

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Tetewaie:na - Honoring the past, facing today's challenges, building a strong future.



Seskeha /August 31, 2017

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

Wow it's hard to believe that it's the end of August, this summer has really flown by. I'm actually not sure we can even call it summer; our weather hasn't been the greatest, but according to fake news, climate change is a hoax. Aside from fake news, this time of year also means that our children will be heading back to school very soon. Employees at the Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education and the Department of Technical Services have been working hard to ensure our buses, classrooms, and schools are ready for September 5 and we thank them for all their hard work.

On August 24, 2017 our Council hosted our monthly General Meeting in the District of Kana:takon. Unfortunately due to being away on vacation I wasn't able to attend the meeting, but I want to thank our Council for hosting the meeting in my absence. You can view the video recording of the General Meeting at <https://youtu.be/pK3QCnPys1E>. We are always looking to improve our recording quality and welcome your feedback.

During the months of June and July 2017, I presented at the General Meetings on a proposal from the Chiefs of Ontario to collectively purchase shares in Hydro One. This proposal is an opportunity for Akwesasne to become part owner, along with other First Nation communities, in Ontario's Hydro One. Although the ownership would be a small stake in the company, the long term benefits would be very beneficial to Akwesasne. Our Council needs to make a decision on whether or not we, as a First Nation community, become part owner. In anticipation of making a decision by the October deadline, we will be hosting two focus meetings on this proposal: one on **Thursday—September 7, 2017 at 6pm on Kawehno:ke** and the second on **Tuesday—September 12, 2017 at 1:30 pm in Kanata:kon**. I encourage you to attend one or both of these important meetings to learn more about this proposal.

My monthly report is attached for your update and read. Due to my absence at the last General Meeting, the report has not yet been distributed and I'm pleased to share it with you now. I also want to mention that this is a high level report on the majority of my monthly activities, but not every single meeting I attend or host during the month is reflected. Meetings that occur with individual community members are not reported to protect the confidentiality of community members. The report enables you to maintain awareness of the general activities of our Council. I believe this Council has made great strides in both transparency and accountability to the community and acknowledge that there is always room for more improvements.

Have a great month ahead and please feel free to contact me or any one of our district Chiefs if you have any questions about the activities reported.

Nia:wen and all my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Abram Benedict".

Grand Chief Abram Benedict

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Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ohiari:ha/July 2017

JULY 3, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Organizers from the Akwesasne Little Men event provided Council with an overview of the proposed event and requested support from Council; portfolio will follow up.
- Council agreed that Entewatatha:wi will proceed with the development of an Akwesasne specific band classification for the use in the Akwesasne/Canada self-government negotiations.
- Council reviewed the follow up items from the General Meeting of June 22, 2017.
- A briefing was provided on the next steps for the community consultation for the amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law.
- Council was briefed on a complaint received regarding CBSA.
- An update was provided on the 2017 Mother Earth Water Walkers who are scheduled to make a stop in the Akwesasne Territory within a week.
- Council discussed the possibility of reformatting a portion of the Council meetings to be open to the public and video recorded; this will be further researched.
- MCRs passed: Approval of application to Poverty Reduction Fund; Approval to proceed with the payment of BMO mortgage balance for defaulted account; Approval of contract with BT Homes to construct Triplex in Whoville; Approval of 2 upgrade loans to community members; Approval of new construction loan to community member.

JULY 5, 2017 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO POLITICAL CONFEDERACY

On the afternoon of July 5, 2017 I participated on a conference call with the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC). The Ontario

Regional Chief went over the agenda for the upcoming Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA). Members of the PC expressed concern with the lack of discussion time on the agenda, since the agenda was mostly presentations. The PC felt that the AFN needed to allow for more discussion and direction for the participating Chiefs. The PC also felt that the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AFN and the Government of Canada needed to be discussed; members of the PC felt that the AFN should have consulted with the Chiefs prior to the MOU being signed with the Prime Minister of Canada. The PC agreed that the Ontario Regional Chief would send a letter to the AFN National Chief asking that the AFN consider providing time to discuss the MOU. The PC also agreed to meet on the evening prior to the AFN AGA in Regina, Saskatchewan. Staff for the Chiefs of Ontario provided the PC with a briefing from the recent Chiefs of Ontario All Ontario Chiefs Conference held June 13–14 at the Lac Seul First Nation. The PC also agreed to set the agenda for the upcoming meeting with Premier Wynne at the PC meeting being held in Regina.

