



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ohiarhko:wa/July 2019

JULY 2, 2019 MEDICINE WHEEL NATURAL HEALING

On the morning of July 2, 2019 members of our Council met with representatives of Medicine Wheel Natural Healing, a retail and wholesale distributor of Cannabis located on the Alderville First Nation. We had reached out to representatives of this business and invited them to come to our community and make a presentation to Council on their business model and the arrangements they have with their community elected Council. Rob Stevenson, owner and founder, provided us with an overview of the company and the process they use, which requires each client to complete an intake assessment on why they are at the medicine wheel. Based on the intake, the staff at Medicine Wheel will make a recommendation on treatment for their ailments. The recommendations do not necessarily include the use of cannabis in flower form, instead many of the treatments use various CBD extracts in oils or rubs. Rob explained that Medicine Wheel grew most of its own cannabis, and extracted their own oils and made their own products, and all product was test by Medicine Wheel for contaminates and THC levels. Medicine Wheel has been in operation for over 2 years and currently isn't licensed by the federal or provincial government. Rob explained that the community elected Council in Alderville has not taken a position on Cannabis or created any by-laws governing the sale or growing of cannabis and that Rob made the choice to enter into the cannabis industry without any authorization but continues to work with other cannabis shop owners to ensure they are operating with minimum standards under a Cannabis Association in absence of government legislation. It was further explained that the association was prepared to work with the Council in Alderville when they were ready to begin the legislative

development. Our presentation with Medicine Wheel was part of our research into possible supply partnerships for our cannabis framework in Akwesasne. We will continue to explore partnership options.

JULY 3, 2019 PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA



On the afternoon of July 3, 2019 I traveled to Ottawa to meet with Gina Wilson, the Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada. Members of the Iroquois Caucus had requested the meeting to discuss First Nation border issues. At the meeting, representatives of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs were in attendance with the Deputy Minister. The Iroquois Caucus representatives provided a roundtable of introductions to Canada and outlined the concerns of each First Nation community, which resulted from their own experiences with crossing into Canada. The CBSA explained that they are currently examining a number of initiatives that they may roll out in other parts of the country. These initiatives are part of work being done in Akwesasne. Deputy Minister Wilson agreed that a follow up phone call would occur to examine the creation of a working group to assist with the exploration and examination of possible options to address the concerns of the communities.

JULY 4, 2019 OFNLP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On July 4, 2019 I attended the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) annual general meeting in Toronto. This annual

meeting is held with all Ontario First Nations who are shareholders of the OFNLP in attendance. At the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer of the OFNLP provided a report on the activities of the corporation over the last year. The report was mainly about the ongoing litigation with Ontario and the Chippewa's of the Rama First Nation. Lawyers for the corporation provided a more in depth report on the litigation against Ontario. The auditor provided the Chiefs with the annual financial report and outlined a concern with partners being late on their annual financials which could affect the OFNLP reporting requirements to the Province of Ontario. The partners accepted the reports provided.

JULY 4, 2019 SOVEREIGN WEALTH LIMITED

Following the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) annual general meeting, the Chiefs of Ontario hosted the annual meeting with the Ontario First Nations Sovereign Wealth Limited Partnership. This partnership corporation is the company that holds the Ontario Hydro One Shares that the Ontario First Nations acquired in 2018. A representative of the board of directors provided an update on the investment account of the corporation. When the shares were acquired, the province of Ontario provided seed money that was invested at the start, to be used to operate the fund and manage the loan payments to the province. The auditor for the partnership reported on the current financials of the corporation.

JULY 8, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- A lawyer researching the possibility of a class action lawsuit against CBSA provided background on the proposed case and explained a recent court ruling that will assist with the action. MCA legal counsel will follow up to obtain additional information.
- Council established a Chiefs Committee to follow up on recommendations from a recent design thinking exercise and to report back to Council.

- A report was provided on a recent meeting between the City of Cornwall and Akwesasne. Council will examine the various initiatives, for potential implementation.
- Council discussed a request from Bell Canada to place fibre optic lines at the Peace Tree Mall; further follow up will be conducted.
- A briefing was provided on the development of an Akwesasne specific Additions to Reserve Policy for presentation to Canada.
- Council discussed the current condition of a bridge on Wade Lafrance Road; further follow up will be done by DTS and portfolio.
- A concern from the recreation committees with regard to regular maintenance was discussed and will be followed up by administration.

