



COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT

For Immediate Release:

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 14, 2025

8TH ANNUAL FNMPC CONFERENCE: VALUING RECONCILIATION IN GLOBAL MARKETS

CHIEF TESHA ROURKE

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Tesha Rourke recently attended the 8th Annual First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) Conference, held in Toronto, Ontario, from April 27–29, 2025. Chief Rourke was joined by Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams, Director of Economic Development Kylee Tarbell, and Director of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment Leslie Papineau, representing Akwesasne in important conversations on economic reconciliation and Indigenous participation in major projects.

Themed “**Valuing Reconciliation in Global Markets**,” the 2025 FNMPC Conference explored the growing role of First Nations in global supply chains and international markets. The gathering came amid significant geopolitical shifts, including the U.S. government's recent economic policies and calls for greater trade diversification in Canada. Against this backdrop, First Nations leaders, investors, and policy experts gathered to examine how Indigenous nations are reshaping the future of economic development through self-determination, equity ownership, and sustainable partnerships.

KEY THEMES & HIGHLIGHTS:

Indigenous Leadership in Economic Development

- The conference showcased how First Nations are leading efforts in energy infrastructure, international trade, and Indigenous-owned utilities.
- Discussions highlighted the need to support Indigenous economic inclusion and sovereignty in major project development.

Reconciliation in Global Markets

- Speakers — including former Prime Ministers, Indigenous business leaders, and global investors — addressed strategies to advance reconciliation through capital access, equity partnerships, and Indigenous-led investment models.



Youth Engagement & Future Visioning

- Sessions also emphasized the importance of youth leadership in shaping the future of Indigenous business and governance.
- The event promoted the inclusion of young entrepreneurs and leaders in long-term strategic planning.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & NEXT STEPS FOR AKWESASNE:

The MCA delegation networked with key national and international partners, gathering valuable insights for local project development.

Next steps include:

- Applying lessons to support current and future infrastructure and economic initiatives in Akwesasne.
- Exploring clean energy and trade partnerships that align with Akwesasne's values and priorities.
- Continuing to build capacity in areas like financing, governance, and sustainable development.

The FNMPC Conference provided a powerful platform for Indigenous voices to shape policy, investment, and innovation — and for Akwesasne to build strategic partnerships that will support the growth and prosperity of our community.