

**APRIL  
2025**

LEONARD LAZORE

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF  
THE GRAND CHIEF



# **GRAND CHIEF MONTHLY REPORT**

# WORDS FROM THE GRAND CHIEF

WRITTEN BY LEONARD,

As we continue our journey together through this season, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the collective strength, commitment, and spirit of our community. Each day, I see the dedication of our people—whether it's in advancing our language and culture, supporting one another through challenges, or making progress in negotiations and planning for our future.

This past month has brought both opportunities and challenges. Council has been actively engaged in matters that impact the well-being of our people, including infrastructure, education, economic development, and the protection of our inherent rights. I remain committed to ensuring that all decisions reflect the voices and best interests of our community members.

**IN UNITY,**



Looking ahead, I encourage everyone to stay involved and informed. The path forward is strongest when we walk it together, grounded in our teachings and united in our vision for a thriving Akwesasne. Niawenhkó:wa for your continued trust and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Leonard Lazore'.


**LEONARD LAZORE**

Grand Chief

# WEEK 1

- Weekly Council Meeting
  - Regular updates and discussions on current Council matters.
- Border Partners Meeting
  - Monthly meeting with the Tribe, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to address ongoing border crossing issues.
  - Discussed the U.S. Customs' interest in replacing existing concrete barriers with a "shark teeth" system.
- Akweksko:wa Port Divestiture Committee Meeting
  - Reviewed strategic steps for advancing the development of the Port Lands in Cornwall.
- POM (Partnership OPG and MCA) Meeting
  - Continued progress on the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Agreement.
  - Discussed setting specific targets for employment and contracting opportunities.
- Entewatatha:wi Portfolio Meeting
  - Collaborated on the Entewatatha:wi Self-Government Agreement.
  - Reviewed applicable federal laws and how they are integrated into the agreement.
- Meeting with MPP Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities
  - Discussed opportunities in economic development and post-secondary education.
  - Identified potential to attract international students due to high tariffs elsewhere, which may benefit Akwesasne applicants.
- Iroquois Caucus Webinar – Government Finances 101
  - Webinar led by Amy Lickers providing an overview of government finance processes.
- Governance Committee Meeting
  - Ongoing discussions related to governance matters.
- Executive Committee Meeting
  - Strategic updates and high-level decision-making.

This week focused on key discussions surrounding governance, infrastructure, and external relations. Notably, Council participated in meetings with Transport Canada and the Seaway International Bridge Corporation Limited, where longstanding concerns regarding lack of consultation were addressed. We discussed the tolls and looking for solutions to delay the increase on the toll cost which was unsuccessful. The Grand Chief emphasized the importance of maintaining strong due diligence and advancing community priorities.




Council continues to monitor the bridge and roadway maintenance agreements that impact the daily lives of residents in Kawehno:ke and broader Akwesasne.

Efforts were also made to review correspondence with federal departments and advocate for clear lines of accountability in future infrastructure planning.

# WEEK 2

- Weekly Council Meeting
  - Routine updates and discussions on Council priorities and community matters.
- Border/Tariff Strategic Session
  - Strategic planning session focused on border and tariff-related issues affecting the community.
- Meeting with Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE)
  - Discussion on collaborative initiatives related to housing and environment for Akwesasne.
- Meeting with MP Larry Brock
  - Engaged with MP Brock, alongside the Chiefs of Ontario, to discuss First Nations priorities at the federal level.
- Meeting with Minister Cho
  - Explored the potential for a casino project in Cornwall, including discussions on feasibility and next steps.
- Class Action Lawsuit Presentation – Nathan Richards, Legal Counsel
  - Received a presentation regarding an active class action lawsuit, including discussion on AMPS (Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service).
- Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Recognition Event
  - Participated in an event recognizing the OTF for awarding Akwesasne a four-year, \$500,000 grant in the summer of 2021 to support community initiatives.
- Governance Committee Meeting
  - Reviewed governance policies and upcoming initiatives.

Council continued internal deliberations on nation-to-nation governance matters. Discussions focused on expectations, deadlines, and formal recognition of representation of each party of the NYS Land Claims Settlement. Chiefs emphasized the importance of accountability and timely decision-making to move forward cohesively.



The internal discussion will shape how inclusivity and authority are shared across traditional and elected structures.


The goal is to build a shared path forward without compromising transparency or the roles each body plays in representing Akwesasne.



# WEEK 3

- Weekly Council Meeting
  - Regular meeting to discuss current Council matters and community priorities.
- Province of Ontario Throne Speech – (Toronto, ON)
  - Attended the Throne Speech where the Lieutenant Governor addressed newly elected Members of Provincial Parliament and outlined the government's legislative agenda moving forward.
- Meeting with Minister Greg Rickford – Indigenous Affairs, Ontario
  - Engaged in a productive discussion focused on economic development opportunities and a shared commitment to collaboration.
- Meetings with Provincial Representatives
  - MP Eric Duncan – General engagement and relationship-building.
  - MPP Nolan Quinn – Continued dialogue on regional issues.
  - Solicitor General Michael Kerzner – Discussed matters related to public safety in Akwesasne and broader Indigenous communities.
  - MPP Stéphane Sarrazin – Introduced Akwesasne priorities and explored opportunities for cooperation.
- Leadership Committee Meeting
  - Nominated Grand Chief Joel Abram as the new representative for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Economic Development and the Chiefs Committee on Cannabis.
  - Discussed proposed dates and planning for the upcoming Fall Chiefs Assembly.

Council focused on human resource development, including the interview and hiring process for a key administrative position. Discussions centered on candidate availability, equitable evaluation processes, and the importance of selecting a candidate who brings value and long-term dedication to the organization. Support was offered for drafting strong, relevant interview questions.



A flexible approach was taken to accommodate schedules and ensure an inclusive, community-minded hiring process.

These steps are part of a broader effort to improve capacity and ensure that the administrative structure supports Council's vision.

# WEEK 4

- Introductory Meeting with Enbridge
  - Met with Enbridge about the Glendale Project and plans to repair gas pipeline couplings under the bridge.
- Cairn Island Specific Claim – ARRO Update
  - ARRO shared updates on the settlement and future plans for Cairn Island.
- Quebec Minister Lafrenière Meeting Prep
  - Internal preparation for upcoming meeting with Minister Lafrenière.
- Emergency Council Meeting
  - Special session to address urgent matters.
- Iroquois Caucus General Assembly
  - Signed a nation-to-nation trade agreement.
  - Discussed the High Frequency Rail Project, Iroquois Economic Study, and Jay Treaty update.
- MP Visit – Solicitor General Kerzner
  - Discussion on public safety issues affecting Akwesasne.
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Joint Steering Committee
  - Reviewed triannual report on employment, contracting, and project outcomes.
  - Discussed Akwesasne's contracting rules under the OPG Agreement.
- General Meeting
  - Council-wide updates and discussions.
- Negotiations Prep – Nation Building
  - Reviewed conflict of law issues and strategies for moving forward in upcoming negotiations.
- Meeting with TD Bank
  - Introductory meeting with team to discuss financing, investing, and collateral options.
- Executive Committee – Pathways Executive Search
  - Reviewed Executive Director recruitment process with Pathways Executive Search.
- CBC Interview
  - Spoke with international media about border issues and U.S. policy impacts.



Grand Chief Leonard signing the Nation to Nation Trade Agreement with Iroquois caucus

The Grand Chief emphasized continued collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada to strengthen trade and economic frameworks led by First Nations.



Grand Chief Lazore meeting with the CBC reporters

# WEEK 5

- FNMPC Conference
  - Made contact with Canada indigenous guarantee loan program
  - Made a connection with Export Development Canada
  - Met with Alto about the High Frequency Rail System
  - Key outcomes:
    - Initiated potential collaboration with Hydro-Québec via Kahnawà:ke leadership to enhance energy infrastructure in Akwesasne (QC sector).
    - Connected with Export Development Canada (EDC) to explore international trade opportunities using Cornwall's Port Lands.
    - Met with Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) executives to discuss the feasibility of a casino resort in Cornwall.
  - Next steps:
    - Engage former Kahnawà:ke Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer for Hydro-Québec introductions.
    - Follow up with EDC on trade logistics and partnerships.
    - Conduct market analysis for casino development.
    - Continue discussions with OLG on partnership and investment options.
- Executive Committee Meeting

Council engaged in international and intergovernmental reflection, with follow-up conversations on the IPEC 2024 meetings in Lima, Peru. The discussions reaffirmed the importance of international Indigenous diplomacy and highlighted the role of Akwesasne in advocating for economic sovereignty and trade partnerships abroad. Reports emphasized how Indigenous Peoples from different countries are building mutual support for global recognition.

The Grand Chief emphasized continued collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada to strengthen trade and economic frameworks led by First Nations.

Reflections also included how Akwesasne can apply global lessons locally, especially in trade capacity building and rights-based development.



Grand Chief Lazore at the FNMPC Conference





**Oneratohkowa/May 2025**  
**Monthly Report**  
**Chief JoAnn Swamp**  
**District of TsiSnaihne**



Email: [chief.joann.swamp@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.joann.swamp@akwesasne.ca)

Phone: 613-575-2250

Cell: 613-577-5592

**Portfolio:** DCSS (Dept. of Community & Social Services), DIHE (Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment), Government Secretariat, Nation Building (Entewatatawi)

**Committees:** OVS (Office of Vital Statistics), YECL (Youth, Elders, Culture, Language), Hydro QC, POM (Partnership with OPG and MCA), Executive Committee, PAT team, Iroquois Caucus.

**Monthly Notables:**

**Tsi Snaihne District Meeting:** May 12/25

There were nine people in attendance.

Topics: Community members would like to have focus meetings.

FNCFS Update: Community wants include early years (3-6) being paid from this program, sign language classes, feeding kids healthy foods at schools, teaching children healthy food choices, and promoting food sustainability. Invest in PSWs.

ABGC: funding cuts this year. Community members want quarterly reports for the funding given.

Mental Health: A Target for Youth and Young People. Possibly switch to quarterly health fairs.

How much does DOH spend on health fairs?

GPP needs to be updated. The Compensation Policy needs to be reviewed as volunteerism, and nothing in the policy for fluent speakers.

Community wants to input in our policies and define regulations, laws, codes etc. How many grievances/complaints has MCA received to date?

Border survey results that were done in 22/23.

There were a lot of administrative issues brought up which the Chiefs can only relate back to the A/Executive Director such as HR issues, Toxic work environment, Individuals in acting position for over three years when GPP saying three year maximum, grievances/appeals, how many people volunteer between 8 to 5, do better with recognition of service, meetings should be conducted on reserve and not in Cornwall, increase of aliens, where are the police? What are we doing about a dentist? Why did we have the budget and audit on the same night? Rescind the AFAL, remind Grand Chief how he addresses people. Why is are Police Commission updating its own charter?



**Council Meetings:** May 5, 12, 26/25

MCRs are presented and acted upon.

Presentation for May 5 is the lonkwaronkhaonhakeh Group. This group is asking for funding to continue to learn the Mohawk language. They don't want to lose what they have learned and want to continue to work with elders on different projects.

**Presentation from AMBE:** Org Chart.

Director of AMBE presented one addition to the org chart, and that is for an Associate Director for Tsi Snaihne School.

**Special General Meeting:** May 13/25

The presentation of the budget and audit was continued by the DFA.

Discussion and questions were asked about the Auditor, whether they were independent or at arm's length. This was brought up two years ago, and it's still the same auditor. An RFP will be going out for next year's audit.

**Executive Committee:** May 14/25

The Committee met with Pathways to go through the applicants who applied for the Executive Director position. The next step is interviews for five applicants.

May 29/25: Interviews started.

**Other Meetings:** May 6/25

Cornwall Community Hospital with Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, President, CEO, CCH, Indigenous Navigator. Discussed different scenarios that have happened, and the Complaint Process was discussed. The role of the Indigenous Navigator is to advocate for community members who are in the hospital.

There is an FN person on the Board of the CCH.

**Border Partners Mtg:** May 6/25

CBSA reported not much traffic going through the border. New recruits are expected at the beginning of June. NY Border: Tire shredder has been installed. Traffic seems to be all local.

**Quebec Protocol:** May 7/25

Discussed the agreement that will expire in December.

**FNCFS: Directors-Chiefs Mtg.:** May 7/25

Discussed how to disburse funding from the FNCFS. Some of the ideas were housing for renovations, fixing recreation centres, sustainability checks for all Northern Portion, technology for children in care and out of care, and playground equipment.

**Residency Law Amendments:** May 7/25

Continued work on the amendments to the residency law.

**Strategic Plan Meeting:** May 21/25

Directors and Chiefs met to discuss five-year and two-year goals, lobbying needs, shovel-ready projects, and Economic Development.

**TsiSnaihne Recreation Meeting:** May 27/25

Met with Snye Rec Reps and reported on what needs to be worked on at the TsiSnaihne Rec. With the funding given by the FNCFS all the work they want to do aligns with the criteria.

**OPG Meeting:** May 20/25

Met with OPG representatives and Ec. Development Director. Discussions on Arena expansion, updates were given on Thompson Island, procurements, and an ask for a wire to run from the Island to OPG for fiber. MCA and OPG gave updates on what is being worked on. OPG also gave an update on Employment/Contracting, Corporate Citizenship Program, Capacity Building, Reconciliation Action Plan, OPG outreach on awareness, and visitor centre usage.

**Government Secretariat:** May 13/25

Updates were given by Chiefs, Executive Administration, ARRO, Nation Building, Mohawk Government, and Grand Chiefs EA.

**Nation Building:** conflicting schedules, did not attend.

**DCSS Meeting:** May 27/25

The A/Directors and Legal for DCSS presented the DCSS policy review for ACFS. Questions were asked at the end of the presentation. For example, does DCSS have a working agreement with SRMT? Why is this policy Ontario-based when two-thirds of the reserve is in Quebec? Will the policy be on MCA website? DCSS Legal is also working on the Enietiswanonha Law.

**DIHE Meeting:** May 27/25

The Director went through the capital projects and what is shovel-ready. Discussions were on the waterline hookups. The Director and Housing Manager went through a list of projects they would like to use the funding for from the FNCFS. The Hemlock project and Wade Lafrance project are both ready to start.

**YECL Committee:** May 6/25

Discussed SRMT Strat Plan and the options for students to go to School.  
Language Symposium. Possibly host a symposium in Akwesasne. Topics to discuss are the gaps, where people are as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> language speakers. We also discussed elder callouts to sit on this committee. Working on MCR Youth Council terms of reference and charter. We need to give honorariums to the youth and elders. Need to find out the allocation for the YECL.

**Language Presentation:** May 20/25

A presentation was given by a community member on a Holistic Approach to Language Revitalization. What is needed immediately is adult immersion, childcare immersion, and language building.

**OVS Committee Meeting:** May 16/25

A discussion on the complaint by a tenant on Hamilton Island.  
Other discussions include CIS popups, SCIS MRZ popups, Backlog of Membership applications, and Complaints being dealt with in regard to wills.

**Housing:** May 28/25

The director stated she presented a business case for a position and has been held back. Chiefs will look into this. New Builds, renovation loans, and updates were given.

**Works in Progress: Ongoing**

1. Quebec Protocol Agreement: Renegotiating the agreement with Quebec. Reviewing for finalization.
2. YECL (Youth Elders Culture Language): working on terms of reference and reviewing the Charter.
3. Executive Director position: ongoing.



# Scott Peters

## Tsi Snaihne District Chief

### May 2025 Monthly Report



Email: [chief.scott.peters@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.scott.peters@akwesasne.ca) Phone: 613-575-2250 ext:2177

#### April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>

I started the week out with the weekly council meeting and caught up on reports. I travelled to Oshweken, ON to attend a conference called ‘To Find Our Wampum All White: Responses to Grand General Council of 1858’. The conference provided information on leaders of various Onkwehonwe communities throughout Ontario and included the Mohawk Communities at Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanesatake but was mainly focused on the communities around the Great Lakes. The focus was to show how and why wampum belts were used between the Nations in Ontario as well as with the British and American peoples. I will review the documentation I received from the conference and review with ARRO.

#### May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>



After the weekly council meeting, I travelled to Saint Michel des Saints Qc to attend a conference titled ‘Circle of Indigenous Protected Areas’ hosted by the Atikamekw Nation of Manawan and the First Nation of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI). In 2021, the FNQLSDI began talking with Onkwehonwe communities in Quebec and Labrador to look at the possibility of creating protected environmental habitats throughout their territories.





Plans were developed by a few communities and one in Manawan, QC was chosen to start. The community has over 10,000 square hectares now held as protected areas throughout their territory. This creates areas for wildlife and gives the community the ability to conduct Duty to Consult and Accommodate talks with any potential resource developer wishing to complete projects in the area. Other communities have begun the process to create their own protected areas and are at various stages of development. This could be something of interest to Akwesasne.

## **Portfolios:**

### **Akwesasne Rights and Research Office**

- Attended meetings hosted by Parks Canada, with other First Nations to discuss the reburials that need to occur.
- Discussed the Seaway Court case and what MCA will do next in order find a resolution to the court case.
- Updated on the progress of an Enbridge project in the Glendale ON, area.

### **Public Safety**

- Attended Police Commission meeting and provided issues that were brought up by community members.
- AMPS updated council on equipment needs.
- Funding for additional Compliance Officers may be available.
- Met with the Public Safety Minister Mr. Gary Anandasagaree (pictures below).

### **Entewatathá:wi/Nation Building**

- Entewatathá:wi was conducting a survey to better understand community awareness, understanding, and thoughts on the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA) and had a great turnout. More information sessions will be held throughout the year

## **Committees:**

### **Youth, Elders, Culture and Language**

- I attended my first meeting, and the committee was provided a presentation by a community member who would like to enhance local language initiatives.

