



Office of the Grand Chief

Enniska/February 2, 2021

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit.

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are safe and in good health.

It's so hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the 11-month mark since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. It has been a very challenging and difficult time for everyone. Throughout the pandemic, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) has implemented many safeguards to keep the Akwesasne community safe, including our employees. During the summer months, the number of new cases of COVID-19 decreased and there was a slight reprieve on the restrictions as a result. When we moved into fall/winter and the holiday season, the number of COVID-19 cases unfortunately surged. There is no doubt that the second wave hit us and thankfully we are now seeing a decrease in new cases. Thank you to everyone for taking the necessary precautions to keep yourself and our community safe. Niawen:kowa.

At the MCA, the delivery of many of our services has been altered. Wherever possible we are continuing to deliver services remotely, using online or virtual technology to effectively communicate. Council members have been working remotely as well. To reach a member of Council, call the MCA and you will be transferred to their cell phone. If you need to leave a message, you will be responded to through email or a call back. While we recognize this may not be your preferred method of communicating, it is the safest way to do so during the pandemic. All recommended health directives must be followed to keep everyone safe and this includes restricting in-person interactions with anyone who lives outside your household. Even with the restrictions in place, Council has continued to meet regularly to conduct business and over the past several months, they have resumed working on the majority of their files.

Now that we've moved into 2021, the Government of Canada has begun the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. Here in Akwesasne we receive our vaccines from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU). We have currently received 200 vaccines that immediately went to Tsiionkwanonhso:te and Iakhihsohtha for the residents and the staff. Vaccines throughout Canada are in high demand and we have reiterated to Ontario and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that we need to have the vaccines in the community as soon as possible. Recently the manufacturer of the vaccines had



slowed production in order to upgrade equipment and this unfortunately resulted in a delay in receiving the vaccines in Canada, and ultimately here in Akwesasne.

Despite the delay, please know that the MCA Department of Health is gearing up for the vaccine rollout. I encourage you to call the MCA Community Health program to pre-register for the vaccine and when we begin the general rollout you will be contacted. Remember that while the vaccine gives us great hope, everyone will still need to remain vigilant in practicing all safety measures, even after receiving the vaccine. It will still be a while before we have what is being referred to as 'herd immunity' or 'population immunity'. This happens when a whole community is immune through immunizations or previous infections. We definitely prefer that immunity for our community members takes place through immunizations, rather than infections. It's been reported that 70-90% of a population needs to be vaccinated for population immunity to be effective.

My monthly reports for November and December 2020 are attached for your update and review. These were shared during last week's virtual General Meeting, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOnxxXIDqAE>.

In closing, please continue to be patient. Remember that we are all in this together and are addressing COVID-19 one day at a time. Niawen for doing your part. Please feel free to reach out to me by phone at 613.575.2250 or by email at grand.chief@akwesasne.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Be safe and take care.

Sken:nen/Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abram Benedict".

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Kentenhko:wa/November 2020

NOVEMBER 2, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Legal counsel for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne provided a briefing and overview on repeal options for the regulations of an Indian Reserve Housing Loan resolution from 1972. Council will discuss next steps at a future meeting.
- Council reviewed a request from Statistics Canada for Akwesasne to participate in the 2021 census; Council determined that Akwesasne will not participate in the census. A letter will be sent to Statistics Canada informing them of the decision.
- The development of a fire law as a legislative priority was discussed and will be further discussed at an upcoming priority session.
- Council discussed the recent increase in COVID-19 cases. It was agreed that in-home wake services will be paused for the next 30 days; the MCA will be closed to non-essential services for the next two weeks; the Communications Unit will publish a list of essential and non-essential MCA services; and the MCA will work with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) to publish Akwesasne-specific COVID-19 cases, separate from the numbers in Cornwall.
- A briefing and request for financial support for the development of care packages for Elders was discussed and will be further researched for Council's consideration.
- MCRs passed: Approval of purchase of Kubota Tractor for lawn mowing; Approval of contribution agreement for Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaison Program; Approval of Issuance of Cannabis Retail License; Approval of tuition contribution agreement with AMBE and Akwesasne Freedom School; Approval of Educational Service Payment to Catholic District School Board.

NOVEMBER 2, 2020 CBSA/MCA DOMESTIC LANE INFORMATION SESSION

On the evening of November 2, 2020 members of our Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) domestic lane working group and representatives of CBSA hosted an online information session on the implementation of a domestic lane at the CBSA Cornwall Port of Entry. The working group members explained that the domestic lane was being implemented as a pilot project. It was further explained that the CBSA officer in the domestic lane would ask if the traveller was arriving from the US, and that if they answered yes, they wouldn't be allowed to proceed. The CBSA representatives explained that for the domestic lane to assist in alleviating traffic congestion, the traffic using the lane must only be traffic coming from Cornwall Island. The community members who participated were able to ask CBSA and MCA representatives questions about the pilot project. The entire recording of the information session can be found at: <https://youtu.be/4fK7UFJQKFY>

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ONTARIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY WEBINAR

On the morning of November 3, 2020, I participated in an online session on board governance and responsibilities hosted by the Ontario Hospital Association. The session was hosted by two lawyers from Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. The hosts explained the fiduciary responsibility of hospital board directors and the applicable legislation that hospital board and CEOs must adhere to. A board member of the Markham Stouffville Hospital provided an overview of her experience on her hospital board and discussed challenges she has faced as a board member and how her board continued to uphold their responsibility to the hospital.

NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020 WEEKLY BORDER PARTNERS MEETINGS

On a weekly basis throughout the month of November, our Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs, representatives from the Saint Regis Mohawk

Tribe and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and I participated on weekly calls with the Port Directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP). The calls occurred every Tuesday morning utilizing the Zoom platform. On these calls we receive regular updates from the Port Directors on current traffic volumes, any issues with local travelers, and reports of any customs officers that may be in quarantine for any reason. For the month of November, no officers were reported to be in quarantine. These meetings also give our local governments the opportunity to provide relevant updates to the CBSA and USCBP representatives.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 CALL WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On the afternoon of November 3, 2020, I hosted a call with representatives from Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) regarding a funding request the department received from a group of individuals from Akwesasne, to assist with land disputes in Akwesasne. I explained to the ISC representatives that in Akwesasne we face many challenges with estates and the cost of land surveys, and that these challenges often result in land disputes. ISC informed me they would be responding the request. On the call of November 3, 2020, I committed to follow up with ISC on potential options for ISC to consider, in order to assist with resolving outstanding land disputes.

NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17, 2020 EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT

Throughout November I participated on Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) weekly briefings to receive updates from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Executive Officer for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. Dr. Paul provided updates on national and regional COVID-19 case numbers and explained the local regional positive cases. The EOHU continues to report that based on the contact information being reported, the new cases continue to be linked to people gathering. In November, we began to see an increase in the number of cases of COVID 19 in the region and in Akwesasne. Through the month of November, the region went

from yellow restrictions to orange restrictions. The restrictions resulted in increased limitations on the numbers allowed to gather both indoors and outdoors, and certain businesses were closed.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 CALL WITH TRANSPORT CANADA

On the afternoon of November 3, 2020, I hosted a follow up call with representatives of Transport Canada regarding the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC). Earlier in the pandemic I wrote to the Minister of Transport regarding the impact the border closure would likely have on the SIBC toll rates. Transport Canada had initiated conversations with the United States in an attempt to find a long-term solution to the bridge toll requirement of the SIBC. On the call of November 3, 2020, Transport Canada representatives provided me with an update on the discussion with the United States. It was reported that the conversations were still preliminary, but they expected to continue to meet to examine options.

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 CORNWALL AND THE COUNTIES CFDC ANNUAL MEETING

On the morning of November 4, 2020, I participated at the Cornwall and the Counties Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) annual meeting hosted on the Zoom platform. The board chair welcomed the participants and introduced the Executive Director for the CFDC. I was invited to share a few words and expressed my appreciation of the team at the CFDC for the assistance they have been providing to Akwesasne and more so to the Cornwall/Akwesasne harbour project. Following my welcoming words, I was able to listen in on the Board Chair annual report which highlighted this 2020 initiative.

NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020 WEEKLY COVID-19 MEETINGS

On a weekly basis throughout the month of November, Council met with MCA Administration to specifically discuss and receive updates on our response to COVID-19. These meetings provide an opportunity for Council to thoroughly discuss our current

precautions and travel restrictions. While discussions may occur at length during these weekly Wednesday meetings, decision-making is reserved for the regular Council Meetings.

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS

On the afternoon of November 4, 2020, I was invited to participate on a virtual panel with the Institute of Corporate Directors Toronto Chapter on Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Wesley Hall and Wendy Kei also joined me on the panel. The session moderator Andrew MacDougall introduced the panel and explained that he would ask a series of questions to the panelists related to our experience and recommendations. The panel was designed to examine how corporate boards can diversify their boards to include more women and minorities as corporate directors. I explained that boards needed to not only examine their governance documents to support diversity, but also needed to provide cultural awareness to their members. I also explained that boards needed to be prepared to make exceptions to certain board member requirements in an effort to encourage Indigenous participation. Dr. Hall explained his experience in being on corporate boards and explained that boards generally recruit individuals with experience being in executive positions which limits their recruitment abilities. Wendy Kei discussed her experience being a minority woman and the difficulties she has faced in corporate Canada and being the Chair of the Ontario Power Generation Board. Following the discussion on the questions posed by the moderator, participants were able to ask questions of the panelists.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 COUNCIL PRIORITY SESSION

On the afternoon of November 5, 2020, Council met virtually to review the priorities we had previously identified based on our strategic plan. Toward the end of 2019, our Council began a review of our strategic plan to identify the top priorities for the remainder of the Council term. At the meeting of November 5, we reviewed the work that had been done to date. We then identified the top 5

achievable goals, appointed District Chiefs to participate on the working groups for each the 5 goals, and next steps were agreed upon. Each of the working groups set out to develop a workplan to reach each of these goals.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 FINANCE COMMITTEE

On the morning of November 5, 2020, I attended the virtual monthly finance committee meeting. The agenda for the meeting included the review and approval of the last committee meeting minutes, updates on the action items, and new business. During the November 5, 2020 meeting I provided an update on my conversation with the First Nations Fiscal Management Board in relation to amending our Akwesasne Financial Administration Law to modify sections that are restrictive for our investments. I reported that since our law was drafted the minimum standards have changed and our investment section could now be changed to be less restrictive. The committee agreed that Finance Committee meetings would occur every other month, rather than monthly.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On the late afternoon of November 5, 2020, I participated in the bi-weekly Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) COVID-19 update. The Regional Director General and the Regional Executive provided welcoming remarks to the participants and provided an update on the current initiatives of the region and outlined the financial supports available or being provided to Ontario First Nation communities. Dr. Maurica Maher, Public Health Physician for First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, provided an overview of the current increase in COVID-19 cases and discussed the necessity to reinforce public health directives. Kyle Weir, the Acting Director of Funding Services, provided a breakdown of the resources the region had received and reported that all the resources received in Ontario have gone directly to First Nation communities. Following all the updates from ISC, the participants were able to ask questions of the ISC representatives.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the evening of November 5, 2020, I participated in the regularly scheduled Cornwall Community Hospital Board of Directors meeting. The Vice President provided an update and overview of the financial statement for the hospital and discussed the impacts of the pandemic on the hospital's financials. The Chief Executive Officer provided an overview of her monthly report and discussed in detail the preparations for an increase in COVID cases. The Chief of Staff also provided his report to the board and expressed concern with the increase of COVID-19 cases in and around the region. The President of Medical Staff expressed the concerns of the staff and outlined mitigations being taken to deal with burnout and surge capacity. An update was also provided by the Auxiliary and Foundation representatives. The board then conducted its regular in camera session dealing with the business required at each in camera session. The next board meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020.

NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AMBE LANGUAGE INITIATIVES

On the morning of November 6, 2020, members of our Council and I joined representatives of the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) to receive a presentation and update on the Mohawk language initiatives AMBE has undertaken. The director explained the iMohawk website that has been developed for the students and families to use, and further explained the neurolinguistic approach that is being used by AMBE in the development and delivery of the Mohawk Language curriculum. The Superintendent of Language and Culture explained the engagement and outreach that occurs regularly with the parents and the resources available to them. The AMBE representatives explained their ongoing shortage of qualified Mohawk language teachers. The presentation on November 6, 2020 was set up to allow AMBE to update the Chiefs on their ongoing language revitalization efforts.

NOVEMBER 9, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council discussed the upcoming Snye Recreation Christmas Enchantment and agreed to support a tree and also agreed to support other district recreation fundraisers.
- A briefing was provided on the upcoming plans for the 2020 holiday dinners. Council agreed that due to the increase in COVID cases, the dinners will be cancelled, and the distribution of turkeys/hams will be considered instead. Additional information on logistics will be gathered and reported back.
- Council discussed the MCA regulations for the Indian Reserve Housing Loan and the legal opinion provided. It was determined that a resolution will come forward to rescind the regulation.
- A briefing was provided on a concern from the MCA Health Department on the need to examine enforcement options to address non-compliance with the requirement to quarantine while awaiting test results or upon receipt of positive COVID-19 test results. Further research on options will be done and reported back.
- An update was provided on the development of COVID care packages for the community.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Assignment of Lease Renshaw Island; Approval of Lease Ross Island; Approval of (4) housing upgrade loans to community members; Approval of contract with CREO Inc. for digitization and animation services for AMBE; Approval to bridge finance the fiber to home project for Tsi Snaihne District; Approval of 2019/2020 Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership audit; Approval of contract for detail design contract with HSP Engineering for HAVFD Station #3.

NOVEMBER 9, 2020 HAVFD

On the evening of November 9, 2020, I participated in a project update call with the Acting Director of Infrastructure and Housing (DIH), Chief Connie Lazore, MCA's Executive Director and representatives of the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) Station #3. We provided the HAVFD with an

update on the recently approved consultant contract with HSP Engineering for the detailed design of a new fire hall for HAVFD Station #3. We discussed next steps with respect to the design phase and the requirements needed by the engineers, as well as the space and facility needs of Station #3. The group agreed to meet every two weeks until the design phase is well underway.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

On the morning of November 10, 2020, I attended the St. Lawrence College (SLC) Executive Committee meeting. The meeting was called to discuss the Ontario Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act and its impact to SLC. The SLC board chair explained that over the last couple years Ontario colleges have been waiting for the Ontario government to remove restrictions on executive compensation and introduce a new executive compensation framework directive for Ontario colleges. The restrictions limit the colleges ability to ensure they are offering competitive compensation to their executives. The Executive Committee agreed to request a meeting with the College Employer Council to receive information and advice from them on the issues being faced by SLC.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On November 10, 2020 I participated in the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council meeting on the zoom platform. Participants shared regional updates on how they are dealing with COVID-19. The Ontario Regional Chief updated on the legal challenge against Ontario Bill-197, the Protocol with AFN and outlined the agenda for upcoming AFN Virtual Special Chiefs Assembly. Administrative staff for the Chiefs of Ontario updated the Leadership Council on the pressing files, including the collaborative table established with Ontario for the enforcement of community bylaws and band council resolution enforcement by Ontario. The leadership discussed the establishment of an ad-hoc committee on policing to work with Ontario and advocate for the legislation to recognize First Nation policing as

essential. The meeting concluded with an update from Ontario Indigenous Affairs Minister Greg Rickford on Ontario's initiatives.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 CKON UPDATE

On November 10, 2020 I provided the community with an update on CKON 97.3 Radio. Since April 6, 2020 I had been providing regular to the community through CKON. During the November 10, 2020 update I provided updates on second wave preparation and advised how we should all consider preparing. I provided an overview of a general callout for applications at the MCA and discussed the 2020-21 heating assistance program. Prior to opening up to questions, I explained the recently implemented CBSA domestic lane and its intended purpose. The entire update can be found at: https://youtu.be/Brsit5HP_Rs

NOVEMBER 13, 25, 2020 BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH SRMT

Our Council has been meeting with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) on a bi-weekly basis as part of our ongoing commitment to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for Council and our Emergency Operations Center to share information on our pandemic response with our counterparts from the SRMT. Topics for these weekly discussions include updates on current positive cases of COVID-19, potential changes to community directives, updates from the weekly border calls, and other COVID-19 related discussions.

