

ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Issue 4

FREE

Onerahtókha/April 2021

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MCA PROVIDES WEEKLY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Community and Social Services is hosting their food distributions to the community. Community members must have an appointment in order to attend the food distribution locations. No drop-ins are allowed due to COVID-19 safety protocols. If you would like to register for the next Food Security Program distribution, please call 613-936-1548 ext. 1300 or email foodsecurity@akwesasne.ca. This program is intended to ease food insecurities that have been created by COVID-19 factors, and it helps families avoid grocery stores.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

A Zoom General Meeting will be held on April 29, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Please send an email to meetings@akwesasne.ca to receive a link to watch the video. You can also send any questions you may have to meetings@akwesasne.ca as well.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2018-2021

Grand Chief

Abram Benedict

Kana:takon District

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

Kawehno:ke District

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

Tsi Snaihne District

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

Administration

Heather Phillips
Executive Director

Lorri Bova

Director,

Department of Infrastructure,
Housing and Environment

Joyce King

Director,

Akwesasne Justice Department

Karen Hill

Director,

Department of
Community and Social Services

Cindy Francis-Mitchell

A/Director,

Department of Health

Donna Lahache

Director,

Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board
of Education

Shawn Dulude

Chief of Police,

Akwesasne Mohawk Police
Service

Kylee Tarbell

A/Director,

Tehotiennawakon

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

She:kon/Wat'kwanonhwera:ton,

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

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

FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS &
IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1

Any community members who have traveled outside of the MCA's 100-mile radius are **REQUIRED** to quarantine for 14 days upon your return to Akwesasne. Contact the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 if you develop any COVID-19 symptoms.

2

The MCA created the Community in Quarantine Program to assist community members affected by COVID-19 and who must complete a 14-day quarantine. To find out how to order supplies, turn to page 7.

3

The MCA offices are closed to the public due to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit's Red Zone status. MCA will be closed from March 29-April 11, 2021, with a planned reopening of April 12. Check MCA's website (akwesasne.ca), Facebook Page or 97.3 CKON for updates.

4

The Department of Health is encouraging all community members to pre-register for their COVID-19 vaccine. To pre-register, please call the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3219 or ext. 3247.

5

Spring cleaning is around the corner. If you identify any hypodermic needles and syringes, suspicious powders or pills or suspicious bottles containing fluids, please do not touch the items and call the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service at 613-575-2000.

MCA CLOSED TO PUBLIC FOR TWO WEEKS DUE TO EOHU RESTRICTIONS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will be closing to the public for a two-week period, except for essential needs and appointments, due to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit’s Red Zone status that begins on Monday, March 29, 2021. The province’s colour coding framework is intended to restrict and control the spread of COVID-19.

MCA will therefore be closed from March 29 – April 11, 2021, reopening on April 12, 2021 pending the public COVID-19 situation.

A region is put into the Red Zone (Control) if it has a seven-day rolling average of 40 new COVID-19 cases. The EOHU region’s current seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases is 61.8. Ontario’s “Red Zone” has tighter restrictions around social gatherings and for businesses, all of which is aimed at slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Examples of the Red Zone restrictions are as follows:

- Indoor gatherings: 5 people
- Outdoor gatherings: 25 people

- Only going out of your household for essential needs, such as work, groceries, pharmaceutical needs, health care, exercise/physical activity, and working from home where possible
- Public gatherings are restricted to those who live in your household
- Businesses face restrictions such as tighter screening procedures, limits on capacity to ensure social distancing, strict use of PPE for all staff, and continuous disinfection of high-traffic areas and high-contact surfaces

For a full breakdown of the EOHU Red Zone restrictions, visit their website: www.eohu.ca

MCA’s Department of Health (DOH) continues to follow the public health guidelines set forth by the EOHU: wearing a mask when out in public, washing and sanitizing your hands frequently, maintaining social distance of 6-feet when out in public, and not gathering with others who do not live in your household. Following these guidelines greatly assists in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



NEWS

MCA WELCOMES LORRI BOVA AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF DIHE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) welcomed Lorri (Lorraine) Bova as the new director of the Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE) as of March 22, 2021.

The department was created in 2020 with the merging of the former Dept. of Technical Services, Dept. of Housing and Environment Program. The position was first vacated with the passing of longtime DTS director Jay Benedict who is still missed by the department and organization.

Ms. Bova brings extensive experience and knowledge, as well as familiarity with MCA. She previously served as the program manager for the MCA Water/Wastewater Program for thirteen years. She also has experience working for Six Nations as the Public Works engineer, the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation as the water & wastewater engineer, and the Assembly of First Nations as the special advisor on water.

Ms. Bova has a master's degree and a Professional Engineering license in civil engineering.

As the new director, Ms. Bova's goals are to provide services such as clean drinking water, efficient wastewater services, quality roads services, proper maintenance

of MCA facilities, and effective housing and environment programs for the community and territory.

"On behalf of the organization we welcome Ms. Bova," said MCA Acting Executive Director Robert Delorme. "We look forward to the value her experience and expertise in the field will provide, and which the community will benefit from through the many services provided by the DIHE."

MCA also extends appreciation to Leslie Papineau for serving as acting director during the interim. Niawenhko:wa.



Lorri (Lorraine) Bova, Director of the Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment.

2021 HALF LOAD RESTRICTIONS FOR TRUCKERS AND SHIPPERS

Please be advised that all roadways under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will have a posted weight limit of five (5) tonnes per axle (also known as "Half Loads"), effective Monday, March 8, 2021. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police will be monitoring vehicle traffic and enforcing the weight restrictions while they remain in place.

For more information, please contact:
Kennedy Garrow, Roads Program Manager
Department of Infrastructure & Housing
14 Ford Lane
Akwesasne, Ontario K6H-0G5
Tel: (613) 938-5476
Alt. Telephone: (613) 575-2250

NEWS

DOH REMINDS TRAVELERS TO QUARANTINE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) is reminding community members residing in the jurisdiction of MCA, MCA employees, and the household members of MCA employees, that if **you've traveled outside of MCA's 100-mile radius, you are required to quarantine for 14 days upon your return to Akwesasne.** If you develop symptoms at any time during your quarantine period, you may be advised to take a COVID-19 test.

COVID-19 positive numbers are on the decline in the northern portion of Akwesasne, and the Department of Health is looking to continue that trend. If your family has opted to travel or you have recently

taken vacations outside of the MCA travel radius, and you are not quarantining or not following COVID-19 public health guidelines upon your return, this threatens the downward trend in COVID-positive cases in the community; as well as increases the chance for Variants of Concern (VOC), which are much more contagious, and may have severe effects that threaten the community.

If you or any member of your household has traveled outside the 100-mile radius, begin your quarantine period, and contact the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 if you develop any COVID-19 symptoms.

YOU ARE IN THE TERRITORY OF AKWESASNE

PLEASE PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR ALL:



WEAR A MASK.



**PHYSICAL DISTANCE
KEEP 6 FT/2 M.**



**WASH HANDS OFTEN
FOR 20 SECONDS.**



**COMING FROM OUTSIDE TRAVEL
RADIUS? QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS.**

COUNCIL APPROVES ADDITIONAL FUEL ASSISTANCE FUNDS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has approved an additional allocation of \$200 in fuel assistance to all community members who were participants of the 2020-2021 Fuel Assistance Program. These funds will provide an additional relief to our community members who continue to experience strains and hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to spend more time at home.

Community members do not need to re-apply for the

\$200 allocation; anyone who received the 2020-2021 fuel assistance will automatically receive these additional funds, which will be transferred directly to the vendor named in the original application. Customers can expect these funds in the coming weeks.

