

From the Membership Office...

I know this news is just a tad bit late in announcing, but....I'm back working as the Administrator of Indian Registration and Membership for our First Nation. I started at the beginning of November 2019, and it's been crazy busy, from working on the Annual Christmas Gift Distribution, to arranging for Gift Cards, to preparing for the DGR Vote (January 31, 2020) and all the other little duties filling in between such as catching up on birth registrations etc. But... I'm truly enjoying it and so thankful to all the Staff who have provided me with a helping hand.

CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS (CIS) & SECURED CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS (SCIS) CARDS: The CIS is a laminated card that I can process in my office. A recent photo is required and for a small fee, I can take your photo if you don't have one ...whereas, the SCIS must be applied for via application to Indigenous Services. I have and can assist with completion of this application. Applicant must provide two passport photos. Both cards require photo identification of individual applying. Please call and make an appointment.

GAS CARDS: The "white" gas card is no longer valid, effective January 1, 2020. Instead, you can use either your laminated CIS or the new SCIS for gas tax exemption purposes.

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS: One of the things I have learned since starting, is that we **must** use new application forms to register all children 15 years and under. To register your child, you are required to provide a birth certificate with parental information and a copy of photo ID, as well as complete a Guarantor's form (I can assist with that). The new forms also provide the option of applying for a SCIS for your child. If you choose this option, passport photos are required.

DEATH NOTICES: With the passing of a loved one, you already have so much on your mind that "paperwork" isn't one of them. If there is anything I or Marie can assist with in this regard, please contact us. To close a file, I require a copy of the Proof of Death certificate. In most cases, our local Funeral Directors take care of this...but if you live away from the First Nation, this can be overlooked by the grieving family, which is understandable. My condolences to all who have lost loved ones in the past few months.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT 2020: To assist my office and the Finance Dept in preparing for the 2020 Annual Christmas Gift Distribution, please contact me if you have had **1) a change of address, 2) a change in banking information for direct deposit, 3) change in family situation ie. Births, deaths, marriage (name change) etc., 4) If you wish to set up Direct Deposit.** And please let me know as soon as you can. Double-checking with me about your information is a good thing.

ELECTION: Well...It's an election year! Something to think about. I do not have any information at this time but will let you know when dates etc have been set for Nomination Night and the Election itself.

If I can assist you with any of the above, or you have other issues you would like assistance with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I work MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm in the Administration Office at 6493 Highway 21, Southampton, ON NOH 2L0. I can also be reached via phone: 519-797-2781 Ext 1122 or email: fay.roote@saugeen.org

C. Fay Roote