NOVEMBER 13, 2020 PRIORITY SESSION UPDATE

Following our priority session on November 5, 2020 our Council met again on November 13, 2020 to receive an update from the Chiefs Working Groups identified on November 5. During the November 13, 2020 meetings, representatives from each of the Chiefs Working Groups provided an update on their development of a workplan for their identified goal. The Chiefs agreed to continue to work on their workplans and to provide regular updates during the weekly Council Meetings.

NOVEMBER 16, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council discussed the potential of re-establishing the MCA/CBSA liaison officer position; options will be further researched.
- The COVID-19 second wave committee provided an update on the progress of the wellness packages being prepared. The packages are expected to be delivered to community members in the coming weeks.
- Council received and reviewed a report from Justice on the verification of signatures on a petition received. An update will be provided to the community.
- A briefing was provided on a proposal to sell land to the MCA; Council agreed that further exploration will occur.
- Council discussed the current lease reduction for Akwesasne members and will review this ahead of its expiry in 2021.
- A briefing was provided on a request for assistance on a Habitat for Humanity opportunity for an Akwesasne family. Further follow up will be done.
- Council set the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting scheduled for November 26, 2020.
- A briefing was provided on a request to support the development of Elder Care Packages; Council agreed to support the request.
- Council discussed the ongoing plan to ensure that the MCA workforce is properly adjusting to the impacts of COVID-19.
- A briefing was provided on the challenges of accessing low lying or hard to access private lands within the community; further research will be done on options.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance of Seaway Claim Referendum Regulation; Approval of appointment of a community member to the Akwesasne Review Commission for a 3-year term; Approval of 4 amendments to the Akwesasne/Canada funding agreement; Approval of MCA Consolidated Audit for 2019/2020.

NOVEMBER 18, 2020 ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS SOVEREIGN WEALTH LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

On the morning of November 18, 2020, I participated on the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario First Nations Sovereign Wealth Limited Partnership. This is the company that purchased and holds shares in Hydro One on behalf of Ontario First Nations. The Ontario First Nations are shareholders of the Ontario First Nations Sovereign Wealth Limited Partnership. The shareholders elected a new board of directors to represent them for the coming year. The company auditor presented the 2019/2020 audited financial statements. The shareholders approved the 2019 minutes and reappointed the company auditors. The meeting concluded within an hour.

NOVEMBER 18, 2020 COLLEGE EMPLOYER COUNCIL

On November 18, 2020, I participated on a conference call with the St. Lawrence College (SLC) Executive Committee and Graham Lloyd the Chief Executive Officer for the College Employer Council. The SLC Executive Committee had requested the meeting with Graham to discuss the Ontario Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act. Graham provided us with an overview of the impacts the act has on Ontario colleges and recent changes that will have an additional impact on Ontario colleges. We discussed with Graham the specific impact the Act will have on St. Lawrence College. Graham provided us with some advice on possible avenues to consider in getting the Government of Ontario to amend the Act to minimize the impact to St. Lawrence College.

NOVEMBER 20, 2020 AKWESASNE COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT TRUST

On the morning of November 20, 2020, I attended a virtual meeting with the Trustees and Overseers of the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust. The Trust representatives provided me with a financial update and an explanation of the impacts the pandemic has had on the trust. The upcoming 2020 project priorities were shared as well as the process used for community engagement. The trustees

requested Council's feedback on using the same priorities as last year. It was explained that over the last 4 years, the priorities have remained the same. Council agreed with using the same priorities as previous years. The Trustees provided the participants with an update on the 2020 scholarship amounts and process. I was unable to participate in the entire meeting due to another commitment.

NOVEMBER 23, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Council reviewed a letter of request from AMBE regarding an initiative called "Making Spirits Bright" and agreed to support the initiative.
- The COVID-19 second wave committee provided another update on the progress of the wellness packages being prepared. The packages are expected to be delivered to community members in the coming weeks.
- Council discussed the options for holiday dinners and decided to provide gift cards to the community.
- An overview was provided on the need to host routine Zoom debriefing sessions between Chiefs and the Executive Assistants to Council.
- Council received an update and briefing on the upcoming community call out for Overseers for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust.
- MCRs passed: Approval to rescind BCR #1260 and remove it from Akwesasne Law Registry; Approval of service contract for review of the Akwesasne Justice Department; Approval of assignment of lease for Clark Island; Approval of lease for Colquhuon Island; Approval of Public Health Data Sharing Agreement; Approval of revision to Akwesasne Review Commission Charter; Approval to reinstate Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law 11 pm to 5 am.

NOVEMBER 23, 2020 HAVFD

On the evening of November 23, 2020, I participated in a project update call with the Acting Director of Infrastructure and Housing (DIH), Chief Connie Lazore, MCA's Executive Director and

representatives of the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) Station #3. An update was provided on the contract with the design firm, the letter of intent for the project design, and the additional costs being projected for the project. A representative from Point Engineering discussed the Passivhaus certification and the benefits to having a Passivhaus design. An update on the next steps was discussed with follow up to take place prior to the next update meeting.

NOVEMBER 24, 2020 CALL WITH MAYOR OF DUNDEE

On the evening of November 24, 2020, I received a call from Linda Gagnon, the Mayor of Dundee. Over the past few months, I had been in regular contact with Linda regarding Akwesasne community members who were building on property not belonging to them. Linda has been very understanding to the sensitivity of the matter but explained that the Akwesasne members do not have permission from the property owners to build on their property. On the call of November 24, 2020 Linda informed me that the Township of Dundee would be sending a letter to the property owners including the MCA letting us know that permits are required to construct on the property and the current structures built without permits need to be removed. I thanked Mayor Gagnon for informing me of the forthcoming letter.

