



Pathfinder

Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee Newsletter for the Oneida Minors Trust Fund

August 2017 | ISSUE 60

Making Your Minors Trust Count: Home Ownership

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MAILING ENDED

As of January 2016 the Pathfinder Mailing was discontinued. The Pathfinder can now be found on the Oneida-nsn.gov website for your easy access.

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Land is a central issue for the Oneida Nation. Ever since the U.S. Government repealed the Indian Allotment Act with the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, it has been a mad dash for Oneida to reclaim the lands we've lost.

Our culture is rooted in the land. All of our ceremonies were centered on giving thanks to the creator for providing the things we needed to survive. In today's modern society, people are stacked on top of each other in apartment buildings leaving few with a true connection to Turtle Island.

Your Minors Trust Fund money is a way to reconnect you with the Earth while properly investing that money for your future. That way is through home ownership. Our ancestors used their land to cultivate food for survival, but today owning land can do much more for you. A home is an asset, or something that has monetary value.

The value of homes and land can go up or down depending on the economy. If you're a handy type of person, you can buy an older home, fix it up and sell it for profit; rinse and repeat. You can even invite people to live in that house and charge them rent. That's a couple extra hundred dollars a month for simply owning land.

The average Minor Trust Fund payment is not nearly enough to buy land, but it is enough for a down payment which is the first step. Buying land usually requires a loan from a bank (unless you have an extra \$80,000 lying around), this is commonly referred to as a mortgage. Before banks will even look at you, they want to see a large sum of money put forth upfront; this is a down payment. Aside from a down payment, you will have to convince a bank that you will pay back in monthly payments.

To get a mortgage you are going to need a steady job that shows the bank you can make the monthly payments. On top of that, you are likely going to need someone to co-sign with you on the loan because of your age.

A co-signer is someone who agrees to the bank that they will pay for your debts in case you fall behind. A co-signer is someone that will have the utmost faith in you which also means your relationship with that person will be tested.

Your age is also another large deciding factor. Banks are hesitant to trust an 18 year old kid to make payments. But, if you can hold the right job for 2 or 3 years, they will be easier to sway. In which case, you may want to consider deferring some or all of your Minors Trust Fund until you have found the right job.

Finally, owning a home takes a lot of dedication. Mortgages can last anywhere from 10 to 30 years, but there's a large advantage to mortgage payments than renting an apartment. A couple hundred bucks for rent gets you a place to stay for one month. A couple hundred bucks for a mortgage payment is one step closer to wealth.

Owning a home is a massive responsibility. There are a lot of laws and policies to learn which may seem daunting at first, but ultimately it's a race against time. Buying a home when you're 21 compared to when you're 30 means you will have 9 more years to accumulate wealth. That's 9 more years to learn the game and to find out the best way to make money. Your Minors Trust Fund gives you that 9 year head start.





Taxes on Minors Trust Fund Payments

Fall is just around the corner which means eligible Oneida youth will receive their Minor Trust Fund payments, which is comprised of the general membership per capita.

Although the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee does not take a fee for holding those monies in the trust funds, young adults may be surprised to learn that the Internal Revenue Services (a.k.a. IRS, a.k.a. the Tax Man) will charge taxes to your Minors Trust Fund payment.

Money was never part of our culture until European Colonization, and we have paid gravely for the learning curve. In 1887, the Federal Government passed the Indian Allotment Act, also known as the Dawes Act. Instead of having reservation borders, the Indian Allotment Act

sectioned up the reservation and gave every member of the tribe a piece of the land.

Since individual members owned land of the reservation, instead of having sovereign borders, that meant our ancestors owed property tax. Back then, they may not have understood the concept of taxes.

Unfortunately the Federal Government had no interest of teaching Natives at the time, so when Indians failed to pay their property taxes, the U.S. swept up their land. That is why our reservation is the checkerboard it is today.

The U.S. government will tax you any way they can through sales, a job, property, even winning the lottery! Taxes play a crucial role in money especially when it comes to your Minors Trust Funds.

