

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together, and building a strong and healthy future.



Office of the Grand Chief

Seskeha/August 18, 2020

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. As you know, in March 2020, we declared a state of emergency for our community in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. During March, April, and May, the majority of my activities were related to the state of emergency, to ensure the community was safeguarded against the spread of COVID-19. The state of emergency is still in place and we need to continue practicing all of the recommended safety precautions to continue to protect our entire community, especially our most vulnerable members.

Throughout the pandemic, I provided regular updates to the community through CKON radio and the recordings of those updates are available for viewing via MCA's Facebook page, MCA's YouTube channel, and on any of my social media accounts. The updates provide insight into MCA's response to the pandemic, including the community precautions implemented over time, and the overall pandemic financials.

We began utilizing the Zoom video conference platform to host meetings as it's not possible at this time to have in-person meetings or group gatherings. In July, MCA hosted a public information session on the demolition of the old Administration 2 Building. Our first General Meeting was held on July 30, 2020 through Zoom. At the General Meeting, we provided the community with an update on MCA's response to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and answered questions received ahead of time. The entire recording can be found at <https://youtu.be/8oAWkAD6trg>. Our next General Meeting will be held on August 27, 2020; you can register to receive the Zoom coordinates by emailing meetings@akwesasne.ca. We are also encouraging community members to email questions ahead of time to ensure that your questions are addressed at the meeting. In the meantime, my June and July reports are attached for your information and continued update.

I know that the past 5 months have been very challenging for everyone. Our daily routines and social behaviors have had to change, and these changes remain in place for the foreseeable future. Niawen:kowa to you and our entire community for being patient and taking all the necessary precautions as we make it through this global pandemic.

Sken:nen/Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abram Benedict", is written over the typed name.

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ohiari:ha/June 2020

JUNE 1, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council was briefed on a letter of concern received from the Akwesasne Mohawk Court Justices; further research will be done on the concern and reported back to Council.
- An update was provided on an erosion concern on Stanley Island.
- Council discussed the EOC rotation schedule for Chiefs and agreed that the same schedule will be used for Chiefs attendance at the Mohawk Government Office starting next week, until the Administration 1 Building is ready to accommodate the relocation.
- A briefing was provided on a letter being drafted to the Minister of Transport regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on future toll rates for the Seaway International Bridge.
- Council agreed that the Border Collaboration Initiative meetings with CBSA will resume throughout the month of June.
- A concern regarding group gatherings when a death occurs in the community was discussed; Council agreed to set up a call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to discuss the concern with them.
- Council was briefed on new funding available for Indigenous communities.
- A briefing was provided on the recent Iroquois Caucus hiring process for a coordinator.
- Council was provided a briefing on a land dispute and requested follow up with AMPS about their protocol regarding land disputes.
- Council discussed a letter of complaint received about a business that is currently leasing from the MCA. Consent from the complainant will be requested in order to forward the complaint.
- Council discussed a letter received regarding a fire that took place last fall and agreed to respond accordingly.

- Administration briefed Council on the examination of a four-day work week, with ten hours worked per day.
- Council discussed a recent social media post about a potential protest.
- A concern with out of town employment was discussed; further clarification will be requested.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendment to Akwesasne–Canada funding agreement; Approval of Parks Canada Contribution Agreement; Approval of funding application to Indigenous Services Canada for road reconstruction; Approval of service contract with Dr. Levac; and Approval of service contract with Dr. Saylor.

JUNE 2, 2020 CALL WITH MAYOR CLEMENT

On the morning of June 2, 2020 I spoke with City of Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement to receive an update from her regarding the COVID-19 situation in Cornwall. I provided her with an update on MCA's resumption of services plan and the accommodations being made to safely return employees to the workplace. The mayor and I also discussed providing individual advertisements on CKON radio to inform our respective communities that we need to continue to be vigilant to continue slowing the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, I connected with the Mayor regularly to jointly share information and discuss current challenges in our communities.

JUNE 2, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS MEETING

On the morning of June 2, 2020 representatives from the Public Safety Portfolio, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and I participated in a Zoom videoconference call with the port directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and US Customs and Border Protection. Since April we had been hosting regular weekly update calls with both port directors. On the call of June 2, 2020 the port directors provided updates on the weekly statistics for traffic flow and reported that none of their officers are under quarantine.

JUNE 2, 2020 CKON UPDATE

Since April 6, 2020 I had been providing regular updates to the community on CKON radio. On June 2, 2020 I provided another routine update to the community which focused on our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the MCA resumption of operations. I outlined that throughout the month of June 2020 employees who had been working from home or were on stand down status would return to the workplace, using a phased in approach, and that the MCA intended to reopen to the public in July. The final part of my update included a reminder to the community of the current precautions in place and messaging that everyone needs to continue doing their part to keep Akwesasne safe from the spread of COVID-19.

