ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 7 FREE Ohiarihkó:wa/July 2025

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KIRBY THOMPSON'S MURAL UNVEILED AT SIBC



On June 19, 2025, the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) proudly unveiled Three Sisters, a powerful new mural by local artist Kirby Thompson. Symbolizing balance, sustainability, and strength of unity, the artwork reflects the spirit of working together in harmony. Located on the historic Cornwall Bridge pier and facing the city of Cornwall, ON, the artwork brings new life to the structure while honouring deeprooted cultural connections. Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

JULY GENERAL MEETING

July 31, 2025 · 6 p.m. Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

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

To receive the Zoom link, please email meetings@akwesasne.ca

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2024-2027

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District Chief Fallon David

Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell Chief Theresa Jacobs Chief Teresa Oakes

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Vanessa Adams Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict Chief Lacey Pierce Chief Vince Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief Scott Peters Chief Tesha Rourke Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo Chief JoAnn Swamp

Administration

Shannon Roundpoint A/Executive Director

Donna Lahache Director Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell A/Director Dept. of Communications

> Valerie Cree-Cook A/Director Dept. of Community & Social Services

Kylee Tarbell Director Dept. of Economic Development

Heather Phillips Director Dept. of Finance & Administration

Tessa Jocko A/Director Department of Health

Leslie Papineau Director Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday Director Dept. of Justice

Ranatiiostha Swamp A/Chief of Police

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

newsletter delivered straight to your email can be found on our website at www.akinbox. It's a great way to quickly stay up to wesasne.ca. This includes job postings and date! Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne. Council contact information. ca/signup.

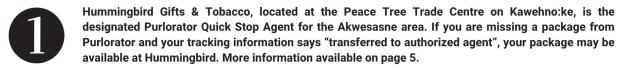
Instagram and Snapchat!

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

E-newsletter: Register for a weekly e- Website: News and general information

Local Media: Find our news and infor-Social Media: Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, mation in Akwesasne's long-serving local media, CKON 97.3 Radio.

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



MCA's Emergency Measures Program (EMP) has launched the Akwesasne FireSmart Project, with assessments now underway across the districts of Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne. EMP Summer Students will be going to each household to conduct a FireSmart Property Assessment. Learn more about the FireSmart Project on page 7.

Recycling reminder: The MCA Environment Program's Waste Coordinator is asking Akwesasronon residing in the three northern districts to follow proper curbside recycling guidelines. Recycables must be in a clear or transparent bag and places in your designated recycling bin. Black garbage bags are not accepted. More information available on page 24.

AMPS would like to remind community members, commuters and pedestrians to strictly adhere to all traffic control measures in place within the construction zone on the Seaway International Bridge (south span). Safety guidelines and enforcement measures can be located on page 26.

Update on the Akwesasne Election Law Amendment: Phase III - Draft accepted by Council in Principle, moving into Phase III, which is a Community Consultation. Sessions will be held in each district, including one in the Southern portion of Akwesasne. All community members are encouraged to attend. Dates and locations will be advertised through MCA website, social media, and 97.3 FM CKON.

NEWS



CELEBRATING AKWESASNE ART: KIRBY THOMPSON'S MURAL UNVEILED AT SIBC

event celebrating the unveiling of a new mural 'Three rytelling and tradition. Sisters' by Kirby Thompson, a talented Akwesasronon artist and daughter of Chief Vince Thompson of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA). Kirby, who also works at SIBC, continues to use her art to uplift and reflect the spirit of the Akwesasne community.

The Three Sisters hold a sacred place in Haudenosaunee culture and storytelling. Corn, beans, and squash, known as the Three Sisters, are not only traditional staple crops but also symbolize balance, sustainability, and the strength of working together. For generations in Akwesasne, these plants have nourished both the body and spirit, often grown together in the same mound to support one another. The Three Sisters represent an enduring relationship between the people, the land, and each other, values that continue to guide the community today.

The event began with warm welcome remarks from Marc Chénier, Bridge Director of the SIBC. Kirby then shared heartfelt insights into her creative process and the cultural inspiration behind her work. Chief Vince Thompson of MCA and Chair of the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL) Natalie Kinloch also offered thoughtful remarks, recognizing the importance of Indigenous voices in public spaces.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends heartfelt congratulations to Kirby Thompson on the unveiling of

On June 19, the Seaway International Bridge Corpo- her mural 'Three Sisters.' Her artwork continues to upration (SIBC) proudly hosted a meaningful and vibrant lift and unite our community through the beauty of sto-

> The mural can be seen on the historic Cornwall Bridge pier, facing Cornwall, Ontario.







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NEWS



The Akwesasne Community Fund was established by For the 2025/26 Fiscal Year Council and is intended to support community-based notfor-profit community groups, organizations, and agencies within the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA). Funding for the Akwesasne Community Fund is derived from our community's overall share of Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation revenue. Council has set aside a portion of the revenue received to be distributed to the community to support various initiatives that might not otherwise receive government funding.

The concept of an Akwesasne Community Fund Review Team was established by Council to include representation from each of the three districts under the jurisdiction of MCA with the responsibility to: establish and annually update the eligibility criteria, guidelines, and application form; conduct a community callout for applications; review applications; make decisions to approve or deny applications; and determine how much funding to allocate to approved applicants.

A call out for applications for the Akwesasne Community Fund was advertised on MCA's website and Facebook page, at the front door to MCA buildings, and at local businesses within the three districts during the period of April 17, 2025 to May 15, 2025. A total of \$300,000.00 was available for distribution to the community. This year's call out resulted in 17 applications being submitted with a total ask of \$680,021.00.

The following community members served as Review Team members:

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
Kana:takon	Amanda Jacobs and Jerome Cook
Kawehno:ke	Ivan Thompson and Tommy Francis
Tsi Snaihne	Jason Lazore and Hilda King

The following applications were approved for funding:

APPLICANT	FUNDING AMOUNT
Akwesasne Animal Society	\$12,420.00
Akwesasne Economic Development Agency	\$3,590.00
Akwesasne Freedom School	\$13,670.00
Akwesasne Jr. C Lightning	\$11,550.00
Akwesasne Kahwatsire Genealogy & Historical Society	\$22,210.00
Akwesasne Minor Hockey Association	\$39,596.00
Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Association	\$50,758.00
Akwesasne Wild Women's Hockey	\$8,964.00
Akwesasne Wild Women's Hockey - Senior C	\$5,976.00
Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department	\$86,108.00
Native North American Travelling College	\$6,679.00
Onkwehonwe Midwives Collective	\$38,479.00
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED	\$300,000.00

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NEWS



SUPPORTING KANIEN'KÉHA LANGUAGE: MCA DONATES TO IONKWAHRONKHA'ONHÁTIE'

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne proudly presented a recognizing that our language is the heart of our identity, amount of \$336,135 in support of their Kanien'kéha language revitalization initiatives.

Ionkwahronkha'onhátie', meaning "We are becoming fluent", is a grassroots language group in Akwesasne dedicated to revitalizing the Kanien'kéha language through adult immersion programming, mentorship, and community-based learning. The group plays a vital role in creating fluent speakers, nurturing cultural pride, and restoring language as a living part of daily life in the community.

The funding comes from the First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) Settlement and will help strengthen efforts to preserve and promote Kanien'kéha. With this support, lonkwahronkha'onhátie' can continue to grow its programming and increase access to quality language instruction for future generations.

"Council is proud to support language revitalization efforts,

cheque to Chelsea Sunday of Ionkwahronkha'onhátie' in the culture, and worldview. By investing in its resurgence, we honour our ancestors and empower future generations to carry our words forward with strength and pride," said Grand Chief Leonard Lazore.

> This donation highlights a shared commitment to language, culture, and healing, ensuring that Kanien'kéha not only survives, but thrives for generations to come.



AKWESASNE PUROLATOR PICKUP LOCATION: HUMMINGBIRD GIFTS & TOBACCO

Missing your package from Purolator? If your tracking in- 2. Prepaid Drop-Offs - You can drop off prepaid Purolator formation says "transferred to authorized agent" or simply "delivered to Akwesasne, ON," your package may be ready for pickup at Hummingbird Gifts & Tobacco on Kawehno:ke.