NOVEMBER 24, 2020 FOOD SECURITY STRUCTURES CANADA

On the afternoon of November 24, 2020, I received a call from Kim Parker of Food Security Structures Canada. Kim was reaching out to inform me of a recent announcement by the Government of Canada on food security funding. Kim explained that she had reviewed the funding criteria and the greenhouse like growing structures that her company recommends would be an eligible project under the new government funding. I requested that Kim provide me with assistance to submit a proposal for funding to assist Akwesasne with a food security project. Over the next few months, we will work to submit a funding proposal for an Akwesasne project.

NOVEMBER 25, 2020 NATION RISE WIND FARM TOUR

On the morning of November 25, 2020, I traveled to the Nation Rise Wind Farm, located 40 kilometers southeast of Ottawa, along with Chief Roundpoint and Chief Mitchell. We were provided with a driving tour of the Nation Rise wind farm. Nation Rise representative Ken Little explained the progress of the farm and explained the challenges the project has faced from the provincial government over the past year. Following the tour of the project, we agreed that Nation Rise could present potential investment opportunities to full Council.

NOVEMBER 26, 2020 RED CROSS CANADA

On the morning of November 26, 2020, I participated on a call with representatives of the Red Cross, along with the Health Portfolio Chiefs. The Red Cross representatives explained the programming and training that they offer. We explained the current situation in Akwesasne in our battle against COVID-19. The Red Cross explained that in situations of need they can send teams to the community to assist, but also explained that due to the current pandemic, the Red Cross resources are almost at capacity. We thanked the representatives of the Red Cross for reaching out to us and explaining the services and resources available should Akwesasne be in need.

NOVEMBER 26, 2020 PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA CHAIRPERSON INDIGENOUS CIRCLE

On the afternoon of November 26, 2020, I participated on the Parole Board of Canada Chairperson Indigenous Circle meeting. Chairperson Jennifer Oades welcomed the circle members to the virtual meeting and provided an update on the current situation on parole board hearings. The circle reviewed the previous minutes of June 2020 and reviewed the draft terms of reference for the circle. Parole Board staff updated the circle on Elder assisted hearings and explained that the Elders were currently participating virtually, but that some Elders were having technological issues and the parole board is continuing to work through the challenges. The staff explained that the government of Canada was going to introduce new legislation to

make record suspension easier for Canadians. The Chairperson explained that the record suspension fee is the first barrier faced by applicants. The circle discussed possible messaging to educate the public on the record suspensions and the application process. The circle also received an update on new board members training taking place virtually and being relatively successful.

NOVEMBER 26, 2020 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of November 26, 2020, Council hosted the General Meeting utilizing the Zoom platform. The agenda included a presentation from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service on the Neighbourhood Watch Program, followed by a presentation on the Fibre to the Home project taking place in Snye. Members of our Council provided an update on the COVID care packages and this year's alternative to the holiday dinners. Following all the presentations, we answered questions received ahead of time as well as questions received from the community listening in on the zoom platform. The entire presentation and recording of the November General Meeting can be found at: <https://youtu.be/JEFDIxOMuOg>. The next General Meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2021 on the Zoom platform. Questions for Council can be e-mailed in advance to meetings@akwesasne.ca to ensure they are answered during the meeting.

NOVEMBER 30, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Roundtable updates were provided by each of the Chiefs' Working Groups on the development of their work plans for addressing the priority goals of Council.
- A briefing was provided on assistance the MCA has been providing on the Federal Indian Day School application process; Council agreed that it will remain status quo. The MCA will only provide administrative support for application submissions. The Gowling law firm is to be contacted by applicants for free legal advice and they are reachable by e-mail and phone.

- Council discussed a request for assistance from Habitat for Humanity for a community partnership. Further research will be conducted on the proposed partnership.
- An overview of a draft terms of reference for the creation of an AFNQL–Quebec table was discussed; feedback will be provided to the AFNQL.
- Council discussed a request for assistance from local hunters concerned about the availability and cost of ammunition. The request was denied.
- A briefing was provided on the use of the former MCA Administration #2 Building. Portfolio will work to have the capital plan and space needs study updated.
- Council agreed that Council Meetings will not be held on December 21 and December 28, 2020.
- A briefing was provided on a letter received from the Municipality of Dundee; further research on will done on the status of the by-law infraction.
- Council discussed a request for a letter of support for a community business and deferred it until further information is obtained.
- MCRs passed: Petition to disband group called “Land Protectors” declared null and void.

NOVEMBER 30, 2020 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On November 30, 2020 I hosted a call with representatives from the Cornwall Habitat for Humanity regarding a land request received from Habitat on behalf of an Akwesasne member. An Akwesasne member and his family had recently been approved for a habitat home for 2021. Habitat has made a request to the MCA to consider becoming a community partner and donate a parcel of land for the project. On the call of November 30, 2020, the Habitat representatives explained how the home projects work and provided me additional detail on the Akwesasne member and his family. I was able to receive additional information on the request and proposal to report back to Council the information so that they can determine a response to the request.



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Tsiothohrha/December 2020

DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020 BORDER PARTNERS MEETING

On a weekly basis throughout the month of December, MCA's Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs, representatives from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and I participated on weekly calls with the Port Directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP). The calls occurred every Tuesday morning utilizing the Zoom platform. On these calls we receive regular updates from the Port Directors on current traffic volumes, any issues with local travelers, and reports of any customs officers that may be in quarantine for any reason. For the month of December, no officers were reported to be in quarantine. These meetings also give our local governments the opportunity to provide relevant updates to the CBSA and USCBP representatives.

