

# AKWESASNE CHILD'S RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES LAW

## Frequently Asked Questions

### List #1 – August 2022

**1. Q. What is the Child's Rights & Responsibilities Law**

A. It's a law that will determine how a child should be protected, treated and cared for when involved with child protection and Akwesasne Child & Family Services. It will also include components of protecting the rights and responsibilities of families, grandparents, caregivers and child protection workers.

**2. Q. Why are we developing this law?**

A. In January 2020, Canada passed Bill C-92, which gives First Nations the authority to exercise jurisdiction over their own children and families without interference from the province or government. This is important, because in the past many indigenous children have suffered culture and identity loss when they've been placed by the province in non-indigenous communities. The culturally specific needs of indigenous children in child protection have not been recognized historically. Indigenous children are best served through legislation written for their specific culture and history, by their own communities. Per the language of Bill C-92, in order for First Nations to have authority without interference from Canada, a child protection law must be in place. Therefore, the legislative development process has been enacted for this law to be created in Akwesasne.

**3. Q. Without our own law, what law would apply?**

A. The provincial law would apply. In Akwesasne, Ontario or Quebec child protection laws would apply.

**4. Q. When will the law be in place?**

A. The Working Task Group has determined a timeline that foresees a draft being completed by late 2023. It will have to be accepted/ratified by the community at that time in order to be enacted.

**5. Q. Who will enforce the law?**

A. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police have authority to enforce community laws.