Like regular per capita, Minor Trust Funds are considered taxable income by the IRS, and the Tax Man will take a cut of your Minors Trust Fund due at tax filing time. How much the Tax Man will take is hard to say, but according to smartasset.com, federal income tax is roughly 20% of your Minors Trust Fund. 20% of a \$30,000 Minors Trust Fund payment is \$6,000! That payment will be due in April of the new coming year. For a more accurate understanding of how much your Minors Trust Fund will be taxed, please consult with a qualified tax professional.

Remembering to keep an extra six grand lying around for five months is not an easy thing to do. That's why the Trust Enrollment Department offers to withhold 20% of a trust fund payment to pay the IRS; however, they will only do this if you voluntarily say so on the Claim/Deferral Form.

Furthermore, Minor Trust Funds are becoming so large that the IRS requires an automatic withholding of monies from Minor Trust Fund on payments larger than \$10,400. That is not a decision of the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee or its department. That is a demand of the IRS and their tax codes.

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN

EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE

POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED IRRIGABLE GRAZING AGRICULTURAL DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE
For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA: Blythe.	MINNESOTA: Bemidji.	SOUTH DAKOTA: Fort Yates.	OKLAHOMA—Gen. Slocum and Fort Agency.	SOUTH DAKOTA: Cheyenne Agency.	WASHINGTON: Fort Simcoe.
COLORADO: Ignacio.	MONTANA: Crow Agency.	OKLAHOMA: Muskogee.	OREGON: Wyandott.	WASHINGTON: Fort Spokane.	IDAHO: Teton.
IDAHO: Lapwai.	NEBRASKA: Blair.	NEBRASKA: Fort Union.	NEBRASKA: Fort Union.	NEBRASKA: Fort Union.	NEBRASKA: Fort Union.
KANSAS: Seward.	NEBRASKA: Seward.	NEBRASKA: Seward.	NEBRASKA: Seward.	NEBRASKA: Seward.	NEBRASKA: Seward.
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WALTER L. FISHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

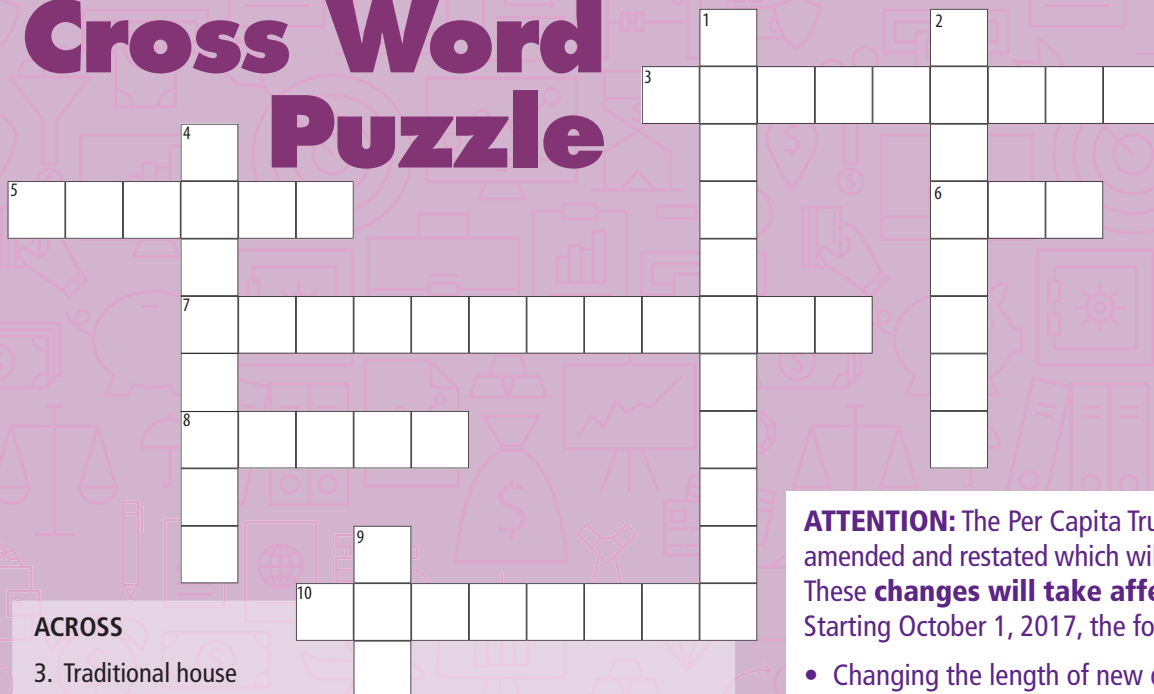
ROBERT G. VALENTINE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Lib. of Congress, Rare Book Div.: Broadside Portfolio 240, No. 24.

