

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 7, 2019

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

Time sure does pass quickly, it's already been another month since my last report. Although it has been a slow start in getting to some warm weather, I believe it's finally here.

As reported last month, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted an information session on the new machine-readable Secure Status Cards, in collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The two-day intake session was very well attended by the community, and a good number of community members signed up for the secure card. A full recording of the presentation with questions from the community can be found at https://youtu.be/yWm_vx1j2TY. I want to reiterate that switching to this card is optional and you don't have to turn in your laminated status card to do so. Based on the success of the intake session we are working to host more intake sessions, this time in the other districts. We will notify the community of the dates, once they are confirmed.

On Thursday, April 25 Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre. The meeting had been originally scheduled to take place in the Kana:takon District but due to the unfortunate passing of a Kana:takon resident, the meeting was relocated. We began the session with a presentation from a St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Environment program representative on the Grass River Cleanup project. Then, representatives from the Akwesasne Cultural Tourism Project provided the community with an update on their project. I provided the community with an overview of the recent federal and provincial budgets and additional information on the Indian Day School Class Action lawsuit was also shared. The evening wrapped up with Business from the Floor; which yielded a lengthy discussion on cannabis. I encourage you to listen in on the General Meeting recording which can be found at <https://youtu.be/Au4hG9f0K8M>. We welcome your feedback on any of the topics discussed.

Finally, as always, my monthly report is attached for your information and update.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the month of May!

Sken:nen

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

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief

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Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ennisko:wa/March 2019

MARCH 4, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- The MCA Information Services Manager provided Council with an overview of Akwesasne's final proposal to Infrastructure Canada for the Smart Cities Challenge.
- A request for support was discussed and referred to the donation policy.
- Council set the agenda for the March 7, 2019 General Meeting being hosted at the Kana:takon School.
- An update was provided on a letter received regarding a housing issue.
- Council discussed the need to reach out to Hydro Quebec to discuss an ongoing concern; further follow up will be done.
- A concern regarding abandoned/burned out homes was discussed and will be followed up on.
- Council agreed that Chief Dennis Chaussi will chair next week's meeting in the absence of the Grand Chief.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendments to health transfer agreement; Approval of (3) housing upgrade loans to community members; Appointment in principal of Community Trustee to the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust; Approval of funding agreement for police services; Approval of MCA proposal to Infrastructure Canada for Smart Cities Challenge.

MARCH 4, 2019 CALL WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On the afternoon of March 4, 2019 I participated on a conference call with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on education funding. Over the past couple of years ISC has been working with the Assembly of First Nations on the development of new education funding formulas.

The Education Director for the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) has been attending consultation meetings with the Chiefs of Ontario on the new education funding. On the conference call of March 4, 2019 the ISC representatives explained to me that Akwesasne would have to accept the new proposed education funding model through a Mohawk Council Resolution (MCR). The representatives explained that this new funding is optional for the coming fiscal year, but by 2020 all communities would be switched over to the new formulas. I questioned the transition from the old formulas to the new and received assurance that this new funding would not put other MCA funding received through our funding agreement at risk. As follow-up to this call the Education Director for AMBE was to prepare a MCR on the new proposed funding for Council's consideration.

MARCH 4, 2019 INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

On the afternoon of March 4, 2019 I provided Leslie Logan a reporter from Indian Country Today news with an interview regarding Akwesasne's cannabis industry. I explained to Leslie that the Mohawk Council has enacted Interim Cannabis Regulations and that we are in the development phase of our own law to support the regulations. Leslie asked about the recent events in the community following the police actions against unlicensed dispensaries. I explained that we were working to find a balance in our approach and that we were meeting with all stakeholders in the cannabis industry. The full story can be found at:

MARCH 5, 2019 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO POLITICAL CONFEDERACY

I participated on a Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) conference call on March 5, 2019. The Ontario Regional Chief provided welcoming remarks to the PC members and provided an overview of the agenda for the upcoming COO Special Chiefs Assembly scheduled for April 9-11, 2019 in Toronto. The PC members provided input into the draft agenda and agreed to the final draft agenda for the assembly's consideration.

MARCH 5, 2019 CANNABIS UPDATE

On March 5, 2019 members of our Council met with our legal counsel to discuss the current development of the cannabis framework. The Chiefs Committee on Cannabis explained that they had been working to complete the comprehensive application form. The Chiefs committee expects to have the application accepted by Council in a month or so. Council discussed the supply challenge being faced under the current system in Akwesasne. The federal government doesn't recognize MCA's licensing authority for dispensaries which means any MCA licensed dispensary in Akwesasne will not be able to access the same supply as other dispensaries in Ontario or Quebec. Council discussed the options of licensing micro-growers in Akwesasne who in turn would supply the licensed dispensaries. The Chiefs committee will begin to look at micro-grower options for Council's consideration.

