



## **Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of October 2015**

### October 1, 2015 Meeting with Health Department

Over the last several months Akwesasne Midwives have approached various members of Council requesting support and guidance in the development of an Akwesasne Midwives service. On October 1st a few members of Council and I met with representatives of the Department of Health to better understand the where the MCA health department could potentially assist with the development of a midwife service in Akwesasne. This work is ongoing.

### October 1, 2015 Meeting with Akwesasne Business Chamber

The Akwesasne Business Chamber asked to meet with Council to do an overview what the Business Chamber is all about. The Council and Chamber representatives discussed how the MCA and the Chamber can work together to promote local business.

### October 2, 2015 Meeting MCA Management Employment Agreement (MEA) Representatives

For over well over a year the MCA has been working on amending its General Personnel Policy (GPP). This policy covers most employees of the MCA. There is also an agreement with Managers and Supervisors of the MCA known as the 'Management Employment Agreement' (MEA). A meeting was held to communicate to the MEA representative(s) that the MCA is committed to working with the representatives of the MEA to amend and modernize the agreement, and that we are committed to this work being completed in the near future.

### October 6, 2015 Council Meeting

Tuesday Council meeting update:

- Council reviewed a request to meet from a group of residents from The Nation Municipality (Ontario) to discuss a wind turbine project; the request was referred to Tehotiiennawakon Portfolio for follow up.

- Council was briefed on the recent Health Board meeting.
- Council discussed a request to consider expanding the 2015 Heating & Elders Assistance Program to off reserve members; Council determined that it will not be feasible this year but will research the option for next year.
- An update was provided on Hamilton Island and an issue with north side parking; an MCR will come forward in the coming weeks.
- A brief was provided on the upcoming Rally in Montreal being organized by the AFNQL. The purpose of the rally is to bring attention to the need for support of Native issues in light of the Canada Federal Election.
- MCR's passed: Approval to relocate 'Stop' sign at the intersection of First Street and Park Street Kana:takon; Approval of March 31/15 Consolidated Audit for the MCA; Approval of 2014/15 audit and reconciliation report for MCYS Justice Program; Approval of 2014/15 audit Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Diabetes Program; Approval of Council meeting minutes. MCR denied; Approval of amendments to the MCA Good Standing Policy. October 6, 2015.

#### October 8, 2015 Saunders Generating Station & OPG

I toured the Saunders Generating Station to see first-hand how the station operates. Following the tour, members of Council and I met with the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Joint Implementation Team. The MCA OPG Liaison presented the 2014-2015 report to the members of the MCA and OPG. The committee had a lengthy discussion around the return of the Islands (Adams, Sheek, Toussaint, and Presqu'le) which were part of the settlement; the delays in the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Addition to Reserve (ATR) process has become problematic. OPG desires to return the Islands as quickly as possibly but the ATR process is a hindrance. The committee and Council are going to examine other options and strategies.

#### October 7, 2015 Candidates Debate

On October 7, 2015 I attended the Federal Candidates Debate hosted by the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce held at the Cornwall Civic Complex. Patrick Burger NDP Candidate was the only candidate to mention that an SDSG Member of Parliament should have an ongoing working relationship with Akwesasne. Subsequent to the debate the Conservative Member of Parliament was re-elected.

#### October 13, 2015 Council Meeting

- On travel to Independent First Nations (IFN) quarterly meeting in Toronto.

### October 13, 2015 Independent First Nations Quarterly – Toronto

This half day Independent First Nation (IFN) quarterly meeting began with the communities creating an inventory of the IFN as it has evolved over the last thirty-two years since its creation in 1983. The purpose of the exercise was for new Chiefs and Council members to better understand why each community joined the IFN and what the founding principals were. Akwesasne joined the IFN around 1998, prior to that Akwesasne was affiliated with the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI). Akwesasne felt that the UOI wasn't representing Akwesasne issues as related to our unique geographical location and decided to join the IFN. The first day of the meeting gave each community leadership an opportunity to dialogue amongst themselves on issues happening in each community in order to better understand each community's unique challenges.

### October 14, 2015 Independent First Nations Quarterly – Toronto

The second day of the IFN quarterly meeting, the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) from the Ministry of Children and Youth provided an update on the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. This Strategy had been in the development for over two years. The Strategy was approved in March 2015 by the Ontario Cabinet. Ontario has committed, as a whole of Government approach, to the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy implementation. The key objective of the strategy is to enhance services the Aboriginal children and youth and also increase jurisdiction over child welfare for First Nation communities. The ADM spoke about the upcoming review of the Child and Family Service Act (CFSA) and how the government will focus on Section 10 (s.10) of the Act to build into the legislation the ability for child welfare protection authority to be devolved to First Nation communities, or to allow for recognition of First Nations Laws around child welfare. The ADM also announced that the Ontario Youth Action Plan has been expanded into the Ontario Trillium Fund to support First Nation Community projects.