JUNE 2, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the afternoon of June 2, 2020 our Council held a Zoom videoconference call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs to discuss funeral protocols for the community. Over the course of the pandemic, members of our Council have been in regular contact with the local funeral homes. On the call of June 2, 2020 we discussed concerns received from a local funeral home around the number people gathering for graveside services. On the call it was agreed that a letter would be sent to all local funeral homes informing them that at this time, no home wake services will be allowed in the community and that graveside services should be listed as private. These measures were implemented to safeguard the community against the spread of COVID-19.

JUNE 3, 2020 COUNCIL COVID UPDATE

Ever since we opened our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in response to our declared state of emergency, our Council has been meeting regularly to ensure that we are all on the same page with regard to the most recent updates related to COVID-19. On June 3, 2020 we held our regular COVID call to receive updates from MCA's administration and to discuss the current COVID situation in

Akwesasne and in the surrounding areas. The MCA Executive Director updated Council on the MCA resumption plan and outlined the safeguards in place. Council discussed the current travel restriction and community curfew times and determined that the times and restrictions would remain the same.

JUNE 4, 2020 CALL WITH CORNWALL ELECTRIC

On June 4, 2020 I received a call from Cornwall Electric Manager Jackie Baird regarding an 2.95% increase to the rates charged to Kawehno:ke residents which would come into effect on July 1, 2020. Jackie explained that the last increase took place 2 years ago and that a contract with the supplier had allowed that rate to be sustained and that the upcoming increase was a result of a new supply contract. This increase was not specific to Kawehno:ke; all Cornwall Electric customers were subject to it. Cornwall Electric planned to advise its customers of the increase on June 17, 2020.

JUNE 5, 2020 TNG LEADERS

On the morning of June 5, 2020 I spoke with Brad Quinn of TNG Leaders, a governance, leadership, and strategy consultant firm. The purpose of the call was to receive an update from Brad on a recent project proposal for TNG Leaders to assist our Chiefs' governance committee. TNG Leaders had already assisted us with reviewing our current governance and the result was a report that included recommendations. The Chiefs governance committee is now working on implementing the recommendations of the report, with TNG's assistance.

JUNE 8, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council discussed an offer to sell property to MCA; further research on the particulars will be completed and reported back.
- A briefing was provided by the Cannabis Working Task Group about the application process for cannabis licenses and a recommendation is forthcoming.

- Council discussed digital communication platforms that could be used for future General Meetings and District Meetings; further follow up will be done on the options.
- A concern regarding non-district residents bringing their domestic household waste into the districts for disposal was discussed; a community announcement will be sent out.
- Council received an update on the preparations to begin the tendering process for repairs to Wade Lafrance Memorial Road.
- A concern on recent gatherings was discussed in relation to continuing to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- Council clarified the rotation schedule for Chiefs to be physically present at the Mohawk Government office.
- A briefing was provided on the recent correspondence received regarding the Akwesasne Review Commission.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Access to Territory for Building Demolition; Approval of the term “Common Lands” for use in future documents; Approval of 18/19 financial audit of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Annual Reconciliation Report for the Health Access Center and Diabetes Education Program.

JUNE 8, 2020 EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT

On the afternoon of June 8, 2020 I participated in a regular media briefing with Dr. Paul from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU). Dr. Paul hosts a media briefing twice a week to update the media on the current COVID-19 pandemic and the number of current positive cases in the EOHU region. On the June 8, 2020 call, Dr. Paul discussed the region moving into Phase 2 of Ontario’s reopening plan. It was explained on the call that with the region moving to Phase 2, social gathering limits would be moved from 5 to 10 and that churches in the region could open, provided that building capacity is limited to a maximum of 30% of its normal usage. Dr. Paul also outlined the changes to local restrictions on community businesses and the reopening of more services and facilities.

JUNE 9, 2020 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

On June 9, 2020 I spoke with Miriam Galina the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Cornwall Detachment Commander regarding the RCMP patrolling in Akwesasne territorial waters. This was the first contact that I had with Miriam since being the Grand Chief. I outlined to Miriam that we had received a few calls from the community that the RCMP were conducting patrols within our waters. I relayed to Miriam that the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is the police agency responsible for law enforcement in Akwesasne, whether on land or in the water. The detachment commander relayed to me they were in the process of assisting AMPS in receiving additional marine training and that she would be expediting the training. It was also relayed that with the Canada-USA border closure, the RCMP had taken the lead on ensuring the border was secured. I explained that due to our unique geographical location, AMPS had established protocols with immigrations for border contraventions to keep the border secure in case of non-Indigenous people trying to cross. I reiterated to Miriam that the RCMP should only be in the territory in response to our invite and that we needed to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding to outline that protocol and relationship.

JUNE 9, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS MEETING

On the morning of June 9, 2020 representatives from the Public Safety Portfolio, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and I participated on a Zoom video conference call with the Port Directors for Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and US Customs and Border Protection. On the June 9, 2020 call, the port directors provided updates on the weekly statistics for traffic flow and reported that they have no officers under quarantine.

