

ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

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FREE

Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 2023



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is proud to share some great highlights and achievements by our programs and departments that took place throughout 2022 in this issue of Onkwe'ta:ke! We thank our programs, staff, council and community for another successful year and look forward to serving you in 2023! Have a safe and happy New Year!

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

January General Meeting

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's next General Meeting will take place on January 26, 2023 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre at 6 p.m.

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

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

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2021-2024

Grand Chief

Abram Benedict

Kana:takon District

Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell

Chief Larry King

Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

Chief Tim Thompson

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Vanessa Adams

Chief Jackie Benedict

Chief Edward Roundpoint

Chief Vince Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief April Adams-Phillips

Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo

Chief JoAnn Swamp

Chief Dwayne Thomas

Administration

Ann Seymour

Executive Director

Heather Phillips

Director

Dept. of Finance &

Administration

Leslie Papineau

A/Director

Dept. of Infrastructure,

Housing & Environment

Joyce King

Director

Justice Department

Joseph Morin-Lauzon

Director

Dept. of Community

& Social Services

Amber Montour

Director

Department of Health

Donna Lahache

Director

Akwesasne Mohawk

Board of Education

Shawn Dulude

Chief of Police/Director

Dept. of Public Safety

Kylee Tarbell

Director

Dept. of Economic

Development

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

A Message from the MCA Communications Team

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne continues to serve the community by providing information through a broad system of communication methods and products. We deliver news and updates to you through this newsletter, daily announcements, community meetings, radio ads, newspaper articles, e-newsletters, billboards, social media campaigns, mailers, and most recently through mobile text alerts. During times of urgency, connecting with you by sending important announcements directly to your cell phone has been effective. We save these alerts for the news that is most important for you to receive, such as power outages, election reminders, road closures, and MCA/AMBE delays. Please don't miss an important announcement from us and sign up for these free text alerts by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts. It will only take 30 seconds and you'll be connected to our most urgent communications.

We thank you for continuing to stay connected and informed.

FIVE THINGS

The following are five highlights from the year 2022 that we can celebrate as we move into a new year with new goals and continued ambition.

1

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: While COVID-19 continues to be a part of life, this year we celebrated our community's resilience after a difficult two years of great isolation and limited social functions. We have expanded our ability to be more social and less constrained, with continued precautions still being a key factor in keeping ourselves and others safe from sickness. Our organization and community has learned a lot throughout the pandemic. Most of all, we've learned to appreciate seeing one another face to face and spending time with those we care about.

2

NEW FACES IN LEADERSHIP: In 2022, MCA welcomed a new executive director, Ann Seymour, who has lead the organization on a path toward wellness. Toward the end of the year, we also welcomed back Kana:takon District Chief Larry King, who was elected in a by-election following the resignation of Ryan Jacobs (who accepted a new role in education.)

3

GROWTH & EXPANSION: This year, MCA celebrated two new endeavors that both benefit youth. The Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy Program (under the Dept. of Justice) launched in Cornwall, Ontario to assist children and families in need of access to support when involved with the Children's Aid Society. MCA also celebrated the exciting opening of the Akwesasne Skatepark - a unique, sprawling course for anyone on wheels.

4

JUSTICE IS SERVED: In order to ensure the community's justice-related needs continue to be met and that services can be offered, the Akwesasne Justice Department celebrated the confirmation and appointment of four new community justices: Alexandria David, Mellani Martin, Rhonda Garrow, and Theresa Thompson.

5

HONOURING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL VICTIMS: Orange Shirt Day was brightly acknowledged this year with activities taking place all over Akwesasne. Widespread wearing of orange shirts, socials in honour of residential school victims, and even unveiling of orange benches in our neighboring city of Cornwall, were all part of ensuring the day was treated with significance.

NEWS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNVEILED NEW MOBILE CLINIC

In February 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) had unveiled the new Mobile Clinic Medical Unit to the community. The Mobile Clinic Medical Unit is a single-bed exam room that will enable MCA's medical providers to host various clinics within the three districts of Akwesasne.

The mobile clinic unit will greatly assist in reducing waiting room times and lineups for access to services, provide door-to-door services, will reduce the need for health workers being required to enter patient homes, provide mobile vaccination capability, and offer mobile mental health and counseling services. The mobile unit is equipped with Wi-Fi capabilities, enabling medical providers to access medical records onsite, heat and A/C within the exam space, sink and tap water capable, and a single patient bed with mattress for exams.

