORH Technical Services program is striving to ensure the projects are completed prior to dates identified. With the winter season fast approaching, it makes the work a little more difficult but with the cooperation of all persons involved including the homeowners, we believe we can meet our projected goal deadlines.

The Technical Units is involved in a number of other initiatives:

Physical Conditions Reviews (PCR) for DOTC member bands and DOTCHAI, the inspections have been completed, with the final information to be forwarded to CMHC Ottawa.

Disaster Fund Assistance (DFA) inspections for MANFF and EMO, we will again be asked to do contract work for these organizations due to the heavy rains, strong winds and damaged caused for other First Nations.

Note: We are asking First Nation memberships to contact their housing offices or C/C for any housing issues. There groups will contact our offices if services are required.

Simon Prince, Manager
1-204-239 8652

DAKOTA OJIBWAY FIRST NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY INC. (DOFNHA)

Another year has come and gone and we are now in the early months of the New Year 2011. By the end of March 31, 2011 DOFNHA will have 77 Matured Units. The Board Members that represent the housing organization DOFNHA and DOTCHA have had jointly meetings regarding the matter of the matured units.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year. DOFNHA along with the professional project management - BearPaw has had a very busy and productive year. Tenders went out to address various renovations to DOFNHA homes. The kick-off meeting was scheduled for December 20/2010. Once the tenders were awarded, work began in earnest with DOFNHA staff and the construction crews worked through the Xmas holidays. Work is scheduled for completion by the end of March 31/2011.

DOFNHA and BearPaw are now in the process of working on the second phase of tenders. At the beginning of March 2011, tenders detailing the scope of work required for approximately 17-20 occupied rental units will be faxed out to the First Nation communities.

DOFNHA is looking for a company logo to represent our organization. Drafts may be submitted via mail (100-11 Arden Avenue, Winnipeg, Mb R2M 2J7) or email dofnhai_mgr@dotc.mb.ca. (1) Drafts will be accepted on 8 ½ X 11 paper or smaller – but not too small. (2) Drafts should be in colour. (3) Open to all and any persons may submit their genuine talent. (4) Please submit your name and a phone number. (5) Please include with your name and address from which First Nation you represent.

A cash prize of \$150.00 will be awarded to the winner.

Please submit your drawings to our office as soon as possible and enter as many ideas as you can. We will be accepting entries up to March 15/2011. Thank you for your interest.

Bed-bugs and Flooding Matters:

- There have been numerous reports in the media regarding bedbugs which can cause a health concern. DOFNHA is working very diligently with to eradicate this issue.
- Anticipated flooding in spring is a major concern. Given the accumulation of snow to date, the threatening flood water could place your home and possessions at risk. It's normal to experience strong emotions. Tenants are encouraged to prepare themselves by ensuring that they have home insurance coverage. The stress of losing personal, treasured possessions can be devastating. An estimated home coverage can cost you as little as \$ 50.00 per month and give you peace of mind. The city and provincial government is also in preparation for a spring flooding scenario.

Val Whitford, Manager 1-204-988 5375

School Maintenance Training Program (SMTP)

Each fiscal year, SMTP visits fifty five (55) schools in fifty (50) First Nation communities located across Manitoba. As of January 3, 2011, the first round of fifty five (55) visits had been carried-out and, for the second round of visits 26 schools remained to be undertaken and completed yet. While planned in advance, the actual undertaking can be affected by inclement weather. We are confident that the visits for the remaining schools will be completed by March 31, 2011.

While on-site at the school, SMTP staff works with the school maintenance workers in a team setting- walking through schools, inside and out. Together, the deficiencies are identified that the worker should address. Upon completion of visit, a report is completed with copies forwarded to INAC, Chief and Council and the school. A copy is retained t the SMTP by which to monitor progress of required tasks during the next visit.

The template for Maintenance Management Plans (MMP's) has been redesigned. It is encouraging to note its usage with some of the maintenance workers in schools utilizing their MMP as required on daily, weekly and monthly basis. For other maintenance workers, SMTP re-enforces the value of using these forms and, stressing the fact that in the future, its compliance will be mandatory.

Quarterly meetings with INAC are ongoing. A program summary was delivered to INAC by SMTP staff in early January, 2011. This turned out to be a positive meeting in terms of program continuation and program funding. The upcoming year will see the continuation of the two (2) annual visits to each of the fifty five (55) First Nation schools.

At this time, the SMTP Manager is researching the availability of training in Mold Growth Prevention and Remediation techniques. This is identified as area of concern for a large number of schools that the program works with. The SMTP Manager is also working at partnerships with programs that do similar work in the First Nation communities such as ACRS and HRSDC.

Maurice Myran, Program Manager
1-204-856-5589



Yellowquill College



Greetings to everyone! We are half way through the year with grad quickly approaching. The 2010 graduating students will receive their certificates and diplomas on June 24.

We have had to open an off-site campus this year (1349 Border Street) for the additional program we are currently running—the First Nation Child and Family Service Worker diploma program. In addition to these students, all continuing education programs (Community Management, Diabetes, and CAFM) are being held at this location.

The renovations have begun and it is our hope that we will be moving this summer to our new location on Madison Street. For anyone interested in attending the college in the fall, our new location will be at 480 Madison Street (one block west of Polo Park)! A grand opening will be held and everyone will be invited to tour our new home.

