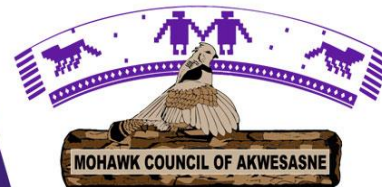


MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



Onerahtohko:wa /May 31, 2017

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

It seems like only last week I was working on my last monthly report; time is certainly flying. Last Friday, on May 26, 2017 the MCA hosted its annual employee recognition luncheon at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center. I was honored to participate in this important event held to recognize our employees and it's a pleasure to watch as Vaughn Phillips—Employee Advocate, livens up the event. I shared with the attendees that as I travel as part of my responsibilities as Grand Chief, I get to see many other communities and I see a world of difference between Akwesasne and other Indigenous communities in Canada. I see how far advanced we are and how many other communities are struggling with issues we struggled with years ago. It's obvious that our advancement is due to the dedication of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne employees; we are an amazing organization with a workforce that is leading the way. To all employees of the Mohawk Council, you are the best and I thank you for your dedication and commitment to our organization and community!

Last week our Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. We had approximately 20 community members in attendance. Before we started the meeting we honored Louis Levi Oakes, for his achievements and dedication as a Mohawk Code Talker. The agenda for the evening included a presentation from Kawehno:ke Corridor Working Group which is assisting with the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the north side corridor improvements on Kawehno:ke. The Work Group provided an overview of the proposed improvements and asked for feedback from the community. Additional community information sessions will be occurring in the future. Following the presentation by the Kawehno:ke Corridor Working Group, Peter Garrow gave the community an update on the Entewatatha:wi program and outlined the next steps for the education process. Following the presentations, we took questions from the community, as the business from the floor segment of the agenda. **Here is the link to the May 2017 MCA General Meeting:** <https://youtu.be/OIHVQE-ulls> . Please take a moment to listen in, stream it on the way to work, or download it to your phone.

I provided the community with a copy of my written monthly report at the General Meeting, which I am now sharing with you. I hope you take a moment to review the attached report, which provides a quick snapshot of my activities over the past month by providing a summary of each of the meetings attended. You can also view all my past reports online at www.akwesasne.ca or on my Facebook page. Feel free to direct any questions you may have to me or contact one of our District Chiefs should you have questions on Council meetings.

Enjoy the great month of June!

Sken:nen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abram Benedict', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Onerahtokha/April 2017

APRIL 3, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Director of Tehotiiennawakon updated Council on the application progress to apply to 'Connect to Innovate' for infrastructure funding for Fibre Optic expansion into the community.
- The Mohawk Council Comptroller and Assistant Comptroller provided Council with an overview and progress update for the MCA 2017/2018 budget.
- Council agreed to provide a letter of support for a developing exhibit named Skywalkers, a tribute to Mohawk Ironworkers.
- A briefing was provided regarding Elders assistance; the housing portfolio to review the policy for future scenarios.
- Council agreed to support a resolution opposing the shipment of radioactive waste through the territory and waterways.
- A concern with respect to the current road conditions and slow response to mitigate was discussed; portfolio and administration to follow up.
- Council discussed the General Meeting format and agreed to examine formatting options.
- A brief was provided on MCA's efforts to recruit another doctor to serve the community; efforts are underway and an update will be provided to the community shortly.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Housing (2) upgrade loans to Community Member(s); Approval of lease on Stanley Island; Approval of amendments to Legislative Commission Charter and Procedural Regulations; Approval of agreement with Ministry of Long Term Care; Approval of (4) Council Meeting Minutes.

APRIL 4 & 5, 2017 OACAS THINK TANK

I attended a day and a half session hosted by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), as follow up to a previous session which was held to discuss the idea of apologizing to Indigenous people for CAS's role in residential schools and the implementation of government assimilation policies on Indian people. The

facilitator Bob Watts provided an overview of the current political landscape as it relates to Indigenous people in the child welfare sector in Canada, and outlined the ongoing reconciliation effects by the Province and Canada. The OACAS Indigenous Unit provided an overview of the various agency initiatives taking place in Ontario to promote reconciliation. Following the presentations, the participants broke into smaller groups to discuss individual agency practices and share ideas for improvement. Elders from the Chippewas of Rama provided spiritual guidance and insight into meaningful reconciliation. The second day gave the Indigenous participants an opportunity to have open dialogue with CAS staff on the current and past challenges in the child welfare sector. The OACAS will continue to dialogue with its member agencies and Indigenous agencies on moving towards an acknowledgement statement for past wrong doings.