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Cross Word Puzzle



ACROSS

3. Traditional house of the Oneidas
5. Money you have received
6. Internal Revenue Service
7. Oneida-English tern for the land we live on a.k.a. Mother Earth
10. Federal Law making Native American individual owners of parcels of reservation land

DOWN

1. Sum of money put upfront for a loan
2. Someone who agrees to pay your debt if you fail to do you
4. A loan to pay for a house
9. Money the federal government takes from you

ATTENTION: The Per Capita Trust Agreement has been amended and restated which will affect payment schedules. These **changes will take affect beginning FY2018**. Starting October 1, 2017, the following changes will apply:

- Changing the length of new deferrals from 3 years to 1 year
- Automatic deferrals for Minor Trust Account holders under the age of 21 that were ineligible to claim
- Clarification of procedures for early distribution in the event of an unforeseeable emergency
- Distribution of a Minor Trust account in the event of the trust account holder's death in compliance with Per Capita Law
- Elimination of the supplemental (late) Minor Trust Payments

You can read the newly amended and restated Per Capita Trust Agreement on our website: <https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/enrollments/>.

Online Resources:

<http://www.bankrate.com/calculators/mortgages/mortgage-calculator.aspx>

Bank Rate offers helpful information for anyone planning to buy a home. Before going to a bank, you can calculate an estimated monthly mortgage payment based on the current national interest rates. Bank Rate also has calculators for taxes, savings accounts, certificate of deposits, credit cards and other loans.



Oneida Trust Department

street address:
909 Packerland Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54303
mailing address:
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155
Phone: (920) 490-3930
Fax: (920) 496-7491
Website:
<http://oneida-nsn.gov/>
Toll Free to reach all
Tribal Departments:
1-800-236-2214

Oneida Enrollment Department

street address:
210 Elm St
Oneida, WI 54155
Phone: 920-869-6200
Fax: 920-869-2995
Toll Free Enrollment:
1-800-571-9902



Also found on:

Facebook
Oneida Intranet
Oneida Internet
Click through links at:
www.oneidanation.org,
Resources-Members
Only, Enrollment,
Minor Trust

Looking for a Minors Trust Distribution 1099 Misc Tax form?

We may have it.
You may call
920-869-6200 or
1-800-571-9902 for
more information.

Important Information

History – In 1994 the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee received the responsibility to administer the Minors' Trust Fund. Eligible enrolled tribal members under age, 18 have their per capita payments deposited directly into the Minors' Trust. The monies are then invested through two portfolios based on age: 0-14 and 15+.

New terms being used this year (effective 2/22/2017):

- **Majority Age Beneficiary** – means a Tribal member who has reached eighteen (18) years of age by September 1st and is eligible to claim a trust account for the first time in the distribution year.
- **Minor Beneficiary** – means a Tribal member who is less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- **Proof of Education** – means the documents identified in Article III of the Per Capita Trust Agreement as acceptable to demonstrate that the tribal member has received a high school diploma or its equivalent. These include: an original or notarized copy of a High School Diploma (HSD), High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED), or General Education Diploma (GED).

