# ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Issue 4 FREE Onerahtókha/April 2023

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## DCSS DISTRIBUTES FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY CHEQUES TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN COMMUNITY



Staff from Akwesasne Child and Family Services assist in the distribution of Family Sustainability cheques to community members living in the northern portion of Akwesasne. Full article on page 18.

## **UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:**

#### **APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's next General Meeting will take place on April 27, 2023 at the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School at 6 p.m.

The MCA General Meeting will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual).

To receive the Zoom link or submit your questions for Council, please email meetings@akwesasne.ca.

## **MOHAWK** COUNCIL **AKWESASNE** 2021-2024

#### **Grand Chief** Abram Benedict

#### **Kana:takon District**

Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell Chief Larry King Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs Chief Tim Thompson

#### **Kawehno:ke District**

Chief Vanessa Adams Chief Jackie Benedict Chief Edward Roundpoint Chief Vince Thompson

#### Tsi Snaihne District

Chief April Adams-Phillips Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo Chief JoAnn Swamp Chief Dwayne Thomas

#### Administration

Donna Roundpoint A/Executive Director

**Heather Phillips** Director Dept. of Finance & Administration

Leslie Papineau A/Director Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Joyce King Director Justice Department

Joseph Morin-Lauzon Director Dept. of Community & Social Services

**Amber Montour** Director Department of Health

Donna Lahache Director Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

Shawn Dulude Chief of Police/Director Dept. of Public Safety

> Kylee Tarbell Director Dept. of Economic Development

## WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS



She:kon and welcome to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's community newsletter, Onkwe'ta:ke, which means "For the people." The primary goal of this publication is to deliver MCA's news and updates straight into the hands of community members. Should you wish to stay exonnected in other ways, the following channels are provided:

date! Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne. Council contact information. ca/signup.

Social Media: Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, mation in Akwesasne's long-serving local Instagram and Snapchat!

**E-mail:** If you have any questions about **Mobile/Cell Text Alerts:** Receive urgent MCA departments and services, please or important messages right to your cell email info@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575- phone. Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts.

E-newsletter: Register for a weekly e- Website: News and general information newsletter delivered straight to your email can be found on our website at www.akinbox. It's a great way to quickly stay up to wesasne.ca. This includes job postings and

> Local Media: Find our news and informedia, CKON 97.3 Radio and Indian Time Newspaper.

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & **IMPORTANT MESSAGES** 

- MISSING PERSON: The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) continues to seek any assistance in locating missing person Casey Oakes. If you have any information to assist with the search or investigation, please contact Akwesasne Mohawk Police at 613-575-2340 or by email at tips@akwesasne.ca. If you wish to provide information that would help investigators and would like to remain anonymous, call the Seaway Valley Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.
- LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT: Community consultation sessions will be held in the coming weeks regarding "Amendments to the Election Law." We encourage the community to be a part of this law development process.
- At the March MCA General Meeting, the 2023-2024 MCA budget was presented by MCA directors. The presentation is included in the MCA General Meeting video posted to our YouTube Channel: www.voutube.com/mohawkcouncilofakwesasne.
- If you made an appointment for our pet wellness clinics, please remember your appointment date is approaching: The Dog Clinic is being held on April 28th at the Kawehno:ke Rec. The Cat Clinic will be held on April 29th at CIA #3 on Kawehno:ke.
- HALF-LOAD LIMIT: As of March 29, 2023, there is a half-load limit (5 tonnes per axle) in effect for all roadways in the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's jurisdiction. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **NEWS**



#### MCA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on • Florence Thomas, the first elected woman Chief March 8 to celebrate women's and girls' achievements. This day is also used to raise awareness of the progress toward gender equality and how we can continue to These women and countless others have stepped advance forward.

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne embraces equity by aiming to create a diverse, inclusive workplace where everyone is valued. MCA is proud to have an Pictured below are Chief Sarah Sunday-Diabo, Chief abundance of female leaders within the organization who are dedicated to our community.

Currently, seven women serve as district chiefs and of a panel entitled "Sharing Our Strengths" where seven more are department directors. MCA would they got to discuss their experiences, challenges, like to recognize some of the past women who paved and achievements in their work and community. the way for our current women in leadership:

- Mary David, first woman Grand Chief
- Angie Barnes, former Grand Chief

up to serve, support, and represent our community. We would like to extend a heartfelt niawenhkó:wa This year's theme for IWD was #EmbraceEquity. The for their contributions and determination to build a better world for Akwesasronon.

> JoAnn Swamp, and Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell speaking at the Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Leadership Summit. The chiefs were part







Pictured top right photo: Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs Sarah Sunday-Diabo, JoAnn Swamp and Kana:takon District Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell

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## **NEWS**

#### MCA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the departure of Ann Seymour as Executive Director Roundpoint, Associate Director, will serve in the for the organization. Ann Seymour was appointed executive director role. the Executive Director for a one-year term in March 2022.

The MCA extends a niawenhkó: wa and well wishes to Ann Seymour for her future endeavors.

The MCA is currently in the process of selecting a new executive director and will announce this update

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is announcing when it has been finalized. In the meantime, Donna



## JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE OFFICE RELOCATED TO KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO HEALTH FACILITY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) is notifying the community that the Jordan's Principle Program has relocated to the Kanonhkwatsheri:io Health Facility (KHF). The Jordan's Principle Office is located on the bottom floor of KHF in the former Nation Building office. The Jordan's Principle office is not accessible within the health facility. Please use the external door facing the police station.

For more information, questions or concerns, please contact Jordan's Principle, 613-575-2341 ext. 2650.







## **NEWS**

## MCA CONDOLENCES FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS OF TOM DEBO

acknowledges the passing of our team member, friends, and our staff who mourn his loss. Thomas Debo, who worked for the past 14 years as a Computerized Maintenance Management System Coordinator with the Department of Infrastructure, Housing, and Environment. He worked as a Head Caretaker in the years prior to 2009.