APRIL 6, 2017 CORNWALL INNOVATION CENTRE (CIC)

On the afternoon of April 6, 2017 the Cornwall Innovation Centre (CIC) officially opened its office at the Cornwall Nav Centre. The CIC is the result of the Cornwall University Steering Committee and its partnership with Carleton University. The committee partnered with Carleton University to bring a 'Lead to Win' program to Cornwall. The CIC will assist entrepreneurs in Cornwall with mentorship, support, and investment which is a model used in the 'Lead to Win' program. As the CIC continues to grow, it will deliver post-secondary programs in Cornwall, in partnership with Carleton University. On April 6 I participated in the opening celebration and provided congratulatory remarks to the University Steering Committee on their accomplishment.

APRIL 7, 2017 SOVEREIGN WEALTH CHIEFS COMMITTEE

In preparation of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) in Gatineau, the Sovereign Wealth Chiefs Committee held a conference call. The sovereign wealth committee has been leading the negotiations for the purchase of Hydro One shares from the Province of Ontario. Over the past two years, the Chiefs committee has been regularly updating the Chiefs in Assembly on the negotiations progress with Ontario. The Province of Ontario has announced that they will begin to publically sell shares in Hydro One until it has sold 60% of the company to the public; Ontario has also agreed to sell 2.5% of Hydro One shares to the First Nations in Ontario collectively. The Chiefs committee reviewed the power point presentation and provided feedback and input in order to make it more reader friendly. Most of the negotiations with Ontario have been completed but now the committee needs to develop the corporate structure to acquire the shares and distribute profits. Following the presentation to the Chiefs in Assembly, the committee will be asking the Chiefs to endorse the negotiated deal and

proceed to a final agreement. The Special Chiefs Assembly was set to occur on May 2 & 3, 2017 in Gatineau.

APRIL 7, 2017 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On the afternoon of April 7, 2017, I attended a special edition of the St. Lawrence College Community Council meeting at the Cornwall Campus. President Glenn Vollebregt welcomed the invited participants and provided historical background of St. Lawrence College as it is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. President Glenn asked the participants to dialogue among the arranged tables on how the college can better engage the community. The College wants to ensure they are offering programming that is beneficial to the community and not just programming that is in demand because of industry shortage. Following the breakout session President Glenn introduced several students to the Community Council. Each student introduced themselves to the participants and outlined what program they were enrolled in as well as who they wished to thank for supporting them during their time at St. Lawrence College.

APRIL 10, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- A real estate broker from Royal LePage provided: (1) an overview on the rationale for property value increases and (2) the current listings in the Dundee area for Council's information.
- The Emergency Measures Officer provided Council with an overview of the recent revisions to the Akwesasne Joint Emergency Operations Plan and the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) Guidebook.
- A professor from the University of Calgary provided Council with an overview of a research project regarding Indigenous Chiefs roles and responsibilities and requested that Council participate in the study. Council agreed to voluntarily participate.
- The MCA Benefits Administrator and other representatives from Human Resources briefed Council on a proposed change in service providers for the MCA healthcare insurance/benefits plan and how the change would benefit the MCA and its employees.
- The Director of Tehotiiennawakon briefed Council on an upcoming resolution to accept and approve an application for submission to 'Connect to Innovate' for infrastructure funding for Fibre Optic expansion into the community.
- Council agreed to a review of priorities and progress updates for the next General Meeting of April 27, 2017.

- A recent application to the Canada 150 fund was discussed and the status of the application will be followed up on.
- Council discussed the need to identify a person to assist with CBSA complaints and also requested that CBSA present on the current status of the liaison position.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance of HIRA Guidebook; Acceptance of Akwesasne Joint Emergency Operations Plan Revisions; Approval to proceed with change of MCA benefits carrier; Approval to rescind (2) renovation loan(s) to community member(s); Approval of application to Canada's Connect to Innovate and Quebec Connect; Approval of (4) Council Meeting Minutes.