JULY 8, 2019 DUNDEE APPEAL

On the morning of July 8, 2019 our internal Dundee team met to discuss an upcoming prehearing conference for the Dundee appeals. The Akwesasne Court received five appeals on the Dundee land settlement referendum. The court held four pre-hearing conferences and ruled that three of the appeals didn't meet the requirements to proceed to a full hearing and dismissed those appeals. The court has reserved judgement on the fourth appeal and is scheduled to hear the fifth appeal in the coming weeks.

JULY 9-10, 2019 COUNCIL RETREAT

On July 9 & 10, 2019 our Council hosted a two-day retreat attended by Council and Mohawk Government staff. Over the course of the two days, Council reviewed the MCA Strategic Plan and listed our ideas on ways we could politically support the implementation of the strategic plan. We discussed the various goals in the plan and further defined who would be responsible for each element of the plan. Council also participated in a number of team building exercises that assisted us in getting to know each member of Council better. Council members also discussed ways that we could support one another and work with the staff of Mohawk Government to ensure all Chiefs have the tools they need to lobby more effectively. Our discussion also

centered around how we will continue to promote our four main pillars which are: Modernization, Sustainability, Well-Being, and Self-Determination.

JULY 15, 2019 CFDC ANNUAL MEETING

On the morning of July 15, 2019 I was invited to attend the Cornwall & the Counties Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) annual general meeting at the Ramada Inn. The CEO Lesley Thompson welcomed the participants and outlined all the accomplishment the CFDC has seen over the last year. Lesley commended the Cross Border Community Partnership as being a very successful partnership between Cornwall, the Counties, Akwesasne, and Massena. Mr. Simon McLinden provided a report on the partnership program and spoke about upcoming projects the program was supporting with the communities. The treasurer for the board provided a financial report for the CFDC and presented the audit for the organization. Following the reports, the CFDC welcomed guest speaker Dr. Rafik Loutfy, a Ryerson University Professor, and an Executive and Researcher for Xeros. Dr. Rafik Loutfy spoke about the logistics of our area and noted the growth opportunities open to Cornwall and region. He further explained that he expects the Canadian market to keep growing in general.

JULY 15, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from Entewatatha:wi provided Council with an overview and presentation on fiduciary vs. fiscal responsibilities of Canada.
- Council was briefed on a recent incident at Walmart involving MCA employees and clients, further follow up with be done with the City of Cornwall and Walmart Management.
- A briefing was provided on the efforts to install recreational equipment at the former Kawehno:ke tennis courts.
- Council discussed challenges with the issuance of bridge passes and its impacts; Council will invite SIBC representatives to meet.
- A request was made for a breakdown and forecast of MTQ resource expenses.

- MCRs passed: Approval to terminate old FNIHB funding agreement (new one signed); Approval of assignment of lease; Approval to rescind MCR (with error); Approval of (2) DFO permits on Thompson Island; Approval of contract with AEDA for Mohawk Language classes; Approval of agreement with Ministry of Long Term Care.

JULY 16, 2019 APPEAL COURT HEARING

On July 16, 2019 I attended a pre-hearing conference at the Akwesasne Court on an appeal that was filed against the Dundee land settlement referendum. During this pre-hearing, I provided testimony to the Akwesasne Court Justices on the acknowledgment language and indemnity in the Dundee final settlement agreement and spoke about how the language had evolved during negotiations. I also provided background and testimony on how the proposed Seaway settlement related to the Dundee settlement. Following my testimony, the Chief Referendum Officer provided additional testimony on the referendum process. A staff member of the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) provided testimony on the development process of the community education material and the approval process for this material before it was distributed to the community. The justices of the Akwesasne Court asked each of us questions on our testimony. The appellant was also provided an opportunity to question us on our testimony. The justices provided direction to the appellant and the respondent (MCA) to provide written submissions on undertakings from our submission. This pre-hearing conference was for the fifth and final appeal that was received against the Dundee referendum. A decision will be rendered from the court on whether or not the appeal will proceed to a full hearing.

JULY 16, 2019 ST LAWRENCE PARKS COMMISSIONER

On the morning of July 16, 2019 Council and staff of the MCA Environment Program welcomed Robert Runciman to Akwesasne. Robert is the commissioner of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and he had reached out to my office and expressed an interest in

meeting with full Council to allow for introductions and the opportunity to share ideas on how Akwesasne could work with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. We explained our current working relationship with Parks Canada and other government agencies.



The CEO/ED for the parks commission expressed a willingness to have additional exhibits at the parks on the history of the Mohawks. The Department of Tehotienawakon will follow up with the parks commission on possible collaboration.

