

ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 3

Enniskó:wa/March 2020

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MCA CONTINUES CELEBRATING NEW BABIES WITH FAMILY EVENT



For several years, the Community Health program has hosted a "Celebration of Birth" event to honour all of the new babies and families who were served by the program throughout the year. Celebration of Birth was held on January 30, 2020 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. Not only were families treated to a delicious meal, but they were also showered with gifts, photos, and positivity. A wooden frame etched with the Mohawk word for family, "Akwatsire" was gifted to each baby, and photos were taken at the event for them to use in their frame if they wished. Each baby was also given a small, locally made rattle. Congratulations to all of our growing families! To learn more about our services for pregnancy, birth, and babies, contact the MCA Community Health Program at 613-575-2341, or visit them on Facebook!

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

March 9, 2020

- Tsi Snaihne District Meeting - Iohahi:io Education and Training Institute - 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

March 9, 2020

- Kawehno:ke District Meeting - Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre - 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

March 16, 2020

- Kana:takon District Meeting - St. Regis Recreation Centre - 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

March 26, 2020

- General Meeting - Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre - 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2018-2021

Grand Chief

Abram Benedict

Kana:takon District

Chief Theresa Jacobs
Chief Darryl Lazore
Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs
Chief Tim Thompson

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Carolyn Francis
Chief Edward Roundpoint
Chief Vince Thompson
Chief Vanessa Adams

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief April Adams-Phillips
Chief Connie Lazore
Chief Joe Lazore
Chief Tobi Mitchell

Administration

Heather Phillips
Executive Director

Daryl Seymour
A/Director,
Department of Technical Services

Joyce King
Director,
Akwasasne Justice Department

Charmaine Caldwell
Director,
Department of Housing

Catherine Lelievre
A/Director,
Department of
Community and Social Services

Keith Leclaire
Director,
Department of Health

Donna Lahache
Director,
Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board
of Education

Shawn Dulude
Chief of Police,
Akwasasne Mohawk Police
Service

Kylee Tarbell
A/Director,
Tehotiiennawakon

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS



She:kon/Wat'kwanonhwera:ton,

The MCA Communications Team is proud to bring you a new issue of our print newsletter, Onkwe'ta:ke. The name Onkwe'ta:ke means "For the people" and the newsletter is our way of reporting MCA news and information to those we are serving...you, the people. MCA prides itself on transparency and accountability, and the news and reports in the pages to follow are MCA's attempt to ensure you receive informative and helpful news.

There is always a lot to learn about Council and the MCA departments, so we hope you find the newsletter both interesting and useful. We look forward to sharing our most valuable news with you in this format, and welcome you to provide feedback or suggestions by emailing our team at communications@akwesasne.ca.

FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1

The Mohawk Council is conducting daily de-briefings and meetings with stakeholders to keep abreast of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus outbreak. The community is being updated regularly and we will continue to provide you with information as we receive it. You can read more on our website, as well as on Page 5. Please note that the information is changing daily.

2

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne stands in solidarity with our brother and sister communities, including the Wet'suwet'en, Tyendinaga, Kahnawake and Cayuga communities. Please see a statement on Page 5.

3

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne will vote to approve/reject their operational budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year on March 16, 2020. Community members may request to view and comment on the budget prior to March 16th by visiting the Mohawk Government Office. Please read more on Page 8.

4

You can find past and present MCA videos on our MCA Youtube Channel! See past General Meeting videos, funny staff compilations, and other resources. Visit www.youtube.com/mohawkcouncilofakwesasne to watch now!

5

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne is committed to providing quality service to the community. We have implemented the MCA Service Standards, which you can read on Page 19.

NEWS

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FEB. 28, 2020

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is continuing to provide updates regarding the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak as well as the NAV Centre quarantine site.

For up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus, along with helpful tips for reducing the spread of sickness, please visit the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne website: www.akwesasne.ca

GENERAL UPDATES

The passengers evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship and quarantined at NAV Centre in Cornwall will be released from quarantine on Friday, March 6, 2020.

151 people total originally arrived at NAV for quarantine (under the provisions of Canada's Quarantine Act) including 13 crew. The crew members have since been released after it was determined they were not at risk of contracting the virus having followed proper protocols.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is provided with daily updates from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and Public Health Canada.

MCA's Department of Health con-

ducts daily debriefing sessions with managers and staff to keep the health team apprised of any updates or increased risks to keep the community informed of.

At this time, regular virus-prevention practices continue to be recommended to avoid the flu and flu-like viruses such as a coronavirus.

EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT UPDATES

The following is the EOHU's update from Feb. 27, 2020:

The quarantine at the NAV Centre continued to go smoothly on Thursday, February 27. As of noon on February 27, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 found among people in quarantine at the NAV Centre in Cornwall.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam and Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Howard Njoo held a press conference in Ottawa on Thursday afternoon to give an update on COVID-19. They stated that thus far, Canada has successfully detected and managed individual cases and their contacts to prevent spread within Canada – these efforts will continue.

Public health authorities across the

country at all levels of government have pandemic preparedness and emergency response plans they are ready to implement, and will continue to elaborate.

Limiting the Spread of COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases:

When it comes to preparedness, everyone has a role to play. We can all take simple actions to protect ourselves and prevent others from getting sick – washing our hands frequently, covering our coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick.

Check out this video to learn more about proper hand washing: <http://ow.ly/lc8j50yy0pL>.

There is **No Increased Risk** of COVID-19 for NAV Centre Staff and their Families

The EOHU has sent letters to schools, daycares, long-term care homes and pharmacies with information about COVID-19 and the quarantine at the NAV Centre.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA (PHAC) INFORMATION

As of March 4, 2020, Canada has reported a total of 33 cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in the country. All cases are individuals who had recently travelled to an affected country, or their spouse/fam-

NEWS

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (CONTINUED)

ily member had. Some have already recovered completely and others remain under self-isolation. Ontario has 20 cases, British Columbia has 12, and Quebec reports 1 case.

The U.S. has over 80 cases of confirmed COVID-19 and at least two cases of community spread, meaning the person(s) had not recently travelled or had known exposure to the virus. There have been 9 U.S. deaths.

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Canada:

As of March 2, 2020, Canada advises the public to avoid non-essential travel to China and to avoid all travel to the Hubei province of China. Screening processes have been implemented at the 10 major airports across Canada and in the U.S. If you have recently travelled internationally, Canada advises you to monitor your health and contact a health professional who can advise on the next appropriate steps. Travellers from countries with heavy outbreaks of the virus (such as Iran and China) are undergoing screening upon arriving to the U.S. or Canada. Only those who meet certain criteria for exposure to COVID-19 will be tested for the virus. More information is available at www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

United States:

The U.S. Center for Disease Control

and Prevention advises the public to avoid non essential travel to China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. Foreign nationals from China and Iran are not permitted to enter the U.S. due to the virus. Others arriving from a "Level 3" country may be transferred to one of 11 U.S. airports with quarantine procedures in place. More information is available at www.cdc.gov.

WHO DATA/SITUATION REPORT - Posted March 3, 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports the following statistical data on the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus):

- 90,870 total cases of COVID-19 globally
- 10,566 cases of COVID-19 outside of China
- 2,946 COVID-19 related deaths in China
- 166 COVID-19 related deaths outside of China

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

China: Very High

Regional Level: Very High

Global Level: Very High

WHO RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

During previous outbreaks due to other coronavirus (Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), human-to-human transmis-

sion occurred through droplets, contact and fomites, suggesting that the transmission mode of the COVID-19 can be similar.

