

### ***WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?***

Over the past few years, there has been a lot of discussion about the way Social Assistance programs are currently administered on-reserve and whether or not, the current process/program should be changed. We hope that the findings of this research will help identify options for developing a new approach to on-reserve Social Assistance, one that hopefully takes into account our community socio-economic and cultural realities.

### ***WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?***

The researchers would like to meet with individuals (18 years of age and older) who live on-reserve and are receiving Social Assistance, Mi'kmaq youth (ages 15 to 17) and all interested Community members. A number of sessions will be arranged in the coming weeks to accommodate all those interested.

### ***WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?***

Dr. Fred Wien, Dalhousie Professor Emeritus and former Director of the School of Social Work, who was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his work on behalf of First Nations communities in Atlantic Canada is the Head researcher on this Project. Dr. Wien's research and advocacy over four decades, including a leadership role with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, has supported First Nations and their journey to increased independence.

### ***WHEN ARE YOU DOING THE RESEARCH?***

Although the timing will depend upon events & activities taking place in your community, the researchers hope to begin interviews later this month and into July/August.

### ***DOES MY CHIEF KNOW ABOUT THIS RESEARCH PROJECT?***

Chief Ramjattan, Chief Francis and both Band Councils are aware of this research project and are very supportive of their community members becoming involved.

### ***WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?***

It is important for the researchers to hear and understand your personal views and experiences with on-reserve, social programs especially, the current Social Assistance program. The researchers are interested in learning what is working well for you as well as how our current social programs could better meet your needs.

### ***WHERE WILL SESSIONS BE HELD?***

Most sessions will be group interviews that will take place at a convenient location in your community and may last up to two hours. If you would prefer an individual interview that will last about an hour please let us know and we will do our best to arrange that.

### ***HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESEARCH?***

If you would like to learn more about this research project including how to become involved, please contact our Project Manager at: [sgaudet@mcpei.ca](mailto:sgaudet@mcpei.ca)