



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ohiari:ha/June 2019

JUNE 2, 2019 OACAS GOVERNORS FORM

On June 2, 2019 I attended an Ontario Association of Children's Aid Society (OACAS) Leadership Forum in Toronto. Belinda Karahalios, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children Community and Social Services provided an overview of the ministry's priorities and discussed upcoming community engagement. Following the presentation from the MPP, the participants debriefed and discussed concerns with the ministry's lack of openness with regard to the government's plan for overhaul. The participants discussed possible sector priorities to present to the ministry, noting that the priorities would be areas that the sector could assist with, in the transformation of the sector. Isa Gros-Louis, the Director General of Child and Family Services Reform for Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) provided the forum with an overview of Bill C-92 An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families. Isa explained the process for implementation and the Bill's main objectives. The participants continued their dialogue on sector priorities.

JUNE 5, 2019 IFN QUARTERLY MEETING

On the morning of June 5, 2019 I attended the morning session of the Independent First Nations (IFN) Quarterly Meeting which was hosted in Akwesasne.

JUNE 6, 2019 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

On the morning of June 6, 2019 I attended the monthly Finance Committee meeting. The Assistant Comptroller provided the committee with an update on the 2018/2019 audit and explained

that they are working on meeting the timelines. An update was also provided on the forecasted departmental surpluses and deficits; it was further explained that the MCA can expect to have an overall surplus at the end of 2019. The committee discussed the recent MCA e-mail server outage and discussed possible options to avoid future outages. A briefing was provided on a recent break-in at the Tsi Snaihne School and measures to mitigate future risks were discussed. Representatives from Desjardins Bank provided the Finance Committee with an overview and update on current MCA investments with Desjardins.

JUNE 11, 2019 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE BOARD

On June 11, 2019 I traveled to Kingston to participate in the monthly St. Lawrence College (SLC) Board of Governors meeting. The monthly meeting began with a report from the President & CEO of the college followed by reports from the executive team. The CEO provided an overview and update on the upcoming launch of the SLC five-year strategic plan and explained that a number of sessions will be hosted with the campuses to kick off the five-year plan. The committees of the board each provided updates and proposed motions for the board's consideration. The board recognized the outgoing board members and the CEO thanked them for their service. Following the open session, the board went into a closed session to receive in-camera updates and to elect a new board chair and vice chairs.

JUNE 12, 2019 MEETING WITH OVERSEERS

On the evening of June 12, 2019 I attended a meeting with the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Overseers. The overseers requested a meeting with me to receive an update on their previous request for reimbursements which had been submitted to the MCA. We also discussed processes that the MCA could improve on, in order to support the overseers. I committed to follow up with the overseers on their request for assistance.

JUNE 12, 2019 GRASS RIVER REMEDIATION

On the evening of June 12, 2019 I attended a Grass River Remediation information session at the Hawkins Point Visitor's Center in Massena, New York. Representatives from Arconic, the company conducting the remediation work, provided an update on the construction. A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spoke to the processes being used in the remediation and the mitigation measures being taken to ensure contaminants are not posing a threat to the waters, fish, and residents. During the presentations, several questions were posed to the EPA on ensuring that people were safe and that the EPA was taking all possible measures to mitigate the threats. The EPA explained that if the clean-up isn't completed, the contaminants would eventually flow into the St. Lawrence River. The EPA hosts monthly information meetings at the Hawkins Point Visitor's Center in Massena and additional information can be found at: www.thegrassriver.com. A specific meeting with the EPA and the MCA is being scheduled to further discuss the Grass River clean-up project.

JUNE 13, 2019 SWEARING IN CEREMONY

On the morning of June 13, 2019 our Council welcomed newly elected Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams to the MCA.



We began the ceremony with welcoming words, followed by the Oath of Office for District Chief Adams. The community was then invited to share in the celebratory luncheon to welcome Vanessa to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

JUNE 14, 2019 VISIT AT IAKHIHSOHTHA



On June 14, 2019 I was invited to join staff and residents at the Iakhihsohta Lodge to judge the contest for staff summer flower arrangements. While at the facility, I visited with residents and staff and enjoyed strawberry shortcake with them. Chief Connie Lazore and I observed the flower arrangements and came to a consensus on our

choice for the winner. Niawen to the staff and residents of Iakhihsohta for the invite to participate.

JUNE 14, 2019 YOUTH WELCOMING

On June 14, 2019 I was invited by the Akwesasne Youth Council to welcome youth participants to a two-day workshop entitled Preparing Our Home. The workshop was centered around the youth discussing current risks to the community. The youth identified risks that had not been previously identified and also discussed, from a youth perspective, some mitigation measures that could be implemented to potentially prevent certain events from occurring in the community.

JUNE 17, 2019 CBSA CT LAB REVIEW

Following our Design Thinking Initiative (DTI) exercise on April 1, 2019 our Council met with design thinking consultants from CT Labs and senior representatives from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on June 17, 2019. The consultants provided a high level overview of the draft report from the session in April. The consultants reviewed a proposed governance structure to support the implementation of the recommendations of the DTI report. The participants reviewed the governance structure and provided feedback on the proposal. The consultants explained each proposed mandate of the governance model which included a larger group of governors and committee groups to work on specific files. Following the governance discussion, we discussed a communications protocol for proposed liaison positions. The next steps will be to establish the committees and begin the implementation of the agreed upon recommendations.