JULY 6, 2017 MEETING WITH ENBRIDGE GAS

On July 6, 2017 I met with two individuals from the Enbridge Gas Ottawa office to discuss the potential for Akwesasne and Enbridge to collectively submit a grant application to the Ontario Natural Gas expansion program. In January 2017 the Ontario government announced a \$100 million grant program for the expansion of natural gas distribution into un-serviced communities. On July 6, 2017 I reviewed the application guidelines and criteria with the Enbridge representatives and agreed that a presentation should be provided for Council on the expansion grant program and the potential for Akwesasne and Enbridge to apply to the grant. Early in August, with the permission of the Mohawk Council, Enbridge conducted a phone survey of Kawehnoke residents and sampled 62 homes to determine if homeowners would convert and connect to natural gas should the service become available. Of the homes sampled, 50% said they would likely convert and another 20% stated that they would be somewhat likely to convert to natural gas if it

was available. It was determined that based on the results of the phone survey and other surveys the MCA has conducted in the past, and provided that Council approves, an application will be submitted to the Ontario Natural Gas Expansion Program for expansion of natural gas onto Kawehnoke. It was also determined that should Council approve the submission of the application and should the application be successful, the MCA and Enbridge would proceed with a full consultation with the community prior to any work being commenced. On July 24, 2017 Council approved the application to the Ontario Natural Gas Expansion Program.

JULY 10, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council set the agenda for the General Meeting taking place July 20 on Kawehno:ke.
- A concern regarding the utilization of the MCA Communications Unit was discussed and will be followed up on.
- Council discussed the current Council Meeting format and agreed to maintain the format, provided that Chiefs are more conscience of time limitations for portfolio updates.
- A briefing was provided on a recent conference and a concern regarding protocol for staff attendance was discussed.
- Council agreed that the goods in storage at a MCA facility be returned to the owner without a fee.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance of Resignation of Overseer for Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust; Acceptance of transfer payment for Youth for Water Grant; Approval of request to AANDC for copies of all laws, by-Laws, documents, and rejected documents received from Akwesasne from 1986 until present, for the purpose of the Akwesasne Law Registry.

JULY 10, 2017 LEGAL COUNSEL JAMES O'REILLY & NATHAN RICHARDS

On the afternoon of July 10, 2017 I traveled to Montreal to meet with two of the Mohawk Council's lawyers who have been the legal counsel for our Seaway case for the illegal expropriation of the lands on

Kawehnoke and construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The purpose of the meeting was to update the lawyers on the progress of the ongoing talks between the MCA and the Government of Canada. Since the last meeting with legal counsel, MCA representatives have been meeting with Canada regularly and are now in the process of obtaining an official mandate from the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to officially negotiate the settlement of the claim. Once an official mandate to negotiate the claim is received we will form an official negotiations team including MCA technicians and legal counsel.

JULY 7, 2017 RAYMOND CHABOT GRANT THORTON (RCGT)

On the afternoon of July 7, 2017 the Executive Director for the Mohawk Council, the Health Director, Health Portfolio Chiefs, and I met with representatives from Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) to discuss an opportunity to work with RCGT on a proposal to Health Canada. Recently Health Canada issued a request for tenders from vendors and/or contractors for the administration of the Canada-wide non-insured health benefits program (NIHB). The NIHB program administration is done by a third party on behalf of Health Canada. NIHB is responsible for the payment of pharmaceuticals, dental, eye, and a few other services for status Indians in Canada in accordance with a benefits formulary and schedules which are determined by Health Canada. At the July 11 meeting, we discussed submitting a joint bid to Health Canada for the NIHB administration. Follow up meetings will be held with RCGT to discuss further collaboration.