Hummingbird Gifts and Tobacco, located at the Peace Tree Trade Centre, is the designated Purolator Quick Stop Agent for the Akwesasne area.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Monday-Saturday: 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

PUROLATOR QUICK STOP SERVICES

1. Door-Knocker/Notice of Delivery - If you're not home when Purolator attempts delivery, a note will be left and your package will be redirected to the nearest Quick Let's make sure Akwesasronon receive their deliveries — Stop or Purolator retail location.

packages for pickup at this location.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Bring valid ID when picking up packages.
- When placing an order or tracking a shipment on the Purolator website, be sure to provide up-to-date contact information (phone number and/or email address) so you receive notifications.
- Tracking updates that say "Delivered to Akwesasne, ON" without a street address usually refer to the Quick Stop location.

For questions, contact Hummingbird Gifts & Tobacco at 613-933-9693.

check your tracking and don't forget to visit the Quick Stop if needed!

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NEWS

CANOES, CULTURE, AND COUNCIL: MCA VISITS THOMPSON ISLAND

On June 2, members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne spent the day at Thompson Island Cultural Camp — reconnecting with our land, culture, and one another.

The day was filled with meaningful activities and teachings, all made possible by our incredible MCA programs. To close out the day, Mary Terrance of the Department of and staff. From paddling the shores of Thompson Island to learning about land rights and practicing mindfulness, each part of the day reminded us of the importance of community, balance, and cultural identity.

Council took part in a canoe journey around the island, led for welcoming us, and to all of the MCA staff who helped by Brandon David of Akwesasne Child & Family Services, offering a powerful way to reflect on the significance of traditional water travel.









Cheyenne Lazore and Braydon White of the Akwesasne

Rights & Research Office gave an engaging presentation

on land protection and sovereignty, highlighting the work

Health guided everyone through mindfulness exercises,

encouraging self-reflection and wellness — an important

Big nia:wen to the Thompson Island Cultural Camp team

create such a meaningful and well-organized day. Your

being done to uphold our rights and stories.

piece of strong leadership and community care.



NEWS

AKWESASNE FIRESMART PROJECT ASSESSMENTS UNDERWAY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Emergency Measures rectly associated with your property landscape, which is the Program has launched the Akwesasne FireSmart Project — functional space around your home. The FireSmart goal is to with property assessments now underway across the districts of Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne.

WHAT IS FIRESMART?

FireSmart is the Canadian standard for fire prevention and mitigation, recognized by all provinces and territories. Based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, FireSmart has evolved over more than 40 years and is backed by extensive field, laboratory, and modeling research.

Its guidelines have consistently proven effective in identifying and reducing fire hazards. FireSmart methods have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to reduce the risk of loss, even un- The FireSmart assessments began on July 21, 2025 and will der the most extreme fire conditions.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Emergency Measures Program has developed the Akwesasne FireSmart Plan, and it was approved and passed by Council via MCR 2023/2024 #200.

FIRESMART ASSESSMENTS

MCA's Emergency Measures Program (EMP) Summer Students will be conducting FireSmart Property Assessments for the Nia:wen/thank you in advance for your cooperation! northern portion of Akwesasne. A FireSmart Property is di-

limit the ignition and spread of fire from landscape materials to structures on your property.

Culturally significant locations are important to Akwesasne because they assist in the development and growth of our traditional medicines and trees. The FireSmart Project hopes to identify them on your property and continues to assist you in protecting them for future generations, even if it means relocating them to a safer area within your property. Preserving our heritage, traditions and connection to the land.

DATES & LOCATIONS

continue for the duration of the summer in the three districts (Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne).

Our Summer Students can be identified by their yellow highvisibility vests, work boots, and aluminum clipboards.

For questions or more information, please contact MCA's Emergency Measures Program at 613-575-5005.

TSIAKWAWENNATÓNHE'TS MOVES CLOSER TO COMPLETION WITH MCA SUPPORT

cheque in the amount of \$151,753 to the Tsiakwawennatónhe'ts rials from local skilled tradespeople. Mohawk Language Program, in support of their efforts to complete construction of a new school building dedicated to language revitalization in Akwesasne.

back to our language," aims to bring back the Kanien'kehá:ka language by embracing a multi-generational, nurturing family approach to language and cultural learning, helping to undo the lasting effects of the residential school system. Children are placed at the heart of the program, while adults and educators reinforce and support the learning process.

The program's new school building is now 50% complete thanks to support from local donors and organizations. This includes a \$150,000 donation and land contribution from Two House Design-Builders, as well as generous contributions from Kanien'kehá:ka Kaianereh'kówa Kanónsesneh, Akwesasne

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) proudly presented a Earth Watchers, and generous contributions of time and mate-

With this latest contribution from MCA, the program is one step closer to opening its doors by September 2025. This donation reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that the Tsiakwawennatónhe'ts, meaning "We are bringing the life fire Kanien'kehá:ka language continues to thrive for generations to



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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



June 16, 2025

Discussion Items:

- Service Provider Delivery Issue - Council discussed a proposal to bring Google Maps into the community to improve package delivery services.
- **BMO Nesbitt Introduction Meet**ing - Council reviewed a proposal for an introductory meeting with BMO Nesbitt to learn about the resources they can offer the community.
- Haudenosaunee University Proposal - Council discussed a proposal from Haudenosaunee University to provide funding in support of cultural revitalization initiatives.
- YWHO Council discussed matters related to the Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO).
- James Lane Council reviewed a proposal to repair the James Lane roadway through the purchase of concrete to fix potholes.
- Special Needs Funding Update -Council received an update on the status of the Special Needs Fund-

ing Committee.

- OSPCA Council discussed a recent presentation by the Ontario SPCA, including their proposal to construct a new facility in Cornwall.
- AEDA Request for Language Class Initiative - Council discussed providing funding to the Akwesasne Economic Development Agency (AEDA) to support the development of language classes aimed at producing more fluent speakers and language teachers within the community.
- Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Association - Council considered funding support for the Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse Association to assist with expenses such as travel, equipment, and registration for local families.
- Hill Academy Students Council discussed the possibility of funding Hill Academy students to cover tuition and boarding costs.
- Ordainment Support Council considered providing a letter of support for an individual in Ottawa who is pursuing ordainment in Ontario.
- Sandy Lake Refugees Council discussed their ongoing role in assisting the Sandy Lake refugees currently sheltered at the Cornwall Devcore Centre.
- Bill C-5 Protest Council reviewed plans for participation in the protest against Bill C-5, scheduled to take place in Ottawa on June 17th.

Presentations:

DCSS Organizational Chart - A/ Director of DCSS. The Acting Director of DCSS presented a proposal for additional staffing positions within the Department of Community and Social

MCRs: Housing Application; Finance Committee - Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair; Amendment to MCR 2024/2025 #407; RESP Creation for Child in Care; Comfort Allowance for AFWP Clients; Dr. W. Wysote - Contract Renewal for 2025-2026; Process for Akwesasne Election Law.

Portfolio Updates:

- Government Secretariat Council shared updates on the Government Secretariat portfolio.
- Nation Building Council provided updates on Nation Building and Entewatathá:wi negotiations.
- Justice Council shared developments related to the Justice port-

June 23, 2025

Discussion Items:

- AFWP Cannabis Policy Council discussed the AFWP Cannabis
- Mr. Flute Visit Council discussed the upcoming meeting with U.S. official Mr. Flute.
- lakhihsohtha Fundraisers Council discussed the cancellation of fundraisers for lakhihsohtha due to increased funding provided by the MCA.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE

• Dog Complaints - Council discussed the ongoing dog problem in . the St. Regis area.

Presentations:

• Cairn Island Update – Taylor Day & Kelsey Young (Avaanz) - Parks Canada provided a presentation on the history of Cairn Island and shared updates on the final report preparation for the project.