### **Iroquois Caucus**

- Reviewed letters being sent to Prime Minister Mark Carney from the IC.

### **Hydro Quebec**

- Working on the distribution of 75 batteries

## Monthly Notables:

- Met with Indigenous Leadership Initiative - Guardians Program to discuss what the programs and could help with regarding environmental protection, conservation and resource development projects. These programs help establish a group of land guardians who would visit projects within the Akwesasne territory to ensure they are compliant with environmental standards.
- Obtaining estimates on nuisance animal kennel and budget.
- Met with Public Safety Minister Mr. Gary Asandagaree. We provided him with a tour of Akwesasne and highlighted the Public Safety needs of Akwesasne including the Fire Departments, Police Department and Ambulance Services.



# TESHA ROURKE TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF MONTHLY REPORT

## ONERAHTOHKÓ:WA/MAY

### PORTFOLIOS:

Department of Social Services  
Department of Health  
Department of Justice

### COMMITTEES:

- CBSA
- Youth, Elder, Culture and Language (YECL)
- Special Needs
- Finance
- Governance
- Executive Committee (Alternate)

### EXTERNAL COMMITTEES:

- Jay Treaty Boarder Alliance Entry of Goods Technical
- Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development Committee
- Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council
- AFNQL Elected Women's Council



### CONNECT WITH ME:

Chief.Tessa.Rourke@akwesasne.ca

613-551-3825

613-575-2250 ext. 2197

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: AKWESASNE HEALING & WELLNESS FUND

This fund was created to support initiatives that promote healing, recovery, and wellness for Akwesasronon in need. Eligible applicants may apply to support activities that benefit individuals, families, and the community.

**Submission Deadline:** Onerahtohkó:wa/May 27, 2025 at 4 p.m.

<http://www.akwesasne.ca/akwesasne-healing-and-wellness-fund-call-out-may-2025/>

# Monthly Notables:

## Tsi Snaihne District Meeting

### Topics:

#### Presentation to Community Members- Non-Insured

- Tessa Jocko, A/Health Director & Melanie Gibson, Program Manager for Non-Insured
- Discussed elder retirement benefits and the potential need for a senior benefits committee and supplemental insurance.
- Reviewed issues with non-insured health benefits, appeal processes, and prescription coverage gaps.
- Raised concern about lack of pharmacy consultant and asked for clarity on who manages denied claims and appeals.
- Recommended quarterly updates and intro videos from associate directors to help the community understand who does what at MCA.
- Community questioned why budgets are MCR'd before community input, and called for more transparency in spending.
- Requested a full Special Needs presentation with service stats by age and year.
- Noted short notice given about the dentist's departure, suggesting better communication.
- Recommended Chiefs provide their own monthly updates separate from Onkwetake to allow space for MCA program updates.
- Flagged community concerns around cross-border issues, including:
  - Impact on child tax and income tax
  - Concerns about U.S. tuition rates and FAFSA filing
  - Status of the Haudenosaunee Promise Scholarship for Canadian-born citizens.



# Monthly Notables:

## **April 12<sup>th</sup>- YECL Committee Meeting**

- Met with Language group to discuss language revitalization.
  - Focus was on how the northern portion of Akwesasne can contribute to Kaniehkaha learning at A:se Tsi Tewa:ton.
  - Discussed ways to work together to revitalize language and culture across the community.
  - Some members suggested extending A:se Tsi Tewa:ton program to three (3) years for deeper learning.
- The group aims to close gaps and move language efforts forward.
- Key questions raised:
  - Should this become a working task committee?
  - Could it be a sub-committee under the Youth, Elders, Culture & Language (YECL) Committee?
  - How can Council support these efforts?
  - Can Kaniehkaha become a degree program like at Six Nations, now that Iohahi:io is accredited?
- Noted strong interest in adult language learning and the need to support adult learners in their journey.

## **April 14<sup>th</sup>- All Council Meeting 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.**

- AFAL Presentation – 2:30 p.m.: Heather Phillips provided an overview of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law (AFAL). The presentation will continue with Part 2 at a later date, as we had to leave early to attend our District Meetings.

## **April 15<sup>th</sup>- MCA/SRMT Leadership Meeting**

- SRMT took us on a tour of their new Community Services building called Teionkwarihwaaienawà:kon (We work together and help each other).
  - Topics discussed
    - Tribal Electric Utility Presentation by Jim Ransom- Tribal Energy Specialist
    - SRMT Update: New FASFA guidelines for students

## **Elected Women's Council via Zoom**

- Went over our Terms of Reference- on-going document

## **April 16<sup>th</sup>- Bridging Justice Presentation**

- Invited to sit in on conversation with Parole Board of Canada to get insight of Akwesasne.
- Received a Phone call regarding steps on getting a Haudenosaunee Passports for community members.

# Monthly Notables:

## April 17<sup>th</sup>- DCSS Portfolio Meeting

- Topics Discussed:
  - Office Space on Kawehnoke
  - Special Needs Update- Job descriptions getting prepared
  - Attending AFN Indigenous Laws Gathering June 3-4, 2025 Rama, ON

## DOH Portfolio Meeting

- Topics Discussed
  - Community Paramedic
  - Meeting with Cornwall Community Hospital
  - Health Fair May 22, 2025- Tsi Snaihne Recreation
  - Jordans Principle Bear day- May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Nurses Week planning underway for May 2025
  - Tsiionkwanonhsote invited Portfolio Chiefs to visit on a monthly basis

## April 22 & 23rd- Emergency Management Virtual Conference

- The conference brought together leaders, healthcare professionals, emergency responders, and community advocates to explore strategies for building safer, more resilient Indigenous communities. Key presentations focused on community-led planning, culturally appropriate care, and integrating traditional knowledge into emergency systems. The second day of the conference continued with a strong focus on relationship-building, culturally grounded response systems, and inter-agency collaboration to enhance emergency services in Indigenous communities.

Attended AFN Virtual Forum Series- With Conservatives

Started Mohawk Class via Zoom that is Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (50 weeks)

Attended AFN Virtual Forum Series- With Liberals

## April 24<sup>th</sup>- General Meeting Day Kawehnoke Recreation

- Budgets and Audits
- Meeting ended at 8 p.m. there is a part 2 to finish going over the Budgets and Audits

## April 25<sup>th</sup>- Governance Meeting

- Attended my first Governance Meeting; team went over the work they have been doing.

# Monthly Notables:

## Chiefs of Ontario Women's Council

- Topics discussed
  - 2S+ Council Update
  - 231 Calls for Justice
  - May 5<sup>th</sup> Red Dress Day

## Executive Committee Meeting

- Attended my first Executive Committee Meeting
  - Met with Pathways to go over the applicants that have applied.

## April 27-29<sup>th</sup>- Attended FNMPC Conference in Toronto, ON

Will have Travel Report posted soon.

## May 1<sup>st</sup>- University of Ottawa visit at Kanatakon Rec

- The day began with a traditional opening and a welcome message. Kana:takon District Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell gave an overview of our Council and how leadership works in Akwesasne. Cheyenne Lazore shared a cultural presentation that highlighted our history and identity, and Rachel Lazare gave an update on our self-government work through the Entewatathá:wi Program. We also heard from Cactus Cook Sunday about how our Justice Department and court system operate, and Kylee Tarbell presented on economic development projects happening in the community. The day ended with a guided bus tour of all three (3) districts to show our geography and cross-border setup.

## Oversight Committee Meeting

- Topics Discussed
  - Welcome and introductions of new members
    - Tsi Snaihne Rep- Theresa Benedict
    - New Justice Portfolio Chief Tesha Rourke
      - I will be working on the Fire Safety Law
  - Updates on the Child Rights Law, Fire Safety Law

## May 5<sup>th</sup>- Council Meeting

- Ionkwahronkha'onhakie – “We Are Becoming Fluent”
  - The Ionkwahronkha'onhakie team presented to Council to share information about their program and the initiatives they offer to support second-language speakers. Their focus is on helping community members become more fluent in Kaniehekeha, and they highlighted the tools, activities, and supports they provide to encourage continued learning and language use.

# Monthly Notables:

## May 6<sup>th</sup>- Met with Cornwall Community Hospital

- We held our first official meeting with representatives from Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH). The goal was to introduce the new Council and begin building a stronger working relationship. April White, who plays a key advocacy role for Indigenous patients at CCH, provided an overview of services, hospital processes, and areas for collaboration.
  - The discussion focused on improving communication, reducing emergency room wait times, access to patient records, and supporting community members navigating hospital care. Topics such as cultural safety, patient advocacy, and the inclusion of Akwesasronon youth and Elders in hospital advisory councils were also raised.
  - Both MCA and CCH expressed interest in hosting future wellness events and health education sessions, and meetings will now take place quarterly to keep momentum going.

## Border Partners Meeting

- Council participated in a Zoom meeting with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), and Massena Port officials to share updates and strengthen coordination on cross-border matters.
  - Key Updates:
    - CBSA
      - Island Border Hours: Open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. CBSA confirmed ambulance access is always available.
      - CARM Commercial Program: Launch expected around May 20–22. No major delays expected at the local port, but national delays may occur. Our port can hold 10–12 trucks if needed.
      - Commercial Lane: Open Monday to Friday; weekends by request.
      - License Plate Reader Upgrades: Begin June 16—one lane affected per day, but four lanes (including the commercial lane) will remain available. Public messaging will be shared when the island lane changes.
      - Summer Planning: CBSA is increasing staff with 3 new recruits and is fully staffed for lacrosse season and summer events.
    - Massena Port Update:
      - Bob Dwyer is retiring at the end of the month. Tracy Casey remains the tribal liaison. The new tire shredder pilot is in place for wrong-way drivers only.
      - Creation of Records (Jay Treaty): Volume of requests is high, but Tracy reported it is being managed locally and nationally.



## Monthly Notables:

- Community Impact: No tariff changes affecting Akwesasne at this time. Current updates mainly concern goods from China and Hong Kong.
- MCA informed partners that a community information session is being planned. Tracy will be updated once a date is confirmed.
- SRMT informed partners about Lacrosse season starting back up

MORE INFO



### YECL Committee Meeting

- Discussed priorities, planning, and next steps for promoting language and culture in the community. The group is working to revitalize its structure and expand support for both youth and elders.
  - Key Discussion Points:
    - Plans to revitalize the Elders Language Committee and create a wish list, including the goal of hiring a Language Coordinator.
    - Currently developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) for both YECL and the Elders Council.
    - Proposed events include a Language Symposium, Language Trail, and an Elder Callout (one elder per district, aged 60+).

### May 7<sup>th</sup>- Meeting with Directors and Council regarding First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS)

- We shared ideas on how to better support families, focus more on prevention, and make sure services are rooted in our culture. We also talked about the need for better coordination between programs and making space for youth and community voices in future planning. This was a positive first step, and we plan to keep meeting to move these ideas forward.
- More community information sessions will be happening soon, stay tuned for updates.

# Monthly Notables:

## Attended Akwesasne Thunder Opening Game

- On Wednesday, May 7th, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe came together at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to honor Carey Terrance Jr. during the Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder's 2025 home opener. Carey was celebrated for his achievements on and off the ice, including being presented with a beaded Anaheim Ducks medallion by Grand Chief Leonard Lazore. The event also marked the return of the Ionkwakwé:nion Book of Accomplishments, with Carey becoming the first to sign under the current Council, recognizing his place in Akwesasne's history.



## May 9<sup>th</sup>- Governance Committee Meeting attended via Zoom

- Updating our Council Meeting Regulations- on-going process

Travel Day to Toronto, ON to attend the Chiefs of Ontario Women's Council Joint Meeting

## May 10<sup>th</sup>- Tri-Council Meeting Toronto, ON

- The Tri-Council meeting brought together representatives from Women's Council (FNWC), Youth Council (OFNYPC), and the Knowledge Keepers (KK) Council to continue collaborative work on key issues affecting First Nations communities in Ontario. The gathering focused on strengthening unity across generations, reaffirming Indigenous identity, and guiding future policy directions for the Chiefs of Ontario.

### **For your information:**

If you are looking to hook up with Ontario East the contact information:

Email: [info@oenetworks.ca](mailto:info@oenetworks.ca)

Phone: 613-936-6173 They are available for both calls and text messages

### **Mohawk Class**

- I have started Mohawk Language Class via Zoom with Otsitsia Sunday; they are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

### **Education**

- AMBE will be providing a community information session in the next coming weeks regarding FASFA.

### **Finance Committee**

- Community members are encouraged to apply for positions on the Finance Committee.

### **Youth Council Representative Callout**

- The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to appoint three (3) youth council representatives to represent the community of Akwesasne.

**MORE INFO**



### **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

**May 26** - Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development - Toronto, ON

**June 3-4** - AFN(Assembly of First Nations) Annual Indigenous Laws Gathering - Rama First Nation, ON

**June 17-19** - AFNQL (Assembly of First Nation Quebec and Labrador) Chiefs Assembly

**July 15-17** - AFN (Assembly of First Nations) General Assembly

**July 31<sup>st</sup>- August 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Vacation



## Onerahtohkó:wa /May 2025 Monthly Report



**Chief Sarah Lee Diabo**

Email: [chief.sarah.diabo@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.sarah.diabo@akwesasne.ca)

Phone: 613.575.2250 ext. 2169

Cell: 613.577.3276

### District of Tsi Snaihne

**Portfolio: Department of Health, Akwesashne Board of Education, Public Safety and Government Secretariat**

*This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.*

#### **Here's a recap of notable events:**

- **May 1<sup>st</sup>** – On May 1st, I participated in welcoming the University of Ottawa's Cohort 18, who are enrolled in the Public Sector Leadership and Governance Program. This cohort consisted of 39 students from various departments across the Government of Canada. The Acting Executive Director provided opening remarks, followed by a Council Overview delivered by Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell. Chief Teresa Oakes and I assisted with the Q&A portion, responding to inquiries from the students. Program managers from the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office and the Nation Building Program each provided overviews of their respective departments. The Justice Director and the Court Administrator also presented on Section 107 of the Indian Act, couples property law, other community laws, and the Akwesasne Court.
- **May 6<sup>th</sup>** - I participated in an introductory meeting with Jeanette Despatie (President and CEO), Kelly Shawn (VP of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer), and April White (Indigenous Patient Experience Navigator) from Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH). Key discussion topics included the role and accessibility of the Indigenous Patient Navigator at CCH, hospital wait times, and the function of the hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Board/Council. The team also shared a call for youth representatives to join the advisory board. Additionally, we discussed the importance of ensuring the MyChart patient portal becomes accessible to those with RAMQ coverage.

- **May 7<sup>th</sup>** - I attended a meeting with Directors and Program Managers to discuss the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) program, focusing on prevention, early intervention, and legislated protection services. The conversation centered on implementing the least disruptive measures to support children at risk of harm. This brainstorming session aimed to identify initiatives that align with the best interests of children, youth, and families, particularly in the areas of cultural and language revitalization, wellness support, and community-based resources. The goal is to ensure that the FNCFS prevention funding is used effectively to meet the immediate and long-term needs of our community.
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>**- I participated in a comprehensive strategic planning session alongside fellow Council of Chiefs, Executive Directors, and key staff members from the Mohawk Government. The session focused on aligning our collective leadership priorities with the operational vision, mission, and program goals across all departments.

**Key Outcomes:**

1. Identified Council's core priorities for governance over the next two years.
  2. Strengthened alignment between political direction and departmental work plans.
  3. Initiated discussions to ensure that all programs and services are moving in a unified direction that reflects community needs and strategic aspirations.
  4. Emphasized the importance of cross-portfolio collaboration to drive measurable impact and accountability.
- **May 27<sup>th</sup>**- Participated in a meeting with the Associate Director and legal counsel from Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS), delivered a presentation on the ongoing revisions to their operational policies. The updates emphasize culturally grounded approaches rooted in Haudenosaunee teachings, Akwesasne perspectives, and a commitment to supporting the realization of inherent jurisdiction.

## **Portfolio Meetings**

### **Public Safety Portfolio**

- Attended the Police Commission monthly meeting, where we discussed the kids for fishing tournament had a great turnout of 50 kids.
- During the summer months, compliance will have a modified work schedule for the officers to be on the water with AMPS officers.

- The acting chief of police will be attending the Calgary Indigenous Police Forum on June 4th and 5th.

**Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education Portfolio:** Attended the AMBE Board of Trustees meeting on May 20th, where the Chief Electoral Officer presented on the upcoming Board of Trustees election and advance polling procedures.

- A 15-minute public question period was held; however, there was no community participation.
- Two policies were reviewed and revised: *Preservation of Akwesasro:non Culture and Kanien'kehá:ka Language and Communications for Student Progress and Synergy*
- Upcoming cultural celebrations at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena: May 22 for grades K3 to 3, and May 29 for grades 4 to 8.
- AMS and Tsi Snaihne School Student Council members will be holding a meet-and-greet to establish their goals for the upcoming school year.

### **Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting:**

- Initiated discussions to update the Quebec Protocol Agreement by addressing emerging inter-provincial issues. Moving forward, we will integrate principles from UNDRIP, findings from the MCA Leakage Study, and priorities outlined in the MCA Strategic Plan to strengthen the agreement.