We were very sad to lose one of our long time instructors at the college this past fall; Jocelyn Starr. Jocelyn had worked at the college since it opened and had celebrated her 25th year at the college in 2009. Jocelyn was instrumental in establishing the former UCEP program and then the Mature Grade 12 as it currently stands. The provincial Adult Secondary Education Council has established an annual writer's and video contest in her memory and further information can be found at www.asecmanitoba.ca.

Our Community Diabetes program has gone francais!! Our program has been translated into French for those communities and students in Quebec who wish to learn in French. Delivery in the French language has begun in Quebec.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support!!

Doreen Beauchamp, Director/Yellow Quill College
1-204-953-2800

Dakota Ojibway Community Futures Development Corporation (DOCFDC)

Dakota Ojibway Community Futures Development Corporation

Interested in starting a business and don't know where to start? Let's Talk Business! We offer loans up to \$150,000 for business start-ups, expansions or acquisitions. We also offer Micro Loans...no loan is too small! We also assist with developing business plans. Our friendly staff is here to assist you! For more information please visit our web-site: www.docfdc.mb.ca or call Toll Free: 1-866-988-5373.



This submission reports on ongoing projects during the final three months of 2010 and, those upcoming the first half of 2011. Listed below and discussed are the major highlights.

Community Information Enhancement Project

The Dakota Ojibway CFDC, in partnership with Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines, has provided five DOTC communities (Birdtail Sioux, Canupawakpa, Dakota Plains, Sandy Bay, Swan Lake), with funding to create a new web-site or enhance a current web-site. This one-time funding will allow communities to promote local and/or regional economic development activities such as local businesses, community service organizations, special projects and linkages to departmental programs. This project will be completed by March 31, 2011.

Community Development Program

The staff at Dakota Ojibway CFDC continues to assist communities interested in participating in the Community Development Program. Put in use is the CED Best Practices toolkit developed by the Manitoba Economic Development Advisory Committee with the purpose of assistance with developing a community plan. Dakota Ojibway CFDC is currently working with Canupawaka Dakota Nation and Swan Lake First Nation CED focusing on activities related to community profiles, economic leakage study and opportunity identification. This project will be completed by March 31, 2011

Junior Achievement of Manitoba (JA)

Working in partnership with Junior Achievement of Manitoba, Dakota Ojibway CFDC has prepared a series of programs to be delivered to 30 First Nation Schools in Southern Manitoba. The program entitled "Dollars with Sense" will be delivered to grades 7/8 students. The JA program seeks to inspire young Manitobans to explore the world of business, economics and free enterprise. The program teaches students about budgeting, money management and investments. This program will also focus on home ownership as an investment opportunity. The programs will be delivered from mid February to the end of May 2011.

Vision Quest Conference & Trade Show

Mark your calendars! The 15th Annual Vision Quest Conference and Trade Show will take place on May 17-19, 2011, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The conference brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and business leaders to discuss and promote Aboriginal business, community and economic development and, use of best practices that support and synergize community and individual development. In attendance are usually over 1,000 participants and 80 trade show exhibitors! It is also an opportunity for learning, networking, information sharing, partnership building as well as cultural awareness! The poster and registration form will be distributed in mid February. For Exhibitor or Sponsorship Opportunities or for further information please visit our website: www.vqconference.com or call 1-800-557-8242 or 204-942-5049 or email visionquest@mts.net.

Kim Bullard, General Manager
1-204-988 5372

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services (DOCFCS)

In mid-October, DOCFS held its annual Staff Development Workshop at the Russell Inn. The theme for the workshop was cultural competency of the workers. It was very well attended with approximately 80 of our 130 staff in attendance.

During November and December we began preparations for the move of DOCFS Administrative and Finance offices to an on-reserve site. DOTC Council of Chiefs had passed a resolution a number of years ago to have all the organizations operating from an on-reserve site and we are very pleased we have finally made that move. The building at Swan Lake 7A – Forest Hills was completed the end of November with the move scheduled for December 1, 2010. Due to complications resulting in a lack of access to high speed internet and telephone service the relocation had to be rescheduled to the beginning of January. The move was successfully completed on January 4, 2011 with 25 people now working out of that office site.

Over the past year we have been developing the Family Enhancement Program (Differential Response). Both the Provincial and Federal Governments are providing agencies with additional funding to do prevention/family enhancement work within our communities. We are currently finishing up a five year Business plan which will identify the incorporation of Family Enhancement as a service to be provided through the CFS mandate. Once our five year plan is approved we will start to receive additional funding for that purpose. We will be holding information workshops with the leadership of the communities and the community resources/collaterals within those communities that we serve. This process is scheduled to begin in the early spring of 2011. Alma French has been hired as the Differential Response Coordinator and will be coordinating this effort.

DOCFCS has already started planning the summer cultural programs. This coming summer there will again be four Cultural Camps: a Girl's Cultural Camp, a Boy's Cultural Camp, a Family Cultural Camp and a Staff Cultural Camp. All offices continue to have the Change of Season Ceremonies. The Agency has developed a Cultural Competency 105 Module which is now incorporated into the required training all new staff will receive. The first one was completed in early February and had a very positive response.

DOCFCS is also starting to plan their 30th Anniversary event. We are hoping to combine the Open House of our new Administration Building with that event by having them both at the Forest Hills site. More information will be available as the planning progresses.

Our new address is: DOCFS Administration, Box 310, Carberry, Manitoba, R0K 0H0
Telephone number is 1-204-834-2323; Fax number is 1-204-834- 2306

Bobbi Pompana, Executive Director
1- 204-729 3653