MCRs: Authorization of Amendments and Signature of the Settlement for the NYS Land Claims Litigation; MCA Donation Policy – June 2025 Revision; Council Meeting Minutes - April 7, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes - April 14, 2025.

Portfolio Updates:

• Environment Portfolio - Council provided an update on recent activities within the Environment department.

June 30, 2025

Discussion Items:

• Tsi Snaihne District Meeting Update - Chiefs of Snye district provided updates on the recent district

meeting.

- YWHO Update Council discussed the status of YWHO.
- Christmas Dinners and Events Council discussed the logistics of the next Christmas dinners and events.
- Hamilton Island Council disfor the residents of Hamilton Island.
- Property for Sale Council discussed a potential property purchase for special needs use.
- **Ontario Lacrosse Summer Games** - Council discussed an issue with personnel regarding the Ontario Lacrosse Summer Games.
- Letter from Elder: General Meeting - Council discussed a letter received from the Elders at the recent June General Meeting.
- Geneva Letter Council discussed an invitation to a Geneva, Switzerland conference and potential at- Governance Committee Update: tendance.
- COO Elder Remarks Council discussed remarks made by an Akwe-

sasne Elder at a recent Chiefs of Ontario event.

Presentations:

Rock the Block Community Event -Community members made a presentation to Council showcasing an upcoming community event and potential partnership.

cussed potential breaches of lease MCRs: 23-24 Ministry of Education -Child Services Schedule of Revenue and Expenses; Tsi Snaihne Walking Path; Lease - Land-Based Debriefing Team at 160 School Road; HVAC upgrades for Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne School; Process of Recycling for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Portfolio Updates:

- DIHE Council provided updates on the works of the DIHE portfolio.
 - » Includes: lobbying for funding, repairing AC systems at all three schools, water line installation, and more.

• Council provided an update on Governance Committee projects.

Contact Us!



MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

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

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

akwesasne.ca/meet-the-chiefs Q

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO: KE DISTRICT CHIEF LACEY PIERCE UPDATES



Portfolios:

Dept. of Health, Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment, Dept. of Public Safety

Selected Committees:

CBSA; Green Team; Beautification; Waterways; Iroquois Caucus; Property Acquisition Team (PAT); Special Needs; Youth, Elders, Language and Culture (YECL); Healing and Wellness Fund; Orange Shirt Day Committee; AMBE Tentewaienáhsheke Student Leadership Team

Attendance:

Bereavement (1.5), Personal (1), Sick (0), Vacation (4)

Monthly Expenditures:

\$53.00 (Gas/Parking for Bill C-5 Parliament Hill Rally)

MONTHLY NOTABLES

AMBE TENTEWAIENÁHSHEKE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

— Through my various careers of working with community youth, I knew there is an ongoing need to support, listen and empower our youth in Akwesasne. Through my attempt to connect with AMBE Director Donna Lahache, my intentions as well as other Council members is to connect more with youth in the community. From there I was connected with AMS Principal Andrea Carpenter in April 2025 and was introduced to the Tentewaienhsheke Student Leadership Team. Upon the first introductory meeting with the group, they shared that they formed in the fall of 2024 and have a Youth Leadership Team at both AMS and Tsi Snaihne School that is comprised of grade 7 and 8 students. Their vision was to unite all three AMBE district schools in a social gathering in the community. Many students shared that they don't see their peers from previous attended schools in the community and want to create friendships and bonds with others. Through planning and meeting after school everyday, these students worked very hard to bring their vision into a reality. The planning, organizing and collaboration that these students have shown throughout this process is admirable to say the least. To make their vision a reality, they knew that it was going to be costly and were determined to meet goal for all the activities they wanted to provide. The students wrote a proposal for a grant through United Way in which they were successful candidates. From there they continued to fundraise within the school having bake sales, chip sales and freezie sales. With all of their funding efforts, they were still short on funds and connected with community members and local businesses for collaboration of reduced pricing to fit their budget as well as donations. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was able to support by providing a donation to support and ensure that these youths vision was met. It was a pleasure to share space with these youth during the past couple months and their warm welcome of inviting myself and Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict to sit in and find areas where we could support their goal. On May 29, 2025, the event took place at Generations Park and was very successful, bringing together unity of AMBE students grades 6-8 for a celebration of togetherness and wellness. I look forward to continuing to support this initiative and cannot wait to see what the 2025-2026 team has in store!

 ${f VACATION}$ — Out of office May 27-June 4 for annual family vacation.

BORDER PARTNERS MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING — (All MCA Chiefs, All SRMT Chiefs, CBSA Chief of Operations Cornwall POE Pierre-Luc Bazinet, USCBP Port Director of Massena POE Tracy Casey) The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will begin upgrading its license plate readers at the Cornwall Port of Entry starting the week of June 16, 2025. This initiative is part of CBSA's ongoing efforts to enhance border security and efficiency.

Installation work will be completed one lane at a time, with only a single lane impacted per day. CBSA will maintain at least two open lanes throughout the upgrade to help manage traffic flow and minimize inconvenience to travelers. While minor delays may occur, every effort is being made to reduce disruption for community members and commuters.

NEW PORT DIRECTOR AT MASSENA PORT OF ENTRY — Following the retirement of Robert Dwyer in May 2025, Tracy Casey has been the successful candidate to fill the role of Port Director at Massena Port of Entry. Tracy has been a partner and collaborator with the ongoing border partners meeting with Council and external entities sitting in a Chief CBP Officer/Tribal Liaison and PAL.

(Next meeting will be held on Tuesday July 8, 2025, 10:00-10:30

COMMUNICATION MEDIA TRAINING — On June 5th at Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.), Council and staff were provided media training by the MCA Communications Department that encompassed the foundations of effective communications and lobbying strategies.

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS BANK PRESENTATION — On June 6th Council met with Shawn Mutch via Zoom of the IFN Bank initiative that is currently privately owned and operated by First Nations peoples across Turtle Island. Potential for investment from Mohawk Council to become a shareholder, logistics are still being gathered by Council with consultation with MCA Finance Department and legal team. Meeting was an introductory and information session; a follow meeting has yet to be scheduled.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE — (Chiefs Fallon David, Lacey Pierce, Teresa Oakes, Tesha Rourke & Vanessa Adams; DCSS EA Alicia Hill) Meeting held on June 10, 2025. Special Needs Policy will be revised to reflect the issues with Jordan's Principle applications taking years to approve and the hardships that it causes. Special needs fund application and policy needs to be more tailored to Akwesasnoron needs as well as the elimination of loop holes.

<u>Job Postings</u>: HR is in receipt of postings and will be posting Manager and Supervisor positions for Special Needs Program

Six Nations Community Living Tour was scheduled on July 2, 2025, for Committee to tour special needs facility and gather information to incorporate and create new Special Needs Department facility and services. www.communitylivingsixnations.ca

Meeting: Friday, July 18, 2025, Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io 2:00-4:00 p.m. all Council presentation of Special Needs Program by DCSS.

(Next committee meeting TBA)

ENIENTHIHSWANON:NA CHILDS LAW WORKING TASK GROUP — (Chiefs Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Lacey Pierce & Lisa Francis-Benedict; Justice Dept. Cactus Cook Sunday, Kim Herne, Ruth Ambrose, Alyson Thompson & Emily King; DCSS Barbara Smoke-Thompson, Gary Cole, Shara Francis-Herne; Communications Dept. Ashley Tarbell; Community Members; Glenn Lazore & Theresa Benedict)

Meetings: June 10, 2025, Justice Boardroom and June 24, 2025, Admin. 1 Boardroom/Zoom.

Enienthihswanon:na Working Task Group continues to review lineby-line recommendations received post legal review by Bonnie Cole and possible changes that need to be made.

 $\underline{\text{Next Steps}}\text{:}$ Finalize the package to be provided to MCA in advance of the line-by-line to be scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th between 1 and 5 p.m.

(Community Consultation and referendum TBA. Next Meeting

July 22, 2025, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.)

