

Volume 4 Issue 1

A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Winter 2000



#### Crystal Treadwell joins Staff of Pine Tree's Native American Unit

The Native American Unit of Pine Tree Legal Assistance welcomed another member to its staff on November 4, 1999. Crystal Treadwell, the new paralegal, is no stranger to Pine Tree. She had been an intern with the Bangor office since last January. She joins Eric Nelson, who heads the Unit, and Staff Attorney Craig Sanborn. Pine Tree is a non-profit organization that gives free help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) matters.

Crystal grew up in the Bangor area and attended area schools. She traces her roots to the Maliseet and Penobscot Tribes. Based on years of research done by her mother, Frances Paul Smith, Crystal is a member of Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick. Many relatives continue to live on the reservation, in nearby Woodstock, and in Houlton.

Crystal has three siblings in the Bangor area. Her brother Eric is a Native American artist. Her older sister, Hulene, will graduate in May from University College with a Bachelor's degree in Human Services. Her younger sister, Jamie-Jo, will be starting college in the fall to become an elementary school teacher.

Crystal and her husband, John, who works for Applicators Sales and Service, live in Glenburn with their three children, Joseph-Storm (8), Dakota Luke (6) and Mahkayla Mary (4). The two older children attend school in Glenburn. In addition to her part-time job at Pine Tree and caring for her family, Crystal is also a full-time student at University College in Bangor. She expects to finish her Bachelor's degree in Science of Criminology in two years.

Crystal feels that the greatest inspiration in her life is her mother, who successfully raised four children, primarily as a single parent. Her mother's years of research into the family's background helped Crystal connect with her heritage as an off-reservation Native American. Her mother continues to inspire her by successfully running her own business, Grizzly's Cleaning Service. Crystal is also grateful to two professors at University College, Professor Mary Lewis Kurr and Professor James Davitt, for encouraging her and supporting her dreams of becoming involved with advocacy and the law.

Crystal's ambition is to attend law school once she has finished her undergraduate degree. At this point, she is considering a career as a prosecutor and would love to become a judge. An overriding dream, however, is to develop an organization to serve off reservation Native Americans, a group that Crystal feels is not being adequately served at the present time.

At Pine Tree, Crystal will help clients in areas involving programs such as ASPIRE, food stamps, TANF, and SSI. She loves her work at Pine Tree and believes that her own life experiences have given her a great deal of insight into working with her clients. Crystal can be reached at 1-800-879-7463 or 942-0673. You can e-mail her at <a href="mailto:ctreadwell@ptla.org">ctreadwell@ptla.org</a>.

### Outreach Schedule



Craig Sanborn, the Native American Unit attorney, and Crystal Treadwell, the Native American paralegal, are available for outreach on legal problems. Call 1-800-879-7463 to find out when they will be available.

<u>Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Tribes</u>: Craig and Crystal try to be available at the Tribal Court on regularly scheduled court dates.

Micmac and Maliseet Tribes:

Craig and Crystal try to come to Aroostook County during the third week of each month. One of them is usually in Presque Isle on Wednesdays at the Pine Tree Office. They are, however, looking for an office on the reservation. One of them is in Houlton on Thursdays at the Social Services Office. If you want to get information on schedules in Houlton, call Sue Deveau at 532-7260.

## Pine Tree Case Summaries

The following are summaries of some of the cases Attorney Craig Sanborn has handled for Pine Tree's Native American Unit over the last six months. You can speak to Craig or Crystal Treadwell at 1-800-879-7463.

Case One: A client was referred to Craig by the Wabanaki Mental Health Association. The client's former husband refused to allow the client her visitation rights set out in their divorce decree. Working closely with WMHA caseworkers, Craig was able to negotiate compliance with the divorce decree without having to go to court.

Case Two: Craig's client, a subcontractor, was sued by an insurance company. The company claimed that the client was negligent in installing residential plumbing fixtures. The general contractor had gone bankrupt and the insurance company decided to go after the subcontractor for the cost of repairs. Craig convinced the insurance company that his client was judgment-proof.

(Continued on page 2)

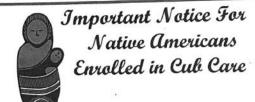
("Summaries" continued from front page)
The company dropped its claim.