JULY 17, 2019 ENBRIDGE GAS

On the morning of July 17, 2019 members of Council met with representatives of Enbridge Gas. In 2018 the Ontario Government had announced that Akwesasne was eligible for grant funding to expand natural gas onto Cornwall Island should the community be acceptable to connecting. At the meeting of July 17 the representatives from Enbridge introduced themselves to Council and explained their individual roles as they relate to the potential expansion. Our summer students who are assisting in conducting a survey of home owners on Cornwall Island provided us with an update on the development of material and what the next step will be after the material is delivered to homes. The students explained that once the material is delivered they will go door to door to survey community members on their willingness to connect to natural gas.

JULY 17, 2019 AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM



On the afternoon of July 17, 2019 Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs and I attended the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program's Open House. We were provided with a guided tour of the facility by one of the staff persons who also explained all the programming offered at the wellness program. We learned that the program will be installing a new modular home which will help to expand the services offered to families, including men. Niawen to the staff for the wonderful tour and insightful experience.

JULY 18, 2019 MINISTER LAMETTI JUSTICE MINISTER

On July 18, 2019 Council welcomed David Lametti the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to our community. Earlier in the year, when David was appointed as Minister, we congratulated him and invited him to the community. We greeted and welcomed the Minister to the Tri District Elders Centre and after introductions we enjoyed lunch with the Minister. Following lunch, the Director of Justice provided the Minister with a presentation on the Akwesasne Justice Department and the programs they offer to the community.



The director also spoke about the structure of the Akwesasne Court and the history of the court's development. We explained to the Minister that a large portion of the justice program is funded by the MCA, using own source revenues and pressed upon the Minister that we need support from Canada to support our Justice Program. Following the presentations, we took the Minister on a tour of our community. We headed to Tsi Snaihne and toured the community while pointing out the need to cross the border many times to get to different parts of our community. We highlighted the additional costs of doing business and the difficulty in delivering services as well as the diminished access to services because of the international border. We finished the tour with a ride through Kana:takon and a tour of the Akwesasne Court.

JULY 19, 2019 CBSA FOLLOW UP

On the morning of July 19, 2019 I met with representatives of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to develop and review a draft work plan stemming from the Design Thinking Initiative. Throughout the Design Thinking Initiative, short, medium, and long term goals were jointly developed by Akwesasne and CBSA. At the meeting of July 19 we reviewed the goals and identified four areas that we could work on over the next few months. The areas identified were: domestic issues, recruitment of additional Border Service Officers (BSOs) including liaisons, commercial trade, and communications. We agreed that representatives from CBSA and MCA would be identified to participate in working groups that would work on those initiatives and report to a leadership committee comprised of the CBSA Vice President of Operations and I.

JULY 22, 2019 AFN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCAE

On the evening of July 22, 2019 I attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I had recently been asked by the Ontario Regional Chief to represent Ontario at the ACCAE meetings. The evening meeting began with opening remarks from Regional Chief Adamek who holds the portfolio for Environment

for the AFN. The AFN staff provided an overview of proposed resolutions coming forward to the Chiefs Assembly in the coming days. The resolutions were on Biological Diversity; Support for a Food, Environment, and Health study; and support for a First Nations Guardian Network. The Regional Chief briefed the committee on the need to pass a resolution declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency in response to the global impacts to our communities from Climate Change. Following the discussion on the resolutions, the AFN staff provided an update on Bill C-69 and the changes it will bring to the National Energy Board Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Act.

JULY 23, 2019 AFN AGA

On July 23-25, 2019 I attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The AGA was being hosted by the St Mary's First Nations. Following the opening and welcoming words by the National Chief and other dignitaries, the AFN honored a number of Indigenous Veterans for their service to the country. A representative of the Chiefs Committee on Languages provided an update on the recently passed Indigenous Languages Act Bill C-91.



Following the languages presentation an update was provide on the Child Welfare Bill C-92. The child welfare presentation brought about

much debate from the Chiefs on the process used by the government on the co-development of the legislation. Many of the Chiefs were concerned that the process used was not true co-development since the government didn't always respond to the Chiefs committee recommendations. The Chiefs in Assembly expressed that other co-developments of legislation needed to be true co-developments and not more one-sided, for the government. On the second day of the assembly a number of federal party leaders addressed the assembly and spoke about their party's platform for the upcoming election in October 2019. Each party leader or representative took questions from the Chiefs. The conservative party leader Andrew Sheer was asked directly about why the Chiefs should believe that he will be any different than Stephen Harper. Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett and Minister of Indigenous Services Seamus O'Regan addressed the Chiefs in Assembly and spoke about the investment the Federal Government has made over the past few years and the legislation the government has enacted to support First Nations. Both Ministers acknowledged that there is still a lot more work to do and that more investments need to be made. Representatives from the various AFN Chiefs Committees provided updates to the chiefs in assembly.