Throughout his years at MCA, Tom was instrumental in successfully implementing MOCA and Asset NAV software systems which is an asset management reporting system used throughout our organization. He provided training for all staff associated with the use of the software. Tom was intelligent, soft-spoken, and witty when the opportunity called for it.

With sadness, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne We extend our sincere condolences to his family,



## **CHIEFS ATTEND GREAT GATHERING 2023 EVENT**

From March 22-24, 2023, MCA Grand Chief Abram Meet Sonnie! He is a young Corgi who became a Benedict and Kawehno:ke District Chief Edward certified pet therapy dog and had his first visit with Roundpoint attended the Great Gathering 2023 in the Tota's at lakhihsohtha Lodge, spreading smiles Gatineau, QC. An event that combines the 3rd First and joy to all. Nia:wen Francine Gray for getting Nations and Municipalities Summit on Reconciliation Sonnie certified, the Tota's loved meeting him and and the 3rd Indigenous Economic Circle.



Pictured Left-Right: Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Kawehno:ke District Chief Edward Roundpoint, Marie-Eve Bordeleau, Board of Compensation and Cree Regional Economic Enterprises and Ghislain Picard, the Québec Regional Chief.

## **IAKHIHSOHTHA WELCOMES PET THERAPY DOG**

look forward to many more visits!





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## **COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT**

#### **COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT**

#### **SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT**



#### **MARCH 6, 2023**

 The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development presented to Council the recommended changes to the draft Akwesasne Election Law and will recommend

- the law for acceptance in principal for community consultation.
- A representative from Clarkson University presented a proposed wind turbine project and outlined the partnership opportunities for Akwesasne. A further presentation was provided on possible business and trade opportunities with various minority groups within Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Further follow-up will be done and reported back.
- A concern with MCA phone extension and lack of proper voicemail was raised with administration for follow up considerations.
- MCRs passed: Approval of grant application for design expansion to A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, Approval for Akwesasne Justice Department to proceed with the request for legal services for council's consideration; Approval of waste coordinator service agreement with Indigenous Services Canada; Approval of International Joint Commission fish consumption framework advisory agreement; Approval of allocation of Least Disruptive Measures surplus; Approval of allocation of funds of Least Disruptive Measures surplus.

#### **MARCH 13, 2023**

- Representatives from Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Indigenous Relations introduced themselves to Council and explained their role at Infrastructure Ontario.
- MCA Legal Counsel and a representative from Aboriginal Rights and Research presented an overview of the draft plain language settlement agreement being prepared for community-wide distribution leading up to a community referendum in the summer of 2023.
- An overview was provided on the process that ethical conduct complaints go through and what role council has in the process.

- The agenda for an upcoming meeting with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was discussed and set.
- Council agreed that the upcoming General Meeting will have one agenda item, the MCA 2023/24 operational budget.
- A request for the use of MCAowned land was discussed and will be replied to by the Grand Chief.
- A briefing was provided on the history and background of the Akwesasne International Powwow and the resources and planning needed to ensure its operation and success.
- Council discussed a request from the Iroquois Caucus on the recruitment of a new coordinator

- and agreed to proceed with interviews.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance in principle of draft Akwesasne Election Law for next phase community consultation; Approval of Indigenous Court worker contribution agreement; Approval of allocation to Akwesasne Boys and Girls for new club construction; Approval of allocation and acceptance of scope of work for Redmane Technologies; Approval of (2) amendment to Akwesasne Canada contribution agreement; Approval of appointment of Acting Executive Director; Approval of amendment to MCA Executive Committee Terms of Reference.

## COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

#### **MARCH 20, 2023**

- Council discussed a received proposed resolution regarding Quebec electrical reliability.
- A concern regarding the Akwesasne Fibre to the home project was discussed.
- Council discussed the current space requirements of Mohawk
- Government and agreed to examine the reallocation of office space to accommodate government.
- An overview was provided on the MCA emergency declaration, administration was tasked to garner feedback from EOC and Health on downgrading the emergency declaration.
- Council agreed that Mohawk Government staff attending Council Meetings is no longer needed.
- MCRs passed: Approval of (3) amendments to Akwesasne Canada funding agreement; Approval of funding agreement for Sturgeon Study; Approval of creation of power outage committee.

#### **MARCH 27, 2023**

- The Cannabis Law working task group presented the draft Cannabis Law and reviewed the recent changes. Council agreed to move the law forward to acceptance in principal and set a date for community acceptance.
- Council received additional information on the status of the Akwesasne International Powwow.
- A briefing was provided on the status of the New York State land claim.
- Council debriefed from a recent meeting with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and agreed to follow up on action items from the meeting.

- An overview was provided on the recent accomplishment of the Cornwall Girls U13 Hockey Team. The lonkwakwé:nion committee will begin the planning for the recognition of the team and the Akwesasne players on the team.
- Council agreed that a call out will be conducted for interested youth to sit on the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Youth Council.
- MCRs passed: Approval of transfer payment agreement for Literacy Basic Skills Program; Approval of training agreement with ACESS; Approval of Indigenous Institute Virtual Learning Grant; Approval of amendment to Indigenous Institute Mental Health Grant agree-

ment; Approval of amendment to Akwesasne Canada Quad-Partite funding agreement; Approval of amendment to funding agreement for Organized Crime Initiative; Approval of agreement with Coast Guard to support liaison position; Approval of grant application to Indigenous Initiative Fund to support Akwesasne business; Approval of amendments to Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulations; Approval of template for development of a law; Approval of contract for solid waste curbside pick-up services; Approval of Executive Committee recommendation to offer position of Executive Director to successful candidate.

#### **MARCH 29, 2023**

Emergency Council Meeting

MCRs passed: Approval of funding agreement with Public Safety Canada for equipment, supplies, material; Approval of agreement with Public Safety Quebec for training.