Case Three: The client was the mother of a six-year old tribal member. She never got any notice about a tribal "Back to School Clothing Allowance Program." As a result, she missed the application deadline by one day and the tribe refused to accept her application. After negotiations, the tribe decided to accept the application. Three other families in similar situations were allowed to apply as well.

Case Four: The client, a handicapped single woman, bought a used trailer from her tribe a number of years ago. Because the trailer needed major repairs, the client applied for services through the Tribal Home Improvement Program (HIP) in the supmer of 1998. After a number of inspections, the HIP decided that the trailer was beyond repair and that it would be cheaper to give alternate housing to the client. Before the process of getting new housing could be completed, however, the HIP director resigned. During the next twelve months, four different directors came and went and the client was left without housing. By applying legal pressure throughout the year, and bringing in the help of a local women's group, Craig was able to negotiate the client's application to completion. The ground was broken this past fall and the client expects to move into her new home this winter.

Case Five: The client was a defendant in a Protection from Abuse case. About three years earlier, the client had been awarded sole custody of his daughter following a divorce proceeding. Neither the client nor the daughter had had any contact with the plaintiff since the divorce. However, the plaintiff contacted the client recently asking to be allowed some visitation with the daughter. The client allowed the visitation. When the client went to pick up the daughter, he was served with a temporary protection order, awarding custody of the daughter to the plaintiff, and a notice of hearing. In conference before the hearing, Craig persuaded the plaintiff's lawyer that there was no basis for the plaintiff's action. Craig moved That motion was to dismiss the plaintiff's case. supported by the plaintiff's lawyer. The judge granted the motion and the daughter was returned to the client.

Case Six: The client was a mother with two children who was being evicted by her private landlord. The eviction was scheduled to be heard two days before Christmas. When the client came to Craig, he discovered that she had a housing application pending before her Tribe's Housing Committee. For a number of reasons, however, the application had stalled in committee. While continuing to prepare for the eviction hearing, Craig also met with board members to try to get tribal housing lined up for the client. Craig succeeded in getting tribal housing. Instead of facing an eviction hearing two days before Christmas, the client was able to move her young family into a new, clean, and safe apartment. Because the client had already moved out, the eviction hearing was canceled.



Beginning in February of 2000, Native Americans enrolled in Cub Care will no longer be required to pay a monthly fee. The Department of Human Services has changed the rule requiring a monthly fee.

This change is required by the Federal Health Care Financing Administration. That agency has advised the states that they can no longer charge a premium for Native Americans enrolled in Cub Care.

Any family that has prepaid for February of 2000 or later will be allowed to get a refund. To get your refund, contact the nearest DHS office. If you have questions about this change, call Pine Tree's Native American Unit at 1-800-879-7463.

#### Safer Families Project

The Safer Families Project is an Americorps-funded domestic violence program to give legal services to low-income people in Hancock, Waldo, and Washington Counties, and to members of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Nations. The Safer Families Project gives legal assistance and support in all matters related to domestic violence. It includes, but is not limited to:

- ★ Orders of Protection from Abuse and related family law orders;
- ★ Legal remedies for problems affecting children which result from domestic violence, such as threatened loss of housing or public benefits, health services and educational concerns;
- ★ Community education presentations for lowincome individuals and service provider staff on Maine laws relating to domestic violence.

The Safer Families Project is staffed by Attorney Devin Rice and by Non-Attorney Advocate Paul Harrison. Devin joined the Project in January of this year. He is a recent graduate of Cardozo Law School. While in law school, Devin worked for the Sami Nation, examining land rights issues for the indigenous population in Finland. Paul has worked with the Project since last April. He has recently finished his first year of law school.

You may reach Devin or Paul by calling Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Bangor at 1-800-879-7463.









Native American Legal Briefs
--Tribal Sovereignty---Aboriginal Fishing Rights--

Maine Supreme Court finds that state court may hear case involving the Passamaquoddy Housing Authority's firing of its executive director

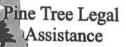
On June 15, 1995, the Passamaquoddy Housing Authority hired Pamela Francis to serve as its Executive Director for a five-year term. Ms. Francis is a member of the Passamaquoddy tribe. A little over one year later, the Authority first suspended Ms. Francis without pay. Later, she was fired. Ms. Francis then sued the Authority in Maine Superior Court. She claimed that she had been fired illegally. The Housing Authority also brought claims against Ms. Francis. It claimed that she had not performed her duty properly and had unjustly enriched herself at the expense of the housing authority.

