

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release:
July 18th, 2022

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT (OSC) UPDATE

On June 20th, 2022, the OSC issued a Press Release providing an update of the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development and the Working Task Groups' (WTG) work on the development of three Akwasasne Laws, namely: *Cannabis Law*, *Emergency Management Law*, and *Akwesasne Election Law Amendments*.

The *Cannabis Law* has recently had its legal review completed. In accordance with the LEPR, once the legal review has concluded, a line-by-line review will be conducted with Council. The line-by-line review was conducted on July 11th; this concludes Phase I. Phase II - Acceptance In Principle: Mohawk Council Resolution has been prepared and will be forwarded to Council for consideration at the July 25th Council Meeting. Phase III Community Consultation Sessions are being tentatively coordinated for mid to late August. The draft law will be sent for print and distributed to community mailboxes before Community Consultations Sessions.

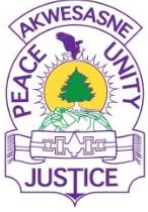
Please Note: Notices of the Community Consultation dates with times and locations will be released in the near future. Please monitor social media and Indian Time newspaper for sessions.

The *Emergency Management Law* has had the legal review completed. The WTG has reconvened to review the Legal Review, once completed a line-by-line review with Council will occur completing Phase I. Phase II Accepting in Principle will begin with the process of an MCR to Accept in Principle. Phase III Community Consultation will begin coordination.

The *Akwesasne Election Law Amendments* WTG has been working on certain sections of the law, namely: the composition of Council, candidate eligibility criteria, and term of office. This work has been completed and has been moved to the Oversight Committee to formally request the legal review. The draft amendments have now moved to Legal Review.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Legislative Development: The Mohawk Council has approved by MCR #2022/2023-#069 dated June 6, 2022, the legislative development priorities based on the survey results and are as follows:

New Law: *Child's Rights Law*
Law in Draft: *Fire Code/Law*
Law to be Amended: *Residency Law*



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On July 14th, 2022, the initial meeting of the *Child's Rights & Responsibility Law* WTG was held; a work plan and schedule were created. The WTG would like to meet with the community to gather their insight, knowledge, and experience with regard to child welfare. The dates for Community Input Sessions are as follows:

- Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022 – Kana:takon Recreation (6 – 8 p.m.)
- Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 – Tsi Snaihne Recreation (6 – 8 p.m.)
- Thursday, August 4th, 2022 – Kawehno:ke Recreation (6 – 8 p.m.)

An Elders Knowledge Session has also been scheduled to gather their valuable knowledge and teachings. This session has been set for the following date:

- Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 – Kana:takon Recreation (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

We are inviting Elders to meet with us and provide guidance on children's upbringing, as well as parental and community responsibility. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

The Mohawk Council has approved *MCR 2022/2023 - #078*, dated June 27th, identifying the Working Task Group members for each legislative development. This allows the work to begin on the laws identified as priority for 2022/2023.

For further information: Please contact the Akwasasne Justice Department, Justice Coordinator at:
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