

# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



*Office of the Grand Chief*

Seskehkó:wa/September 28, 2021

Wa'tkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

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

It's hard to believe that we are now a few days from the first day of October. The month of September truly flew by, and we are one month into a new school year. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our daily routine and how we interact, socialize, and operate our schools. The Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education has been working hard to ensure all COVID protocols are followed, but our children can now interact with their friends and continue to receive in-school teaching. I want to acknowledge and thank all AMBE staff for their dedication to our children and for doing their part to start our school year. I also want to say Niawen:kowa to all the parents for your continued patience as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Health Canada has now declared us to be in a 4th wave of the pandemic, and we continue to manage the impacts on our community and work to keep you safe. We must all do our part. Reported data has shown that most new positive cases of COVID-19 are unvaccinated individuals. Those members who have questions or are unsure about the vaccine are encouraged to reach out to our doctors or nurse practitioners at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) to discuss the vaccine and its benefits and effects. The MCA continues to offer COVID-19 vaccination by appointment by calling our Community Health Program at 613.575.2348. As your elected Grand Chief, I encourage you to consider getting a vaccine.

Last Thursday, our Council hosted our monthly General Meeting utilizing the Zoom platform. Our agenda included a presentation on the Ontario, Quebec vaccine passport, an update on the COVID variants, quarantining, AMBE COVID-19 protocols, Council 2021-2024 portfolios, September 30th upcoming events, and a presentation by Rogers Communications. In addition, the representatives from Rogers provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed construction of a cell phone tower in the district of Tsi Snaihne. Rogers would build the tower on MCA land. This initiative would increase cell phone coverage for the community. The entire recording of the General Meeting can be found at: [https://youtu.be/FfyArAes\\_20](https://youtu.be/FfyArAes_20). I encourage you to watch or listen to receive the information shared.

In closing, I am attaching my monthly reports for July and August for your update and read. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or any of your District Chiefs to discuss. Have a fantastic month ahead, be safe and Happy Halloween.

Sken:nen/Peace,

Abram Benedict  
Grand Chief

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## **Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report**

### **Ohiarikhó:wa / July 2021**

#### **JULY 5, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING**

- A request for information for the process of accessing a Justice of the Peace for marriage services was discussed and will be followed upon.
- Council was updated on Every Child Matters Unity March and received a briefing from the exchange with the City of Cornwall regarding the recognition of the residential school survivors.
- A briefing on a request for the use of band land was discussed, the requestor will be asked to put the request in writing.
- Council discussed the district recreations re-opening, a letter to the recreation centres will be sent requesting resumption plans.
- A briefing was provided on the upcoming 2021-2024 Council swearing-in.
- Council discussed the need for a riverfront clean-up in Kana:takon, further research will be done on other district waterfronts.
- A request to put a recognition mural for the residential school survivors at the tennis court was discussed, approval was provided.
- The Executive Director provided an overview of the transition plan for Council.

- MCR's passed: Approval of Ontario Child Care Transfer Payment agreement; Approval of Band Transfer (probation completed); Approval of assignment of lease Ross Island; Approval of Interim Cannabis Working Task Group; Approval of (2) business application to AEDF; Acceptance of two resignations letters of two Overseers for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust.

### **JULY 6, 2021, BORDER PARTNERS CALL**

On a monthly basis MCA's Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs, representatives from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and I participated on the monthly call with the Port Directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP). The calls now occur on the first Tuesday of the month on the Zoom platform. These calls are designed for Akwesasne to receive regular updates from the Port Directors on current traffic volumes, any issues with local travellers, and reports of any customs officers that may be in quarantine for any reason. For the monthly update, USCBP and CBSA reported that they had no officers in quarantine for the month of June. The USCBP reported that there has been an increase in travelers from Canada who are being turned around because their travel was into the US was not deemed essential. These meetings also give our local governments the opportunity to provide relevant updates to the CBSA and USCBP representatives.

### **JULY 6, 2021, CHIEFS OF ONTARIO REGIONAL CAUCUS**

On the morning of July 6, 2021, I participated in the Chiefs of Ontario Caucus meeting. Regional Chief Glen Hare welcomed the Chiefs and explained that he has been settling into the position of Regional Chief since his election. The Regional Chief explained that the Chiefs of Ontario office has been working on a number of files, including the

residential school working group with the province and the continuous ongoing response to the pandemic. The Chief of Ontario, Chief Operating Officer and the Acting Director of Policy provided an overview of the upcoming resolutions being presented at the Assembly of First Nation (AFN) Annual Chiefs Assembly scheduled to occur later that day. Chiefs on the Zoom call were able to discuss several of the draft resolutions and agreed that some amendments would be proposed to the drafts. The Chiefs discussed in length a draft resolution directing that the election for the Nation Chief be delayed until December 2021. The Ontario Chiefs agreed that they would not support the delay and would support the Election of a Nation Chief to occur at the AFN meeting.