JUNE 9, 2020 AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

On June 9, 2020 members of the Education Portfolio hosted an internal call with the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

(AMBE) director to review a recent presentation received from the Ontario Ministry of Education on Reciprocal Education Approach (REA). The Portfolio Chiefs and the AMBE director agreed that a letter would be drafted and sent to the Ontario Ministry and the Upper Canada District School Board to outline Akwesasne's position that AMBE will not enter into a reciprocal agreement in a situation where AMBE offers the equivalent service.

JUNE 9, 2020 VOICES PROJECT INTERVIEW

As part of our ongoing collaboration on injury prevention with the University of British Columbia and the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), I participated in an interview for the VOICES project on the current COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past several years, AMBE and the university produced a series of short films to capture the perspective of our youth on injury prevention. During the June 9, 2020 interview, I spoke to VOICES researcher Dr. Rose-Alma McDonald about the current pandemic and what we have been hearing from the children and the youth of Akwesasne regarding the pandemic. If you are interested in viewing the short film it can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMpMfDRU2KQ>

JUNE 10, 2020 EASTERN ONTARIO ELECTED OFFICIALS

On the morning of June 10, 2020 I participated on a Zoom video conference call with other local Eastern Ontario elected officials and heads of administration for the region. The representatives included Member of Parliament (MP) Eric Duncan and Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim McDonnell. The MP and MPP provided a federal and provincial update on the current initiatives of their respective governments. I provided an update on the current status of the MCA reopening plans and an update on the current COVID-19 testing taking place in Akwesasne. I also provided the group with an update on the current US-Canada border closure and the impacts to our community.

JUNE 10, 2020 CALL WITH MINISTER LAMETTI'S OFFICE

Earlier in 2020 I connected with David Lametti, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, to discuss a funding proposal for the Akwesasne Mohawk Court and the Akwesasne compliance program. On June 10, 2020 the Justice Director, Justice Portfolio Chiefs, and I spoke with staff from Ministers Lametti's office to discuss follow up on the proposals submitted to the minister. The minister's assistant and the Director of Rights Implementation explained that they had spoken to a number of representatives within Justice regarding our proposal, that they would not be able to fund the entire proposal, and that they would look to assist with certain elements. We expressed our disappointment with their inability to fund the entire proposal but welcomed their assistance with the elements that could be further explored.

JUNE 12, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

Since earlier in the pandemic the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe agreed that we would host regular calls to share information and updates. On June 12, 2020 our Council met with the Tribal Chiefs to discuss the current state of the pandemic in Akwesasne. We discussed the current travel radius in Akwesasne and the curfew times and agreed that there would be no changes.

JUNE 12, 2020 CALL WITH LEGAL COUNSEL ON INCOME TAX

On June 12, 2020 I hosted an internal call with our legal counsel and Chief Vince Thompson to discuss a recent complaint received from a community member working on the south channel bridge on Kawehno:ke. The Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) had hired a contractor to replace the catwalk under the bridge and local Akwesasronon were working on the replacement. The complaint received was in relation to income tax being deducted from community members' pay cheques. On the call of June 12 we discussed the current legal framework and possible courses of action to assist our community members. We agreed to arrange a call with the Laframboise Group who is the general contractor for the job to discuss the income tax situation.

JUNE 15, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

- Council was updated on the status of the Border Collaboration Initiative between CBSA and MCA, as preparation for the resumption of meetings is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.
- A briefing was provided on a request submitted to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission for a report outlining the activities completed and number of meetings held during the past year.
- Council discussed a concern with how trash is being disposed on Akwesasne islands and the requirement for lessees to remove their own trash. OVS will provide a letter to all lessees.
- A concern with the excessive use of fireworks throughout the community was discussed. The Communications Unit will follow up with the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service to release an advisement to the community.
- Council discussed grass cutting assistance for Elders; a list of Elders requesting assistance will be collected.
- A concern with the impact to health care workers who have to wear personal protective equipment while working in community homes without air conditioning was raised; administration will follow up.
- Council discussed the current curfew and travel radius restrictions and agreed to continue to revisit and review this on a weekly basis.
- A briefing was provided on the delayed appointment of Trustees to the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust due to the current pandemic.
- Council discussed a concern with current dumping and land accretion in Kana:takon and referred it to OVS for follow up.
- A briefing was provided on a request to lease a vacant MCA cabin on Stanley Island.
- MCRs passed: Approval to demolish a house owned by MCA and proceed with new construction of a 3-bedroom duplex; Approval for construction of a 3-bedroom tri-plex and a 1-bedroom four-plex construction.

JUNE 16, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS CALL

On the morning of June 16, 2020 representatives from the Public Safety Portfolio, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and I participated on a Zoom video conference call with the port directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) for US Customs and Border Protection. On the June 16, 2020 call, the port directors provided updates on the weekly statistics for traffic flow and reported that no officers were under quarantine.