MCA's Community Support Program will coordinate the fuel assistance extension. If you have any questions, please contact their office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

NEWS

FORTIS ONTARIO: NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS (MARCH 17)

FortisOntario was made aware on March 14, 2021 of a possible ransomware attack on a third-party contractor that prints bills and provides certain electronic billing services for customers of Canadian Niagara Power, Eastern Ontario Power, Algoma Power and Cornwall Electric. At this point, we are not aware of any personal information of our customers that has been inappropriately accessed. FortisOntario has engaged an internal team to investigate the cyber event and is in contact with the third-party contractor. FortisOntario can confirm that no additional customer information (such as banking information) was accessed during the cyber event. FortisOntario will continue to work closely with the contractor to assess the situation and provide any updates when they become available. Ensuring all appropriate safeguards are in place to protect customer data is important to FortisOntario.

This cyber event was not directed at FortisOntario's information technology system, and FortisOntario confirms that no data other than what is presented on the bill or is used for electronic billing services may have been accessed.

"At FortisOntario the security of customer data is taken very seriously," says John Sander, Manager, Customer Engagement at FortisOntario. "While we are not aware of any customer data being accessed, we felt it was prudent to let our customers know of the event and to assure our customers that we are working with the third-party contractor to investigate this situation."

We apologize for this inconvenience to our valued customers. The security of customer data is of the utmost importance to FortisOntario, and we will continue to take every precaution to keep your data safe. We ask customers to please be aware of any unusual notifications or online activity related to personal data.

If customers have any questions, or suspect there has been suspicious activity on your account, please contact your local Customer Service Officer at the numbers below:

Canadian Niagara Power—(905) 871-0330
Eastern Ontario Power—(613) 382-2118
Cornwall Electric—(613) 932-0123
Algoma Power—(705) 256-3850

As we work through this situation, you may notice your electrical invoices are slightly delayed.

Media Inquiries:
Ms. Kristine Carmichael
Director Corporate and Customer Services
FortisOntario
Kristine.Carmichael@FortisOntario.com
(905) 994-3637

FortisOntario Inc. ("FortisOntario") is an electric utility, which owns and operates Canadian Niagara Power Inc., Cornwall Street Railway Light & Power Company Ltd., and Algoma Power Inc., serving a combined approximate 66,000 customers.



NEWS

COMMUNITY IN QUARANTINE PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne created the Community in Quarantine Program to assist community members affected by COVID-19 that must complete a 14-day quarantine.

This program will provide basic food, supplies and essentials for the 14-day period for those who have no assistance or resources. This service is available to those who reside in the northern portion of Akwesasne.

If you need supplies, please call:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
613-937-4322

After Hours
1-800-480-4208

Supplies will be delivered by MCA staff or a #9 delivery service to your address.

Please be advised that any community member who is in quarantine must complete the full 14-days even if they test negative. If you test positive, please be advised by your health care provider.

Niawenhko:wa to all that are doing their part to keep Akwesasnon safe and providing these important services.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

COMMUNITY IN QUARANTINE PROGRAM

To assist community members affected by COVID-19 that must complete 14 day quarantine

TO ORDER SUPPLIES:

MONDAY-FRIDAY
8 A.M.-5 P.M.
613-937-4322

AFTER-HOURS
1-800-480-4208



Packages include basic food, supplies and essentials for a 14-day period for those who have no assistance or resources.

Service available to those residing in the northern portion of Akwesasne (Tsi Snaihne (Snye), Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) or Kana:takon (Saint regis)).

If exposed to COVID-19, be sure to quarantine full 14 days or as instructed by health care provider.

NEWS

DUE TO INCREASING COVID-19 CASES, IN-HOME WAKES CONTINUE TO BE PAUSED IN AKWESASNE (MARCH 3)

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe have worked closely with local funeral service providers in both Ontario and New York State to ensure that family members can appropriately and safely celebrate the lives of loved ones who pass away during these unprecedented times.

Both organizations and councils place the health and safety of all Akwesasronon as a top priority.

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in and around the community, restrictions on in-home wakes in all jurisdictions of Akwesasne have been extended and are not allowed at this time. This decision was made with

difficulty; the MCA and the SRMT will continue to reassess and provide the community with an update.

We must respect these rules and support grieving families in other ways such as through telephone calls or social media messages. Our local funeral homes are working hard to provide services and accommodate our community, while considering everyone's safety.

We send our heartfelt condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during this difficult time or who may be impacted by this decision.

Let's all do our part for the health and safety of Akwesasne. We are all in this together.

Niawenhkó:wa for doing your part to keep Akwesasne safe.

**For the latest COVID-19 news visit
www.akwesasne.ca**



NEWS

ONTARIO SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

The Ontario government is committed to providing Indigenous small business owners with financial support to help them manage through this pandemic. We want them to have access to support that can help them sustain their business, keep people employed, and continue serving their communities long after COVID-19 is behind us.

That's why we've introduced the Ontario Small Business Support Grant. Small businesses with up to 99 employees – including sole proprietorships – that were required to close or significantly restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown can apply for a one-time grant to recover some of their expected lost revenue. The grant starts at \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000.

Eligible businesses will be able to use the support in whatever way makes the most sense to them. For example, some businesses may use the funds to help pay employee wages, while others may need help to maintain their inventory.

We want Indigenous business owners to know that they don't require a CRA business number to apply for this one-time grant. Indigenous applicants without CRA business numbers can be downloaded from the application portal at the following link:
www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/msrf/#/

At the application portal, Indigenous businesses with CRA business numbers can also choose to apply online.

Completed application forms for Indigenous applicants

without CRA numbers can be emailed to:
SmallBusSupportGrant2@ontario.ca.

Or they can be mailed to:
OSBSG Program c/o MEDJCT
56 Wellesley, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E4

Small business owners with questions about the grant or the application process can reach out to ServiceOntario to get direct help. Agents are available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m.

They can be reached at:

- * Tel: 416-325-6691
- * Toll-free: 1-855-216-3090
- * TTY: 416-325-3408
- * Toll-free TTY: 1-800-268-7095

To be eligible, businesses must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2020 and April 2019. New small businesses established since April 2019 will also be eligible, provided they meet other eligibility criteria.

Businesses can go to www.ontario.ca/COVIDsupport to learn more about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and other financial supports, including the Main Street Relief Grant to help cover the unexpected costs of PPE and rebates for property taxes and energy costs.



NEWS

PHASE TWO LANDSCAPE DESIGN AT ONTARIO POWER GENERATION'S SAUNDERS HYDRO DAM VISITOR CENTRE

In 2019, Iroquois Sullivan Joint Venture (ISJV) successfully completed Phase One construction of a Butterfly and Herb Garden as part of a long-term sustainable landscape plan for the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor Centre in Cornwall, ON.

Building off of the success of the newly constructed Butterfly and Herb Garden, planning for Phase Two of this development is now underway. The Phase Two concept, shown below, includes trails guided by interpretive signage, trail maps, a variety of native species and traditional elements that will be used for educational purposes.

The diagram below is a working concept for Phase 2

of the project. ISJV is now in consultation and seeking input from horticultural and medicinal experts in the Akwesasne, and Cornwall communities.