# Chief Report

## Chief Fallon David

Chief.fallon.david@akwesasne.ca  
613-577-5596



**Portfolios:** Justice, Public Safety, Department of Community and Social Services

**Committees/Circles:** CBSA, Dundee Port of Entry, YECL, Beautification, OVS, Hydro Quebec

### Monthly Notables

- April 29, 2025- PAT Committee, reviewed Terms of Reference, reviewed submissions of possible land purchases, letters will be sent out to those MCA has interest in.
- May 1, 2025- Beautification Committee, spoke of getting a quote for an upcoming Summer clean up, upcoming work will commence in June to the Y in the village, spoke of possible abandon home clean up throughout all districts.
- May 1, 2025- Oversight Committee meeting (will update below)
- May 5, 2025- Regular Council Meeting
- May 6, 2025- Meeting with Cornwall Community Hospital, Council met with Jeanette Despatie, Kelly Shaw and April White, had introductions with new council, addressed community concerns regarding the hospital. April White is the Indigenous Patient Navigator, she visits with the patients from Akwesasne to assist and also assists with services that may be needed once they are released. Hospital wait times are currently being discussed and addressed.
- May 6, 2025- Border Partners Meeting, there has been a 30% dip in traffic across the border, license plate reader upgrade will be happening the week of June 16. June 3, 2025 three new recruits will begin at CBSA this will give the full staff for the first time in many years. American customs has installed a Road Shark which is installed to prevent port runners.
- May 6, 2025- YECL Committee Meeting
- May 7, 2025- FNCFS Funding meeting, meeting was help with council and directors to discuss what this money can and cannot be used for. Mainly prevention to keep children out of care.
- May 7, 2025- Residency Law Working Group
- May 8, 2025- Justice Portfolio (See Below)
- May 12, 2025- Regular Council Meeting
- May 12, 2025- Kanatakon District Meeting (See Below)
- May 13, 2025- Public Safety Portfolio (See Below)
- May 15, 2025- Health Portfolio (See Below)

- May 15, 2025- DCSS Portfolio (See Below)
- May 16, 2025- Dr. Horn Presentation, this presentation highlighted what the environmental contaminants are doing to the health and wellbeing of our community. Promoting early cancer screening, a community presentation is forthcoming.
- May 20, 2025- YECL was given a presentation by Tyler Laffin on the need for continued language programs.
- May 21, 2025- Council Strategic Planning session, began discussion on what council feels our attainable goals for the next 2 years and a 5 year plan.
- May 22, 2025- Meeting with Minister of Public Safety, discussed community needs for more funding addressing our fire department, ambulance, Emergency Measures, discussion on improvements at border crossings, concerns of how the borders location causes significant delays not only with daily travel but creates a serious risk during medical emergencies these are life and death situations.
- May 26, 2025- Regular Council Meeting
- May 27, 2025- DCSS Policy Review

**Kana:takon District Meeting:** Four community members were present, community members present at District meeting said they would prefer quarterly district meeting and continue with monthly General meetings, would like to see quarterly updates on finances, questions on when road repairs will commence on Sweet Grass Lane, Johnson rd and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Justice:** The Justice Departments Strategic plan continues to be worked on with Blackbird strategies, departments statistics will be available next month, ARAP will take on the snowsuit drive this coming winter season, Family Support Worker position needs to be filled. New oversight committee member, from the Snye district was sworn in. Terms of reference edits are almost complete and being reviewed by legal and then will go to council for approval. The Akwesasne Community Justice Program is set to do a presentation on Gladue Reports at an upcoming General Meeting.

A Gladue report is a specialized type of pre-sentencing or parole report used in the Canadian criminal justice system. It is named after the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R v Gladue* (1999), which recognized that Indigenous offenders may face unique circumstances that affect their involvement in crime and their rehabilitation.

The report is designed to provide the court with context regarding an Indigenous offender's background, including factors like historical trauma, systemic discrimination, intergenerational impacts of colonialism, residential schools, substance abuse, and socio-economic hardships that may have contributed to their criminal behavior.

Gladue reports aim to ensure that Indigenous offenders are treated fairly and that their unique circumstances are considered in the sentencing process. The purpose is to promote restorative justice, healing, and rehabilitation, rather than simply focusing on punitive measures.

The reports are usually written by a trained Gladue writer, often someone familiar with Indigenous cultures and issues. They can also recommend culturally appropriate alternatives to traditional sentencing, like community-based programs or restorative justice approaches, that may better support the offender's rehabilitation.

**Health:** Ambulance will be transitioning to Health Department, the patient navigator will soon have an office space at the Ormstown Hospital, the patient navigator position has been very well received by community and is proving to be a much needed position in the community. Health Fair took place at the Snye Recreation center on May 22.

**Public Safety:** Compliance will be working different hours to accommodate the summer months and will be on the river patrolling, Kids for fishing was done and was a successful event. The Chief of Police will be attending a Conference in Calgary June 3 and 4.

**DCSS:** Jordans Principle will be moving under DCSS, Akwesasne Family Wellness Program is currently having repairs done, the program manager flex's her time to accommodate the 24-hour facility, Courtney Skidders gave portfolio a fantastic presentation on a Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference that she attended and how this would be a great opportunity for some of our local youth to attend an upcoming conference in New Zealand in 2026 for ages 14 and up. Babysitting and home alone courses will be upcoming, Too Good for Violence program are currently taking place in the schools, ACFS is also working with AMPS to get Community Watch going. Kids for fishing for children with Special Needs will also be taking place this Summer.

The first nations child and family services Jordans Principle settlement is officially open for claims as of March 10, 2025. The Federal Court approved the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement Agreement on October 24, 2023. This agreement aims to provide compensation to individuals harmed by the discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and those impacted by the federal government's restrictive interpretation of Jordan's Principle. The \$23.34 billion settlement follows compensation directives from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in 2019, which investigated systemic discrimination against First Nations children and families. They are ongoing community sessions for those needing assistance.



**Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell**  
**Kanatakon District Chief**  
**Cell: 613-577-9014, Office 613-575-2250 ext. 2178**  
***chief.c.fmitchell@akwesasne.ca***  
**Monthly Report: May 2025**

### **Monthly Notables:**

- Volunteered at St. Regis Recreation & Elders Bingo, volunteered while these occurred once a month, we had an awesome time as always, Great Job by all.
- Attended Presentation from Dr. Horn, May 16, 2025, on the Environmental Contaminants with Akwesasne and what our next steps.
- Participated in Kanatakon District Clean up, Chiefs and community members cleaned up streets and had a total of 50 bags of garbage just in the Kanatakon district. Community members are urged to ensure that all garbage is put out on our scheduled days of Saturday, and any larger items at the end of the month.
- Participated with the American Legion Post 1479 in placing flags on the graves of our veterans in the community on May 24, 2025: 9 am – noon.
- I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to continue my Kanienkeha language teaching, being provided by AEDA, and a program being sponsored by the St. Regis Rec.

**April 25, 2025 –Governance Committee: 9 am-11 am** – Ongoing review of the governance documents to ensure that definitions are all the same as in areas, such as AFAL, LEPR, as examples.

**Nation Building: Negotiation Preparation: Rachel Lazare, Entewatatha:wi Conflict of Laws: 10 am- noon**

Updated on the Federal Laws with the team & legal to gain knowledge and understanding of the implications of the laws that are being reviewed.

**Executive Committee Meeting: 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm-** Ongoing Executive Director search and update provided by the team.

**April 28 2025: All Council Meeting at Admin 1: 9 a m**

**April 29, 2025: Oversight Committee: Eniethihswano`n:na, Child Rights Law** – Legal Review as prepared by B. Cole and reviewed by the oversight committee in a line by line to ensure that we comprehend the law and what it encompasses for the community consultations that will be coming up once this process is complete.

**April 30, 2025: Finance Update H. Phillips, DFA 9 am-11 am: Contributions Repayable:** Update provided from Finance DFA on the Contribution Repayable and what/how it affects the organization. COVID-19/lack of staffing play a huge role in this.

**May 1, 2025: Ottawa University Co-Hort Visit on Governance: 10 am -2 pm:**

Attended and welcomed the Ottawa University Co-Hort group of high-ranking leaders who are currently enrolled in this course. I welcomed the group to the territory, provided an overview of our governance, and answered many questions along with fellow chiefs. Many programs were on hand to provide information as well, ARRO, Entewatha:wi, Justice, Economic Development, they all did an awesome job, Nia;wen. They also offered a quick tour of the community to understand the dynamics of our territory. Nia:wen for the invitation.

**Beautification/Waterways/Green Committee: 2 pm**

Discussion on Kanatakon ‘Y’ and the need for replacement requires quotes to move the process for plant replacement, in each District as the Community signs are all up and they need to be cared for, discussion to have perennial plants, so work is very minimal each year. Next meeting to have a discussion on Waterways/Green. The team should have input on what is next.

**Oversight Committee: Alyson Thompson, Coordinator: 4 pm – 6 pm Justice Office:**

Review of previous minutes, discussion on the Oversight Committee Residency Law, Child Rights Law, Fire Law, where each committee is at, and what’s next for the laws to move forward with community consultation.

**May 5, 2025: All Council Meeting: 9 am – 3 pm, Council Chambers, Admin 1**

**May 6, 2025: Cornwall Community Hospital Meeting with CEO, 8:30 am: CIA#3**

Met with Jeannette Despatie/Team to discuss areas of concern for the community that have been ongoing, such as long wait times in ER, lack of communication, people sitting in waiting rooms for 18 hours or more, the Indigenous Liaison officer, and what this position entails.

**May 7, 2025: Quebec Political Protocol Agreement: Chief Committee on Protocol: 10 am**

Review and update the Quebec Political protocol that expired last year, Council requested a one-year extension to meet the timelines.

**FNCFS Funding Allocation: All Council/Chiefs/Exec: 12:30 pm – 4 pm, Admin 1**

Meeting with the Executive Team to be allocated within the fiscal year of 2025 in the amount of allocation that requires planning to get programs. DFA has presented the budget and met the needs of the community: Bring back to the community the question on what areas we can assist with projects within the community besides road, and capital that can be done.

**Oversight Committee on Justice: Residency Law 4 pm – 6 pm, Justice Office.**

Review of the previous meeting minutes, continue the line-by-line residency law and the recommended changes that have been worked on by the oversight committee. Discussion on the previous by-laws on the registry, and the next upcoming meetings to be scheduled.

**April 28, 2025, at 6 pm – 8:30 pm** -Volunteered at St. Regis Recreation to assist with the monthly Bingo that they have been doing, good crowd, great company as always, delicious food, and some great prizes by Laura at the Recreation.

**May 8 - Justice Portfolio Meeting: Cactus Cook-Sunday: 9 am**

**Portfolio Chiefs:** · Priorities of Akwesasne Justice Department: JD ~ Strategic Plan, Stats of AJD Law Working Task Groups (WTG), Process for Laws that Didn't get Approved by Referendum, Correspondence regarding Gladue Reporting, Akwesasne Review Commission ~ was vacancy filled, Upcoming Conference Attendance ~ AFN 3rd Annual Indigenous Laws Gathering, AJD Admin, Justice Council updates, Organizational Chart - 25/26 FY Projects, Akwesasne Court -Otis, ACJP -ARAP program updates.

**May 9/2025- Governance Committee Team: 10 am- 2 pm Best Western, Cornwall**

Council Meeting Procedure Regulations were reviewed by the team, line by line agreements with the team, reviewing each documents and ensuring that the definitions are correct on a going forward – Next steps for the next meeting is ongoing to finish us the procedure regulations and for the team to look at the other documents, group members, terms of reference, rules of order, and political service agreement.

**May 12/2025 – All Council Meeting: 9 am- 1:30 pm**

**May 13/2025- Beautification Meeting 9:30 am** – review the area of “y” in Kanatakon and areas where signages are in each district for placement of perennial plants, fill in the flower beds at Angus Mitchell Memorial, discuss Maintenance and placement of a new bench to honor a community member.

**Government Secretariate: 10 am-noon:** Agenda: Chiefs Updates and received from all of the Managers of the programs, Chiefs Updates, Quebec & OPG Liaison, Akwesasne Rights & Research Office, Nation Building, Mohawk Government, CBSA Coordinator, next meeting and discussion around the work of this team, relations, cross information, and look at the composition of the team and how we can utilize our time more effectively.

**Special General Meeting: 6 pm- 8 pm, AMS – All Council & Executive Director & Director of Finance:** Presentation of 25/26 Budget & Audit Presentation of 24/25 Fiscal Year. An awesome presentation prepared by the DFA there were minimal community members present, and questions and comments were received from the floor and Zoom. Nia;wen to the team always for set up the meeting, you are greatly appreciated.

**May 14/2025:** Out of office in the pm for my mom's medical appt in Chateauguy, Quebec.

**May 15/2025: MCA-SRMT 11:30 am Tribal Office:** We met to discuss for clear communication of what is happening and the next steps involved in the land claims process.



**Nation Building Negotiations Prep Session: 1:30 pm – 4 pm, Admin 1**

Overview of PowerPoint presentation: What are Expropriations and how it impacts the community?

**May 16, 2025: Dr. Horn Presentation:** To go in more depth and detail on the ongoing environmental concerns that have plagued our community since she has been here for the past 10 years. Issues on PCB'S the extent of the harm that has been done to the community, discussion around other means to support our community in overall health and wellbeing as being part of the strategy encouraged. We need to pull data from all of the various resources to get a true picture of the overall social determinants that impact our entire community daily. Dr. Horn is a compassionate and caring physician who has the best interests of our community at hand, we need to plan for the future.

**May 19, 2025: All Council Meeting: No Meeting Scheduled Victoria Day Holiday**

**May 20, 2025: ARRO Portfolio –Cheyenne Lazore: 10 am- Admin 1:**

**Agenda:** Introduction to new employees. Onwetake submission is being worked on currently to update with current information – Enbridge Gas update with projects that are currently in progress, Federal Indian Day School update on final date of June 27, 2025, as the last day to submit any missing information that community members may need to do. Please reach out to Theresa Benedict at ext. 2132 for assistance. Hudson Bay Company is currently under bankruptcy; many artifacts and documents are in question, and many indigenous groups are requesting that the auction be stopped. Cultural Awareness Training ongoing, Ancestors Reburial /repatriation and Archaeological updates – NY State Land claim update – timelines. - Seaway Claim Update – Cairn Island Update.

**POM Meeting: Natalie Jacobs, Liaison -1:30 pm, OPG Visitor Centre:**

**Agenda:** Approval of Agenda, Economic Development update from K. Tarbell, Review & Accept minutes from April 1, 2025, review of outstanding action items, Akwesasne & OPG updates, updated of Corporate Citizenship Program Activity, Capacity Reconciliation Action Plan review, OPG outreach and awareness update, and visitor center usage.

**May 21, 2025: Strategic Planning Session, 9 am- 4 pm, All Council & Govt Support Staff: Cornwall:**

**Agenda:** Welcome Opening, Introduction Icebreaker, Review of Strategic Plan 2-5year goals, Review of new department Updates, team building exercise, Funding Discussion, Carbon Tax, FNFCS, OLG, Strategic updates to community, 3 council goals/objectives, Lobbying Discussions, confirmation and updates to community once the plan has been more formalized and completed with ongoing sessions. Nia;wen to the Govt Support staff for preparing and setting the stage for this opportunity to review.

**May 22, 2025: Human Trafficking Session – Invitation from Dr. Dolly McDonald & United States Conference on Catholic Bishops response to Native American Human Trafficking Prevention a listening session: 9 am-5 pm, SRMT Board room.**

**Agenda:** To raise awareness in indigenous human trafficking and its intersection with related forms of violence to help with some of the risks affecting our community, this will give local stakeholders an opportunity to share their expertise regarding trafficking, share resources, and needs

for education and awareness in the community, prevention and educational efforts, and facilitating ongoing dialogue with Catholic Churches. Nia:wen for the opportunity to attend, I certainly have a new perspective on the Church.

**May 23, 2025: Governance Committee: 9 am -11 am, Admin 1:**

Ongoing review of governance documents that have been reviewed, council meeting procedural regulations that have been tasked by the committee.

**May 26, 2025: All Council Meeting: 9 am- noon- Council Chambers.**

**May 27, 2025: DCSS Policy Review: V. Cree A/Director/Legal R. Ambros 9 am-10 am**

**Agenda:** Background/Brief for ACFS Operational Policy Manual being presented to Council, the responsibility for protecting the safety and wellbeing of Akwesasne children and families, policy review on standards that are being reviewed and strong foundation need to ensure that staff/community provide a cohesive working environment for all.

**Eniethihswanon:na Post Legal review 1 pm – 3 pm A. Thompson/B. Cole Legal:**

**Agenda:** Welcome, review of previous meeting, update on meeting with Council for first line-by-line, Discussion and update timeline to Referendum, Next steps, Adjourn, and set next meeting.

**Upcoming meetings:**

**May 28, 2025: Border Collaboration: Dundee Port 9 am-10:30 am: to be rescheduled in June. May 29, 2025: Justice: Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy Programs- Portfolio: 9:30 am- noon:**

**Agenda:** Meeting at the ARAP office, meet and greet, Overview of the program and updates on portfolio.

**Executive Committee: Interview Preparation and Discussion with Pathways: 12:30 pm -4 pm**

Ongoing process for Executive Director position, meeting for Interview Preparations.

**General Meeting TsiSnaihne District 6 pm-8 pm – All Council**

**May 30, 2025: Detox Presentation Dr. Scott: 10:30 am- 12 pm, CIA Bldg.**

Update on the Detox program that is available to the community more information to be provided next month.

**Quebec Protocol Meeting: 1 pm – 2 pm, Natalie Jacobs/Quebec Liaison Officer – Teams Meeting:**

Review the political protocol documents and review reference documents on Quebec's responsibilities as gathered through the ongoing discussion of this document that is to be renewed. More information to be provided next month.