## **MOHAWK GOVERNMENT**

To reach a member of Council, call the Mohawk Government Office: **613-575-2250** 

Or, find phone numbers and email addresses for all Council members online:

akwesasne.ca/contact-chiefs Q

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## COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

#### KANA: TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF JULIE PHILLIPS-JACOBS UPDATES



**Monthly Report:** March 1-31, 2023

#### **Portfolios:**

Department of Justice, Public Safety, AMBE (Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education)

#### **Selected Committees:** Finance, Special Needs Committee, CBSA/MCA Border **Collaboration Working Circles**

#### **PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

which legislative needs should be members. The call out is ongoing. prioritized for development. To participate in the survey please CBSA email connie.lazore@akwesasne. Service Agency)/MCA ca.

and Racing Against in the Cornwall POE, Governance, Watch

Drugs were part of the agenda. Communications, Communications from both the Leadership Working Circles. AMPS (Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services) and the SRMTP (St. MEETINGS ATTENDED: Regis Mohawk Tribal Police) will be forthcoming to help with the Border Partners Meeting security and safety of Akwesasne when it comes to people crossing into Akwesasne lands.

AMBE - The AMBE continues to work toward structural readiness. The Board of Trustees meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month with the first part of the meeting reserved for community comments or concerns.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Finance Committee meets monthly. We have no community members that The Port of Entry (POE) working The legislative have come forward to be on this development priorities survey is committee, so Council members currently available for community have stepped forward until the members to help determine seats can be filled by community

Border (Canada Border **Collaboration Working Circles** After a lengthy period of for this group. Public Safety - Portfolio Chiefs online zoom meetings, we met with the COP. Homelessness, have finally initiated in-person Human Trafficking, Community meetings. I currently participate

the

## March 7, 2023 Virtual Meeting

- The U.S. Border representative was not available this month.
- April 3-4, 2023, CBSA/MCA (Mohawk Council of Akwesasne) Cultural Awareness training will
- CBSA lanes will be under construction this summer for placement of permanent speed humps.

#### **CBSA POE Meeting** March 21, 2023 In-Person Meetina

group is a new circle under the Border Collaboration Initiative with CBSA. This group's purpose is to discuss and find creative solutions for issues arising at the POE in Cornwall. We will be meeting monthly, and this was our first inperson meeting. Currently we are working on the terms of reference

**AMBE Trustees Meeting** March 21, 2023 Virtual Meeting

## COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

#### KANA: TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF JULIE PHILLIPS-JACOBS UPDATES

The Board of Trustees meets on accepting the draft law in principle Administration Law). the third Tuesday of the month. Quorum was not achieved for an official meeting to take place. The chair called the meeting at 6:20.

#### Module Review, a2z Strategic Consulting March 22-23, 2023 Laval, QC

With the consultant at a2z, we reviewed the governance modules created to help with the onboarding of new Board Members. The Associate Director, the Chair of the Board and myself reviewed these modules for clarity, grammar, and effectiveness over the two days. The modules include a fun and interactive way to teach new Trustees what their roles and responsibilities are as Trustees The Finance Committee met of the Ahkwesahsne Board of Education.

#### **Oversight Committee** March 27, 2023 In-Person Meeting

Updates were given on the status of each law. The election law amendments are in Phase 3, which is community consultation. These consultation sessions will take place in May. The draft Cannabis Law passed second reading by Council and is now going into Phase 4. An MCR will be drafted

and the vote will take place via referendum in June. The Draft Emergency Management Law is at the tail end of Phase 3 as they prepare the law for a second line by line with Council. Amendments to the Residency Law are underway and in phase one of reviewing the current law. The Child's Rights and Responsibility draft law is in Phase 1. There have been input sessions with the community, elders, MCA departments. programming, and community organizations. A legislative drafter has been added to the team.

#### **Finance Committee** March 27, 2023 In-Person Meeting

to review the presentation of the budget for the General Meeting. Finance Committee members agreed to split up the presentation's beginning and the Directors would handle their budget areas in the presentation. The Finance Committee discussed and made recommendations to amend the policy procedures to ensure that the responsibilities of the Executive Director and the Council are clear when it comes to the AFAL (Akwesasne Financial

#### **AFNQL Elected Women's** Council March 29-31, 2023

The AFNQL Elected women's Council has long extended an invitation to Akwesasne Women leaders to attend these sessions. Accepting this invitation means I could only zoom in for the General meeting held on March 30, 2023.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- The legislative development priorities survey opens from March 20-April 14. Results from this survey will determine the legislative priorities for the 2023-2024 year.
- DCSS Announces Family Sustainability Cheques to be Distributed to Heads of Household In The Community - For more information, or any questions concerning the Family Sustainability cheques, please contact Courtney Skidders at 613-575-2341 ext. 3146.



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## COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

#### **KAWEHNO: KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES**



**Monthly Report:** February 1 - March 31, 2023

#### **Portfolios:**

Department of Community & Social Services, Health, Public Safety, Economic Development

#### **Selected Committees/WTG:**

Akwesasne Child Rights & Responsibilities Law, Emergency Management Law WTG-EML, Ionkwakwen:nion Book of Accomplishments, Cannabis Law Working Task Group-ACL, CBSA/MCA Border Collaboration Working Circles

#### **PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

**Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS)** – February 24, 2023 (attended), March 17, 2023 (attended).

**Department of Health** – February 16, 2023 (attended), March 16, 2023 (cancelled).

**Public Safety** – March 23, 2023, (attended), next AMPC April 11, 2023.

**Economic Development** – March 15, 2023 (attended).

#### **COMMITTEE/WTG UPDATES:**

Akwesasne Child Rights & Responsibilities Law (ACRRL) – Review of Table of Contents: Federal, Provincial, and First Nations Laws; from these topics what items belong in the ACRRL.

Review of data collected at the input sessions and MCA Open House where comments fit in the sections of the law. Next

meeting March 30, 2023.

Emergency Management Law WTG-EML

– Entering Phase 3, meeting postponed due to no quorum.