JUNE 19, 2019 MEETING WITH CITY OF CORNWALL COUNCIL



On the evening of June 19, 2019 our Council attended a dinner meeting with the City of Cornwall at the Cornwall Civic Complex. The evening began with an opening from District Chief Joe Lazore followed by the singing of the national anthem. The members of our

Council and the City Council provided round table introductions to one another. The Mayor then provided welcoming remarks and laid out her vision for our two communities working together to strengthen our alliances and to achieve common goals. I then provided remarks to both councils and explained that as neighbors we have so much in common and face many of the same challenges. I explained that we should be working together to find solutions and to raise the positive profile of our region. Our councils shared a nice meal together. After dinner, administration for the City of Cornwall provided an overview of the city's programs and services. I provided an overview of the MCA and the programs we deliver. We committed to meeting again in the fall, but also committed to setting up additional meetings on the development of the Cornwall harbor.

JUNE 24, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Executive Director for the Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area provided Council with an overview of the Vibrant Communities Initiative and the Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee.
- Representatives from WP Financial briefed Council on proposed changes to the MCA pension fund, for Council's consideration.
- The Acting Director of the Department of Technical Services provided Council with an overview of MCA's building security features and reviewed the existing draft policy with Council. A proposal for increased security equipment for various facilities was reviewed.
- Council was briefed on a proposal to utilize Easterbrook funding to establish a memorial plaque at the basketball courts on Kawehno:ke. Further follow up will be done.
- A recent request for additional stop signs to be installed in the community was discussed and will be referred to the Department of Technical Services and portfolio for follow up.
- Council was briefed on an upcoming Council retreat, scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

- A concern with the processing time for remittance of payment to service providers was discussed and referred to Administration for follow up.
- Council discussed a recent offer to sell property to Council and referred the discussion to the Property Acquisition Team (PAT) for follow up and recommendation.
- A concern regarding the MCA's service commitment to external partners was discussed and will be further investigated by Administration.
- Council agreed that the Book of Recognition will be revitalized at upcoming General Meetings.
- A concern with office accessibility and the closure protocol was discussed and will be further researched by Administration.
- A briefing was provided on the exploration of an ongoing supply provider, to support the cannabis framework in Akwesasne.
- Council discussed a recent request to present to Council on a proposed class action lawsuit; Council agreed to hear the presentation.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Access to Territory for business financing; Approval of assignment of Lease Colqunoun Island; Approval of 6 amendments to the MCA pension fund and its administration; Approval of Executive Director and Grand Chief as signing officers for Akwesasne Canada agreements; Approval of Interim Cannabis Application; Approval of 4 Council Emergency Meeting Minutes; Approval of 6 Council Meeting Minutes.

JUNE 25, 2019 OPG INDIGENOUS DAY

On June 25, 2019 I attended the Indigenous Day celebration hosted by the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) at their Visitor's Center in Cornwall. I welcomed the community and thanked OPG for hosting the event and celebrating Indigenous Day. Cornwall Mayor Bernadette welcomed the community members and announced that the City of Cornwall passed a motion at a recent Cornwall City Council meeting and they will soon be including Mohawk language on city signage.



Following the welcoming remarks, we assisted in the unveiling of three plaques located behind the Visitor's Center. The plaques erected by the Heart of the City tell a story in three languages about the history of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam and the impacts it has had on the Akwesasne community. I applauded the Heart of the City for their commitment to tell the story and to recognize the impacts on the plaques.

JUNE 26, 2019 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

On June 26, 2019 our Council met at the Tri District Elders to review the 2018-2021 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Strategic plan. Back in January, our Council met with our consultant Jeff Jacobs, and senior management of the Mohawk Council to begin the development of the strategic plan. The plan was built off the Comprehensive Community Plan in March 2016. Our Council reviewed the plan and identified which departments and programs would take the lead for each of the goals outlined in the plan. The plan will be accepted by resolution and communicated to the community and organization in the coming months.

JUNE 27, 2019 CCVS GRADUATION

On the afternoon of June 27, 2019 I attended the 2019 Cornwall Collegiate Vocational School graduation ceremony.

JUNE 27, 2019 GENERAL MEETING

On June 27, 2019 Council hosted the General Meeting at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center. The agenda included a presentation and update on the proposed natural gas expansion, followed by a presentation from the Justice Department on Akwesasne Laws. An update was provided on the Grass River clean-up and the recent meeting with CBSA on the design thinking initiative report. We also discussed business from the floor. The entire General Meeting recording can be found at: <https://youtu.be/wpt6XwecRRs>. The next General Meeting will be held on September 26, 2019 in Kana:takon.

JUNE 28, 2019 INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY

On June 28, 2019 I was invited by Kahnawake to attend an Indigenous Technology Summit in Montreal. The summit was co-hosted by Kahnawake and Forrest Green and sponsored by Blackberry Canada. Grand Chief Joe Norton welcomed the participants to the summit and highlighted the partnership Kahnawake has in the technology sector and spoke about the on reserve computer server unit the community has on reserve and the benefits of the partnership. A panel of presenters from various private sector companies described the partnerships they have with Indigenous communities and the benefits to the communities and the companies from the partnerships. Government of Canada representatives presented to the participants on programs the government offers for Indigenous partnerships within the technology sector. First Nation participants, including Chief Clarence Louie from the Osoyoos Band, spoke about his community's economic development successes and how technology plays an important part in the success of the community. Following the panel presentations on the importance of technology and partnerships, a representative from Blackberry highlighted the importance of their partnerships with Indigenous communities.