A more detailed diagram, and a full species list can be made available upon request. If you would like to get additional information about this project, or have any questions, please contact:

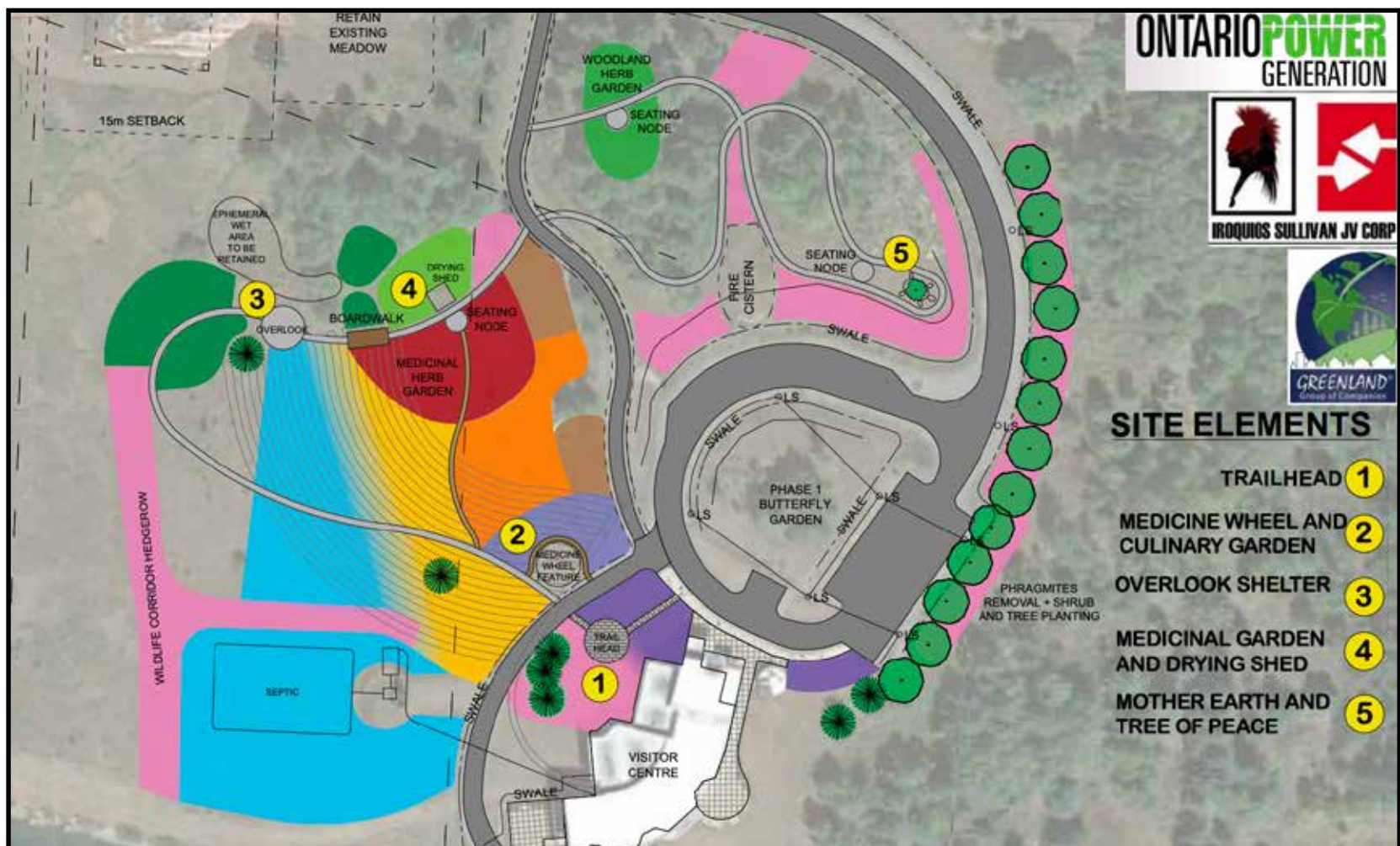
Alicia Cook

Iroquois Sullivan Joint Venture

Email : canoewomanherbs@gmail.com

Phone : 315-600-7175

Facebook Messenger App : <https://www.facebook.com/alicia.cook.756>



ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI—RESISTING THE STATUS QUO

Status quo is defined as the existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Entewatathá:wi (Nation Building) program, is reviewing some of the existing state of affairs in regard to government and political issues. If the Mohawks of Akwesasne never challenged the status quo, Akwesasne would still be under the Indian Agent and Federal Ministers controlling the social and political agendas of their daily lives. In essence, an outside government still control activities within Akwesasne, as the Indian Act is a legislative piece of government which impact Akwesasne lives.

Akwesasne has stood up and challenged issues to create a better life for their families and future generations. Many of challenges have driven to be for the betterment of the community. Large advancement has been by Akwesasne taking over education, membership, elections to eliminate the control of the Federal government and take care of our own affairs. In turn, we have been able to expand on our education system, health care, environment, and infrastructure. However, we have more work to do.

Not so long ago, Akwesasne youth would have to attend residential schools (or day schools) within the territory that were mandated and controlled by the federal government and their educators. It was through a dedicated visionary group of people children can attend Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education schools in Akwesasne. This has shown positive results with children being close to home and receiving quality education including traditional learning and Mohawk language instruction.

The health services available have the ability to offer traditional healing with a respect to the past practices and traditions combined with modern techniques.

Akwesasne offers modern medicine, vision, and dental care in many cases able to early identify ailments. The services offered in Akwesasne, is due to the vision to challenge the status quo in the delivery of health care.

Akwesasne has always been a protector of the environment and this will continue. Our relationship with the environment will continue as our vision is based on the Ohen:ten Kariwatékwen /Thanksgiving Address. Acknowledgment of the principles of the Ohen:ten Kariwatékwen are inscribed in the ESGA for future generation.

Infrastructure is often not noticed, unless there are potholes on the road, emergency orders for boil orders on water and wastewater issues. Then infrastructure rapidly becomes top priority. Currently, there are, water and wastewater treatment plants in each district of Akwesasne and paved roads. Too many people in Akwesasne have forgotten when the water was obtained from the river or the pump outside and the bathroom was an outhouse. Today, a turn of the tap and flush a toilet is done without a second thought. The Akwesasne water system is a model for other First Nation communities. At one time the only paved road was entering Kanata:kon (St.Regis) and looped around the church. This status quo for our infrastructure needs was addressed and continued repair still needs to be addressed. We have safe and clean drinking water for the safety of everyone with a respect of the environment.



**ENTEWATATHA:WA SELF
GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT**

613-575-2341 EXT. 3194

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT



MARCH 1, 2021

- The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services (AMPS) Chief of Police (COP) provided an overview of proposed amendments to the existing organization chart which would increase the COP's oversight to include a newly created Department of Public Safety.
- Members of the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) presented a proposed tri-party agreement regarding Cairn Island.
- Council discussed an offer to purchase property. Further internal follow up on the use of the property will be completed and reported back.
- An update was provided on a recent conversation with Minis-

- ter Lafreniere regarding Hopkins Point. Council discussed the occupation situation and will be further updated.
- Council discussed Canada's Bill C-15 An Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. Additional information on the bill will be circulated to Council for future discussion.
- A request was made that a multi-jurisdictional table including Ontario, Quebec, Canada, and MCA be set up.
- Council discussed a request from one of the recreation centers to utilize the facility for outdoor activities. Council determined that due to the potential need to use the recreation centers for vaccinations, the use of the recreation center for outdoor activities will not be approved at this time.
- An update was provided on recent calls with Ontario regarding vaccines for Akwesasne. A supply of vaccines is expected next week. Council requested that

- vaccination sites be prepared.
- Council discussed the New York State Claim and agreed to have legal counsel begin preparing for active litigation to resume.
- **MCRs passed:** Approval to discontinue the Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Centre program; Approval of appointment of Kanatakon representative to the Akwesasne Review Commission; Approval of 2 upgrade loans to community members; Approval to rescind loan approval (loan not needed); Approval of Amendment to Canada/Akwesasne funding agreement; Approval of expansion of the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP) to address homelessness; Approval of Request for Proposals for Special Needs Strategy; Approval of budget for ACFS Prevention dollars; Approval of organizational structure change to form a Department of Public Safety.

MARCH 8, 2021

- The Program Manager for the Community Support Program (CSP) provided an overview of the current funeral assistance policy and discussed possible op-

- tions to expand the assistance. Portfolio will discuss amendment options based on Council's discussion and report back.
- Council discussed the 2021/2022 Ontario Lottery Gaming (OLG)

- annual allocation and determined that the annual allocation will proceed as approved, with a slight modification.
- An update was provided on the development and implementa-

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT

tion of the financial governance documents required under the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law.

- Council discussed the proposed draft changes to the MCA Procedure Regulations and provided input into a final draft.
- An update was provided on drafts of the Akwesasne Emergency Law and the Akwesasne Cannabis Law; both draft laws will be sent to Justice for law enactment.

