

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together to build a strong and healthy future.



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Onerahtohko:wa/May 30, 2018

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

Last month I noted that I was providing you with my 29th report and when I went back to double check, it turned out that it was actually my 31st report. Today I'm pleased to provide you with my 32nd monthly report. Since taking office as the Grand Chief in 2015 I have written a report every month with the exception of July and August 2015. If you are interested in reading these reports, they can be found at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/mohawk-council/grand-chief-reports/>.

I have worked very hard to ensure you and our entire community is kept aware of the work our Council and I are involved in. In January 2017 we began recording our General Meetings and streaming them online to the community to view and listen in. For every week that I am in attendance at the Council Meeting, I provide a quick snapshot report of the meeting and it gets posted online and most recently, in the weekly MCA newsletter that gets e-mailed out to everyone who has subscribed by providing their e-mail address to the MCA website. This same information also forms a portion of my monthly written reports. Our Council and I continue to look for more ways to modernize the transparency methods we use to keep you in the loop.

On May 24, 2018 we hosted our monthly General Meeting at the Kana:takon School. At the General Meeting we received an important presentation from the consultants who assisted us with surveying our community for input on how we should respond to the legalization of Cannabis. The results indicate an overwhelming support the development of regulations pertaining to the sale and distribution of Cannabis in Akwesasne. Over the next few months, the MCA cannabis committee will continue to examine the legislative/regulatory options for the community's consideration. At the end of the day, any legislation developed will be voted on by the community to determine whether or not it gets accepted and implemented. Overall we had a great General Meeting; I appreciate everyone who was able to attend the meeting to hear the presentations and take part in the dialogue.

In closing, I have attached my monthly report, and as always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me or any of our District Chiefs.

I hope June is a great month for you and your family.

Sken:nen/Peace

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abram Benedict".

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Onerahtokha/April 2018

APRIL 3, 2018 THINK TANK ON POTENTIAL LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS

On April 3, 2018 our Council met to discuss the potential land claim settlement proceeds from the Dundee land claim, which could be realized if the community accepts the settlement offer through a referendum vote. As part of the ongoing community consultation, Council has agreed that an investment framework will be developed for the community's consideration. On April 3 our Council met with staff of the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) and Executive Services to examine investment options for consideration. We reviewed the priorities identified in the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP), the MCA Strategic Plan, and the last three years of community priorities as set out in the surveys from the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust. Based on the priorities identified by the community, Council is proposing that settlement proceeds be broken down into these categories: Community Infrastructure, Land Acquisition, Housing, Recreation, Economic Development, and Cultural Centre. Over the next few months, the proposed priorities will also be brought to the community for verification. The next step will be to work with our financial consultants to develop financial models for the community's consideration.

APRIL 3-4, 2018 HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

On April 3 & 4, 2018 I attended a Human Capital Management Leadership Conference hosted by Ceridian. Ceridian is a company that specializes in human resource, payroll, and employee benefit administration. The two-day conference was designed to connect

leaders and decision makers within Ceridian to learn more about Ceridian and the methodology and technology they use to help organizations manage their workforce. On the first day of the conference, Ceridian provided participants with an overview of the new platform they've developed to assist companies with payroll, workforce management, and company efficiencies. On the second day of the conference, a number of presentations were provided from companies who already use the new Ceridian platform. The companies outlined the savings and improved efficiencies they have experienced from switching to the new platform. Over the course of the two days I had an opportunity to speak to a number of users of Ceridian as well as Ceridian executives about potential options for the MCA.