JUNE 16, 2020 DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

In the afternoon of June 16, 2020 I hosted an internal call with the MCA Executive Director, the acting Director of the Department of Technical Services (DTS) and DTS Portfolio Chiefs. The purpose of the call was to receive an update from our legal counsel and DTS director on a recent counter offer received from the contractor responsible for the Tsi Snaihne wastewater plant reconstruction. Over the past few months, the general contractor had been disputing the contract and claiming overages for the project costs. On June 16, the DTS Director and our legal counsel explained the events leading up to the ongoing dispute and what the next steps would be for the formal dispute resolution process. A mediation session will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

JUNE 16, 2020 CALL WITH AKWESASNE TRUST OVERSEERS

On June 16, 2020 I hosted a call with the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Overseers. The overseers had requested a call to discuss the upcoming expiry of two trustee positions. The overseers explained that due to the COVID-19 pandemic they were unable to post and advertise for the upcoming expiring trustee terms. We discussed options for consideration and agreed that Council would need to decide, via MCR, whether or not to agree to extend the current term for three months in order for the overseers to conduct a public call out and to interview interested community members to sit as trustees.

JUNE 17, 2020 COUNCIL COVID UPDATE

On June 17, 2020 our Council hosted our regular COVID call to receive updates from MCA administration and to discuss the current COVID situation in Akwesasne.

JUNE 18, 2020 PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

On the afternoon of June 18, 2020 I participated on a conference call with the Chairperson for the Parole Board of Canada, as a member of the Chairperson's Indigenous Council, to discuss the current parole board hearing restrictions due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The parole board staff provided us with an overview of the current situation on hearings, noting that since all of the prisons were restricting outside visitors' access, the Elder assisted hearings were not occurring. The staff further explained that since the parole board hearings were all taking place either by video conference or teleconference call, the Elder assisted hearings were all being rescheduled. In Elder assisted hearings, the Elder works with the offender and assists in a circle hearing, but since the pandemic they are unable to host a hearing in this fashion. The chairperson asked the Indigenous Council members to discuss the impacts of having the Elder not be able to smudge or provide a prayer for hearings should a hearing be provided over conference call. Each member of the Indigenous Council provided insight into the impacts of not having a spiritual connection over video or teleconference. We discussed the possible options for the parole board to consider in order to resume the Elder assisted hearings. I suggested that the parole board consider outside hearings in the prison yards so that the Elder can consult with the offender prior to bringing the stakeholders together. The Chairperson thanked all the Indigenous Council members for their input and informed the council that they will do additional research on potential options for the parole board and Corrections Canada to consider for the Elder assisted hearings to resume.

JUNE 19, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the morning of June 19, 2020 our Council hosted our weekly Zoom video conference call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. The SRMT informed us that they would be announcing their reopening guidelines the following week and they would provide us with the information on next week's call. We also discussed the current border restrictions and impacts to services.

JUNE 19, 2020 CALL WITH SOUTH GLENGARRY MAYOR

On the morning of June 19, 2020 the Executive Director, the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office Manager, and I hosted a Zoom video conference call with the South Glengarry Mayor, a member of his Council, and the CEO of South Glengarry. The CEO Tim Mills had reached out to me to arrange the meeting. We provided welcoming introductions and I informed the Mayor that I was pleased to be able to connect with him and his team to discuss commonalities. The ARRO Manager provided an update on the current status of the Cairn Island transfer from Parks Canada to Akwesasne, she further explained that we intended to leave it closed to the public once the transfer was completed. We discussed the contracted services South Glengarry provides to residents of Hamilton Island. Following our conversation regarding the islands around South Glengarry, we discussed how the township can promote Truth & Reconciliation and embrace the recommendations of the report. We agreed that we would send language for the South Glengarry council to consider for land acknowledgements and we also agreed that we would provide language to allow the township to acknowledge the upcoming National Indigenous Day. We also committed to working with South Glengarry to provide cultural awareness training to their council and CEO.

JUNE 19, 2020 CALL WITH LABRAMBOIS GROUP

Following our internal call with our legal counsel on income taxation deductions for the bridge workers, we hosted a call with the general contractor for the catwalk replacement Laframbois Group. We spoke

to the project manager from Laframbois and explained to him that we had received complaints from Akwesasne workers about them being taxed while working in Akwesasne. The Laframbois representatives informed us that the company had already researched the taxation issue and that income tax was no longer going to be deducted from the employees' pay cheques.

JUNE 23, 2020 CALL WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On June 23, 2020 I connected with Chad Aramburo, the lands and economic development manager for Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The purpose of the call was to discuss a letter that was sent to an Akwesasne community group regarding the Reserve Lands and Environment Management Plan (RLEMP) in Akwesasne. I explained to Chad that based on the letter I felt that additional clarity on the intent of the letter was required. Chad agreed that we would set up a call with other representatives from ISC lands and MCA Portfolio Chiefs to discuss the letter and possible next steps to clarify the letter.

JUNE 23, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS MEETING

On the morning of June 23, 2020 representatives from the Public Safety Portfolio, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and I participated on a Zoom video conference call with port directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and US Customs and Border Protection. On the June 23, 2020 call we received the weekly statistics and discussed the current process the border officers use on the processing of identification cards. No quarantines were reported.