- **MCRs passed:** Approval of lease on Colquhuon Island West; Approval of amendment to police service agreement to include additional resources as a result of COVID-19; Approval of TPAR report for Ministry of Children and Youth Child Welfare Program; Approval of agreement with Canadian Coast Guard for Marine Liaison Officer; Approval of letter of agreement with Impact Assessment Agency of Canada; Approval of funding from In-

igenous Services Canada for Community Based Vaccine Supports; Approval of funding from Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Ministry of Health for Community Based Vaccine Supports; Approval of funding from Indigenous Services Canada for broadband router equipment; Approval of additional \$200 allocation to approved applicants of the 2020/2021 Heating Assistance Program.

MARCH 15, 2020

- Representatives from Iroquois Consulting presented a proposed project for Council's consideration.
- Council set the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting of March 25, 2021.
- A briefing was provided on a request for the use of a vacant lot in Kana:takon. Council discussed the request and decided that the best use of this lot remains undetermined at this time. The re-

questor will be advised.

- Council discussed the community directive for no home wakes and determined that this directive will remain in place for the time being.
- Health portfolio provided an update on recent vaccination clinics.
- **MCRs passed:** Approval of contract with Figurr Architects Collective for detailed design and engineering of new AMPS building; Approval of Issuance of Can-

nabis Cultivation License; Approval of assignment of lease on Thompson Island, Approval of (2) new leases on Ross Island; Approval to rescind (2) previous MCRs(leases declined); Acceptance of amendments to MCA Council Meeting Procedure Regulations; Approval of (2) accountability agreements with Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).



COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATES



Portfolio: Justice, Public Safety, Executive Services

Month: February 2021

Committee: Finance, Governance, Cannabis Working Task Group

All Meetings Listed are thru the "Zoom" technology

The month of February Council continues to operate thru technology utilizing "Zoom" software for our meetings. Our meetings consisted of Council meeting, Council COVID Update, Border Update meeting which includes the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Leadership all held on a weekly basis. Leadership Meeting with Tribal Leadership is held on a bi-weekly meeting schedule.

The focus for Council was and continues to be the COVID 19 crisis. As of June I began working again within my portfolios and existing projects again.

- Weekly Monday Council Meetings to conduct MCA business. Program Offices continue to open and closed based on current situa-

tions. Appointments are required to meet with staff. Over the past couple of months our offices have had to restrict community members and lessen the amount of employees in facilities to try and curb the spread of the virus.

- Weekly Tuesday Border Update Meeting with CBSA/US Customs/Leadership are held to maintain an update on potential changes and restrictions. Border remains closed to non-essential travel.

- Weekly Wednesday Council COVID 19 Update Meeting is held to provide updates on areas surrounding Akwesasne and discuss issues of concern. Delivery of vaccines has become an issue, along with the spread. We need to stay home.

- Thursday is my scheduled day to be in the office. I attend and work from our office on this day the rest of the week I work from home. Our office is now located at Admin I. I have limited attendance when office closures happen due to COVID.

- Bi-Weekly Friday Leadership Meeting with SRMT. General Meeting was held this February 25th the agenda included Land Claim Updates, MCA Financial Administrative Law Implementation Update, COVID19 Update.

Work in Progress:
This section will provide the com-

munity with other activities, projects and initiatives that are still under development or in progress. It will also serve as an informative update on where items are and what is being advanced for the community.

1. I now sit on two committees: Host a Community Recreation Forum and Take Care of the Vulnerable.

- The Recreation Forum I developed draft agendas, invitations and a list of objectives for the committee's review and approval. Those documents were approved and the schedule approved for sessions. The Objectives came from our discussions during our meetings. We hosted the first meeting of three with the three Recreation Committee. We discussed what was happening in their centres and what they were looking to do. We also had discussion on the pandemic restrictions and whether or not to proceed with the Community Recreation Forum planned for March 3rd, 2021 session.

- The Take Care of the Vulnerable committee has conducted reviews of special needs policy, material from the community consultation and are working on creating a Request for Proposal to create a Five Year Strategic Plan. We completed the Request for Proposal and have prepared resolution to present to Council for consideration.

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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATES

continued from page 14

2. A Finance Committee meeting was held on February 16th. We discussed areas of the FAL, annual budget and operations. The annual budget will be going to Council in March for approval

3. Council has started meetings with staff to work on strengthening communication and processes. I met with my Executive

Assistant weekly to update my calendar and discuss issues of concern.

4. Justice Portfolio Meeting was scheduled for February 17th. Discussion and follow up was held on functions, legislative commission, budgets, proposal follow up, resolutions follow-up and further developments. We spoke of the upcoming Elections and what would be necessary to ensure voter safety

during the process. We spoke of the Fire Code the need to look at the draft code.

5. The WTG on Cannabis has met February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th we are now focusing on the development of the Cannabis Law. This is moving along well and we look to have a final draft for community in a few weeks.

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COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATES

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

Visit akwesasne.ca/signup.



COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATES

continued from page 15

6. The WTG on Cannabis also had a meeting with Ontario with regards to Cannabis. Update was provided on our law development and our cannabis application and processing. Ontario spoke of the initiatives, the changes that have been required since they initiated their program.

7. A WTG has been established by resolution to develop the Emergency Management Law, we have Chiefs, technicians and legal counsel that have started reviewing the draft document. We are nearing completion of the review and will be sending back to Justice to begin the law enactment process. Meetings have been held weekly, February 12th, 18th, and 25th.

8. Membership Review WTG met this month on Febru-

ary 2nd, this committee is reviewing the documents associated with the Membership Code & Residency Law. Application forms and processes are being discussed, we hope to move onto regulations soon. I had asked for a timeframe to complete this work as it has been ongoing, but productive. These forms and processes will help form the regulations.

9. HAVFD Station #3 Building Design. The Station #3 in Tsi Snaihne is in need of a new facility. The members of the Station have engaged a firm to begin the design phase, they have spent time designing for their needs. The meetings have brought us to a 66% completed drawings for review.

10. Governance Committee WTG, this committee of chiefs

continues to review the procedural regulations we are making progress in this area. The procedural regulations are in reference to how Council Meetings are conducted, an update was necessary it also requires a virtual component.

11. I participated in the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission meeting this month. Updates were provided from districts.

12. The Akwesasne Youth Council meet with Council members on February 9th. The Youth Council had a "Reintroduction" of their Strategy which included their mission, core pillars, key objectives, with initiatives and goals. The terms of the members were identified, a review of Council Portfolio was done this would allow the Youth Council and council to work together on ini-

STAY UPDATED ON ALL THINGS AKWESASNE



COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF CONNIE LAZORE FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATES

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tiatives and we spoke priorities.

13. A meeting was coordinated with Justice Director and Mohawk Police COP/DCOP to begin the work to restructure the budget for the compliance program and begin pursuing different funding options. A meeting was also held with Grand Chief & Chief Julie and myself as Justice Portfolio Chiefs to begin our next steps for this funding proposal.

14. A meeting was held between the Finance Committee Chair and myself, as the vice-chair, to discuss the Financial Administrative Law implementation. We prepared a response to community inquiry and began outlining the work to be completed.

15. A meeting of the CBSA/MCA Community Relations Committee was held February 11th. We discussed the material for the next Leadership Meeting, Review of the New Drivers Booklet, and Economic Development topics.

16. A First Nations Emergency Management Conference on February 3rd & 4th. The conference focused on issues relevant to First Nations emergency management. It was geared towards preparation, mitigation and youth initiatives. Presentation were done on Preparing Our Home a youth initiative, emergency management networking,

evacuations, fire safety, emergency operation centers, and the emergency management assistance program.

17. The AFNQL hosted a Chiefs Assembly on February 4th and February 26th. Areas discussed Political Relationship with Federal Government (Bill C-15), Ad Hoc Committee on Governance of the AFNQL, and Political Relationship with Provincial Government the establishment of a working table with the Premier of Quebec. I participate to learn of possible funding or new initiatives in the Quebec Region.

