



## COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

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### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES SPECIAL NEEDS FUND AVAILABILITY**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) is reminding the community of the availability of a *Special Needs Fund*. This fund is available to those community members aged 0 - 30 who have developmental, physical, and medical challenges and require specialized supports and services.

“Special Needs” refers to developmental or acquired conditions that significantly affect a person's daily functions in any of the following areas: capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, learning, mobility, receptive and expressive language, self-care, and self-direction. Developmental disabilities are usually classified as severe, profound, moderate, or mild, as assessed by the individual's need for supports which may be lifelong.

DCSS would like the community to be aware of the following with the *Special Needs Fund*:

- Services in or outside of the home are geared towards fostering independence and skill development, community involvement, and inclusion.
- All other resources have been explored to meet individual needs before applying for the Special Needs Fund.

Applications for the Special Needs Fund are available on the MCA website at [www.akwesasne.ca/policies/mca-special-needs-fund-policy](http://www.akwesasne.ca/policies/mca-special-needs-fund-policy) or can be picked up in person at the DCSS Administration Office located in Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io. Applications for the Special Needs Fund are to be submitted to DCSS Administration Executive Assistant Alicia Thompson at [alicia.thompson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:alicia.thompson@akwesasne.ca).

For any questions, or for more information, on the Special Needs Fund, please call the Department of Community & Social Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3305.