



Request for Proposals

Improving Border Crossing Rights for First Nations

Issue Date: July 7, 2022

Purpose

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) seeks proposals from qualified consultants to provide professional services on the upcoming 'Improving Border Crossing Rights for First Nations' project. The MCA intends to engage with our own community members, First Nations of the Iroquois Caucus, and other First Nations that are similarly located on the Canada/United States border to consult, receive feedback, and collaborate on ideas to ensure that Canadian law is consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, specifically when it comes to border crossing rights for Indigenous peoples. We want to find the best way to propose to Canada that the border crossing rights currently contained in the *Jay Treaty of 1794* between the United States and Great Britain should be included in modern day Canadian legislation and be recognized by Canada.

Background of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

The community of Akwesasne is situated on the St. Lawrence River, with the Racquette River and St. Regis River also winding through our community. It's easy to understand why our ancestors made this location our home, as the waterways provided not only transportation and trading routes, but also an abundance of wildlife to fish and hunt. Long after the Mohawks were situated in Akwesasne, the international border between Canada and the United States was drawn through our community, creating northern and southern portions of Akwesasne, along with Quebec, Ontario, and New York portions.

Today, there are three Mohawk governments at Akwesasne. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is the elected council on the Canadian portion of Akwesasne, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) is the elected council on the American portion of Akwesasne, and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs is the traditional government.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is the elected body representing the Mohawks of Akwesasne and is the governing body of the northern portion of

Akwesasne. The Council has responsibility for the residential Districts of Kanatakon (St. Regis, Quebec), Tsi Snaihne (Snye, Quebec), and Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island, Ontario), as well as numerous islands in the St. Lawrence River. MCA's Council is comprised of a Grand Chief who represents and is responsible for the entire community and 12 District Chiefs who represent their districts and are each responsible for their selected portfolio areas of interest; each of the 3 districts have 4 District Chiefs. The MCA reports a total population of approximately 12,000 and the SRMT reports that their population is approximately 11,000. It is understood that some community members are included on both lists. Akwesasne's population includes Elders, adults, teenagers, youth, and babies. Our community also includes vulnerable persons, persons with special needs, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons. We strive to engage with all members of our community inclusively.

MCA's Council oversees the operation of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, which is the local government organization that provides a wide range of programs and services to our community members including Health, Social, Education, Justice, Public Safety, Housing, Environment, Economic Development, and Public Works. The organization is managed by an Executive Director along with 8 Department Directors and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$139,000,000. The MCA employs approximately 760 individuals who are located in over 35 facilities, both within and just outside our Territory.

Scope of Work

The chosen consultant is expected to:

- provide research and advisory services on this project;
- oversee the project from start to finish;
- attend engagement meetings to educate, facilitate discussions, and record feedback for reporting purposes;
- review, be aware, and make use of legal analyses (to be provided by MCA);
- prepare a progress report for submission to Canada;

- prepare an overall findings report for the community; and
- present the overall findings report to the community at a public meeting

For clarification, the engagement meetings include 3 District Meetings, 2 General Meetings, 1 Meeting for Tribal and Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs members participation, and 3 other meetings with external stakeholders (other border First Nations and Haudenosaunee Confederacy Nations).

Timeframe and Deliverables

The timeframe for this work is seven (7) months total, from August 2022 to February 2023. In addition to regular updates on work progress, deliverables are required as follows:

Deliverable	Due Date
Progress report for Canada	November 2022
Overall findings report for community	February 2023

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must contain the following, at a minimum, to be favorably considered:

- Brief cover letter;
- Overview of consultant including full legal name, address, telephone and email contact information, description of business, and evidence of proven track record;
- Credentials, relevant past and current experience, and qualifications of all individuals who will be providing services, including the extent and nature of their roles for this project;
- A description of the proposed approach that will be used to carry out the work;
- A description of and a commitment to the scope of work, timeframes, and provision of deliverables;

- Gantt chart or similar means of providing an overview of the work plan activities, responsibility for each task, and schedule;
- Provisions for ensuring timeliness; and
- A detailed budget breakdown including fees, expenses, materials, proposed terms of payment, and payment schedule.

Budget

The anticipated budget for the consultant's scope of work for this project is \$30,000-\$45,000.

NOTE: MCA assumes no obligation, no responsibility, and no liability for costs incurred by responding consultants prior to the issuance of a contract. MCA reserves the right to negotiate a lower or different fee structure with any consultant selected. All costs and fees must be clearly described in the proposal.

Evaluation of Proposals

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne reserves the right to select the consultant of its choice and will not necessarily award the contract to the lowest priced proposal. The consultant will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Overall quality and experience of the consultant/consultant's team;
- Past experience with similar projects;
- Proposed approach;
- Commitment to carrying out the scope of work, providing stated deliverables, and meeting required timeframes;
- Quality of the price quote; and
- Price.

Request for Proposal Inquiries

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals by email to: proposals@akwesasne.ca

Proposal Submissions

Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 pm EST on July 21, 2022 only. Any proposals submitted after the deadline will NOT be reviewed. Proposals must be submitted electronically by email to: proposals@akwesasne.ca