APRIL 9, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Director of Tehotiennawakon reviewed the proposed draft Ontario Tobacco Revenue Sharing Agreement with Council; Council provided feedback and directed that another community meeting be scheduled to obtain input.
- Council agreed that a release would be issued on the Confederation of Aboriginal People of Canada using a false address in Akwesasne and a complaint would be filed to Industry Canada and Indigenous Affairs Canada.
- The MCA Emergency Measures Officer provided Council with an overview of the Akwesasne Joint Emergency Operations Plan and explained the various roles should an emergency occur.
- Council was briefed on a proposed beautification project for MCA facilities; Administration will follow up on budget considerations.
- An update was provided on an upcoming MCA program review.
- Council discussed fundraising initiatives for the recreation centers and potential long term initiatives to support a parks and recreation department.
- MCRs passed: Approval of (2) permits on Thompson Island for navigation aids; Approval to rescind previous MCR for navigation aid; Approval of band transfer (passed Membership

probation); Approval of housing upgrade loan to community member; Approval of (2) Emergency Council Meeting minutes; Approval of (3) Council Meeting minutes.

APRIL 10, 2018 MEETING WITH AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE COMMISSION

On the evening of April 10, 2018 members of Council met with members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission (AMPC) to discuss how we can support one another and ensure we are meeting the needs of the community. Over the past few months Council had received feedback from the community on their concerns with respect to community safety and responsiveness. We discussed the recent concerns received by Council and received feedback from the AMPC Chairperson who explained he had been present at community meetings and had addressed a number of concerns there. Council and members of the commission agreed that Council and the AMPC would continue to meet regularly.

APRIL 10, 2018 MINISTER OF CROWN INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS RIGHTS RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK



In February 2018 the Prime Minister of Canada announced that the Federal Government would develop a 'Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework' in partnership with First Nations. The Prime Minister further announced that the Minister of Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs would lead the engagement sessions with First Nations. On April 10, 2018 the Minister of Crown Relations came to Akwesasne to meet with our leadership on

the rights framework. I welcomed the Minister to the community and acknowledged her and the Prime Minister for the development of the framework. I further explained to the Minister that we viewed this meeting as a starting point and that we sought a full day with the Minister. I explained to the Minister because of our uniqueness and the impacts of the border on our community that a full day session was warranted with the Minister. Representatives of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs also presented to the Minister and provided her with an overview of the importance of the wampum belts to our community and explained the historical importance of the belts. Members of our Akwesasne Youth Council were on hand to greet the Minister and provide a youth perspective on rights recognition. In closing I reiterated to the Minister that our self-government agreement negotiations had a few areas of concern: the fiscal component, expropriation, and the use of UNDRIP language in our agreement. The Minister appreciated our presentations and acknowledged our community's progressiveness and uniqueness, then committed to working with Akwesasne further on the development of the rights framework that is respectful to our community.

APRIL 10, 2018 OVERSEERS FOR THE AKWESASNE COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT TRUST

On the evening of April 10, 2018, I met with the Overseers for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust to provide them with an update on recent transitions occurring with the administrative support for the Overseers from one Mohawk Council of Akwesasne program to another. Over the last few weeks the administrative support for the overseers has shifted from our Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) to the Mohawk Government program. Also at the meeting with the Overseers, I was able to address concerns the Overseers had with supports and let them know that I would follow up with the MCA Administration for clarification.

APRIL 11, 2018 US EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES

On April 11, 2018 we hosted Nathan Doyel, Political Advisor to the US Ambassador to Canada, and other staff members of the US Embassy. I met Mr. Doyel back in February at the US Embassy in Ottawa at a speaking engagement with Assistant US Attorney Betsy Horsman. Mr. Doyel was assisting with awareness on human trafficking and given our geographical location, I felt it was important for the US Embassy representatives to tour Akwesasne. We began our community tour on Kawehno:ke followed by a stop at US Customs to meet the Port Director to learn more about the relationship US Customs has with our community. Following the US Customs stop we proceeded to the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino for lunch. We continued the tour into Tsi Snaihne then to Kana:takon for a stop at Kanonhkwashteri:io. The tour gave the representatives a better understanding of the integration of the border in our community all while trying to explain the service delivery challenges the Mohawk Council faces due to our geographical location.