OSPCA MEETING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY PORTFOLIO CHIEFS — On June 11th Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs David, Pierce, Oakes and Peters met with OSPCA Rob Hunter, Development Officer for Eastern Ontario, Jennifer Bloom, VP of Community Outreach and Sonya Riffle, VP of Operations.

Develop ongoing partnership between OSPCA and MCA - Joint initiatives continue to be coordinated between OSPCA & MCA - Josh Mitchell and the Akwesasne Animal Society for clinics, sheltering and food giveaways.

MASH Spay/Neuter Clinic was held from June 13-15th from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center.

OSPCA will assist MCA with direction on building requirements for animal shelter in Quebec portion of Akwesasne that abide by code and standards. OSPCA has agreed to take in any animals that are picked up by animal control and need shelter or rehoming.

OSPCA is currently fundraising for new facility that will begin construction Fall 2026 on 2nd Street West in Cornwall. Ongoing conversation between Council and OSPCA will continue to see how we can support with the build that will provide continued access and care to Akwesasnoron animals.

Next Steps: Speak with Council to support OSPCA and Akwesasne Animal shelter. OSPCA will be getting together a donation letter for new building in Cornwall. OSPCA available to meet on Zoom for follow up.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY COMMITTEE — (Communications Dept. Ashley Tarbell & Waheson Lazore; Chiefs Lacey Pierce & Lisa Francis-Benedict; Sonatanoron Richard Oakes, Viola Rourke & Bill Sunday; AMBE Andrea Carpenter, Alice King & Lacey Thompson; AMPS Lee-Ann O'Brien & Nathan Thompson; DOH Rachel George & Leah Mitchell; DCSS Dorian Benedict & Chantel Vachon; Justice Dept. Carolyn Francis & Leah Lamesse) June 2, 2025 Council Meeting MCR to support the purchasing of 25 quilts to be gifted to residential school survivors during upcoming event.

Financial requests for honorariums, shirts, district tree planting and interactive activities have been submitted and are currently pending.

Sent regrets for June 11, 2025, 2:00-4:00 p.m. meeting with SRMT as there were scheduling conflicts (double booking).

SRMT is also bringing great ideas to the table, such as filled baskets for survivors, sweetgrass braiding, log pounding, and a community walk. Many of their programs are planning to participate and host booths as well. I am sure we can also have interactive booths with our programs as well.

MCA and SRMT are working in collaboration with Akwesasronon Sonatanoron to ensure that our upcoming Orange Shirt Day event is in line with the recommendations of Akwesasne's residential school survivors.

(Next meeting TBA)

YOUTH ELDERS CULTURE & LANGUAGE COMMITTEE — (Chiefs Fallon David, JoAnn Swamp, Lacey Pierce, Lisa Francis-Benedict, Scott Peters, Tesha Rourke & Vince Thompson; Youth Council Cayde Lazore, Kayanna Cook-Jackson, Starlyn Mason & Taylor Day) May 26, 2025, Council Meeting there were MCR's for two Language Programs within the community that were carried with full funding support per proposal and presentation to Council.

June 12, 2025, Elders Council Callout, has been posted since May 13th. We have only received one application from a Kawehno:ke community member and one elder inquiry. A recommendation for editing the criteria for applicants be changed to just a letter of interest instead of letter of interest and resume. Proposed changes were approved by YECL Portfolio Chiefs. A revised call out will be posted until all positions are filled.

Three proposals for funding of Language and Cultural community initiatives were received and scheduled for presentations for the Council for further information and clarification.

SANDY LAKE CALL FOR DONATIONS — Volunteered June 12th 11:00-5:00 p.m. at Kawehno:ke Recreation Center for

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF LACEY PIERCE UPDATES

clothing donations from community for Sandy Lake Evacuees. Niawenhkó:wa to everyone that donated and the volunteers who helped sort, wash and fold clothing.

Volunteered June 13th 8:00-4:00 p.m. at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for clothing disbursement for Sandy Lake evacuees along with meals and recreational activities. Niawenhkó:wa to all volunteers that arrived to give a helping hand and AMBE for shuttling Sandy Lake residents to and from event.

FAMILY SUSTAINABILTY CHEQUE DISPURSEMENT —

Volunteered June 16th 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for cheque disbursement to Kawehno:ke and Cornwall residents. Continued with offering home deliveries the following week for residents of Kawehno:ke and Cornwall that did not pick up checks on June 16th. Nia:wen to all volunteers and employees that have assisted with this community initiative.

Assisted with deliveries of unclaimed checks to Kawehno:ke and Cornwall residents the week of June 16th and June 23rd until all checks were distributed.

COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT: COO BILL C-5 RALLY IN OTTAWA

— On June 17, 2025, Kawehno:ke District Chief Lacey Pierce and
Kana:takon District Chief Theresa Jacobs joined members of the
Akwesasne Youth Council — Cayde Lazore, Starlyn Mason, Taylor
Day, and Kayanna Cook-Jackson — at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO)

The rally, organized by the Chiefs of Ontario, brought together First Nations leadership, Elders, youth, and community members from across Turtle Island in collective opposition to Bill C-5: The One Canadian Economy Act. The bill has sparked widespread concern for its potential to undermine Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and responsibilities.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM UPDATES (June 19, 2025)

Bill C-5 Rally held at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario.

Aquatics – Five summer students assisting conduct Aquatics work. FINS and turtle surveys have commenced. Sturgeon and cutlip minnow work is planned for this summer.

Waste Management - MCR carried on June 30, 2025, to approve contract with HGC Management, Inc. as an interim receiver of our recycling materials. Prior to January 1, 2025, all of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne curbside recycling was being transported to and processed by the City of Cornwall. On January 1, 2025, the city of Cornwall transition to the extended producer responsibility EPR approach to recycling where the companies and producers of the products are now the ones responsible for paying to get them recycled this approach is being run by the circular materials organization this is part of a province-wide mandate in which all municipalities have or will soon transition to circular materials for the processing of their recyclables, this mandate includes multiple First Nations within Ontario including the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), however the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne transition will occur three months after the agreement between MCA and circular materials is signed in the meantime MCA has not been able to process any curbside recyclable materials and instead have been temporarily re-routing them to the GFL Moose Creek Landfill site.

Terrestrial – Plans to complete soil sampling for nutrients contributing to Eutrophication (excessive algae in waterways) and for contaminants. Funds requested through the FNCFS for an additional 75 samples to be analyzed for contamination. Forestry Technician participating in OVS Tree Assessment Requests but will also participate in Aquatics projects until next Black Ash and Butternut Grant is awarded.

Remedial Action Plan – The 60-Day Engagement Period has commenced for the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). Information sessions and community surveys are planned for June. Question is being posed whether or not the community is satisfied with the information given and if based on that information, the RAP has demonstrated that this BUI is no longer impaired. Community members may indicate if more monitoring is needed, if information should be added to the Delisting Report to clarify things and voice other concerns. Feedback will be considered by the committee overseeing the RAP – the St. Lawrence Restoration Council (SLRC) and SLRC will provide a recommendation to the Ontario and Canadian

government who will ultimately decide whether or not to delist.

Environment will be returning to Council in September to present the results of the community engagement and determine if MCA Council wants to provide a letter endorsing or opposing the delisting of the Fish Tumors and Other Deformities BUI.

St. Lawrence Regional Impact Assessment – Environmental Assessment Officers attended the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects National Conference to gain understanding the Impact Assessment they'll be participating in. Terms of Reference will need to be endorsed through an MCR for further financial support on this project. Environment Staff participating in planning how assessment will be undertaken including the level of participation by MCA and the Impact Assessment Agency (federal). Subregion including waters of Kahnawake, Kanesatake and Akwesasne created to focus on more local issues. Community engagement sessions to be scheduled.

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT MEETING — Due to the passing of a community member in the district, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Kawehno:ke District Meeting scheduled for June 23, 2025 was cancelled.

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT (DIHE) MEETING (June 24, 2025) —

AMBE Air Conditioning

Tsi Snaihne needs to upgrade its service line to Hydro Quebec (could take three weeks).

