

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



Ennisko:wa / March 13, 2019

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. I hope that the month of March has been a positive one for you. We are certainly all looking forward to warmer weather coming, with fingers crossed.

Our Council hosted the monthly General Meeting on March 7, 2019 at the Kana:takon School. The General Meeting was initially scheduled to take place in Tsi Snaihne district, but due to the unfortunate passing of a Tsi Snaihne member, the General Meeting was relocated to Kana:takon. The agenda for the General Meeting included an update and presentation on Cannabis, an update on the recruitment efforts to bring additional doctors to Akwesasne, an update on Bell Canada, and business from the floor. The General Meeting recording can be found at: https://youtu.be/xk-wo508_jM

Over the past three weeks, actions that have been taken by a few members of the community may have caused some uneasiness throughout the whole community. While we recognize that individuals may not always agree with the approach and actions of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), we continue to work toward ensuring that the work we do is reflective of the entire community, by taking a more balanced approach. This includes meeting with all stakeholders, as well as listening and collaborating to find the best approach. Your elected leadership is working hard to ensure community safety and community prosperity remains a common goal for all of us.

You may have noticed my last monthly letter included a November report. Due to the many happenings in my daily schedule, I was a month behind in reporting. Now I'm pleased to provide you with both my December and January reports. My monthly December 2018 report can be found at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o025YHmwkTA7bt4SJ9LPkQnl4PEwDrg>, and my January 2019 report is attached to this letter.

In closing I hope you find my monthly reporting informative and I encourage you to reach out to any of your District Chiefs or me, should you have any comments, concerns, or questions. As well, to all our youth in Mississauga attending the 48th Little NHL tournament, be safe, play hard, and have fun!

Sken:nen

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

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief

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Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Tsiothohrko:wa/January 2019

JANUARY 2, 2019 CKON TETEWATHAREN ON BILL S-3



On the morning of January 2, 2019 I accompanied Dr. Rose Alma Dolly McDonald on CKON's *Tetewatharen* talk show to announce the upcoming focus meetings on Bill S-3, which is an Act to amend the Indian Act, in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in

Descheneaux v. Canada. Reen Cook welcomed Dolly and I to the show and we began to explain what Bill S-3 is about and what its potential impacts will be to Akwesasne. We explained to Reen and the community that we would be hosting three focus meetings on the topic and we invited all the community to attend the meetings to receive additional information and provide feedback. Dr. Dolly McDonald was contracted on behalf of the Mohawk Council to facilitate the focus meetings and provide the MCA with a report on what the community said at the focus meetings.

JANUARY 5, 2019 KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF SWEARING IN CEREMONY

On January 5, 2019 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted a swearing in ceremony following the recent by-election held in December to fill a vacant position for a Kawehno:ke District Chief.



The Assistant Executive Director Donna Roundpoint welcomed newly re-elected District Chief Dennis Chaussi, his family, and other members of the community. I shared in the celebration, offering welcoming words to the community and District Chief Chaussi. Following the swearing in by Justice Cross from Kahnawake, the community was invited to a luncheon to celebrate.

JANUARY 7, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Program Manager for the Office of Vital Statistics presented to Council on a request from Bell Canada, and other Bell Canada issues.
- Representatives from the Canada Border Service Agency introduced the new Indigenous Liaison Officer and explained the next steps for community outreach and awareness.
- Council was briefed on a possible upcoming survey where community members will be asked to share their experience in accessing health care services; the questions will be verified and reported back to Council.
- The monthly General Meeting was set for January 24, 2019 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. The agenda will be set next week.
- Council agreed that a committee will be formed to lead the development of the Kawehno:ke Easterbrook memorial.

- A briefing was provided on upcoming interviews as part of the design lab exercise with CT Labs.
- Council discussed the current state of the Mohawk Government vehicle and requested background on its condition for new a purchase consideration.
- A briefing was provided on the MCA Health Department's efforts to recruit more doctors.
- Council agreed that two requests for reconsideration, with regard to the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program, would be denied based on the facts presented.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendment to Akwesasne–Canada financial agreement; Approval to extend the implementation date of the MCA Service Complaint Policy and training period; Approval of contract for Section 84 Early Release Program Development Officer; Acceptance of resignation of Trust Overseer; Approval of appointment of community member to Trust Overseer position.