REDUCING TRANSMISSION

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- Within health care facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.
- WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

NEWS

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE DOES NOT SUPPORT ACTIONS OF ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE IN TYENDINAGA

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was disheartened to hear of the actions taken by the Ontario Provincial Police in regards to the blockade in our sister community of Tyendinaga. While we respect the efforts of law enforcement agencies when it comes to the protection of people and communities in Canada, we cannot condone the actions and arrests that have occurred in the face of peaceful protests.

We continue to call for a peaceful resolution to the dispute amongst all parties involved.

This behavior displayed does not reflect the spirit of reconciliation and we are disappointed that it occurred from the direction of Canada.

The MCA continues to stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en and Unist'ot'en Camp supporters, along with our brothers and sisters in Tyendinaga, in their efforts to protect traditional land from the unwanted development of a gas pipeline.

MCA WINS MORALE, BUT TRIBE WINS AKWESASNE WINTER CARNIVAL MCA VS SRMT BATTLE ROYALE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne staff faced the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe staff on February 14 in an epic showdown of physical fitness, mental competence, and wit for the Akwesasne Winter Carnival MCA vs SRMT Battle Royale. After competitions in basketball, volleyball, broomball, poker, puzzling, and executive director minute-to-win-it games, MCA came up short for the overall win, but celebrates the most participated-in Battle Royale yet, and a huge increase in overall participation from recent years. The Battle Royale provided a fun day of Akwesasne team building and camaraderie.

MCA congratulates the Tribe in showing up with great enthusiasm and talent. Nia:wenkowa to all MCA staff who participated in and planned for these events. Kana:takon students, you rock; nia:wen for your cheering!

Stay tuned for the MCA VS SRMT Summer Showdown 2020!



MCA Executive Director Heather Phillips and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro faced off at the MCA VS SRMT Battle Royale.

NEWS

MCA VS SRMT BATTLE ROYALE CON'T



MCA and the SRMT both played hard in the basketball game, but SRMT came out ahead.



Ryan Seymour of MCA high-fiving the awesome fans!



MCA and SRMT played to a packed crowd of students.



The volleyball game had many talented players battling.

NEWS

MCA VS SRMT BATTLE ROYALE CON'T



The poker game was a hard fought match, but SRMT came out ahead.



MCA defeated the SRMT in puzzles. Way to go!



Chief Tobi Mitchell in action at the broomball game.



The broomball players had a great time and were in good spirits...despite the extreme cold!

NEWS

MCA 2020-2021 BUDGET & BUSINESS PLAN SCHEDULE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is preparing to accept its budget and business plan (operating plan) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Per the provisions of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law (AFAL):

Subsection 30 (1) - Council shall post a public notice of each Council meeting when each of the following is presented for Council approval:

- (a) the Multi-Year Financial Plan;
- (b) the Annual Budget;
- (c) an amendment to the Annual Budget;
- (d) Annual Budget deficits or extraordinary expenditures;
- (e) Capital Projects;
- (f) borrowing for new Capital Projects; and
- (g) proposed amendments to this Law.

Subsection 30 (2) - A notice provided under subsection (1) shall state whether Members may attend that portion of the Council meeting where the matters in paragraph (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d) are under consideration.

Council hereby notifies the community that the vote to approve or reject the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne 2020-2021 Budget and Business Plan will take place on

March 16, 2020 during Council's regular weekly Council Meeting. This meeting is not open to the public. However, community members who wish to view and comment on the proposed budget prior to March 16th may visit the Mohawk Government Office at 29 Third Street, Kana:takon to request a draft copy.

In accordance with the AFAL:

Subsection 30 (3) - Upon approval of any matters described in subsection 30 (1) Council shall schedule an Information Meeting to be held within thirty (30) days of approval for the purpose of informing Members of Akwesasne about the matters approved.

If the budget is accepted, the March General Meeting will be a dedicated information session presenting the full budget and business plan for the upcoming year. This meeting will take place on March 26, 2020 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre starting at 6 p.m.

The MCA General Meetings are open to all members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne regardless of residency.

If you have any questions regarding the budget meetings please contact the Mohawk Government Office at 613-575-2348.

MCA 2020-2021 BUDGET & BUSINESS PLAN SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO WISH TO VIEW AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED BUDGET MAY REQUEST A COPY FROM THE MOHAWK GOVERNMENT OFFICE AT 29 THIRD STREET, KANA:TAKON

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MCR #085 Contribution Agreements for Akwesasne Community Justice Program

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Julie Jacobs
For: 7 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #086 Contribution Agreement for Indigenous Court worker FY 2017-2020

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 6 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #087 Ministry of Education 2019-2020 First Nations Child Care and /or Child Family Service Agreement

Moved by: Chief Carolyn Francis
Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 6 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #088 Access to Territory Request

Moved by: Chief Edward Roundpoint
Seconded by: Chief Tobi Mitchell

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #089 Lot 28 Colquhoun Island West-Assignment of Lease

Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #090 To confirm signing Authority for the Indigenous Services Canada 10 Year Grant-Comprehensive Funding Agreement

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #091 Applicant Requirements Interim Cannabis License –Retail

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #092 Accept & Approve Emergency Council Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtokha/April 2, 2019

Moved by: Chief Tobi Mitchell
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #093 Accept & Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtokha/April 8, 2019

Moved by: Chief Tim Thompson
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #094 Accept & Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtokha/April 15, 2019

Moved by: Chief Tim Thompson
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 9 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #095 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtokha/April 29, 2019

Moved by: Chief Julie Jacobs
Seconded by: Chief Connie Lazore

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #096 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 6, 2019

Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Connie Lazore

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #097 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 9, 2019

Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #098 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes

dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 13, 2019

Moved by: Chief Carolyn Francis
Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #099 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 27, 2019

Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Tim Thompson

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #100 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 29, 2019

Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs
Seconded by: Chief Darryl Lazore

For: 9 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #101 Accept & Approve Emergency Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohko:wa/May 30, 2019

Moved by: Chief Tobi Mitchell
Seconded by: Chief Tim Thompson

For: 10 Against: 0

CARRIED

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT



January 27, 2020

- Council discussed an upcoming meeting with the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and reflected on the most recent meeting held with the MNCC.
- A briefing was provided on the use of Mohawk language in the draft Akwesasne/Canada self-government agreement. Council determined that Mohawk Language will not be used in the agreement, to

avoid even further interpretation disputes in the finalization of the draft agreement. Council also agreed that Section 17 of the Indian Act will not be in the draft agreement.

- Council debriefed on the recent General Meeting and discussed the necessary follow up. Everyone was reminded that the next General Meeting will include one agenda item: the MCA budget presentation.
- A briefing was provided on an upcoming meeting with SIBC in relation to the traffic light on International Road.
- A motion was passed authorizing administration to proceed with remodeling the MCA Administration 1 boardroom.
- MCRs passed: Approval of

appointment of youth to the Akwesasne Youth Council; Approval to rescind and replace a MCR for housing loan to community member; Approval of housing loan to community member; Approval of application to Indigenous Language and Cultural Program for Thompson Island; Approval of transfer payment agreement with Ministry of College & Universities; Approval of revisions to AMBE organizational chart; Approval for Grand Chief to be named as the plaintiff for Dundee litigation discontinuance; Approval of construction contract with Capital Controls for SCADA replacement; Approval of 8 Council Meeting minutes; Approval of 3 Emergency Council Meeting minutes.

February 3, 2020

- Council was given an update from a recent meeting with the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) regarding Bill C-92 and Quebec's position to challenge the bill in the courts.
- A concern regarding the Post Secondary Education Program was discussed and will be followed up on by portfolio at the next AMBE board meeting.