APRIL 12, 2017 REGIONAL ECONOMIC RENEWAL SUMMIT

I was invited by the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) to provide opening comments at the annual 2017 Regional Economic Renewal Summit, which was held on April 12, 2017 at the Cornwall Nav Centre. The FCDC had asked local area leaders to welcome the participants but to also provide a state of the union on the current status of the economy in Cornwall and area. During my allotted 15 minutes I spoke about the current unemployment rate in Akwesasne, the challenges our community faces with the location of the CBSA, and the impact of the toll booth. I reminded the participants that Akwesasne is the second largest First Nation in Canada and that we need to work closer together to ensure the region grows together to create a stronger economy and healthier

communities. The City of Cornwall Mayor Lesley O'Shaughnessy and Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Warden Jim Bancroft also provided their opinion on the current economic wellbeing of Cornwall and region. Following the local leadership addresses, the Assistant Deputy Minister Victor J Severino for the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth addressed the participants and spoke about the work the Ministry is doing to support local economic development and business development. Following Mr. Severino's address I spoke to him briefly regarding Akwesasne and invited him to visit the community to learn more about our ongoing economic development initiatives. Mr. Severino is tentatively scheduled to tour Akwesasne in June 2017.

APRIL 13, 2017 CALL WITH THE DIRECTOR OF FINTRAC

Earlier in January 2017, our office wrote to the Director of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (also known as FINTRAC) regarding the challenges our community faces with respect to banking and the international border. On March 7, 2017 I had an initial call with Director Cossette of FINTRAC. Director Cossette committed to come to Akwesasne and on April 13, 2017 I followed up call with him regarding his visit. Director Cossette informed me that he would like to come to Akwesasne at the same time that the Inter-Department Deputy Minister Committee on border crossing challenges comes to Akwesasne. I agreed that this would be an appropriate time and informed him that my office would coordinate the meeting and tour.

APRIL 18, 2017 MUTUAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

On April 18, 2017 I traveled to Thunder Bay to participate at a Mutual Transparency and Accountability community engagement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). When the liberal government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took office, they committed to review legislation imposed by the previous government that impacted First Nation communities. The First Nations Fiscal Transparency Act required all First Nations to publish their financial statements as well as the salaries for the Chief and Council; the Trudeau government committed to review this legislation and while the review was occurring they committed to not take action on any non-compliant communities. This Mutual Transparency and Accountability community engagement session was part of the governments review process. The INAC representatives provided the First Nation participants with an overview of the current legislation and outlined how they wished to move forward with the review to ensure that INAC was being accountable to communities as well as communities being accountable to INAC. Following the presentation the participants broke into groups to discuss mutual accountability and what that meant to each community. The overwhelming

message was that INAC needed to be more transparent on how they arrived at their decisions. Many communities felt that INAC makes funding determinations with very little to no information or accountability for the decision, yet INAC wants overwhelming information to support funding applications. Following a number of breakout sessions and dialogue on how to improve the transparency and accountability of communities and INAC, the Ontario Region of INAC provided a presentation on leveraging infrastructure funds to meet capital project needs. The purpose of this presentation was for INAC to provide information to communities on the possibility of financing capital projects; INAC is struggling with being able to meet the needs of communities and is looking at alternative options for consideration by First Nation communities.

APRIL 19 & 20, 2017 ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS) MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The board for the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) met on the evening of April 19 and on the morning of April 20, 2017 to conduct its regular monthly business. The Aboriginal Unit Director provided the board with an overview and report from the OACAS think tank session held earlier in the month and outlined the next steps for the issuance of an acknowledgement for CAS's role in the mistreatment of Indigenous children. The newly hired Director for Share Services introduced himself to the board and provided an overview of the progress to implement the share service business model. Other board business and updates provided included: Update from the Finance and Performance Committee; update from the Governance Advisory Committee; CEO report; Update on Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) deployment; Board Governance Committee update; financial statement reporting; update on the decision-making framework; and update on Bill 89. The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set to occur on May 18, 2017.

MAY 20, 2017 30TH ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DINNER & AWARDS



I was invited by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to attend the 30th Annual Testimonial Dinner & Awards hosted by the Public Policy Forum in Toronto on May 20, 2017 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The Canada's Public Policy Forum is an independent, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the quality of government in Canada through dialogue

amongst leaders from all sectors of Canadian society. On the evening of May 20,

2017 seven (7) individuals who have made considerable contributions to public policy and affected change were honored. One of the honorees is an Indigenous man of Cree and Anishinaabe heritage who is a surgeon for the Alberta Health Services. The evening event was moderated and facilitated by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and attended by a number of senior government officials. Over the course of the evening the Prime Minister provided details of each honoree's achievements and a speech was given by each recipient.