The DOH is excited to offer this new service to the community and looks forward to more progressive health care services within the department.



NEWS

MCA WELCOMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In March 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomed Ann Seymour to the organization as Executive Director for a 1-year term.

Ms. Seymour is Ojibway and a registered member of Wikwemikong Unceded Territory. She shares that she is married to Travis Seymour of Akwesasne and they are the parents of four young adults.

Ms. Seymour has a Master’s degree in Social Work (McGill), a Master’s in Business Administration (Simon Fraser University), and is currently working on a PhD. Her research interests include mental health and wellness, suicide prevention, and reconnecting to the land to promote wellness. She is also a Registered

Social Worker (RSW), and Certified First Nations Health Manager (CFNHM).

It’s been a pleasure having Ann part of the team.



DCSS PRESENTED FUNDS TO RECREATION CENTRES

In March 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Department of Community & Social Services, and Akwesasne Child & Family Services proudly presented \$100,000 checks to each district recreation center. The funds were provided by Indigenous Services Canada (Prevention/Least Disruptive Measures) and will allow recipients to further upgrade and advance their facility’s

infrastructure. This contribution will help ensure that each recreation center can continue to provide a safe, accessible environment for Akwesasronon; MCA looks forward to the expansion of community programming and initiatives that will be offered to our youth and families!



NEWS

LEAF-SAUCIER FAMILY RECEIVED KEYS TO NEW HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME

After three years of planning and construction, the Leaf-Saucier family received the keys to their new home on March 31, 2022. The family of seven was the gracious recipient of the Habitat for Humanity home that required the cooperation and generosity of many organizations.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne partnered with Habitat for Humanity early on in this project when it was approached with a request to donate a plot of land on Montreal Road/Highway 2. Council agreed, and so began a new relationship between the two organizations.

Congratulations to the Leaf-Saucier family, enjoy your new home and memories!



AKWESASNE SKATEPARK RECEIVED GENEROUS DONATIONS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to extend our utmost appreciation to the various businesses, individuals and organizations who have donated to the Akwesasne Skatepark. During the month of March, Cornwall Dairy Queen owner Nolan Quinn presented a generous donation of \$10,000. The Akwesasne Skatepark also received \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of Cornwall and \$241,000 from Canadian Tire + Jumpstart to name a few.

Thank you very much, as these generous donations helped bring a dream into a reality!



NEWS

MCA ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF FOUR JUSTICES

In April 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne held a Swearing-In Ceremony to announce the confirmation and appointments of four new Ratiianerenhserakwenienhstha (Justices): Alexandra David, Mellani Martin, Rhonda Garrow, and Theresa Thompson. The Justices were sworn in by the Director of the Akwesasne Justice Department, who also holds an appointment as a Justice of the Peace, Joyce King.



AKWESASNE CELEBRATED NEW PROGRAM OFFICE IN CORNWALL TO ASSIST CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In April 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne celebrated the opening of an expanded program to assist children and families who are in need of child protection-related services.

The Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program (ARAP) officially opened its doors on April 25, 2022 at 55 Water Street, Cornwall, with the purpose to assist Mohawk families who are involved with Children’s Aid Societies (CAS). The new location will improve our ability to support those who would ordinarily reside in Akwesasne but are currently residing anywhere else across Canada.



NEWS

DOH, DCSS CELEBRATED STAFF GRADUATING FROM “GATHERING OUR MEDICINE” TRAINING

In May 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) held a celebration for staff members that completed the “Gathering Our Medicine” training program.

Gathering Our Medicine is a cross-cultural model intended to facilitate the restoration of care of indigenous youth to the kinship circle, led by traditional indigenous wisdom while being informed by the

attachment theory, restores the kinship circle as the answer in the lives of indigenous youth, and restores dignity to the role of caring most naturally situated within families and communities.

Congratulations to the staff members that completed the Gathering Our Medicines training program! We look forward to the good work and collaborations that will develop in the near future.