JANUARY 9, 2019 PROPOSED NATURAL GAS EXPANSION

On the morning of January 9, 2019 our energy consultant Peter Valiquet and I met with representatives of the Akwesasne Area Management Board (AAMB). We provided the representatives of the AAMB with an overview of the proposed natural gas expansion project and explained that the MCA would be conducting door to door interviews of Kawehno:ke residents to gauge community interest in accessing natural gas. The AAMB representatives explained that they may be able to provide funding for canvassers to do the survey, but it could be fully considered after a full application was submitted to the AAMB. We will be working to submit the required documentation.

JANUARY 9, 2019 HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

On the morning of January 9, 2019 I met with representatives of the Harvest Christian Fellowship of Cornwall. Pastor Dick D'Alessio explained that the Harvest Christian Fellowship is also the owner of the Cornwall Compassion Centre and they also own and operate the Heart of the Family Daycare. It was explained that the Cornwall

Compassion Centre is in the process of applying for government grants to open a maternity home in Cornwall. The maternity home would be a place where poor or homeless women could stay while pregnant and even after having their babies. The women would be offered programming to assist them with pregnancy and after delivery, they would receive programming on childcare. The Harvest Christian Fellowship was looking to share the proposal concept with me and will be asking for a letter of support when the full proposal is completed.

JANUARY 9, 2019 BILL S-3 FOCUS MEETING

On the evening of January 9, 2019 I attended the first of three focus meetings on Bill S-3. The evening began with a presentation from the Entewatatha:wi manager who provided an overview of the legislative amendments under Bill S-3. The Manager of the Office of Vital Statistics spoke about the potential impacts to Akwesasne. Dr. Dolly MacDonald assisted with the presentation and discussed the next steps. Community members in attendance were able to ask questions, offer insight, and share concerns with the proposed amendments.

JANUARY 10, 2019 FINANCE COMMITTEE

On the morning of January 10, 2019, I attended a finance committee meeting. The Assistant Comptroller provided the committee with an update on the ongoing budget development for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. It was explained that this was the first fiscal year that the MCA was using a newly purchased software program called BOARD, which allows for easier access to real time data for the MCA organization. A presentation was provided on the MCA's ratio analysis, a system used by Indigenous Services to rate the risk of First Nations organizations; it was reported that the MCA is rated as low risk. The finance committee discussed the current variance reports for the organization. The committee determined that the MCA will solicit proposals for our organization's auditing requirements for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. An update was provided on the MCA's efforts to receive a 10-year grant, as well as the next steps for the enactment of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law.

JANUARY 10, 2019 NORTHERN TRIBAL BORDER ALLIANCE

On the morning of January 10, 2019 I participated in a conference call with Chief Ava Hill of Six Nations and Robert Odawi Porter of the Capital Hill Policy Group. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the National Congress of the American Indians, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe are in the planning stages of another Northern Tribal Border Alliance border summit for May 8 & 9, 2019 in Niagara Falls. Robert was assisting with the planning for the summit and on the call of January 10 we discussed tentative invitees from the Government of Canada. We agreed that Chief Hill and I would provide Robert with a list of potential invitees and we would assist in securing the attendance of Canadian officials when the list is finalized.

JANUARY 11, 2019 IROQUOIS CAUCUS CONFERENCE CALL ON CANNABIS

On the morning of January 11, 2019 I hosted a conference call with other elected Iroquois communities to discuss the development of a cannabis regulatory system for our communities. Following the Iroquois Caucus meeting in December we agreed that a technical conference call would be arranged. The representatives from Kahnawake, Six Nations, Tyendinaga, Wahta, Oneida, and Akwesasne provided each other with an update on each of our community's law development, for those that have development underway. The representatives on the call discussed commonalities on each community's approach and the principles of their laws. The communities discussed the challenge of securing a supply of cannabis for the dispensaries. The representatives agreed to share copies of each community's respective law or draft law. It was agreed that the communities would follow up at the next Iroquois Caucus meeting scheduled for February in Ottawa.