- JP2G Engineering replacing HVAC, Boilers System and ductwork
- They won't do any work unless project is tendered
- Tender early February

Kana:takon is tender ready and MCR carried on June 30, 2025, to begin work (HSP Engineering).

AMS is not tender ready and will be anticipated as the last school to be completed (HSP Engineering).

District Waterline Connections

95% of the community received waterline connections in previous phases, there are new builds that are seeking connection and also homes that are located in remote areas of private landowners with no public access to install lines for access which is creating additional barriers other than high costs for installation.

MCRs

- DOH Land-Based Healing Program Rental Snye Dream Catchers Building Rental Council Meeting 06/30/25 Carried
- 2. Snye Walking Trail Council Meeting 06/30/25 Carried
- 3. Arena Repairs A MCR coming forward for repairs to building

FNCFS HOME REPAIR CALL OUT

- 180 applications have been received, budget can only accommodate 60 applicants.
- On June 30th Council Meeting, Council put forth a motion to fund all applicants that applied for FNFCS Home Repair Call Out as well as to eliminate two of the callout requirements of eligibility (In good-standing; Low income) as these criteria listed created an unintentional barrier for the intent of this initiative.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Non-Insured Health Benefits Action Plan: DOH addressed a few components, benefit process, and medical transportation. An action plan was developed to identify the issues and will come up with the correct approach to address these concerns. The special project manager is reviewing policies and coming up with a plan.
- Tsiionkwanonhso:te Repairs: DOH met with DIHE last week and spoke about renovations of residents' rooms; they will be painting walls and resurfacing floors. The plan is being put together and will have to be done in phases to accommodate patients. This project will start in about six months; this will allow time to look for additional funding.
- Jordan's Principle Bear Witness Day: Event was held in Tsi

Snaihne and had 135 attendees. They received good feedback.

- The Quebec Patient Navigator has an office in Ormstown Hospital and can assist our community members.
- Glengarry Hospital is still working on medical transport for hematology treatment, working on providing this service at Cornwall.
- Dental Space: Renovation assessment and recommendations made, the IPACK team came up with a plan and cleaned up the leftover items and properly disposed of material. DIHE was given the okay to go ahead with the demo, paint and floor were picked out for the area. There are a few ideas being worked on, but nothing is finalized.
- DOH EA Position: A successful candidate was picked to be the executive assistant for the department but has since withdrawn and the position will be reposted soon.
- Looking to schedule meetings with Dr. Horn for another presentation.
- IPHCC: Indigenous Public Health has asked us to host an indigenous team from New Zealand. 10 am-2 pm on July 16th at the health facility, invite was sent to Portfolio Chiefs.
- Third week in May, the department hosted events for the PSW and nursing teams.
- DOH Health Fair: All five sectors attended event, which was located at the Snye Recreation Center with 300 attendees. Received good feedback from the community.

PUBLIC SAFETY

June 18, 2025, Public Safety Portfolio Meeting cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with Council due to travel/interviews.

- Increase of break and enters in Akwesasne, please be safe and lock up your doors and contact AMPS if you see any suspicious activity at 613-575-2340.
- The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service implemented their new initiative of monthly Sken:nen Community Meals to gather and share a meal and conversation to create meaningful relationships and connections. Officers relocated session on June 24th to the Community Cooling Station at the Akwesasne Homemakers
- 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.

WORK 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 MCRs 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
- 6 Letters of Support provided to members applying for 2025 Trust Scholarship
- 1 Letter of Support for community member Jordan's Principle application

UPCOMING TRAVEL/ EVENTS:

- Six Nations Community Living Tour July 1-2
- Color Run 2025 Generations Park July 11
- HEAL Lodge Tour July 22
- General Meeting Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, July 31
- WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit Rogers Centre Ottawa, August 11-12

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SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in June

- 1. Celebrating Akwesasne Art: Kirby Thompson's Mural Unveiled at SIBC
- 2. Strength in Solidarity: Akwesasne Comes Together for Sandy Lake
- 3. Strawberry Festival at Kana:takon Rec.
- 4. Wheels of Joy: Kawehno:ke Rec. Committee Gifts Bikes to Grads
- 5. Flowers, Fishing & & Friendship: A Week With Our Totas

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in June

- 1. Strength in Solidarity: Akwesasne Comes Together for Sandy Lake 20,517 Reached
- 2. Celebrating Akwesasne Art: Kirby Thompson's Mural Unveiled at SIBC 17,188 Reached
- 3. Strawberry Festival at Kana:takon Rec. 14,747 Reached
- 4. Wheels of Joy: Kawehno:ke Rec. Committee Gifts Bikes to Grads 8,765 Reached
- 5. AMPS First Community Skén:nen Meal Gathering 8,765 Reached



X STATS

Top Post in June





YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for June

MCA General Meeting - June 26, 2025





To view more videos, please visit: www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

CHILDREN'S PAGE





☐ ROAD TRIP

□ PICNIC LUNCH

□ MOVIE NIGHT

□ BLOW BUBBLES

□ ART AND CRAFT

☐ GET DONUTS

□ PIZZA NIGHT □ WATER BALLOONS

☐ FEED THE DUCKS

☐ EAT POPSICLES

□ GO SWIMMING

☐ SPLASH PAD

☐ FLY KITES

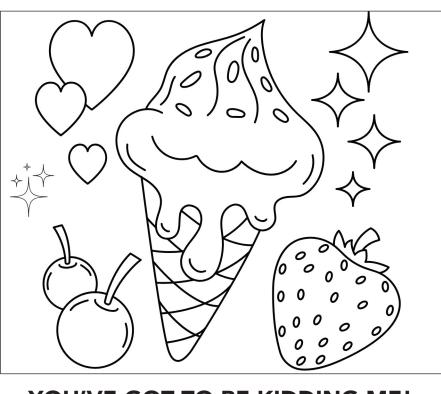
☐ GO TO WATERPARK

☐ FARMERS MARKET

□ VISIT GRANDPARENTS

- □ GO CAMPING
 - □ MAKE LEMONADE
 - ☐ BIKE RIDE
 - ☐ GO TO BEACH ☐ GO FOR ICE CREAM
 - ☐ SIDE WALK CHALK
 - ☐ STAR GAZING
 - □ PLANT FLOWERS
 - ☐ READ A BOOK
 - □ WATCH FIREWORKS □ BAKING DAY
 - ☐ BUILD A FORT
 - ☐ GO FISHING □ PLAY CARDS
 - ☐ GO TO A FAIR □ PAINT ROCKS
- □ LAWN GAMES ☐ GO TO THE PARK
- ☐ FAMILY BBQ □ DO A PUZZLE
- ☐ PLAY MINI GOLF □ OUTDOOR MOVIE
- □ VISIT A MUSEUM □ SUMMER FESTIVAL ☐ GO BOATING □ MAKE S'MORES
- □ WATCH SUNSET

COLOR THE SWEET TREATS!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What did the pig say on a hot summer day? I'm bacon.

Where do sheep go on vacation? To the baa-hamas.

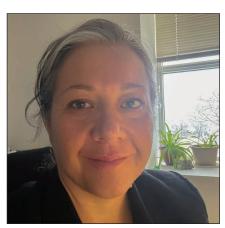
What kind of sandals do frogs wear? Open-toad shoes.

ONKWE'TA:KE **JULY 2025 JULY 2025** ONKWE'TA:KE Page 13 Page 12

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

PATTI BOVA, INDIGENOUS COURT WORKER (ICW)



munity Justice Program, Patti has become a trusted advocate and guiding voice for Akwesashró:non and other First Nations/Indigenous individuals navigating the criminal justice sys-

Court Worker (ICW), Patti is often the first point of contact for individuals facing charges, providing critical support during what can be an overwhelming and uncertain time.

Patti's role is deeply rooted in advocacy and trauma-informed care. Patti connects individuals with essential legal services including Duty Counsel, Legal Aid, and local lawyers—ensuring they have the tools to begin their court process with confidence. Her work doesn't end there; Patti also acts as a key referral source, taking the time to understand each person's unique circumstances and helping to identify solutions that are both meaningful and tailored to their individual needs.