Following the presentation by the ADM a senior staff member the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (Canada) provided the IFN leadership with an overview of some potential funding for the IFN to support the ongoing operations of the IFN and its staff. Bill Montour, Grand Chief of Six Nations of the Grand River, presented on the Aboriginal Insurance Association which is company who partners with Aboriginal orientated insurance brokers and underwriters to provide a customized insurance product to Aboriginal Communities.

## October 15, 2015 Monthly Ontario Association Children's Aid Society (OACAS) Board Meeting – Toronto

Over the last year the OACAS has been working with consultants on a business proposal known as "Shared Services". This is the creation of a corporation that would be the purchase agent for voluntary CAS's, with the overall objective to become the central purchasing agent for goods and services for participating CAS's. This is being proposed in order to reduce costs, create equal service levels, and ensure CAS's are maximizing collective purchase power within the province. The consultants provided an update on the business proposal; it is expected the final proposal will be approved for implementation by year's end. An update was provided on the current lobby efforts under various headings which include:

- Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities devolution
- Youth protection up to 18 year of age (all areas)
- Permanency and Adoption
  - Subsidies for adoption of older children
  - Subsidies for those with exceptional needs
  - Removing disincentives to adoption
- Funding
  - Real cost model
  - Transition to new model
  - Bridge funds for devolution
  - Create contingency
- Fund for critical community services to support families in high risk situations
- Support real CPIN costs, implementation and sustainment
- Address board liability

Other regular board business was conducted which includes Treasurers' report, Chief Executive Officers' report and Local Directors' report. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2015.

## October 16, 2015 Federal Court hearing in Ottawa

The case management hearing was scheduled for the new Judge assigned to the Seaway Case to receive status updates from Canada and Akwesasne. Justice Richard Bell is the new Case Management Judge replacing Justice Daniele Tremblay-Lamer. As a result of the hearing, the judge ordered a number of requirements to be met by each party in order to prepare for the upcoming trial for the forty year-old law suit against Canada. It is expected the trial will begin within the next two years and would take several weeks to complete.

### October 17, 2015 Strategic Planning – Day 1 – OPG Visiting Center

Council and senior management spend two days at the OPG visiting center to begin the process of developing the 2015-2018 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne strategic plan. The plan is being facilitated by local consultant Dr. Rose Alma “Dolly” McDonald. The planning began on a Saturday October 17, 2015, and continued on Monday October 19, 2015. It is expected another day, and possibly two days, will be needed to complete the strategic planning exercise.

### October 19, 2015 Strategic Planning – Day 2 – OPG Visiting Center

### October 20, 2015 Council Meeting

Tuesday Council meeting update:

- Representative from TransCanada Energy East pipeline project provided Council with an overview of the project and its current status.
- Council reviewed and approved the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting and also discussed the need to ensure follow up is reported.
- A report from the District Meetings was also provided in preparation for the General Meeting.
- A brief was provided on recent discussions around filling in shorelines and enforcement issues.
- MCR's passed: Approval of assignment of lease Thompson Island; Direction for lessees on Hamilton Island to cease using the north side of the Island; Approval of 12/13 Akwesasne Economic Development Fund (AEDF) part 1 Final Report; Approval of 12/13 (AEDF) part 2 Final Report; Approval of application to AEDF for administration fees; Approval of 2014/15 audit for the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities; Approval of 2014/15 audit for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services; Acceptance of amendment to Akwesasne / Canada financial agreement; Acceptance to the amendments to the MCA General Personal Policy.

### October 22, 2015 All day Retreat on Entewatatha:we – 2015 Retreat

The purpose of this one day retreat was for the Entewatatha:we staff and legal counsel Micha Menczer to provide Council with an historical overview and current status of the self-government negotiations that are on-going with Canada under the Entewatatha:we program. The morning session began with a presentation on what is *Entewatatha:wi*, and what are goals for this program and initiatives as it relates to our community. A member of the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office team provided a brief overview of Akwesasne History. This very informative presentation will be made available to the community in the coming months. Over the two days Entewatatha:wi Coordinators

explained Canada's Inherent Right policy, Akwesasne's 'Political Protocol' with Canada, Akwesasne 'Process and Schedule Agreement' with Canada, and explained how these documents are related to the Entewatatha:wi program and process. Staff provided an update on how the program has been educating the community. The afternoon was wrapped up by a review of the rolling drafts of the Final Agreements (Governance and Relationship and Sectoral Agreements) that the negotiations team is working on.

October 23, 2015 attendance at the Grand Opening

"Experience Akwesasne" Welcome Centre at the Peace Tree Mall Kawehno:ke.

October 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Travel to Thunder Bay for Chief of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly on Energy and Political Confederacy meeting

October 27, 2015 Chief of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly on Energy

(Report Attached)

October 28, 2015 Chief of Ontario Political Conference meeting

(Report Attached)

October 29, 2015 Chief of Ontario Political Conference meeting

(Report Attached)



## **Report by Grand Chief Abram Benedict October 27, 2015 – Thunder Bay Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly on Energy– Hydro One**

### **Background**

The government of Ontario currently wholly owns Hydro One. Hydro One owns the majority of electrical distribution and transmission infrastructure in the province of Ontario. Ontario has announced that it intends to sell off 60 % of Hydro One over a period of time to the public in order to raise money for investment into the company and to pay off some of the company's debt.