Are you ELIGIBLE to claim or defer? To be eligible to claim or defer a person must: (1) be a Majority Age Beneficiary (2) have an established Minor's Trust Account (3) acquire Proof of Education prior to September 1 of the payment year.

What does **CLAIM** mean? Claim means you have submitted required documents to the Trust Enrollment Department by the specified deadlines to withdraw monies from Minor Trust Account. Once you have withdrawn your entire fund, your Minor Trust Account will be closed.

What does **DEFER** mean? Defer means you leave all, or a part of your Minor Trust Account funds invested. "Deferred Funds" are not taxable. Additional Information on the deferral process will be included in the paperwork mailed to you when you reach age 18.

Keep Your Address Current – Please keep your address current with the Trust Enrollment Department. Important forms and statements are mailed to the address on membership record.

Make sure your Social Security Number (SSN) is on file – If no SSN is on file when you claim your Minor Trust Account, we are required to withhold Federal Income Tax at a specialized rate.

Do you have your Proof of Education? If you are claiming prior to age 21, you are required to provide Proof of Education. If you don't have Proof of Education, you will remain ineligible to claim your Minor Trust Account funds until the distribution period when you are 21 years old.

Not able to provide a HSD, HSED or GED prior to age 21? There are special provisions for people with learning or other disabilities. Please contact the Trust Enrollment Department if this applies to you.

Open a Bank Account – Start a banking relationship before you receive any Trust monies. Find a financial institution that fits your needs. Keep in mind that most banks may put a "hold" on funds until a check clears. Sometimes it can take up to eleven (11) days.

Paper Check or Direct Deposit? Signing up for Direct Deposit sends the payment directly to your bank account, and you may have access to your funds immediately. If you do not sign up for Direct Deposit, you will be issued a paper check.

Stay away from check-cashing businesses – A check cashing place may charge up to 8% to cash your check. For example, if your check is for \$30,000, the fee will be \$2,400!

Income Tax – Payment from your Minors' Trust Account is considered taxable income to the state and federal governments. All payments will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). A **1099-MISC tax form** will be mailed to you by February, of the next year. You will need the **1099-MISC** to file your tax returns. Contact a qualified tax professional with questions. **Plan ahead when filing taxes for the Minor's Trust Fund distribution.**

FY2017 Minor's Trust Payment Timeline

- **Payment/Deferral Form Deadline is 4:30 PM CST ON Friday, June 30, 2017.**
- **Proof of Education Deadline is 4:30 PM CST ON Friday, September 1, 2017.** Only Original or Notarized photocopies of HSD, GED, or HSED will be accepted as proof of education (Proof of Education only applies if you are under age 21).
 - Original High School Diplomas, GEDs, or HSEDs will be returned by Certified Mail.
 - Notarized photocopies of High School Diplomas, GEDs or HSEDs will not be returned.
- **Deadline to update your Direct Deposit information is 4:30 PM CST ON Friday, September 1, 2017.** If you changed financial institutions and failed to provide a new Direct Deposit form by September 1, 2017, your funds will go to the financial institution on record with the Trust Enrollment Department.
- **FY2017 Minors Trust Account Payment Forms and other documents* are available on our website:** <https://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/enrollments/forms/>. Forms and documents can be mailed upon request. To request a form, please contact the Trust Enrollment Department at (920) 869-6200 or TrustEnrollments@oneidanation.org.
- 2017 Minors' Trust Payments will be **Mailed/Deposited on or before October 31, 2017.**
- Tax forms and information will be mailed by **February 2, 2018.**

* Other Documents may include: Proof of Education, Direct Deposit Authorization, Address Updates, SSN, etc.

Continue to check out the Pathfinder, Kalihwisaks, Facebook, special mailings or the Oneida website for any changes or updates, and remember to plan ahead for your trust fund distribution and tax filing needs.

Please contact the Trust Enrollment Department at 920-869-6200 or 1-800-571-9902 if you have questions or suggestions.

Yawá'kó
Susan White, Trust Director