The Superior Court judge handling the case decided that this case should not be heard in state court. Therefore she dismissed the case. She made that decision after the First Circuit Court of Appeals decided a case called Penobscot Nation v. Fellencer (See the article about that case in the Wabanaki Legal News, Volume 3, Issue 2; or check our website at

http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/Me5tribalbriefs.htm). The judge found that Ms. Francis's position "involves an important human resource aspect of the [Passamaquoddy] Nation." Therefore, the judge ruled that this was an "internal tribal matter" which could not be heard in state court.

On appeal, the Maine Supreme Court reversed the Superior Court decision. However, the Court did not ever discuss whether the facts of this case involved an internal tribal matter. The Court noted that, under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, Indian Tribes had authority over internal tribal matters. The Court reasoned that the Housing Authority was not part of the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government. It was instead organized under Maine law. The Authority is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Passamaguoddy Governor and confirmed by the Tribal Council. However, the Court found that Maine law specifically allows this arrangement. The Court concluded that because the Housing Authority is not the Tribe, it could not take advantage of protections designed for the Tribe. The case was then sent back to Superior Court to continue the trial.

NOTE: Last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States denied the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari in the case of Penobscot Nation v. Fellencer. This means that the decision of the First Circuit Court of Appeals in that case will remain in effect and is binding law.



Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a nonprofit organization that gives free legal

help to poor people with civil (non-criminal) legal problems

Due to federal budget cuts, Pine Tree has lost some staff. As a result, Pine Tree has had to limit the types of cases that it handles. We have given high priorities to the following kinds of case:

- \* Eviction from public housing
- \* Home foreclosures
- ★ Domestic violence
- \* Problems with Medicare or Medicaid
- ★ Loss, reduction or denial of government benefits (food stamps, TANF, Social Security, employment, etc.)

If you are low-income and need legal help in one of these areas, call the nearest Pine Tree office. If you are a farmworker with employment problems, call the Farmworker Unit at 1-800-879-7463.

Pine Tree also has a Native American Unit in Bangor. The number is 1-800-879-7463. Call the unit if you are a low-income Native American with civil legal problems.

# Canadian Supreme Court decides 1760 treaty gives Nova Scotian Micmacs the right to fish and sell the fish to support themselves

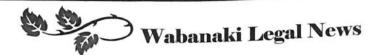
In September of 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada held that a 1760 treaty gave a limited right to Micmacs in Nova Scotia to fish and sell the proceeds for "necessaries," such as food, housing and clothing. The case involved the arrest of Donald John Marshall, Jr. for fishing for and selling eels. Mr. Marshall was convicted of selling eels without a license, fishing without a license, and fishing during the closed season with illegal nets. On appeal, the Supreme Court reversed the convictions.

In November, the Supreme Court issued another decision in this case. The West Nova Scotia Fisherman's Coalition, an interested party, had asked the Court to rehear the case. The Court refused this request, but the second decision is important. In the second decision, the Court emphasized the limited nature of its original judgment. The original decision did not mean that Micmac treaty rights could not be limited. It also did not guarantee the Micmacs an open season in the fisheries. The Court noted that aboriginal and treaty rights might be regulated, as long as the regulation can be justified for conservation or other grounds of public importance. In this case, however, the prosecutor did not make any effort to justify the regulations under which Mr. Marshall was prosecuted. Therefore, the Court did not have a chance to decide whether the regulations were justified.











## Electric Restructuring: What Does It Mean For Me?

In March of 2000, you will be able to choose the electric



power company you want to use to supply your electricity. Sometime before that date, you will probably start getting information from different companies asking you to

choose their service. This is different from the way electricity has been supplied in the past.

For over 80 years, customers have gotten their electricity from a single company, such as Bangor Hydro, Maine Public Service or Eastern Maine Electric Co-op. These companies operated under a "single-provider system." This means that each company had the exclusive right to serve all customers in its service territory. Each company was required to

- generate your electricity
- transmit that electricity to a substation
- deliver power to your home or business and
- maintain all lines and poles



Because these companies were monopolies, the Public Utilities Commission regulated the fees for these services.