18. The AFN Forum on UN-DRIP Bill C-15 on February 10/11th. The forum was a National Forum on Bill C-15. The agenda revolved around the bill with overview, perspective, experience to date, Ministerial Presentation and eventually leadership dialogue. The Bill C-15 is moving forward First Nations feel that consultation for input to this Bill was nowhere adequate. Do we support the Bill and push for amendments, do we not support the Bill and take a change on a new government doing better? The government is hoping we won't take the change they like to remind us of a potential upcoming election for the Federal Government that may see a conservative government that has a history of not supporting First Na-

tions.

19. On February 15th I participated in the Ad Hoc Committee of the AFNQL to review their governance procedures. The meeting focused on quorum requirements.

20. The AFN Chiefs Committee of Charter Renewal on February 18th. Discussion revolved around the resolutions to be presented at the next AFN General Chiefs Assembly, Regional Chiefs Roles and Responsibilities and the AFN Youth Council.

21. I attended a meeting coordinated with the AFN on Vaccine Updates for February 24th as member of the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management for the AFNQL. It was mentioned that we are in the 3rd wave of the virus, additional variants to this virus have been confirmed in Canada. Two vaccines approved waiting on a third thru Health Canada. Six million vaccines were to be available in Canada by end of March with more to come. Messaging and awareness needs to continue; mask and social distance must continue after receiving the vaccine. Many First Nations still waiting on the vaccine to arrive.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

MCR #142 Assignment of Lease-Lot 1A-8 Pilon Island

Moved by: Chief Tim Thompson

Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 11 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #143 Assignment of Lease-Lot 32 Renshaw Island

Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

Seconded by: Chief Joe Lazore

For: 11 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #144 Accept in Principle the Akwesasne Election Law-Amendment

Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

Seconded by: Chief Connie Lazore

For: 11 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #145 Accept and Approve the Akwesasne Interim Cannabis License created by the Cannabis Working Task Group

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 9 Against: 2

CARRIED

MCR #146 Access to Territory

Moved by: Chief Julie Jacobs

Seconded by: Chief Joe Lazore

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #147 CWTG Amendments

to MCR #145 19-20 Interim Cannabis License

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Vanessa Adams

For: 7 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #148 Indigenous Services Canada Enhanced Housing Allocation

Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 9 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #149 Ministry of Children and Community and Social Service – IFN Family Well-Being Program 2019-2020

Moved by: Chief Vanessa Adams

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 9 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #150 Ministry of Children and Community and Social Services- IFN Ontario Indigenous Child and Youth Strategy 2019-2020

Moved by: Chief Vanessa Adams

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 9 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #151 2019-2020 Legislative Enactment Regulation

Moved by: Chief Carolyn Francis

Seconded by: Chief Edward Roundpoint

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #152 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Special Needs Policy Amendment

Moved by: Chief Tim Thompson

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #153 Governance & Relationship and Sectoral Agreement (single agreement or two) Self-Government Agreements

Moved by: Chief Edward Roundpoint

Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 6 Against: 2

CARRIED

MCR #154 Indian Act Section 13.2(1)

Moved by: Chief Edward Roundpoint

Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 7 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #155 Indian Act Section 16(2)

Moved by: Chief Edward Roundpoint

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 7 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #156 Contribution Agreement from Government of Quebec and Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #157 Authorization to Publicize Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Sunshine List

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #158 S.A.V.E. Funding Agreement-Fiscal Year 2019-2021

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Tim Thompson

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #159 Amendment to Ministry of Health Agreement-Physician comp.

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #160 Accept & Approve the

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Emergency Council Mtg. Minutes dated Ohiarí:ha/June 10, 2019
Moved by: Chief Tim Thompson
Seconded by: Chief Connie Lazore
For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #161 Accept & Approve the Emergency Council Mtg. Minutes dated Ohiarí:ha/June 13, 2019
Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Carolyn Francis

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #162 Accept & Approve Council Mtg. Minutes dated Ohiarí:ha/June 24, 2019
Moved by: Chief Carolyn Francis
Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #163 Accept & Approve Council Mtg. Minutes dated Ohiaríhkô:wa/July 8, 2019
Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs
Seconded by: Chief Darryl Lazore

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #164 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Strategic Plan 2018-2021
Moved by: Chief Theresa Jacobs
Seconded by: Chief Darryl Lazore

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #165 Closure of Mohawk Offices during Christmas and New Year

Moved by: Chief Connie Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Edward Roundpoint

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #166 Akwesasne Financial Administration Law-Final Results (Approved)

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

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #167 Memorandum of Understanding – ISQ and MCA
Moved by: Chief Tobi Mitchell
Seconded by: Chief Joe Lazore

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #168 Lot 16 Block C Hamilton Island – Assignment of Lease
Moved by: Chief Darryl Lazore

Seconded by: Chief Vince Thompson

For: 7 Against: 1

CARRIED

MCR #169 Accept and Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Ohiaríhkô:wa/July 15th, 2019

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

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #170 Accept and Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Ohiaríhkô:wa/July 29, 2019

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

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #171 Emergency Council Meeting Minutes Ohiaríhkô:wa/July 30, 2019

Moved by: Chief Joe Lazore
Seconded by: Chief Darryl Lazore

For: 8 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #172 Akwesasne Mohawk Court Re-Appointment of current sitting Justices Shannon Hall & D. Darlene Francis

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

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #173 Housing – Upgrade Application

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

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #174 Housing – Upgrade Application

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

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #175 Housing – Upgrade Application

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

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #180 Ministry of Children and Youth Services Registered Education Savings Plans

Moved by: Chief Vanessa Adams
Seconded by: Chief Theresa Jacobs

For: 12 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #181 Award Tender to Lazore's Construction for Tsi Snaihne Birch Road Water main Construction and Domestic Water Service Connections

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

For: 11 Against: 0

CARRIED

MCR #182 Tsi Snaihne Birch Road Water main Construction and Domestic Water Service Connections

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

For: 11 Against: 0

CARRIED

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

FACEBOOK STATS



Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in March

1. Council Approves Additional Fuel Assistance Funds
2. Iakhihsotha Lodge Removed from Outbreak Status
3. DOH Finishes Up First Round of Community Vaccine Clinics
4. Do It For The Totas | COVID-19 PSA
5. DOH Informs Community of Red Cross Presence at Iakhihsotha Lodge

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in March

1. Police Seize 1.7 Million Dollars Worth of Marihuana in Joint Project — 9,796 reached
2. MCA Receives Notification of Variant of Concern in Akwesasne — 7,580 reached
3. COVID-19 Vaccine Pre-Registration — 6,778 reached
4. First Recipient of COVID-19 Vaccine at MCA Community Vaccine Clinic — 4,616 reached
5. Council Approves Additional Fuel Assistance Funds — 4,744 reached

TWITTER STATS

Top Tweet in March



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
@MCAkwesasne

MCA Dept. of Health would like to notify the community that the Iakhihsotha Lodge has been officially removed from Outbreak Status. Iakhihsotha Lodge staff and residents have completed 2 weeks of negative COVID-19 test results.

Read more at: bit.ly/3eKF6mC



YOUTUBE STATS



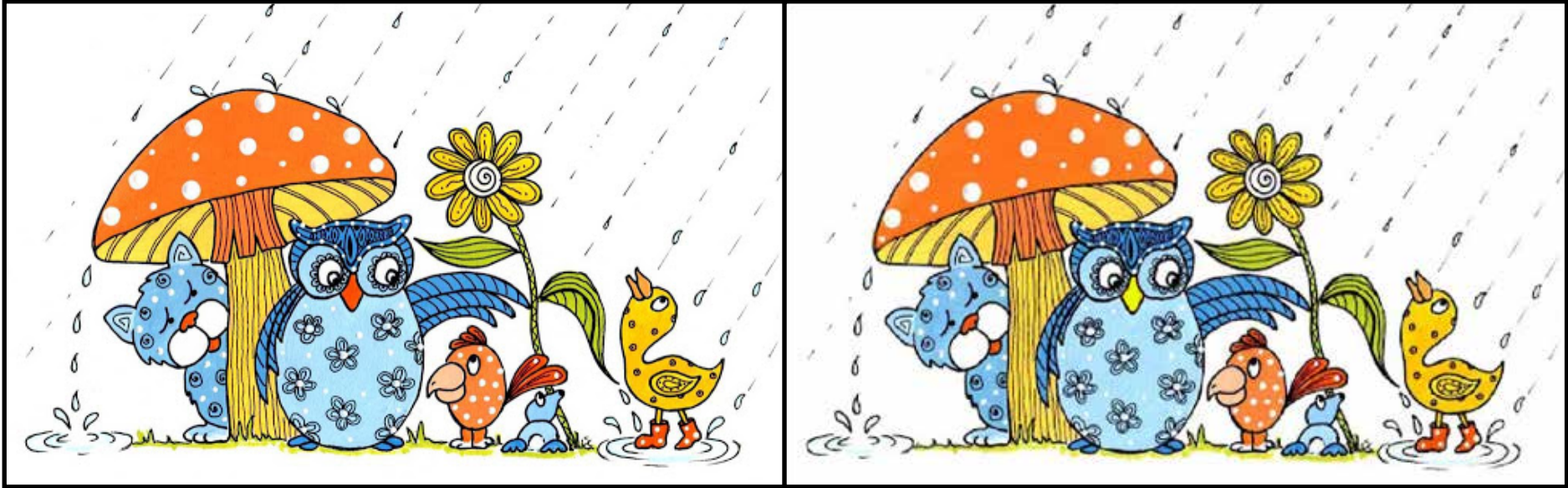
Highest Viewed Videos on the MCA Youtube Channel for March

1. Do It For The Totas | COVID-19 PSA
2. MCA General Meeting — February 25, 2021
3. MCA News — February 25, 2021

CHILDREN'S PAGE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES!

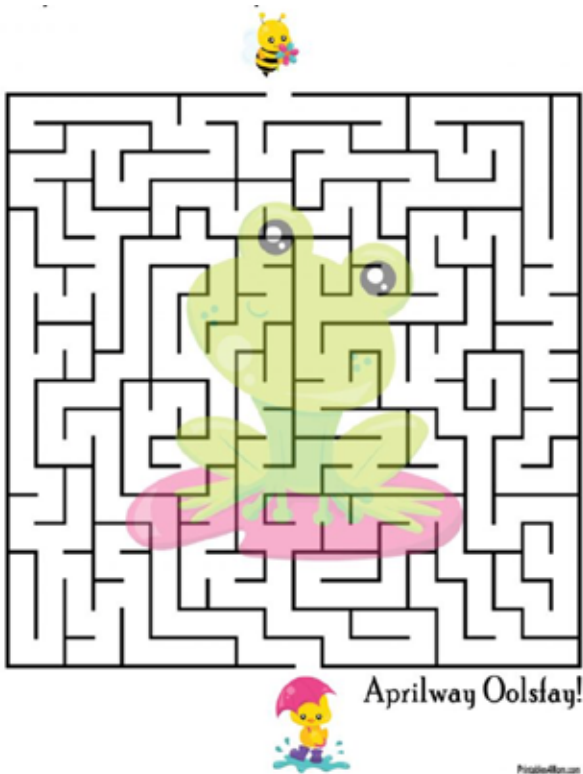
Can you spot the 5 differences between these happy valentines?



1. There is an extra dot on the bottom left of the mushroom cap. 2. Owl's nose is orange in the first picture, yellow in the second. 3. There is an extra dot near the middle flower on the top right of flower. 4. Extra raindrop on the top right of owl's body. 5. On left side, grass is missing in second picture.

SIMPLY A-MAZE-ING

Help the bee reach his duck friend.



Happy April Fools Day...this maze is unsolvable!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What did summer say to spring?
I'm going to fall

Can February March?
No, but April May!

What kind of gardens do bakers grow?
Flour gardens!

How does a flower make a bike go?
With its petals!

How does a rainstorm tie its shoes?
With a rainbow!

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

COMPLIMENTS & APPRECIATIONS

The Community Health Program received a surprise from two community members this morning, for their continued effort and dedication to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kanatakon residents, Steevi and Sheila King, donated coffee and breakfast boxes to the staff at Community Health. Their donation is greatly appreciated. Nia:wen!

The MCA - Environment Program would like to give a shout-out and celebrate all of the presenters that made our World Wetlands Day - Week of Presentation possible! We are so grateful to all of our collaborators.



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

COMPLIMENTS & APPRECIATIONS

Akwesasne Child & Family Services would like to give a shout out to Indigenous Sports & Wellness Ontario for donating 10 kits with sleds. We were able to give these items to a number of families to help keep them busy.

Huge niawenko:wa to Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario for your generosity, it is greatly appreciated!



I want to begin by thanking all the Department of Infrastructure and Housing/Department of Health/Department of Community Social Services Maintenance Employees who are presently working at their stations to fulfill their important duties that conserve the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's assets and facilities within our sector. Your commitment to accomplishing these duties through these challenging times is commendable. For all essential Head Caretakers and Caretakers within DOH/DCSS sector, your continued perseverance and dedication this past year throughout the Covid-19 pandemic is recognized and appreciated.

As we continue to strive to slow the spread of Covid-19, your ongoing hard work and dedication on behalf of all Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Akwesas-

renon public is more vital than ever. I appreciate and expect that all Department maintenance employees will continue to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as assigned while also taking necessary steps to preserve the health and safety of all.

We are all in this together and nia:wen again for all that you are doing to make a difference in the fight to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Keep up the good work.
—Clayton Benedict, DOH/DCSS Maintenance Manager

Nia:wen/Thank You Health Care & Frontline Workers: Our Heroes. Our Health Care & Frontline Workers are an inspiration, and heroes to everyone. I thank all of you for the selfless deeds, actions, and sacrifices you have made to help the community of Akwesasne live and maintain some type of normalcy during the pandemic. Because of your actions, I can trust that our families, friends, and neighbors will stay safe during this crisis in our community. You've given, and continue to give, 100% all of the time, and for that I will be forever grateful and proud to live and work in this community that we call home... Akwesasne.



The Wholistic Health & Wellness Program acknowledges the work of all our health care providers and frontline workers at this time. Each day, we offer our prayers and respect to our medical community, providers and community members.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

REMINDER: COVID-19 VACCINE PRE-REGISTRATION

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) is reminding the community that the pre-registration for the COVID-19 vaccine is still open. DOH is stressing the importance of registering now for the vaccine, to ensure that you are on the list to be contacted for an appointment once the community vaccine clinic is announced. Vaccine supply is limited, so reserve your spot for the community vaccine clinic by pre-registering as soon as possible.

The initial roll out of the vaccine has been completed, with the long-term care facilities residents and staff having received the first dose. The next phase of the vaccine

distribution will be administering the vaccine to essential frontline staff (healthcare workers, first responders, etc.), community elders, then the general community. Akwesasronon residing within the City of Cornwall will be eligible to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Department of Health is currently awaiting vaccine shipments from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

To pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3219 (Jamie Cole) or ext. 3247 (Stephanie Buckshot). When calling, a brief questionnaire will be conducted.

COVID-19 VACCINE PRE-REGISTRATION

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS CURRENTLY AWAITING VACCINE
SHIPMENTS FROM THE EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT.**

**SUPPLY IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR THE COMMUNITY
VACCINE CLINIC BY PRE-REGISTERING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PRE-REGISTRATION ASSISTS WITH THE CLINIC PLANNING PROCESS.**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL
613-575-2341
EXT. 3219 OR EXT. 3247**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISES AGAINST AT-HOME COVID-19 RAPID TESTS

The MCA Community Health Program has been informed of at-home rapid testing being utilized in detecting the COVID-19 virus, and providing a false-negative result. False-negative results are being confirmed from at-home rapid testing, with the person developing symptoms and being positive via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing days after their at-home rapid result. At-home rapid testing is not as accurate as the PCR (nasal swab) testing that is completed within the various health facilities in Akwesasne. The rapid test should be followed up by a PCR test to confirm results. Any COVID-19 test should be guided by a healthcare professional.