**Special Needs Meeting Request CIA #3 2 pm.**



# Chief Theresa Jacobs

## May 2025 Monthly Report

[Chief.theresa.jacobs@akwesasne.ca](mailto:Chief.theresa.jacobs@akwesasne.ca)

613-575-2250 ext. 2176



**Portfolios:** DIHE – (Capital Projects) Portfolio, Housing Portfolio, Environment Portfolio, Health Portfolio, and Government Secretariat Portfolio

**Committees:** Lobbying, PAT, Governance Committee, alternate on the Executive Committee and any Committees/Working groups for the Portfolios that I would be working with

*This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.*

### Monthly Notables:

- Attended the General meeting for the Month of April.
- Participated in the Council meeting on Monday. Agenda items consist of Council invitations/meeting lists for the week for all Council. MCRs, discussion items and a presentation on the Nutfield Tract Update/Enbridge by ARRO and a representative from Enbridge.
- Participated in the Property Acquisition Team(PAT) meeting. The Team reviewed the Terms of Reference for these meetings. An invitation for a property was presented and a letter will be sent to the Owner for the PAT team to review and meet on. A few other properties were mentioned in the meeting and letters were suggested to be drafted for the Team to look at as well.
- Participated in the Contributions Repayable with the DFA. A list of funding was identified that had to be sent back due to no one in those positions to fulfill the duties and carry out responsibilities to ensure that the funds will get spent on programing in the Departments.
- Participated in the Health Advisory Board. Survey results were read on the needs that the Community wanted. Identified were weekend clinics, decrease wait times to see a Doctor etc.
- Participated in Council Meeting where MCR's, discussion items and a presentation from a group of community members submitted a proposal to continue a Mohawk Language journey and strengthen each other to continue with our language initiatives.
- Participated in the Border Meeting with the SRMT, US Customs, CBSA. The domestic lane is open from 7 am to 11 pm daily. There was a note that the CARM (CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management). This is for Transport Trucks. The CBSA assesses and collects duties and taxes on commercial goods imported into Canada using the CBSA port of entry. Commercial drivers are asked to sign up for this on their website. This will make their transition into Canada easier to prevent delays and impacts in transit. The CBSA can accommodate 20 trucks on the backside of the building. During the weekends, the truck lane is not open, and this may create congestion at the Customs. The license plate

reader replacement project will begin due to the need of upgrades to the system. One lane per day will be impacted by the upgrades. At the end of June, the CBSA will have three (3) new recruits. US Customs updates consist of the Emergency Pilot project for the Spikes on vehicles for Port Runners. The pilot will be for a 90-day period. If it is successful, they will begin to use this for the area where the Community members have to travel around all the barriers leaving the US Customs. There is a 6% decrease in traffic going to the US. This is mostly because of Canadians wanting to shop in the US and the impact of the Tariffs. The Green card issue was talked about and they informed us that Community members don't need to apply to the creation of records.

- Participated in the Political Protocol Agreement Session. Currently the Protocol agreement period was over in December of 2024. There are areas that may or may not be needed for the agreement between the Province of Quebec and Akwesasne, but the Departments of MCA will need to input into the document what will stay or be added. Akwesasne has a grace period of one year to agree on the terms that will be beneficial to Akwesasne.
- Participated in the First Nation Child and Family Service (FNCFS) meeting with available Council members and Directors. Council is looking at ways to bring the funding out to the community and help families. There was much discussion prior to meeting on zoom with a lawyer on what we can do with the FNCFS funds. Food sustainability was one of the ways that will be able to help out many families in Akwesasne due to the cost of food. A creation of a Parks and Recreation Department has been on asked about by community members for a while. The funding will be able to go towards this initiative and also looking at prevention services to meet the needs of Children as well as wellbeing of children and families. Housing issues or lack of was discussed, and many questions were raised about what is acceptable and what is not acceptable on use of the funds.
- Participated in the governance meeting where we did a line by line of the Council Meeting procedure regulations to be consistent with Laws and other regulations all related to Council. Ended at the beginning of section 9.
- Participated in Council Meeting where MCRS, discussion items and a presentation from AMBE on the Akwesasne Education Agreement and the addition to AMBE Org chart for two (2) Associate Principles positions in the schools.
- Participated in the Kana:takon District Meeting. Updates were provided on giving community members additional money in the month of June for food security initiative. Talked about donations on funerals and what funding is available to families. Donations from MCA donation request and Community support moneys can be accessed. On the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) website it says to non-income assisted recipients who will qualify. Google: Indigenous Services Canada funeral assistance. An issue with the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services (AMPS) boathouse parking is getting out of hand. The vehicles are taking over the area of road being accessed and the elders are noticing much more traffic in the area of the driveway towards the back of the building. They are parking on the lawn. The boathouse was only to be used to place the boat into the water and house the boat but not have the whole area taken over by AMPS. The district talked about having the beginning of the General meeting allocated specifically for elders who have concerns. It is very difficult for elders to sit a couple of hours and try to get a question in.
- Participated in the Government Secretariat meeting. All members did updates. This was my first meeting that I participated in since changing my portfolio from Environment to

Gov Sec. An update was provided that the ATIP policy is being updated, Duty to Consult position is being worked on, Nation Buildings survey resulted in 503 community members participating.

- Participated in the MCA Special General meeting to complete the Budget and Audit for the Community members held at AMS on Kawehno:ke.
- Participated in the Department of Health (DOH) Portfolio meeting. The Ambulance Program is being transferred back to DOH. Non insured is in need of software for data collections etc. and is on their list for purchasing due to the need of tracking of information. Dental space is being discussed. Health Fair is coming up in the district of Tsi Snaihne.
- Participated in the Akwesasne First Nations Extended Producer responsibility ERP Blue box meeting. This meeting was held on zoom with Circular Material. This is going to be the company we may have an agreement with to accept our recyclable materials that get picked up weekly. After meeting with them they will come back with terms and conditions that we will have to negotiate.
- Participated in the Environment Portfolio meeting.

### **Information from Environment meeting:**

**Bill 5** - Environment and ARRO are drafting an opposition letter as it removes environmental protections and requirements for archeological reviews. Flood Mitigation – Beaver trapping initiative has ended and staff would like to continue to encourage cultural stewardship as a beaver control instead of mass removal which is part an overall land planning strategy. Staff, along with Emergency Operations, has applied for further funding to continue this initiative. She has also attended a meeting with South Nation Conservation staff for to learn more about the modelling and process planning purposes. They identified opportunities to shadow SNCA staff as they undergo the development of SNCA floodplain mapping including – data collection, mapping, etc. SNCA is submitting a grant which will include a training aspect which will be offered to MCA.

**Aquatics** - are preparing for the upcoming field season including bringing in returning 5 summer students. FINS work will start the first week of June with a goal to survey a minimum of 20 properties. Staff would like to work towards developing a "Shoreline Health Report Cards" to provide to landowners whose properties we survey in Akwesasne. There will be a strong focus this year on capacity building with the newly acquired drone

Water and soil samples will be collected this summer to provide the data needed to plan initiatives to reduce eutrophication (harmful algal blooms).

Turtle surveys began this week to locate nests and install protectors where necessary. MCA's Incubator is prepped and ready to house eggs found in precarious locations to help boost the populations (very low success rate for eggs in nature due to predation and road mortality, 90% success rate with use of incubator. Last year MCA incubated 99 eggs.

**Waste Management** – Staff will be submitting an MCR to approve HGC as an interim receiver of our recycling materials. Meeting with Circular Materials was today and went well. We will need to negotiate with Circular Materials to include Quebec portions of the territory. If Quebec is not

included, costs can still be paid by ISC but will put an extra administrative burden on the contractor and waste coordinator.

Environment met with Holly McCumber from the Kahnawake Waste Program. Holly wants to assist MCA to start up a composting facility. A site would be needed to implement this. Perhaps composting and waste transfer activities could be on the same site.

**Terrestrial** – Staff has completed the Black Ash Stewardship project and produced a final report. Grant to continue this work has been requested and we are waiting for the response but I have been advised it likely won't be announced until after the federal budget is tabled.

We have secured funding for two summer students through Watersheds Canada. We'll bring these individuals on to support Staff in forestry work and terrestrial aspects of the RAP such as agricultural soil sampling.

A grant to study the eastern wolf has been approved. This will go to Council in an MCR to accept these funds.

Remedial Action Plan – RFP for a Biocultural Working group has been graded and a successful candidate has been chosen, this will be sent for MCR shortly.

Current RAP Issues to be addressed.

1. Do we accept and endorse the revised BUI 1 Delisting Criteria?
2. Do you provide permission/endorsement for MCA to enter a 60-day comment period to garner feedback on whether or not BUI #4 - Fish Tumours and Other Deformities should be re-designated from the status: "Requires Further" to "Not Impaired". Council supports number 2 to go to a 60-day comment period.

St. Lawrence Regional Impact Assessment – Environmental Assessment Officers taking on this project and they will be attending the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative

Effects National Conference this month to gain understanding the Impact Assessment. Terms of Reference will need to be endorsed through an MCR for further financial support on this project. Next steps are to begin planning the restoration activities we'd like to see undertaken in this area. Key issues identified are erosion, impacts from ship vibrations, protection of medicines and sacred sites, pollution from ships including wastewater, environmental spills and invasive species.

Erosion ESGA has submitted a proposal and requested Environment Program participate in the Oceans Protection Plan.

Akwesasne proposes that Canada participate in a joint study regarding the exercise by Akwesasne of its jurisdiction over environmental protection in the St. Lawrence River in connection with the environmental impacts of navigation.



MCA Environment is partnering on an erosion pilot project to look at nature based solutions for erosion. A “planted crib wall” has been constructed this winter in Mariatown and “ballasted tree structures” will be installed at Point Mouille next winter. This project could continue with implementation at site in Akwesasne. Possible locations are being reviewed.

**Training** - Training for staff is planned for eDNA, Herpetology, Eco Corridor Mapping, Wilderness First Aid, Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network, Boat Safety and Man Overboard training by MNR, Aerial and Aquatic Drones

**Outreach** - Earth Day on April 26<sup>th</sup> was a success. the Waste Coordinator held a composting workshop on May 8th and provided composting worm bins to attendees. Staff are handing out to each of the three AMBE schools a vermi (worm) compost bin.

A few staff attended Kids for Fishing 20 children paired with a mentor, SRMT initiative that MCA joined PJ Burns. Promoted Funky Fish Guide and provided information about RAP. Included a benthic station and live touch tank that hand fish.

RAP Workshops continuing this year currently include currently includes overnight fishing in the Otentiks, trapping and butchering, medical plant identification, harvesting, and preparation, wild rice harvest and preparation.

Council meetings continued:

- Participated in a presentation from Dr Horn on the PCBs in our area and what it is doing for our health. Council and programs related are looking at ways we can combat this including test soil for gardens etc. This is ongoing.
- Participated in a meeting on the NYS Land claims internal discussion amongst Council
- There was no Council meeting due to a holiday.
- Participated in the Strategic planning session held at the Best Western in which was all day. Council reviewed the Strategic Plan of the organisation.
- Participated in a meet and greet with Minister of Public Safety held at Iohahi:io. Grand Chief took a quick tour beginning on Kawehno:ke and ended at the district of Tsi Snaihne where a lunch was held and discussions on public safety issues within the community. A presentation on the geographic location and issues that arise from that as well.
- Participated in the Health Fair at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Took a bereavement day beginning on Thursday evening after the Health Fair and again on Friday due to the passing of my Aunt Pauline Lazore to attend her wake and services at the homemakers in Snye.
- Participated in Council meeting on Monday where a number of MCRs were reviewed. There were no presentations at this meeting.
- Participated in the ACFS presentation on their Policy. A number of questions asked and it was stated that Staff worked on the policy to ensure that the areas of concern were in the policy.
- Will be attending the General meeting.
- Will be attending the Housing Authority meeting this week.
- Will be attending the Detox presentation on Friday with Dr Scott at the Detox center on Kawehno:ke.

Participated in the DIHE Portfolio meeting. Attachments at end of the report.

Sunday Warehouse is 100,000 square feet. Detail design is underway that includes two floors. Drawings are being finalized and name will need to be selected.

Kawehno:ke Clinic/MCA Records repository – (CIA#3 site) The Kickoff meeting went well with Consultants. They are starting the feasibility study. DIHE are observing the existing conditions and looking at the existing medical clinic.

Tsi Snaihne Admin Building – DIHE are reviewing the layout from Figurrs new design fee proposal. Offices will include finance and Justice. Housing is no longer included. This will go to the Space Needs committee to confirm programs.

Akwesasne Youth Hub and Youth Centre – DIHE to design a conceptual layout and work with Communications to distribute for a community survey for consultation and gather input on community needs and preferences.

AMS school addition – DIHE has sent out the RFP for design consultants services for the new school addition, and a site visit has been scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>. There were many questions received and the submission was extended until May 5<sup>th</sup>. The New Addition will not affect the lacrosse box.

Building Conditions Reports have been done on a number of MCA Facilities. An RFP will be going out to initiate the ISC ACRS Report for all building assets. This is ongoing.

Hamilton Island Bridge drawings are now 80% complete. Waiting for the Archeology report to be finalized.

Iakhihsohta Kitchen renovations – Design is complete and renovations will begin in the spring. The kitchen will be closed during the renovations. Discussions on management procedures during the renovations are taking place. This project is funded and a tender will go out for bids for the Construction phase. The facility is planning for meals for when the project begins.

New Fire Station #3 – Snye Chiefs met with the Fire Department and they do not want a multi purpose building. They had concerns about the survey and they want to go with the original drawings.

Hawthorne Road extension/subdivision site – DIHE is in discussions with ISC on potential reimbursement options for the road site servicing project and a 5-unit housing complex project. There is still a beaver issue in the area.

Kawehno:ke Salt Dome – The Kawehno:ke Salt Dome project is 100% Tender ready. DIHE are working on Project approval documents to ISC. This is ongoing and a submission is needed.

Capital Plan update – Consultants have been meeting with Directors and Departments. A traffic and Roads study is in progress. Smaller road project sections are being looked at. Jp2g will submit fee proposal. The intent is to determine what roads can be designed, funded and constructed this fiscal year.

Iohahi:io Cultural Centre and Outdoor Pavillion – The Tender call was issued for construction with a mandatory site meeting with Contractors this past November. Five Contractors attended. Due to the winter months no bid was received. This project has been retendered and site visits have occurred.

Iohahi:io Portable Classroom Project – This is 99% design completion with Mechanical and Electrical Consultants coordinating work with IDP who are completing the building portables. Foundation, site works and a breezeway connection is Tender ready. This will be in coordination with the Cultural Centre during the spring. Ongoing.

Street Lighting project is being discussed with AMPS due to public safety concerns where the area is not lit up. A survey to determine where street lighting will need to go.

Kana:takon Beach project is tender ready and will go out to Tender in May.

New Snye School – Preliminary design is completed. A community consultation will be scheduled, once 3D elevations are finished by the design consultants. AMBE were informed that funding needs to be sought in order to move forward on design. Project has been halted due to funds.

Roof Condition reports – Snetsinger Consultants has been initiating roof assessments on the Health Facility, Admin 4, Central Police Station and found all are in need of repair. Additional buildings have been added to the list that include CIA#3, WWW plants, AMS School and Snye School. Proposals have been submitted by roofing consultant to DIHE for AMS and Kanonkwatsheri:io health Facility to prepare design/tender ready package. Funds will be needed. This is ongoing.

Roads repairs / replacements - DIHE is working on RFPs to obtain a consulting firm for an Engineer of Record for detail design to achieve tender ready projects for road replacement/repairs for priority roads. There are numerous roads in need of repair in all three districts. DIHE are looking at bundling the project based on the Roads report. The intent is to obtain an engineering

firm for 2 to 4 years to Bundle roads projects to complete design to achieve tender ready projects. JP2G will submit proposal to bundle the roads as confirmed in a meeting held.

Generators - Generator installation completed to Iakhihsohtha, Snye Homemakers, and Tsiionkwanonhso:te. The Kawehno:ke recreation is finally delivered. DIHE are looking at penalty options due to multiple delays to the project.

A'nowarako:wa Arena - DIHE is assisting Ec Dev on the Arena expansion project. DIHE has prepared an RFP for consultant services to achieve a tender ready project for the new arena addition. Ec Dev are seeking funds for a feasibility study. A proposal to the Trust was denied as they do not fund feasibility studies.

Block 97 Sewage Pumping Station – DIHE obtained EVB Engineering to complete a condition assessment report on the existing pumping station which is 30 years old +. The station services the surrounding housing units and the Long term care facility. Detail design to achieve tender ready documents are currently being completed. Project ongoing and waiting on drawings.

Community Water Connections – in collaboration with WWW, OS DIHE and Jp2g consultants. The first priority is waterline connections in Snye took some time to resolve. Drawings are being completed and other residents in Snye have been notified and data, paperwork has been collected. Project is ongoing. Drawings are 99% complete. Ongoing.

Snye Water Study and Distribution System – Capacity condition and risk assessment, includes water tower. Proposal was submitted by Jp2g Consultants as a preventative measure. A contract is being completed. DIHE will continue with the study for Northern residents. WWW will continue to monitor the break in the middle of the river where the pipeline break occurred.

HVAC for Schools - Detailed design for AMS school is ongoing. Funding is needed for this project. Tender ready documents will be ready for summer construction season. Kana:takon School HVAC have drawings and specs ready. If funding is secured, the project will be tender ready. Tsi Snaihne School is tender ready but the Hydro issues is still an issue. Work with Quebec Hydro on the power lines is ongoing. A meeting with Hydro will take place in June.

**Other issues:**

**Portfolio Issues:**

A community raised an issue of the rates of Hydro getting out of hand. Hydro bills are going up and the Community are being affected with this rising cost.

District of Tsi Snaihne resident requested street lights on Whoville and on Hemlock Dr.

Housing needs.

**Additional Updates:**

Talked with a few Community members who want to see working task groups on all Policies that currently are in operation and would like to not have representatives on the task group that the policy affects to ensure fairness.