JULY 29, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council discussed a request from the Akwesasne Freedom School for sponsorship to purchase a table at an upcoming fundraiser. Council passed a motion to purchase a table at the upcoming event.
- A request from the Sweetgrass Language Conference was discussed; further information will be researched and reported back to Council.
- Council reviewed and discussed a letter from the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs on the seven points of jurisdiction; a follow-up meeting will be scheduled to further discuss the letter.
- An update was provided on the collaborative efforts between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and MCA to ensure the St. Regis water treatment plant intake is regularly tested for contaminants.

- A briefing was provided on the current status of the Entewatatha:wi negotiations with a recommendation forthcoming on the next steps.
- Council discussed next steps following the all-Council retreat.
- MCRs passed: Approval of renewal of CMHC mortgage; Approval of (2) upgrade loans to community members; Approval of amendment to contract with Dr. Saylor; Approval of hiring of Clinical Supervisor; Approval of appointment of Youth to the Akwesasne Youth Council; Approval of amendments to Interim Cannabis Application; Approval of Access to Territory for business financing; Approval of amendment to Akwesasne Canada funding agreement; Approval of application for healing lodge funding; Approval to use OLGC funds to hire Paralegal; Approval of revisions to portfolio listings; Approval of addition of signing officer for BMO bank accounts; Approval of audit for Literacy and Basic Skills Program; Approval of additional staff for Indian Register Administrator; Approval to rescind MCR for housing loan (loan declined); Approval of assignment of lease Pilon Island; Approval of assignment of lease Renshaw Island; Acceptance in Principle of Proposed Amendment to the Akwesasne Election Law.

JULY 29, 2019 TELUS TOWER CALL

On July 29, 2019 I participated in a conference call with Telus Mobility regarding the land they lease from MCA at the arena on Cornwall Island that they use for their communications tower. Telus Mobility informed us that they are in the process of selling the tower to Bell Mobility and would like to enter into conversations about entering into a new agreement for the land use by Bell Mobility. Currently Telus Mobility annually pays the MCA \$11,000 for the use of the land with an additional \$3,000 paid to the Akwesasne Powwow. Bell Mobility currently occupies the Telus Tower and annually pays the MCA \$8,000 with an additional \$3,000 paid to the Akwesasne Powwow. Following this call we will arrange another call with Telus Mobility to further discuss the transition and negotiations of a new agreement with Bell Mobility to take over the land leased.

JULY 30, 2019 STUDENT BURSARIES



On the morning of July 30, 2019 members of our Council attended the 2019 Student Bursaries Recognition dinner at the St. Regis Recreation. Annually we co-host the bursaries session with the award sponsors, the Bank of Montreal and Enbridge Gas. These two companies provide a total of twenty \$500 bursaries to deserving Akwesasne high school graduates. I welcomed the students and families to the events and we shared a nice lunch with the students and sponsors. Following lunch, I welcomed the sponsors from the Bank of Montreal and Enbridge to share congratulatory words with the students and to share some insight into career opportunities available with their companies and why post-secondary education is so important. Each student was called upon to receive their \$500 cheque from the respective sponsors. Congratulations to all 2019 graduates and best wishes for the upcoming school year.

JULY 31, 2019 TRANSPORT CANADA

On the afternoon of July 31, 2019 Council met with representatives of Transport Canada to discuss surplus lands the federal government owns in the City of Cornwall. Transport Canada met with Council back in 2018 and had committed at that time to meet again following the June 2018 election. On July 31, 2019 the representatives of Transport Canada provided an overview of the various lands and properties located in the City of Cornwall which are located mainly near the St.

Lawrence River and around the canal. Transport Canada is looking to sell the lands under their divesture program. The divesture policy doesn't provide priority to First Nation communities over other government departments and provinces. The representatives explained that the properties would be turned over to a Canada Lands Company who would then list the properties for sale to the public. We communicated to the Transport Canada representatives that the lands they possess are in our territory and we have a claim to those lands. The Transport Canada representatives accepted that we hold an interest in those lands and committed to meeting with us again to further our conversation on the divesture of the lands held by Transport Canada.