JULY 12, 2017 FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC & LABRADOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION PRE-ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On July 12, 2017 I attended Pre-Annual General Assembly (pre- AGA) for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC). The FNQLHSSC is a non-profit organization that is responsible for supporting the efforts of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador to plan and deliver culturally-appropriate and preventative health and social services programs. The pre-AGA meeting

is held prior to the official AGA in order to share additional information with the participating communities. Staff of the commission provided an update and overview of work being conducted for the FNQLHSSC information governance and how governance ties into information collection. Following this presentation the First Nation Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) provided an overview of the development of regional information governance centers. The FNIGC explained that each region can opt-in to the development of regional centers and that the FNIGC will support all proposals that come forward. The afternoon of the pre-AGA was dedicated to two plenary sessions; one on the needs related to capacity development in the area of information governance and the second was on what a Quebec regional framework would look like as part of the FNIGC Information Governance Center.

JULY 13, 2017 FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On Thursday July 13, 2017 the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) held its annual General Assembly. The purpose of the General Assembly is for the shareholders (member communities) to receive the annual report from the Board President as well as a report from the FNQLHSSC Executive Director. The Executive Director presentation included an extensive list of main projects and activities the FNQLHSSC has been working on or completed over the last year. These project and activities also align with the strategic plan for the FNQLHSSC. The auditors for the FNQLHSSC presented the financial statements for the year ending March 2017. The shareholders elected new directors to sit on the board for the FNQLHSSC for the next year. Other business included reading and adoption of minutes from the 2017 Annual General Assembly.

JULY 14, 2017 PRE MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HEALTH CANADA ON CANNABIS

On July 14, 2017 members of our Council met with staff of Justice and Economic Development to prepare for an upcoming meeting with

Ontario and Canada on the proposed legislation on cannabis. Earlier in the year, the Federal Government announced that they would introduce legislation that would legalize cannabis in small recreational amounts. Our office made contact with the Ontario Cannabis secretariat to request a meeting with the secretariat to better understand how Ontario will be responding to the federal legislation. On July 14 we discussed the potential challenges and impacts the legalization of cannabis will have on our community and on community law enforcement. We further discussed the impacts of the international border, and how possession of cannabis will still be prohibited in the United States. We determined that we would meet with Canada and the province to receive additional information on the proposed legislation.

JULY 14, 2017 BLOCK 1 ADDITION TO RESERVE INTERNAL MEETING

As part of the ongoing work on the block one Addition to Reserve (ATR) process with Canada, I met with the internal block one team, MCA legal counsel, and portfolio Chiefs on July 14, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the legal counsel with an update on the ATR process and to discuss the next steps on the land allotment process. The ATR process has been ongoing for over 15 years and is expected to conclude within the next two years. Once the block one expropriated land is returned to the Mohawk Council it will then have to be allotted to community members where interests exist. At the July 14 meeting the MCA team discussed potential allotments but also discussed situations where land ownership was in dispute and how these situations could be resolved. The team will continue to develop an allotment process and will continue to work with Canada for the final return of the land expropriated in the 1950s.

JULY 14, 2017 INDIGENOUS & NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA ONTARIO REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

As part of our ongoing work to implement the Workplace Revitalization recommendations, the MCA Executive Director has been examining methods to measure the MCA's outcomes. As part of good governance

the Council needs to be able to have measurement data on the MCA's outputs also as well as measurements to determine if the MCA is meeting the needs of community members they are servicing. On the afternoon of July 5, 2017, the Executive Director and I had a conference call with Ontario Acting Regional Director General (RDG) for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to discuss the creation of a pilot project that would create an outcomes based indicator framework for the MCA and potentially for other First Nations. The Executive Director and I explained to the RDG that the MCA was examining the creation of new internal measurements that would support the decision making processes of Council and the financial expenditures of the MCA. The RDG explained that INAC has been examining measurements and that this sort of pilot would complement that work. The Executive Director will be working on a proposal for the RDG to consider a joint pilot project between Akwesasne and INAC. A follow up conference call will be set up with the RDG in the near future to review the proposal.