Talked with a few Community members who have an issue with Council travel. They would like the travel to be only in the event that there is something to be brought back for Akwesasne.

**Other works to be set up:**

Looking to bring the Multi Jurisdiction table back so we can sit down and look at what the Roads needs are in order to go after funding. This has been sent to the Director and it was announced at the DIHE Portfolio meeting in which we all agreed to. This was discussed at Portfolio meeting and agreed that we need funding from all sources. Would like to have phases of projects begin this year and each year moving forward.



## TERESA OAKES MONTHLY REPORT

KANATAKON DISTRICT CHIEF

E-MAIL: CHIEF.TERESA.OAKES@AKWESASNE.CA

CELL: 613-551-0270

### Portfolios:

AMBE  
DCSS  
Gov't Sec  
Nation Building

### Committees & External Tables

Akwesko:wa/Port Divesture ~ Finance ~ Governance  
Special Needs ~ Lobbying ~ Hydro Quebec ~ CBSA  
Iroquois Caucus ~ Jay Treaty Border Alliance



## Meetings:

- **April 24<sup>th</sup>**, General Meeting. The Budget & Audit was on the agenda. We did not finish the meeting because it was called to end at 8 p.m. I called for a motion to continue this meeting at the next earliest date possible to continue the presentation, Chief JoAnn seconded the motion.
- **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, Governance Committee. Task groups were formed to split up the work needing to be complete.
- **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, Nation Building Portfolio Meeting. Went over parts of the Entewatatha:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA) that needed to be reviewed.
- **April 28<sup>th</sup>**, Weekly Council Meeting. Passed 19 MCR's. Had a presentation on Enbridge and the Nutfield Tract.
- **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, Contributions Repayable Meeting with the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) Director. Discussed the repayable budget sheet and not being able to fill positions is the main reason for it.
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, Weekly Council Meeting. 5 MCR's passed. Presentation by Ionkwahronháonhàtié, an amazing grassroots language program geared towards advanced 2<sup>nd</sup> level learners.
- **May 6<sup>th</sup>**, Border Partners Meeting. US Customs updated on the 'road shark' that was installed in the southern bound lane as a pilot project. CBSA brought up that the CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management CARM system that may impact wait times at the border. Importers have until May 20<sup>th</sup> to post their financial security in the system, if they haven't their time at the border will take longer, resulting in the potential delay due to the trucks being backed up. CBSA license plate reader upgrades will be taking place starting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the upgrades will be done one lane at a time so traffic shouldn't be affected.
- **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, Quebec Political Protocol Meeting. Reviewed current agreement and determined next steps.





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- **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Meeting between Council, Administration and Directors to discuss the funding.
- **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Governance Committee Meeting. Formed Working Task Groups to work on various projects to streamline documents.
- **May 12<sup>th</sup>**, Weekly Council Meeting. 8 MCR's passed. Presentation by Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) on the REA (Regional Education Agreement) and a change to their organizational chart.
- **May 13<sup>th</sup>**, Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting.
  - Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Program Manager provided the following updates:
    - A new position has been created to manage and oversee incoming Duty to Consult correspondence.
    - Legal assistance is being sought in relation to the Seaway Claim.
    - A reminder was issued that the deadline to submit missing information for Indian Day School applications is June 27<sup>th</sup>. The ARRO office is available to provide support with this process.
    - Trustees appointed for the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Claim are currently undergoing training.
  - Nation Building Program Manager provided the following update:
    - They surpassed their goal of 500 for the Entewatatha:wi ESGA Surveys. The team went to various buildings and community events to reach their goal. Great team work done by the Program for this initiative.
  - Associate Executive Director provided the following update:
    - New positions were discussed that will enhance the services under the Executive Office.
- **May 13<sup>th</sup>**, Special General Meeting. Continuance from the April 24<sup>th</sup> Budget and Audit meeting.
- **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, Meeting with ARRO for an update with legal in regard to the Internal Agreement.
- **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, Partnership between OPG and MCA (POM) Meeting. Review of prior meeting. OPG Visting hours updated for the summer. Reminder that the visitor center has meeting rooms that are free to use.

## Monthly Notables:

- **April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Iroquois Caucus (IC) General Assembly. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted the assembly that took place at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. We had a presentation from the Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA). Discussions continued on the IC Strategic Plan that we all worked on at the last IC Gathering. The Grand Chiefs signed a Nation to Nation Trade and Commerce Agreement.
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, Visit from University of Ottawa Cohort 18 - Certificate Program in Public Sector Leadership and Governance. The University of Ottawa's Cohort 18 from the Certificate Program in Public Sector



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CELL: 613-551-0270

Leadership and Governance visited Akwesasne as part of their program activities. The cohort comprises senior-level federal public servants from across Canada. Chief Cindy, Chief Sarah, Chief Vanessa, Chief Tesha, and I participated in the visit. The group received presentations from various departments, including ARRO, Nation Building, Justice, and Economic Development, providing insights into Akwesasne's governance structures and community initiatives.

A traditional meal was served to all attendees, offering an opportunity for cultural exchange. The Acting Executive Director and her Executive Assistant demonstrated excellent leadership and coordination in facilitating the day's events. The visit concluded with a guided tour of Akwesasne, led by Adam Jacobs from ARRO, before the group returned to Ottawa.





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CELL: 613-551-0270

- **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, During the Hydro-Québec planned power outage, my fellow District Chiefs and I organized a community initiative to clean the village roads. Together with some dedicated community members, we went street by street collecting litter throughout the village. Unfortunately, we gathered nearly 40 bags of garbage, highlighting the ongoing need for community-wide efforts in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.



- **May 6<sup>th</sup>**, Introductory Meeting with the CEO of the Cornwall Community Hospital. Issues were discussed. One great thing they said is that Akwesasne should be very proud of the fact our Elders are never left at the hospital.
- **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, Helped with the St. Regis Rec Elders Club during their Mother's Day Bingo. The St. Regis Rec Crew always go above and beyond.
- **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Attended the retirement celebration for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Port Director in Massena, accompanied by Chief Vanessa. The event featured several thoughtful and engaging speeches. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief of Police shared a heartfelt and humorous reflection on his experiences working with the Port Director. In his remarks, the Port Director expressed his appreciation for the rewarding experience of working with the Akwesasne community.





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CELL: 613-551-0270

- **May 12<sup>th</sup>**, During the Kana:takon District Meeting, community members shared the following concerns:

**Post Office Repairs:** Minor repairs are needed at the local Post Office, and members expressed concern about the lack of attention to this issue.

**Access to Boat Launch Area:** Concerns were raised regarding AMPS (Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service) assuming control of the boat launch area, which has made it increasingly difficult for Elders residing at Sweetgrass to access the site.

**Community Policing and Response:** A community member reported an incident involving an individual knocking on Elders' doors. When reported, the family was informed by AMPS that it was "not within their mandate." The community is seeking clarity on the role of AMPS and whether officers are receiving training in community-based policing.

**Economic Development:** One member inquired about the shipping containers that were received and requested an update on the intended plans for their use.

**Community Infrastructure and Services:** Members shared suggestions for improvements they would like to see in the village, including:

- Paving of Sweetgrass Lane
  - Construction of a multi-purpose building to serve both Elders and daycare needs
  - Upgrades to local playgrounds, including the addition of equipment designed for children with special needs
- **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, Presentation by Dr. Horn on Environmental Pollutants. Dr. Horn delivered a highly informative presentation that effectively highlighted both her expertise and the Department of Health's commitment to raising public awareness about the environmental challenges we face as a Nation. She emphasized the long-term impact of pollutants that have been present in our environment for decades and continue to contaminate our land and water sources. A key takeaway from the presentation was the critical importance of early screening in addressing and mitigating the health risks associated with these pollutants.
  - **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, Strategic Planning Session with Council. Council went through the Strategic Plan, made changes to encompass this council.
  - **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, AMBE Cultural Day. Great event held by AMBE. Drummers, dancers and a performance by students led by the amazing and talented Feryn King. This event was for K4 – Grade 3 at all three AMBE Schools.



# VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

613-363-3891

613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF  
AKWESASNE



## Weekly Council Meeting April 28th 2025, (Not present - Work Travel)

**Council Meeting presentation from ARRO/Enbridge Nutfield Tract Theresa Benedict, Melanie Green**

**Discussion items included:** Double-bookings, SRMT meeting follow-up, Quakers Request, Strategic Plan Next Steps, Letters of support, Harbour Master

**MCRS:** OVS Land Allotments/Permit, Council/Emergency Meeting Minutes, Ministry of Health, Trust Distribution 2025, Parks Canada, ISC Amendment, Building Rental, Youth Council Member Resignation,

## The 8th Annual FNMPC First Nations Major Projects Coalition April 27th-29th, 2025 - Portfolio Connections - Economic Development, ARRO, Governance

Chief Claire Sault ogimaa-kwe (chief) of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) Welcomed attendees, - First Nations' economic growth and equitable public policy. Premier Doug Ford - Ontario's commitment to partnerships and reconciliation with First Nations Dr. Joe Kalt, Director, Project on Indigenous Governance and Development and Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy (Emeritus), Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, 3 keys 1. fight for sovereignty self-governance (Akwesasne got a shout out), 2. good governance govern for community, 3, leadership and decision making.

The conference featured keynote speeches from global leaders in business, government and Indigenous circles including Roberta Jamieson (Board Director, RBC), Stephen J. Harper (22nd Prime Minister of Canada), Mike Henry (CEO, BHP), Tracy Robinson (CEO, CN), and Michael Sabia (CEO, Hydro-Québec). Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict addressed challenges facing 133 First Nations, including clean drinking water access and diesel reliance, highlighting the need for sovereignty, environmental protection, and community leadership in project development. This conference highlighted the vital role of Indigenous leadership in enhancing Canada's position in global trade. Met with Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation brief discussion on priorities follow up meeting to be scheduled to address community priorities. Met with First Nations leadership and Representatives including: Sarah Gauthier Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, Melanie Green Enbridge, Michele E. Harradence, Executive Vice President and President Enbridge, Tony Deragon RBC Dominion Securities, Federal Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program board chair Michael Bonshor, Michael Loken Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines, Siksika Nation Chief Ouray Crowfoot. Great experience representing and lobbying for MCA

**Finance Discussion on Contributions and Re-payables - DFA H Phillips April 30th, 2025, Information on financial re-payables this low percentage is consistent with the AFAL and yearly contributing factors include staffing shortages**

**Executive Committee Meeting on Teams (virtual) met with Pathways Executive Search April 30th, 2025, about the ED Hiring process**

**COO Leadership Meeting May 2nd, 2025, OKT presented current status of Ontario Specific FNCFs and recommendations from OKT**

# TRAVEL/WEEKLY REPORT

APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025

## Certificate Program in Public Sector Leadership and Governance:

### Cohort 18 Governance Gathering

May 1st, 2025

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted the Ottawa University Leadership and Governance, Cohort 18, this event featured presentations from key representatives of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), including Cheyenne Lazore, ARRO Manager; Rachel Lazare, Entewatatha:wi Self-Government Program Manager; Cactus Cook-Sunday, AJP Director; Kylee Tarbell, Economic Development Director; and various MCA Chiefs.

The gathering was followed by an informative community tour of Akwesasne, led by Adam Jacobs, ARRO Senior Researcher, which provided both historical context and knowledge about Akwesasne



Proposed initiatives to engage First Nations include:

- Create mentorship programs linking experienced leaders with youth
- Develop clear pathways for business and leadership roles
- Host community forums to understand local needs
- Provide training for First Nations entrepreneurs
- Ensure representation in decision-making
- Share success stories showcasing impact
- Build culturally respectful opportunities honoring traditional knowledge.

FRIDAY

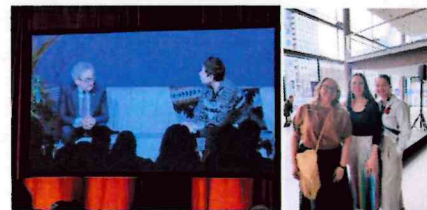
May 9th, 2025

Jordans Principle  
Bear Witness Day

FRIDAY

MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025

MCA Closed - Saiowisakeron Day  
(Designated - John Fire)



The Emergence of  
Indigenous-Owned Electrical  
Utilities in Canada



## Former Grand Chief of Kahnawake, Kahsennenhawé Sky-Deer, facilitated discussion with Quebec Hydro CEO Michael Sabia

How energy companies can build trust with indigenous communities by:

- Actively listening to community concerns
- Involving communities early in project planning
- Creating inclusive environments for First Nations voices
- Sharing expertise and investing in community capacity
- Being transparent about past mistakes and committing to economic reconciliation
- Promoting cultural shifts that prioritize indigenous partnerships
- Establishing fair financial partnerships
- Respecting traditional land protocols and environmental considerations.

John McKenzie, CEO, TMX Group April 29th, 2025

OPENING OF THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE





## VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief  
613-363-3891  
613-575-2250(2174)  
chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



#### Weekly Council Meeting May 5th 2025

**Council Meeting presentation from Chelsea Sunday, Mitchell Mittelstaedt and Bernice Lazore - lonkwahronkha' onhátié'** "we are becoming fluent" is a grass-roots community-based collective that uses linguistic enclaves to support Kanien'kéha language and culture learning for self-motivated adult language learners of Kanien'kéha (the Mohawk language).

**Discussion items included:** RCFNL Rep, ED Meeting with SRMT ED, Contribution Presentation Summary, Stats Training, Elders Council MCRS:

Budget/Audit Presentation SGM, Housing Upgrade Applications, Youth Council Rep, DCSS Service Contract Renewal.

**DCSS Portfolio May 9th, 2025, - canceled as per A/Director not available**

**OKT Law Maggie Went to Present on FNCFS to MCA Council DFA H Phillips and Program Directors May 7th, 2025,** Maggie Went is a Partner at OKT Maggie has a particular focus on advocating for equality in child welfare services and assisting First Nations exercise jurisdiction over child welfare. Information provided on First Nations Child Family Services funds, restrictions, requirements, project information for planning purposes thru fiscal year 2025-2026 and beyond. MCA Programs to develop plans based on community input and strategic plan goals.

**BCI Governance Circle Meeting - Virtual (Teams) MCA Chief Vanessa, Chief Lisa, CBSA Lance Martin (CBSA) Jenna Bingham (CBSA) BCI Coordinator.** Discussion re-start of Border Collaboration Initiative - post Federal Election 2025, governance circle's responsibilities, including agenda planning, administration, and record-keeping. confirmed the MCA membership list was up to date. Eric Lapierre will lead the Dundee working circle, and Jag Johnston will lead the Cornwall Poe working circle due to internal CBSA changes. The governance circle will meet quarterly, with ongoing meetings scheduled for the 19th of each month. Sub-circles will address specific issues like the Akwesasne Residents Remission order and toll booth impact. The importance of in-person meetings for relationship building was emphasized. The next meeting is set for the 19th at 11 am.

**Governance Committee Meeting May 9th, 2025 Off-site 10am-2pm meeting Best Western** work on reviewing/updating governance documents. Review of Council Meeting Procedure Regulations has begun line by line, with references made to related documents or laws to ensure compliance also recommended updates to ensure that Council operates effectively and efficientl. Once completed by Governance Committee, Council will review and approve or suggest edits. Once completed and approved via mcr document will replace the current document on the MCA website and will be available for community.

**Invited to and attended retirement Dinner for CBP Massena Port Director Bob Dwyer May 9th, 2025, 6pm- 9pm Attended with Chief Teresa Oakes.** Thank you, Bob for your years of leadership, respect, and dedication to fostering strong relationships with our community. We are grateful for your ongoing support and commitment.

## WEEKLY REPORT

MAY 5TH-MAY 9TH, 2025

#### The Border Partners Monthly Meeting on May 6th, 2025,

- CBSA reported an overall 30% decrease in traffic.
- Potential traffic disruptions are anticipated on May 20th, 2025.
- CBSA commercial transport trucks are not enrolled in the CARM program, but local traffic should remain unaffected due to backup plans. CBSA License plate reader upgrades are scheduled for June 16th, 2025, affecting one lane per day. The CBSA Port in Cornwall is fully staffed for the first time in years
- 90 day Pilot Project "Road Shark" device installed to deter south bound port runners/vehicles using northbound lane. This will not affect cars heading North
- USBP Bob Dwyer announced his retirement effective May 31st, 2025, we thank Bob for his contribution to positive community relationships.
- the US port experienced a 6% traffic reduction with minimal impact on local traffic.



Akwesasne Community Fund  
Call-out  
Deadline to apply:  
Thursday May 15th, 2025



Niawen to AFWP spread  
awareness in recognition  
on MMIP Missing and  
Murdered Indigenous  
People  
May 5th, 2025

FRIDAY

May 9th, 2025

Jordans Principle  
Bear Witness Day

MAY 12TH  
2025

Kawehno:ke District Meeting

#### Kawehno:ke Community Member Concerns/Information

- Youth Council Member Call Out (see QR Code)
- Report of non-members living on Kawehno:ke
- Trespass private property concerns
- Creation of Record (US Immigration) concerns
- Safety on side roads atv traffic increase
- Vehicle accidents increase, safety guard-rail concerns
- Police Week 2025: Celebrating Safety & Connection in Community
- CBSA/USBP delayed reporting funeral
- Emergency Preparedness Week 2025 Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.







## VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

613-363-3891

613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF  
**AKWESASNE**



### Weekly Council Meeting May 12th 2025

**Council Meeting presentation from:** Organizational Chart update presentation AMBE explaining change to current chart that is being proposed via MCR

**Discussion items included:** Akwekskowa lands Hopkins Point, IC Letter to Prime Minister Carney, General Meeting May 29, 2025.