- Administration provided a briefing on the current messaging being provided to the organization on the Coronavirus and will request that the Health Department provide the community with reminders on proper hand washing to prevent the spread of germs.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Service Contract with Ontario East; Approval of funding agreement for Enhanced Shelter funding; Approval

of amendment to Akwesasne – Canada funding agreement; Approval of authority for Dr. Horn to issue occupancy licenses for student doctors; Approval of transfer agreement with Ontario for family well-being funding. probationary period.

- MCR's passed: Approval of contract award to International Water Supply Ltd. to replace Vertical Turbine Pump.

February 10, 2020

- A representative of the Ontario

Native Welfare Administrators Association provided Council with a report

and overview of their recent review of the Community Support Program

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT CONTINUED

continued from page 10

policies and outlined the next steps for Council's approval.

- Council discussed a financial request from a not-for-profit group for \$133,000 to assist with land disputes. Council determined that they are unable to financially assist.

- A proposal to sell parcels of land to Council was further discussed and will be referred to the Property Acquisition Team (PAT) for recom-

mendation.

- Council received a debriefing from Friday's demonstration in support for Wet'suwet'en Nation and reviewed a draft release to update the community.

- A request to add an agenda item to the February General Meeting was discussed and will be deferred to the discussion for the March General Meeting agenda.

- An update was provided on the efforts to ensure that deteriorating roads in Akwesasne are being considered for future capital projects.

- MCR's passed: Acceptance of resignation of overseer for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust; Approval of design contact for Wade Lafrance Memorial Road; Approval of contract to design and build water taxi for Thompson Island Cultural Camp.

February 24, 2020

- The program manager and supervisor for the

- Akwesasne Child and Family Services Program and the Justice Coordinator provided Council with an overview and a plan for the usage of surplus funds for Council's consideration and future approval.

- The Justice Coordinator provided Council with an overview of a proposed Fall Conference in Partnership with Queen's University and a proposed research project for consideration. Council approved both the conference and research project.

- Council discussed the communications protocol with the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC), to be used when there are traffic disruptions, restrictions, and closures.

- A meeting request to discuss

potential mechanisms to resolve land disputes was discussed and will be followed up on.

- Council discussed an email received from the AFN National Chief regarding their error in not including Akwesasne's participation at a press conference; a follow-up letter will be drafted for Council's consideration.

- A briefing was provided on the recent approval of funding to demolish the Administration Building # 2 in Kana:takon.

- Council discussed the recent events at Tyendinaga and agreed

that a press release would be issued to state that we do not support the recent actions of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

- MCR's passed: Approval of Ontario roads subsidy; Approval of amendments to the MCA Preferential Hiring Policy; Approval of funding agreement for AIDS awareness promotion; Approval of renewal of contract with Accreditation Canada; Approval of report and work plan for AIDS awareness funding; Approval of amendment to funding contract with Ministry of Children and Youth.

STAY UPDATED ON ALL THINGS
AKWESASNE



@MCAKWESASNE



MOHAWK COUNCIL
OF AKWESASNE



@MCAKWESASNE



MOHAWK COUNCIL
OF AKWESASNE

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE UPDATES



Portfolio: Justice, Public Safety, Executive Services

Month: January 2020

Committee: Finance, Governance, Cannabis Working Task Group

Monthly Notables:

1. The January weekly Special Meeting of Council was held on Monday January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th. I was away from the office for the 27th. Some of the discussion items for Council included: Transport Canada Lands, Governance Update, Language of Laws, Section 17 of Indian Act, Language Act Working Group, Emergency Management, Homeless Issue, Signage for Arena, AFN/PeaceTree Mall, Clark Island, Housing Issue, DCSS/CSP Disability, Cannabis WTG Update and Employment. Presentations included: Bank of Montreal. Resolutions considered were: Vertical Turbine Pump Award, ISC Amending Funding Agreements, Wholistic Health & Wellness Program Organization

chart, Appointment of Enforcement Officer for Akwesasne Interim Cannabis Regulations, Land Allotment. Dundee Claim Settlement.

2. Justice Portfolio Meeting was scheduled and held on January 9th. Portfolio and the Director of Justice meet to discuss the areas that require political support.

3. Public Safety Portfolio Meeting was held on January 16th. I was not available to attend.

4. The Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for January 2nd was postponed and held on January 22nd. We discussed the Travel Policy, Budget, Electronic Funds Transfer and the FAL Implementation and the Finance Committee under FAL requires three community members.

5. The Benefits Committee meeting was held on January 23rd. Discussion was held on pension, Financial Planning and Engagement Sessions with employees.

6. District Meeting was held on January 13th, I was unavailable to attend as I was on travel to Wendake, Quebec to attend a Quebec Family Law Reform for January 14th & 15th.

7. A General Meeting was held on January 23rd. Agenda included: Presentations: AMBE Board Trustee Introductions and ANIHB's Presentation, Health Board Members were identified: Gail McDon-

ald, Carol Thompson, Lori Thompson, Natalie Leaf and youth reps: Mia Francis/Jenna David. Updates were provided on: Dundee Claim, Border Issues and Special Needs. Discussion was held on the Indian Day School Claim process, CBSA, Winter Carnival Events.

8. Youth Council Meeting was held on January 23rd. Council was provided with updates from October 2019 last meeting. Follow up on OPG Funding and Youth Council promotional items, New Business included: Increase of community involvement, building relationships with local high schools to support community outreach initiatives. The next AYC meeting is January 30th.

9. I did not attend any Legislative Commission meeting on January 14th as I was on travel. I did attend the January 28th meeting, to discuss the Cannabis Law.

10. The Governance Committee Meeting was scheduled for January 28th however it was cancelled.

Work in Progress:

1. Recreational Cannabis Working Task Group Meetings continue. Meetings were held on January 3rd, 17th, 23rd and 24th. As we continue the work of review of applications, law review and additional work.

2. As a member of the

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE UPDATES

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CBSA Leadership Committee we had meetings to review the CBSA work plan developed from the Design Think Tank work between MCA/CBSA. on January 6th, we had a prep meeting for our Leadership Meeting with CBSA on January 8th in Ottawa. As Leadership we discussed some changes to the working committees and the next steps for the tables.

3. For January 13-15th, I attended the Quebec Family Law Reform (QFLR) hosted by the AFN-QL in Wendake, Quebec with Chief Carolyn Francis. This meeting spoke of the Couples Property law and potential concerns of the QFLR as written. Quebec First Nations were voicing concerns and making recommendations of what would better reflect their needs.

4. For January 20-21st, I attended a Cannabis Host Communities Network meeting in Toronto, with Chief Carolyn Francis and Grand Chief. Key Discussion items included: Community Safety, Public Health, Economic Development, Community Growth and Relationship with Industry. Purpose was to bring leaders and experts in the industry together to build common goals around the key items discussed.

5. Meeting with Canadian Coast Guard and the Auxiliary Coast

Guard. We also provided the group with a tour of the HAVFD Stations #2 & #3 to see their equipment.

6. The Annual Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust meeting was the held with Council, Trustees and Overseers. Annual report was provided of monies distributed and discussion held on the activities for the coming year.

7. I attended a meeting of the WTG on Old Age Security. We began discussion on the items of concern and spoke of a communication strategy for our elders. Work will continue.

8. Meeting with the Executive Director to discuss issues of concern with regards to HAVFD: Annual O&M Funding and Building Needs.

9. I have been attending the Winter Carnival Planning Meetings. Great job being done by the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Committee and all the programs, volunteers, organizations and parents involved to create a successful event.



Chief Connie Lazore, along with Chief Carolyn Francis and Winter Carnival Coordinator, Mae Green, had a great time at the 2020 Winter Carnival.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF TOBI MITCHELL UPDATES



Portfolio: Environment, Department of Health, Nation Building, Economic Development

Month: January 2020

Committee: Finance, Governance, Cannabis Working Task Group

January

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and that I hope everyone enjoyed the winter break.