APRIL 12, 2018 CHILD WELFARE LEADERSHIP



On the morning of April 12, 2018 the Political Confederacy (PC) and the Ontario Regional Chief for the Chiefs of Ontario met with Minister of Indigenous Services for Canada and the Minister of Children and Youth Services for Ontario. The purpose of the meeting was for Canada, Ontario, and First Nations to agree to jointly report the policy and funding approaches of First Nations and Family Services in Ontario. Each regional representative from the PC made

submissions to the Ministers and outlined areas that require immediate improvement. The Ministers and the Chiefs of Ontario signed a commitment to collaborate on the development of a new policy and funding approaches for First Nations Children and Families on Ontario. The parties agreed that they will work together to achieve a plan for First Nations child well-being policy and funding approaches that are child centered, community directed, and support better outcomes by focusing on prevention. These actions will only support our child welfare system in Akwesasne, and will complement our intention to enact an Akwesasne Child Welfare Law.

APRIL 12, 2018 NATIONAL BANK

On the afternoon of April 12, 2018, I met with the Senior Vice President and other senior officers of the National Bank to learn more about their company and to discuss potential business opportunities. The representatives explained the wide variety of services the bank has to offer and provided me some written information for future consideration. The representatives further explained that the National Bank is Canada's number one rated mobile banking app. We discussed potential innovative opportunities for our post secondary students. A future meeting will be arranged to further discuss collaboration opportunities.

APRIL 13, 2018 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On April 13, 2018 I was invited by the President of St. Lawrence College to attend a community council meeting at the Cornwall Campus. The purpose of the community council meeting was for the college to engage with the community they serve and to provide the community with updates on programs being offered. At this council meeting, they showcased the welding, early childhood, and nursing programs being offered at the college. The President also provided enrollment data and reported that foreign student enrollment was highest at the Cornwall Campus.

APRIL 13, 2018 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES 2020



On the evening of April 13, 2018 I was invited by the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario to a welcoming dinner at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. The Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario had placed a bid to the North American Indigenous Game (NAIG) to host the 2020 games in Ottawa. On the evening of April 13, the Council hosted members of the NAIG selection committee. The evening began with welcoming remarks from Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson followed by members of the Council who expressed appreciation to the committee for allowing Ottawa to submit a bid to host. NAIG is expected to make an official selection in May 2018 for the 2020 host.

APRIL 16, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- The MCA Comptroller and Assistant Comptroller presented the proposed 2018/2019 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne operating budget to Council and reviewed highlighted changes since last year.
- Council set the agenda for the General Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on April 26, 2018 at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation at 6 pm. The agenda will be released shortly.
- A request was made for the health portfolio and MCA administration to provide an update on progress made to establish a full clinic in Tsi Snaihne; follow up will occur.
- Council discussed a recent notification received from the Ontario GreenON Board that any applications for funding from MCA must only include the Kawehno:ke District; Council agreed to follow up with the Minister responsible.
- A request for MCA Administration to begin compiling a report on the accomplishments of the goals set out in the 2015/2018 Strategic plan and Community Comprehensive Plan was made and will be followed up on.

- Administration agreed to begin drafting a report to the organization on the progress of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup.
- Council discussed the dangers created by the most recent ice, the impact on trees and powerlines, and asked that MCA consider only giving out hardwood trees when giving out trees.
- Council agreed that a Special General Meeting will be held on May 12, 2018 for the community to decide on whether or not to approve the proposed amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendment to health access agreement with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; Approval of 2018/19 Service Agreement with Champlain LHIN for Nursing Home; Approval to allocate funding reserves to complete renovations to Kanonhkwat'sheri:io Health Facility 1st floor; Approval to award contract to successful bidder for the renovations to the Kanonhkwat'sheri:io Health Facility 1st floor; Approval to increase Letter of Credit for ADP Canada (payroll services); Approval of 2018/2019 Operating Plan and Budget; Approval for Tehotienawakon to proceed with a community focus meeting on Wednesday April 18, 2018 at the Anowarako:wa Arena; Approval of agreement with Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust to administer funds to their recipients.