**MCRS:** Land Allotments, Assignment of Lease, Legal Retainer JFK Law, MCA Family Sustainability Fund, MCA Executive Services Org Chart.

AMPC Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission Meeting May 12th, 2025, Community Updates provided from District Chiefs, Reported all Public Safety Concerns received from Community Members. Informed that call out for AMPC members is need for all members. Call out is now posted.

**Public Safety Portfolio May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting conflict not able to attend.**

ARRO NY State Internal Agreement Prep Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Portfolio ARRO and legal Frank Holloman attended.

ARRO, Portfolio Chiefs, grand chief met with SRMT Leadership to open discussions about the NY State Land Claim with legal representatives, Discussion primarily timelines, recent withdrawal of MNCC and next steps. Council has not scheduled next meeting. Concerns with timing pertaining to Students education and green card.

**SGM MCA Annual Budget (cont'd) Annual Audit presentation May 13, 2025**

Kawehno:ke A/Ed S Roundpoint, DFA H Phillips presentation to Community members Departments of Public Safety, Health, Justice, DIHE, Economic Development, Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Questions from community members included: why is AMPS so much higher - OPP Parity.

**Executive Committee meeting with Pathways Executive Search, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2025** follow up meeting to be planned process for hiring the Executive Director is moving forward.

**DCSS Portfolio May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025** Updates from Community Support Program from Program Manager Dan Bruyere, Presentation on Suicide Prevention from Courtney Skidders asked for inclusion of our MCA Youth Council to participate in this project as well as special needs youth, FNCFS CSP preliminary suggestions received from CSP D Bruyere.

## WEEKLY REPORT

MAY 12TH - 16TH, 2025

### NY State Internal agreement discussion May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- by request of the office of the Grand Chief
- Council met twice once with council and the Grand chief
- Discussion centered around the most recent ARRO portfolio meeting with the SRMT which was an introductory meeting no decisions were made
- The second meeting was chaired by Chief Thompson primarily a recap and next steps for MCA pertaining to the Internal Agreement.
- This second meeting included Legal Frank Holloman and ARRO Manager Cheyenne Lazore, ARRO Researcher Adam Jacobs Again preliminary meeting discussion.



FNCFS/ISC Website  
Information available,  
funding guidelines,  
restrictions and  
program goals.



CHECK This Out!!  
  
Niawen to MCA  
Communications for  
Updating our  
informational MCA Video

**TUESDAY**

May 27th -28<sup>th</sup> 2025

**SGM Budget/Audit meeting**

**MAY 14TH  
2025**

**AFN National Chief Cindy  
Woodhouse Nepinak  
MCA/SRMT Visit - Cancelled**

**Dr Otsistoh Horn;**

Presentation on May 16th, 2025

At Kawehno:ke Recreation, Dr. Horn addressed the Council, Environment, and Department of Health representatives regarding cancer and disease-causing pollutants present not only in the ground and water but also in the air we breathe every day.

Key points included:

- The significance of early detection
- The necessity of consistent monitoring
- The importance of preventative testing measures on health outcomes

Concerns were raised about younger individuals developing diseases and how pollutants can bind to our cells during development, leading to various ongoing issues related to both physical and mental wellbeing. A community presentation will be scheduled.





## VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

613-363-3891

613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

## WEEKLY REPORT

MAY 19TH - 23RD, 2025

### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



**Weekly Council Meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

No weekly council meeting due to the holiday on Monday.

### Community Call-Out

**Fed Indian Day School** - If you submitted a Claim Form but have not received a response from the Claims Administrator, your application may be incomplete. Incomplete claims are not eligible for compensation. The deadline to submit missing information for your Federal Indian Day School Class Action Claim is June 27, 2025. For assistance, contact the Claims Administrator at 1-888-221-2898 or visit [www.indiandayschools.com](http://www.indiandayschools.com) for more information.



FNCFS/ISC Website  
Information available,  
funding guidelines,  
restrictions and  
program goals.

**LAWN CARE SERVICES for Elders**

**OPEN TO ELDERS WHO:**

- Are 65 years of age or older
- Are able to provide personal care to themselves
- Are not living in a long-term care facility

**OUR SERVICES:**

- Mowing, weeding, & blowing
- Lawn care in community and private spaces
- Weeding gardens, patios, & flower beds
- Planting, & garden cleanup

**CONTACT MCA ELDER SERVICES**

613-575-2341 ext. 1626 summer.francis@akwesasne.ca

**Elder Lawn Care**  
Please Call 613-575-2341 ext.1626  
Summer Francis  
summer.francis@akwesasne.ca

**ARRO Portfolio Meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Community Updates provided from Introduction of new employee, Onkwetake Submission, Enbridge Gas & Ontario Energy Board, Federal Indian Day School, Hudson Bay Company, Cultural Awareness Training, Ancestors Reburial, Archaeologist updates, NYS Claim, Seaway Claim, Claims discussion, Cairn Island, Portfolio recieved Cultural Properties Protocol, St Lawrence Seaway Land Claims meeting with Canada next dates tbd.**

#### Special Needs Fund Committee May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025,

Application review in person, 4 members present, Discussion on current updated policy, Elder Services Sector 5 budget shortfall - solutions. Support for moving Special needs program moving forward. Gratitude for our SNF administration team for the constant and consistent work.

#### Strategic Plan for ALL Council May 21, 2025

All Council, Mohawk Government staff, the grand chief and Executive Director attended. All Council attended and participated in reviewing the strategic plan currently dated to expire in

**Economic Development FNCFS discussion on plans for Prevention Spending to benefit Children and youth in Akwesasne. Sponsored MCR for Anowarakowa Arena (EC Development Portfolio)**

**COO Chiefs committee on Social - Virtual SSCU Meeting, May 23, 2025 Attended virtual session JSST Terms of Reference Resolution, OKT Ontario FNCFS Reform Update Presentation.**



### TUESDAY

May 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Region 5 ONWAA

MAY 31<sup>TH</sup>  
2025

**Royal Canadian Sea Cadets  
Review**

### Kawehno:ke District Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- Kawehno:ke Spring Clean Up
- Green Card - Creation of Record info sessions
- Stop sign Recreation Rd - replaced
- Police Week 2025: Celebrating Safety & Connection in Community
- Emergency Preparedness Week 2025 Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.
- AMPC Needs you The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission Member Callout For more information on qualifications and how to apply, please visit: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/call-out-for-akwesasne-mohawk-police-commissioners-may-2025/>





## VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief  
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chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



#### Weekly Council Meeting May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:00-11:50am

(I left at 11am due to work travel)

No council meeting presentations

Discussion items included: Council Work Plan, Minister Flask, Akwesasne Legal Fishing Boundaries, Hill Academy Tuition,

MCRS: Land Allotment, Housing, Language Initiative funding through FNCFS and OLG funds. AMBE Org Chart, Early Years Bus Purchase

Region 5 ONWAA meeting Toronto May 26th-27th, 2025, Participation alongside MCA Community Support Program Manager Dan Bruyere in day 1 of the ONWAA Region 5, 3 day meeting. Chief and Council presentation and understanding of income supports, ministry roles and titles, discussions, presentations and Q&A on behalf of MCA Community Support Programs and Services. Policy and portfolio information. Ishkoday Presentation and support information concerning energy poverty. Gained knowledge and understanding on the importance of separation of Governance, Operations. Ministry job titles give a false image of superiority that was addressed - instead of supervisor - liaison.

Kawehno:ke Recreation Building Planning Committee May, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 this is a community, MCA Technician Working Task Group to plan and implement design and building of a new Kawehno:ke Recreation Center. Working task Group consists of two district chiefs from Kawehno:ke Chief Adams, Chief Thompson, Recreation Volunteer Committee Members, MCA Technicians as needed. First steps develop terms of reference, review DIHE requirements, Investigate possible site visits, Develop Youth Climate survey, Community survey, Plan Parks and recreation symposium to determine next steps. Next meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Executive Committee May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025- interview preparation and interview process for the Executive Director position.

Detox Presentation - Dr Scott May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 upcoming will provide information in next weeks report.

#### COO FNCFS Virtual Meeting May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chiefs of Ontario - Chiefs Committee on Social IFN Rep - Leadership Meeting update will be provided in next weeks report.

Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Review May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Cornwall Armory Invited to be a VIP Guest of Morgan Roundpoint, on Saturday, May 31, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cornwall Armory for the 110 Stormont Sea Cadets Annual Review. Chief Roundpoint (Morgan) has assumed the role of Coxswain, in charge of the ship. Since assuming Chief Roundpoint, has been instrumental in incorporating our Confederacy Flag into public and armory parades. Furthermore, she has received approval to wear the finger-weaved sash and eagle tufts/feathers as part of her dress code. The feather in which she received this weekend as she completed her 4 day and 4 nights fasting during Oherokon. In June, she will be awarded the King Charles Coronation medal. I was incredibly honored to be a guest at this monumental event.

## WEEKLY TRAVEL REPORT

MAY 26TH-31ST, 2025

#### Youth Council - Chiefs of Ontario 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly

- All 4 current members of the MCA Youth Council are scheduled to be attending the Chiefs of Ontario 50th Annual General Assembly this is an exciting time for our youth council. Connecting our Akwesasne youth council with Ontario FN Youth Council Members is an important step to the development of our youth council and sharing our Akwesasne perspectives, voices and youth initiatives is incredibly important. Way to Go Youth Council!!!



FNCFS/ISC Website  
Information available,  
funding guidelines,  
restrictions and  
program goals.

#### FNCFS Family Home Repairs

For more information or to  
apply, please email  
charmaine.caldwell@akwesasne.ca or  
gina.thompson@akwesasne.ca.  
Charmaine Caldwell  
Gina Jones-Thompson 613-575-  
2250 ext. 1051



MCA FAMILY  
Sustainability

Please Call Kristy Lauzon  
by June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

JUNE  
2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025

Council Meeting Day @  
Thompson Island

She'kon - Information sharing - Check out Ishkoday use the QR code to Find out what energy saving programs you may qualify for log on to [ishkoday.ca](http://ishkoday.ca)

Have you heard of energy Poverty and what that can look like in our community. Low Priority access to consistent energy effects housing, health, social increased barriers to basic needs it exacerbates the needs for our community members

Ishkoday also has two multiday intensive energy training sessions – one for First Nations Social Services workers, First Nations Housing Departments and their clients.





# Chief Report

## Kawehno:ke District

### Chief Vince Thompson

**Reporting Period: March–May**

She:kon,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirit. I want to extend my deepest condolences to anyone in our community who is grieving the loss of a loved one. My thoughts are with you, and I hope you continue to find strength through family, friends, and our community.

Over the last few months, I've continued to attend all mandatory meetings and participate in my portfolio responsibilities. Below is a summary of my activities and updates from March through May.

- **Coteau-du-Lac Reburials:**

Akwesasne has requested to lead the reburial process for ancestors discovered at the Coteau-du-Lac. Kanesatake and Kahnawake are in support. The Mi'gmaq Nation has withdrawn from the discussions, expressing confidence in Akwesasne's capacity to carry out this important repatriation work. Further meetings are ongoing, and we are seeking full Nation approval before moving forward.

- **Language Revitalization:**

Attended a YECL presentation where passionate community members shared initiatives for revitalizing the Kanien'kéha language.

- **Kanien'kéha Revitalization Group:**

Participated in a meeting with fluent speakers, teachers, and second-language learners working to establish a non-profit organization to support language learning.

- **Fish Population Concerns:**

A follow-up meeting was held with MCA Conservation and Environment to explore seasonal protective measures. This initiative is still in the early stages, and community updates will follow as planning progresses.

- **Transport Canada Session – Entewatatha:wi Table:**

Participated in a session with representatives from Transport Canada (Ontario Region) and the Seaway Authority. ESCWA acknowledged the jurisdiction of MCA regarding

both land and environmental matters. Discussions focused on environmental concerns and the commercial traffic that passes through the seaway.

- **Cairn Island Return:**

Planning is underway for an event with South Glengarry to mark the return of Cairn Island to Akwesasne.

- **Ontario Energy Board – Glendale Subdivision:**

Concerns were raised over the lack of consultation by Enbridge for a proposed natural gas expansion in Glendale, which is on Akwesasne's claimed land. Updates to follow.

- **Entewatatha:wi Negotiations:**

Topics discussed with Canada included:

- Updates to the fiscal agreement
- Concerns about the lack of consultation regarding the divestment of federal properties
- Marc Carney's appointment as Prime Minister and implications for policy
- Confidentiality protocols

- **Minister of Indigenous Affairs Quebec Meeting:**

Key topics included:

- The Quebec language bill – reassurances were given that Akwesasne will not be forced to teach French
- Barriers for healthcare professionals due to language policies
- Support for Indigenous language revitalization
- Potential partnerships with MNR for waterway monitoring

- **CBSA & ARRO Portfolio:**

- CBSA Cultural Awareness Training updates
- Discussions around domestic lane questions, CBSA Border Crossing Initiative, and the Jay Treaty
- ARRO was asked to present the M&M cultural training at the Iroquois Caucus General Meeting

- **Tariff Planning:**  
Participated in strategic sessions addressing customs, ID requirements, and changes related to border crossing and tariffs.
- **Service Canada Territory Violation:**  
Service Canada representatives were found canvassing in Akwesasne without permission and have since been asked to leave.
- **Health Funding Discrepancies:**  
Quebec receives funding on behalf of Akwesasne but does not allocate appropriate health funds to the community. Advocacy is ongoing to register Akwesasne in Quebec's health system to access additional resources.
- **AMBE Updates:**
  - Emergency Council Meeting passed a bilateral multiyear grant arrangement for AMBE.
  - Introduction of the new Youth Council.
- **Kana:takon Membership Board:**  
An election was held to fill a vacant seat.
- **New Vehicle for AMPS:**  
Council approved the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle.
- **Border Partners Meeting:**  
Included representatives from CBSA, U.S. Customs, SRMT, and MCA.
  - Topics:
    - Tariff and ID changes
    - Road Shark monitoring system by U.S. Customs
    - Retirement of CBSA Supervisor Bob Dwyer
- **Akwesko:wa Committee:**
  - Environmental assessments of port lands in Cornwall
  - Trillium Firm received notice to vacate North Shore Port Lands
  - Ongoing monthly meetings and notices pending
- **Powwow**
  - **Secondary Access:**  
Explored a secondary access route with local landowners. While

landowners were supportive, the Powwow Committee cited parking and access needs as well.

- **DevCore Building Tour – Cornwall:**

A joint tour was attended by Chief & Council and portfolio holders to explore the former DevCore building for potential use in clinical care and economic development. Additional follow-up meetings are planned.

- **Quarterly SRMT Meeting:**

- Presentation from Tribal Electric Utility (James Ransom)
- FAFSA guidance and record creation update received
- Updates on NYS Land Claim internal agreement

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these updates, please don't hesitate to reach out. Niawen for your continued support.





# Chief Lacey Pierce

## Kawehno:ke District



Email: [Chief.lacey.pierce@akwesasne.ca](mailto:Chief.lacey.pierce@akwesasne.ca) Office: 613-575-2250 Ext 2173 Cell: 613-363-3498

*This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.*

### Portfolios:

- Department of Health (DOH)
- Public Safety
- Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE)

### Committees:

- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Green Team, Beautification & Waterways
- Iroquois Caucus
- Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)
- Healing and Wellness Fund
- Special Needs Committee
- Property Acquisition Team (PAT)

### Attendance:

Bereavement: 1  
Personal: 1  
Sick:  
Vacation: 4

### Monthly Expenditures:

**\$0.00**

### Monthly Notables:

#### **MCA OFFICES CLOSED FOR SAIOWISAKERON (JOHN FIRE) DAY**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that our offices will be closed on Friday, May 2 in observance of Saiowisakeron (John Fire) Day. Essential services and 24-hour care facilities will remain operational. Offices will resume normal business hours on Monday, May 5.

#### **RED DRESS DAY 2025: HONOURING MMIWG2S+**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne stands in solidarity with communities across Canada in recognizing Red Dress Day, held annually on May 5 as a day of remembrance and action in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited People (MMIWG2S+). Red Dress Day brings visibility to the deep injustices and violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. This crisis has touched every First Nations community and continues to leave lasting pain and trauma in its wake. We honour the lives lost, the families left behind, and the voices that continue to call for justice.

We recognize that this is not only a crisis, but a deeply rooted issue that calls for continued action, accountability, and change. The violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirited

people has been ongoing for generations and must not be ignored. Their lives matter, and their memories must fuel meaningful change.

As a community, we are committed to truth, justice, and healing. We encourage Akwesasronon to take time on Red Dress Day to reflect, participate, and raise awareness. Wear red, hang a red dress, attend a local event, and stand with the families who carry this pain every day.

The MCA also encourages Akwesasronon to participate in the community display by the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP), beginning on Friday, May 2, 2025. This display will remain in place through Monday, May 5, 2025. Families who wish to contribute to the MMIP visual display are invited to take part. Banners will be available for families to honour their loved ones in a personal and meaningful way—through photos, words, or names. Community members are also welcome to bring a red dress to hang.

Individuals can add to the display once it is up, allowing everyone to participate in this important memorial. The display will be set up on the grounds of the basketball courts and along Akwesasne International Road.

Together, we remember. Together, we rise.

### **MARKING MILESTONES: CAREY TERRANCE JR SIGNS IONKWAKWÉ:NION BOOK OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

On Wednesday, May 7, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe came together at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of one of Akwesasne's own — Carey Terrance Jr. The event coincided with the 2025 season home opener for the Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder, setting the perfect stage to recognize a young man who continues to inspire both on and off the ice.