I began the new year, with a meeting at Tsiionkwanonhso:te regarding resident concerns. I joined as a political representative, along with various administration. We listened to the concerns, and the administration began working on a plan to address what issues they are able to.

DOH Portfolio will be receiving an update as to how the concerns are being addressed.

I traveled to Montreal with Chief Adams-Phillips to attend 2 differ-

ent meetings. The first one was to be a prep meeting for an upcoming meeting with Quebec leaders, however, Quebec's recent challenge of the First Nations Child Welfare Act, took over the meeting discussion.

I spent the weekend before the meeting reviewing documents to familiarize myself with the new act.

We then attended a meeting hosted by the AFNQL to look at a new governance model for the AFNQL, in regards to health and social services. They presented a brand new model to everyone in attendance and we provided feedback on the model.

I attended a Tehotiiennawakon portfolio meeting to discuss various files and receive updates on where those files had moved since the holiday break.

Unfortunately, I was out of town for the Environment portfolio meeting, but I spent an hour with the Program Manager and the Environmental Science Officer one morning, getting quick updates and seeing where I can support the work they are doing. We discussed some plans for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as reviewed the budget.

We reconvened the Akwesasne

Green Team, and discussed some ideas on how to move forward with achievable goals, we discussed some new communication ideas, and ways to spread awareness.

We decided to host a #GreenValentine event at the Akwesasne Winter Carnival and planned out the best way to run it.

I attended the Entewatatha:wi portfolio meeting, as well as the morning of the internal legal technical review meeting. I also attended a meeting with the trustees and overseers of the Mohawks of Akwesasne Settlement Community Trust, where we received an update and discussed priorities for the upcoming year.

I was sick for the district meeting and did not attend. I attended our monthly meeting with the Akwesasne Youth Council as well as the general meeting.

For the last week of the month I was on bereavement, so I was in and out of the office.

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI OVERVIEW

Entewatathá:wi reviews and takes into account many of the administration and legal aspects with respect to Nation Building and self governance. This will be defined and proposed for legislation in the Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA). Three administrative aspects of nation building are; prior government experience, level of economic development and social uniformity. These pillars are considered to be some of the building blocks for a strong nation.



Currently Entewatathá:wi is working on an agreement for Mohawks of Akwesasne self-governance with Canada which will define a new relationship with Canada, that goes beyond the Indian Act. This will allow the commu-

nity to make decisions to self-direct its future. There are many legal aspects to this agreement. All codes and laws need to be reviewed and updated as society changes. In the past, there has been updates and amendments to have the most current and effective leadership for the community. An example of change was when the current Financial Administration Law was enacted.

It is our understanding a vital part of the community is the uniformity of society which is defined as a society where most of the people share the same type of cultural values, language and ethnicity. A core value in the Akwesasne culture would be family and traditions. Over time, many other values are created by the members of the community. Some of these unique values are identified through sports, special celebrations and people.

- National sport team: Lacrosse,
- Community facilities and gathering areas for the community: A'nowara'ko:wa Arena,
National language: Kanien'keha,



-Celebration of National Days: Saio-wisakeron Day, (Jake Fire Ice)
-National Flag: Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.
- National heroes who create a legacy as in sports or defenders of the rights and interest of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.
-The legacy of stories shared and told over time through story tellers. The aspects of government, economics and social uniformity are building blocks for a nation. It does take a lot of effort and time from the community to be involved in building pride and an appreciation for the community. The Mohawks of Akwesasne have a strong base in moving forward with Self Governance.

FAMILY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Entewatathá:wi offers family information sessions to give you more insight about the self-governing process. Staff will join you, your family and friends to provide you with information on the program and have a good conversation on what the

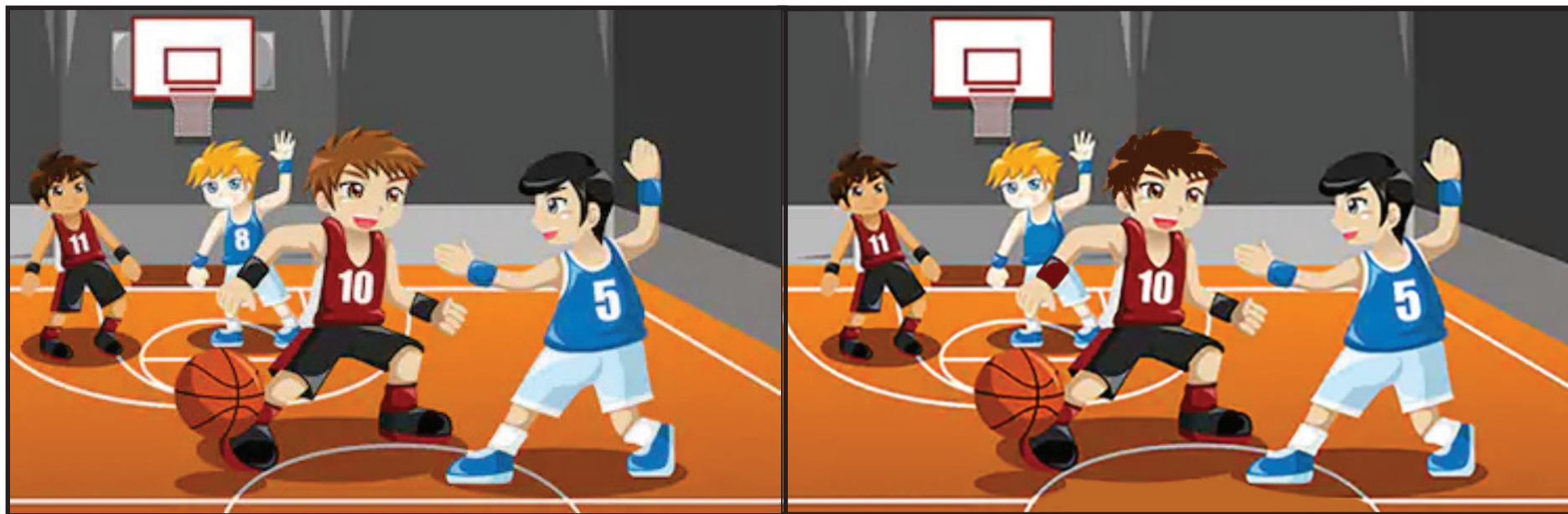
Entewatathá:wi Program does and is all about.

If you would like to host a family information session, please call the Entewatathá:wi office to reserve your spot today at 613-575-2341 ext. 3193.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you find the five differences between these two basketball games?



1. On the basketball net, there are two missing side panels. 2. Blue player in the back is missing number eight. 3. The hair on player #10 is different in the two images. 4. Player #10 has a maroon wristband in the second image. 5. There is a line missing on the center court through the circle.