APRIL 21, 2017 COO POLITICAL CONFEDERACY

On April 21, 2017 I attended a Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) meeting at the Chiefs office in Toronto. The Regional Chief provided the PC with an update on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) fiscal relations table with Canada and expressed that there is a concern as to how regions can feed into the work the AFN is doing with Canada. The PC discussed the challenges with the lack of communication from the National Chief at the AFN and agreed that this issue will be raised with the National Chief at the upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly.

Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership Update

The President of the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) provided the PC with an update on Ontario's modernization plan for gambling. Over the last several years the province has been privatizing many of the casino operations which concerns the OFNLP because as the province privatizes the casino operations it serves to decrease the amount of profit the Ontario First Nations would have otherwise received. This concern has been previously raised with the Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation (OLGC) as well as the Minister of Finance. The PC agreed that this issue would be raised with the Premier as well as the Minister of Finance at an upcoming meeting. The President also provided an update on the ongoing arbitration with the province for on reserve money from the old agreement with Casino Rama; the arbitration will continue to move forward but Chiefs agreed that they would continue to request a political solution to this dispute.

Upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly

The PC reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) scheduled to occur on May 2-3, 2017 in Gatineau with a lobby day set to occur on May 4 in Ottawa. It was agreed that the agenda needed to have more time for dialogue and less presentations. In the past it was felt that Chiefs assemblies ended up being more information then discussion on strategies. The Grand Chief of the Union of Ontario Indians provided the PC with background information on a recent alliance between the Union of Ontario Indians and the Iroquois Caucus on

the transportation of nuclear waste from Chalk River Ontario to South Carolina and requested that a presentation be provided to the SCA. The PC also requested that the Chiefs of Ontario set up a meeting with the Canada Revenue Agency during the SCA to discuss the OI employee leasing issue and to request ministerial intervention.

Infrastructure, Housing, and Water Update

Representatives from the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) provided a report and overview from a recent Chiefs water summit held in Toronto earlier in April and outlined the next steps in the development of a First Nations Led Approach (FNLA) to water. The PC agreed that the Chiefs of Ontario needed to collaborate more closely with OFNTSC and that a communications framework between OFNTSC and COO would be developed to effectively bring change. The PC also agreed that a joint action plan needed to be developed between the OFNTSC and COO to address the housing and infrastructure needs of the communities. I provided the PC with a report from the recent session I attended in Thunder Bay whereby INAC presented on leveraging community infrastructure funding to meet the community needs. I further explained that COO needed to be aware that INAC was examining ways of establishing third party involvement in community financial and infrastructure supports to help manage the needs.

Ontario's Strategy for A Safer Ontario & Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement

The policy advisor to the Regional Chief provided the PC with an overview and report on Ontario's strategy for a safer Ontario and the Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement. It was outlined that the Chiefs are concerned with the process and the proposed changes to the Ontario Police Services Act and the impacts those changes will have on community police forces. The PC agreed that correspondence will be sent to both the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General regarding the amendments to the Police Services Act as well as the process. The PC also recommended that this issue be raised with the Premier at the bi annual meeting between the Premier and First Nation Leadership.

Other files updated on

The Ontario First Nations Young People's Council provided a report on a recent application for funding to create a program based response to sexual violence that uses a survivor centric approach to healing and asked for leadership support of the application. The youth further reported to the PC they support the Union of Ontario Indians and the Iroquois Caucus position on the transportation of the

radioactive waste. The Chiefs of Ontario Environment Director provided the PC with a briefing on the creation of a political relations table with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

APRIL 24, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Manager of the Office of Vital Statistics and the Leasing Officer for the MCA briefed Council on the current island leasing processes and outlined areas of concern where improvements can be made.
- Council reviewed the current lobbying committee structure and will meet weekly to review current priorities and strategize on action plans.
- Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs briefed Council on issues raised at the most recent District Meeting.
- A recent request regarding the Anowarako:wa Arena Turf was tabled and will be further researched regarding the current condition of the turf.
- Council identified representatives to attend an opening ceremony at the Montreal Museum for the installation of a totem pole from the west coast.
- Council was provided an update on a case whereby Akwesasronon were charged for hunting in New Brunswick; a follow up meeting will be arranged with the SRMT and the MNCC.
- MCRs passed: Approval of MCA Mohawk Language Strategic Plan; Approval of lease on Stanley Island; Approval of assignment of lease on Hamilton Island; Approval of Canada 150 contribution agreement for improvement to Anowarako:wa Arena Refrigeration Unit; Approval of contribution agreement for minnows and shoreline study; Approval of agreement with the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust for 2017 allocations to the community; Approval of (2) Council Meeting Minutes.