MARCH 6, 2019 INTERVIEW WITH CBC FRENCH NEWS

On March 6, 2019 I provided Laurence Niosi from CBC French News with an interview on the development of our Akwesasne Cannabis framework. Laurence asked about the current development of our law and how it relates to the Interim Cannabis Regulations. I also let Laurence know that the following the raids in the community which resulted in a protest at the police station, our Council has been meeting with various community groups to work toward collaborative solutions. The full interview can be found at: <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/espaces-autochtones/1156905/akwesasne-tensions-cannabis-dundee-conseil-bande>

MARCH 6, 2019 BLOCK ONE LANDS

Members of our Council met with our legal counsel and members of the community for an update on the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process for the Block One Lands. Block One Lands are parcels of land on Cornwall Island that were expropriated or created during the construction of the Seaway and now are in the ATR process of being returned to reserve status. Our legal counsel outlined the lengthy process that Crown Relations and Indigenous Affairs undergoes to

transfer lands back to communities. These lands are classified as having been expropriated and are currently not reserve lands. The community members present at the meeting expressed concern to our legal counsel on the lengthy process to convert the lands back to reserve status. Council will continue to apply pressure on Canada to ensure progress is made getting through the ATR process.

MARCH 6, 2019 INTERVIEW WITH APTN



On March 6, 2019 I provided an interview to Danielle Rochette from APTN on the development of our cannabis licensing. Danielle asked about the development of the Interim Cannabis Regulations. I explained that one of the challenges we face in Akwesasne is the lack of

recognition of our licenses for the purpose of supplying our licensed dispensaries. The entire recording of the interview can be found at: <https://aptnnews.ca/2019/03/07/grand-council-in-akwesasne-taking-different-path-to-resolve-cannabis-issues/>

MARCH 7, 2019 CORNWALL AND THE COMMUNITIES FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On the morning of March 7, 2019 I attended a meeting at Cornwall and the Communities Future Development Corporation (CFDC) with the Mayor of the City of Cornwall and representatives of the CFDC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility for the CFDC to assist the MCA and the City with moving forward on joint development of the Cornwall Harbour. Currently, MCA and the City have undertaken the obligations of the harbour as two governments, but including the CFDC in the future administration of the project could be advantageous to both parties. At the meeting of March 7,

2019 we provided the CFDC representatives with an update on the current status of the harbour and discussed possible options for the CFDC involvement. The City and MCA will further discuss this option amongst their respective councils and determine next steps for consideration.

MARCH 7, 2019 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of March 7, 2019 Council hosted the February General Meeting at the Kana:takon School. The agenda included a presentation and update on cannabis, followed by an update on the MCA Health Department's efforts to recruit doctors to work in Akwesasne. Council discussed concerns with Bell Canada with the community. The community raised a number of issues with Council. The entire recording for the General Meeting can be found at: https://youtu.be/k_1avpgWQ7s

MARCH 8, 2019 MEETING WITH TRANSPORT CANADA

On the afternoon of March 8, 2019 I travelled to Ottawa to meet with representatives of Transport Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to update the representatives on the possible timeline for the referendum on the proposed seaway settlement. While at the meeting we also discussed finalization of the survey for the shrinking of the corridor on Kawehno:ke. Since the proposed settlement was made to Akwesasne on the seaway claim, we have been working with the Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd on the final draft of the survey for our community's consideration.

MARCH 11-15, 2019 VACATION

From March 11 to the 15th, 2019 I was away from the office on vacation.

MARCH 18, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council discussed the current portfolio system and discussed concerns with the system and participation.
- A concern regarding compliance with the MCA Social Media Policy was raised and discussed by Council. Administration will follow up at the next MCA Directors meeting.
- MCRs passed: Approval to rescind a previous MCR on the naming of Maiden Island; Approval of new name for Maiden Island to Tsitonhowisenhne Island; Approval of service agreement with Cree Board of Health and Social Service of James Bay; Approval of application to Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust for the purchase of new grader; Approval of application to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for upgrade of fire alarm system at Tsiionkwanonhso:te; Approval of application to Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust for upgrade of fire alarm system at Tsiionkwanonhso:te; Approval of (2) amendments to Akwesasne-Canada funding agreement; Approval of funding agreement with Public Safety Canada; Approval of accountability agreement with Local Health Integration Network.