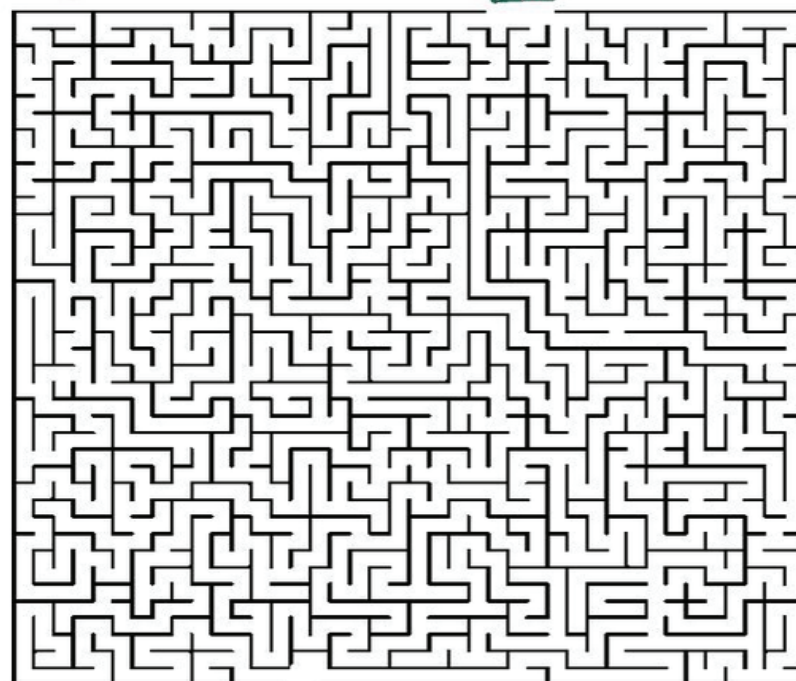
TOTALLY COOL ACTIVITY!

Freeze ice cubes with food colouring and let the kids take them out into the snow to play with them. They can build with them, decorate a fort, or simply scoop and transfer them into various containers. It's a great way to provide creative, open-ended play in the snow on a winter day.



SIMPLY A-MAZE-ING

Help the Leprechaun find his pot of gold



YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What can you catch, but never throw?

A cold!



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

FACEBOOK STATS



Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in February

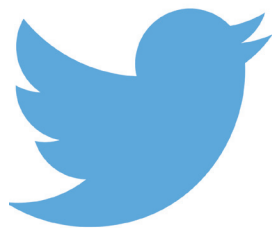
- 1. Akwesasne Winter Carnival: A Tale of Despair & Redemption (Video)
- 2. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Does Not Support Actions of Ontario Provincial Police in Tyendinaga (Release)
- 3. Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance - Protective Equipment Information (Photo)
- 4. MCA Wins Morale, but Tribe Wins Akwesasne Winter Carnival MCA vs. SRMT Battle Royale (Announcements & Photos)
- 5. Beaded Yoke & Cuff Making Class (Flyer)

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in February

- 1. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Does Not Support Actions of Ontario Provincial Police in Tyendinaga — 11,080 reached
- 2. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Stands in Solidarity with Wet’suwet’en — 6,685 reached
- 3. Akwesasne Pet Wellness Days - March 2020 — 6,202 reached
- 4. Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance - Protective Equipment Information — 5,664 reached
- 5. MCA Continues Celebrating New Babies with Family Event — 2,304 reached

TWITTER STATS

Top Tweet in February



YOUTUBE STATS



Highest Viewed Videos on the MCA Youtube Channel for February

- 1. Akwesasne Winter Carnival: A Tale of Despair & Redemption
- 2. MCA Directors' Vlog | Dept. of Health | Episode 4
- 3. MCA News — February 4, 2020

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

NEW AND CHANGING FACES AT MCA

November 2019

Alicia Thompson.....	Supply Teacher	Presley Thompson.....	Caretaker
Laney Tahy.....	Supply Teacher	Richard Piper.....	Caretaker
Mary Giasson.....	Counselor	Skye Gould.....	Case Aide
Morgan Thompson.....	Supply Teacher	Stacey Martin.....	Supply Teacher



COMPLIMENTS & APPRECIATIONS

- The Department of Housing would like to take this opportunity to send an extremely heartfelt Thank You to the Community Settlement Trust. Without your approval of our Elders Home Repair Project, we would not have been able to assist up to 35 families with this funding.

The Elders Home Repair Project was geared towards the Mohawks of Akwesasne community members who are 60 years of age and older and required repairs that were not considered an emergency to make their homes as comfortable and safe as possible.

The repairs that were completed included: replacements of roofs, windows, doors, bathrooms, kitchens, electrical, heating, plumbing, insulation and siding, handicap ramps, lights, basements, rain gutters and snow guards. The Elders Home Repair Project was very successful and the repairs greatly improved the quality of life of our elders.

All of us at Housing really appreciated this opportunity. Thank you again to the Community Settlement Trust for the contribution to this much needed housing initiative!

- Entewatatha:wi would like to send out a thank you to the IT Help desk. They are always quick and informative and always professional.
- A big niawenko:wa goes out to the elders, community members and youth who participated in the Nation Building Working Tables. Your input, advice and recommendations are well thought out and appreciated.
- Nia:wen goes out to Andrea Carpenter and her team for coordinating the All My Relations Cultural Exchange at the

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School.

- Niawenko:wa to A2Z Consulting for the generous donations to students and for families in need.
- Appreciation goes out to Vital Service Employees (front line workers) who have to report to work during storms and may not be able to attend events due to being scheduled. We appreciate your commitment.
- Nia:wen to Regina Jacobs and Aaron Terrance for presenting on workplace safety in Thunder Bay-Great job! There was lots of positive feedback received from shelters across Ontario on how well you were both received and how much you knew your stuff. You truly represented MCA well!
- The Akwesasne Family Wellness Program would like to thank the CBSA-Indigenous Liaison Officer for coming to our candle light vigil to highlight gender based violence on December 6, 2019.
- Nia:wen to all the hard work that the Department of Technical Services Maintenance Crew have done throughout the year. We know its been hard with all the renovations in the health facility and we appreciate all you do!
- Nia:wen to Carlee Oakes, Jamie Cole and Stephanie Buckshot for all the support you provide to the team!
- Nia:wen to the Communications Unit for all your hard work in spreading positive information into the community!
- Thank you the Snyc Fire Hall and Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic for hosting the Community Health Nurses during the clinics.
- Thank you to all the community members that volunteer their time for the Green Food Bag.
- Niawenko:wa to Kanonhkwashteri:io for coordinating their food drive.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

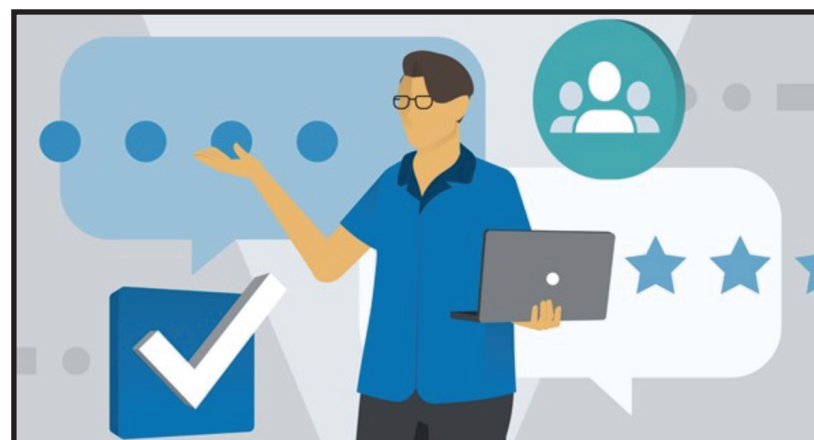
MCA SERVICE STANDARDS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Service Standards are a commitment to provide high quality service to the community that includes the principles of accessibility, responsiveness, safety, reliability, caring, accountability and professionalism.