ACFS DONATED \$974,000 TO AKWESASNE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

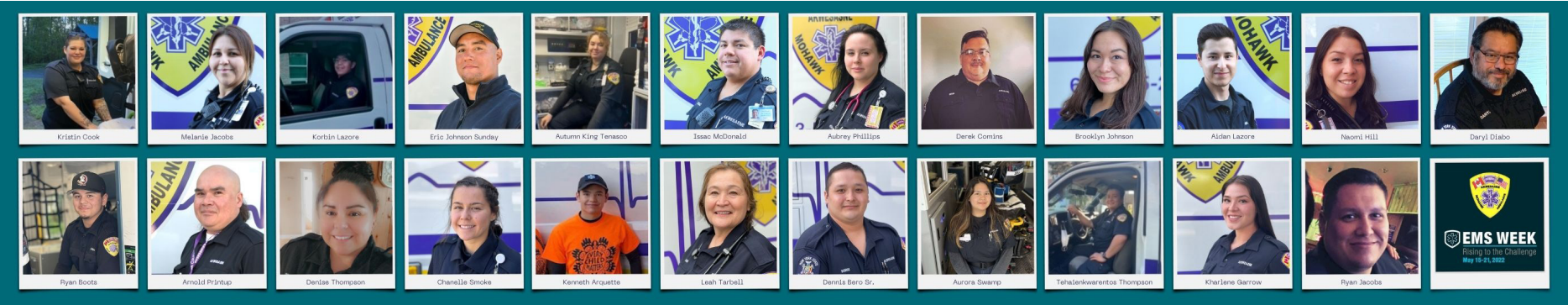
In May 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Akwesasne Child & Family Services Program proudly presented a check to the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club for over \$974,000. These funds were provided by Indigenous Services Canada (Least Disruptive Measures Prevention Surplus) through ACFS and are designed to ensure the health, safety, and security of our children, youth, and their families. This donation will assist the ABGC in providing after-school services, along with a summer prevention program for kids!



NEWS

DOH RECOGNIZED STAFF FOR NATIONAL EMS WEEK

In May 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne recognized the emergency medical staff of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance. We count on them when our lives depend on it, and they respond in a flash, applying their skills and knowledge even in difficult situations. Their commitment to helping others is honourable. Nia:wenko:wa for the important job you all do!



DOH RECOGNIZED NURSES APPRECIATION WEEK

Throughout our medical clinics, offices, and long-term care facilities, nurses are working to ensure that the best healthcare is being provided to our community members. Whether they are hands on treating patients, or behind the scenes applying medical knowledge to planning and operations, we rely on our nurses every day. It is a selfless choice one makes to become a nurse, and we are lucky to have so many kind-hearted, hard-working, and care-giving nurses in our organization. Nia:wenko:wa for all your hard work!



NEWS

IAKHIHSONHTA STAFF HOSTED '60'S FASHION SHOW' FOR RESIDENTS

In June 2022, the staff and residents of the Iakhihsohta Lodge took part in a 60's-themed fashion show. Residents of the Lodge donned their best outfits and accessories and strutted their stuff on the runway for their family members. Lodge staff assisted residents with their outfits, walking the runway, and MC'ing the event. Lodge staff also provided entertainment with dances during intermission to get the crowd and residents involved. Nia:wen/Thank you to the Iakhihsohta Lodge staff for putting on another memorable event for the residents and their families.



NEWS

MCA COMMEMORATED THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MMIWG’S FINAL REPORT

In June 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomed the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, to the community. Minister Miller joined MCA and community members for an event commemorating the anniversary of when the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls published its Final Report.

In an effort to honour this day, MCA held a discussion with Minister Miller and staff from various programs

across the organization. Representatives from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program, Wholistic Health & Wellness, and more presented information on the services provided regarding violence prevention and support for Onkwehonwe women and girls.

Thank you Minister Miller for taking the time to join us, speak with elders, and hear our concerns as a community.



NEWS

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE RECEIVED FUNDING FOR NEW INITIATIVE TO COMBAT FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

In June 2022, Quebec’s Ministry of Public Safety announced that it is funding the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) with \$6.2 million to combat firearms trafficking over the next five years. The funding is part of the Quebec government’s “Operation Centaur”, a \$90 million commitment to reduce gun trafficking and armed violence.

The investment aims to provide AMPS with five additional police officers, a new boat, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to strengthen the fight against the

illegal supply of firearms in the territory. The funding will also allow AMPS to increase their presence on the local rivers, both during summer and winter months.



AMBE & UCDSB RENEWED 5-YEAR AGREEMENT

In June 2022, representatives of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) met at the Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute to sign the renewal of their 5-year agreement.

This collaboration aims to assist the transition of AMBE elementary students into secondary schools within the UCDSB, along with providing student support and culturally-relevant programming.

“AMBE values our relationship with the Upper Canada School Board,” said Director of Education

Donna Lahache. “We have open communication and work collaboratively to support Akwesasne students throughout their high school journey.”