Ionkwakwen:nion Book of Accomplishments-ACL – Planning recognition to include the U13 Cornwall Typhoons Hockey Team congratulations. Great job and congrats to our U13A Cornwall Typhoons! You filled the cup and won 100,000.00 for Beyond 21.

Emergency Management Law Cannabis Law Working Task Group-ACL — Council approved final draft line by line entering next Phase 4 enactment of law to be accepted by council and voted on via referendum.

CBSA/MCA Border Collaboration Working Circles – I take part in the following tables. Port of Cornwall, Leadership, Economic Development. Happy to report we will be participating in person once again. This enables fluid dialogue, improved communications and participation.

#### **MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

#### Jay Treaty Border Alliance Summit January 30 - February 3, 2023 Vancouver, BC

Attended Jay Treaty Border Alliance meetings in Vancouver BC and Lummi Nation WA. I attended a Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) Summit hosted by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations in Vancouver, BC. Representatives from JTBA working on the Tribal Border Crossing Parity Act supply an update on the efforts underway in the U.S. to remove the 50% blood quantum requirement for entry into the United States. All professional consultants gave a presentation to the participants on the background of the Jay Treaty, the legal status of the treaty and the current discrepancies between Canada and the Unites States. As a result of my participation, I will co-convene along with CBSA Cynthia Pye the CBSA Borders experience table.

## FN Caucus CYFSA & ON Engagement February 8 & 16, 2023

Update and discussion - The Indigenousspecific amendments to the CYFSA relate to (1) prevention-focused Indigenous service providers; (2) complementary services; (3) circles of supportive persons; and (4) customary care.

## Kawehno:ke District Meeting February 15, 2023

February meeting – attended by 2 community members (I attended). The next meeting scheduled for March 8, 2023, was cancelled out of respect of a Kawehno:ke community member passing.

## COO Health DBIHL Info Session February 27, 2023

Canada's Proposed Distinction-based Indigenous Health Legislation - To date several political promises have been made in regard to DBIHL – 2019 Trudeau election campaign, September 2020 throne speech and media reports following the mistreatment of Joyce Echaquan. Chiefs of Ontario supplied information Session.

## 17th Annual COO Health Forum February 28 - March 2, 2023

Regional and Grand Council Chiefs Updates of Health in Ontario, various Informative dialogue and presentations Keynote speakers including a panel presentation by MCA DOH Long-term Care Panel. Attended Traumainformed Workplace Wellness for FN Police and First Responders. FN COVID-19 Model, Supporting IRS Health Support Program.

# AFN Special Chiefs Committee on Health Meeting March 3, 2023

Updates - DBIHL information session various questions on input sessions. Provinces - federal legislation, for more information see the ISC what we heard report online.

## COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

#### **KAWEHNO: KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES**

## MCA/SRMT Leadership Meeting March 20, 2023

Hosted by SRMT agenda items included discussions on Homelessness, Law Enforcement, Human Trafficking, working together on various community information PSA's. We will continue to meet monthly and inperson. Next meeting April 2023 to be hosted by MCA.

## **Border Collaboration Initiative Working Circle**

#### March 21, 2023

Discussions included pre-clearance, domestic lane, staffing increases in 2023-2024 inforation on recruitment and port specific orientation. Youth engagement, artwork, CBSA Cultural Awareness training is ongoing next dates April 3-4 2023, available spots (filled) this is encouraging as this training is vital to our daily encounters with CBSA officers on PIL. Next meeting April 2023.

#### **Department of Health**

Congratulations to the DOH Team - The Mental Wellness Team has been approved for a total of \$500,000 per fiscal year until 2026-2027. Additionally, the proposal for the Land Based Healing Debriefing Team has been approved for a total of \$500,000 for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Attended meeting on IPHCC will review materials with portfolio. The March portfolio meeting was canceled due to year end department requirements and service contract renewals.

#### **Department of Social Services**

Human Trafficking Training & Presentations, Special needs fund community information, FNCFS oversight committee terms of reference update, updates on MCCSS-ANCFS-AO. COO Child and Family Well-Being Law Making Resource Bundle shared to review. Funding reviews and updates.

#### **Department of Public Safety**

 The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service hosted a series of informative presentations to educate elders and seniors within the community.

- Recent increase in illegal entries to our community (PSA) discussed continuous work needed with SRMTP, Race Against Drugs Program, Emergency Operations, Succession Planning, Social Navigator.
- Compliance currently (1) Hiring process underway.
- DOH/EOC to review the state of emergency level of response needed for CO-VID-19.

#### **Department of Economic Development**

Updates received on the following – Indigenous Initiatives Fund IV. Indigenous Community Capital Grant Program. Akwesasne Economic Development Fund. RFP Growing Containers. FTTH Rogers tower. A'nowara'ko:wa Arena – turf, splash pad playground structure construction throughout summer months.

#### Border Partners: MCA, SRMT, USCBP,

**CBSA** – First Tuesday, Monthly

- Border wait times, staffing updates, CO-VID-19 Status and restrictions.
- Upcoming information/events that may affect traffic flow.
- Community impact questions and concerns from both Councils.

## **Beautification Committee Akwesasne Waterways**

Reoccurring meetings to begin ASAP.

• Chiefs and Technicians.

## **EXTERNAL INITIATIVES AND WORKING COMMITTEES:**

Jay Treaty Border Alliance- Co-convener CBSA Border Experience table with CBSA Cynthia Pye March 30, 2023.

Final Settlement Agreement Chiefs Advisory-FSA Committee on Social – Work-

ing Group Member.

- IFN Chiefs Committee on Health Committee Member.
- Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health -OCCOH participant.
- AFN Chiefs Committee on Health IFN Representative.
- IFN Executive Committee Member.
- MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Working Circles Port of Cornwall, Leadership, Economic Development.
- AFNQL Elected Women's Council Meeting March 29-31, 2023. We have accepted the invitation to take part in the 2023 Elected Women's Council meetings. My apologies, for this is the reason I am not at General Meeting in-person.
- Vibrant Communities Social Development Council of Cornwall and Area Board Member.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly – April 3-6, 2023, Ottawa – In addition I will attend the following: The Chiefs of Ontario will be hosting four Ontario Caucus Sessions during the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly on April 3-6, 2023. IFN Chiefs Meeting April 3, 2023.