In 1997, the Maine Legislature passed an act to restructure the State's electric industry. Under this act, beginning in March of 2000, you can choose the company you want to *generate* power for you. This means that you will be able to shop around for a company to supply you with your power. You can choose the company you want based on the price, the



terms of the contract, the customer service options, or the type of power it provides. For example, you could choose a power company that uses only renewable resources to generate its power.

If you don't choose a company to supply you with power, you will automatically get "standard offer service." The standard offer is the amount that you will pay for power if you have not chosen a power supplier by March 1, 2000.

In late November, the Commission set the rate that will be used for the standard offer. You will be allowed to stay with the standard supplier, if you want. Or, you can choose a new supplier at any time.

Until recently, the PUC expected that Maine electric companies would not be allowed to give standard offer service. In late November, however, the Commission ordered Bangor Hydro and Central Maine Power to provide standard offer service in their service territories.

Other companies had bid for the right to offer that service, but the Commission found that their rates were too high. Bangor Hydro will now be offering standard offer service to all its customers. CMP will offer standard offer service to its commercial and industrial customers. As now set up by the Commission, the difference between buying power from Bangor Hydro or CMP after March 1 and buying power today is that, after March 1, you may switch to another power supplier at any time.

Standard offer rates for Eastern Maine Electric Co-op and the Houlton Water Company will be set at some point in the future. A company called WPS Energy Services will offer residential standard offer service to Maine Public Service customers.

Some things will stay the same under restructuring, however. Your present electric company will continue to give you most of the electric service that will affect you on a day-to-day basis. That company will

- transmit and deliver power to your home or business
- maintain all lines and poles
- restore power during outages and
- bill you for service

Your present electric company will be called a "distribution company." The Public Utilities Commission will still regulate its rates and service.

Electric restructuring is happening in two phases. The first phase, or informational phase, began in January of 1999. At that point, you began to get an "itemized" bill.



This new billing system was not a change in your electric rates. It was only redesigned to show how much you are now paying for

delivery and supply of electricity. Once the second phase of restructuring happens in March, 2000-- the choice phase-- the itemized bill should help you compare prices when you choose your new supplier.



#### Tips for Choosing a New Company:

The Public Utilities Commission offers the following guidelines for choosing a power supply company:

#### Price and Terms

Electric Rates are based on kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage. With your itemized bill, you can compare what you now pay for electricity supply with any rates offered by new suppliers. For most Maine residential consumers, electricity supply is about one third of your bill. Any savings you get from a new supplier will apply *only* to the supply part of your bill, *not* to the delivery portion.

When you think about a new supplier's rates, be sure to consider your own electricity usage patterns. Some suppliers may offer rates that vary by time of day, with discounts for off
(Continued on page 5)





("Restructuring" continued from page 4)
peak usage. Some suppliers may offer you a flat or fixed
price per month. Others may require you to use a
minimum amount of power before you can get a
discounted rate. For example, if you need to use a lot of
electricity during daytime peak hours, a time of day rate
may cost you more than a flat fee.

Before you sign any contract, be sure that you have gotten and read detailed "terms of service." The terms of service should tell you what the price per kWh will be, the kind of rate structure that will be used (for example, whether you

will pay a flat or variable rate), the length of time the contract will be in effect, whether there are any switching or cancellation fees, whether there are any late payment charges, and whether any other fees will be applied.

#### Aggregation

Under restructuring, customers will be able to buy power by "aggregating." This is a new idea. Aggregation means that a group of consumers can get together to buy electricity from suppliers at favorable rates or terms. It means that you should be able to boost your buying power by using bulk Groups who may wish to think about purchasing. aggregation are towns and municipalities, colleges, financial institutions, trade associations, civic groups and business groups. While not listed by the Commission, Indian tribes might want to consider aggregation. Individual residential customers may also want to aggregate through new or established associations.

The Public Utilities Commission will be licensing providers of aggregation services. Check their list of approved aggregators before joining a buying group. For more information about aggregation, call the PUC at 1-877-PUC-FACT.

#### Mix of Energy Sources

Since you can now make choices about your electric supplier, you will be able to buy electricity based on any environmental concerns you may have. By Maine law, all electricity suppliers (except for the standard offer providers) must include a minimum of 30% renewable energy in their power mix. However, some suppliers may offer plans that include even more renewable energy.