NEWS

AKWESASNE CELEBRATED GROUNDBREAKING OF NEW SKATEPARK

In June 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne officials and project team members celebrated a milestone with an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Akwesasne Skatepark, located at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena.

Construction for the 9,600 square-foot skatepark was ongoing throughout the summer, with a grand opening date of October 8, 2022.



The skatepark was constructed by Papillon Skateparks. The planning process has consisted of engagement and collection of design ideas from 30 skateboarders from Akwesasne, Cornwall/SDG and Tyendinaga. The Akwesasne Skatepark will not only cater to skateboarders but also to youth using scooters, bikes, rollerblades and wheelchairs. It will be a safe, outdoor place for people of all ages to work on their physical and mental health, while having fun.



IAKHIHSOHTHA STAFF HOSTED 'GREASE NIGHT'

In July 2022, the staff of the Iakhihsohta Lodge hosted a "Grease Night" for the residents and their families at the facility. The event consisted of entertainment from the Lodge staff, dancing, and lip-syncing to "Grease" hit songs, with each staff person dressed up as their respective favorite characters. Great job to the staff of the Iakhihsohta Lodge for another memorable event!



NEWS

MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES PATTY HAJDU VISITED AKWESASNE

In July 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomed Canada's Minister of Indigenous Services, Patty Hajdu, to the community at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre. The Honourable Patty Hajdu was appointed to lead the Ministry of Indigenous Services in December 2021.

Members of Council presented Minister Hajdu with an introduction to issues related to services and Indigenous rights. Concerns shared and discussed included the history of expropriation of Akwesasne lands and need to prevent it in the future, the (lack of) recognition of the Jay Treaty, the complications of retaining medical doctors due to jurisdictional and licensing factors, the Quebec language barrier, the negative impact of the Seaway International Bridge tolls, and the border crossing complications overall. Grand Chief Abram Benedict acknowledged that the CBSA and health exceptions made for Akwesasne during the pandemic to accommodate our community member's daily

travel and day-to-day business was appreciated and is an example of Akwesasne-specific needs we require collaboration on.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE WELCOMED THREE NEW CONSTABLES



In July 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service congratulated Austyn Boots, RJ Swamp and Nathan Boots, who successfully completed the Basic Constable Training course at the Ontario Police College. Congratulations to the new constables.

Thank you for serving the community in this vital role.



NEWS

ELDER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM HOSTED FAN MAKING CLASS

In August 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Wholistic Health & Wellness Program held a fan-making class for Totas. Nia:wen to our participants and Ian Clute of Two House Design-Crafters for leading the workshop. This class is just one installment of WHW's Elder Enrichment Program, which hosts different events and activities throughout each month.

For more information, call 613-575-2341 ext. 3115 or email wholistichealth@akwesasne.ca.



PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day, a day to raise awareness regarding the rising number of overdoses among our people and acknowledge the impact of stigma surrounding drug-related deaths. The SRMT Health Services Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Program, Akwesasne Mohawk Police, and the MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness Program hosted a two-day event to remember those we have lost and raise awareness regarding the opioid epidemic.



NEWS

AMPS RECOGNIZED NATIONAL POLICE WOMAN DAY

National Police Woman Day is celebrated each year on September 12. The day acknowledges and celebrates the contribution of women police officers who enforce law and order around the world.

In September 2022, the women (Deputy Chief Lee-Ann O'Brien, Detective Constable Rachel Thomas and Constable Amber Thomas) of the AMPS launched the look of their new Traditional Ribbon Skirts as part of the AMPS #1 dress uniform while attending the International Association of Women In Policing Annual Conference in Niagara Falls. Nia:wen Detective Constable Thomas for your time and initiative.



MCA WELCOMED NEW CBSA PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS FUTURE COLLABORATION

In September 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomed officials from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to a meeting on in the Tsi Snaihne District. The purpose was to discuss and determine updated priorities for the MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI). The BCI was first created in 2019 with the purpose being to use collaboration and "design-thinking" to improve the border crossing experience at Akwesasne/Cornwall. MCA thanks the CBSA team for their commitment to continuing the positive work of this initiative.



NEWS

AKWESASNE UNVEILED THREE NEW PARK BENCHES AT LAMOUREUX PARK

In September 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Representative and Advocacy Program (ARAP) had unveiled three orange benches in the City of Cornwall’s Lamoureux Park. The unveiling event packed the park with Cornwall and Akwesasne community members wearing orange for Orange Shirt Day.