APRIL 18 & 19, 2018 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

On April 18, 2018 I attended the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) in the City of Toronto. The meeting began with the usual protocols for the opening of an SCA which was followed by presentation from consultants hired by COO to review the structure of the COO office and secretariat that supports the Ontario Regional Chief. Over the past several months, the Regional Chief for COO has been raising the issue with the Chiefs that the structure of COO wasn't meeting his expectations. Over the past several years, the Chiefs in Assembly have been working toward

initiating a review of the COO structure. The consultant for the review provided an overview of the scope of work and outlined the work done on the review. The Chiefs at the SCA spent the entire day receiving the updates and dialoguing on issues affecting the organization. The Chiefs agreed that the review would continue and passed a resolution to support the review with additional reports and consideration at the upcoming All Ontario Chiefs Conference in June in Nipissing First Nation. On the second day of the assembly, the Chiefs received a presentation from legal counsel for COO on the Federal Rights Recognition Framework being developed by the Government and outlined concerns with the framework for communities' consideration. Another presentation was provided on the engagement framework being developed. The Chiefs in assembly considered other resolutions relating to Ontario Fair Share and resolutions directing COO to develop information relating to the upcoming provincial election. The Chiefs will meet again in June 2018.

APRIL 30, 2018 UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA'S CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

On April 20, 2018 the Mohawk Council hosted participants from a leadership and governance program being offered by the University of Ottawa. Our Mohawk Government staff received the group at the Peace Tree Mall earlier in the day and had toured the participants around the community showing them the geographical location of our community. Part of the tour was a stop at Iohahi:io to receive a presentation from the program coordinator for the Entewatatha:wi program on Akwesasne and Canada's self-government negotiations. In the afternoon I joined the group to provide them with a presentation on our community as a whole and to explain the impacts the international border has on our community. As I provided the overview I explained the challenges the CBSA location has on our community and the services delivered by the MCA. Following my presentation I answered questions from the participants. A number of the participants are in executive level positions with the Government of Canada and being hosted by our

community provided them with a positive perspective on our community. We believe that by sharing our story with government employees it helps raise the awareness of our uniqueness.

APRIL 24, 2018 DEPUTY MINISTER EARLY YEARS AND CHILD CARE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



On the morning of April 24, 2018 representatives from the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) met with Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Shannon Fuller for Early Years and Child Care, Ministry of Education Ontario. Earlier in the year our office had written the ADM and requested a meeting with her to discuss a recent experience AMBE had with one of the ministry staff. The Ministry annually comes to Akwesasne to review the facilities and the curriculum being used in the programs they support. At AMBE this is the early years program, pre-K, and kindergarten. At the last review it became obvious the reviewer didn't understand our curriculum and service delivery model. On April 24, when we met with the ADM we explained that we have been delivering programming in pre-K and kindergarten since the 1980s and our curriculum is integrated into our entire educational model at AMBE. The MCA had engaged the success for all foundation, a consulting firm who specializes in curriculum development and support, and a proven methodology is used. The ADM appreciated our explanation and understood that the reviewers needed to relax; our early years program feeds into the elementary system.

APRIL 24, 2018 AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION STRUCTURAL READINESS

Over the last year the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) has been working with a2z Strategic Consulting to review the governance structure of AMBE. Over the past year, I have been participating on the steering committee that has been leading the work with the consultants. The review is being supported by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in response to a governance proposal we submitted back in December 2017. On April 24, 2018 the Executive Director of the MCA and I met with the consultants from a2z and the Director of Education to receive the final report from the structural readiness review. The consultant provided an overview of the methodology and went into details on the findings. The report will be used as a guiding tool to enhance the governance structure of AMBE in comparison to other education systems. We will also be using the document as a lobbying tool for the development of our 10-year grant.