JUNE 23, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council received a briefing from the Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs on a recent Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission meeting and discussed the ongoing concern with the RCMP patrolling Akwesasne's territorial waters. Follow up letters will be drafted to the commission and the RCMP.

- The concerns with a family's recent interaction with the MCA Health Department was discussed and is being followed up on by administration.
- MCRs passed: Approval of funding agreement with Corrections Services Canada for Onkwehnonwehneha Program Development Officer; Approval of funding agreement with Quebec Ministry of Justice for Gladue report services; Approval of funding agreement with Ontario for Akwesasne Justice Program; Approval of service contract between AMBE and JB Enterprises for bus maintenance and repair; Approval of amendment to MCA's 2020 Activity Day; Approval of Issuance of 2 Cannabis Retail Licenses; Approval of amendment to funding agreement between Akwesasne and Canada.

JUNE 24, 2020 COUNCIL COVID UPDATE

On June 24, 2020 our Council hosted our regular COVID call to receive updates from MCA administration and to discuss the current COVID situation in Akwesasne.

JUNE 26, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On June 26, 2020 our Council hosted our weekly call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. The Tribal Chiefs explained their recent resolution that changed their 50-mile radius to 100 miles and their curfew from 10 pm to 11 pm. Our Council provided feedback on the changes to them and expressed our discontent about their changes. We also discussed park closures in the community and protocols for reopening them.

JUNE 26, 2020 CALL WITH MINISTER BILL BLAIR

On the morning of June 27, 2020 the Director of Justice, Justice Portfolio Chiefs, and I hosted a conference call with Public Safety Minister Bill Blair. I thanked the Minister for the opportunity to speak with him and present a funding proposal to him for the compliance program. The Portfolio Chiefs provided the Minister with a brief history on Akwesasne's compliance program and an overview of the

elements of the proposal. The Director of Justice also assisted in the presentation. Following the formal presentation with the minister, we were able to answer questions the minister had on the proposal. Minister Blair visited Akwesasne 3 years ago when he was leading the cannabis implementation. Minister Blair let us know that compliance was not directly within his department's funding priorities but he did commit to working with Akwesasne to find resources.

JUNE 29, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council discussed cell phone reception in the territory and was briefed on the potential benefit of switching carriers.
- A briefing was provided on a recent call with the RCMP regional inspector on Akwesasne's position on patrols being conducted in our territorial waters; follow up letters will be sent.
- Council was briefed on the demand for assistance with the Indian Day Schools Class Action Settlement applications; further follow up will be done with Gowlings WLG, the legal firm representing the class action suit.
- A briefing was provided on a request for a letter that was received from a Tyendinaga community member.
- Council discussed the upcoming move of Mohawk Government to Administration 1 and was provided a status update on the move.
- A request for assistance from the local priest who is required to transit the border was discussed and will be followed up on with Customs.
- Council discussed the existing 50-mile travel radius and the community curfew and decided to modify the curfew time, but the 50-mile radius will remain in place for the time being.
- A request for Indigenous Services Canada to provide an update on their staff availability and ongoing access was discussed and will be followed up on.
- Council discussed the future use of the recreation centers and requested that the recreation committees provide plans if they are considering using the facility for upcoming programs, etc. Council

also discussed use of the facilities for MCA programs, to accommodate physical distancing.

- Council agreed that a General Meeting will be scheduled for July 30, 2020 using the Zoom platform; the agenda is to be developed and reviewed in the coming weeks.
- MCRs passed: Approval of assignment of lease on Hamilton Island; Approval of license for HAVFD to sell pull-tabs; Approval of amendment to the Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law.

JUNE 29, 2020 COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CFDC)

On the afternoon of June 29, 2020 I participated in a Zoom video conference call with representatives from the Cornwall and the Counties Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) and the Mayor of Cornwall and CEO. The purpose of the call was to discuss and upcoming media briefing session regarding the City of Cornwall and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne announcing that the CFDC had been retained to assist the city and Akwesasne to engage our communities on possible future port land development. Representatives from the CFDC provided us with a presentation on the history of the co-ownership and the next steps for the engagement process. A virtual press conference was set for July 27, 2020.

JUNE 30, 2020 BORDERS PARTNERS MEETING

On the morning of June 30, 2020 representatives from the Public Safety Portfolio, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and I participated on a Zoom video conference call with port directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and US Customs and Border Protection.



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ohiarhko:wa/July 2020

JULY 6, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council discussed the increase in traffic in our waters and community concerns with non-locals using private waterfront property in Akwesasne for social gatherings. A Chiefs' Committee will meet to discuss potential solutions for Council's consideration.
- A briefing was provided on a letter to be drafted to community organizations requesting resumption plans if they wish to re-open their facility or resume activities/events; Council agreed that plans for the use of both inside and outside areas needs to be included.
- Council identified a committee to review any resumption plans submitted by community organizations.
- A briefing was provided on concerns about violations of a lease agreement on Stanley Island in relation to garbage disposal; administration will follow up with OVS.
- Council agreed that the Chiefs' roundtable updates will resume at next week's Council Meeting.
- A briefing was provided on engaging the Cornwall & the Counties Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) to assist with community engagement and project management for the Cornwall Harbor.
- Council agreed that the agenda for the ZOOM General Meeting scheduled for July 30, 2020 will be an overview of MCA's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- MCRs passed: Approval of funding agreement for Health for COVID-19 Response Fund; Approval to extend the term of the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Trustees to October 31, 2020; Approval of service contract for Duty Council and Prosecutor for the Akwesasne Court; Approval of Assignment of

Lease on Pilon Island; Approval of Assignment of Lease on St. Francis Island; Approval of Assignment of Lease on Hamilton Island; Approval of Assignment of Lease on Renshaw Island.

JULY 6, 2020 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ERIC DUNCAN

On the afternoon of July 6, 2020 I met with Member of Parliament Eric Duncan for lunch, updated him on the current COVID-19 response in Akwesasne, and gave him an overview of the work our Health Department was doing. I also outlined our challenges with contact tracing between New York State and Ontario. Earlier on in the pandemic, MP Duncan wrote to Congresswoman Elise Stefanik in an effort to assist with getting NYS and Ontario to share contact tracing information. As a result of our meeting, MP Duncan committed to follow up again on this challenge and to work with us to find a solution. At the meeting, I also shared the steps MCA is taking to ensure our community is prepared for the second wave, which is expected this fall.

JULY 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS MEETINGS

Throughout the month of July, Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs, and I participated on weekly update calls with representatives of the Canada Border Services Agency and the US Customs and Border Protection. The calls occurred every Tuesday morning using the Zoom platform. On these calls we receive regular updates from the representatives on current traffic volumes, any issues with local travelers, and reports of any officers that may be in quarantine for any reason. For the month of July, no officers were reported to be in quarantine. These meeting also provide us with the opportunity to give updates to the CBSA and CBP representatives.

JULY 7, 2020 KNOX-ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Earlier in March 2020 I received an invite from the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of the United Church of Canada to welcome delegates to the gathering at the NAV Center in Cornwall. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was cancelled, but I was

invited to connect via Zoom with the local Knox St. Paul Minister Erin McIntyre and other members of the congregation on July 7, 2020. On the call, I introduced myself to the group and discussed my vision for greater collaboration with local community groups to promote the regions and Akwesasne. The local representatives explained the truth and reconciliation work the United Church of Canada is doing, in an effort to promote better relations with the Indigenous communities. I committed to welcoming the gathering when the event is rescheduled in the future, to keep in contact with the representatives, and to pay a visit to the church when the pandemic is over.

JULY 7, 2020 CKON RADIO UPDATE

On July 7, 2020 at noon, I provided an update to the community on CKON 97.3 Radio. The focus of this update was MCA's reopening plan, a change to the MCA curfew, and an update from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. I also reminded the community of boating safety within our waters, as over the past several months there has been a significant increase in activities in our waters. The entire update can be found on the MCA's Facebook page.

JULY 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2020 COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATES

Over the course of July, Council hosted weekly update sessions on Wednesday mornings to discuss and receive updates from MCA administration on the current COVID-19 response. These meetings are an opportunity for Council to discuss current precautions and travel restrictions. All decisions are referred to the regular Council Meetings on Monday for Council ratification.

JULY 9, 2020 PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

On the afternoon of July 9, 2020 I participated in a Public Consultation meeting on the demolition of the former MCA Administration 2 building. The building has been vacant for several years and is slated for demolition in the coming months. On July 9, 2020 the information session was hosted on the Zoom platform by the MCA Department of Housing and Infrastructure and Public Works and Government

Services Canada (PWGSC). Representatives of PWGSC outlined the process for the demolition, and explained that since there were low levels of asbestos in the building material, extra precautions would be taken when the building is removed. After the presentation, community members were able to ask questions. Many of the questions asked were about the precautions being taken to minimize any potential asbestos exposure to neighboring community members. The entire information session can be viewed on the MCA's Facebook page.

JULY 9, 2020 UPDATE WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On the afternoon of July 9, 2020 I participated in a conference call with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). ISC had been hosting weekly and now bi-weekly update calls with First Nation leadership to update us on the current COVID-19 response for the Government of Canada. On the July 9, 2020 call, the Ontario Executive Officer and the Ontario Regional Director (RDG) outlined the programs currently available to First Nations to support community development and economic development. The RDG reported the results of a recent community survey on how the communities spent and are spending COVID resources. Following the ISC presentations, the First Nation leadership representatives were able to ask questions. Many of the questions were around new COVID resources, additional resources for the schools, and what preparation ISC is doing for the second wave. The next call will take place in two weeks.

JULY 9, 2020 RACISM PANEL WITH MAYOR CLEMENT

I was invited by Cornwall City Mayor Bernadette Clement to participate on a virtual panel scheduled for the evening of July 9, 2020 to discuss Black Lives Matter (BLM). The idea for the panel stemmed from the recent march in the City of Cornwall. The online session was hosted by Mayor Clement, who also invited the two organizers of the BLM march and a woman whose daughter was a victim of racial harassment on her school bus. We were also joined by Member of Parliament Eric Duncan, Member of Provincial Parliament Jim

McDonnell and Cornwall Police Chief Danny Aikman. Bernadette asked the two march organizers why they had organized the march in the City of Cornwall. They explained that they felt it was important to bring attention to the issue as they could attest to the experience of racism within the City of Cornwall. Each took time to explain their experiences growing up within the City. The other participant explained the situation her young child experienced on her bus ride home from school, explained how she felt and the actions she took, not only to protect her child, but to also ensure the system made changes. I was asked about my perspective on racism and how it impacts my community. I shared that many of our community members experience racism, I also explained that the grassroots movement for BLM was similar to the Idle No More movement we had seen in Indigenous communities. It was a pleasure to take part on the panel to raise awareness to an important issue.

JULY 10, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the morning of July 10, 2020 Council hosted our weekly Zoom call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. The SRMT informed us that additional changes will be coming to their community curfew in the coming weeks. We discussed the current travel restrictions and recent incidents on Akwesasne waters.

JULY 13, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council discussed the draft Akwesasne Emergency Response Law and agreed to send it to Justice to be considered under the law enactment process.
- A briefing was provided on a recent request for the return of a small portion of land no longer being used for a community well; Council will consider the request in the coming weeks.
- Council discussed the anticipated annual request from the Cree Nation to hunt in our territory and decided that a letter should be sent to inform them that, due to the pandemic, their request cannot be approved at this time.

- A briefing was provided on the format for the July 30, 2020 General Meeting via Zoom; community members will have to request connection coordinates and will be able to e-mail/call in questions in advance.
- Council discussed a concern with the recreation fields being used for softball games without consent from the recreation centers, which are closed due to the pandemic. A letter and community announcement will be drafted for Council consideration.
- A request was made for Council to review and consider modifying the current process for the apprehension of dogs.
- Council agreed that Chief Vanessa Adams will take the lead on arranging the review of any resumption plans submitted by community organizations.
- MCRs passed: Approval of temporary pandemic pay contribution agreement for Tsiionkwanonsote long-term care employees; Approval of contribution agreement for one-time pandemic pay initiative for community support services such as meals on wheels, foot care, respite care, home maintenance, and home security checks; Approval to offer position of Director of the Department of Community and Social Services to successful candidate (subject to probation period); Approval of modifications to MCA organizational chart; Approval of contribution agreement with Quebec for probation supervision services.

JULY 13, 2020 CALL WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES LANDS

On the afternoon of July 13, 2020 the Manager of the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS), Chiefs on the OVS Committee, and I participated on a conference call with representatives from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Back in June, I requested the call with ISC to discuss a recent letter they issued to a community group regarding Akwesasne Reserve Lands and Environment Management Program (RLEMP). We began the call by having the ISC representatives explain what the RLEMP program was and how it worked in Akwesasne. They explained that the since Akwesasne was part of the RLEMP program, our Office of Vital Statistics staff were provided with additional

training and resources to administer land transfers in Akwesasne. Many First Nations in Canada aren't part of the RLEMP program and are forced to rely on ISC to fully administer their land transfer transactions. We informed ISC that the letter they sent to a group of Akwesasne community members made it appear that MCA has the ultimate authority to solve land disputes in Akwesasne. We explained that in some cases, families will assert that lands were transferred inappropriately without proper consultation with families or that transfers were made in error, inconsistent with estate instructions. ISC committed to provide us with a presentation at our request. Once the presentation is received and reviewed, MCA will determine our next steps.

JULY 15, 2020 MPs DUNCAN & DEBELLEFEUILLE

On July 15, 2020 I participated on a call with Member of Parliament (MP) Eric Duncan and MP Claude DeBellefeuille. Claude DeBellefeuille is the MP for Salaberry—Suroît, which includes the Quebec portion of Akwesasne. I explained the current situation with the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) and the tolling impacts to Akwesasne and that MCA is concerned about the long term viability of toll collections and the future impacts to our community. The two MPs committed to working to find a long term solution to the bridge toll impacts in Akwesasne.

JULY 17, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the morning of July 17, 2020 Council hosted our weekly Zoom call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. We discussed joint messaging to remind community members to remain vigilant on practicing the precautions against the spread of COVID-19. The SRMT provided us with an update on the reopening plans of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino.

JULY 20, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council received an update on the progress of the upcoming Mohawk Government move to Administration Building 1.

- A briefing was provided on a recent call with Indigenous Services Canada regarding the Reserve Land and Environment Management Program (RLEMP) and how it relates to Akwesasne.
- Council discussed concerns raised by community members regarding potential unauthorized use of waterfront property at Akwesasne islands; follow up will take place to discuss and confirm unauthorized use.
- A briefing was provided on a recent sighting of a Surete du Quebec (SQ) vessel in our territorial waters; it was decided that a letter will be sent to the SQ Regional Commander informing them that the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is the responsible police force in our territory and should the AMPS need assistance they will request it.
- Council discussed the need for AMPS to ensure their presence patrolling our territorial waters is known; an update on the AMPS marine patrol will be requested.
- A briefing was provided on a recent complaint received regarding a nuisance dog and the compliance/conservation response.
- Council discussed a potential recent COVID-19 exposure incident and will follow up with Community Health.
- A briefing was provided on an alternative COVID-19 entry process for research and consideration.
- MCRs passed: Approval of allotment of land to community member; Approval of 2 amendments to Akwesasne–Canada funding agreement; Approval of Emergency Council Meeting Minutes, Approval of (4) Council Meeting minutes.

JULY 20, 2020 CALL WITH CBSA PRESIDENT

On the afternoon of July 20, 2020 I participated on a conference call with the President of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The president requested the call with me and members of our leadership circle to reiterate that CBSA was committed to moving forward with the work being done through the collaborative tables and work plan. I explained that Akwesasne is still committed to this work as well. The pandemic had caused a delay in progress being made due to meetings

not taking place internally or with our external partner, but we agreed that meetings would continue to be scheduled, via electronic means. I expressed to the president that with the Canada–US border closure, our concern is that decision makers in Ottawa may focus on the Akwesasne crossing and question the high number of crossings for essential travel. The president committed to ensure that decision makers in Ottawa are aware of our unique situation.

JULY 24, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the morning of July 24, 2020 Council hosted our weekly Zoom call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. We discussed a recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Akwesasne. We also discussed the joint press release that offended individuals who were recently notified that they tested positive for COVID-19. The SRMT leadership informed us that they would be changing their community curfew as a result of the new positive case.

JULY 27, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Representatives from the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) provided Council with a presentation on the current status of the Seaway Claim and the proposed changes to the return land sketch.
- MCA legal counsel provided an overview of a recent decision of the Akwesasne Review Commission; Council agreed that Grand Chief and Portfolio will meet with the commission.
- Representatives of the MCA Staff Relations Committee provided Council with a presentation of proposed amendments to the MCA General Personnel Policy (GPP), for future consideration.
- A briefing was provided to Council on a proposed property purchase; further follow up will be done.
- Council agreed that due to the upcoming holiday, no Council Meeting will be held the week of August 3rd.
- A concern regarding the reopening plan for the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) schools was discussed and will be followed up by administration.

- Council reviewed and acknowledged the MCA/CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative Work Plan.
- An overview was provided on MCA Boards, Commissions, and Committees; Council agreed to set up a specific meeting to review.
- Council discussed the impact of Akwesasne's recent withdrawal from the Assembly of First Nations to the Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. Council will discuss this further at a future meeting.
- MCRs passed: Assignment of Lease on Hamilton Island; Approval to amend proposed draft seaway agreement land sketch; Approval to award contract for reconstruction of Wade Lafrance Road to Lazore's Construction; Approval to implement Ontario Medical Association arbitration award; Approval of (5) Council Meeting Minutes.

JULY 27, 2020 PRESS CONFERENCE

On the afternoon of July 27, 2020 I participated in a virtual press conference with the Cornwall and the Counties Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) and the City of Cornwall. The press conference was called in order to inform our respective communities that Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall have engaged the CFDC to conduct the community consultation sessions in relation to the Cornwall Harbour. The CFDC provided a presentation on the history of the harbour and outlined the activities they will conduct over the next year to engage the two communities.

JULY 28, 2020 MEETING WITH MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT JIM MCDONELL

On the afternoon of July 28, 2020 I joined Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim McDonell for lunch in the City of Cornwall. I requested the meeting with MPP McDonell to provide him with an update of the current COVID-19 pandemic response in Akwesasne. I also outlined the ongoing issue of an official contact tracing agreement with Ontario and New York State. MPP McDonell committed to follow up to see what is currently being done to share

information with Ontario and New York. MPP McDonell provided me with an update on the local impacts of the pandemic on the Cornwall and SDG region.

JULY 30, 2020 CALL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

On the morning of July 30, 2020 Council hosted our weekly Zoom call with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chiefs. We shared updates with the SRMT on a recent increase in COVID-19 exposure testing. The SRMT informed us that they were in the process of setting up mass testing for Akwesasne. We also discussed the travel radius and the community curfew.

JULY 30, 2020 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of July 30 Council hosted our first online General Meeting using the Zoom platform. The agenda included an update and overview of the MCA COVID-19 response. We provided an overview of the events that have taken place in the community since the state of emergency was declared on March 16, 2020. I also provided a financial update to the community on the COVID funding received from the federal and provincial governments. The entire presentation and recording of the July General Meeting can be found at: <https://youtu.be/8oAWkAD6trg>. The next General Meeting will take place at the end of August on the Zoom platform. Questions for Council can be emailed in advance to meetings@akwesasne to ensure they are answered at the meeting.