Some of the most common renewable energy sources include

- \* Wind
- \* Geothermal
- \* Biomass
- Solar
- \* Hydroelectric



While non-renewable energy (such as coal, nuclear, or oil) may cost less, some forms of renewable energy may be better for the environment. With the power of choice, the PUC believes that you-- the consumer-- will have a direct say about where your energy dollars are spent.

#### Licensing Licensing

Be sure to check to make sure that your new electricity supplier has been licensed by the PUC. You can check their web site at <a href="http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/licensees.htm">http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/licensees.htm</a> or call the toll free helpline at 1-877-PUC-FACT.



#### Information

If you would like more information about electric choice, call the PUC. If you have questions about your itemized bill, call your local electric utility.

You may call the PUC at 1-877-PUC-FACT (782-3228) or write to:

PUC/Electric Choice 242 State Street Augusta, ME 04333-0018

You can also visit their website at <a href="http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/">http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/</a>



## Claim Your Earned Income Credit and Child and Dependent Care Credit

If you worked in 1999, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit. If so, you'll owe less in taxes, and you could get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax, you can get the EIC.

- If you raised one child in your home in 1999 and your family earned less than \$26,928, you can get up to \$2,312.
- If you raised more than one child in your home in 1999 and your family earned less than \$30,580, you can get up to \$3,812.
- If you weren't raising a child, earned less than \$10,200 in 1999, and were between ages 25 and 64, you can get up to \$347.
- If you were raising children in 1999, file federal tax return Forms 1040 or 1040A, not Form 1040EZ. Be sure to attach Schedule EIC.
- If you weren't raising children in 1999, file the return you would normally file.

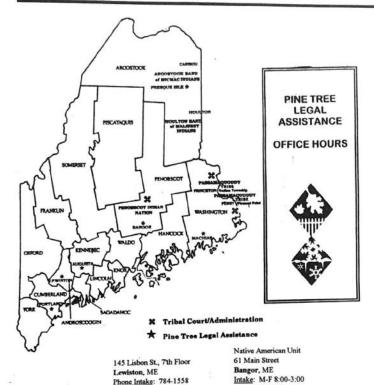
VITA, a program of the IRS, helps people fill out their tax forms for *free*. To find the VITA site near you, call 1-800-829-1040. Be patient -- the line is often busy. Remember: paying for tax preparation takes money away from YOUR refund.

You may also qualify for another federal tax credit. The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that helps you pay for child care you need in order to work or look for work. The credit is also open to you if you must pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who cannot care for him or herself.

You can claim this credit as well as the EIC. You should know, however, that if you earn too little to pay federal income tax, you *cannot* get this credit. This is different from the EIC. You can claim the EIC even if you are earning too little to pay income tax.

You can claim this credit if

(Continued on page 6)



Phone Intake: 784-1558 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

39 Green St., Augusta, ME Phone Intake: 622-4731 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

OFFICES

Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

61 Main ST., Bangor, ME Phone Intake: 942-8241 Hours: M-F 8:00-3:00 Phone Intake: 255-8656 Hours: M-W 8:00-4:00 88 Federal St., Portland, ME Phone Intake: 774-8211 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

373 Main St. Presque Isle, ME Phone Intake: 764-4349 Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30

("Tax Credits" continued from page 5)

X You paid for care in 1999 for a child under age 13 or for a disabled adult who lived with your family, and

1-800-879-7463

Farmworker Unit

Intake: M-F 8:00-3:00 1-800-879-7463

774-4348 or 1-800-442-4293

61 Main Stre

Bangor, ME

- You needed the child or dependent care in order to work or look for work (In a two-parent family, both spouses must have needed care available in order to work or look for work, unless one spouse was a fultime student or unable to care for him or herself), and
- You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home (such as rent, food, etc), and
- You paid less for your dependent care than your 1999 income. If you are married and filing jointly, the income of the spouse with the lowest income must be more than the amount you paid for care. There are special rules for figuring the income of a spouse who was a full-time student or disabled.

If you are a worker with one or two children, the Credit amount equals the amount of your total federal income tax for the year, up to a maximum of \$500/child. If you have three or more children, and you are claiming the Earned Income Credit, you may be eligible for an "Additional Child Tax Credit. Just complete IRS form 8812 to find out if you are eligible.