JULY 17, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from the Seaway Valley Divers Club and the 2017 St. Lawrence River Cleanup briefed Council on this year's clean up.
- Council reviewed recent applications received for the Akwesasne Legislative Commission and agreed to put the applicants forward for acceptance by resolution.
- A request for information from Kanesatake was discussed and will be followed up on.
- A representative from Enbridge Gas presented to Council on the Ontario Natural Gas Grant Program and requested Council's support to apply to the program to service Kawehnoke.
 - MCRs passed: Assignment of lease Pilon Island; Approval of service contract for FASD program; Approval of University of Ottawa's Grant Business Relations proposal contract; Approval of funding request to the Centre of Excellence Special Pilot Funding for the Akwesasne Justice Department; Approval for Housing

Department to proceed with finding banking partner for on reserve mortgages; Approval of six Council Meeting Minutes.

JULY 17, 2017 MURAL UNVEILING AT OPG VISITOR'S CENTRE



On the afternoon of July 17, 2017 our Council was invited by the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to attend a mural unveiling ceremony at the OPG Visitor's Centre in Cornwall. As part of OPG's commitment to building stronger relations with our community they felt it was important to ensure that the OPG Visitor's Centre had an exhibit that expressed the importance of Akwesasne's history. Several months ago the OPG commissioned Akwesasne artist John Thomas to paint a mural to be displayed at the OPG Visitor's Centre. On July 17, 2017 a ceremony was held at the Visitor's Center to officially unveil the mural to the community. The ceremony was attended by a number of members of the OPG executive team, invited guests, as well as members of the Thomas family and other Akwesasronon. I welcomed the guests to the ceremony and spoke about the relationship our community has had with OPG but also spoke about the tough time our community had in the 1950s when construction of the hydro dam began. I highlighted the

impacts but also talked about the reconciliation path we have been on with OPG over the past 10 years. OPG president Mike Martelli shared welcoming words with the community and further spoke about our relationship. Both president Martelli and I also recognized artist John Thomas for his beautiful work as well as the great importance of his work which reminds us of what Akwesasne and the waters looked like hundreds of years ago. The mural will continue to be on permanent display at the OPG Visitor's Center for all visitors to see.

JULY 18, 2017 CORNWALL AKWESASNE HARBOUR COMMITTEE

On July 18, 2017 the Akwesasne Harbour Committee, which includes members of our Council, the MCA Executive Director, Aboriginal Rights and Research staff, and the Director of Tehotiiennawakon met with members of the City of Cornwall Harbour Committee to discuss the next steps with respect to the Cornwall Harbour. In June of 2016 the Cornwall Harbour was divested from the Federal Government jointly to Cornwall and Akwesasne. On July 18, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the City of Cornwall provided the committee with an update on recent financial transactions since the divestiture and outlined recent leases on the property that needed approval from the committee to be renewed. The committee agreed to renew leases for a two year period in order for the committee to determine long term plans. The committee also agreed that the MCA Executive Director and the CAO for the City of Cornwall would meet to examine the possibility of hiring a coordinator to assist with coordinating and implementing recommendations of the committee. Both the City of Cornwall and Akwesasne agreed that each party would appoint community members to the committee to assist with development of next steps for the Cornwall Harbour. Akwesasne and the City are expected to meet again in the near future.

JULY 18, 2017 CORNWALL FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BRIDGE COMMITTEE

Recently the Cornwall Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) formed a working committee to examine the impacts the toll and customs have

on the relationship and economy of Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall. On July 18, 2017 I attended a committee meeting at the futures development office in Cornwall. At this meeting the Mayor of Cornwall was in attendance. The project officer for the CFDC reported to the committee that he has been trying to obtain copies of the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) financial statements to better understand the finances of the SIBC and its efforts to collect enough tolls to maintain the bridge. The SIBC has not yet provided the CFDC with copies of the financial despite a few requests. A briefing was provided to the Mayor on proposed strategy to approach the Minister of Transportation regarding the toll and its location. A draft joint letter to the Minister of Transport was reviewed with the committee. The Mayor invited CFDC to present to the City Council to request official support from the Council on the challenges being faced due to the toll location. It was agreed that a presentation would be arranged to request support from the City of Cornwall. I agreed, on behalf of Council, to request Mohawk Council's support.