The MCA Service Standards are:



1. Greet clients in a courteous and professional manner.
2. Be friendly, considerate, attentive, helpful, and professional to clients to assure quality service.
3. Smile when you speak, both on the phone and in person.
4. Listen effectively to client's requests and promptly take the necessary actions to assist them.
5. Inform clients of normal processing times and when they can expect completion.
6. Respond to voicemails within 24 hours during normal business hours.
7. Respond to e-mails within 24 hours during normal business hours.
8. Respond to written correspondence in writing within 10 business days.
9. Touch base with clients routinely to update them as to where you are in the process and be sure to let them know if an unexpected delay occurs.
10. Be aware of MCA's existing policies and know where to find them. MCA's policies, procedures, and forms are to be accessible on the website and/or intranet.
11. Know the policies and procedures that apply specifically to your department, program, service, and position.
12. Post all policies and procedures, regarding the services administered externally by your department/program, to the MCA website, and include application forms where applicable. Providing information to external clients, including explaining limitations, will help to manage expectations. Remember to focus on what you can do, and less so on what you cannot do.
13. Post all policies and procedures, regarding the services administered internally by your department/program, to the MCA intranet, and include process forms where applicable.
14. Be ready and willing to thoroughly explain your policies and procedures to clients. They need to understand the information provided and be given the opportunity to obtain clarification. This practice can help to manage client expectations.
15. Finish encounters with clients in a courteous and professional manner and encourage them to give you a call if they have any questions.
16. Praise and acknowledge the efforts of other MCA representatives in applying these standards.

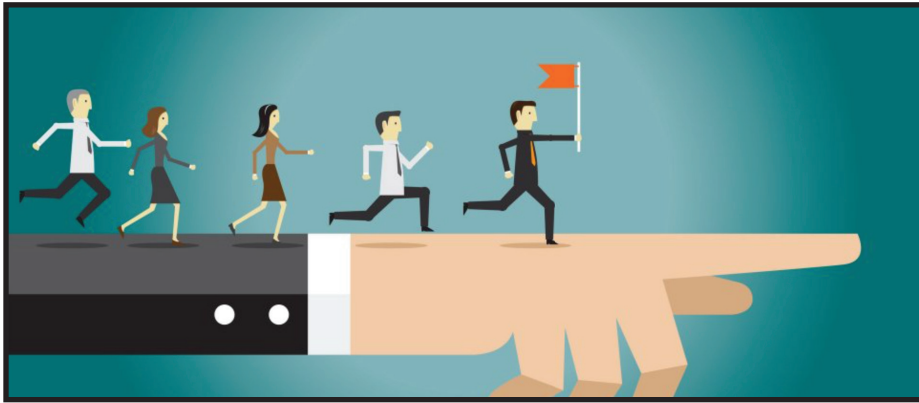


EXECUTIVE SERVICES

MCA LEADERSHIP COMMITMENTS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Leadership Commitments are used to create a healthy and happy work environment and to ensure that community members are receiving the best service possible.

The MCA Leadership Commitments are:



1. We are committed to doing what it takes to improve.
2. We will support and develop our leaders who want to improve.
3. We will delegate authority to the lowest level possible.
4. We will all help to make MCA a healthier work environment.
5. We will provide a better client experience to our community members.

6. We will set clear organizational values and expected behaviors.
7. As leaders, we will lead by example and demonstrate these behaviors every day.
8. We will hold one another accountable for upholding these behaviors.
9. We will set program performance measures and targets that elevate our performance.
10. We will improve our corporate policies and functions to support programs.
11. We will improve our programs and services and become more efficient.
12. We will seek out feedback from community members.
13. We will transparently report on our performance.
14. We will evaluate the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of programs and make adjustments where necessary.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM SESSION

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health - Community Health Program and Cancer Care Ontario are encouraging women to schedule their annual mammogram.

On March 26, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Cornwall Community Hospital, mammograms will be held.

For all that attend, there will be gifts and snacks included.

Please remember that the best protection is early detection!

Women ages 50-74 years of age should have a mammogram every 1-2 years.

If you would like to secure a spot, please contact the MCA Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.



The best protection is early detection!

AKWESASNE MOHAWK AMBULANCE (613) 575-2000

Are you calling for an ambulance? Dispatchers will be asking you these questions:

Are you having flu-like symptoms? Have you had any recent travel to china? Have you had contact with anyone with acute respiratory illness? Have you had any travel outside the continental USA or Canada?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the responding EMS crew will respond in one or all of these protective equipment combinations:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AKWESASNE NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be registered as a Mohawk of Akwesasne (band number beginning with 159).
- Must have a valid provincial health card.
- Must be a resident of Canada.



REMINDER: Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is the payer of last resort.

Your private insurance must be utilized first.

If you paid out of pocket...

Steps to follow for reimbursement:

1. Find specific criteria or limitations on ANIHB benefits by contacting the ANIHB to verify benefit coverage before making the purchase or receiving the service.
2. Fill out the NIHB Client Reimbursement form.
3. Mail in the completed and signed form along with proof of payment and any supporting information.

Note: The claim must be received

within one year from the date of service or purchase to be eligible for payment.

SERVICES AND BENEFITS

Vision Care

Ontario Region Only



- Eyeglasses prescribed by a vision care professional
- Eye Examinations

Frequency Guidelines:

- 1-17 yrs & 65 years+: 1 frame per year
- 18-64 years old: 1 frame per 2 years

For vision care outside of Ontario Region, please contact the NIHB Regional Office:

www.canada.gc.ca/nihb

Dental Care

- Preventative services: polishing, scaling, exams, radiographs (x-rays)
- Restorative Services: fillings, crowns
- Orthodontic Services: Braces (0-17yrs)
- Dentures, extractions, root canal treatments

For a full list of eligible benefits please refer to the Akwesasne Dental Benefit Grid at:

www.akwesasne.ca

Medical Supplies & Equipment

- Pressure garments & compression stockings
- Medical supplies (eg. Dressings & bandages)
- Medical equipment (eg, walkers, wheelchairs)
- Orthotics and custom footwear
- Oxygen supplies and equipment
- Hearing aids



For a full list of eligible benefits please refer to:

www.canada.gc.ca/nihb

Pharmacy Benefits

- Prescription & over-the-counter medications
- Exception drugs (medications that require Prior Approval)



For a full list of eligible benefits please refer to the NIHB Drug Benefit List at:

www.canada.gc.ca/nihb

Steps for Exception Drugs:

1. Obtain prescription
2. Go to pharmacist. The pharmacist will contact the ANIHB to obtain a prior approval.
3. The ANIHB will process the request and your pharmacist will contact you when decision is made.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AKWESASNE NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

Medical Transportation

Ontario & Catchment Area Only



Note: Contact ANIHB 2 weeks prior to your scheduled appointment

- Travel cost and living expenses if needed.
- (Meal and accommodations) for medically necessary health services that are not available in your area of residence: to the nearest professional.
- Medically necessary health services include: appointments with physicians, hospital care & medical treatments.
- Emergency transportation (eg ambulance).

For Medical Transportation outside of the catchment area please contact the regional office at:

www.canada.gc.ca/nihb

SERVICES NOT COVERED

- Medical Bills outside of Canada
- Dental Implants
- Medical Marijuana
- Fertility Medications
- Weight-loss Medications
- Federal or Provincial Benefits (benefits eligible through your Health Card)
- Cosmetic Procedures
- Transportation for personal errands
- Vehicle repairs/home renovations
- Claims submitted to ANIHB after one year from the date of service or purchase

APPEALS

If a benefit has been denied by the ANIHB, you may appeal the decision.



Appeal Steps:

1. Fill out the ANIHB Appeal Form

2. Mail (or drop off) the completed and signed form along with supporting documentation.

Supporting documentation may include:

- Coverage or denial from Private insurance
- Medical justification from a medical professional
- A full treatment plan with costs
- Lab results within 6 months (for Pharmacy Appeals)

For more information please visit us at:

akwesasne.ca/health/akwesasne-non-insured-health-benefits/

WEEKLY YOGA SESSIONS!

Join the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne: Community Health Program for weekly yoga sessions at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center! The classes will be held on Mondays at 6 PM starting January 13 through May 25. Everyone is welcome — don't forget your mat and water!