In order to claim the credit, you must file Form 1040 or 1040A. Specific instructions on this Credit are included with the forms. If you need help, contact the VITA site nearest you. You may get free information about this Credit, or any other tax matter, by calling 1-800-TAX-1040









#### Medicaid and Transitional Medicaid Now Available to Non-TANF Families

The following article is based on information provided by the Maine Equal Justice Partners (MEJP) in the MAIN Update. You may call MEJP at 626-7058. Their website is www.mcjp.org

If you lose your TANF benefits because your earnings from work are too high, you can still get benefits through the Transitional Medicaid program. Now, families may be eligible for up to 12 months of Transitional Medicaid benefits when they lose their regular Medicaid benefits, even if the family never got TANF. This is because families no longer have to be eligible for TANF in order to get regular Medicaid.

You are eligible for regular Medicaid if:

- \* Your family is headed by a single parent, or
- \* Your family has two parents in the home but one parent is unemployed (working less than 130 hours a month) or incapacitated, and
- \* Your income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level.

If you fit these criteria and get Medicaid for even one month and then lose your Medicaid because your income from working becomes too high, you can qualify for Transitional Medicaid benefits for up to 12 months. If you lose your Medicaid because you get an increase in your child support, you can get Transitional Medicaid for an additional four months.

Transitional Medicaid is important because it gives coverage to the parent or parents in a family.

**Example:** Jane and her two children have received regular Medicaid for about a year. She works part-time as a medical technician at the local hospital. The office offered her full-time work. Her earnings now make her ineligible for regular Medicaid. However, she can get Transitional Medicaid for six months and for another six months if her income remains under 185% of the federal poverty level. Her two children will remain eligible for Maine's children's health insurance program as long as the family's income remains under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

For more information on Transitional Medicaid, call your local office of the Department of Human Services, or call the Maine Equal Justice Partners at 207-626-7058. You can send e-mail to <a href="mailto:mhenderson@meip.org">mhenderson@meip.org</a>.



The articles in this paper are meant to give information, <u>NOT to give legal advice</u>. No one should interpret any law without the help of an attorney who has been told all the facts.



The Wabanaki Legal News is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. The views expressed by individual authors in this Newsletter are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.

Executive Director of PTLA: Nan Heald, Esq. Native American Unit:

a Attornovi E

Directing Attorney:

Eric Nelson, Esq.

Staff Attorney: Paralegal:

Craig Sanborn, Esq. Crystal Treadwell

Editor: Cushing Pagon Samp

#### We Want To Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how this Newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Please send articles or letters to:
Wahanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Wabanaki Legal News, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Coe Building, 61 Main Street, Room 41, Bangor, ME 04401. Or you can send e-mail to csamp@ptla.org.



#### INDEX of COMMUNITY RESOURCES



HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Federal Fuel Assistance Program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority gives fuel assistance money to states to distribute to residents who need help with fuel bills. To find out if you qualify, call your nearest Community Action Agency or the Maine State Housing Authority (1-800-452-4668).

The following Community Action Programs offer emergency fuel assistance (HEAP) in your area:

Aroostook County.......768-3053 or 1-800-585-3053

Washington/Hancock Counties......1-800-828-7544

Penquis/Bangor......973-3630

If you can't pay your heating bill, check to see if you can get onto a payment plan. Your electric utility offers special payment plans for low income customers during the winter.

LEGAL SERVICES (Other than Pine Tree):

Maine Lawyer Referral and Information Service: For a \$20.00 fee, you can be referred to a lawyer in your

area for a one half-hour consultation or review of your paperwork.

Telephone: 207-622-1460 1-800-860-1460

Tel-Law:

Tel-Law has a number of different recorded messages to answer your basic questions about the law. It operates 24 hours a day. There is no fee other than the fact that it is a toll call outside the Augusta calling area.

Telephone: 207-622-1470

Wolunteer Lawyers Project:

If you meet the Pine Tree eligibility requirements, the Volunteer Lawyer's Project can give you legal advice or informational materials for free, or will refer you to a private lawyer who may handle your case without charge. There is a telephone helpline on Wednesday evenings to help you with family law questions.

Telephone: 207-774-4348 1-800-442-4293

Legal Services for the Elderly:

If you are age 60 or over, Legal Services for the Elderly can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

Telephone: 1-800-750-5353

Penquis Law Project:

This group gives legal representation to low and moderate income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in the following kinds of cases: Protection From Abuse, Divorce and Separation, Child Support Enforcement, Alimony, Parental Rights and Responsibilities, Wills, and Powers of Attorney. The fee depends on several factors, including your annual income and the complexity of your

Telephone: 207-973-3671

University of Maine Student Legal Services:

If you are an undergraduate student at the University, you can get free or reduced cost civil legal services.