Sending my heartfelt condolences to all Akwesasronon experiencing and mourning the loss of loved ones.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and we can schedule time to discuss any of the items I have reported on.

Niawenhkó:wa

Chief Vanessa Adams 613-363-3891 chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

#### **FACEBOOK STATS**



#### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in March

- 1. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2023 Missing Person Update
- 2. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2023 Unidentified Bodies Found in Snye (Update)
- 3. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2023 Bodies Found in Snye
- 4. AMPS Press Conference March 31, 2023
- 5. Condolence Fire at Snye Recreation

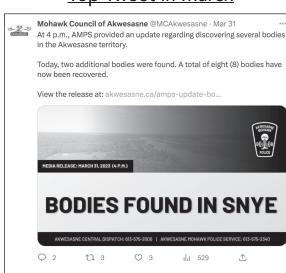
#### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in March

- 1. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2023 Missing Person Update 32,911
- 2. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2012 Bodies Found in Snye 17,167
- 3. AMPS Media Release: March 31, 2023 Unidentified Bodies Found in Snye (Update) 16,574
- 4. Condolence Fire at Snye Recreation 15,155
- 5. AMPS Press Conference March 31, 2023 8,952



#### **TWITTER STATS**

#### Top Tweet in March



#### **YOUTUBE STATS**

## Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for March

 You're Invited: Kanien'kéha Crash Course Challenge

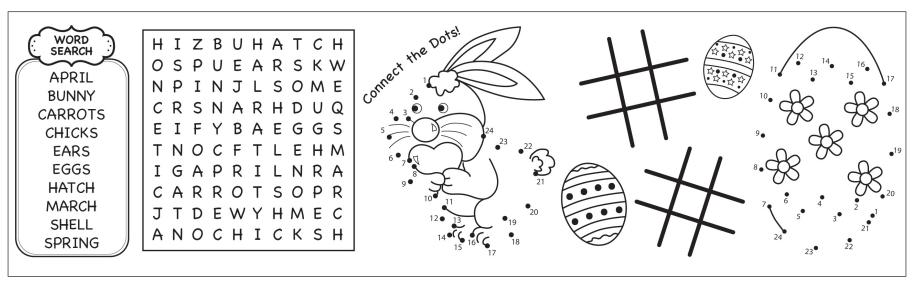


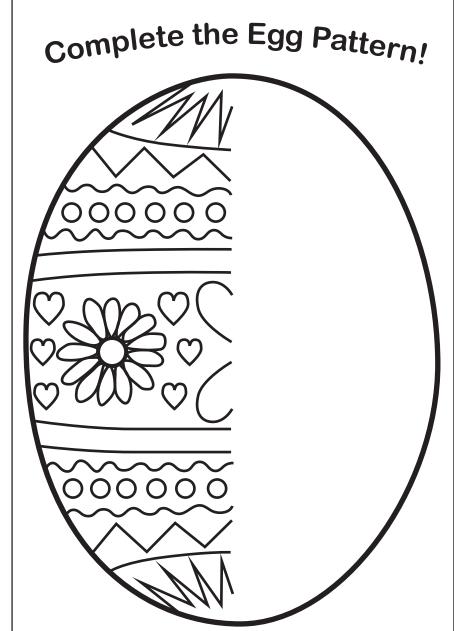
Follow us on social media!

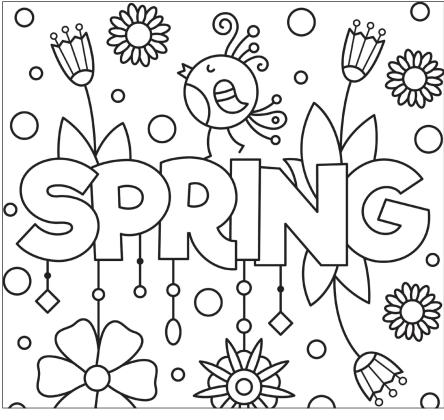
www.facebook.com/akwesasne.ca www.twitter.com/MCAkwesasne www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE







#### YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What's the best day of the year to monkey around with your friends? Ape-ril Fools' Day!

How does a bee brush its hair? With its honeycomb.

Why did the bird go to the hospital? It needed tweet-ment!

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## AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## AMBE TEAMS COMPETE IN CORNWALL JUNIOR **VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

Teams from the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School and just coming together for the first time as teams that Tsi Snaihne School travelled to Cornwall on March 29, day they performed well, improved throughout the 2023, to compete in a junior volleyball tournament day and celebrated their wins with enthusiasm. with Cornwall area schools. It is the first year the schools have been able to take part in this volleyball. Thank you to the coaches and organizers for providing gathering following a hiatus during the pandemic.

Students in grades 5 & 6 were eligible and despite their school as the host facility.

students with the opportunity for sports and competition, and thank you to CCVS for providing

















## MCGILL MEDICAL STUDENTS VISIT AKWESASNE, KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, the Department Health Portfolio Chief, Dwayne Thomas. After the of Health hosted medical students from McGill Q&A session, the students were then provided with University at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility a tour of the Akwesasne Museum. (KHF). The medical students in attendance were in Med 4 Selective."

The trip to Akwesasne was organized by McGill Indigenous Health Curriculum Interim Director/ For more information on the Indigenous Health Indigenous Health Professions Program Director, Dr. Professions Program, please visit www.mcgill.ca/ Sarah Rourke. During their visit, the students were indig-health. provided with a tour of the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility, a presentation from the Land-Based Healing program, provided information on the various health programs offered through the Department of Health, and had a question and answer session with

their fourth year of study and the trip was part of an The Department of Health wishes the visiting elective course of study they were enrolled in called students the best in their educational and medical "Putting It Into Practice (PIAT) Indigenous Health endeavors and thank the students for their interest in Indigenous Health, and for their interest in the Akwesasne territory.