DECEMBER 1, 2020 ENBRIDGE OPEN HOUSE

On the evening of December 1, 2020 I participated in a virtual open house on the proposed expansion of a natural gas pipeline onto Kawehno:ke. I welcomed the community participants and provided the background on the project and explained that all community consultation had been paused due to the global pandemic. The representatives from Enbridge explained what the construction project would entail if the project were approved. As well the representatives explained the environmental considerations and impacts if the project proceeds. The community members present were able to ask questions of the representatives and the District Chiefs present. A final decision has not been made on the approval or denial of the natural gas expansion project. The entire recoding of the

presentation and additional information can be found at:
<https://www.savewithgas.com/communities/cornwall-island/>

DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 2020 WEEKLY COVID-19 MEETINGS

On a weekly basis throughout the month of December, Council met with MCA's Administration to specifically discuss and receive updates on our response to COVID-19. These meetings provide an opportunity for Council to thoroughly discuss our current precautions and travel restrictions. While discussions may occur at length during these weekly Wednesday meetings, decision-making is reserved for the regular Council Meetings.

DECEMBER 3, 2020 CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On the evening of December 3, 2020, I participated in the regularly scheduled Cornwall Community Hospital Board of Directors meeting. A representative of the hospital's IT department provided the board with a presentation on cyber security measures and the updates the hospital has undertaken to keep the hospital's computer system safe. The Vice President provided an update and overview of the financial statement for the hospital. A representative of the governance committee updated the board on a review of the board committee membership policy and the human resources recruitment policy. The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief of Staff provided overviews of their written reports to the board. Both presentations outlined the increase of COVID-19 cases and the impacts to the hospital. The Annual Operating Plan Progress Report, Quarterly Corporate Scorecard Report, and Quarterly Patient Safety Report were all presented and accepted by the board. An update was provided by the Auxiliary and Foundation representatives. The board conducted its standard in camera session to deal with business required to be dealt with in camera. The next board meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021.

DECEMBER 3, 2020 CKON UPDATE

On December 3, 2020, I provided the community with an update on CKON 97.3 Radio. Since April 6, 2020 I had been providing regular updates on the radio to the community. On December 3, 2020, the topics I discussed included current COVID cases in Akwesasne and the surrounding areas, MCA's reopening plans, the COVID care packages, and preparations for the holidays. I explained to the community that we needed to be very cautious during the upcoming holidays to slow the spread of COVID-19. The entire update can be found at: https://youtu.be/Y1f7n_8lAzM

DECEMBER 7, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- The Director of the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) provided Council with an overview of a draft service manual for foster care, titled "Kontinonha Service Manual".
- A concern was brought forward regarding joint messaging between the MCA and the SRMT; it was decided that consideration will be given to any request that comes forward.
- Council discussed a letter received from the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust requesting Council's feedback on an honorarium increase for the Trustees and a transfer of the administration of the Trust Overseers honorarium to the Trust. A response to the Trust will be drafted.
- A concern regarding mail delivery to various parts of the community was discussed. A meeting will be set up with Canada Post to address the issues.
- A question on MCA's funeral assistance policy was brought forward; information on the policy will be distributed to Council.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Issuance of Cannabis Retail License; (2) Approval of allotment of land to community member for loan paid off, Approval of amendment to Akwesasne/Canada Funding agreement; Approval of union contract between the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA);

Approval of (7) Council Meeting Minutes; Approval of Kontinonha Service Manual for Akwesasne Child and Family Services.

DECEMBER 8, 2020 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

At the Student, Strategy, Communications, and Advancement Committee meeting, college staff provided an overview of the adjustments to the ancillary fees for the 2021-2022 year followed by an overview of the adjustment to the domestic tuition fees. The committee approved the proposal fee adjustments. The committee also received a report on the honorary diploma process, followed by a report on the 2020 enrollment.

Following the committee meetings, the entire board met to discuss the updates and formal motions from the committees. The committees include the Academic Committee, Finance and Operating, and the Student Strategy, Communications, and Advancement. The President and CEO provided his monthly report to the board and explained current challenges being faced by the board. The president also highlighted the COVID-19 impacts to the college and the overall college sector in Ontario.

DECEMBER 8-9, 2020 ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the morning of December 8, 2020 I participated at the virtual Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA). The meeting began with a welcoming from AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde who also provided his annual report the Chiefs in Assembly. Perry highlighted the accomplishments over the past year, but also expressed the many challenges communities are facing because of the global pandemic. The National Chief informed the Chiefs in assembly that he would not seek re-election as National Chief this coming July 2021, but also committed to working hard over the next several months to have Bill C-15 passed by the Government of Canada. On December 3, 2020, the Government of Canada introduced legislation to recognize the United Nations Declaration on

the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Following the National Chief's report, the Elders Council, the Youth Council, and the Women's Council provided updates on their work over the past year. The Prime Minister of Canada addressed the Chiefs and expressing his appreciation for what the chiefs have been doing to protect their communities against the spread of COVID-19. The Prime Minister announced the introduction of Bill C-15, the act to recognize UNDRIP. During the two-day meeting, several updates were provided to the Chiefs in Assembly including: an update on the AFN charter renewal; the AFN financial report; Specific Claims; Policing and Justice; and Environment and Social Services. Each Regional Chief provided verbal updates on their portfolio and regions.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 CORNWALL HARBOUR CO-OWNERS COMMITTEE MEETING

On December 10, 2020 I attended a Co-Owners Committee Meeting between the City of Cornwall and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The committee reviewed and discussed the previous meeting minutes and discussed the outstanding issues from the meeting. The project manager representatives provided an update on various items, including signage, building demolition, lease renewals, current lease statuses, training, website development, budget, and engagement plan. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled to occur in February.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 ONTARIO MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

On December 10, 2020 I hosted a call with representatives from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks. Ontario had requested a time to meet with me as a representative of the Independent First Nations. On the call of December 10, 2020 the Ontario representatives explained that the ministry was working to develop regulations to support the recent changes to the environmental assessment processes and legislation. The ministry representatives expressed that they would like to engage with First Nations on the regulations. I explained to the representatives that

Ontario First Nations were against the recent changes to the legislation, and that engaging on the regulations now was a reverse and wrong approach. I explained that Akwesasne supports the position of the Chiefs in Ontario on challenging Ontario on their processes to change environmental legislation.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 FOOD SECURITY STRUCTURES CANADA

On December 10, 2020, I reconnected with Kim Parker of Food Security Structures Canada and consultant Erin Stachan. Kim introduced me to Erin and provided an overview of other food security projects that Erin has assisted Kim on. I explained to Erin that Akwesasne was interested in submitting a proposal to Canada for an Akwesasne specific food security project. Erin committed to assist on proposal development. Over the next few weeks we will work with Kim and Erin on the development of funding proposals.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 CORNWALL INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP

On the evening of December 10, 2020, I was invited to present to the Cornwall Interfaith Partnership group, a multi-faith organization that is dedicated to community education and addressing the collective human concerns of poverty, care for the environment, and peace. I was invited to present about our community and the exercise of our Aboriginal rights, in recognition of Human Rights Day 2020. On the evening of December 10, 2020 I presented to a group of about 20. I highlighted the impacts of the Canada–United States border on our community and the efforts our community has undertaken to protect our border crossing rights. I explained to the group that Akwesasne continues to exercise our rights in many areas outside of the border, including our governance and within our Mohawk Court. Following my 20-minute presentation, the participants were able to ask me questions about Akwesasne.

DECEMBER 10, 2020 WATEROTOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

On December 10, 2020, I received a presentation from representatives of Waterotor Energy Technologies who explained

that their product is a turbine that could be used in shallow slow-moving water to generate electricity. The product is still in the research and testing phase, but they expressed interest in partnering with Akwesasne to submit a proposal for research funding.

I explained some environmental concerns to the representatives based on our previous involvement and experience with water turbines. The representatives committed to researching the Cornwall and area environmental restrictions and reconnecting with me in the coming months. Additional information can be found at: <https://waterotor.com/>

DECEMBER 11, 2020 BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

Our Council has been meeting with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) on a bi-weekly basis as part of our ongoing commitment to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for Council and our Emergency Operations Center to share information on our pandemic response with our counterparts from the SRMT. Topics for these weekly discussions include updates on current positive cases of COVID-19, potential changes to community directives, updates from the weekly border calls, and other COVID-19 related discussions.

DECEMBER 11, 2020 CBSA LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

On the afternoon of December 11, 2020, the MCA hosted a Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI) Leaders Circle Meeting. The circle received an update and presentation from the Domestic Lane Working Circle. The domestic working group explained the positive feedback that has been received on the domestic lane and representatives from CBSA provided data that showed the number of international vehicles using the domestic lane. The data showed that over the last few months, a very low number of vehicles arriving internationally were attempting to use the domestic lane. Members of the Community Relations Working Circle presented a draft booklet

for new drivers and explained they would be providing the booklets to the local high schools. The community relations working circle also tabled the idea of developing a Border Collaboration Initiative reflections report and leadership endorsed the idea for implementation. The Leadership Circle also approved the creation of a planning report that shows the past and future initiatives for the BCI.

DECEMBER 11, 2020 CORNWALL STANDARD FREEHOLDER

On the morning of December 11, 2020, I provided an interview with Cornwall Standard Freeholder reporter Jordan Haworth. Jordan had reached out to discuss the Dundee settlement. I explained that the settlement has been accepted and the settlement proceeds have been received by the MCA. I further explained that over the next several months we will develop a framework to present to the community for the use of the funds. I also explained that the process for this settlement had taken years with some obstacles and that we are working to ensure that comprehensive engagement occurs with the community.

DECEMBER 14, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- Roundtable updates were provided by each of the Chiefs' Working Groups on the development of their work plans to achieve the priority goals of Council.
- MCA's legal counsel briefed Council on a request for collaboration on an upcoming online survey regarding domestic travel. Council decided that they will not collaborate on this initiative.
- A request that the ages for specific groups be clarified was discussed as this can affect the eligibility for services.
- Council discussed a request for clarification on the Akwesasne Emergency Curfew Law. Follow up will take place directly with the requester.
- An update was provided on the recent interviews and pending recommendation for a custodial manager for the Dundee settlement proceeds. A MCR will be forthcoming.

- A request that MCA's holiday hours be publicized was discussed and will be followed up on by administration.
- MCRs passed: Approval of funding submission to Rapid Housing Initiative; Approval of (2) allotments of land to community members for loans being paid off; Approval of new leases with Upper Canada District School Board and Iohahi:io; Approval of Education Services Agreement between AMBE and Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario; Approval of MOU between Iohahi:io and Algonquin College; and Approval of (8) Council Meeting Minutes.