Follow Community Health on Facebook for updates and class cancellation notices.

For more information, please contact Community Health at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illness, similar to the common cold.

Symptoms of human coronavirus may be very mild or more serious, such as:



FEVER



COUGH



DIFFICULTY BREATHING

Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus.

Coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- Respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.

- Touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

The best way to prevent the spread of infection is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands; and
- Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

For more information on coronavirus:

1-833-784-4397

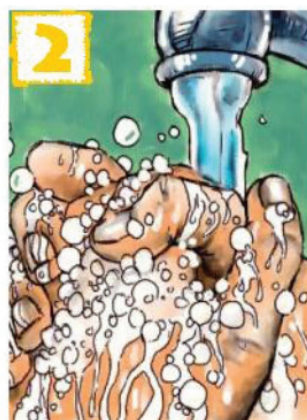
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://canada.ca/coronavirus)

phac.info.aspc@canada.ca

Handwashing—The best way to prevent the spread of germs!



Wet your hands with warm, running water.



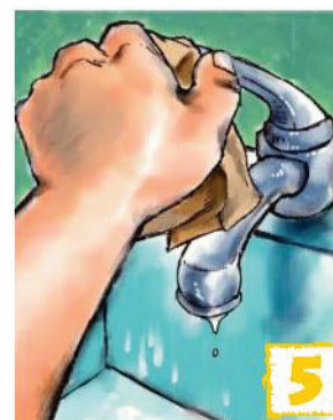
Apply soap and scrub hands and wrists for at least 20 seconds.



Rinse with running water.



Dry your hands with a paper towel.



Turn off faucet with the paper towel and then dispose.

DEPARTMENT OF TEHOTIENNAWAKON

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF AKWESASNE WETLANDS

SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Managing wetlands is a global challenge and one that the MCA Environment Program is taking seriously with its ongoing work in Akwesasne's wetlands. MCA Environment Fish and Wildlife Technician, Jacey Hall says, "Studies are showing us that wetland areas and their health continue to decline in most regions of the world including here along the St. Lawrence River. At MCA Environment, we are working with our partners and local volunteers to put together an inventory of the plants, and animals that make our marshes one of the most unique wetlands in North America. Once this inventory is created, a plan can be developed to help protect the health of our wetlands."

Recently Jacey and the MCA Environment team decided to take the diversity of Akwesasne's wetlands on the road to visit the Akwesasne students of C CVS in Cornwall. On Tuesday, February 11, the Environment Program and their special guests from the River Institute, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, and the Canadian Coast Guard (MCA office) came together to host a hands-on wetlands workshop for the high school's indigenous students.

Over 100 Mohawk students from grades 9-12 participated in a full day event that highlighted the importance of the wetlands in their own backyard. They learned that marshes, like the ones in Akwesasne, are vital for human survival and are cradles of biological diversity that provide the water and habitat that countless species of plants and animals depend on for survival. Through the several interactive stations set up in the C CVS gym, Akwesasne students learned about the importance of wetlands and their protection, how to identify local wetland animals, as well as how a sustainable food chain works. They also had an opportunity to have their say on what their environmental

concerns are connected to the wetlands as well as the river. Students were also given the opportunity to sign up for high school volunteer hours by helping out with the wetland inventory by assisting as citizen scientists. Over 30 students took up the challenge!

Wetlands are at times considered to be a wasteland, a place to be drained, filled in, burnt off or re-purposed, but are vital for our survival. These very special places are in danger through climate change, dams, development, and more. In Akwesasne, our wetlands are our riches as they are a source for our water, our medicines, our food plants, a home for our fish, turtles, birds and other wildlife. Many of these species are also at risk.

Wetland plants such as black ash and sweetgrass are used in crafts. Black ash is used for making baskets, walking sticks, bowls, utensils, and wooden artifacts, while sweetgrass is used in weaving of various products as well. Sweetgrass is also a culturally-significant ceremonial plant used in the Mohawk culture. Wild rice, berries, cattails, and wild mushrooms are some examples of edible plants found in wetlands. These plants are considered culturally-significant because they have been used as food during times when meat was not plentiful, and they are also used in sacred ceremonies.



Over 30 students signed up to volunteer with the wetland inventory.

DEPARTMENT OF TEHOTIENNAWAKON

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT - TURTLE ISLAND PROMOTIONS

In May 2012, after years of noticing local businesses and sports team purchase merchandise and apparel with their logo on it outside of the community, Dwayne Thomas, owner of Turtle Island Promotions, decided that he wanted to provide Akwesasne with the opportunity to keep business local within Akwesasne.

Thomas noted that Turtle Island Promotions can “put your sports or business name on anything from toothpicks to T-shirts” and that “anything you want your name on, we can get.” Thomas prides his business on its low-cost, affordable and high-quality merchandise. He said that his prices are typically comparable to businesses that are externally located from Akwesasne, and also added that “often times, my prices are lower than external businesses.”

If you are planning an event and are anticipating purchasing merchandise, please consider Turtle Island Promotions. Thomas does recommend that as soon as you begin planning your event to contact them. He also recommends that in order to ensure delivery, all orders should be placed at least 10 business days before event. Ideally, he would prefer to have them placed even earlier.

If you are considering purchasing merchandise for your sports team or business, Thomas is also willing to meet with you and can also have apparel on hand for you to try on to ensure proper sizing. If you are unsure but would like ideas, he will also send you various links for options to consider. Thomas also added that he is able to work with the budget of the organization or team. Additionally, if you have a larger organization or team and are considering purchasing a bulk order (ie. jackets for your organization that may entail various sizes and looks), there is also an option to set up a “company store.” This online store would make selecting your

product easier and more efficient for your staff or players and is made specifically for your business or sporting team.

Another great motive for purchasing orders from Turtle Island Promotions is the fact that they give back to the community. In February 2020, 10% of sales went towards the Barreiro brothers as they attempt to make their way to the Olympics. In April, a similar sales promotion will be held with 10% of sales going towards Caring Hearts. Thomas did note that he does want to continue giving back to the community and anticipates donating to various other deserving individuals and organizations in the future.

For more information or to contact Turtle Island Promotions, please visit the Facebook Page: Turtle Island Promotions, email at turtleislandpromotions@gmail.com or phone 518-521-7834.



Here are some examples of merchandise from Turtle Island Promotions.

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

AMBE FOOD SERVICES PROGRAM

AMBE recognizes that hungry children have difficulty learning. In 2000, the AMBE Food Services Program was created with the help of government funding to ensure students have access to healthy meals.

AMBE Food Services Program costs \$500,000 a year!

The actual cost of providing food services to each student is \$900 per year. AMBE pays \$550 or 60% of the actual cost per student. We ask that parents pay \$350 per child per year or \$1.86 per day.

AMBE routinely runs fundraisers and applies for grants to offset the remaining 60% not paid by our families.

Where can you pay your AMBE Food Services Bill?

AMBE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

(located behind the Peace Tree Mall on Kawehno:ke)

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

(AMS, Kana:takon School, Tsi Snaihne School)

MCA FINANCE OFFICE

(Administration 1 A-Frame Building in Kana:takon)

MCA PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

AMBE provides access to healthy meals for 667 children each school day.

AMBE Food Services Program is in deficit. Without government funding available, the Food Services expenses are greater than our budget.

- Cash and checks are accepted at the Administrative Office and in our schools.
- Debit and credit payment are accepted at the MCA Finance Office at Administrative Building #1.
- MCA Payroll Deductions forms can be found at the AMBE website at www.ambe.ca.
- Simply fill out the forms and return to MCA Payroll office.

We will work with the families we serve to find a payment solution whether it be installments, full-lump sum, bi-weekly or monthly payments.