Patti's responsibilities include receiving and supervising court diversions from Crown Attorneys in both provinces, assisting defense counsel with Gladue bail plans, and supporting self-represented individuals during the Judicial Pre-Trial (JPT) phase. She also serves as a contracted

Since stepping into her role Gladue Writer for Quebec, ensuring that every client is with the Akwesasne Com- fully informed of their Gladue rights throughout their legal journey—particularly at the plea stage, where these rights are most critical.

> Her educational background includes a one-year General Arts and Science - Native Studies program at Algonquin College, and four years of study toward a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree in Native Studies at Trent University.

tems in both Ontario and Driven by a strong sense of purpose, Patti shares, "Every Quebec. As the Indigenous day I aspire to create pathways that reflect our traditional principles of restoration, accountability, and community healing. By weaving these teachings into the justice system, I hope to foster a more culturally grounded and meaningful approach to diversion that honours the identity and lived experiences of our people."

> Looking to the future, Patti is committed to advocating for the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights across Canada. She is passionate about ensuring legal processes respect Indigenous sovereignty, uphold treaty obligations, and support self-determination. Through education, collaboration, and persistent advocacy, Patti is determined to help shape a justice system that is more inclusive, equitable, and reflective of Indigenous world-

Niawenhkó:wa, Patti. Your dedication to justice and our community is truly inspiring. We are honoured to have you as part of our team.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Contact Us!

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

45 Johnson Rd., Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0 Phone: 613-575-5000 Fax: 613-575-1726

AKWESASNE COURT

CIA #3. 101 Tewesateni Rd., Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5 Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1026

ONKWE'TA:KE Page 14 **JULY 2025**

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING AT AKWESASNE CULTURAL CENTER

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) is proud to announce the successful repatriation of two "Iroquois" artifacts to the Akwesasne community. An intricately carved the Lanark Museum. Iroquois pipe and an early wampum string were formally returned on October 7, 2024, by the Dalhousie Library and Museum in Watson's Corners, Ontario. These Artifacts are now being cared for by the Akwesasne Cultural Museum.

Following the values and protocols of Akwesasne, a representative from Akwesasne's traditional community, along with the ARRO team, traveled to receive the items and bring them to Akwesasne with respect, ceremony, and care.



Iroquois Pipe - Featuring a stone bowl, carved wooden handle, and a gun shell mouthpiece, this pipe was originally acquired near Fort Niagara in 1909.



Early Wampum String - Made of alternating light and dark bone or antler disks threaded on natural fiber, this wampum is believed to have journeyed to the Pacific Coast around the 1880s.

The artifacts were part of a broader collection received by the Dalhousie Library and Museum, which has served as a local cultural institution since 1828. Among its contributors was Donald Monroe McNicol (1875-1953), a Canadian expert in telegraphy, author, and lecturer, whose personal col-

lection of Indigenous artifacts was dispersed across several Ontario institutions, including the Middleville Museum and

McNicol's writings The AmerIndians, Two Thousand Indians of Note, and Women of the Wigwams, reflect a complex and often sympathetic awareness of the history and mistreatment of Indigenous peoples. Although detailed provenance records are limited, McNicol collected these items during his extensive travels across North America.

A significant portion of the Dalhousie collection represented Indigenous nations, including the Abenaki, Blackfoot, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chippewa, Cree, Iroquois, Hopi, Navajo, Shoshone, Sioux, and Ute. In recent years, the Dalhousie Library and Museum an entirely non-Indigenous board, decided to repatriate culturally sensitive items in consultation with Indigenous communities.

Despite the challenges of time and limited records, the artifacts were handled with dignity. When the decision was made to repatriate these artifacts, the Dalhousie Museum staff carefully catalogued, photographed, and wrapped the items in acid-free muslin. Though the artifacts had suffered environmental exposure over the decades, they were treated with respect throughout the repatriation process.

This repatriation would not have been possible without the dedication of the Dalhousie Library and Museum Board, who reached out in good faith. ARRO extends special thanks to Katherine Scott, Board Member of the Dalhousie Museum, for her care, transparency, and commitment to ensuring the indigenous artifacts stored at the museum are returned respectfully.

The artifacts will be unveiled at a public event on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Akwesasne Cultural Center (321 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY). They will be featured in a new exhibit dedicated to cultural preservation and education. By welcoming these items home, we continue our responsibility to protect and preserve our heritage for the next seven generations.

ARRO welcomes any oral histories or stories related to the intricate designs on the pipe, as they could help enrich the museum's exhibit. For more information or to share a story, please contact ARRO at 613-575-2250 ext. 2131.

JULY 2025 ONKWE'TA:KE Page 15

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

OFFICE OF **VITAL STATISTICS**

Services provided by OVS:



Indian Status





Lands



Estates



Membership/Residency



Leasing

CIA #3 Building 101 Tewesateni Road (Kawehno:ke) Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5

Tel: 613-575-2250 ext. 1013 Email: ovs.office@akwesasne.ca AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

AMBE CELEBRATES THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

On June 25, 2025, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board ments of this inspiring group of students, with speof Education (AMBE) proudly honoured the achieve- cial awards presented in Language & Culture, Perments of its Grade 8 graduates from AMS and Tsi severance, Athletics, Respect, Transformation, and Snaihne School during a heartfelt ceremony held at Valedictorian — each award a reflection of the stuthe Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort ballroom. dents' growth, resilience, and dedication. The evening was filled with pride, joy, and celebration as families, friends, and educators gathered to cheer on the students as they crossed the stage, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

The ceremony highlighted the many accomplish- ing new journey into high school!

AMBE extends its warmest congratulations to the Class of 2025. Your hard work, spirit, and determination have made your families, schools, and the community incredibly proud. We can't wait to see all that you will accomplish as you take on this excit-

























ONKWE'TA:KE **JULY 2025** ONKWE'TA:KE **JULY 2025** Page 16

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARAMEDICS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Brooklyn Johnson, Dennis Bero, Melanie Jacobs, and Serena Sunday on their graduation in June from the Clarkson University EMS Paramedic Program!

Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to serving our community are truly inspiring. The AMA, MCA, and the entire Akwesasne community are incredibly proud of your achievement.

Nia:wen for choosing this path of service — your work will make a lasting impact.



Paramedics pictured L-R: Dennis Bero, Brooklyn Johnson, Melanie Jacobs and Serena Sunday.

DR. BAIER TO TAKE TEMPORARY LEAVE FROM KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC



that Dr. Baier will be taking a temporary leave from the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic to pursue further studies. 2025.

member of the medical team, providing family medicine to the Akwesasne community for the past two years. Her

The Department of Health to patient care, has made a meaningful impact on the is informing the community community and the clinic team.

> We are pleased to share that Dr. Baier plans to return to the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic upon completion of her studies, with an expected return in July 2026.

Her last day of service be- In the meantime, her patients will continue to be cared for fore her leave was July 31, by our team of physicians and nurse practitioners.

We thank Dr. Baier for her dedication and look forward to Dr. Baier has been a valued welcoming her back next year. The Department of Health extends its best wishes as she embarks on this next chapter of professional growth.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

kind and caring demeanour, along with her commitment

Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits: Land-Based Healing: 613-575-2341 ext. 3340

Community Health Services:

613-575-2341 ext. 3220

Jordan's Principle: 613-575-2341 ext. 2652

Addiction & Mental Health Services:

613-575-2341 ext. 3115

613-575-2341

Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center:

613-932-5050

Traditional Medicine: 613-575-2341 ext. 3100

Akwesasne Medical Clinic: 613-575-2341 ext. 3215

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic: 613-932-5808

Home & Community Care: 613-575-2341 ext. 1618

Elder Services: 613-575-2341 ext. 1661

lakhihsohtha Lodge: 613-575-2507

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care:

613-932-1409

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

GARDEN PLANTING KIT DISTRIBUTION

nity Health Services and Land-Based Healing Program recently kicked off an exciting cultivation series by distributing free Community Garden Planting Kits to Akwesasronon!