JULY 19, 2017 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO POLITICAL CONFEDERACY

On July 19, 2017 I attended a Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) meeting in Six Nations of the Grand River. An update was provided by the Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) on the upcoming Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly and the ORC updated the PC on the position of the AFN regarding the Council of the Federations meeting that was occurring as the PC meeting was occurring. The AFN National Chief was invited to attend the Council of Federations meeting but chose to boycott the meeting because the AFN wouldn't receive the same recognition as the provinces.

The Executive Director from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) provided the PC with an overview and update of an upcoming event whereby the OACAS will acknowledge and apologize for the CAS's role in the residential school era. The OACAS will make a

commitment to work closer with First Nation communities and ensure that all front level agency staff receive training on Indigenous people.

Following the update from the OACAS a representative from the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) provided an update to the PC on the tri lateral table on boil water advisories (BWA) between the province, the federal government, and First Nations. The Chiefs of Ontario Environment Director explained to the PC that the federal government has been attempting to consult with Ontario communities on the Safe Drinking Water Act, but Ontario Chiefs' position has been that there is no need to consult because the direction from the Chiefs is that the Act should be repealed. The PC agreed that another letter will go to the Minister of INAC reiterating the Ontario region's position on the Act. Consultants provided an overview and of the recent review of the OFNTSC which resulted in recommendations for improvement. This work was mandated by the Chiefs and will be further reviewed to improve the efficiency of the OFNTSC.

The PC meeting was wrapped up with a briefing of the upcoming meeting with the Premier of Ontario as well as lengthy discussion on the epidemic of suicides in our communities. The PC agreed that youth suicides would be an agenda item for the meeting with the Premier.

JULY 20, 2017 MEETING WITH FINTRAC

On July 20, 2017 I provided a tour to the Director, the Compliance and Audits Manager, and the Government Relations Manager from the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC). We began our community tour on Kawehno:ke then proceeded to Kana:takon and finally Tsi Snaihne, with lunch at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. Throughout the tour I highlighted the challenges the border places on our community and the challenges our people face with accessing banking services. I explained that our people are forced to use cash much more often than off-reserve people, because of the limited access to banking services and the associated costs of using ATMs, credit cards, and debit cards due to transaction fees and

exchange rates. It is much more feasible and affordable to use Canadian cash for purchases made in Akwesasne. Following our community tour we joined Chief Tim Thompson and Chief Karen Loran at CIA #3 for a sit down meeting.

The Director of FINTRAC explained to us that FINTRAC's mandate is to facilitate the detection, prevention, and deterrence of money laundering and the financing of terrorist activities. The director further explained that under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA), banks, trust companies, credit unions, loan companies, insurance companies, money services businesses, accountants, real estate brokers, dealers in precious metals, and basically any other businesses that may handle large cash transactions, are required to report to FINTRAC. The reporting companies are required to report transactions over \$10,000 and any suspicious activities or both. The director further explained that those reporting companies are required to record certain information (mostly basic information, plus occupation) on the client with a transaction over \$10,000 which is also reported to FINTRAC. FINTRAC receives all the data from the reporting business and analyzes it and FINTRAC determines where a threat or criminal activity may be happening. All data received from the reporting business is one way and FINTRAC cannot request additional information from the business.

Based on the information received, FINTRAC determines which agency they will report suspicious activities to, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canada Revenue Agency and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. The agencies receiving the information from FINTRAC are not able to request additional information from FINTRAC as the information is only provided to FINTRAC. The information FINTRAC possesses cannot be subpoenaed or accessed through Access to Information and Privacy.

We questioned FINTRAC regarding the Bank of Montreal's decision to close certain bank accounts and to limit the amount of cash account holders can deposit at one time. FINTRAC explained that they cannot restrict accounts at any bank and cannot restrict banking transactions; they only require banks to report transactions over \$10,000 and any suspicious transactions. They explained that in the big banks they have a reporting department that reviews all large transactions over (\$10,000) and will question the branch manager on the transactions that have occurred. It is up to the branch manager to address concerns, this is where FINTRAC explained it is important for the branch to know its clients and understand the community they are in. I believe this is where the Bank of Montreal has failed in our community, and after learning more about FINTRAC it is pretty clear to me that the Bank of Montreal does not want to do the reporting work. It is clear that Akwesasne is a cash heavy community because of the border which would translate into increased reporting work for the bank. More reporting does not mean there is suspicious activity; it just means there are more cash transactions.