Before the game, Grand Chief Leonard Lazore delivered a warm welcome and presented Carey with a beautifully beaded medallion featuring the Anaheim Ducks logo — a symbol of both his accomplishments and his roots. In his address, Grand Chief Lazore remarked that “we honor one of our brightest athletes” and emphasized the importance of representing Akwesasne with pride and heart. He also gave heartfelt thanks to the coaches, volunteers, parents, and caregivers who uplift youth sports in the community, saying their time and dedication leave a lasting impact on the next generation.

The evening was made even more meaningful with the reintroduction of the *Ionkwakwé:nion* Book of Accomplishments — a tribute to Akwesasronon who excel in academics, athletics, arts, culture, and leadership. Reviving this cherished tradition, Carey was the first to sign the book under the current Council, making his mark not only in the world of sports but also in community history.



Carey Terrance Jr. is no stranger to success. At just 19 years old, he has earned gold with Team USA, played in three IIHF World Junior Championships, and signed a three-year NHL contract with the Anaheim Ducks — making him the first Akwesasronon to reach these historic milestones. The celebration took place on the very floor where he once played both hockey and lacrosse as a youth — a full-circle moment that touched the hearts of all in attendance.



What sets Carey apart isn't just his talent, but his unwavering humility, strong work ethic, and connection to home. He carries Akwesasne with him wherever he goes, serving as a powerful symbol of perseverance and possibility for Indigenous youth across Turtle Island.

During the first intermission, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs presented Carey with their Hometown Hero Award, recognizing individuals who embody hope, perseverance, and commitment. Following the ceremony, Carey Jr. was welcomed by fans of all ages during a community autograph session, where he graciously signed cards, hats, jerseys, and more — leaving many with memories to treasure and stories to tell.

Carey's journey is a testament to what can be achieved with discipline, determination, and heart. His story reminds us that greatness isn't just about breaking records — it's about lifting others up and staying grounded in who you are and where you come from.

To the youth of Akwesasne: dream big, work hard, and never lose sight of your goals. With determination in your spirit and the support of your community behind you, there are no limits to what you can achieve.

### **MCA FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is committed to supporting our community during these challenging times. In response to the rising cost of food driven by inflation, global tariff concerns, and the unfavourable currency exchange rate, we are pleased to announce a one-time assistance payment of \$1,000 to help community households manage these challenges.

This initiative aims to provide immediate relief to families facing increased grocery expenses and economic uncertainty. We recognize the financial strain many are experiencing, and we are taking this step to help ease the burden.

### **Who is Eligible?**

Each Head of Household that is currently listed on the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) eligibility list.

**How to Receive Assistance:**

For those who are on the existing AHAP list, there are no additional steps required at this time. If you did not receive AHAP funds, any eligible Heads of Household are invited to contact us, provide proof of eligibility, and request to be added to the list. For those who were not on the most recent AHAP list but are eligible, the deadline to be added is **June 6, 2025**.

Cheques will be distributed by MCA Chiefs at designated district locations during the week of June 16, 2025. Detailed distribution dates and times will be provided in the near future.

MCA remains committed to supporting our community by providing meaningful assistance to Akwesasronon during difficult times. Requests and inquiries can be directed to Kristy Lauzon, Special Projects Officer, at 613-575-2250 ext. 2121 or at [kristy.lauzon@akwesasne.ca](mailto:kristy.lauzon@akwesasne.ca).

**Border Partners Monthly Meeting- MCA, SRMT, CBSA, USCBP**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Zoom

Discussion around creation of record increase of requests by community members born in Canada with dual citizenship have been on the rise due to Licenses, FAFSA education funding and employment. Council stated that the creation of record as known as green card is not a avenue Council supports community members to proceeding with as it violates our standing Jay Treaty Agreement. Further joint discussions will continue this subject.

As of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a Real ID is needed for any domestic travel within US, forms of Real ID are enhanced drivers license and passport. It was noted that Red Card and Tribal ID will no longer be accepted for domestic flights and only honored as travel identification when traversing through land border crossing.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is committed to keeping the community informed on matters that may impact travel and border-related activity. At the recent Border Partners Monthly Meeting held on May 6, 2025, several important updates were shared by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The CBSA has advised that there may be some traffic disruptions on May 20, 2025, related to commercial transport trucks that are not currently enrolled in the new CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management (CARM) program. However, they've assured that local traffic should remain unaffected.

In addition, CBSA will begin upgrading license plate readers starting June 16, 2025. This work will be completed one lane at a time, with only a single lane impacted each day. While this may result in minor delays, the goal is to maintain traffic flow and minimize inconvenience to travelers.

On the U.S. side, the CBP shared that a new 90-day pilot project is underway with the installation of a “Road Shark” device. This tool is designed to deter vehicles from attempting to flee southbound by using the northbound lane. The device targets such illegal maneuvers and will not affect regular northbound traffic. The effectiveness of the project will be reviewed at the end of the 90-day trial period.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will continue to share updates with the community as they become available. We thank you for your attention and encourage you to plan ahead for travel during the mentioned dates.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mohawk Government at 613-575-2348.

### **ENIENTHIHSWANON:NA CHILDS LAW WORKING TASK GROUP**

April 29<sup>th</sup>

The working task group was notified that Connie Lazore has withdrawn from Oversight Committee as district of Tsi Snaihne Community representative. A callout has been made to the community for interested Tsi Snaihne members to apply. Child’s Law is currently being reviewed by legal with a tentative review completion of 3 weeks’ turnaround time. Tentative timeline created for Council review, community consultation and referendum to start June 2025 and end June 2026.

### **YOUTH ELDERS CULTURE & LANGUAGE NEWEST MEMBER OF AKWESASNE YOUTH COUNCIL SWORN IN**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Kayanna Cook-Jackson officially joined the Akwesasne Youth Council after signing her oath of office, which was administered by Kenneth (Kuy) Chaussi, Commissioner of Oaths.

The Akwesasne Youth Council offers a meaningful opportunity for young individuals to get involved in local governance, advocate for youth, and contribute to shaping the future of Akwesasne. Kayanna now joins fellow representatives Taylor Day, Starlyn Mason, and Cayde Lazore in carrying out this important work.



Congratulations to Kayanna on joining the Akwesasne Youth Council! The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne looks forward to the important contributions the Council will make as a unified voice for our youth.

### **CALL OUT FOR ELDERS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is seeking three (3) Elders Council Representatives to help guide our community with wisdom, respect, and a strong voice for the future.

If you are 60 years or older, live in Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, or Tsi Snaihne, and want to help shape decisions that matter — we encourage you to step forward.

Elders Council members are appointed for a two- to three-year term. In this role, you'll work closely with Council to share ideas, offer insight, and make recommendations on key community issues. Members are also expected to serve as positive role models, support both youth and elder initiatives, and meet with the Grand Chief and Council as needed.

If you're ready to help shape Akwesasne's path forward, we invite you to apply.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Kuyra Chaussi at [kuyra.chaussi@akwesasne.ca](mailto:kuyra.chaussi@akwesasne.ca), or drop it off at the Mohawk Government Offices, 12 Akwesasne Street, Kana:takon (Admin #1 Building). Positions will remain open until filled.

For more information, please contact the Mohawk Government Office at 613-575-2250 ext. 2162.

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

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025- Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

District homes experiencing ongoing issues with box elder infestations- Community members in attendance shared that Raid fogger purchased from Home Depot US has worked with fumigating outside their home and suggested that individuals try this as a cost-effective solution versus a professional. – DOH Elder Services

Chief Vince Thompson shared that the Elder Emergency Fund (\$5000) can be accessed twice, first when becoming 60 years of age and then after.

Request for repair of roadway at Island Road/ Recreation Road intersection as water pools in potholes and creates hydroplaning and ice buildup. – *DIHE Portfolio*

Request for assistance with bridge passes for community businesses- Follow up conversations with Marc Chenier to address ongoing concerns with economics. – *Ec Dev Portfolio*

Beautification Requests- Peace tree parking lot potholes, ditch cleaning and spring cleanup for large items.

### **Portfolio Meetings**

**Department of Infrastructure, Housing, Environment (DIHE)**

**Leslie Papineau, Director**

### **AKWESASNE SPRING CLEAN-UP 2025**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Let's come together to show our love for the land! Join us for the Akwesasne Spring Clean-Up and help clear litter from roadsides and shorelines across the community. Crews in trucks and boats will be out collecting bags and bulky items — all we need is you.

Register at one of two locations:

- A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- Generations Park

What's provided:

- Clean-up supplies
- Event day shirts (while supplies last!)
- Light lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Let us know where you'll be cleaning!

Help us coordinate pick-up by contacting the MCA Environment Program:

Email: [tianna.back@akwesasne.ca](mailto:tianna.back@akwesasne.ca)

Text: 518-573-1344

Visit Us: CIA #3 (Kawehno:ke)

Let's work together to keep Akwesasne beautiful — every bag makes a difference!

## **Department of Health (DOH)**

### **Tessa Jocko, Acting Director**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES ANNOUNCES SATURDAY CLINICS AT THE KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC**

The MCA Department of Health (DOH) Clinical Care Services (Sector 4) is excited to announce to the community that the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC) will begin to offer Saturday clinics starting on May 3, 2025. Saturday clinics will be a blend of same-day and follow-up appointments in 30-minute increments.

Community members will be required to call the KMC on the day of the clinic for a same-day appointment. The 30-minute schedule will be strictly adhered to. Arriving late for your appointment will result in the forfeit of your time slot. Please ensure to arrive at least 10-15 mins early for your appointment.

The Saturday clinics at the KMC will be overseen by Nurse Practitioners Olivier Lemay and Chelsea Albright. Olivier and Chelsea will alternate Saturdays, occasionally providing clinic services on the same day, as their schedules allow.

Clinic hours for Saturdays will run from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Olivier specializes in adult care and will be unable to see child patients. Chelsea will be seeing children and adult patients.

There will be one administrative staff person available to answer the phone and take calls for appointments. Therefore, we ask the community to be patient and kind to our administrative staff when calling in for a Saturday appointment.

To schedule an appointment for the Saturday clinics with either Olivier Lemay, NP, or Chelsea Albright, NP, please call 613-938-5808 on the morning of the clinic starting at 8:00 a.m.

## **TRADITIONAL MEDICINES MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The MCA Department of Health's Traditional Medicines Program is pleased to offer a unique mentorship opportunity for community members interested in learning about traditional medicine practices.

Participants will gain hands-on experience in: Identifying medicinal plants; Harvesting in various environments; Processing plants into traditional medicines

### **Program Details:**

- No prior experience required
- Must be comfortable walking in swamps, fields, and forests
- Must be willing to travel throughout the community and nearby areas
- Bi-weekly commitment from May to October
- Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Registration Deadline: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To register, please submit a letter of intent to Jasmine Jimerson at [jasmine.jimerson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:jasmine.jimerson@akwesasne.ca).

For more information, call 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.

## **ADOPT-A-MEDICINE: GROW WITH US FOR THE UPCOMING HEALTH FAIR**

The MCA Traditional Medicines Program is preparing for the 2025 Health Fair — and we're inviting you to help bring our medicines to life!

Support the event by adopting a medicine plant to grow in your office window. With just a little sunshine, water, and good intentions, you can help these plants thrive in time for the Health Fair on May 22, 2025.

## **BRUNCH, BINGO, & BIG SMILES: IAKHIHSOHTHA MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

The amazing staff at Iakhihsohta Lodge recently treated our totas to a heartwarming Mother's Day Brunch — and it was a day to remember! Residents enjoyed a delicious meal with their families, followed by a lively game of bingo. The lucky winner took home a beautiful floral arrangement handcrafted by our very own Cindy Lazore. A huge nia:wen to our talented kitchen team for preparing a delicious spread of sandwiches, treats, and fresh fruit! We were honoured to welcome officers from Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services, the RCMP, and staff from Akwesasne Child & Family Services, who kindly helped serve food and visited with residents and families. Your presence and support were truly appreciated. Special thanks to the wonderful activity team — Mary Faye Roundpoint, Mona Thompson, and Loveday McDonald — for organizing this memorable celebration.

## **IAKHIHSOHTHA CELEBRATES NURSES WEEK**

Iakhihsohta Lodge celebrated the dedicated and loving nurses who provide care to all the tota's at the lodge. Lodge staff extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible team of nurses. Their unwavering dedication, compassion, and hard work are the backbone of our community, and we are immensely proud of the care they provide every day.

To honor our nurses, we treated them to a special lunch and presented them with a heartfelt gift as a token of our appreciation. This gesture is just a small way to say thank you for their tireless efforts and the positive impact they have on the lives of our residents and their families.

Our nurses are more than just healthcare providers; they are the heart and soul of Iakhihsohtha Lodge. Their commitment to excellence and their compassionate care make a world of difference, and we are truly fortunate to have such an outstanding team.

Please join us in celebrating and thanking our nurses for their extraordinary contributions. Their dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed, and we are forever grateful for their service.

### **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORT IS HERE FOR YOU**

Feeling overwhelmed? Need someone to talk to? The MCA Department of Health's Mental Health & Wellness Sector offers confidential support for both community members and employees.

Therapy and addictions counselling are available through virtual and phone appointments, as well as in-person sessions at satellite locations throughout Cornwall. We can also connect you with trusted community partners for additional support. Your privacy matters. Support is available for both MCA employees and Akwesasne community members who prefer services outside of Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

To learn more or book an appointment, call 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.

## **Public Safety**

### **Ranatiosta Swamp, Acting Chief of Police**

**CAM SAFE-** Upcoming "volunteer only" community watch program- Installation of private exterior home cameras that capture roadways of area. Camera footage is private with no access other than the homeowner. In the event of a crime in the area, homeowners can provide access to footage to AMPS for review for investigation.

**Emergency Measures-** Marvin McDonald has stepped away from his position as emergency measures officer.

**Alcohol Sales-** There have been reports of alcohol sales at businesses located in the Northern portion of Akwesasne, the police are aware and shared that Alcohol sales are still prohibited and will follow up.

### **POLICE WEEK 2025: CELEBRATING SAFETY & CONNECTION IN AKWESASNE**

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) will be celebrating Police Week from May 9–16, 2025. During this time, we honor the strong partnerships between police, first responders, community organizations, and the people they proudly serve.

Police Week is a time to recognize the collective efforts that form the foundation of community safety. Through collaboration, education, and respect, we can build safer, stronger communities for everyone. It's also an opportunity to thank the dedicated officers, dispatchers, firefighters, EMS, and community members who work hard every day to make Akwesasne a safer place to live.



Throughout the week, AMPS and our community partners will be hosting a variety of events including youth engagement activities, safety demonstrations, and community meals. We're especially excited to unveil the new CPS mascot at the Cornwall Open House on May 14 – don't miss it!

Let's come together to celebrate, connect, and continue building trust and safety across Akwesasne. View the 2025 Police Week schedule here: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/amps-police-week-2025/>

### **CALL OUT FOR AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is currently filling six (6) vacant seats on the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission (AMPC); two (2) seats each for the districts of Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, and Tsi Snaihne with a term of three (3) years.

In accordance with the Akwesasne Mohawk Policing Agreement and the AMPC Charter, all interested residents are asked to submit completed packages no later than Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

### **AMPS & ACFS SERVE UP SMILES AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE**

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service was honored to spend a heartwarming afternoon at the Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility, sharing lunch and laughter with our beloved totas!

A special nia:wen goes out to Community Service Officer Nathan Thompson and Marcey Thompson of Akwesasne Child & Family Services for their kindness and dedication.



We also extend our deepest thanks to the amazing nurses and cooks who helped make this day so special — your hard work and care brings many smiles to our elders' faces!

### **Works in Progress:**

- Continuing to meet with Portfolio Departments and Committees to support in reaching goals set out in strategic plan.
- Continue to attend weekly Monday Council Meetings to review MCR's and Discussion Items

### **Collaborative Opportunities:**

- Iroquois Caucus
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Iroquois Caucus (IC)
- CBSA Border Partners
- Tri-Council Initiatives with SRMT
- SIBC Toll Increase



## **Upcoming Travel/ Events:**

- Personal Vacation May 26<sup>th</sup> -June 4<sup>th</sup> ,2025

## **Community Announcements:**

### **NOW AVAILABLE: MCA SERVICE DIRECTORY**

Looking for information on programs and services available in Akwesasne? The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Programs & Services Directory is here to help!

This comprehensive guide provides an overview of MCA's departments, including health, education, public safety, social services, economic development, and more — all in one place. Find contact details, program descriptions, and resources to help you navigate available services.

**View it online:** [www.akwesasne.ca/mca-service-directory](http://www.akwesasne.ca/mca-service-directory)

Physical copies are available at MCA offices across Akwesasne, the AMBE Administration Office, and the Native North American Travelling College. Copies will also be available at MCA District & General Meetings for distribution.

### **REAL ID REMINDER: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

Starting May 7, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will enforce the REAL ID Act. If you're planning to fly within the United States, you'll need to show a REAL ID-compliant card or another acceptable form of identification at TSA checkpoints.

Good News for Akwesasnon:

You do not need a REAL ID to fly domestically if you have one of the following:

1. Tribal ID (issued by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe)
2. Canadian Status Card (issued by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne)

These cards will continue to be accepted for U.S. domestic flights as they are federally recognized forms of identification.

What is REAL ID?

REAL ID is a U.S. federal law that sets new security standards for state-issued IDs like driver's licenses. After May 7, 2025, only REAL ID-compliant licenses or other approved IDs will be accepted to:

- Board domestic flights in the U.S.
- Enter secure federal buildings
- Visit military bases

REAL ID cards have a star marking on the top of the card.

Not REAL ID Ready?

You can still use:

- U.S. passport or passport card
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)
- Federally recognized tribal IDs
- Indigenous Services Canada status cards
- NEXUS/Global Entry cards
- And more...