JANUARY 11, 2019 PRESCOTT RUSSELL MENTAL HEALTH AGENCY

On January 11, 2019 I received a call from the Prescott Russell Mental Health Agency to discuss the potential participation of an Indigenous representative on the agency's advisory board. The agency was looking to have representation of the local indigenous community on their board and was requesting Akwesasne's participation. I received additional information on the agency and its mandate in order to better understand the request. Given the location of Prescott Russell, I informed the agency that Akwesasne wouldn't be appropriate for representation but I offered to assist the agency in making contact with an Ottawa based indigenous organization to assist with representation.

JANUARY 11, 2019 EASTERN ONTARIO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Following my meeting in November with the Mayor of Cornwall and Kathryn Wood of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council, I connected with Kathryn by phone on January 11, 2019. My call with Kathryn was to discuss how we could continue to work together on the economic regional strategy the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council was working on. Kathryn agreed to share additional information with me and the Mohawk Council on the next steps of the development. Kathryn also committed to keeping Akwesasne in mind for committee representation under the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council.

JANUARY 14, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council set the General Meeting agenda for January 24 at the Kana:takon Recreation.
- A briefing was provided on a proposed protocol for non-Akwesasronon having cars delivered to Akwesasne. Further research will be conducted.
- Council discussed the draft Landlord Tenant Law and the gap created in the community due to the absence of this particular law.
- Council was asked to provide a letter of support that will change the process of changing your name with the Ontario Birth

Registry; Council determined that based on the information provided, they will not intervene.

- Council agreed that the portfolio selection will be amended to accommodate newly re-elected Kawehno:ke District Chief Chaussi.
- A briefing was provided on a draft letter to the Akwesasne Police Commission regarding Akwesasne Cannabis Licenses.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendments to the Akwesasne/Health Canada contribution agreement; Approval of MCA-Akwesasne Area Management Board Job Opportunity Program; Approval for MCA Health to participate in Perinatal Mental Health Project; Approval to rescind (2) MCRs on land permit (error on MCRs); Approval of (2) permits on Lame Squaw Island; Approval of assignment of lease on Hamilton Island.

JANUARY 15, 2019 MEETING WITH CLAIRE ISABELLE



On the afternoon of January 15, 2019, I traveled to Dundee to meet with Claire Isabelle the member of Quebec parliament for Huntingdon. I had requested to meet with Claire to introduce myself to her and to provide her with a bit of background on Akwesasne. At the Meeting of January 15 I spoke to Claire about the ongoing challenges we face in recruiting English speaking doctors and requested her assistance. I also spoke with Claire about the Dundee claim and committed to her to work with her to educate the Dundee residents. An invitation was extended for her and her staff to visit Akwesasne, which she accepted to do in the Spring. Further follow up with be done with Claire Isabelle on our request for assistance.

JANUARY 16, 2019 PROPOSED NATURAL GAS EXPANSION

As part of our ongoing community information campaign on the potential of expanding natural gas onto Kawehno:ke, I met with Scott

Dodd, Business Development Officer and Sonia Fazari, Senior Advisor of Community Engagement for Enbridge Gas on January 16, 2019. Scott Dodd was recently appointed as the Business Development Officer and wanted to introduce himself to me and receive an update on the project. Sonia Fazari had already been involved in the project and had worked with Akwesasne over the past several years. I explained to both Sonia and Scott that we would continue our education campaign and that in the Spring we would begin the door to door survey of the community to gauge their interest. We will continue to update the community as this project progresses.

JANUARY 17, 2019 OACAS

The board for the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) met on January 17, 2019 to conduct its regular monthly business. The CEO provided the board with an update from a recent meeting with the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services. A report was also provided on the shared service program. The Director of Aboriginal Services provided an update and overview of the Indigenous commitments made and discussed the ongoing training her unit has been doing for the member agencies. A report was provided by the CEO transition team on the newly hired CEO for the organization. Other board business and updates provided included: Board Committee reports; Partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit; Finance Update; and CEO Report. The next board meeting is set to occur on February 21, 2019.

JANUARY 21-22, 2019 MCA 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLANNING

On January 21, 2019 Council and senior administration of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne met at the Kana:takon Recreation to begin the development of our 2018-2021 strategic plan. Jeff Jacobs of Sierra Consulting was contracted to assist in the plan development.