DECEMBER 14, 2020 GLOBAL NEWS OTTAWA

On the morning of December 14, 2020, I provided an interview to Global News Ottawa journalist Alexandre Robaey who was interested in understanding the impacts of the border closure on our community. I explained that Akwesasne residents were classified as essential and were able to continue to transit the border. I further explained that delivery and access to some services have been hindered by the border closure, and in some cases had resulted in an increase in the cost for goods and services. Alex asked several questions in relation to our COVID-19 response in the community.

DECEMBER 14, 2020 INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

On the afternoon of December 14, 2020, I received a call from the Ontario Regional Director for Indigenous Services Canada, Anne Scotton. Anne called to inform me that the block one transfer had been signed by the Minister and block one lands are now reserve lands. Anne explained that the region would be reaching out to finalize the transfer to Akwesasne. This is positive news for Akwesasne, as the additions to reserve process had been underway for over twenty years.

DECEMBER 15, 2020 AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

On the morning of December 15, 2020 I assisted the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) with delivering Christmas presents to a number of AMBE students. The AMBE bus driver and I delivered presents on Cornwall Island.

DECEMBER 15, 2020 CALL WITH ONEIDA NATION OF THE THAMES

Earlier in November I had received a request to meet from the Chief of the Oneida Nation of the Thames. On December 15, 2020 I hosted a zoom meeting with the Chief of Oneida, members of his Public Safety portfolio, and a representative of their administration. The purpose of the call was for us to share information with Oneida on our Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) and the history of policing in Akwesasne. Members of our Public Safety portfolio and the Chief of Police for the AMPS also joined in on the call with the Oneida representatives. We welcomed the Oneida delegation, and our Chief of Police explained our current police force and the jurisdictional challenges faced by the force. Following a discussion with the Chief of Police, we explained the funding for AMPS, including how the federal government and provincial governments are funding partners with the Mohawk Council Akwesasne. I explained some of the governance issues we have faced in the past with the current commission structure and offered some advice to Oneida. The Oneida delegation was able to ask several questions of the Akwesasne delegation. Oneida Nation of the Thames is currently examining the possibility of starting their own police force, currently the OPP are the responsible police force.

DECEMBER 15, 2020 ONTARIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

On December 15, 2020 I hosted a call with call with a representative of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General regarding previous discussions we had with Ontario and Canada on cannabis. Back in 2019 we had hosted a couple of meetings with Ontario and Canada to

exchange information on cannabis. On the call of December 15, 2020 the representative of Ontario requested to have a follow up meeting with between the Akwesasne Cannabis Committee and Ontario and Canada. I exchanged contact information with the Ontario representative and committed to discussing their request with the Akwesasne Cannabis Committee for follow up.

DECEMBER 15, 2020 ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On December 15, 2020, the St. Lawrence College Executive Committee met with Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim McDonell to discuss the current restrictions and barriers created by the Ontario Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act. The Executive Committee explained the current financial barriers created by the act and requested that MPP McDonell follow up with Ontario to see if the current restrictions were being removed soon. MPP McDonell expressed his understanding of the concerns expressed by the SLC Executive Committee and committed to follow up within the Ontario government.

DECEMBER 15, 22, 2020 EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT

Throughout December I participated on the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) weekly briefings to receive updates from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Executive Officer for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. Dr. Paul provided updates on national and regional COVID-19 case numbers and explained the local regional positive cases. During the month of December the restrictions in the region were increased to slow the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Paul explained that vaccines are expected in our region in the coming weeks and that vaccine rollout would occur according to the priority listings established by the province. Many of the cases in the region continue to be related to close contact with people who have COVID and family transmissions are on the rise.

DECEMBER 16, 2020 INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN TIME NEWSPAPER

On the afternoon of December 16, 2020, I hosted an interview with a representative of the Indian Time to share information on the COVID-19 vaccine. I reported that we were going to be receiving our vaccines through the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU). All vaccines destined for Ontario communities are going to be provided through Ontario. I explained to the reporter that the priority will be residents and staff of long-term care homes and health care providers, followed by vulnerable Elders and then non-vulnerable Elders, prior to going to the general public. At the time of the interview, we had not received a definite timeline for receiving vaccines.

DECEMBER 16, 2020 ADDITIONS TO RESERVE PROCESS

On December 16, 2020 I met with our legal counsel and our Aboriginal Rights and Research Office to discuss the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process for the islands we received as part of the Ontario Power Generation settlement. On the call of December 16, 2020 our legal counsel explained that Canada's lawyer had proposed a process for the ATR that was unacceptable to Akwesasne. I updated the group on the letter received from Minister Miller regarding Akwesasne's ATR for the OPG islands and explained that I would follow up with the Ontario Region of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to get a response from Canada based on Minister Miller's response and commitment to work with Akwesasne.

DECEMBER 21, 2020 EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- MCRs passed: Approval for Tsiionkwanohnso:te to enter into agreement with hiring agency; Approval of 2020/21 Indigenous Services Canada Healthy Child Development funding agreement; Approval of 2020/21 Indigenous Health Services Tobacco Strategy funding agreement; Approval of (3) Canada/Akwesasne funding agreements.

DECEMBER 22, 2020 INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

Following my internal call with our legal counsel and Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) on December 16, 2020, I met with Ontario Regional Director General (RDG) Anne Scotton to discuss the Akwesasne Addition to Reserve. I explained to Anne that we had a commitment letter from Minister Miller on the ATR process for the OPG lands, but the lawyers for Canada had not responded or changed their approach even after the minister had committed a new approach. The RDG committed to getting Canada's lawyer to respond and to reach out to Akwesasne to discuss the Minister's letter and a new approach, one that is acceptable to both Akwesasne and Canada.