Speeches were provided by MCA Director of Justice Joyce King, Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Cornwall Mayor Glen Grant, MPP Nolan Quinn, MP Eric Duncan, and Senator Bernadette Clement. The words of remorse, apology, reflection, honour and friendship were reflected throughout the late afternoon speeches.

The three benches unveiled will be located at the front entrance to the Civic Complex, the playground, and the splash pad.

Nia:wen to the ARAP staff for coordinating the positive and moving event.

ACCFUTURES HONOURED CHRIS THOMPSON THROUGH KELLY BACK COMMISSIONED ARTWORK



In September 2022, Cornwall’s ACCFutures held their annual general meeting in Akwesasne where they unveiled a beaded belt by Fire Loom Creations and local artist Kelly Back, who is Chris’s sister. The beaded presentation belt features Chris’ clan - turtle - and other cultural symbolism. It is displayed in a permanent display case at the ACCFutures office in Cornwall. Kelly attended the event to personally present the belt.

MCA acknowledges and applauds ACCFutures for their dedication to the late Chris Thompson, who also served as MCA’s Director of Economic Development. Congratulations to artist Kelly Back for her continued unique and stunning contributions to the art world.



NEWS

AMBE CELEBRATED ORANGE SHIRT DAY

In September 2022, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education held socials at the three district schools in honour of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

Students were able to come together to celebrate their culture as Kanien’kehá:ka as the Akwesasne Young Men’s Singing Group led students, teachers, and parents through multiple songs and dances for all to enjoy!



NEWS

AKWESASNE HISTORICAL EXHIBIT SHOWCASED AT KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO

During the month of October 2022, the Akwesasne Historial Exhibit was displayed in the Atrium at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility for all to enjoy. The portable exhibit showcased generational stories and information on Akwesasne's history. This initiative was funded by the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust, with additional support from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the SRMT Office of Economic Development.



AFWP HOSTED SEX TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

In October 2022, the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program hosted a successful conference to discuss the unique issues behind human/sex trafficking and the various ways we can offer support to survivors. Attendees were able to get information from local resources (such as the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and the Akwesasne Community Justice Program's Victims Services), learn about various recovery models, and hear from a survivor of sex trafficking.

The Akwesasne Family Wellness Program thanks everyone that attended and assisted in making this conference possible. If you have any questions about the program or are seeking support, please contact the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program at 613-937-4322 or at afwpoutreach@akwesasne.ca.



NEWS

AKWESASNE CELEBRATED OPENING OF NEW SKATEPARK

In October 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was thrilled to announce the opening of the Akwesasne Skatepark. Located at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena on Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island), the park is now open to serve the skateboarding, rollerblading, biking, scooter-riding, and wheelchair users from in and around the community.

"I would like to first acknowledge the team at the Department of Economic Development for their commitment and dedication for bringing this concept to reality," said Kawehno:ke District Chief Edward Roundpoint, speaking at the event on behalf of Grand

Chief Abram Benedict. "Through numerous corporate and private donations, this was all made possible."

In addition, a great deal of site preparation went into this project. We would like to acknowledge SIBC, the City of Cornwall, and Top of the World Skateshop for their support and assistance. Vans has also shown a great deal of support to the Akwesasne Skatepark, and they invited pro skaters to come to Akwesasne. We wish to welcome all of our community members and neighbours to enjoy the Akwesasne Skatepark. Please be safe and have fun!



NEWS

MCA HOSTED OPEN HOUSE – “RECONNECTING MCA & THE COMMUNITY”

In October 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted an Open House at the A’nowara’ko:wa Arena. The theme for this year’s Open House was, “Reconnecting MCA & the Community”. Community members were invited to stop in and learn more about how our programs could serve and assist them and their family, while some lucky participants won great prizes! Nia:wenko:wa to everyone who stopped in, we look forward to more in-person events and rebuilding our connections!



NEWS

IAKHIHSOHTHA LODGE HOSTED TRIVIA NIGHT

Iakhihsohta Lodge hosted a successful trivia night at the American Legion Post 1479 in October 2022. Akwesasronon came out in costumes to support the tota’s activity fund for the upcoming holidays. Iakhihsohta was grateful for everyone that participated and donated baskets to the Mohawk auction — special thanks go out to the MC Reen Cook and Roger Mitchell who provided entertainment throughout the night.