APRIL 25, 2018 ONTARIO GREENON BOARD



On the morning of April 25, 2018 the Director of Tehotiiennawakon and I met with the Ontario GreenON board to explain Akwesasne and our unique location to them. Over the past year the department Director and portfolio had been working with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to present a proposal to the GreenON board for project funding. The GreenON board is responsible for administering the Green Ontario Fund which is money set aside from the carbon market. The GreenON board had provided the MOECC with an indication that it would only consider funding projects in Akwesasne that were situated in the Ontario portion of the community. On April 25 we explained to the board that we considered ourselves a single community and that both Ontario and Quebec had already established precedent to this. We

also explained to the board that our service delivery models in Akwesasne were generally seamless to provincial boundaries and that those boundaries were imposed upon our community. We asked the board to reconsider its approach to funding our community and recognize the community as one, a precedent that had been already set years ago. We await the decision of the board.

APRIL 26, 2018 ONTARIO MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

On April 26, 2018 I was invited by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Growth to meet with them and members of the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and the Cornwall & the Counties Community Future Development Corporation (CFDC) to discuss the status of the regional economic development planning in Eastern Ontario. The Director of the Ontario Regional Economic Strategic Branch provided the group with an update and overview of how the ministry was supporting regional development of economic plans. The Mayor for the City of Cornwall also provided the group with an update from the perspective of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus on the plan development. Akwesasne representatives provided the group with an overview of our joint tourism strategy and an overview of the initiatives Tehotiiennawakon is developing for community consideration. The group dialogued on potential joint strategy options, but Akwesasne also looked to the Ministry to meet with Akwesasne specifically on ways we can collaborate on various initiatives. Future meetings will be coordinated with this group as well as separately between Akwesasne and Ontario.

APRIL 26, 2018 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of April 26, 2018 our Council hosted our monthly General Meeting in Tsi Snaihne. The agenda included an update from Entewatatha:wi; a presentation on the proposed tobacco agreement with Ontario; update on land claims; update on upcoming construction projects; update on the recent MCA cannabis survey; and a update on the proposed natural gas expansion onto

Kawehno:ke. The recording for the monthly General Meeting can be seen at <https://youtu.be/LiLPr5UyANw>.

APRIL 30, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- The new Human Resources manager was introduced to Council and welcomed to MCA.
- A representative from the First Nations Market Housing Fund presented to Council on the progress of the work between the fund and MCA, and outlined proposed policy and procedures for Council's consideration.
- The Officer in Charge for the Cornwall RCMP introduced herself to Council and explained her vision for the detachment and received questions from Council.
- Council agreed to reschedule the May 21, 2018 Council Meeting to May 22, 2018 due to the upcoming holiday.
- A briefing was provided on a proposed honouring at the OPG Visitor's Centre.
- Council reviewed a donation request from the Iroquois Nationals and referred it to Administration for consideration under the MCA Donation Policy.
- An overview of a contractor's debt owed to the MCA was discussed, in which the contractor's business went into bankruptcy. It was determined that the debt is defined as "bad standing" under MCA's Good Standing Policy.
- Council discussed the notification of a proposed quarry expansion. A follow up meeting will be set up with operators to further discuss.
- A briefing was provided on an ongoing right of way issue resulting in blocked access to the waterline. Administration will continue to follow up for resolution.
- Council discussed a recent case whereby a community member's joint bank account was frozen due to estate administration; further follow up will be done with the bank.
- A briefing was provided on a proposed Iroquois Caucus Taxation Summit; further planning will take place.

- Council requested a briefing on the recent focus meetings on the proposed Tobacco Agreement with Ontario. A briefing will be arranged.
- MCRs passed: Approval of MCA employee deduction and incentive plan; Approval of (2) allotments of land (loans paid off); Approval of 2018 addendum to leases for Clark Island; Approval of terms of deal with Quebec for roads funding; Approval of amendments to agreement with Ontario for Native Corrections Worker; Approval to change preamble in proposed Akwesasne Election Law (error in date); Approval of contract between AEDA and MCA for Mohawk language courses for employees and community; Approval of Policy and Procedure for the First Nation Market Fund; Approval of service contract with Dr. Letourneau; Approval of contract with provider Jaquement for services.