



Onerahtókha/April 24, 2018

*Office of the Grand Chief*

She:kon/Greetings:

**RE: Smart Cities Challenge**

It is my pleasure to provide this letter in support of the MCA's application to Smart Cities Challenge in the category of \$5,000,000.00.

The intent of this project is to take aim at a key health concern in our community and that is the high rate of diabetes. Our Smart Cities project will reduce the incidence of diabetes in our community to levels at least as low or lower as those found in the general Canadian population. It is our intent to use the framework, technologies, and funding to design and implement an integrated, collaborative websystem to bring about real changes in the lifestyles of Akwesasne people. Using mobile applications across our geographically and jurisdictionally diverse territory, we will unite our people with tools, information and technological assistance to bring about the desired shift in health outcomes.

Over-riding the modern health tracking, information sharing and technological tactics will be a strategic heart focused on the Akwesasne's traditional teachings as Wholistic Model based on moving our people towards a state of Good mindedness leading to personal strength. These traditions would provide measurable indicators of health, along with more common measures associated with health diagnostics, physical activity levels and dietary health that form the other three focus areas of our program.

Our collaboration on these exciting possibilities has produced a large list of possible tactics, which you will see in our proposal. Please understand that we were and are open to many ideas from our stakeholders at this point, but will in the next stage prioritize ideas to those with greatest impact, best chance of success and most inline with Smart Cities goals.

The toll of diabetes in our community, and in "modernized" aboriginal communities around the world, is a tragic one. A solution for our community, and hopefully many others that may adopt our Smart Cities approach in the future, will be built using the best of scientific knowledge and technology, but underpinned by our traditional ideals of how health for our environment and ourselves can be sustained.

I confirm that I am fully aware of the content of the attached project application and thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. A favourable response to this application submission would surely benefit the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

Sken:nen/In peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ABO', is written over the text 'Sken:nen/In peace,'.

Abram Benedict  
Grand Chief  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne