

# ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 5

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2020

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UPDATES

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH UPDATES

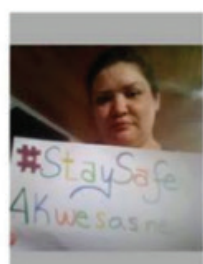
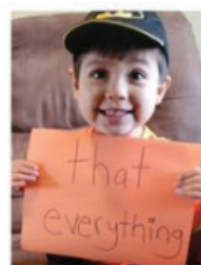
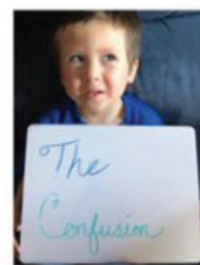
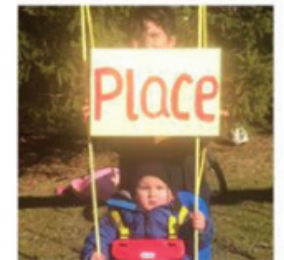
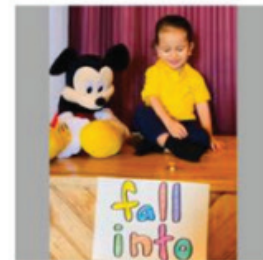
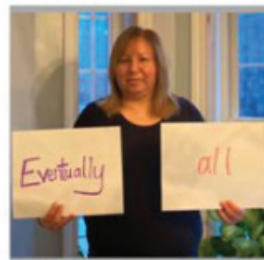
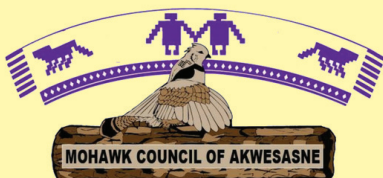
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The Tsi Snaihne Day Care students, teachers, and family members participated in a photo collage with an important message: Eventually all the pieces fall into place. Until then, laugh at the confusion, live for the moment, and know that everything happens for a reason. Staff hopes everyone is happy and healthy!

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### District and General Meetings

- Please be advised that there are no district or general meetings for the month of May.

### Emergency Food Distribution

- May 1 & May 15—Ahkwesasne Mohawk School, Kana:takon School, Iohahi:io 11a.m.-12p.m. (elders only) —from 12 p.m. on is for community members

# 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,  
Akwesasne Justice Department

Charmaine Caldwell  
Director,  
Department of Housing

Heather Phillips  
A/ Director,  
Department of  
Community and Social Services

Keith Leclaire  
Director,  
Department of Health

Donna Lahache  
Director,  
Akwesasne Mohawk Board  
of Education

Shawn Dulude  
Chief of Police,  
Akwesasne 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](mailto:communications@akwesasne.ca).

## FIVE THINGS

### OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1

The MCA Department of Health has opened a mobile COVID-19 testing clinic. This is one of the first mobile testing clinics operated by an Indigenous public health body. Testing is limited to community members who reside in the northern portion of Akwesasne who hold a Quebec or Ontario Health Card and an Akwesasne Status Card. To read more, go to page 4.

2

If you have an emergency matter or require essential items, please contact the MCA & SRMT Emergency Operation Centers.

- MCA EOC: 613-575-5005, 613-575-2331, or [eoc@akwesasne.ca](mailto:eoc@akwesasne.ca)
- SRMT EOC: 518-320-0019 or [eoc@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:eoc@srmt-nsn.gov)

3

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is continuing to provide a basic Emergency Food Package to community members. It is aimed for community members in need and is first come, first serve. To find out when and where the distribution dates are being held, see page 6.

4

As a health and safety measure in our fight against the spread of COVID-19 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne enacted the Akwesasne Emergency Law. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe also has a similar curfew in place in the southern portion of Akwesasne. Read more on page 7.

5

The MCA, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department are enforcing a community-wide Akwesasne Fire Ban. They also want to remind the community that the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by practicing social distancing. For more information, please see page 10.



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF



She:kon/Greetings Akwesasronon,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to everyone and let you know that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is working hard to do everything we can to protect you and keep you safe. As community members, we each need to do everything we can to keep ourselves and the greater community safe. I want to express my appreciation to everyone who is complying with all the safety precautions being shared throughout the community on a daily basis.

It's vital to the ongoing health and safety of our community members, especially our most vulnerable that these emergency measures be followed:

- practice frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds at a time;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- practice social distancing of at least 6 feet apart, at home and in public;
- limit travel to essential needs only;
- remain at your place of residence between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am;
- avoid social gatherings;
- self-quarantine if returning to Akwesasne from outside travel;
- self-isolate if you have symptoms of COVID-19; and
- inform the MCA Department of Health if you are self-quarantining or self-isolating.

The preventative measures are working to curb the spread of COVID-19 and we need to continue practicing them. I want everyone in our community to be well and stay safe. For that to happen, we all need to take this seriously and every single person needs to do their part.

Niawenhkó:wa to all the health care providers, essential workers, and everyone else who is working hard and doing their part to keep our community safe.

We will continue to keep the community updated on the COVID-19 pandemic through CKON, the MCA website, and social media. Akwesasne, we will get through this. For the time being, please stay home and be safe.

Skenn:en/Peace,

Abram Benedict  
Grand Chief

# NEWS

## MCA OPENS MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING CLINIC

### CLINIC TO OPERATE AS DRIVE-THROUGH TEST SITE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health received approval from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit to operate a mobile testing clinic for COVID-19 in Akwesasne. This is one of the first mobile testing clinics operated by an Indigenous public health body in Canada and will operate as a drive-through site with appointments scheduled by our Community Health Program (CHP).

"Investing in a mobile testing unit is a strategic move to help address the geographic challenges that are unique to Akwesasne," said Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Assistant Director of Health. "I'm proud of the work being done by the team here with MCA's Department of Health to simultaneously maintain essential services for the community while launching a new clinic under constantly evolving guidelines and directives."

Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams also noted, "We would like to thank the Department of Health for taking this approach to provide these important services to the community. We appreciate the efforts of our essential health workers during this trying time."

The MCA Community Health Pro-

gram has been actively screening for COVID-19 symptoms and answering questions from Akwesasnonon. The Community Health Nurses also update the MCA's COVID-19 screening tools based on the guidelines being released by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

The mobile testing unit will be used by the Community Health Program in the future to offer mobile clinics (e.g. immunization clinics) and outreach to the community.

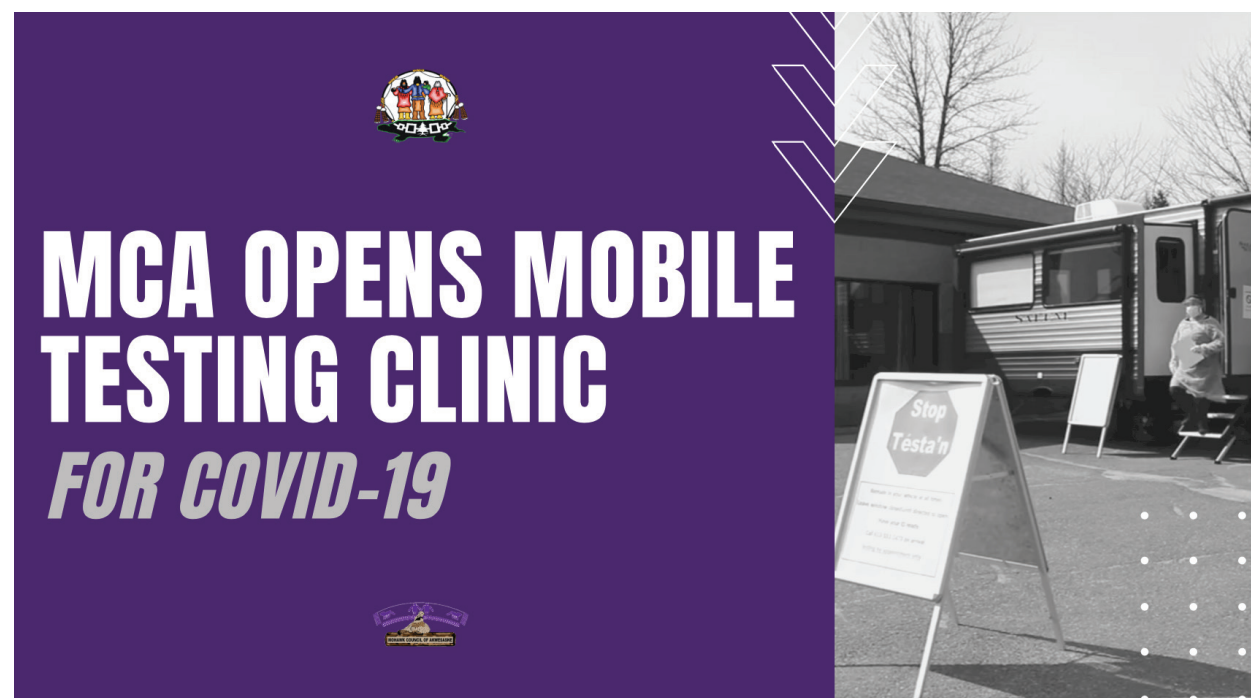
### TESTING GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Testing is limited to community members who reside in the north-

ern portion of Akwesasne who hold a Quebec or Ontario Health Card and an Akwesasne Status Card. At this time, MCA does not have a data health sharing agreement in place with Franklin County Public Health and are unable to do the follow-up required (e.g. contact tracing) for those who reside in the southern portion of Akwesasne.

Please call the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or 100.04°F); OR
- Any new or worsening symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose or sneezing, nasal congestion, hoarse voice, dif-





# NEWS

## MCA OPENS MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING CLINIC

### CLINIC TO OPERATE AS DRIVE-THROUGH TEST SITE

difficulty swallowing, new olfactory or taste disorder(s), nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain); OR

- Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia.

Those who call in will speak to an MCA Community Health Nurse to determine if you meet the criteria for testing. If you meet the criteria for testing you will be given an appointment location, date and time. We ask that individuals arrive promptly for their appointment as not to disrupt the scheduled times.

When you come to your appointment you will be required to provide your:

- Quebec or Ontario Health Card; AND
- Akwesasne Status Card, or other government issued photo-ID.

There will be signs directing traffic into the mobile testing location. When you stop in front of the mobile testing clinic, remain in your vehicle with the windows closed and call the posted number to let the nursing team know you have arrived. A nurse will come to you

to administer the test.

Community Health Nurses will monitor all individuals that are tested and will conduct required follow-ups, if needed.

When an individual does not meet the criteria for testing, they may still be monitored by the Community Health Nurses.

Chief Adams, who is a member of the Department of Health portfolio, added, "Please be reminded that the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is by practicing physical distancing. We encourage community members to stay home, unless you need to make an essential trip. Let's continue to do our part to flatten the curve and ensure the safety of all Akwesasronon."

If you have any questions about COVID-19, contact the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne: Community Health Program from Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

## STAY UPDATED ON ALL THINGS AKWESASNE



# NEWS

## EMERGENCY FOOD PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION DATES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Emergency Operation Center has instituted a process to provide a basic Emergency Food Package (EFP) to community members. The EFP's contain basic pantry supplies for a family and limited fresh foods, based on supplies received. It will be first come, first served for community members in need.

The Emergency Food Packages will be limited to ONE (1) box per vehicle. Please stay in your vehicle; MCA staff will place the box into your vehicle in a drive-thru manner.

Please be respectful to all front-line staff that are working hard to ensure that community members receive the Emergency Food Packages. MCA staff have a right to refuse service to any community member that is being disrespectful or threatening the safety of our employee(s).

Emergency Food Packages can be picked up starting at 12 p.m. The hour of 11 a.m.-12 p.m. is reserved for elders' pick-up only.

- FRIDAY, MAY 1 — FOOD PICK-UP:  
Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School

Kana:takon School  
Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute

- FRIDAY, MAY 15 — FOOD PICK-UP:  
Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School  
Kana:takon School  
Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute

\*Please note the pick-up location change for Tsi Snaihne\*

The food pick-up sites are done in conjunction with home deliveries to AMBE families, elders and those with limited mobility (in self-quarantine, etc.). Individuals are welcome to pick-up if they can safely do so; however, if you need to make arrangements for delivery, please call the Emergency Operation Center. Please note resources are limited and priority will be given to most in need.

CONTACT THE MCA EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (EOC) AT:

- 613-575-5005
  - 613-575-2331
  - eoc@akwesasne.ca
- Weekdays: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Pick-up available in ALL three districts!

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School  
Kana:takon School  
Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute

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**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!**

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May 1 • May 15  
11 AM | Elders only  
12 PM | Open to community



# NEWS

## AKWESASNE EMERGENCY CURFEW LAW IN EFFECT

On April 13, 2020, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne passed MCR 2020/21 - #003 to enact the Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law. The Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law was enacted as a health and safety measure in our fight against the spread of COVID-19 and serves to provide clear directives to our community members on the following emergency measures which are now in place:

1. All residents of Akwesasne shall remain at their place of residence between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Only essential service workers will be exempt from this restriction.
2. Activities at all other times are limited to essential activities.
3. When engaged in essential activities in public, best efforts must be made to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from any other individual.
4. Social gatherings are to be avoided.
5. Residents who are returning to Akwesasne from any location outside the 50-mile radius, who are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, must self-isolate for at least 14 days.
6. Residents who are returning to Akwesasne from

any location outside the 50-mile radius, who have no COVID-19 symptoms, must self-quarantine for at least 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

7. For monitoring and tracking purposes, residents returning to Akwesasne from outside the 50-mile radius must inform the MCA Department of Health of their circumstances, as to whether they are isolating or quarantining.
8. The gathering of members of a single household or residence is not prohibited.

Compliance with these emergency measures is vital to the ongoing health and safety of our community members, especially our most vulnerable. Your understanding and cooperation are anticipated and appreciated, especially at this time.

The full version of the Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law can be viewed on the [akwesasne.ca](http://akwesasne.ca) website.

Any questions can be directed to the Emergency Operations Center from Monday to Friday during the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. by phoning 613-575-2331 or 613-575-5005 or by e-mailing [eoc@akwesasne.ca](mailto:eoc@akwesasne.ca).

## TYENDINAGA MOHAWK TERRITORY RESTRICTING TO LOCAL TRAFFIC

On Thursday, April 9, 2020, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory sent a letter to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, received by Grand Chief Abram Benedict noting that the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte respectfully request that Akwesasronon refrain from traveling to their nation for hunting and fishing purposes. This is asked as a preventative measure to protect their community from COVID-19 exposure and to reduce overall traffic into their community.

Nia:wen for your understanding.



# NEWS

## COMMUNITY PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that all park amenities, including playgrounds, are closed until further notice.

The following recreational areas are closed and will have signage displayed to notify community members:

- District recreation centres
- District daycares
- AMBE school playgrounds
- Tennis courts (Kawehno:ke)
- Lacrosse boxes (Kana:takon & Tsi Snaihne)

These measures are being taken as a precaution for the health and safety of Akwesasronon.

MCA encourages everyone to stay home, except for essential travel, and continue to practice physical distancing. Social distancing as it applies to COVID-19 is defined as "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible."

Nia:wen to our community members who are doing their part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**COVID-19**  
**\*ALERT\***

**PARK IS**  
**CLOSED**

**DUE TO COVID-19 ALL PARK**  
**AMENITIES, INCLUDING**  
**PLAYGROUNDS, ARE CLOSED**

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, residents should stay home, except for essential travel.

Practice good physical distancing - 2 metres apart or about the length of a hockey stick.



For more info call MCA EOC at  
613-575-5005 or 613-575-2331

## COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATES

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive updates, announcements and resources twice a week from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

To subscribe, please visit [www.akwesasne.ca/signup](http://www.akwesasne.ca/signup) or click the MCA E-newsletter tab on our Facebook page.

**COVID-19**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**UPDATES**



Subscribe to our e-newsletter to receive updates, announcements and resources twice a week from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Visit [akwesasne.ca/signup](http://akwesasne.ca/signup).

 **SUBSCRIBE**



# NEWS

## MCA FACILITIES ARE CLOSED TO PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

As there continues to be a state of emergency and the dangers of COVID-19 to public health and safety all MCA facilities are closed to public until further notice. Essential services continue to be available via telephone or remotely.

This closure includes:

- MCA Governmental Buildings
- Administration Buildings
- Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education
- Kanonhkwa't'sheri:io Health Facility
- Akwesasne Medical Clinic
- Akwesasne Mohawk Police
- Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School
- A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- Akwesasne Family Wellness Facility
- All child care centres
- Akwesasne Homemakers
- Iakhihsohtha Home for the Elderly
- Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute

- Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Centre
- Kana:takon School
- Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic
- Tsi Snaihne School
- Tsiionkwanonhso:te Longterm Care
- Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre
- Tri-District Elders Facility
- Kana:takon Recreation Centre
- Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre

Until further notice all buildings are closed to public but essential service are still available by telephone. For any questions please contact the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Emergency Operation Center at 613-575-2331 or 613-575-5005.

For emergencies please contact Emergency Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

## TEMPORARY BORDER CROSSING TIMES IN FORT COVINGTON/DUNDEE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is informing the community of temporary changes in border crossing times at the Fort Covington/Dundee border crossing, as well as other locations, announced by the United States (US) Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Beginning on April 6, 2020 at 6 p.m., there will be new border crossing hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- Fort Covington/Dundee
- Rouses Point
- Trout River
- Overton Corners
- Mooers

This temporary change is due to a continued effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 via travel across the borders. Please be advised that the United States Customs and Border Protection Massena Station remains operational 24/7 and continues to respect the mobility of Akwesasronon to provide access to essential goods and services, including emergency services.

For more information, please contact the Emergency Operation Center at 613-575-5005 or 613-575-2331.



# NEWS

## AKWESASNE BURN BAN

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) are informing the community that effective April 7, 2020, a community-wide Akwesasne Fire Ban will be enforced.

Individuals who violate this Fire Ban will be subject to fines.

During the ongoing state-of-emergency due to COVID-19, please refrain from starting large, open fires or fires in a "burning barrel". An open fire could potentially start a wildfire, which would require an emergency response from the HAVFD.

Please also be mindful and practice social distancing; this is proven to be the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We want all Akwesasronon to remain safe during this

trying time. Please be respectful of this fire ban and recognize that it is being done to keep the community safe.



## FUNERAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been working closely with local funeral service providers in both Ontario and New York State to ensure that family members can appropriately and safely celebrate the lives of loved ones that pass away during these unprecedented times.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, funeral service providers, while still being respectful of Akwesasne's culture and customs, MUST follow restrictions established for funerals, wakes, services and burials set forth by New York State, the CDC and Canada Health agencies.

Although the restrictions are a significant change from

what Akwesasronon are accustomed to, we need to follow these guidelines. This temporary change is difficult, but must be followed for the health and safety of all.

For the time being, church services are limited to eight (8) people; outside burials are limited to ten (10) people. These services are for immediate family members only (mother, father, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather). Please ensure that all individuals attending continue to practice social distancing (approximately six feet apart).

*Continued on page 11...*



# NEWS



## FUNERAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

...Continued from page 10

Some funeral service providers are looking at alternate ways to offer our condolences, such as virtual visitations and streaming of cemetery services. This service can only be provided if internet service is available, and also if individuals are enrolled in an electronic guest registry program.

We must respect these rules and support grieving families in other ways with telephone calls or social media

messages. Our local funeral homes are working hard to provide these services to our community, but everyone’s safety must be considered. We also send our heartfelt condolences to anyone that loses a loved one during this difficult time.

Let’s all do our part for the health and safety of Akwesasne.

## KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE—TIE UP YOUR LOOSE DOG

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is working diligently to ensure the safety of all community members during this trying time. However, there have been multiple reports of dogs being allowed to run loose, which have resulted in community members being bitten by dogs while the person is walking, or jogging on the roadway.

At this time, to protect and maintain the safety of the community, the Conservation program will be instructed to capture any dog that is seen running loose.

Due to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), community members are unable to enter community buildings and staffing capacity is limited. Please be notified that any

animals picked up by the Conservation Program will be immediately sent to the pound: dogs will not be returned to their owners, nor will owners be contacted.

We want to keep our animals safe and we are asking you to do the same. We also want to ensure that community members, particularly young children who are outside in their yards during the quarantine, remain safe and not severely injured due to avoidable animal bites.


We are looking to the community and pet owners to be part of the solution. Please tie up your pets to ensure that everyone remains safe.

**KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

**TIE UP YOUR LOOSE DOG**

Due to facility closures and limited staffing, any pets picked up by Conservation will have to be sent to the pound.

We want to keep our animals safe and we are asking you to do the same. We also want to ensure that community members remain safe and not severely injured due to avoidable animal bites.





# NEWS

## CANADA EMERGENCY RELIEF BENEFIT (CERB)

The Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB) will provide a benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. You can earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting CERB

### The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the following conditions:

- Reside in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- Stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
- Have not voluntarily quit their job
- Had an income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application
- Individuals can earn up to \$1,000 from working per month and still remain eligible for CERB
- Seasonal Workers who have exhausted their regular EI benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work because of COVID-19
- Workers who have recently exhausted their regular EI benefits and are unable to find a job due to COVID-19

An online questionnaire will direct you to the service option that best fits your situation (ex. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or not)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

You can also apply over the phone 1-800-959-2041 or 1-800-959-2019

The CERB is non-taxable for those whose income is already exempt from provincial and Federal tax.

### Employment Insurance (EI)

EI provides regular benefits to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own and are avail-

able for and able to work, but can't find a job.

### You may be entitled to EI regular benefits if you:

- were employed in insurable employment;
- lost your job through no fault of your own;
- have been without work and without pay for at least seven consecutive days in the last 52 weeks;
- have worked for the required number of insurable employment hours (700) in the last 52 weeks or since the start of your last EI claim, whichever is shorter;
- are ready, willing and capable of working each day;
- are actively looking for work (you must keep a written record of employers you contact, including when you contacted them).

You can apply online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html>

Dan Garrow with the Akwesasne Career and Employment Support Services (ACCESS), will be helping community members with CERB and EI benefits. Dan is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-11am. To reach Dan during those hours, phone 613-575-2626 or stop in at ACCESS.





# NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CBSA TO AKWESASRONON (APRIL 2, 2020)

The rapid spread of COVID-19 is requiring the implementation of many evolving health and safety measures at Canadian ports of entry. To help stop the spread of the virus, the CBSA is now recording biographic data of all travellers seeking entry into Canada on behalf of the PHAC who will undertake reviews.

Akwesasne community members are exempt from this requirement. The CBSA recognizes that Akwesasne community members are engaged in essential travel and must continue to move throughout the community and Cornwall. We would like to remind Akwesasne

community members that proper identification is still required to enter Canada; such as birth certificates, passports, and Secure Certificates of Indian Status (issued by Indigenous Services Canada).

We are committed to ensuring that Indigenous people continue to be able to move within and between their communities, and are able to provide and access essential goods and services, including emergency services.



Canada Border  
Services Agency

Agence des services  
frontaliers du Canada

## AKWESASNE EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO SIX NATIONS

With heavy hearts, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends our deepest condolences and sympathies to the community of Six Nations/Ohsweken as they have recently lost a community member due to complications of COVID-19.

Six Nations first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on March 28. Currently, there are eight confirmed cases in the Six Nations Territory.

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Grand Chief Abram Benedict stated, "During this ongoing pandemic, it is particularly difficult to lose a loved one. Normally in these tragic loss situations, we are surrounded by our loved ones as we celebrate the lives of those who have left us. Family and friends help with our grief and give us comfort in moving forward. Now, communities need more strength than ever because we need to maintain physical distance from each other while still finding ways to continue supporting one another during these difficult times."

Although it is incredibly challenging, it is of utmost importance to continue practicing social distancing, even during the loss of a loved one. We want to ensure that our communities do not have a large number of COVID-19 cases or fatalities, and the best way to reduce the spread is to social distance.

Six Nations and the families directly affected by the loss of a loved one are in the hearts and minds of the people of Akwesasne.



# ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND RESEARCH OFFICE

## FEDERAL INDIAN DAY SCHOOL CLASS ACTION COMMUNITY UPDATE

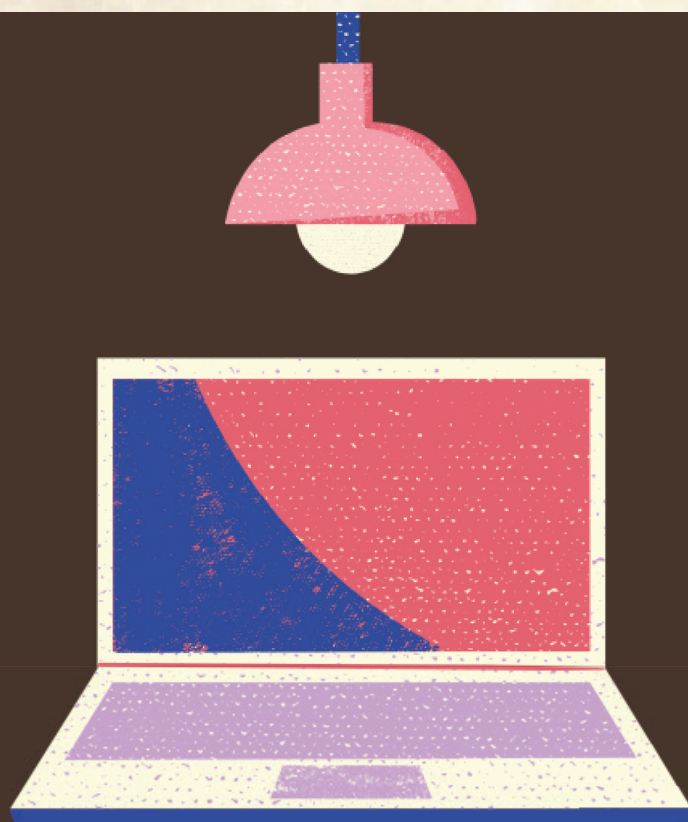
Gowling WLG, the class counsel for the Federal Indian Day School Class Action, has been providing updates to the former students of the Indian Day Schools regarding the status of the claim process due to the pandemic crisis. Since March 12, 2020, they have suspended all their scheduled community assistance sessions until further notice.

Anyone who has questions about the process or legal questions are encouraged to call the helpline at 1-888-221-2898. The call center is only taking messages at this time, but someone will get back to you. Lawyers from Gowling WLG are still available by phone to answer any legal questions you may have and can assist you.

Deloitte, the claims administrator for the class action, is still processing claims as usual that are submitted. But due to the precautions taken by Canada Post and employees at Deloitte, claim forms that are sent in through the mail may take longer to process through. They ask that anyone filing a claim to please send them in through email at [indiandayschools@deloitte.ca](mailto:indiandayschools@deloitte.ca) or faxed to 416-366-1102 to ensure that the form is received and processed.

The claim form is available online at [indiandayschools.com](http://indiandayschools.com) under "Claim Form". Physical copies are currently unavailable at this time.

The Hope for Wellness hotline is still operational and able to help anyone who is in distress due to triggering memories or anxiety around the pandemic. They can be reached at 1-855-242-3310 or online at [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca). Counselling is available in English, French, Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut, on request.



## Federal Indian Day School Claim Form

[www.hopeforwellness.com](http://www.hopeforwellness.com)



# EMERGENCY OPERATING CENTER (EOC)

## UPDATE FROM EMERGENCY MEASURES PROGRAM MANAGER-SCOTT PETERS

The Emergency Operations Center has been working closely to set up a mobile testing station, which is now available to Akwesasne in the northern portion of Akwesasne.

Food distribution will continue as long as necessary in the three districts for community members that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Deliveries will continue to be made for elders and AMBE students, in addition to pick-ups at designated locations for community members.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne EOC has been updating the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe EOC and local

stakeholders weekly. If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact the EOC.



## PUBLIC WIFI HOT SPOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN AKWESASNE

As student need to move towards online lessons, and many individuals are working from home, the community of Akwesasne has an increased need for onling usage.

Recently, in order to help those that are in need of internet usage, but not the access, Mohawk Networks installed six public Wi-Fi hotspots in Akwesasne.

Currently, public Wi-Fi is available at the following locations:

- Mohawk Networks at 2819 State Route 95, Akwesasne NY. Available daily 8:00am – 9:00pm.
- Akwesasne Mohawk Casino & Resort Human Resources Building at 935 State Route 37, Akwesasne NY . Available daily 8:00am – 9:00pm.
- Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club at 37 Roosevelt-own Rd, Akwesasne NY . Available Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm.
- Iohahi:io Adult Education at 16 Iohahi:io Road, Ak-

wesasne. Available daily 8:00am – 8:00pm.

- Akwesasne Cultural Center Museum at 321 State Route 37. Available daily 8:00am – 9:00pm.
- Three Feathers Internet Cafe at 759 State Route 37. Available daily 8:00am – 9:00pm.

Check out the Mohawk Network website for the Community WiFi Map: <https://mohawk-networks.com/>

Please be advised that all users should remain in their cars to limit exposure to themselves and others. Practice safe social distancing measures and being mindful of the recommendations that have been put in place to help combat COVID-19.

Mohawk Network has pledged to not cut anybody off from their internet connectivity during this time frame for non-payment. And, in March, an offer was made to reconnect homes that previously had internet service but whose accounts weren't active.



# EMERGENCY OPERATING CENTER (EOC)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMEMADE MASKS

Please be mindful that the MOST effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is social distancing.

In the southern portion of Akwesasne (under SRMT jurisdiction) and New York State, all individuals going into a public area for essential trips (ie. grocery stores) are REQUIRED to wear a mask.

N95 and Surgical Masks should be ONLY worn by Healthcare Providers.

### Frequently asked questions about homemade masks:

#### **I don't think I have COVID-19. Should I wear a homemade mask?**

Some people who have COVID-19 do not have symptoms and can spread the virus unknowingly. The best way to avoid infection is to limit exposure to others and by practicing GOOD hand hygiene. Wearing a homemade mask may reduce the spread of virus to others via large droplets.

Please know it is unlikely that wearing a homemade mask will prevent you from becoming infected. SOCIAL DISTANCING WORKS BEST!

#### **I know I have COVID-19, but I am not sick enough to be in a hospital. Should I wear a homemade mask?**

Isolating yourself in a separate room is likely to be most effective. Consider opening windows to bring in fresh air. Have family members wash their hands every time they are near you. If you do not have access to a surgical mask, use a homemade mask to reduce the risk of infection.

#### **What pattern should I use to make a homemade mask?**

Look for patterns with 2 double layers, 100% cotton, 9

in x 6 in and pinches at nose.

Crocheted or knitted masks are NEVER recommended.

#### **Should I wear a homemade mask?**

##### **Pros:**

- It will protect others from your germs.
- When going out for groceries, the mask may offer some type of protection when you cannot keep 6 feet from others.
- You can make your own mask with materials you already have.

##### **Cons:**

- If you touch your face to adjust mask, you may contaminate your hands.
- Wearing a mask can give you a false sense of security and you might now keep 6 ft of distance.
- It might make you think it is safe to go out for non-essential trips (It isn't).

### **DO NOT USE MEDICAL MASKS AS THEY ARE NEEDED BY HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

The CDC, WHO and Government of Canada notes that in settings where facemasks are not available, Healthcare personnel (HCP) might use homemade masks (e.g., bandana, scarf) for care of patients with COVID-19 as a last resort. However, homemade masks are not considered personal protective equipment (PPE), since their capability to protect HCP is unknown.



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE UPDATES



**Portfolio:** Justice, Public Safety, Executive Services

**Month:** February & March 2020

**Committee:** Finance, Governance, Cannabis Working Task Group

### Monthly Notables-February 2020:

1. The February weekly Special Meeting of Council was held on February 3, 10 & 24th. Discussion items included: Bill C-92, Post-Secondary Review, Coronavirus Update, Clark Island, General Meeting Agenda, Debrief, Road, SIBC Bridge Closure Protocol, Lands Disputes Meeting, AFN National Chief and Admin II Building. Presentations included: Welfare Policy, Fall Conference Partnership with Queens, Akwesasne Child Welfare Act and TradeLab Research Project. MCR's to be considered included: IFN Agreement, Service Contract-Fiber Optics Project, ISC Amending Agreements, McGill Students Request for Occupancy with Dr. Horn, Resignation Acceptance for Akwesasne Trust Mem-

ber, wade Lafrance Memorial Road Reconstruction Project, Thompson Island Water Taxi Proposal, Preferential Hiring Policy Amendment, Ontario Ministry of Transportation Petition for Subsidy, Renewed Agreement with Accreditation Canada for a 4-year Term, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council – Indigenous Board of Directors, Hiring of a Pediatrician and various funding agreement: renewals, amendments.

2. Justice Portfolio Meeting was scheduled and held on February 6th, we spoke of the upcoming AF-NQL session where Ministers are expected to attend. We discussed issues to present for lobbying.

3. Public Safety Portfolio Meeting was not held this month.

4. The Finance Committee Meeting was held on February 6th. We reviewed the MCA budget and had updates on follow up items.

5. District Meeting was held on February 6th. We had three community members attend with various issues: roads, housing, health and administrative. The administrative issue was deferred to the Executive Director.

6. A General Meeting was scheduled for February 27th. Budget presentation were to be presented

however, inclement weather caused it to be postponed to March.

7. Youth Council Meeting was scheduled to be held on February 27th, however, inclement weather caused it to be postponed.

8. The Legislative Commission meeting was held on February 11th.

9. Police Commission meeting was held on February 6th. I attend for a short period in order that I was able to be present at the District Meeting. I was able to hear the monthly



February 2020 meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations

*continued on page 18*



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE UPDATES

*continued from page 17*

report of the COP.

### Monthly Notables-March 2020:

1. Special Meeting was held on March 2nd. March 8th I was away on vacation. We have not held any meetings since then.

2. Restorative Financial Management Project (March 3): Participants arrived from other First Nations to begin the process. A breakfast Meet n Greet was held for the Dept. of Justice staff and Chief Portfolio: Chief Julie and I attended.

3. Finance Committee Meeting was held on March 5th. Final review of the annual budget and additional follow up items considered.

4. The rest of March the COVID-19 took over. MCA declared a State of Emergency on March 16th. I was on a mandatory quarantine, as I had returned from my one yearly vacation from March 16-29th.

I participated in daily meetings with Council thru the Zoom technology. I participated in a call with CBSA/ US Customs, I participated in a call with Indigenous Services Canada and Health Canada. On April 2, I began my first shift at the Emergency Operations Centre.

### Work in Progress-February 2020:

1. Recreational Cannabis Working Task Group Meetings continue. Meetings were not held in February due to scheduling conflicts.

2. Council Priorities Meeting, this month Council began the work to identify priorities relative to our strategic plan, we hosted our first meeting and will have two additional meetings to identify those priorities.

3. I attended the Membership Review Committee meeting on February 4th. We are re-engaging the work as it was put on hold over the past few months. The review of the

process continues.

4. I participated in the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal meeting thru conference call, this session was held in Vancouver, BC. It was held with those that created the initial charter for the AFN, in hopes of understanding the thought process for this development.

5. On February 24th, I attended the Transport Canada meeting re: surplus lands. We discussed options available, requires additional discussion.

6. Meeting with OAS and CRA staff was held on February 21st. This meeting was beneficial to us,



*Minister Miller at AFNQL meeting in Gatineau in February 2020 with District Chief of Tsi Snaihne Connie Lazore and District Chief of Kana:takon Julie Phillips-Jacobs.*



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE UPDATES

Chiefs: Tim & Carolyn were present with me. We spoke of the OAS, currently CRA information for sharing and will set up additional sessions.

7. On February 19/20th, I attended the AFNQL Ad Hoc Committee meeting in Wendake, Quebec with Chief April Adams Phillips. This meeting was to prepare for the governance protocol document for the Chiefs Assembly to be held on February 25-27th in Gatineau.

8. On February 25-27th, I attended the AFNQL Chiefs Assembly in Gatineau, Quebec with Chief Julie Phillips. Ministers were to attend, Governance Protocol to be presented and approved and various other items: education, healers, bill C-92 were also discussed.

9. February 26th, I attended the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations. This meeting we began preparing the promotional material to be distributed to First Nations as part of the engagement component of this project.

10. I meet with the HAVFD Station #2 & #3 to discuss their insurance, process and inventory of equipment (vehicles) for insurances. I also attended the Fireman's Ball on Feb. 29th.

11. On February 28th, we held a meeting with the SRMT Chiefs to discuss issues of mutual concern: Waterline Connection, Policing, Verizon POTS, Post-Secondary Education, Areas of Concern by MCA/SRMT and Des-



Chief Connie Lazore and Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs had a meeting in February 2020 with Jody Wilson-Raybould. She was the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

tinuation Marketing Management Organization. Next Meeting is set for April 27th.

12. Winter Carnival was held on Feb 13-16th, 2020 at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center. I attended all days and volunteer my time for concession.

### Works in Program-March 2020:

1. WTG on Cannabis Meeting, we continued the work on the reviewing the different phases of the applications.

2. All scheduled meetings and events were put on hold as MCA declared a state of Emergency on March 16th 2020.

3. I created a video to share with community on the risks of "not staying home".

# DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

## RENTAL AND HOUSING PAYMENTS

This press release is intended to provide an update on the requirements for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Housing rental, rent to own, housing loan, and rental loan payments.

During the time of this crisis, we are only able to accept the following form of payments:

- Credit card payments over the phone (please contact Tricia in Finance at 613-575-2250)
- Pre-authorized payments (please email charmaine.caldwell@akwesasne.ca for form)

If you are already set up on payroll deduction or pre-authorized payments these payments will go on ac-

cordingly. Housing will NOT be subjecting tenants to eviction due to non-payment of rent during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you cannot make your rental or housing payments, the Department of Housing will work with you on a case-by-case basis after this crisis is over.

The Department of Housing offices are closed, but we are still maintaining buildings on an emergency repair basis. If needed, please contact Director of Housing Charmaine Caldwell at 613-551-4241, Ben Benedict at 613-551-5608 or Corey Tarbell at 613-363-1295.

Stay safe and healthy. Nia:wen.



# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

## FACEBOOK STATS



### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in April

1. Akwesasne Extends Condolences to Six Nations (Release)
2. #STAYHOMEAKWESASNE (Video)
3. Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law In Effect (Release)
4. MCA Opens Mobile COVID-19 Testing Clinic (Release)
5. Happy Easter from Iakhihsotha (Photos)

### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in April

1. Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law In Effect — 21,995 reached
2. Akwesasne Extends Condolences to Six Nations — 14,093 reached
3. MCA Opens Mobile COVID-19 Testing Clinic — 10,050 reached
4. Letter from MCA: Requested Closure of Cannabis Businesses — 7,434 reached
5. Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory Restricting to Local Traffic — 6,476 reached

## TWITTER STATS

### Top Tweet in April



**Mohawk Council of Akwesasne**  
@MCAkwesasne



**The Importance of Social Distancing & Mental Health Support**



The Importance of Social Distancing & Mental Health Supp...  
Join Mental Health Therapist Wennietanoron Oakes as she stresses the importance of social distancing and good ...  
[youtube.com](#)

2:59 PM · Apr 2, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)



## YOUTUBE STATS

### Highest Viewed Videos on the MCA Youtube Channel for April

1. Respiratory Health Tips with Dr. Ojistoh Horn
2. MCA Opens Mobile COVID-19 Testing Clinic
3. Dept. of Health Update with Chief April Adams-Phillips



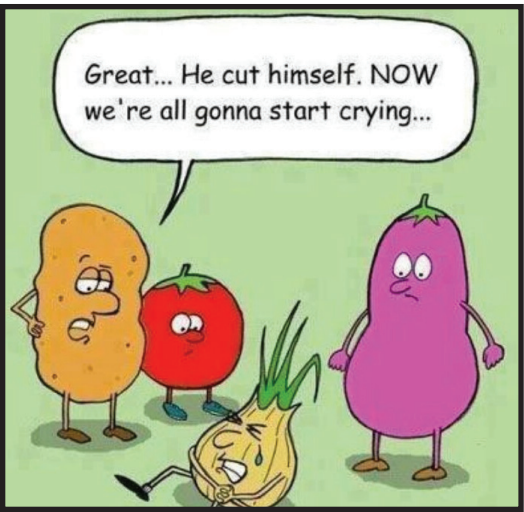
# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you find the five differences between these two lovebirds?



1. Boy with blue shirt has different sleeves. 2. In front of boy with blue shirt, the planter is missing one plant. 3. Large planter in middle has plant missing in front of it. 4. On planter holding lettuce, there is a circle missing from it. 5. The boy with the red shirt has a missing tool in his hand.



## YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

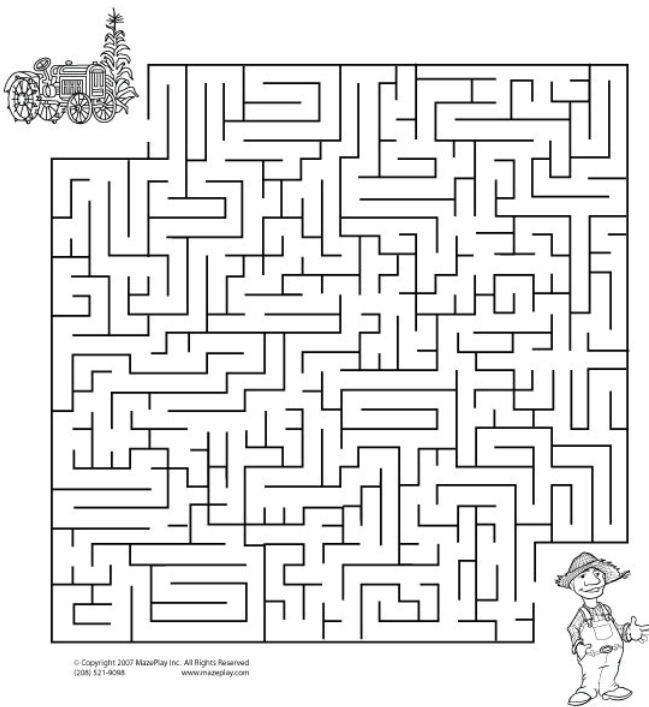
Why do potatoes make good detectives?



They keep their eyes peeled!

## SIMPLY A-MAZE-ING

Help the farmer get to his tractor.



CHILDREN'S PAGE

COLOUR ME!





# EXECUTIVE SERVICES

## COMPLIMENTS & APPRECIATIONS

I would like to thank Mohawk Council of Akwesasne staff for their continued dedication and devotion; without them, we could not provide essential services to our community. During this unprecedented crisis, true leadership and the sense of community has surfaced. For that, I am grateful. Please love your family, and stay safe.

Nia:wen,  
Heather Phillips (Executive Director of the MCA)



Nia:wen to the community members that donated potatoes to Akwesasronon. It was greatly appreciated!



I would like to give a shot out to DOH Administrative staff for the incredible job they are doing during this pandemic. To all those upstairs on the second floor—Cindy, Lesley, Tessa, Andrew and other administration— your expertise is unbelievable! Kudos!!

Thank you, Iohahi:io Staff, for cooking & distributing hot meals to our students and community members. Stay safe, healthy & we hope to see you all real soon! Pictured: Char LaFrance, Crystal Bay, Amanda Cook & Ron Lazore



The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School recently installed sensory pathways into our schools grade 1-5 wing. The dedicated maintenance staff at AMS are busy preparing for the students return once it's safe to come back to school. The sensory path is a colorful, creative, and playful way for students to build sensory pathways, connections in the brain that are responsible for sight, touch, and sound. These connections are needed for students to form complex, multi-stage tasks. Additionally, the new sensory path allows for movement breaks during classes. This is especially helpful for students who tend to lose focus during the learning process and gives the student some sensory output, ultimately increasing their learning. We would like to give Taylor and the maintenance crew at AMS a big shout-out for their hard work and dedication in making the school environment, when ready, that much more exciting for our students.





# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMUNITY UPDATE (APRIL 23, 2020)

### Wholistic Health and Wellness

**Akwesasne Medical Clinic** operations are using virtual or telephone services where possible, through the Ontario Telehealth Network. Nurses triage patients over the phone to determine if they need an appointment in-person with a physician, or if they can be handled over the phone. These clinics are being arranged to limit risk to community members who need medical services. If you are feeling unwell, call the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at Kanonhkwashter:io 613-575-2341 ext. 3215 or the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.

**Addictions Services** is continuing to refer to detox services for community members – the service providers within our networks are following COVID-19 prevention protocols when giving in-person services. If you or someone you know is looking to access Addictions Services please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3109.

**Mental Health** setup a mental health support line for community members and staff at (844)244-1060 – this is a 24/7 line to reach local mental health workers from Akwesasne. This dedicated line was setup to ensure our community can always reach someone from Akwesasne, if you need it.

**Traditional Medicine** continues to provide medicine pickup to existing clients and offer limited services at this time. The Traditional Medicine Team are thinking about the community and that they are keeping the community in their prayers. Be on the lookout for the virtual series the Traditional Medicine Program has put together sharing a few ways you can practice teachings while continuing to follow community health guidelines to keep your spirit strong.

### Community Health Program:

**Community Health Nurses** remain operational and

have been responding to all questions on COVID-19, and are following up with existing clients. They have opened a mobile testing clinic that will operate as a drive-through test site, with appointments made based on their screening tools. To contact the Community Health Nurses, call 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

### Home and Community Care:

**Home Care/Home Support** hours have changed to 8:30am to 3:30pm, and they are only providing care to priority clientele – like palliative care patients. If you need to contact the Home and Community Care office, call 613-575-2341 ext. 1066

### Iakhihsohtha Lodge:

**Iakhihsohtha Lodge** staff have maintained operations for residents in the facility, and are well stocked with food and supplies – ensuring our Totas are being well taken care of. The facility remains closed to the public at this time, however, families can remotely contact their elders through FaceTime and Skype video conferencing. Visit MCA's Facebook page to see updates on residents activities.

### Tsiionkwanonhsote Long Term Care Facility:

**Tsiionkwanonhsote Long Term Care Facility** staff have also maintained operations for residents in the facility, and are also well stocked with food and supplies. The facility remains closed to the public at this time, however, families are able to remotely keep in touch through FaceTime and Skype video conferencing.

### Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance:

**Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance** is advising community to honestly answer the pre-screening questions for COVID-19 when speaking with emergency medical technicians, 9-1-1, and MCA dispatchers. The Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance service will respond to

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMUNITY UPDATE (APRIL 23, 2020)

emergency calls in both the northern and southern portions of Akwesasne even if a person is at risk for COVID-19. If you are having a medical emergency, call 613-575-2000.

### Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits:

**Staffing** - To ensure the safety of our staff and to promote social distancing the ANIHB program only has four (4) Benefit Analysts processing claims, please be patient and allow for additional processing time.

NIHB Medical Transportation Program is currently op-

erating with minimal services, we are prioritizing Dialysis clients at this time.

If there are any questions we ask that community members and providers call the ANIHB office at: 613-575-2341 ext. 3340 or toll-free: 888-514-1966, we are not seeing community members in the office at this time. We are available to answer questions or concerns from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. For a list of eligible benefits please visit our page at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/health/akwesasne-non-insured-health-benefits/>

## MCA WELCOMES NEW DOCTOR



*Dr. Keith Morgan.*

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health is welcoming a new physician to the Primary Care team as part of the Wholistic Health & Wellness Program's medical clinics for the next 12 weeks.

Dr. Keith Morgan is certified with the College of Family Physicians of Canada, specializing in sports medicine. He will be

offering clinics two days a week through the Ontario Telemedicine Network, with appointments scheduled through the Akwesasne Medical Clinic.

A graduate of the University of Ottawa in 2016, Dr. Keith Morgan completed his medical degree with the Family Medicine program. Following family medicine, he then completed a fellowship in Sport and Exercise medicine also at the University of Ottawa, graduating in 2017. Dr. Keith Morgan holds a Diploma in Sport and Exercise Medicine from the Canadian Academy of

Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM).

Dr. Morgan is originally from Calgary, Alberta, but spent over 20 years in Montreal training at the National Judo Centre while competing for Canada in 4 consecutive Olympic games in the sport of Judo. One of Canada's most successful Judo athletes, he was inducted into Alberta's Sport Hall of Fame in 2015.

While in Montreal, Dr. Keith Morgan completed his undergraduate degree at McGill University in Anatomy and Cell Biology. He also graduated with highest honors from Ross University School of Medicine in Barbados before returning to Canada to complete his residency.

Dr. Keith Morgan currently lives in Ottawa with his wife and 3 children.

If you are feeling unwell, please contact our community clinics at one of the numbers listed below:

- Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic – (613) 575-2341 ext. 1110 or (613) 932-5808
- Akwesasne Medical Clinic – (613) 575-2341 ext. 3215

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## MCA MEDICAL CLINICS OFFERING URGENT CARE SERVICES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health announces that the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io will begin seeing patients for urgent care services this week. This is in addition to the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic which has continued operation during the declared emergency.

If you are feeling unwell, call Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io Health Facility at 613-575-2341 and ask for the medical clinic. A nurse from the medical clinic will triage all clients over the phone to assess whether an individual needs an in-person appointment or if they can proceed with a telephone appointment.

If an in-person appointment is required, you will be provided an appointment date and time.

clients, a limited number of in-person appointments may be provided.

In addition to medical clinics offered through either the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io and the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic, Akwesasne community members may also contact Appletree Telemedicine Clinic on Kawehno:ke. Arrangements have been made allowing for Akwesasne Quebec residents in Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne (who hold a Quebec Health Card and an Akwesasne Status Card) to utilize Appletree Telemedicine Clinic. To contact Appletree Telemedicine Clinic, call 613-938-1170.

If you are having a medical emergency, please call the Emergency Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

### **The following procedures will be in effect for all in-person appointments:**

1. When you arrive at the medical clinic, wait in the parking lot and call to report that you've arrived for your appointment.
2. Only one patient, and if the patient is a minor they can be accompanied by one parent/guardian, is allowed to enter the medical clinic at a time.
3. On entering the facility, all persons must use hand sanitizer (provided at the entrance).
4. After each patient leaves, the medical clinic will be disinfected.

Due to the time it takes to disinfect the medical clinics between



The map above indicates which entrance to use at Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io for all urgent care appointments.



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## VACCINE PROGRAM SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne: Community Health Program has suspended their vaccination program until further notice and are working to re-establish the clinics in the safest way possible. This is being done to ensure the safety and well-being of all Akwesasronon during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All clients with appointments booked for March and April 2020 will be rescheduled as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, Community Health is available Monday - Friday (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

## MONITORING YOUR MENTAL WELLNESS

We understand that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a lot of added stress. We want to ensure that you continue to keep your mental health in check.

Please be sure to monitor your mental wellness, be positive and be creative.

Focus on where you are, and move as best that you can into the 'growth' zone. It is okay if you aren't there yet.

Please remember to stay home, stay safe and control how you look at your world!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Wellness' Mental Health team. They have a dedicated support line where you can speak to someone 24/7.

For more information, please call 1-844-244-1060.



# DEPARTMENT OF TEHOTIENNAWAKON

## ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS RELATING TO COVID-19

Canada put out a informative list of a number of initiatives aimed at providing support to First Nation Communities.

**If you would like to see the detailed list of Economic Supports for First Nations relating to COVID-19, please visit the link below:**

**There is information on Individual Economic Support, which includes the following support areas:**

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)
- Employment Insurance (EI) (Read more about CERB and EI on page 11 to get help from ACCESS)
- Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
- GST Payment
- Income Tax Deadline Extension
- Government of Ontario's Action Plan
- Mortgage Support
- Reduced Withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIF's)
- Canada Student Loans

<https://adobe.ly/39MLTWN>

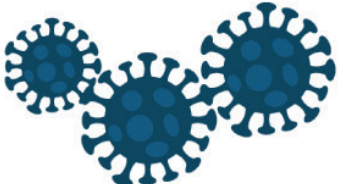


**There is information on Business Economic Support, including the following support areas:**

- GST/HST Business Remittances
- Federal Wage Subsidies
- FCC COVID-19 Support Program
- Work-Share Program
- Canada Emergency Business Account
- Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
- Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

**There is information on First Nation Community Economic Support, which includes the following support areas:**

- Release of Existing Funding Halts
- Practical Services Support
- Mental Health Support.



For more information:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Information for Indigenous communities:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous)

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### Accessing financial benefits and support during the COVID-19 outbreak

On March 18, 2020, the Prime Minister announced a new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. These measures will provide up to \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses.

**All Indigenous People have access to these financial benefits.**

First Nations, Inuit, Métis, regardless of where they reside

**IMPORTANT**

Everyone is encouraged to file their 2018 income tax return to ensure they receive the benefits and credits to which they are entitled. To access some of the benefits below, a tax return must be filed. ISC is working with CRA to explore simplified methods of accessing benefits.



# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## IOHAHI:IO AKWESASNE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTE STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2020

Although Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute is currently closed to the public, they are currently still accepting applications for various courses for the Fall 2020 year.

Iohahi:io, meaning the good road, is an Educational and Training Institute, and member of the Indigenous Institutes Consortium of Ontario. Akwesasne is one of only eight First Nation communities across Ontario with its own higher education facility to serve its people. Iohahi:io partners with post-secondary educational institutes to offer certificate, diploma and degree programs and training opportunities that strengthen our people and our community.

Iohahi:io is known for its emphasis on student success and providing supports, which are based on developing respectful and caring relationships with each student, and are focused on helping students to identify and overcome their barriers to success.

Iohahi:io's learning community is rooted in its Haudenosaunee values, traditions and culture, which are integrated into the design and delivery of program curriculum and student supports.

As you ponder your developmental journey, I hope you consider Iohahi:io as part of the stepping stone to attain your personal, educational and professional goals and aspirations.

### Fall 2020 Programs:

Early Childhood Education  
Pathways to Indigenous Empowerment-Preparation  
Carpentry and Renovation Techniques  
Human Resources

### For more information, please contact:

[info-iohahio@ambe.ca](mailto:info-iohahio@ambe.ca)

### To apply to one of the Fall 2020 Programs,

**please visit:** [iohahio.ambe.ca](http://iohahio.ambe.ca)

Nia:wen for your patience and we hope you consider Iohahi:io!



IOHAHI:IO AKWESASNE EDUCATION &  
TRAINING INSTITUTE

## Attention: Facility Closed to Public

Due to the current Covid-19 State of Emergency that Akwesasne has declared, Iohahi:io is closed to the public.

However, classes are continuing on-line. We are still accepting applications for the Fall 2020 Programs.

Please direct your inquiries to:  
[Info-Iohahio@ambe.ca](mailto:Info-Iohahio@ambe.ca)



### 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

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

Ahkwasasne Mohawk School  
(613) 932-3366



# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## COVID-19 ONLINE LEARNING BEGINNING APRIL 20, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and AMBE employees,

She:kon,

I hope this email finds you all safe and healthy at home. We are in the midst of preparing phase 3 of support for students. This phase will move our teachers online in Google Hangouts-Meets for 1-hour a day.

To begin, we will focus on the essential learnings in the areas of: Mohawk Language, Reading, Math.

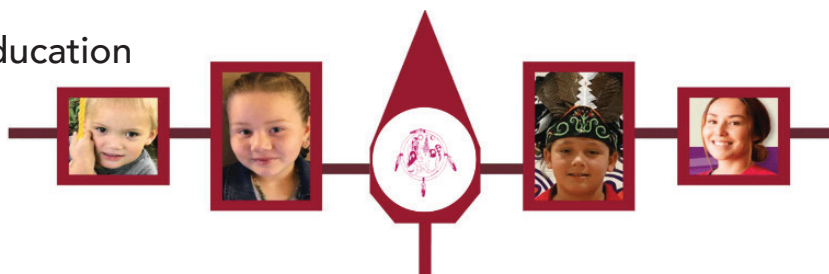
- We have been calling homes to ensure that all students have access to some form of technology in order to log in, online.
- For families who did not own any technology devices, we have provided a Chromebook for use during Covid-19 social isolation.
- We have shared a YouTube video on the AMBE Facebook page on how to set up the Chromebook.
- 95% of students now have their Gmail (ambe) address set up and sent to a parent/guardian email, please note the address and how to access the email account.
- We are preparing instructions on how to log onto Google Hangouts-Meets.
- During the transition some teachers and students will begin with zoom.
- The first day for everyone to log in online will be: April 20th. Some teachers are testing the system and will have invited your child to join, sooner.

Know that our employees are working and calling you from home, from their personal phones, you may not recognize the number, please answer your phone. Email [elaine.thompson@ambe.ca](mailto:elaine.thompson@ambe.ca) with your number if you have not received your child's Gmail information.

Nia:wen for your continued patience, this is all very new for all of us, including teachers who will be working from home, juggling families themselves, while teaching your child online. There are bound to be hiccups as we implement this across so many homes. We will trouble shoot with you along the way. We will get through this together. Please remember you are safest at home right now.

Sincerely,

Donna Lahache, Director of Education



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## HOW TO HELP PROTECT & SUPPORT AKWESASRONON AKWESASNE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES CONTINUES TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

We are all doing our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in an effort to protect and support our neighbours and communities.

In these uncertain times, we must remember that we also play a role in strengthening families and ensuring child safety and well-being. Children, youth, and families are under increased stress and need support – now more than ever.

Akwesasne Child & Family Services remains open and prepared to continue to serve families and their children 24 hours through the COVID-19 crisis.

If you know a child, youth, or family in need of help or support, or if you have concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or youth under 18, please immediately call 613-575-2341 ext. 3139 (Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) or after hours at 613-575-2000 (5 p.m. - 8 a.m.).

Please obtain as much information as possible, such as name of the child, caregivers, address and possible phone number.

If you are unsure a report needs to be made, please call Akwesasne Child & Family Services for a consultation and we will assist you through the process.

## IONKWANONHSASETSI ADOLESCENT TREATMENT CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION



**IONKWANONHSASETSI  
ADOLESCENT TREATMENT CENTER**

STAFF AVAILABLE  
MONDAY-FRIDAY (8 AM - 4 PM)

**613-551-1162**  
**IATC@AKWESASNE.CA**



*Please follow the new Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center Facebook page!*

## MESSAGE FROM THE AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

COVID-19 has changed our lives, we are all adapting to a new temporary normal. Feelings of fear, anxiety, anger and frustration are all totally acceptable and expected.

We are all fighting the natural instinct to be with our loved ones during this time. Remember that by keeping your distance you are keeping them and your community safe! Please be kind to yourself and reach out for support even if it's just to chat for 10 minutes. Don't go through this alone. Everyone needs to vent!

The Akwesasne Family Wellness Program is just a phone call away.

If you need support from the AFWP, please contact one of the following staff members:

- Pat Boots: 613-363-2858
- Mary G: 613-930-3868
- Nancy Lazore: 613-930-3612

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES



## ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

*With all the online accounts that children are using now, make sure they stay safe!*

### TYPES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



- Persistence — keep asking for something, even when you repeatedly say no
- Using Pity/Guilt — makes you feel sorry for them or guilty about something
- Sending sexually explicit material (nude photos, etc.)
- Sextortion — using a sexual photo/video of you to get money, to meet in person or to send more photos/videos
- Grooming — tactics used by exploiters to get your trust (complimenting you, gifts, money)
- Sexting — sending/receiving or forwarding sexually explicit messages/photos
- Lured — being convinced of meeting a stranger

### HOW CAN PARENTS REDUCE THE RISK?

- Parents should establish rules for use of the computer online and post them near the computer (length of time, time of day, what areas are off limits)
- Keep the computer in a family room, as opposed to a bedroom, so you can see what your children are doing on the internet
- Get involved with your child and ask questions. What info they should and should not share, if something feels uncomfortable, it's probably wrong, don't send pictures unless your parent knows about it, behaviours that they should pay attention to like asking for sexual or overly personal questions, discuss what could happen)
- Get to know their "online friends"
- Monitor their internet browsing history and cookies to see where your child has been online
- Use a sticker/tape/bandaïd to put over the camera lens when not in use



### WHAT ARE SIGNS YOUR CHILD MIGHT BE AT RISK?

- Child spends large amounts of time online at night
- Child turns monitor off or quickly changes the screen when you come into the room
- Child becomes withdrawn from the family
- Child receives phone calls from people you do not know or is making calls to numbers you don't recognize
- Child is using an online account belonging to someone else
- Sharp changes in mood or character

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE EXPLOITED

- Never respond to threats
- Stop all forms of communication
- Deactivate account
- Tell a safe adult
- Report it to authorities
- Turn on more privacy settings on your computer
- Install parental controls or speak to your internet provider to see what they have available for you



AKWASASNE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES: 613-575-2341 EXT. 3139

AKWASASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE: 613-575-2000



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHAWN DULUDE

We recognize that this is a stressful time, with many people feeling a sense of uncertainty and instability within our community. Our priority is to ensure our community and our members are safe during this health crisis. As such, we remain committed to providing essential services throughout the community.

As always, we will continue proactive patrols and respond to calls for service to ensure the safety and security of our community. If members of the public observe suspicious activity or individuals, they are encouraged to call police immediately. Reporting crime and providing relevant information allows our investigators to identify suspects and solve crime.

We continue to encourage members of the public to comply with all recommendations from public health experts to help stop the spread of COVID-19. In addition, our members will also be enforcing the newly implemented Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law.

### Q & A Regarding AMPS response to COVID-19:

#### **What is the offence for a violation of the curfew law?**

While charges under the Akwesasne Emergency Curfew law are an option, we are encouraging officers to use their discretion and to focus on public education and voluntary compliance prior to issuing a ticket.

Every person who contravenes this law is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine up to \$1,000.

#### **Should the public feel safe- will the police still be policing?**

We have plans that address staffing needs during a public crisis or emergency. These plans include repurposing of resources, modifying shifts, etc. We want to reassure the public that we have enhanced proactive patrol and visibil-

ity in the community to ensure the safety of all residents.

#### **Has there been a reduction in crime or have police officers stopped making arrests?**

It is important to remember that crime statistics fluctuate over time and for a variety of different reasons. Our officers continue to respond to calls for service, investigating crimes, and doing their part to keep our community safe. Although we can generally report increases and decreases in the # of certain types of calls, it is far too early to draw any short term conclusions without proper analysis, which will take time.

#### **If people see groups congregating or hanging out, what should they do?**

In an effort to further stop the spread of COVID-19, public and social gatherings are prohibited. Social distancing of two meters or 6' from any other individual is recommended. If you observe any one violation of this prohibition or curfew law, you are encouraged to call our non-emergency # 613-575-2340. The calls will be dispatched accordingly to ensure compliance and to ensure people are reminded of the significant risk their actions have on the community. Please do not call 9-1-1 or emergency line.

#### **Are people arresting people who do not practice social distancing or self-isolation?**

Our service will work with our local public health partners and continue to assist with the monitoring and enforcement of this legislation to ensure our community is kept



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE SHAWN DULUDE

safe and healthy. The Government of Ontario has also issued an Emergency Order requiring individuals being charged with an offence under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA) to identify themselves to a provincial offences officer, which includes police officers, First Nation constables, special constables, and municipal by-law enforcement officers. While charges under the EMPCA are an option, involved law enforcement agencies are initiating their enforcement efforts with education and warning. Thus far, this ap-

proach has worked. However, if there is consistent and on-going non-compliance with provincial orders, then formal charges may result. We will continue to monitor this order for implications to our policing services.

Our priority is to ensure our community and our members are safe during this health crisis. We continue to encourage members of the public to comply with all recommendations from public health experts to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

### MARCH 2020 STATISTICS

<b>March Total: 266</b>		5	1029 Suspicious Persons
1	020 Robbery - Other Offensive Weapons	8	1030 Suspicious Vehicles
1	040 Theft Under \$5,000 - Other	14	1031 Suspicious Circumstances
2	061 Bail Violations	1	1035 Warrant - Committal
2	072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5,000	8	1036 Warrant - Bench/First
3	073 Criminal Code- Other	1	1038 Missing Persons
1	100 Immigration Act	1	1040 Traffic Complaint
1	1000 Abandoned vehicles	1	1046 Crisis Intervention
5	1001 Alarms	1	1049 Medical Aid
7	1003 Assist Other Agencies-Ambulance	1	1050 Youth Complaint
2	1003 Assist Other Agencies-Cornwall PS	4	1052 Shooting Complaint
2	1003 Assist Other Agencies-OPP	13	1056 Hazardous Conditions
14	1003 Assist Other Agencies-Other	30	106 Provincial Statutes - Other
5	1003 Assist Other Agencies-Tribal PD	1	1070 Sex Offender Registry
45	1004 Assist Public	4	205 Assault - Level 1
1	1006 Document Service	3	206 Assault Weapon/CBH - Level 2
5	1008 By-Law - Dogs	1	705 Dangerous Operation MV
1	1008 By-Law - Parking Occurences	5	711 Impaired Operation MV
2	1012 Civil Disputes	1	715 Fail to Stop/Remain (CCC)
22	1013 Community Services	1	716 Drive MV Prohibited (CCC)
10	1014 Crime Prevention	3	719 Drive Disqualified/License Suspended
2	1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)	7	721 Traffic - Provincial Statutes
3	1018 Escorts - Prisoner	2	723 Traffic - Parking Violations
5	1023 Judge's Order (Court)	3	726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Property Damage)
3	1023 MVC - Non-Reportable	2	Incident Type Not Listed





# KAIENTHÓHSERA *Akwesasne Garden Initiative*

MCA will be providing raised garden beds to individual households in an effort to promote food security for the community!

Each package will include:

- *8' x 4' x 1' raised garden bed*
- *soil*
- *tray of plants*

Visit [bit.ly/AkwesasneGardenInitiative2020](https://bit.ly/AkwesasneGardenInitiative2020) to complete our survey & see if you are eligible to receive an at-home garden starter kit.

**SURVEY ENDS ON FRIDAY, MAY 1 AT 4 PM**

**THIS INITIATIVE IS MADE POSSIBLE IN COLLABORATION WITH:**



If you have any questions, please email [ecdev@akwesasne.ca](mailto:ecdev@akwesasne.ca).

*For elders and those without internet access, please call 613-575-2250 ext. 2205 (Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM) to fill out the short survey over the phone.*