AMBE invites you to collaborate on creative solutions. With your support, we can continue to feed AMBE Students.

AMBE provides the Food Services Program because we are dedicated to student success!

*Student
Success*



AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

ENROLL AT IOHAHI:IO TO FURTHER YOUR ACADEMIC AND CAREER SKILLS!

Have you considered going to college to further your academic and career skills? Do you want to study at Iohahi:io and earn your certificate or diploma from St. Lawrence College or Algonquin College? Iohahi:io offers a variety of programs that can help you develop both academic and career skills.



Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute has four new programs for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester. Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment, Early Childhood Education, Carpentry and Renovation Techniques, and Human Resources.

Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment is a one year Ontario College Certificate program designed in partnership with Algonquin College. The program develops academic and career skills while exploring traditional knowledge. This program helps you to explore your abilities and interests, build a set of transferable skills and determine your career options while learning in a postsecondary setting.

Early Childhood Education is a two year Ontario College Diploma program designed in partnership with St. Lawrence

College. This program prepares students to work with children from birth to age 12 and their families in a variety of early childhood settings. Students receive practical experience in a variety of early learning environments during three field placements, starting in the first year of the program.

Carpentry and Renovation Techniques is a one year Ontario College Certificate program designed in partnership with Algonquin College. This program prepares you for a future in construction, whether you pursue apprenticeship training, or employment as a framer or finisher.

Human Resources Education is a part time Ontario College Certificate program designed in partnership with St. Lawrence College. This program provides basic skills in the major areas of personnel administration, human resources planning, job analysis, interviewing, compensation and benefits, personnel testing, performance appraisal, industrial relations and collective bargaining.

If you are interested in any of the new programs, be sure to attend one of the info sessions on March 12 and March 24 from 11am – 1pm. For more information please contact Iohahi:io at 613-575-2754.

The first intake deadline to apply to the upcoming Fall 2020 programs is **March 13, 2020**.

Enrolling at Iohahi:io is a great first step in furthering your academic and career skills!

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk
Board of Education
(613) 933-0409 or
(613) 575-2250 ext. 1400

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School
(613) 932-3366

CONTACT US!

Tsi Snaihne School
(613) 575-2291

Kana:takon School
(613) 575-2323

Iohahi:io
(613) 575-2754 or
(613) 575-2250 ext. 4100

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

Tsi Snaihne School grade 6 students Lexi Mitchell and Charleigh Jacobs created a Take What You Need bulletin board for the school.

School community can take as a reminder of kindness and caring. Some of the notes are "U R Amazing", "I matter," "Do your best." The best part are that the messages are from the heart.

The messages on the board are positive words of encouragement that anyone coming in to the Tsi Snaihne

Great job ladies on doing your part to spread positivity!



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES UPDATES

The Department of Technical Services (DTS) held their 'Annual All DTS Staff Meeting' on February 12, 2020, at the Kawehno:ke Recreation. This date was an alternate to the original meeting that was changed due to the snow storm that occurred on February 7th. DTS holds its Annual Meeting to provide staff with information related to the larger MCA organization that will affect the work of all DTS sectors, namely, Water & Wastewater, Roads, Buildings Maintenance, and Administration.

The discussion at this session included the introduction of the DTS Acting Director, Daryl Seymour; the introduction of all staff within each sector that was led by the Managers of each sector; then presentation by MCA Finance Department about department budgets and the implementation of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law. Joe Francis and Thomas Debo provided an update about the DTS Asset NAV, that is an asset management and reporting system that DTS uses within all MCA buildings for maintenance reporting needs. Mr. Seymour also relayed information about MCA's organization re-arrangement that focuses on improving services to the community of Akwesasne.

Key questions the Staff had were in relation to the locations of programs they were to service and when the changes would occur.



Staff Introductions held at the Annual All DTS Staff Meeting.

At this session there was a surprise announcement that our current DTS Senior Maintenance Manager, Joseph (Joe) Francis, would be leaving the department having received a new work opportunity that is still within the community. The staff wished him well, and presented Joe with a token of appreciation that was a traditional lacrosse stick, representing his love of the sport, and also a beaded medallion depicting his clan. Joe will be missed, but his 29 years of service to the MCA and the Department of Technical Services will remain evident in all the work that we do.

The staff had another surprise in the form of a special guest to the luncheon that was held as part of the meeting. The surprise guest was the DTS Director Jay Benedict and his wife Lisa. It was nice to have Jay being leisurely greeted by all staff and to have the chance for a laugh or two along with receipt of some of his sage advice. DTS took the opportunity to acknowledge Jay for his dedication to the community and the Department of Technical Services workers by gifting him with a golden eagle feather to symbolize his leadership and tenacity to get things done for the past 39 years [number of years corrected from previous newsletter].

The bulk of DTS work for the months of January and February are in closing out projects and maintenance in order to report on finances in preparation of the next years' budget. There may be more opportunities to attain funding from outside sources toward fiscal year end and DTS is positioning to be able to make best use of such an opportunity. The 2020/2021 DTS budget will be presented to the community at a General Meeting prior to fiscal year end, and we look forward to seeing the community there.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Interview with Joseph Francis, Department of Technical Services Senior Maintenance Manager

You were in the military service before this, right?

Yes, I was in the marine corp.

How do you think that the training there, helped you with the position here?

When I was in the marine corps some of the stuff we had was already 30 years old but we continued to maintain it until it was time to get new equipment. So, it was the base training that was the foundation of maintenance repair and replacement of what I do today and what I try to apply here in our community.

How have you seen the department grow from when you started to now?

Chuckles I have been here 29 years. When I started, I was a maintenance person, hired as a maintenance manager, and it was to start with the water operations. We basically had a bent screwdriver and a broken hammer for tools and equipment - in comparison to what we have today – the number of vehicles that are well fitted-up operationally and maintenance of the equipment, the health and safety equipment the guys could use to minimize the risks and exposures. It's leaps and bounds from where it was when I started – very positive stuff.

What are the standout things that make you proud?

All of it! I have to say the ownership of the workers from "it's just a job" to "it's my building/it's my facil-



ity", and "it's my responsibility" - changing that attitude was part of the successes - and then to see the infrastructure we have today. It's also working with some amazing people along the way throughout the entirety of my work experience here. At the end of the day everything worked out for the better of our community.

What advice would you give to the new workers entering into the work force now?

Don't be afraid to take the training, don't be afraid to ask the question, don't be afraid to stand up and say "I can do that", and don't be afraid to challenge somebody if you think they are making a wrong decision. Gain the information, gain the experience, and start to groom yourself to be a leader because everybody is a leader if they step outside of their comfort zone a little bit.

CONTACT US!

**Department of Technical Services
(613) 575-2250 ext. 1003**

**Maintenance Program
(613)-575-2250 ext. 1022**

**Roads Department
Central Dispatch (613) 575-2340
or (613) 938-5476**

**Water / Wastewater Infrastructure
Emergency (613) 575-2000**

**After Hours Pager (518)404-3352
Office Hours Mon – Fri. 8AM-4PM (613) 933-4924**

**Solid Waste Management (Garbage and Recycling)
(613) 575-2250 ext. 1022**

AKWESASNE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

Promoting Positive Youth Connections

**Day 1 - Crisis & Trauma
Resource Institute
Certified training on
"Bullying - Responding for
Prevention"**

***must pre-register**

**Day 2 - Various
presentations from
community partners
related to violence in
youth**

Thursday March 12 & Friday March 13, 2020

Kana:takon Recreation

8:30AM - 4:30PM

CONTACT OUR VICTIM SUPPORT WORKER TO REGISTER:
JENNA.DAVID@AKWESASNE.CA OR (613) 575-2340 EXT. 3533