In July 2015 the newly elected Ontario Regional Chief, Isadore Day, wrote the Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli expressing Ontario First Nations desire to own 10% of Hydro One outside of the upcoming Initial Public Offering (IPO) process. This sale would signify Ontario's commitment to work with First Nations and also would become an economic opportunity for Ontario First Nation communities. In response, the province indicates that they are prepared to discuss equity ownership of Hydro One which could potentially be supported by loan arrangements from the Province.

The Political Confederacy (PC) of the Chief of Ontario (COO) mandated the creation of a Chiefs Committee for the sale of Hydro One and mandated the committee to hire legal and financial experts to analyze the Hydro One sale.

### **Current**

October 27, 2015 the Chiefs of Ontario held a Special Chiefs Assembly on Energy in Thunder Bay to hear from the Chiefs committee, the lawyers, and financial consultants. The Chiefs committee presented the history on why the province is selling up to 60% of Hydro One, what the current financial status of Hydro One is, and opportunities for First Nations Collective Equity and Risks.

### **Financial**

- Hydro One current estimated "equity value" is approximately \$12 billion
- A purchase of 10% is estimated to be around \$1.2 billion

- Net income for Hydro One is \$747 Million (profit)
- Dividends are expected to be \$500 million in 2016
- 10% share would be entitled to \$50 Million

### Risks

Some risks to consider are that the shares value could decline over time which could be affected by market prices, natural disasters etc. The uncertainty of dividends stream would affect the return which is base on Hydro Ones profitability. Loan Refinancing is a risk. The ability to refinance the loan at the end of its term and change in interest rates will affect the affordability of repayment which affects return.

### Next Steps

The Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution for the Chiefs Committee to continue to negotiate with Ontario for the acquisition of shares of Hydro One and finance options to consider. The committee will also examine business structure for the Chiefs to consider.

If this deal materializes Akwesasne would become a partner in the 10% ownership of Hydro one. This would provide an annual income stream for the community through dividends as a shareholder of the company.





## **Report by Grand Chief Abram Benedict October 28 & 29, 2015 - Thunder Bay Chief of Ontario – Political Confederacy Retreat**

### Background

The Political Confederacy (PC) is the Executive Board for the Chief or Ontario (COO) Organization. The members of the PC are:

- Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Mohawks of Akwesasne
- Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, Union of Ontario Indians
- Grand Chief Jonothan Solomon, Mushgowuk Tribal Council
- Chief Fawn Wapioke, Independent First Nation
- Grand Chief Gord Peters, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI)
- Ogichidaa Warren White, Grand Council Treaty #3
- Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River
- Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)
- Ontario Regional Chief, Isadore Day

The main responsibility of the PC is to set policy, establish priorities, and develop plans consistent with the political will and direction of the Chiefs of Ontario, as expressed from time-to-time by the PC, and through the annual assemblies of the Chiefs of Ontario.

### Current

Regional Chief Isadore Day gave opening remarks and outlined the expectation for the two-day meeting. That was followed by updates and expectations from each Political Territorial Organization (PTO) representative, the Independent First Nations (IFN) representative, Akwesasne, and Six Nations of the Grand River.

The Chief Operating Officer for COO provided the PC with an overview of the current operations of the COO office and explained how the political platform of the Regional Chief is being operationalized. This presentation was titled 'The Global Plan'.

With the recent signing of a Political Accord with Ontario, the PC intends to maximize the use of the accord to benefit the communities. The PC identified the political priorities as:

- Child Welfare
- Duty to Consult
- Creation of Jurisdictional Think Tanks

Upcoming lobby days titled "Leaders in the Legislature" have been set for November 25, 26, 2015 in Toronto (Queens Park). The format has been established as roundtable presentations with varying table topics which will include:

- LHIN's - Equitable health programming
- Dialogue with First Nation Youth
- Lands and Environment
- First Nations Wealth and Benefit Sharing
- Public Safety, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman
- Education and Language
- Child Welfare

Part of the ongoing work is to develop jurisdictional think tanks which will include the creation of a child welfare think tank. The PC came up with four draft child welfare principals which will be used to shape the jurisdiction talks over child welfare. The four principals are:

- 1) First Nations have always had jurisdiction over our children
- 2) First Nations will determine our own standards
- 3) Jurisdiction over our children need to be viewed from a holistic approach
- 4) Justice and restoration of families

#### Next Steps:

Following the two day session, the Chiefs of Ontario office and the Regional Chief will:

- Redefine the Global Plan based on feedback from the Chiefs
  - Prepare the plan for Special Chiefs Assembly
- Provide clarity on the "Who is She" campaign and expectations
- Regional Chief will work on communications tool for the Political Confederacy
- Finalize the agenda and process for the "Leaders in the Legislature"
- Finalize protocol with Assembly of First Nations – Chiefs of Ontario
- Examine the creation of a Directorship Committee
- Provide a brief on how the Child Welfare piece will be operationalized

The next PC meeting is planned for November 23, 2015; agenda items not covered from October 28 & 29 will be discussed.