To avoid delays or missed flights, be sure your ID is on the TSA's list of accepted documents.

Visit [www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification](http://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification) for the full list and updates.  
For more detailed information, check the DHS REAL ID FAQs: [dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs](https://dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs)

## **AKWESASNE COMMUNITY FUND: CALL OUT FOR 2025-2026 FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

The Akwesasne Community Fund Review Team, on behalf of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, is pleased to announce that applications to receive funding from the Akwesasne Community Fund are now available. Council has set aside a portion of the revenue received from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC) to support various initiatives that might not otherwise receive government funding. The funding that's been set aside is referred to as the Akwesasne Community Fund.

A total of \$300,000 is available for distribution in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Applications are accepted from not-for-profit community-based groups, organizations, agencies, sports associations, etc. who want to help build a stronger community.

The Akwesasne Community Fund guidelines and application forms may be picked up at MCA's Admin. 1 Building ("A-frame"), which is located at 12 Akwesasne Street in the District of Kana:takon, or downloaded at [akwesasne.ca](http://akwesasne.ca)

Deadline to apply is Thursday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

## **CALLING AKWESASNE YOUTH: JOIN THE ENTEWATATHÁ:WI COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

Are you passionate about Akwesasne's future?

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Nation Building Program is looking for one youth community member to join the Entewatathá:wi Communications Working Group — a team that helps shape our Self-Government Agreement and how we share that journey with the community. You'll help guide our strategies, give input on communications, and bring a youth voice to the table!

How to apply: Send a short letter of interest and your resume to Rachel Lazare at [rachel.lazare@akwesasne.ca](mailto:rachel.lazare@akwesasne.ca) or drop it off at the MCA Admin. 1 Building in Kana:takon.

Questions? Reach out to Entewatathá:wi at 613-575-2250.

Be a voice for your community — get involved today!

## **AMBE REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk Board of Education is reminding families that student registration for the 2025–2026 school year is currently open and will close on **May 30, 2025**. Parents and

guardians can enroll children in K4 through Grade 8 at any of the three district schools: Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk School (AMS), Kana:takon School, and Tsi Snaihne School.

Registration packets will be available at each district school and the AMBE Board Office, located at 169 International Road, Akwesasne, ON. At this time, online registration is not available. To enroll in K4, children must be four years old by September 30, 2025, and fully potty trained.

When submitting a registration, families will need to provide:

- 2025–2026 Registration Form
- Child's immunization record or waiver
- Child's birth certificate
- Child's Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card)
- Child's health card

For more information, please contact AMBE at 613-933-0409.

### **AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW UPDATE & NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBER**

In pursuit of fair and just laws for our community, the Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD) called for a Tsi Snáihne district community member to serve on the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development. This Committee is comprised of appointed community representatives and Council who draft legislation to protect and advance the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, guided by principles of peace, respect, and fairness. We are pleased to announce that the successful candidate to represent Tsi Snáihne is Theresa Benedict.

Theresa has been a vital researcher with the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) since October 2018, working to preserve Akwesasne's history and cultural heritage while providing educational materials to the community. Her contributions to key projects like the Dundee-Tsi:karistisere and St. Lawrence Seaway Referendums highlight her dedication to advancing the community's interests. Theresa also supported individuals involved in the Federal Indian Day School Class Action, offering guidance with care and commitment. Her ongoing efforts to protect Akwesasne rights and celebrate its culture will bring valuable insight to the OSC.

We are excited to welcome Theresa to the Committee, where she will oversee and receive Council and community input, provide community guidance and direction in the development of Akwesasne Laws, and consider and balance the diversity of perspectives. Niawen:kówa for your commitment to the community of Akwesasne, and congratulations Theresa!

### **UPDATE ON THE AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW (AEL):**

Now that the required community representation is met for the Committee — with one member from each district — work can commence on the AEL Amendment(s). According to the Oversight Committee on Legislative Terms of Reference (TOR), “In order to conduct business for the Oversight Committee, a quorum of three Oversight Committee members is necessary.”

Since the four other members of the OSC are Justice Portfolio Chiefs, it would be a conflict of interest for them to work on the AEL. Therefore, quorum could not be met to establish a working task group (WTG) until a new Tsi Snáihne District member was accepted through MCR to serve on the OSC.

The next official OSC meeting will be held this week to discuss forming a Working Task Group (WTG) for the AEL. Along with the three district representatives, WTG members will include MCA staff who serve as administrative and technical support. This team will help guide the amendment process. Moving forward, the AEL WTG will address the petition and decide how to proceed. We appreciate your patience and will provide the community with another update as soon as possible.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: AKWESASNE SERENITY FARMS**

[Akwesasne Serenity Farms](#) is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks, including animal care, general grounds maintenance, and light repairs to farm structures.

If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Jean Laffin:

Address: 86 Jock Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655

Phone: 518-358-2437

Cell: 518-353-8468

### **TRIVIA NIGHT FOR TSI SNAIHNE SCHOOL**

Get ready to put your thinking caps on — and maybe your sunglasses too! Join Quizmasters Reen Cook and Roger Mitchell for a night of laughs, friendly competition, and brainy beach vibes at the Summer Vacation–themed Trivia Night in support of Tsi Snaihne School.

American Legion Post 1479

Friday, May 30, 2025

Starts at 7:00 p.m.

\$100 USD/CAD per team

### **SAVE THE DATE: AMBE CULTURAL CELEBRATION**

Spring is in the air — and so is the excitement for the annual AMBE Cultural Celebration! Join us at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena as we come together to honour our culture, language, and traditions through song, dance, storytelling, and more.

Two celebration days:

- **May 22, 2025** – For AMBE Childcare, K3 to Grade 3 students

- **May 29, 2025** – For AMBE students in Grades 4 to 8

Families are welcome to attend and celebrate with us — more details will be shared soon!

### **NOW ACCEPTING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: 2025 InSTEM EDUCATOR LAND CAMP**

Actua, in partnership with Virtual Ventures at Carleton University and Thompson Island Cultural Camp, invites educators to express interest in attending the 4th InSTEM Educator Land Camp — a transformative opportunity to explore the integration of Indigenous land-based Knowledges into STEM education.

This free professional learning experience brings together educators and Indigenous Knowledge Holders for four days of hands-on learning, cultural exchange, and community building in Akwesasne.

Location: Thompson Island Cultural Camp

Dates: August 12–15, 2025

### **WHO SHOULD APPLY?**

- STEM educators, including K–12 teachers, pre-service teachers, administrators, and board consultants in Ontario
- Educators committed to improving how Indigenous youth experience STEM Priority will be given to Indigenous educators and those from Akwesasne, Eastern Ontario, and Ottawa.

### **COST:**

Attendance is free. Travel to the Ottawa rendezvous point is at participants' own expense. Travel support may be available for pre-service and Indigenous educators from outside Ottawa.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

To express your interest, email [education@actua.ca](mailto:education@actua.ca) by May 21, 2025. A short application period will follow.

Let's work together to support systemic change in STEM education — grounded in respect, culture, and connection to land.

View the flyer at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/instem-educator-land-camp-2025/>

### **PET WELLNESS CLINIC UPDATE — REGISTRATION POSTPONED**

The MCA Compliance Department is partnering with the Ontario SPCA to host an upcoming MASH-style spay and neuter clinic for Akwesasne pet owners.

Please note: The in-person registration originally scheduled for Thursday, May 1 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center has been postponed due to a funeral meal being held at the location. We would like to send our condolences to the family and friends mourning the loss of their loved one.

**Registration for the pet wellness clinics will now take place on Tuesday, May 6 at the same location and times.**

#### Clinic Dates & Prices:

##### *June 13–14 — Dogs*

- Spay (under 15kg): \$288
- Spay (15–30kg): \$321
- Neuter (under 15kg): \$227
- Neuter (15–30kg): \$267

##### *June 15 — Cats*

- Spay: \$148

- Neuter: \$119

Additional wellness services will be available at extra subsidized costs.

For more information, please email [compliance.department@akwesasne.ca](mailto:compliance.department@akwesasne.ca). Please see the attached flyer.

### **CALL OUT FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Finance Committee is currently filling three (3) vacant seats on the Finance Committee:

- One (1) vacant seat for the district of Kana:takon, with a term of not less than three (3) years
- One (1) vacant seat for the district of Kawehno:ke, with a term of not less than three (3) years
- One (1) vacant seat for the district of Tsi Snaihne, with a term of not less than three (3) years

The Finance Committee is established to provide Council with advice and recommendations in order to support Council's decision-making process respecting the Financial Administration of Akwesasne, in line with the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law which came into effect September 1, 2019. In the spirit of transparency, accountability and integrity the Finance Committee shall assist Council with safeguarding community assets by ensuring compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

The Honorarium rate for this position is determined by Council's Honorarium Policy.

Candidates are required to complete an MCA Finance Committee Application, available in the Executive Services Office (Administration 1 Building). Candidates are also required to submit a letter of interest on how they meet the criteria established in the Finance Committee Charter.

All interested individuals are asked to submit a completed package no later than Friday, June 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Questions and submissions can be directed to:

Dante Mitchell, Executive Assistant to the Grand Chief

Mohawk Government

PO Box 90

Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0

[dante.mitchell@akwesasne.ca](mailto:dante.mitchell@akwesasne.ca)

(613) 575-2250 ext. 2161

### **CALL OUT: KANIEN'KEHA LANGUAGE CONSULTANT**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Economic Development, in partnership with Thompson Island Cultural Camp, is seeking a Kanien'keha Language Consultant to help bring the language to life through workshops, activities, and community programs.

This role is focused on promoting the Kanien'keha language by weaving it into cultural programming — including hands-on workshops, land-based activities, and the potential for community language lessons.

Deadline to apply: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Please submit your availability (weekends, days, evenings, etc.), hourly rate, letter of interest, and resume to:

Jessica Shenandoah Coordinator, Thompson Island Cultural Camp

Email: [jessica.shenandoah@akwesasne.ca](mailto:jessica.shenandoah@akwesasne.ca)

Phone: (613) 575-2250 ext. 1804

### **OVS POP-UP LOCATION FOR STATUS CARDS**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) will be offering a pop-up location for laminated status card renewals — bringing services directly to the District of Tsi Snaihne for community convenience.

Join us on Saturday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute. Appointments are required — please call 613-575-2250 ext. 1013 or email [ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca](mailto:ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca) to schedule. Be sure to bring a piece of ID, such as a driver's license or health card.

The cost to renew is \$10, or \$5 if you bring in your expired card.

If you're unable to attend the pop-up session, you're welcome to book an appointment at the main OVS office located at CIA #3 on Kawehno:ke.

Please note: This pop-up is not for Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) cards. A separate session for SCIS will be offered on June 13 & 14 at Iohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne.



# Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict



## Kawehno:ke District

**Email:** [chief.lisa.fbenedict@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.lisa.fbenedict@akwesasne.ca) **Cell:** 613-577-5593

### PORTFOLIOS

Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Education  
(AMBE)  
Department of Infrastructure, Housing and  
Environment (DIHE)  
Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD)  
Entewatathá:wi Nation Building (NB)

### COMMITTEES

#### **Internal:**

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Governance,  
Iroquois Caucus (IC), Youth, Elders, Culture and  
Language (YECL)

#### **External:**

Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council  
(FNWC)  
Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs & Technical Committee on  
Languages and Learning (CTCLL)  
Chiefs of Ontario ~ Bilateral Education and Learning  
Table (OBELT)

### Monthly Report for May/Onerahtohkó:wa 2025

*Meetings attended for the month are as follows:*

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Chiefs of Ontario ~ Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning Meeting  
Akwesasne Justice Department ~ Oversight Committee on Legislative Development Meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Council Meeting  
National MMIWG2S+ Awareness Day (Missing and Murdered)
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Meeting with Cornwall Community Hospital Representatives  
Youth, Elders, Culture and Language Committee Meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Meeting with Directors ~ First Nations Child and Family Services Funding
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Justice Portfolio Meeting  
Fire Law Working Task Group Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup>** Governance Committee Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Chiefs of Ontario Tri-Council Meeting ~ First Nations Women's Council, Ontario First Nations Young  
Peoples Council, Knowledge Keepers Council
- 12<sup>th</sup>** Council Meeting  
Kawehno:ke District Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup>** Green Team/Beautification/Waterways Committee Meeting  
Special General Meeting
- 14<sup>th</sup>** Visit ~ Tri-District Elders Weekly Gathering  
Meeting with Community Member
- 15<sup>th</sup>** Meeting ~ Blue Box for Community  
Nation Building Portfolio ~ Negotiations Prep Meeting
- 16<sup>th</sup>** Presentation by Dr. Horn  
Meeting ~ Internal Agreement New York State Land Claim
- 20<sup>th</sup>** Youth, Elders, Culture and Language Committee Meeting  
Canada Border Services Agency ~ Governance Meeting  
Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education ~ Board of Trustees Meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup>** Council Strategic Planning Session

*This monthly report is provided as part of the Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios and Monthly Activities.*



- 22<sup>nd</sup> United States of Catholic Bishops on Indigenous Human Trafficking Discussion Day  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Chiefs of Ontario ~ First Nations Women's Council Meeting  
 Ahkwesasne Mohawk School Planning Meeting ~ Middle School Unity Day  
 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Department of Community and Social Services Policy Review Meeting  
 Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment ~ Infrastructure Portfolio Meeting  
 28<sup>th</sup> Chiefs of Ontario ~ Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table Meeting  
 Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment ~ Housing Authority Meeting  
 Kawehno:ke Recreation Multi-Purpose Facility Working Task Group Meeting  
 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Akwesasne Youth Council  
 General Meeting

As you see, there are many meetings held throughout the month. There are also many good things in the works and offered by programs of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Stay tuned to the MCA Facebook page for details on upcoming events. In addition to the committees as noted-above, I have been asked and agreed to sit on the Board of the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club. In addition, I have agreed to sit in on the Regional Committee on First Nations Languages Quebec.



### **\$1,000 One-Time Assistance for Eligible Households to Combat Rising Food Costs**

The **Family Sustainability Project** has been announced for a few weeks now. The deadline to apply to get on the list is fastly approaching. Be sure to get on the list, if not already, to benefit from this initiative.

This is brought to the community to provide relief to families during these present economic times and to ease with the burden.

For any further questions, please refer to the contact information on the flyer.

This past month there has been a lot of discussion on **Kanien'kéha Language Revitalization**. Funding has

been provided that supports some present initiatives. MCA will also be reviewing and discussing the creation of a language support unit within the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. This is a great start in supporting language revitalization.

**Have you seen or used iMohawk yet?** iMohawk is AMBE's interactive website where you can learn Kanien'kéha anywhere and at any time. Click the link <http://imohawk.ambe.ca/> and use password: skah123 to log in.

Council participated in a **Strategic Planning Session** for a full day of discussion. The strategic plan will be updated accordingly. Other sessions are being coordinated to continue the review and finalization of the Strategic Plan for the present Council 2025-2028. Once this is complete, a presentation will be made to the community. *The branches of the plan are as follows:*

- Governance/Politics
- Economic Development
- Culture and Language
- Health and Well-Being
- Social Development
- Environment and Infrastructure
- MCA Service Efficiency

**Entewatathá:wi (Nation Building) Portfolio**

Surveys were collected up to Onerahtohkó:wa 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Information collected related to community awareness, thoughts on the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA). This feedback will help strengthen communication with the community. If you have any questions, contact the Entewatathá:wi program at [entewatathawi@akwesasne.ca](mailto:entewatathawi@akwesasne.ca) or 613-575-2250 ext. 3190.

**Education Portfolio**

Did you know the Board of Trustees meet monthly and the first part of the meeting is designated for community members to meet with the Board of Trustees? Refer to the AMBE Facebook page for meeting dates and locations. Meetings rotate amongst the three district schools.

<b><u>Board of Trustees</u></b>		
<b><u>Kawehno:ke</u></b> Kathleen Papineau, Chair Kuy Chaussi, Co-Chair	<b><u>Kana:takon</u></b> Cecelia King Elizabeth Sawatis	<b><u>Tsi Snaihne</u></b> Josephine Herne Mary Terrance

*To get in touch with one of the Board of Trustees contact the Board Office at 613-933-0409.*

This is so awesome! The upcoming **Unity Day for AMBE Middle School Students** is the first ever event of this sort. The planning committee, consisted of students and staff have been meeting since fall 2024 and now the event is coming to fruition.

*Koodoos to the planning committee and nia:wen for your commitment to making this happen. I will look forward to the event in school year 2025-2026.*

***If you have any questions, contact the AMBE Office at 613-933-0409.***



## Justice Portfolio

There has been extensive work on the **Eniethihswanon:na ~ Child's Rights Law** over the past few years. The law supports the inherent right to care for our Ratiksa'okòn:'a (Akwasasne Children) based on our traditions, principles and values, and have maintained jurisdiction over our Ratiksa'okòn:'a. The law is a critical step in exercising jurisdiction over Kaksà:ta (Akwasasne child) and Kahwá:tsire (Akwasasne family) matters for the Mohawks of Akwasasne. The Akwasasne Law Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR) will be followed for the development of the law.

The Law is in **Phase 1: Law Development Phase** and underwent the Legal Review. The next step is to present to Council for Post-Legal review. Please see the steps that are followed in the chart.

*A copy of the ALEPR can be found on the website [www.akwasasne.ca](http://www.akwasasne.ca).*

If you have any further questions on law development, contact Alyson Thompson ~ Legislative Services Manager at 613-575-2250, ext. 2400.

## Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Portfolio

This portfolio is separated into three sectors: *Infrastructure, Housing and Environment*.

The **Infrastructure Sector** mainly focuses on capital projects but overall oversees the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment. This includes Maintenance, Capital Planning and Development, Waste and Waste Water, Roads, Environment and Housing.

