

# **NOTICE OF OPEN POSITION POKAGON BAND FAMILY WELFARE COMMISSION**

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

The Pokagon Band is seeking applications from Pokagon Band members interested in serving on the Pokagon Band Family Welfare Commission. There is currently one seat up for appointment or re-appointment on the five member Commission. In order to protect the best interests of our children, the Pokagon Band Tribal Council formed the Family Welfare Commission by adoption of the Family Welfare Commission Ordinance on November 6, 2001. The Commission was designed, not only, to protect the best interests of Pokagon Band children, but also to: Promote the stability and security of Pokagon Band families; Recommend to the judicial and administrative agencies involved, a course of action for the guidance and care of Pokagon Band children which most preserves the unity of the family; Recommend actions that will best serve the cultural, spiritual, emotional, mental and physical welfare of the child; Recommend a continuum of services for Pokagon Band children and their families with emphasis whenever possible on prevention, early intervention, and community based alternatives; Recognize and acknowledge the cultural traditions of the Pokagon Band for child-rearing and family preservation. The Commission meets approximately once each month at Elders Hall, depending on the needs of the Commission, and meets at additional times as may be needed to address other specific matters. Family Welfare Commission members typically spend several additional hours per month preparing for Commission meetings or engaged in other Commission activities. The Family Welfare Commission Ordinance is available at the following internet address: <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government.htm>.

## **COMPENSATION:**

Family Welfare Commissioners are compensated as independent contractors in the amount of \$75 for attending each Family Welfare Commission meeting. In addition, Commission members are entitled to reimbursement for mileage when using personal vehicles to attend meetings and for other Family Welfare Commission business.

## **QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. A Commissioner may not also be a member of Tribal Council.
  
- B. An individual considered for appointment must be an enrolled Tribal member, at least 18 years of age, with knowledge and experience demonstrated through educational, occupational or volunteer activities in the following areas:
  - 1. childhood education;
  - 2. childhood development;
  - 3. Pokagon Band or other tribal customs and traditions pertaining to child rearing;
  - 4. governmental and private programs to assist children and families in need; and
  - 5. individual and family dysfunction, the types, causes, and treatment.
  
- C. Neither an employee nor the spouse of an employee of the Band or of the federal government, or a state or local government, who is involved with or possibly involved with the delivery of services relating to child welfare matters within the scope of the Commission duties and authority may be appointed or serve as a Commissioner.

D. Immediate family members, as defined in the Pokagon Band Child Protection Code, of any family may not serve simultaneously on the Commission.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION:**

- A. Commissioners must sign and abide by a statement acknowledging the standards of confidentiality required for serving as a Commissioner.
- B. Commissioners must submit to and pass a background check conducted by the Tribal Police Department subject to such written guidelines or procedures as may be established by the Tribal Police Department. The background check serves the purpose of assisting the Tribal Council in determining whether a prospective Commissioner could pose any risk to the safety or welfare of a child or may otherwise be unsuitable for appointment to the Commission. The background check shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the Commissioner's criminal history, including any arrest record and history of investigation by State Systems for suspected child abuse or neglect. A background check shall be conducted prior to the appointment or re-appointment of every Commissioner.
- C. Every Commissioner shall be of good character and reputation, shall not associate with dishonest or disreputable persons, and shall exhibit high moral standards at all times.

**APPOINTMENT PROCESS:**

Appointments to the Family Welfare Commission are made by the Tribal Council. Each Commissioner shall serve a term of three (3) years.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Contact the Department of Social Services at 800-517-0777 to obtain an application. Please submit a completed application to:

Mark Pompey, Director  
Pokagon Band Department of Social Services  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

Questions concerning the Family Welfare Commission may be directed to the Director of Social Services, Mark Pompey, at 800-517-0777 or [mark.pompey@PokagonBand-NSN.gov](mailto:mark.pompey@PokagonBand-NSN.gov).

**ETHICS REQUIREMENTS:**

As Public Officials, Family Welfare Commissioners are subject to the Pokagon Band Code of Ethics. A copy of the Code of Ethics may be obtained from the Band's website at <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/government.htm> or by contacting Mark Pompey at the Department of Social Services at 800-517-0777.