Over the course of two days (January 21& 22) our Council and administration broke into smaller groups to discuss various assigned elements of the Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP). The CCP was completed in 2016 and was being used as a guiding document for our strategic plan development. The CCP outlines our community's priorities over a 20-year plan. The inclusion of the CCP priorities would also allow for measurable objectives to be included for MCA to work toward. Mr. Jacobs will take the dialogue and group reports compiled and will provide the MCA with a draft plan in the coming weeks.

JANUARY 22, 2019 CALL WITH THE CITY OF MONTREAL

On January 22, 2019 I participated in a conference call with Marie Eve Bordeleau, Commissioner for Indigenous Affairs for the City of Montreal, regarding an opportunity for Akwesasne to participate in an economic trade mission to Arizona. Montreal and the State of Arizona had previously worked together to bring business and government representatives from Arizona to Montreal for trade talks. This time Montreal was bringing representatives to Arizona, but they also wanted to include Indigenous representation in the mission. I explained to Ms. Marie Eve Bordeleau that while Akwesasne would be interested in participating, we would look to Kahnawake to take the lead and we would support them. Ms. Marie Eve Bordeleau agreed with that approach and committed to setting up a follow up call with Akwesasne and Kahnawake representatives in the near future.

JANUARY 22, 2019 CALL WITH CHIEF CAPPO OF MUSCOWPETUNG FIRST NATION

On the evening of January 22, 2019 I participated in a conference call with the Chief of Muscowpetung First Nation Anthony Cappo and his legal counsel. Chief Cappo reached out to me regarding Akwesasne's Interim Cannabis Regulations and our approach to the cannabis industry. He explained that his community was taking the province and the federal government to court in an effort to negotiate Muscowpetung's authority for the regulation of cannabis. It was further explained that the community was going to exercise its jurisdiction but was also looking to negotiate a resolution with the province and federal government. We agreed that our lawyers would arrange to connect to discuss the legal strategy.

JANUARY 23, 2019 REPRESENTATIVES OF CIBC WOOD GUNDY AND GALLANT MACDONALD

Following the meeting with Marc Miller on January 23, 2019 our Council met with representatives of CIBC Wood Gundy and Gallant Macdonald. The representatives introduced themselves to Council and provided an overview of the services offered by CIBC. They outlined the investment services available to their clients and the strategies they use to manage their client's money. It was explained that based on the Gallant MacDonald model, the representatives are able to work outside of the system that CIBC would traditionally offer to its clients. The Mohawk Council representatives asked questions on the services provided and discussed other partnership options.

JANUARY 23, 2019 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MARC MILLER

On the morning of January 23, 2019 Council welcomed Member of Parliament (MP) Marc Miller to our community. Marc Miller was recently named the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Representatives from Crown Indigenous Relations accompanied Marc to Akwesasne, including Marc Wills who assisted on the Indigenous border report authored by Fred Caron. Part of Marc's responsibilities to the Minister is to

ensure the Government is responding accordingly to the recommendations in the report from Fred Caron. Our Council provided MP Miller with an overview of the challenges we continue to face as a community with relation to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the international border. Many of our members of Council described the varying situations we hear from the community on treatment and challenges at the CBSA. MP Miller committed to ensure the Government is working on those relations and supporting the MCA and CBSA in collaboration on solutions. This meeting was an opportunity to ensure the government was still aware of the challenges and areas of improvements that have been progressing.

JANUARY 24, 2019 GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

On January 24, 2019 I chaired our Government Secretariat portfolio meeting. The meeting began with introductions from staff at the meeting, which included the Managers from the Communications Unit, Nation Building, Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO), Mohawk Government, and the Quebec Liaison Officer. Each manager provided an update from their respective department on the files they are working on. The manager of ARRO provided an update on the Dundee appeals and outlined other claims research that the program will be undertaking as the fiscal year progresses. The portfolio Chiefs also discussed timelines with the programs on each initiative. Portfolio meeting will be held each month.

JANUARY 25, 2019 OGWADENI:DEO CELEBRATION



On January 25, 2019 I was invited to attend the designation anniversary celebration of Ogwadeni:deo in Six Nations. I was greeted by Chief Hill and the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for Ontario. The Director of Ogwadeni:deo welcomed the attendees to the celebration and

provided an overview on the years it took for Ogawadeni:deo to become designated as a Children's Aid Society. The Deputy Minister shared remarks and provided Chief Hill with a plaque on behalf of Ontario.