NEWS

DOH CONGRATULATED STAFF ON ACHIEVING FIRST NATIONS HEALTH MANAGERS ASSOCIATION DESIGNATION

In November 2022, The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Department of Health (DOH) recognized and congratulated four (4) staff members who have completed their designation courses in Health Management for the First Nations Health Managers Association. Staff achieving their designation have been attending classes since 2019 to complete the necessary courses.

The following staff members who achieved designation in Health Management with the First Nations

Health Managers Association are: Shealene Gibson (Accreditation Manager, Department of Health), Kyle Thompson (Prevention Coordinator, Wholistic Health & Wellness Program), Evelyn Brunet (RN MDS/RAI Coordinator, Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care), and Delia McDonald (Program Manager, Wholistic Health & Wellness)

Congratulations to our staff for all their hard work and dedication! We are truly proud of your accomplishment.



NEWS

COUNCIL TOURED CBSA TRAINING FACILITY; MET TO CONFIRM PRIORITIES OF JOINT INITIATIVE

In November 2022, Chiefs and staff of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne were invited to attend the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) training facility in Rigaud, where a graduation ceremony was held for more than 60 new graduates of the intensive 16-week training program. Grand Chief Abram Benedict provided words of congratulations and reminded the graduates that they are joining the field of border protection during an era of truth and reconciliation.

The president of CBSA Erin O’Gorman provided a tour of the massive training campus where recruits must pass a variety of courses, on subjects ranging from laws and policies to proper use of their equipment and weapons.

Together, MCA and CBSA confirmed that they will be dedicating a working circle to the discussion of Dundee Port operations and how they can work toward mirroring the operations at the Cornwall port. Additionally, communication, engagement, and training priorities will continue.



NEWS

MCA HUMAN RESOURCES HOSTED WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

In December 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Human Resources Program took the initiative to run a community-wide winter clothing drive. Donations of cold weather gear and miscellaneous winter items were collected, then distributed to the public at Kana:takon School.

The HR office would like to say niawenhkó:wa to all of the volunteers and staff who made this event happen. We wish everyone a warm winter season!



NEWS

MCA HOSTED HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY AND FOOD DRIVE

In December 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted a holiday giveaway and food drive for the community at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena. Members of Council handed community members their choice of either turkey or ham and accepted non-perishable food items for the food drive. Nia:wenko:wa to the staff and volunteers who helped make this event happen. MCA hopes everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!



NEWS

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF LARRY KING SWORN INTO OFFICE

In December 2022, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne officially swore in Kana:takon District Chief Larry King who was elected in the December 3, 2022 by-election. Justice Alexandra David administered the oath of office and community members and members of Council, staff and the King family attended the ceremony held at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

Chief King will serve the remainder of the 2021-2024 Council term, filling the vacancy of outgoing District Chief Ryan Jacobs, who was also recognized during the ceremony for his contributions and wished well on his new educational role.



Having previously served six terms on Council, Chief King is familiar with Mohawk Government and was graciously welcomed back during the ceremony by his fellow Kana:takon District Chiefs Julie Phillips-Jacobs and Cindy Francis-Mitchell. In their remarks they recognized Chief King's experience and hard-working nature the community is already familiar with.

Congratulations and welcome back!



NEWS

SANTA CLAUS VISITED IAKHIHSOHTHA

Niawenhkó:wa to the staff at Iakhihsohta for spreading holiday cheer for the residents this holiday season!





Happy Holidays



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes you peace, joy and prosperity this holiday season and throughout the coming year.






Season's Greetings

The departments within Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extend our very best holiday wishes to you and your loved ones. We look forward to working together in the New Year!

Row 1: Executive Director Ann Seymour and Asst. Executive Director Donna Roundpoint
 Row 2: Director of Finance & Administration Heather Phillips and A/Director of the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Leslie Papineau
 Row 3: Director of Justice Joyce King and Director of Community & Social Services Joseph Morin-Lauzon
 Row 4: Director of Health Amber Montour and Director of Education Donna Lahache
 Row 5: Associate Director of Housing Charmaine Caldwell, Asst. Director of Health Tessa Jocko, Associate Director of Community & Social Services Valerie Cree-Cook, Director of Public Safety (Chief of Police) Shawn Dulude, and Director of Economic Development Kylee Tarbell



Charmaine



Tessa



Valerie



Shawn



Kylee



Ann



Heather



Joyce



Donna L.



Donna R.



Leslie



Joseph



Donna L.