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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMPLETES AND PASSES 2023 ACCREDITATION CYCLE**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department Accreditation Canada informed the Department of of Health (DOH) programs have recently completed. Health during their debriefing that DOH excelled in their Accreditation Survey. DOH had been preparing the following areas: for the on-site survey for the past four years, while maintaining COVID-19 Pandemic standards. DOH • Community Satisfaction completes the Accreditation Survey every four years with Accreditation Canada.

During the week of January 30 - February 2, 2023, Accreditation Canada surveyors visited Akwesasne to conduct the on-site survey. The surveyor team consisted of health professional peers which included; doctors, nurses, hospital administrators and other The Department of Health would like to thank our points for quality improvement.

The Accreditation process begins one (1) year before they arrive to conduct the survey. During this oneyear preparation period, the Accreditation Manager begins by rolling out a survey specific to standards of quality to DOH management staff to complete. The Accreditation Manager then enters the feedback into the Accreditation online portal, which generates a report on DOH's level of quality and also identifies areas that may require implementation of a quality improvement plan.

DOH is pleased to announce that on this years' survey we received a score of 90 percent. With this score, DOH continues its certification for their programs and buildings, and continues to be accredited through Accreditation Canada, a designation held since 2004.

- Commitment to Quality & Safety
- Managing through the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Communications to the Community
- Individualized Trauma Informed Treatment (Land-Based Healing)
- Commitment to Access (Medical Transportation)

health or social experts. The surveyors assessed our hard-working and dedicated staff, partners, and Health and Social Service programs to ensure that the community for their participation and support. our patient safety and quality standards are met. DOH would also like to acknowledge Accreditation Accreditation Canada's focus is to be transparent, Manager, Shealene Gibson, for successfully help identify areas of need, and show DOH focal completing this cycle of the Department of Health's Accreditation.



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

pleased to welcome Michelle Smoke to the Mental healing journey while giving them resiliency-building Wellness team. Michelle joins the organization as a skills and a variety of coping strategies so her clients Mental Health Therapist.

Michelle is a graduate of Clarkson University, having obtained her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with a minor in Business Administration. She also has attained three Master's-Level Degrees from St. Lawrence University: a Master's of Education & Certificate of Advanced Studies both in Counseling and Human Development, and a Master's in Mental Health Counseling. Michelle is fully licensed in the State of New York as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and is working on completing her application as a Registered Psychotherapist in both Ontario and Québec.

Michelle has been working within the community of Akwesasne for 19 years and bring a passion for helping others to become more resilient and to take back their power in their healing journey. She helps

The MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness Program is her clients become their own navigators in their can find their inner peace.

> Please join us in welcoming Michelle to the Mental Wellness Team.



Michelle Smoke, Mental Health Therapist



Carlee King, Female Withdrawal Specialist

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health would like to welcome a new staff person to the Sahatihaha'ra':ne Detox Center, Carlee King. Carlee joins the organization as the center's Female Withdrawal Specialist.

Carlee is a lifelong resident of the District of Kana:takon. She has a 2-year college diploma in General Arts & Sciences and a second 2-year college diploma in Mental Wellness & Addictions. Prior to the pandemic, Carlee had been a Casual Case Aide at the Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center.

Join us in welcoming Carlee King to the Sahatihaha'ra':ne Detox Center team.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH QUEEN'S **UNIVERSITY TO LAUNCH SLEEP STUDY IN AKWESASNE**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department This 5-year research project is funded by the Canadian rolled out in three phases, beginning later this year. University: This sleep study will focus on insomnia, the most common sleep disorder.

Sleep problems are very common, and they can make life less enjoyable. Fortunately, most sleep • problems can be effectively treated. When people start sleeping well again, they feel much better. • Judith Davidson (Queen's University, Psychology) "Insomnia" is trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. This project aims to help community members with insomnia to sleep better using knowledge from The research portion of the study will begin later Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) lisa.francisbenedict@queensu.ca. which involves scheduling sleep and other actions that work very well to get people sleeping again. CBT-I has proven to be effective in helping those who suffer from sleep disorders.

The overall goal of this research project is to help people to sleep without medication. The project involves hearing from many people in Akwesasne, including those who have had sleep problems and resources in the community, such as health and wellness providers. Together, we will co-design a program for Akwesasne healthcare providers to effectively treat insomnia, including the use of CBT-I, and then test whether this program works well to help people to sleep and feel better.

of Health is announcing to the community that they Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Sleep Research have partnered with Queen's University to launch a Consortium team grant. The research team will sleep study in Akwesasne. The sleep study will be involve a team from Akwesasne and from Queen's

- Ojistoh Horn (Physician, Akwesasne)
- Lisa Francis-Benedict (Community Liaison, Akwesasne)
- Research Advisory Council (Akwesasne community members)
- Amrita Roy (Queen's University, Family Medicine)

sleep science in combination with knowledge from this spring or summer. If you are interested in the community. The study will explore alternative learning more about the research, or healthy sleep methods to medications, such as a method called information, you can contact Lisa Francis-Benedict at



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES**

## DCSS PROVIDES FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY CHEQUES TO **HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IN COMMUNITY**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department were unable to pick up their cheques can contact "Family Sustainability" funds (cheques) to community members in the northern portion of Akwesasne. The cheques were issued to the "Head of Household" based on the most recent Fuel Allotment list, which now includes Heads of Households that were missed during the initial Fuel Distribution. Akwesasronon families residing in Cornwall were also eligible to receive the Family Sustainability cheque.

Niawenhkó:wa DCSS staff for your hard work on planning, preparing and distributing the cheques to community members. Any community members who

of Community & Social Services (DCSS) provided Akwesasne Child & Family Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3139 to make arrangements for pickup.







## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES**

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program: 613-937-4322

DCSS Administration: 613-575-2341 ext. 3305

Community Support Program: 613-575-2341 ext. 3262

Akwesasne Child and Family Services: 613-575-2341 ext. 3139

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## AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

## AKWESASNE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM ATTEND GRAND OPENING OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM FOR FELLOW FIRST NATION

Justice Program.

One year ago, ACJP met with Amelia "Millie" McComber, Justice Program Coordinator, to explain their respective roles within the ACJP program and shared information along with best practices to help them in the development of their own Restorative Justice Program.

At the grand opening, Rena Smoke, ACJP Program Manager, was honored with an eagle feather and cover, along with a killer whale painting in recognition and gratitude for providing guidance, support and encouragement to Millie on this endeavor.



The Akwesasne Community Justice Program (ACJP) Niawenhkó:wa to the community of Atikameksheng was invited to Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Anishnawbek First Nation for your hospitality Nation for the grand opening of their Restorative and sharing your community with staff from the Akwesasne Community Justice Program.





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## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## THOMPSON ISLAND CULTURAL CAMP HOSTS KANIEN'KÉHA BINGO NIGHT

In March, the Thompson Island Cultural Camp (TICC) hosted an exciting Kanien'keha Bingo Night at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre.

Community members were welcomed to join in on bingo, while learning the Mohawk language. the fun by registering for the event to secure one full sheet and two half sheets for CKON's Radio Bingo, in addition to a meal and Mohawk Language lesson by the TICC staff. A Mohawk bingo word list was following their Facebook page!

distributed to participants, whom were encouraged to primarily speak Kanien'keha for the duration of bingo. All families that participated in the event had a fun and exciting evening gathering together to play

Stay up to date with the great events and workshops hosted by Thompson Island Cultural Camp by



















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## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## THOMPSON ISLAND CULTURAL CAMP HOSTS KANIEN'KEHA LANGUAGE SESSIONS











Thompson Island Cultural Camp welcomed community members to attend their Kanien'kéha language event, held in all three districts. Attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the language by learning, talking and meeting fluents speakers. This was a safe space to learn Kanien'kéha, allowing beginners to sit and listen, engage in conversation or ask questions to first language speakers.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Thompson Island Cultural Camp team for your efforts in keeping the Mohawk language alive through your workshops and events. Visit Thompson Island Cultural Camp's Facebook page for more information on upcoming events or email ticc@akwesasne.ca.





Guest speakers on Kawehno:ke L-R: Kateri David, Kateri Herne, Rose Marie Sunday and Danny David.

## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

#### **APRIL 2023**

## **Home Maintenance Checklist**

## TIPS + TRICKS

#### **HOUSING SECTOR**

#### **IMPROVEMENT ADVICE**

- Keep mosquito season down by emptying standing water
- Inspect walkways and driveways for repairs
- Clean out trash cans and recycling bins
- Clear clutter by donating to local consignment
- Schedule cooling system maintenance checkup
- Spruce up front porch area
- · Wash windows from dirt and grime
- Wash the siding too
- Clean and inspect screen doors and windows
- Clean gutters and downspouts
- Clean out the garage for some winter storage
- Reorganize the basement for winter storage items too

#### **PRODUCTS FOR QUICK FIXES**

- Air Sponge Odor Absorber for temporary unbearable smells
- Gorilla Tape for small tears in screens
- Evapo-Rust for safe rust removal from tools
- ScrapeRite Plastic Razor Blades for paint splatters and grime
- Mr. Grip Screw Hole Repair Kit to fix stripped and worn screw holes
- Kilz Restoration Interior Primer for blocking out stains from water & some damage
- Performix VLP Liquid Vinyl Repair for small patches
- FiberFix Repair Wrap for every small repair
- Seamfil for laminate flooring repairs
- Guardsman Water Mark Remover for water marks on furniture
- The Angry Mama microwave cleaner
- PureGuardian Pluggable Air Purifier
- Home TechPro Rug Grippers

- Clean and prep your yard for fertilizer and reseed
- Prevent basement flooding, inspect sump pump and basement walls
- Prep for allergies, change HVAC filters and take off shoes at the door
- · Check the caulking around the windows
- Inspect the attic for critters or mold
- Rinse down the patio furniture
- Get the grill ready for cooking
- Organize the junk drawer
- Plant flowers to help the bees and butterfly's
- · Invest in a rain barrel
- Sharpen mower blades
- Flatten the yard from mud ruts

## **MONTHLY CHECKLIST**



- Clean or replace the filter to the furnace and/or HRV
- Clean faucets and shower heads from mineral buildup
- Inspect all drains for debris; unclog if necessary
- Test smoke alarms
- Vacuum heat registers and heat vents
- Check indoor and outdoor air vents are not blocked





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## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING



# DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

**ADMINISTRATION:** 

613-575-2250 ext. 1003

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1022

**HOUSING:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1056

**ENVIRONMENT:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1038

**ROADS DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISPATCH:** 613-575-2340 OR 613-938-5476

WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EMERGENCY: 613-575-2000

**AFTER HOURS PAGER:** 518-404-3352

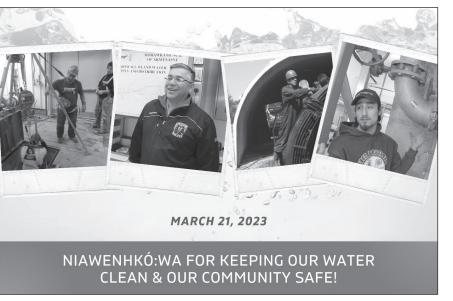
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM-4PM 613-933-4924

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (GARBAGE AND RECYCLING):

613-575-2250 ext. 1002

## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

#### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WATER OPERATOR DAY



March 21 marked National Indigenous Water Operator Day (NIWOD). This day was specifically chosen to be one day before World Water Day to serve as a reminder that we must first recognize and honour those helping bring the water to our taps every day.