Telephone: 207-581-1789

Chief Advocate, Department of Corrections:

The Advocate refers civil cases of inmates of the State correctional system, including the Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Center, to attorneys under contract with the Department of Corrections.

Telephone: 207-287-2711 TDD: 207-287-4472

Patient Advocate, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services:

The Advocate refers civil cases of patients at state mental institutions or clients of the Bureau of Mental Health and Retardation to attorneys under contract with the Bureau.

Telephone: 207-287-4228 TTY: 207-287-1798

Inmate Advocate Office, Department of Corrections:

This office gives paralegal and advocacy services for Maine State Prison inmates.

Telephone: 207-354-2535, ext. 303

SOCIAL SECURITY:1-800-772-1213 Bangor Area990-4530
DISCRIMINATION: Housing Discrimination
CONSUMER RESOURCES:  **Consumer Mediation Service:  The Attorney General's Office gives this service free of charge. If you want to file a consumer complaint against a business call between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. weekdays. Or write to State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333.  Telephone: 626-8849
Lemon Law Arbitration: If you buy a car that has serious defects, the Attorney General's Lemon Law Arbitration Program can help you. Telephone: 626-8848
W Utility Complaints: The Consumer Assistance Division of the Maine Public Utilities Commission can help you settle problems with any utility in the State. Telephone: 1-800-452-4699
Low Income Telephone Service Help: If you qualify for Food Stamps, Medicaid, TANF, SSI or Fuel Assistance, call your local telephone company to see if you qualify for a reduction on your monthly telephone bill.
<ul> <li>★ Employment/Labor Information:</li> <li>ME Job Service/Aroostook</li></ul>
Maine State Housing Authority1-800-452-4668 Farmers Home Administration947-0335
% Insurance: Bureau of Insurance
Mobile Homes:  Manufactured Housing Board
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (CAPS): These agencies give information outreach job training.

These agencies give information, outreach, job training,

educational programs, day care, housing information and

referral, fuel/energy assistance, insulation and furnace

repair, surplus food, transportation and Emergency Crisis

Intervention Program benefits. Not all services are given

by all agencies.

Aroostook County Action Program 800 Central Drive Presque Isle, ME 04769

1-800-432-7881 or 764-3721

Penquis Community Action Program 262 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401 973-3500 Washington-Hancock Community Agency Maine and Maple Streets Milbridge, ME 04658 546-7544







### TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and AGENCIES

Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians764-1972
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians532-4273
Penobscot Indian Nation827-7776
Passamaquoddy Tribe796-2301 and 853-2600
PENOBSCOT TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM
Court Administrator (George Tomer)827-7776
Clerk of Courts (Clara E. Mitchell)827-5639
Tribal Prosecutor (David Gray)827-5639
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r (George Tomer)827-5639
Regular Sessions: First Wednesday of the month.
Special Sessions as needed.
PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBAL COURT SYSTEM Indian Township Division:
Clerk of Courts (Wanda Doten)796-2301
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r (John Dana)796-2301
Pleasant Point Division:
Clerk of Courts/Administrator (Dorothy Barnes)853-2600
Juvenile Intake/Probation Off'r_(Edward Nicholas).853-2600
Regular Sessions: One Friday per month at each
division. Special Sessions as needed.
OTHER TRIBAL AGENCIES

Tribal Governors Council	941-6568
Maine Indian Tribal-State Commissi	on622-4815
HEALTH SERVICES	
Penobscot Indian Health Center	827-6101
Maliseet Health Center	532-2240
Micmac Health Center	
Pleasant Point Health Center	
Indian Township Health Center	

#### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Wabanaki Mental Health Association, NPC....990-0605 or 990-4346

#### Some Helpful Native American Web Sites

Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut:

http://www.nativeweb.org/NativeTech/Nipmuc/ Pine Tree Legal Assistance:

http://www.ptla.org/wabanaki/wabanaki.htm Index of Native American Resources on the Internet:

http://www.hanksville.org/NAresources/

Native Links: http://www.johnco.com/nativel/ Native Sense: http://www.nativesense.com/