

# **Taxpayers paid \$66,000+ for illegal Occupation of DCE**

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**OSHWOKEN**

## **Council Briefs**

### **Band support budgeted for just over 3 million this year**

Elected Council has finally approved the band support budget for the current fiscal year which started on April 1, and it will leave an administration floating in red ink to the tune of nearly \$900,000.

The total budget for band support alone, which covers the actual band administration, comes in at slightly over 3,169 million dollars with a projected deficit of \$899,120. About \$1.9 million is for administration wages and benefits.

This is just part of the total \$64 million which is required to operate and administer services on the Territory. That is the figure reported in the most recent annual report for the 2006 fiscal year.

Council has already approved many of the departmental budgets, many of which are also operating in the red. Underfunding by INAC has been a chronic problem in Six Nations, as well as most other First Nations communities across the country.

The band support budget includes administration costs of things like office supplies, travel, education, advertising, repairs/equipment/leases, wages and benefits, audit services, and operations and maintenance.

There's also discretionary line items for things like the S/N Library, political lobbying, Chiefswood museum, the Animal Control Centre, Bread and Cheese Day, Community Awareness, and a whole myriad of things.

The band receives revenue from INAC, the Ottawa Trust Interest, Expense Recovery and the administration fees which are charged to all the various internal departments. In other words, each department has to pay band administration a certain percentage of their total budget in administrative costs.

One interesting discretionary cost for this past year was the over \$66,000 which Elected Council provided for the cost of the occupation/reclamation of Kanohnstation or as Band Council prefers to call it, Douglas Creek Estate (DCE). This was an expense that is not budgeted for this current year.

Several Councillors were concerned with the projected \$900,000 deficit. Ava Hill asked Finance Director Lillia Moos if she had developed a "deficit recovery plan". Moos has been on the job for just a short while, but said if Council wants her to do that, she will.

Acting as Senior Administrative Officer, Dayle Bornberry pointed out to Councillors that it's very difficult to operate without a deficit since there is such tremendous underfunding in all departments. He reminded them that they are the ones who review and discuss all departmental budgets, so they're already aware of the deficits for most of these departments.

After Council approve this 2007 budget, Councillor Helen Miller asked that the budget be made public. Everyone agreed.