APRIL 26, 2017 COMMUNITY TOUR WITH INAC ARDG

On the morning of April 26, 2016 we welcomed the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Associate Regional Director General (ARDG) Michael O'Byrne to Akwesasne for a tour of the community followed by a meeting regarding capital projects. The ARDG was accompanied by officials from INAC's capital and community infrastructure branch to learn more about Akwesasne and to see the on the ground infrastructure challenges our community faces. Recently we received funding approval from INAC to proceed with the reconstruction of Buckshot Road on Kawehno:ke. The Tsi Snaihne School wastewater treatment plant is the next capital project we are lobbying INAC to approve. We began the community tour in Tsi Snaihne to see the recently completed Whoville complex as well as to observe and experience the current condition of the roads within the district. We stopped at the existing wastewater treatment plant on School Road



that is in dire need of replacement and the engineer for INAC was able to observe the current state of the plant. Following the wastewater treatment plant tour, we proceeded to the Tsi Snaihne Fire Hall where the Captain provided the INAC officials with an overview of existing equipment and equipment needs. The tour then continued to Kana:takon to see the site of an underground fuel tank that is slated for replacement, this project it currently with INAC for consideration for funding as well as the Tsi Snaihne wastewater treatment plant. After Kana:takon, we proceeded to Kawehno:ke to meet with other members of Council to discuss Akwesasne's infrastructure needs. At the face to

face meeting with INAC we outlined to the ARDG that Akwesasne would like to further discuss the possibility of working with INAC to finance our capital projects. INAC is looking to explore community finance options in order for INAC to meet the needs for all Indigenous communities. A future follow up meeting with INAC to discuss options will be scheduled.

APRIL 27, 2017 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of April 27, 2017 our Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center with approximately 25 community members in attendance. The agenda for the evening included a presentation from a group of Akwesasne youth who recently traveled to Thunder Bay to participate in an Independent First Nations (IFN) Youth Gathering. The youth provided the audience with a great (and very thorough) PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentation by the youth, I provided a report on behalf of our Council on work that has been completed in support our MCA strategic plan goals and the priorities identified in our Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). After the presentations, we took questions from the community in the business from the floor segment of the agenda. **Here is the link to the April 2017 MCA General Meeting:** [https://youtu.be/ Z Yk-cQnZw](https://youtu.be/Z Yk-cQnZw)

APRIL 28, 2017 CALL WITH INAC REGARDING CHILD WELFARE

Recently the Government of Canada through the Minister of Indigenous Affairs has committed to improving the On-Reserve Child Welfare system in Canada and specifically in Ontario making improvements to the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement which describes the responsibility of the federal government in a cost sharing model with Ontario for child welfare services on reserve. On April 28, 2017

I participated on a conference call with representatives of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to discuss what Akwesasne's vision is for modernizing the 1965 welfare agreement. I explained to the representative that for us, because of Akwesasne's geographical location, the modernization of the 1965 welfare agreement would need to include Quebec. I further explained that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne works very hard to ensure that service delivery isn't disproportionate to families due to the location of their residence within Akwesasne. Given that child protection legislation is governed by provincial legislation, the administration of the legislation is challenging for the MCA. This was explained to INAC to increase their awareness on why Akwesasne needs special consideration. The representatives appreciated our insight into the challenges and committed to work with Akwesasne to ensure our unique geographical location is considered in the modernization of the 1965 agreement.

APRIL 28, 2017 AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW REVIEW

On the afternoon of April 28, 2017 Council met with the Akwesasne Election Law Task Group to review the final recommended changes to the Akwesasne Election Law. In 2016, the Council passed a resolution to form a working task group to amend the Akwesasne Election Law and provide recommendations to Council for consideration. The working task group commissioned a community survey to help gauge the community's input into the proposed amendments to the law. Once the survey was completed, the working task group took all the recommendations into consideration and drafted amendments to the law for Council's consideration. Council reviewed the proposed amendments and questioned the working task group on their rationale for the changes; the working task group explained that they considered the results of the survey and determined that where there were areas with overwhelming support shown by the community, the working task group drafted amendments to affect those areas. Following the review with the working task group, Council agreed that the law should be brought forward for a Council vote as the next step in the process. Additional community consultation will follow.