The PCR (nasal swab) test is considered the “gold standard” in COVID-19 testing. This test detects genetic material specific to COVID-19 and can detect the virus within days of infection, even in those with no symptoms. Results from the PCR test

generally take longer (2-7 days). The antigen (rapid) test detects specific fragments of the COVID-19 virus, with results coming as fast as 15 minutes. Rapid tests are most accurate in those who have developed symptoms; for those who don’t have symptoms, a false-negative result can be as high as 50%.

A false-negative result means that the results came back negative, but the person taking the test does in fact have the virus. False-negative rapid results can have disastrous consequences in trying to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you’ve been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, please quarantine, and contact the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220, to schedule your COVID-19 PCR test. Community Health will provide guidance on when to get tested (7-9 days post-exposure is advised) and will provide you with an appointment to receive your test.

COVID-19 RAPID TESTS ARE INEXPENSIVE & FAST, BUT SOMETIMES GIVE INCORRECT RESULTS



False-negative results are being confirmed from at-home rapid testing, with the person developing symptoms and being positive via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing days after their at-home rapid result.

The at-home rapid testing is not as accurate as the PCR (nasal swab) testing that is completed within the various health facilities in Akwesasne. The rapid test should be followed up by a PCR test to confirm results.

Any COVID-19 test should be guided by a healthcare professional.

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Community Health will provide guidance on when to get tested (7-9 days post-exposure is advised), and will provide you with an appointment to receive your test.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SITUATION REPORT

(MARCH 24, 2021)

MCA

TOTAL TESTS	1,859
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES	263
ACTIVE CASES	8

*This information was provided by the MCA Community Health Program.
Data was updated as of March 24, 2021.*

SRMT

TOTAL TESTS	8,592
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES	273
ACTIVE CASES	4

*This information was provided by the SRMT Emergency Operations Center.
Data was updated as of March 23, 2021.*

TOTAL DEATHS 10

SURROUNDING AREAS

	ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL TESTS
EOHU REGION	277	3201	69	119,375
FRANKLIN CO.	114	2,472	16	74,367
ST. LAWRENCE CO.	75	6,545	94	253,779

This information was provided by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (updated March 24, 2021), Franklin County Public Health (updated March 24, 2021), & St. Lawrence County Public Health (updated March 24, 2021).

PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL & GLOBAL

	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
ONTARIO	333,690	7,263
CANADA	942,320	22,735
WORLDWIDE	123.9 million	2.72 million

*This information was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health, Health Canada, & the World Health Organization.
Data was updated as of March 24, 2021.*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MCA SEEKS HEALTHCARE STAFF

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is currently seeking staff to fill several positions and areas in need throughout the Department of Health. The pandemic has left many programs short on staff or unable to fill positions.

We are encouraging anyone interested in emergency employment to submit a resume identifying skills and areas of interest to our Human Resources office. Several

positions will be filled immediately on an emergency hire, term basis.

Staff are currently sought for the following areas/positions: Nurses, RPNs, and Personal Support Workers.

Any questions or resume submissions can be directed to:

- jobs@akwesasne.ca
- 613-575-2250 ext. 2145, 2146, or 2147



WE'RE HIRING!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MCA

AKWESASNE.CA/EMPLOYMENT



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IAKHIHSOHTHA LODGE REMOVED FROM OUTBREAK STATUS

MCA's Department of Health (DOH) would like to notify the community that the Iakhihsohta Lodge has been officially removed from Outbreak Status. DOH was notified by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit after Iakhihsohta Lodge staff and residents completed two weeks of negative COVID-19 test results.

In order to be removed from Outbreak Status, all Iakhihsohta Lodge staff, residents, and administration who

work or reside in the facility had to test negative for COVID-19 for two consecutive weeks.

On behalf of the Iakhihsohta Lodge, the DOH would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to our LTC residents, resident's families, and the community for their continued support, thoughts, prayers, and understanding during a very tumultuous time. We'd also like to thank the staff at Iakhihsohta for their dedication and diligence during this time.





YOGA MIND & SOUL



Online Yoga Class via Zoom every MONDAY

Start: Now-May 31, 2021
Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m

If interested, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3247 to register.

This is a free event by MCA Community Health Program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH CONTINUES TO FOLLOW EOHU GUIDELINES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) has been informed of the recent announcement from the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), indicating fully-vaccinated individuals would be able to socially gather amongst other vaccinated people, without masks or social distancing.

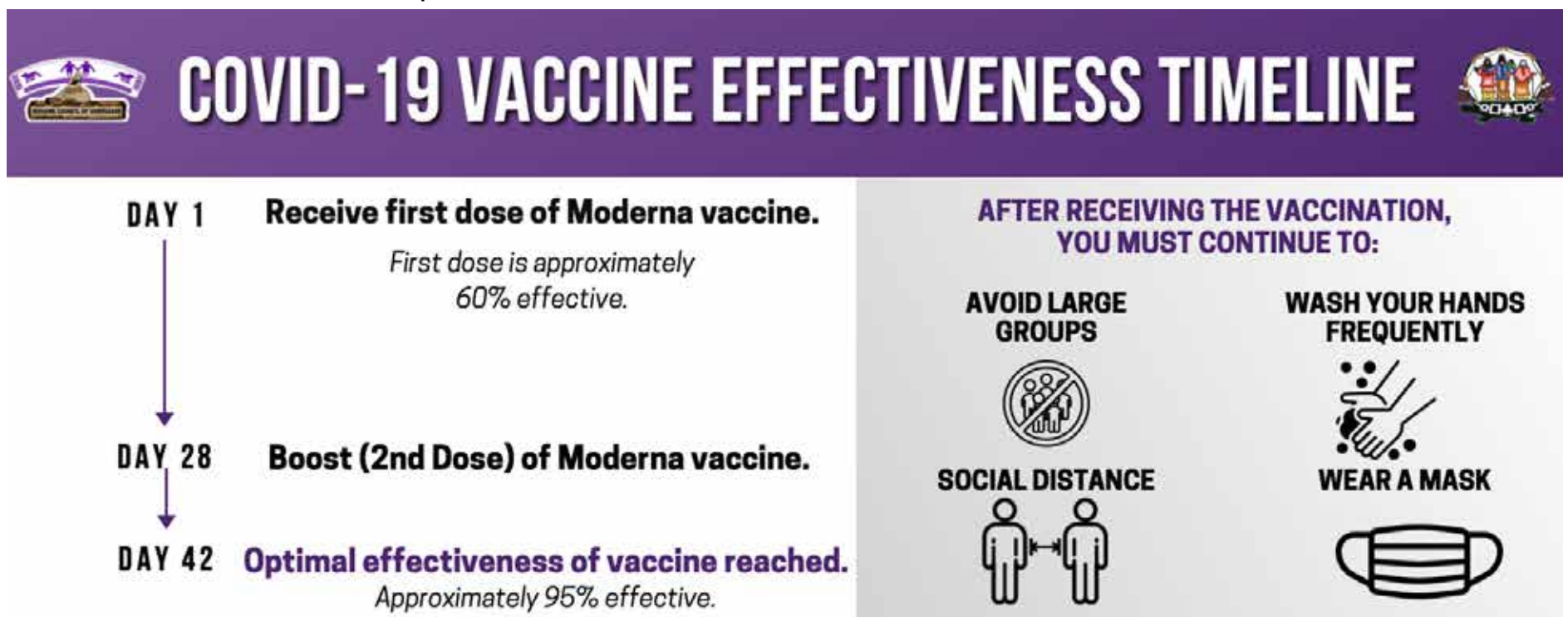
MCA falls under the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU), and will continue to follow their guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and the health protocols that the EOHU has put forth:

- Social distance of 6-feet/2-meters
- Limit close contact to your household (people you live with)
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Stay or work from home as much as possible, and avoid non-essential outings
- Wear a mask when out in public or out of your household
- Get tested for COVID-19 if symptoms develop, or if you've been notified of an exposure

For more information on EOHU's COVID-19 response, and the public health guidelines they have recommended, visit their website at: www.eohu.ca.