Chief Loran questioned the Director of FINTRAC on one thing that stood out on the day's tour; the director told us that our border community is not like what he had envisioned. The director viewed the community as one side and the other and not being intertwined by the border, and he would have never thought the border impacted our everyday lives. In closing the director suggested that we monitor upcoming legislation on financial reporting requirements because our community could be placed in a situation where we are legislatively disabled from accessing cash and banking services. FINTRAC will be sending us a follow up letter outlining the bank requirements and referencing our geographic location.

JULY 20, 2017 MEETING WITH THE AKWESASNE YOUTH COUNCIL

As part of our commitment to assist the Akwesasne Youth Council, on July 20, 2017 members of our Council met with the Akwesasne Youth

Council as part of Council's commitment to ensure that regular meetings with the youth take place. At the meeting on July 20, 2017 we provided the youth with an update on the recruitment of youth to fill the vacancies on the Akwesasne Youth Council. The one youth representative who attended the monthly meeting provided an update to Council on her recent activities and also reported that she has been speaking to other Akwesasne youth to get them interested in joining the council.

JULY 20, 2017 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of July 20, 2017 Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Anowarakowa Arena. The agenda included a presentation from the Kawehnoke Corridor Working Group on the proposed improvements to the corridor on Kawehnoke as well as a presentation from the Director of Tehotiennawakon on the proposed tobacco shop on Hamilton Island; he also provided an update on the Ontario Akwesasne Tobacco Pilot project. I provided another presentation to the community on the Chiefs of Ontario proposed purchase of Hydro One Shares. The presentations were followed by business from the floor. Approximately 15 people were in attendance at the General Meeting.

JULY 21, 2017 MEETING WITH ONTARIO AND CANADA REGARDING CANNABIS LEGISLATION

On July 21, 2017 representatives of the Ontario Legalization of Cannabis Secretariat under the Ministry of Attorney General and representatives from Health Canada met with members of our Council at the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Visitor's Center to hear a presentation from Ontario and Canada on the proposed legislation to legalize cannabis. Prior to the presentation at the OPG Visitor's Center, we invited members of Ontario to tour the Seven Leaf facility on Kawehnoke. Lewis Mitchell provided a guided tour of the facility and explained to the Ontario delegation the process the company is going through to become a licensed cannabis producer and distributor. Following the tour, Ontario

provided an overview of Ontario's legislative framework and explained that a number of regional consultations are occurring and that because of the ambitious timeline the federal government has set out, the province needs to develop their legislation quickly. Health Canada explained the legislation the federal government has introduced in the House of Commons and further explained what components are being left to the provinces. After the presentation we explained to Ontario and the Feds that because of Akwesasne's unique geographical location being in two provinces that Akwesasne would be looking to develop our own legislation to regulation the production and distribution of cannabis, provided that the community of Akwesasne supports those efforts.

JULY 24, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- A discussion was held on the need for Council to ensure that we maintain quorum for meetings that require quorum.
- Council agreed to move the Council meeting of August 7th to the 8th due to the holiday.
- MCRs passed: Approval of First Nations Constable Pilot Project submission for funding; Approval of lease on Pilon Island; Approval of support for grant application to Ontario Natural Gas Grant Program; Approval of 2016-2017 audit for Literacy & Basic Skills, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; Approval of request to INAC for band capital funding; Approval of recommendation to appoint shareholders for the Akweks:kowa corporation; Approval of recommendation to appoint Directors for Akweks:kowa corporation.

JULY 25-27, 2017 AFN ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On July 25, 2017 I traveled to Regina, Saskatchewan to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). On the morning of July 25, the National Chief welcomed the Chiefs and delegates and provided a report on the ongoing work the AFN had been working on with the Government of Canada. The National Chief acknowledged the Prime Minister and his Members of Parliament for

working to better Canada as well as the lives of Indigenous people, and also commended the Government for doing a joint review of laws and policy that affect Indigenous communities.

The Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould addressed the assembly and provided an update on the law and policy review the government has commenced and outlined the next steps for the review. The review of all its laws and policies are being conducted to ensure they comply with section 35 of the Constitution and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Minister Wilson-Raybould also announced that the Trudeau government will be making significant changes to the relationship between communities and the government to support more nation to nation governance.

Following Minister Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC) Canada Carolyn Bennett addressed the assembly and echoed the Justice Minister's comments regarding the government commitment to nation to nation relations and upcoming changes to INAC. Minister Bennett also updated the assembly on the federal government's fiscal policy work and informed the assembly that the federal government will be modernizing its fiscal policy and will be no longer clawing back infrastructure monies at year end starting in 2018. This announcement by the Minister will greatly benefit many communities including Akwesasne; we will no longer be bound to spend all our infrastructure money by March 31, which creates many challenges due to the construction season.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna also addressed the assembly and spoke about the work their departments are doing to review certain legislation to build upon the government's commitment of nation to nation relationships. The remainder of the first day was dedicated to updates from the Tri-Councils; the Community Safety and Policing

portfolio, the Dowie Wenjack Legacy Room Project, and the AFN charter renewal process.



On the morning of the second day of the assembly there were dialogue and strategy sessions held on under a number of topics for the Chiefs to participate in. Following the morning breakout sessions the National Chief provided an update to the main assembly on the work being done to develop an Indigenous Languages Act. Additional updates were provided on education, environment, water and infrastructure, fiscal relations, and the National Treaty Alliance against the tar sands.

Two commissioners of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls provided the assembly with an update on the work the commission has completed to date. Commissioner Audette explained that it has taken longer than expected to get the inquiry operating; the commissioners had to work from only the terms of reference given to them from the Federal Government. Several Chiefs and proxies expressed grave concerns over the lack of transparency on the selection of the commissioners as well as the establishment of the inquiry organization. Several families who had loved ones lost or murdered lined up to tell their story to the two commissioners. Many of the families expressed the pain they suffered because of the loss of their loved ones and voiced their concerns with the lack of police services assistance in locating missing loved ones and with police services that

provided very questionable services. Some of the families who presented to the commissioners asked that the commissioners resign and that the inquiry start over and consult with the families on the individuals appointed to the commission. The emotional presentations continued for three hours and were concluded with a very passionate closing remark from Commissioner Audette who explained that she will continue do the tough work she was asked to do and remarked that since becoming a commissioner last year, many families have provided her with support and have asked the commission to proceed with its work.

On the third day of the assembly additional updates were provided on health, lands and resources, the First Nation labour market, economic development, and fisheries. The assembly concluded with the Chiefs in assembly passing a number of resolutions in support of projects and to provide direction on national files. One resolution calling for the resignation and overhaul of the Inquiry into the Missing and Murder Indigenous Women and Girls was debated for a very long time and was finally removed by the sponsoring Chiefs.

JULY 31, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- The staff of Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) provided Council with an update and overview of the community information meetings that have occurred on the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Claim.
- Council was briefed on a recent meeting held on land accretion and discussed options for mitigation and enforcement.
- The Executive Director and the Manager for Nation Building provided Council with an update on the development of a proposed Political Service Agreement for future consideration.
- Council was briefed on a concern with respect to the issuance of residency letters.
- The contact information for a contractor for grants proposal writing was shared with Council for consideration.

- Council agreed to move the Council meeting of August 14th to the 15th.
- A briefing was provided on a recent meeting with representatives from the Mohawk Nation on the immigration requirements of the USA for certain applications.
- MCRs passed: Approval of conditions for allocation of Ontario quota for community business; Acceptance of resignation of two youth from the Akwesasne Youth Council; Approval of amendment to Akwesasne/Canada funding agreement; Approval of assignment of lease for Pilon Island; Approval of new construction loan to community member; Approval of 3 upgrade loans to community members; Approval of funding submission to AANDC for River Road reconstruction; Approval of appointment of community members to sit on Akwesasne Legislative Commission; Approval of amendments to Health Contribution agreement; Approval of First Nation Regional Health Survey Phase II; Approval of Police Commission recommendation to offer position of Chief of Police to successful applicant; Approval to rescind previous MCR on creation of a community board on economic proposals.