JANUARY 28, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from Onkwehonwe Midwives Collective (OMC) provided Council with an overview of the OMC and requested that the MCA work with the OMC where possible. Further follow up will be done.
- The manager for Entewatatha:wi introduced representatives from Daniel J. Brant & Associates who provided Council with an overview of a recent report they conducted entitled "Economic Analysis Study of the Real Cost of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Governance".
- MCRs passed: Approval of contract award for the construction of modular home for DCSS Family Wellness Program; Approval for MCA Thompson Island to collaborate with Actua's Education Outreach Organization; Approval of BMO mortgage guarantee for community members; Approval of housing upgrade loan(s) to community members; Approval of MCA signing authority for Akwesasne-Canada financial agreements.

JANUARY 29, 2019 INTERVIEW WITH CBC ON DUNDEE

On January 29, 2019 I was interviewed by CBC Montreal on the Dundee land claim. The reporter asked about the appeals received on the claim. I informed the reporter about the current status of the appeals and that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would respond accordingly as required by the courts, but I let the reporter know I couldn't go into details on the appeal since the matter was in front of the Mohawk Court. The article on the interview can be found at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/dundee-claim-settlement-akwesasne-vote-appeal-1.4997206>

JANUARY 30, 2019 BREAKFAST WITH BERNADETTE CLEMENT

On the morning of January 30, 2019 I met with City of Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement. This was the first time we had met since Bernadette's swearing in on December 3, 2018. We discussed our communities' priorities as community leaders and discussed how we can improve our working relationship. We agreed that we would build upon our commonalities as neighbors. We also agreed that a joint council meeting would be set up for early Spring to give our respective councils an opportunity to meet each other officially and to dialogue on common areas.

JANUARY 30, 2019 CKON TETEWATHAREN ON PROPOSED NATURAL GAS EXPANSION



As part of our ongoing campaign to provide the community with information about natural gas and the potential to expand natural gas onto Kawehno:ke, our hired energy consultant Peter Valiquet and I provided a CKON *Tetewatha:ren* interview with Reen Cook. We

highlighted the information sessions that were already completed and spoke about the history of our community and the natural gas pipeline. Peter described that going forward we would continue to educate the community on the project and that in the Spring of 2019 we would then begin a door to door survey of homes on Kawehno:ke.

The survey would be used to gauge the interest of the residents of Kawehno:ke on the conversion to natural gas. We further explained that this project expansion is only tentative and would require the community to agree to connect to the line. We thanked Reen for the opportunity to explain the project.

JANUARY 30, 2019 BILL S-3 FOCUS MEETING

On the evening of January 30, 2019 I attended a community focus meeting at the Anowarako:wa Arena on Bill S-3, an Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision reached in *Descheneaux v. Canada*. The purpose of the focus meeting was to explain to the community what the amendments of Bill S-3 were about and to discuss the potential impacts to Akwesasne. Unfortunately, no community members showed up at the focus meeting.

JANUARY 31, 2019 CALL WITH ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER

On January 31, 2019 I connected with Assistant Deputy Minister Jonathan Lebi for the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. Mr. Lebi introduced himself to me and explained to me that the Ontario Government is committed to working with Akwesasne in many areas. Mr. Lebi also offered to continue to work Akwesasne on the already existing areas and should I have any concerns that I can reach out to him. This was an introductory call and first contact.

JANUARY 31, 2019 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of January 31, 2019 Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Kana:takon Recreation Centre. The manger for Entewatatha:wi introduced the Bill S-3 working group and explained what the proposed amendments to the Indian Act were. It was further explained what that Akwesasne could see a minimal impact to our registry, but we were reminded we must be mindful of the overall impact to First Nation communities. We provided the community with an update on the many files and initiatives we have been or had been working on with respect to Canada Border Services Agency. Following these presentations and updates we updated the

community on the development of our cannabis regulations which resulted in a lengthy discussion with our community members. The General Meeting recording can be found at <https://youtu.be/DgtiMsXlzz0>.