MARCH 18, 2019 DESIGN LAB INITIATIVE

As part of the commitment made by the President of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to undertake a design thinking initiative with Akwesasne, our Council and representatives from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) met with the representatives from CT Labs. CT Labs is the consultant firm contracted by CBSA to undertake the design thinking initiative. On March 18, 2019 CT Labs representatives explained the process they have undertaken and provided a high-level overview of what they have heard from the Akwesasne stakeholder group interviews. Council representatives provided the consultants with feedback on our experiences with CBSA, both as individuals and as community leaders. Many expressed displeasure with the inconsistent line of questioning and the wait times. Examples were provided where officers acted inappropriately which lead to tense situations between community members and CBSA. After two hours of sharing information with CT Labs

representatives, the consultants provided an overview of what they heard and explained that a two-day session was scheduled to take place in the coming weeks with all interviewees from both CBSA and Akwesasne. The session is designed to work through the issues and look for solutions.

MARCH 19, 2019 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

On March 19, 2019 I attended the Economic Development Portfolio Meeting. The Acting Director of Tehotienawakon provided an update to the Chiefs on the tobacco pilot project with Ontario. She explained that a new transfer payment agreement hadn't been signed with Ontario for the current fiscal year and that MCA needed to determine if an agreement would be considered for the next fiscal year. Following this update, the Acting Director explained that Akwesasne would need to engage a consultant to assist with the completion of the Connect to Innovate proposal to Canada for funding to expand fibre optics to Akwesasne. Concluding the meeting, I requested that the Portfolio Chiefs and department personnel consider providing representatives on the joint Akwesasne-Cornwall Harbour Commission, to assist with future guidance and planning for the harbour. Portfolio Chiefs agreed to assist with the harbour once the involvement of Tehotienawakon was approved by Council.

MARCH 20, 2019 CALL WITH WIIKWEMKOONG CHIEF

On the afternoon of March 20, 2019 I connected with Chief Duke Peltier from the Wiikwemkoong First Nation. I had learned that Wiikwemkoong was considering seeking a 10-year grant. Chief Peltier explained that based on the timing of the acceptance of the 10-year and the time it would take for the community to develop a fiscal administration law that Wiikwemkoong would unfortunately not be able to receive a 10-year grant on April 1, 2019. The Chief explained that he would be working with his community over the next year to ensure they developed their administration law to the community's satisfaction and that they were ready to accept a 10-year grant on April 1, 2020.

MARCH 22, 2019 CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

On March 22, 2019 I attended a Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development (CCHRD) with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in Vancouver. The Chiefs Committee Chair BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee welcomed the Chiefs committee and provided an update on the recent meeting he attended on behalf of the CCHRD. The Chiefs reviewed the meeting minutes from the last meeting of April 20, 2018 and reported on follow up items from that meeting. The Director from the AFN provided the Chiefs Committee with an update on the First Nations Labour Market Strategy and discussed concerns raised about funding for the Yukon Territory. Indigenous People in the Yukon are not registered under the Indian Act of Canada and funding based on Indian registry is an issue for the Yukon. An update was provided on the Canada's Bill C-81 and the engagement session occurring for the law was discussed. Representatives from Aki Energy, Aki Foods, and Garden Hill First Nation introduced themselves to the committee and explained partnership opportunities they have created with other First Nations and Aki companies.

MARCH 25, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from Native Connections presented to Council on their services and offered assistance to Council; further dialogue will occur.
- Council set the agenda for the March 28, 2019 General Meeting taking place at Iohahi:io at 6 pm.
- A briefing was provided on the proposed project titled "Trash Challenge" and will be presented at the upcoming General Meeting.
- Council was briefed on a recent request to the Iroquois Caucus regarding Cree Nation hunters requesting permission to hunt in other territories; further research will be conducted.
- A briefing was provided to Council on upcoming information sessions regarding Machine Readable Status Cards.

- Council discussed recent material received from a community association and will further review.
- A briefing was provided on MCA's efforts to become a recipient of a 10-year grant.
- Council agreed to reschedule a session with Nation Building due to scheduling conflicts.
- A briefing was provided on the process for a by-election for a Kawehno:ke District Chief.
- MCRs passed: Approval of application to Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust for fire alarm system upgrade at Iakhihsotha; Approval of renewed service contract with clinical supervisor; Approval of renewed services contracts with (4) Doctors; Approval of allotment of land to community member (loan paid off); Approval of band transfer from Kanesatake to Akwesasne (membership approved); Approval of lease on Pilon Island; Approval to proceed with education funding transformation; Approval of agreement with Champlain LHIN for 2019-2022; Acceptance of resignation letter of Dennis Chaussi, By-Election to proceed; Approval of (7) Council Meeting Minutes.

MARCH 25, 2019 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION LAW

On the afternoon of March 25, 2019 our Council met with MCA legal counsel to review the current draft of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law. Currently the Akwesasne Legislative Commission is in the process of consulting with the community on the law and Council wanted to ensure they understood the current draft as it proceeds through the enactment process. Members of Council were able to ask our legal counsel questions on the draft law and get a better understanding of how it relates to Akwesasne's 10-year grant.