Held across all three districts, the event offered a great variety of vegetables plants including cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, green peppers, onion sets, as well as bags of soil and handy growing bags —

In June, the MCA Department of Health's Commu- everything needed to help community members get growing this season.

> This initiative is a great way to encourage healthy living, reconnect with the land, and promote food sustainability right here at home.

> Niawenhkó:wa to the dedicated teams at the Community Health Services and Land-Based Healing Program for sowing the seeds of wellness in Akwe-







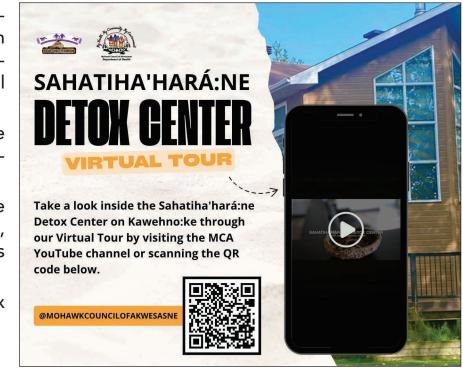
SAHATIHA'HARÁ:NE DETOX CENTER VIRTUAL TOUR

The Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center is a communitybased, Indigenous-focused detox facility located in Akwesasne that provides a safe and supportive environment for individuals going through withdrawal from substance use.

At the Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center, we believe that healing begins in a safe, supportive, and culturally-grounded environment.

Our Center is more than a place to detox. It's a space where individuals are embraced with compassion, respect, and guidance as they take their first steps in their recovery path.

For more information on the Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center, please call 613-932-5050.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AKWESASNE STORM U13 AND U15 TEAM BRING MEDICINE GAME TO THE TOTAS AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE

The Akwesasne Storm U13 and U15 players brought explained the reason for the medicine game is to bring the Akwesasne Storm lacrosse organization, Mohawk longer. Council of Akwesasne's Traditional Medicine, Addictions Services, and Land-Based Healing Programs. A special The players were given a medicine lacrosse ball after nia:wen/thank you to LaToya Rourke from Land-Based the game and a lucky tota was also gifted a medicine Healing for organizing the speakers and presenters.

The totas and the players took full advantage of the The afternoon was filled with knowledge, smiles, laughs, beautiful weather and enjoyed being outdoors. The cheers, and positive energy. residents sat on the patio and cheered on the players as they ran and hustled on the lawn.

Mitchell Skidders, MCA's Addictions Services Outpatient the totas. It was truly appreciated. Supervisor, and Johnson and Jasmine Jimerson from MCA's Traditional Medicines, provided background Nia:wen/Thank you to Rhonda Aldrich, Storm Lacrosse struggles young men would face into adulthood. They amazing activity for our totas.

a lacrosse medicine game to our beloved totas at healing and to uplift the minds of the men playing the Tsiionkwanonhso:te. The game was organized between game, as well as the minds of those who can't play any

lacrosse ball.

The residents and staff would like to thank everyone who had a hand in organizing the medicine lacrosse game for

information and knowledge on the significance of the team manager and Tsiionkwanonhso:te Recreation and medicine game of Lacrosse and explained the different Leisure Supervisor, Diane Lazore, in organizing another











DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

MCA & ACFS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT OF BARBRA THOMPSON



retirement of Barbra and healing services. Thompson. Born and

community in roles such as Family Support Worker, to her work each day. Case Manager, Child Protection Worker, and most recently, Service Manager for the Protection Team. Please join us in offering heartfelt congratulations

Her work was deeply rooted in compassion, cultural retirement. Niawenhkó:wa, Barbra, for your years knowledge, and a commitment to community of dedication, wisdom, and care for the Akwesasne wellness. She played a key role in initiatives such community. Best wishes for this next chapter! as Skani'kon:ra (One Mind), Eniethihswanon:na (We

The Mohawk Council Will Protect Them), the development of Akwesasne's of Akwesasne (MCA) Child Rights Law, and the implementation of the would like to recognize RedMane case management system. She also celebrate the supported programs connected to MCA's treatment

raised in Akwesasne, As she steps into retirement, Barbra's legacy will Barbra began her career live on through the systems she helped shape, with MCA in 1997 while the programs she guided, and the many lives she finishing college. She touched. Her presence will be deeply missed—not joined Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) only for her professional contributions, but for the in 2000 and spent the next 25 years serving the warmth, kindness, and steady support she brought

and gratitude as Barbra enters a well-deserved



ONKWE'TA:KE ONKWE'TA:KE Page 20 **JULY 2025 JULY 2025**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

HAUDENOSAUNEE UNDER THE STARS: ASTRONOMY WITH SAMANTHA DOXTATOR

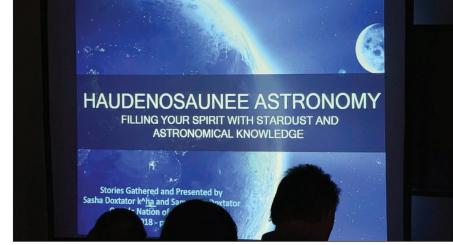
On Tuesday, June 3, the Akwesasne Child & Family covering themes of new life, death, and our celestial Services (ACFS) Traditional Support Unit welcomed connections. guest speaker Samantha Doxtator for a meaningful and memorable evening focused on Haudenosaunee Astronomy.

presentation that beautifully intertwined Haudenosaunee physical and celestial knowledge with uniher unique visual journey, crafted in collaboration rytelling and cultural insight. with the late Sasha Doxtator of the Oneida Nation. This presentation offered a special perspective on our creation stories, clan systems, longhouse structures, and the sacred balance of house and spirit —

We extend a heartfelt niawenhkó:wa/thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a success! A sincere thank you also goes to Big Samantha delivered an engaging and insightful Russ' Catering for providing delicious refreshments, and most especially to our quest speaker, Samantha Doxtator, for sharing her invaluable knowledge and versal astronomy. Attendees were captivated by inspiring our community through her powerful sto-

> We're grateful for the continued support of the community as we celebrate and carry forward our Haudenosaunee teachings — on earth and in the













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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

GOOD MEDICINE & MEMORIES: ACFS HOSTS A DAY FOR DADS

honored to host a special Father's Day gathering filled with spirit, culture, and connection. The day featured Thompson, along with gift certificates for ribbon shirts traditional lacrosse teachings, followed by a meaningful made by Marlana Thompson Baker of Okwaho Creations. Father and Son Medicine Game — a celebration of family, Nia:wen/Thank you to Island Girls Catering for the tradition, and wellness through sport.

traditional knowledge and history of lacrosse. Your teachings continue to guide and inspire our community.

We also want to thank Chad Thompson and Nathan Thompson from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Niawenhkó:wa to all who participated and supported for organizing the Father and Son Medicine Game and for your encouraging words that lifted spirits and brought generations together on the field.











On June 14, 2025, Akwesasne Child & Family Services was As a token of appreciation, our Traditional Knowledge Holders were gifted pack baskets handcrafted by Gary delicious corn soup, fried bread and strawberry drink.

A heartfelt niawenhkó:wa goes out to our esteemed Immediately following the lacrosse game, the ACFS Traditional Knowledge Holders, Mike Mitchell and Community Support Unit hosted its annual "Bubba-Q," Richard Mitchell, for their powerful tobacco burning in collaboration with the Akwesasne Zero 2 Six Program. ceremony and their invaluable presentation on the This Father's Day activity featured a catered cook-out and a lesson on how to braid hair. Nia:wen to Tisha Thompson for leading the lesson, as well as Darius and Tesia White for catering the Bubba-Q!

> this meaningful Father's Day celebration. Together, we continue to honor our traditions and strengthen our families!