We are grateful to our Water/Wastewater Program staff for their dedication to ensuring clean, potable water for Akwesasronon. A big niawenhkó:wa goes out to our team members: Program Manager John Adams, Clayton Barnes, Craig Cree, Pat David, Shane Francis, John "Tate" Lazore, Keith Mitchell, Tom Oakes, and Conway "Dibbo" Thompson.

#### 2023 HALF-LOAD RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

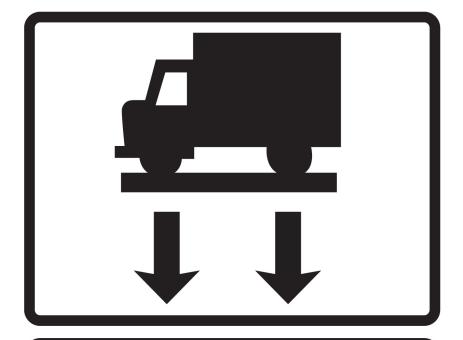
Please be advised that all roadways under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will have a posted weight limit of five (5) tonnes per axle (also known as "Half-Loads"), effective **Monday, March 27, 2023**.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police will be monitoring vehicle traffic and enforcing the weight restrictions while they remain in place.

For more information, please contact:

Alt. Telephone: (613) 575-2250

Stanley Jacobs, Roads Program Manager Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment Mohawk Council of Akwesasne 14 Ford Lane Akwesasne, Ontario K6H-0G5 Telephone: (613) 938-5476





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## **ENVIRONMENT**

#### VOTE YOUR FAVORITE LOGO DESIGN FOR THE GREAT RIVER CLEAN UP

MCA's Environment Program is hosting a logo design contest for the Great River Clean Up. The program is asking community members to vote for their favorite • design, which are displayed below.

#### **Contest Rules:**

- The voting period will be from April 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM to April 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM.
- Voting will be conducted through the online form. Please scan QR Code to access the form.

- Each person may vote as many times as they want using the online form until the voting period ends.
- The logo designs will be previewed on the MCA Environment Program Facebook Page.
- The Planning Committee reserves the right to make the final decision or overrule a result under special circumstances, as well as to act as a tiebreaker in the event of a tie.
- Facebook "likes" may also be used in the event of a tie.







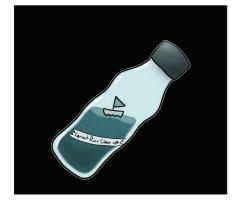


















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## AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## 

#### **SPRING CLEANING SAFETY TIPS**

Spring cleaning is right around the corner and 3. remind the community to be aware of some hidden dangers that you may encounter while cleaning in your neighborhood.

- a syringe or hypodermic needle please do not touch it and contact your local law enforcement agency. Officers are trained to deal with this type of biohazard. If you observe something that you believe is
- 2. Suspicious Powders or Pills: Fentanyl is a powerful immediately. If you come in contact with any of these synthetic opioid. This drug is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, even a tiny bit can be fatal. Fentanyl immediately. For more information or training on how can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral to detect suspicious substance please contact your exposure or ingestion, and skin contact. If you local law enforcement agency or call the Akwesasne observed suspicious powders or pills contact your Mohawk Police Service at (613) 575-2340. local law enforcement agency immediately and do not attempt to move or transport these substances.

bottles Suspicious containing Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service would like to Methamphetamine (Meth) is a central nervous system stimulant. It affects chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control. Bottles and cans are now being used as makeshift drug labs to produce meth. These chemicals used 1. Hypodermic Needles and Syringes: If you locate to produce meth may cause toxic fumes or even explosions when mixed together.

> suspicious contact your local police service dangerous substances, please seek medical attention

#### **MARCH STATISTICS**

- 2 019 Robbery With Firearms
- 024 Break & Enter Residence
- 1 028 Theft Trucks
- 1 035 Theft Over \$5000 Other
- 2 038 Theft Under \$5000 From Motor Vehicle
- 1 039 Theft Under \$5000 Shoplifting
- 040 Theft Under \$5000 Other
- 2 045 Frauds Other
- 2 061 Bail Violations
- 068 Obstruct Peace Officer
- 072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5000
- 073 Criminal Code Other
- 100 Immigration Act
- 1000 Abandoned Vehicles
- 5 1001 Alarms
- 1002 Alerts
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies Ambulance
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies Cornwall PS
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies OPP

- 8 1003 Assist Other Agencies Other
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies Tribal PD
- 41 1004 Assist Public
- 1 1006 Document Service
- 1008 By-Law Dogs
- 1009 By-Law Noise
- 2 101 Firearms Act
- 1010 By-Law Parking Occurrences
- 1 1012 Civil Disputes
- 22 1013 Community Services
- 3 1014 Crime Prevention
- 1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)
- 3 1018 Escorts Prisoner
- 16 1023 Judge's Order (Court)
- 1023 MVC Non-Reportable
- 4 1029 Suspicious Persons
- 1030 Suspicious Vehicles
- 14 1031 Suspicious Circumstances
- 2 1032 Sudden Death
- 5 1036 Warrant Bench/First



1041 Mental Health Act

- 4 1049 Medical Aid
- 5 1050 Youth Complaint
- 1052 Shooting Complaint 29 106 Provincial Statutes - Other
- 1063 Marine Patrol 107 Municipal By-Laws
- 204 Sexual Assault
- 2 205 Assault Level 1
- 206 Assault Weapon/CBH Level 2 705 Dangerous Operation MV
- 3 711 Impaired Operation MV
- 5 717 Fail to Stop / Remain (HTA)
- 1 719 Drive Disqualified/Licence Suspended
- 19 721 Traffic Provincial Statutes
- 1 723 Traffic Parking Violations
- 2 726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
- 2 Incident Type Not Listed

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# Attention Community of Akwesasne:

# Akwesasne Child & Family Services needs YOUR help!

There is an <u>urgent need</u> for kinship/foster/customary care homes.

If you, or anyone you know, may be in a position to open your home to either temporary or long-term fostering, please call **613-575-5020** and speak to an intake worker to submit your information. A Resource Development Worker will be in contact with you.