MARCH 26, 2019 BILL C-21 ENTRY EXIT

On the morning of March 26, 2019 our Council met with representatives of Public Safety Canada and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to discuss Bill C-21. Recently the Government

of Canada passed legislation under Bill C-21 that allows Canada and the United States to share information on travellers leaving and entering Canada. The representatives in attendance explained how the collection of data will take place, and further explained that a new data management system is being implemented by the CBSA that will capture data and cross reference it with other data in an effort to ensure individuals are inputted and cross referenced correctly. This new system would ensure that when travelers use various documents to cross the border that all their names and variables on how the date is entered is associated with the correct person. Our Council expressed serious discontent with this initiative of Canada and requested that we continue to be considered in the implementation of the data sharing.

MARCH 26, 2019 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION LAW

On the evening of March 26, 2019 I attended a community information meeting on the draft Akwesasne Financial Administration Law at the Kana:takon Recreation. The MCA Justice Coordinator provided the community with an overview of the law enactment process and explained where this law is in that process. Representatives from the MCA technical working group explained to the community the purpose of the law and why they felt it was necessary to have developed it. The community members present were able to ask questions on the law and make suggestions on how to improve it.

MARCH 27, 2019 FEDDEV ONTARIO

On the morning of March 27, 2019 I traveled to Hawkesbury to attend a community engagement session with FedDev Ontario. FedDev Ontario delivers programming to support business development and growth in Eastern Ontario. The session on March 27 was an opportunity for community users of FedDev to provide feedback on the current programs being offered by FedDev and to give feedback on areas that could be improved upon. The session was attended by many businesses in the Eastern Ontario region, who all expressed a common concern about access to a skilled workforce and the impacts

out of province companies have on those businesses' contracting abilities. I expressed our concerns about access to these programs based on our unique location in Akwesasne and the lack of start up capital for our businesses.

MARCH 27, 2019 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION LAW

On the evening of March 27, 2019 I attended another community information meeting on the draft Akwesasne Financial Administration Law, this time at Iohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne.

MARCH 27, 2019 INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA CFO

As part of Akwesasne's ongoing efforts to become a recipient of a 10-year grant from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), I hosted a call with ISC Chief Financial Officer Paul Thoppil. I provided Paul with an update on our current efforts to enact the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law (FAL). Paul provided me with an update on the timelines and requirements for Akwesasne to have our FAL in place. Paul informed me that a draft agreement will be sent to Akwesasne for consideration.

MARCH 28, 2019 ERIC DUNCAN



On March 28, 2019 conservative candidate for Cornwall and Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry came to our office and met with Chief Thompson and I. We discussed the current relationship Akwesasne has with the existing Member of Parliament and outlined our expectations for a new relationship.

MARCH 28, 2019 CALL WITH CT LABS

As part of the planning of the upcoming session with CT Labs and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) I participated in a conference call on March 28, 2019 with CT Labs consultants and the President of CBSA. The consultants provided us with an overview of the upcoming design thinking session being planned for the following week. It was explained that the participants will be broken into groups to discuss the themes heard about the Cornwall crossing. The groups will discuss possible solutions to the challenges being faced. The consultants explained that they will begin with a comprehensive overview of what they heard from the extensive interviews conducted and the group discussions will follow the overview.

MARCH 28, 2019 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of March 28, 2019 our Council hosted the General Meeting at Iohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne. The agenda included a presentation and update on the Bill S-3 consultation sessions the MCA hosted over the past several months. An update was provided by the manager for Entewatatha:wi on the Akwesasne-Canada self government negotiations, followed by an update on the proposed Natural Gas expansion onto Kawehno:ke. We announced to the community an upcoming trash challenge and informed the community about Indigenous Service Canada's initiatives to make the secure status cards machine readable. Following all the presentations, updates, and discussions, we took business from the floor. The full recording of the General Meeting can be found at: <https://youtu.be/gW3mgiynpW0>

MARCH 29, 2019 FOOD INSECURITIES

I attended a food insecurities partners meeting at the Ontario Power Generation Visitor's Centre, along with several other representatives from MCA. The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) had invited us to attend and provided all attendees with an overview of what food insecurities are and how the Eastern Ontario region is effected. Food insecurities are situations where individuals or families have challenges getting food at various times of the year or month due to

not have resources or money to purchase food. All attendees provided insight on how the work they do can influence the outcomes of food insecurities. The EOHU representatives requested that each stakeholder identify participants that will work to assist in developing a regional strategy to combat current food insecurities.

MARCH 29, 2019 CALL WITH CITY OF MONTREAL

On March 29, 2019 I participated on a conference call with representatives from the City of Montreal and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake. The city representatives provided an update to the call participants on the itinerary and logistics on the upcoming trade mission to Phoenix, Arizona taking place between April 28, 2019 and May 1, 2019.