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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

CURBSIDE RECYCLING REMINDER FOR MCA RESIDENTS

to follow proper curbside recycling guidelines to help will **not** be accepted, as it cannot be inspected or ensure a smooth and efficient pickup process for ev- properly sorted. eryone in the community.

following ways:

- 1. In your designated recycling bin
- 2. In a clear or transparent bag

We kindly remind all residents in the three districts Please note: Recycling placed in black garbage bags

If you have any questions, please contact our Waste Recyclable materials must be set out in one of the Coordinator Tianna Back at 613-575-2250 ext. 1048 or tianna.back@akwesasne.ca. Nia:wen for your cooperation!

> To view the Waste Management Plan, please scan the QR Code or visit the link below:



www.akwesasne.ca/curbside-recycling-reminder

UPCOMING E-WASTE DRIVE: SAFELY RECYCLE YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS

The MCA Environment Program invites the commulations **NOT** accepted: nity to take part in the third annual E-Waste Drive — a chance to responsibly dispose of broken or unwanted electronics while helping protect the environment. Let's work together to keep e-waste out of our landfills!

When: August 18-29, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday–Friday)

Where: CIA #3 Building, Kawehno:ke (Environment

Program Office)

How: Drop off your items in the designated e-waste

• Cables, cords, plugs

& chargers

Small appliances

kettles, etc.)

(toasters, electric

players

container

Accepted items include:

- Laptops, desktops, computers & printers
- Phones, cellphones & TVs, DVD & VHS tablets
- Radios, speakers & stereos
- Car batteries
- Cameras

- **NO** Lightbulbs
- **NO** Lithium ion batteries
- NO Rechargable batteries
- NO Regular garbage
- NO Medical waste
- NO Biohazard waste
- NO Liquids

Before recycling your e-waste, here are some tips to consider to protect your privacy:

- Clear your devices of all personal information and remove the SIM card prior to drop off.
- Ensure all memory storage areas have been cleared of private information.
- If you are unsure how to clear the data from your device, refer to the manufacturers website or the electronics owners manual.

If you have any questions, contact Waste Coordinator Tianna Back at 613-575-2250 ext. 1048 or email tianna.back@akwesasne.ca.

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND OF PET WELLNESS & PREVENTION

from June 13–15 was a huge success — thanks to the MASH-style event made a meaningful impact for Akincredible collaboration between the Ontario SPCA wesasronon families and their beloved pets. and Humane Society and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne!

Over the course of three days:

- 60 spay/neuter surgeries were completed.
- 16 wellness appointments were provided.
- An estimated 3,300 unplanned puppies and kittens were prevented.

The recent Pet Wellness Clinic held in Akwesasne Hosted at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, this

The MCA Compliance Program extends a heartfelt niawenhkó:wa to the veterinarians, vet techs, students, organizers, and volunteers whose hard work, compassion, and care made this clinic possible. Your efforts truly made a difference!

Read the full media release of the event from the Ontario SPCA website by scanning the QR code!















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AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION ZONE ADVISORY

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is issuing a HTA s. 128(13) - Fines are doubled when workers are reminder to all community members and commuters present. utilizing International Road on Kawehno:ke — construction work is currently underway on the south span of the Seaway International Bridge. For your safety and the HTA s. 144(9) - Including failure to obey temporary safety of workers, AMPS urges all drivers and pedestrians to strictly adhere to all traffic control measures in place within the construction zone.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Reduced Speed Limits: Temporary speed reductions are posted and must be obeyed at all times.
- Pedestrian Detours: Sidewalks are closed.
- Heavy Equipment in Operation: Remain clear of active machinery and obey all signage and flaggers.
- Noise and Dust: Construction activity may cause temporary noise and dust increases. Please exercise caution and patience.

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN EFFECT

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, in collaboration with SIBC safety officers, is increasing enforcement in the construction zone. Violations may result in charges under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

Offences include, but are not limited to:

• Speeding in a Construction Zone

Disobeying Traffic Signs or Signals

signs, flag persons, or detour indicators.

Careless Driving

HTA s. 130 - Driving without due care or attention in a manner that may endanger others.

ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

- Increased AMPS Patrols: Officers will conduct reqular patrols of the area to monitor compliance and ensure public safety.
- SIBC Onsite Enforcement: Bridge safety officers will monitor pedestrian and vehicular compliance.
- Zero Tolerance: For dangerous driving or any act that endangers workers or the public.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is committed to the protection and safety of all persons traveling through or residing near the construction zone. We ask for continued community cooperation and encourage residents to report unsafe activity or criminal behaviour by contacting Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000. Let's work together to ensure a safe and respectful work environment for all.



SAFE BOATING STARTS HERE.

Scan the QR code below to view **Boat Safety Tips by AMPS!**

or visit our YouTube Channel @MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne





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AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS FIRST COMMUNITY SKÉN: NEN MEAL GATHERING

On Tuesday, June 24, the Akwesasne Mohawk Po- The gathering created a relaxed and welcoming space lice Service (AMPS) hosted their very first Community where stories were shared, questions were asked, and Skén:nen Meal Gathering at the Akwesasne Homemak- trust was built. ers. The new monthly event invited community members to join AMPS officers for lunch, conversation, and connection.

It was a great turnout, with plenty of laughs, good and spending more time with the community! food, and meaningful conversations! Community members had the chance to get to know the officers who serve Akwesasne — not just in uniform, but as people.



Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who came out and made the first meal gathering such a positive experience. AMPS looks forward to continuing this new tradition

Keep an eye out for the next Community Skén:nen Meal Gathering — we hope to see you there!



JUNE 2025 STATISTICS

- 281 June
- 3 024 Break & Enter Residence
- 1 027 Theft Automobiles
- 1 035 Theft Over \$5000 Other
- 1 040 Theft Under \$5000 Other
- 044 Frauds Credit Cards
- 3 061 Bail Violations
- 3 063 Disturb the Peace
- 072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5000
- 079 Cocaine Possession
- 100 Immigration Act
- 1001 Alarms
- 4 1002 Alerts
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies Ambulance
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies Cornwall PS
- 1003 Assist Other Agencies OPP
- 12 1003 Assist Other Agencies Other

- 4 1003 Assist Other Agencies Tribal PD
- 39 1004 Assist Public
- 1 1006 Document Service
- 1 1007 Breach of Probation
- 7 1008 By-Law Dogs
- 1009 By-Law Noise
- 3 1011 By-Law Other
- 4 1012 Civil Disputes
- 48 1013 Community Services
- 1014 Crime Prevention
- 1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)
- 3 1018 Escorts Prisoner
- 11 1023 Judge's Order (Court)
- 1023 MVC Non-Reportable
- 1 1027 Property Found
- 1 1028 Probation Orders
- 13 1029 Suspicious Persons

- 6 1030 Suspicious Vehicles
- 13 1031 Suspicious Circumstances
- 1 1034 Trespassing (Prov. Statute)
- 6 1036 Warrant Bench/First
- 1038 Missing Persons
- 1049 Medical Aid
- 1050 Youth Complaint
- 2 1056 Hazardous Conditions
- 22 1063 Marine Patrol
- 6 205 Assault Level 1
- 1 206 Assault Weapon/CBH Level 2
- 1 212 Assaults Other
- 1 705 Dangerous Operation MV
- 1 715 Fail to Stop/Remain (CCC)
- 12 721 Traffic Provincial Statutes
- 1 723 Traffic Parking Violations
- 3 Incident Type Not Listed

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The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service wants to hear from you! We're working on building a stronger, more inclusive AMPS team — and your feedback can help guide the way.

Your voice matters. Help shape the future of policing in Akwesasne by filling out our online survey today!

Survey closes: August 31, 2025



Your voice matters – help shape future opportunities in Akwesasne!

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wants to hear from you. We're collecting input from community members to better understand the kinds of training and educational opportunities you'd like to see offered.

Participate for a chance to win!

1st Prize

Canada's Wonderland Getaway (2-night stay for a family of 4, dining bundle included)

2nd Prize:

Calypso Waterpark Day Trip (for a family of 4)

3rd Prize:

"Buy Local Basket" (goodies and gift cards from local businesses & artisans)

SURVEY DEADLINE: AUGUST 27, 2025Open to all members of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.