DOH is proud that many community members in both portions of Akwesasne are opting to receive the vaccine. While the number of vaccinated community members rises, MCA will continue to mandate the wearing of masks and socially distancing up to six feet when out in public or when engaging with people not in your household bubble, and strongly discourage gathering with people who don't reside within your household, even if people have been fully vaccinated. Continuing to follow public health protocols will greatly assist in stopping the COVID-19 pandemic in our community.

The COVID-19 vaccine is greatly assisting to stop/slow the COVID-19 spread in our community. To pre-register for the upcoming community vaccine clinics, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3219 or 3247.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PHONE CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS

Dr. Horn, Dr. Saylor and Dr. Levac are accepting telephone consultation appointments. In addition, we are slowly reintroducing in-person appointments for our clients at the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at Kanonkwaseriio; this will be done on a case-by-case assessment.

While we are still encouraging telephone appointments, if an in-person appointment is needed, expect the following:

- COVID-19 screening questions the day of your appointment.
- Wait in your vehicle/outside in designated parking spaces until a staff member signals you to come in.
- Required to wear a face-covering for your in-person appointment.

Bloodwork is also available by appointment. Please call 613 575 2341 extension 3214 for more information.

Dr. Torres, Nurse Practitioners Janet Brant and Katelyn Fedorak are accepting Phone Consultation Appointments at the Kawehnoke Medical Clinic. COVID testing is also available on-site by appointment. Please call 613 932 5808 for more information.

As we follow guidelines and direction of Eastern Ontario Health Unit and the Department of Health, know that together we can keep our community, clinic and office spaces safe.

WHEN SHOULD I GET A COVID-19 TEST AFTER EXPOSURE?



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

DAY OF EXPOSURE

If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, begin your 14-day quarantine. Schedule your COVID-19 test through MCA Community Health at: 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

TESTING PERIOD

Most accurate testing window. This is the ideal time to take your COVID-19 test.

RECEIVE TEST RESULTS

If you receive a negative test result, on day 14 you can end your quarantine. If you are positive, you must follow advice from your health care provider.

QUARANTINE PERIOD

You must quarantine for full 14 days even if you receive a negative COVID-19 test.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FIRST ROUND: COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINIC

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health hosted its first round of the community vaccine clinics. Elders received their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the Kana:takon Recreation Centre on March 8 & 9, 2021. Additional vaccination clinics will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks and more community members will be contacted to arrange appointments. If you haven't already, please pre-register for the

vaccine by calling the MCA Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3219 or 3247.

Niawenhkó:wa to our dedicated staff for all of their hard work and also to the Akwesasronon who made the decision to get vaccinated! The COVID-19 vaccine is a step forward in helping to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. #VaccinateAkwesasne



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH INFORMS COMMUNITY OF RED CROSS PRESENCE AT IAKHIHSONHTA LODGE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Department of Health (DOH) is notifying the community of our working partnership with the Canadian Red Cross at the Iakhihsohtha Lodge. The Canadian Red Cross was present to assist Iakhihsohtha Lodge staff with the quick and efficient end to their outbreak status.

The Canadian Red Cross had assisted Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-term Care (LTC) staff, and were instrumental in ending their outbreak status efficiently and without issue. The Canadian Red Cross provided LTC staff and residents socialization & engagement, nutrition support, organization & light cleaning, safety & well-being and assisting with reporting and documentation. The Canadian Red Cross was present at Iakhihsohtha Lodge to offer this same assistance

and service. The Canadian Red Cross, a humanitarian-based organization, whose mission is “to help people and communities in Canada and around the world in times of need, and support them in strengthening their resilience,” has done a fantastic job in assisting our LTC’s in alleviating any undue stress, assisting during staff shortages, and being a resource for LTC staff and administration during a most tumultuous time.

DOH and the LTC staff would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to the Canadian Red Cross for all their assistance in helping to end the outbreak status at our LTC facilities, ensuring the health and safety of our Totas.

10 TIPS FOR SELF-CARE AT HOME



**1**
Call an elder or relative.

**3**
Learn one new word in Kanienkeha

**5**
Practice your culture.

**7**
Stretch, practice yoga or meditate.

**9**
Exercise, dance, run.

**2**
Get outside, connect with the land

**4**
Create something (art, music, craft)

**6**
Nourish yourself with a healthy snack.

**8**
Listen to your favorite music.

**10**
Try a new recipe or traditional recipe.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

CORNWALL HEALING CENTRE—JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A healing centre located in Cornwall is looking for interested applicants with an educational background in: addictions, mental health, social work, medicine, police foundations, etc.

The centre is designed to house and support Akwe-

sasnon and other First Nations people ages 16 and older, post-detox, on their healing journey.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Catherine Lelievre at catherine.lelievre@akwesasne.ca.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Cornwall Healing Centre

IMMEDIATE HIRES

Looking for applicants with educational background in:

- addictions
- mental health
- social work
- medical
- police foundations



Please send your resume and letter of interest to Catherine Lelievre at:
catherine.lelievre@akwesasne.ca

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

COMMUNITY STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE RESULTS

Kawehno:ke community members have expressed concern about existing street lights that may require maintenance. The community of Kawehno:ke District is responsible for identifying existing street lights in need of repair and reporting the outages to Cornwall Electric.

Delay to respond is because it is unusual for Cornwall Electric to be providing service at night. There is a way for community members to help.

If you notice a street light is out, individuals can identify the pole tag number (see photo example) and report



the issue to Cornwall Electric directly by calling: (613) 932-0123. Doing this will aide in expedited service by Cornwall Electric.

Should you need to contact Department of Infrastructure Housing and Environment about this information, please call 613-575-2250 Ext 1003.

Niawen and we appreciate the community's assistance in identifying street lights in need of repair!

DIHE MAINTENANCE STAFF PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING SESSIONS

On March 18, our Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment's (DIHE) maintenance team participated in a training session on Pandemic Cleaning, Disinfecting, & Decontamination Procedures.

The training was led by MCA's Health & Safety Offi-

cer and given to staff that work in our health facilities. Additional sessions are scheduled to be provided to remaining maintenance employees.

Nia:wen to staff that attended; it is our utmost priority to ensure that MCA buildings are safe and sanitary.



The maintenance team through the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment participated in a training session on cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination.

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

SPRING CLEANING SAFETY TIPS

Spring cleaning is right around the corner and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service would like to remind the community to be aware of some hidden dangers that you may encounter while cleaning in your neighborhood.

1. Hypodermic Needles and Syringes: If you located a syringe or hypodermic needles please do not touch it and contact your local law enforcement agency. Officers are trained to deal with this type of biohazard.



2. Suspicious Powders or Pills: Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid. This drug is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, even a tiny bit can be fatal. Fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral exposure or ingestion, and skin contact. If you observed suspicious powders or pills contact your local law enforcement agency immediately and do not attempt to move or transport these substances.



3. Suspicious bottles containing fluids: Methamphetamine (Meth) is a central nervous system stimulant. It affects chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control. Bottles and cans are now being used as makeshift drug labs to produce meth. These chemicals used to produce meth may cause toxic fumes or even explosions when mixed together.



If you observe something that you believe is suspicious contact your local police service immediately. If you come in contact with any of these dangerous substances please seek medical attention immediately. For more information or training on how to detect suspicious substance please contact your local law enforcement agency or call the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service at (613) 575-2340.





PRE-REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The MCA Dept. of Health is continuing
to schedule community vaccine clinics
for Akwesasronon.

Pre-register now by calling the
Community Health Program!

613-575-2341
ext. 3219 or ext. 3247



#SLOWTHESPREAD • WORKING TOWARDS A COVID-FREE COMMUNITY • #VACCINATEAKWESASNE