

# Six Nations tobacco industry regulating itself

By Donna Durie  
Writer

Six Nations Health Services is looking to reduce youth smoking rates on the territory.

But a MacMaster University study claiming five per cent of children as young as five were smoking here may have exaggerated earlier statistics garnered from another study.

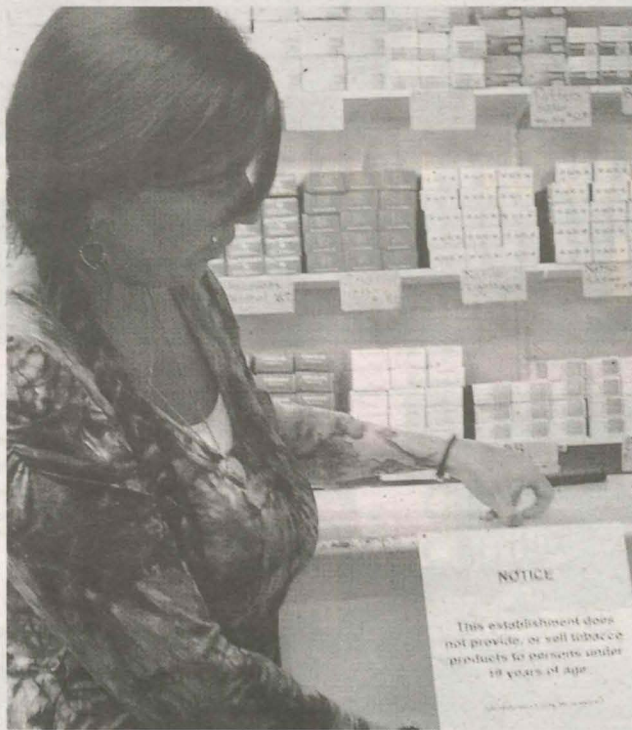
Health Services released statistics two few weeks ago that claimed about five per cent of children on the territory aged five to 10 smoke.

That statistic came from a Tobacco Think Tank Report compiled by McMaster University doctors Sonia Anand and Sujane Kan-

dasamy, which contains recommendations on curbing youth smoking rates on Six Nations.

But the 2012 Tobacco Think Tank Report is not a stand alone study but rather a spin-off of an earlier study, 'Health Assessment and Risk Evaluation among Aboriginal People' (SHARE-AP) conducted more than two decades ago in the late 90s.

Dr. Kandasamy said in the 1990's SHARE-AP study her medical team recruited households on Six Nations and selected families randomly who had been assigned to health intervention. All families completed health assessments (questionnaires,



Posting Notice no sales to minors. (Photo by Donna Durie)

physical measurements) at the initial visit and then again six months later.

"At the initial visit, children were asked these questions by a trained research assistant who recorded their answers on the case report forms," said Kandasamy.

She said study results were interpreted from those answers. "It is from the children's answers where this percentage came to light."

But the new tobacco report also went beyond health statistics and took aim at Six Nations' burgeoning tobacco industry.

It recommended smoke shops increase cigarette prices.

It also recommended Six

Nations does more to restrict youth access to tobacco. It also suggests that "the community should adopt a minimum age" for the purchase of tobacco.

Some other recommendations in the report include: -Increase enforcement of restricting youth access to tobacco

-Create and enforce by-laws regarding advertising and selling tobacco to minors 'ie' signs.

-Control what it called "contraband" tobacco, which includes the measure of allowing police to stop and search vehicles "if reasonable" for carrying raw leaf tobacco

(Continued on page 5)