### **JULY 6,7,8, 2021 ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATION ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

On July 6, 7, 8, 2021 I participated in the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA) on the Zoom platform. National Chief Perry Bellegarde welcomed the delegates and expressed his appreciation for their continued support for him over the last 9 years. Perry highlighted his accomplishments as the National Chief and explained that the Chiefs in the assembly needed to support the next National Chief. The Chief in Assembly hosted a moment of silence for the child who went missing at residential schools. Following the moment of silence, the Chiefs passed a resolution calling on the government to hold individuals responsible for the residential school genocide. The Chiefs in assembly received a presentation on the AFN charter renewals and passed a resolution amendment to the AFN charter. The Chief Electoral Officer for the AFN welcomed all the National Chiefs Candidates to the platform and allowed them to present themselves and their platform. Once all the

candidates presented themselves the Chief Electoral Officer opened the voting polls for the Chiefs to elect the next national Chief. According to the AFN election rules, the successful candidate must achieve 60% of the electoral support to be declared the National Chief. Each candidate must also achieve minimal support or they are eliminated. The voting process took place over two days with Roseanne Archibald being declared the National Chief. During the election process, no other business is conducted by the Chiefs in Assembly. On the third day, several resolutions were presented to the Chiefs for their consideration. Several reports were provided by the various portfolio holders and Council over the course of the last day.

### **JULY 7, 21, 2021 WEEKLY COVID CALL**

On a weekly basis throughout the month of July 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.

### **JULY 7, 2021 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND REPORTING ANALYSIS CENTRE (FINTRAC)**

On July 7, 2021, I hosted a call with a representative from the Financial Transactions and Reporting Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC). I had reached out to the representative to discuss the process for businesses looking to register with FINTRAC to become a money service business. On the call of July 7, 2021, the representative of FINTRAC agree that we would schedule a future call with one of

FINTRAC's managers for registration so that I could learn more about the processes and requirements for registration.

### **JULY 8, 2021, MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING**

On the morning of July 8, 2021, I participated in the planting of a memorial tree in Kana:takon in memory of Chief Darryl Lazore. Members of Chief Lazore's family and the community joined the commemoration event. Chief Darryl Lazore passed away unexpectedly on June 13, 2021.

### **JULY 12, 2021, CKON TETEWATHAREN**

On the morning of July 12, 2021, I participated on a CKON Tetewatharen with representatives of Cornwall and the Counties Future Development Corporation (CFDC). The purpose of the July 12 Tetewatharen was for representatives of the CFDC and myself to explain the Cornwall Harbour consultation process that was currently underway. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall contracted the CFDC to lead the consultation with Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall for the port development. On the Tetewatharen we explained that a survey had been commissioned for the communities to provide feedback on the future use of the harbour. Additional information can be found the [www.theportlands.com](http://www.theportlands.com).

### **JULY 13, 2021, CORNWALL AKWESASNE HARBOUR OWNERS MEETING**

On the afternoon of July 13, 2021, I participated in a special Cornwall Akwesasne Harbour co-owners meeting. The purpose of the meeting on July 13 was for the owners to review and award the tender



contract for the demolition of the warehouse located on the Harbour property. At the meeting of July 13, the project manager presented the owners with all the bids received for the demolition. Subsequently, the contract was awarded to Demo Plus for the removal of the warehouse.

### **JULY 14, 2021, AKWESASNE WELLNESS CENTER**

On the evening of July 14, 2021, I met with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Executive Director, the Director of Community and Social Services (DCSS), the Program Manager for the Family Wellness program and our consultant engineer to discuss the permitting delays at the Akwesasne Healing Center. Over the last several months the MCA has been trying to work with owner of the Cornwall Care Center and the City of Cornwall to receive building permits for the care center and the Akwesasne Healing Center. On the call of July 14, 2021, our consultant engineers provided us with an update on the permit process and the continued delays.

### **JULY 15, 2021, ONTARIO ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS**



On the morning of July 15, 2021, I met the Ontario Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo and the Member of Provincial Parliament Jim McDonnell at the Cornwall Ramada Inn. Following meeting the two representatives I provided Minister Tibollo and MPP McDonnell a driving tour of Kawehno:ke. I explained to Ontario representatives the service delivery changes the MCA faced being a multi-jurisdictional community. Following our tour of Kawehno:ke I met other MCA representatives at the Akwesasne Healing Center in Cornwall. Minister Tibollo and MPP McDonnell were provided with a tour of the healing center followed by a sit-down meeting regarding Akwesasne. During our meeting with Minister Tibollo representative of the community health program explained the licensing issues faced by our health care professionals working in Akwesasne. Representatives of our Community and Social Services explained our efforts to combat addictions and homelessness in and around Akwesasne. Minister Tibollo committed to advocating for Akwesasne and our licensing issues and expressed an interest in working with the Akwesasne Healing Centre. We will continue to follow up with Minister Tibollo and MPP McDonnell.

### **JULY 16, 2021, IROQUOIS CAUCUS CHIEF'S CALL**

On the afternoon of July 16, 2021, I participated in a Zoom call with the other Grand Chiefs and Chiefs of the elected council of the Iroquois Communities. The agenda included traditional hunting grounds and the impacts of the Algonquins of Ontario land claim settlement, the impacts of Ontario Bill C-218 on gaming in First Nations, the ongoing relationship with Whata Mohawks and the role of elected Councils in Indian Residential Schools. Our leadership dialogued on these topics and agreed that we would continue to meet with the entire Iroquois Caucus group to work through these topics and the other files the IC was collectively working on.



## **JULY 19, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING**

- Council discussed a letter received requesting support and assistance on a number of initiatives regarding residential school survivors, including an apology from the elected council. Further research will be conducted in order to formulate a response.
- A briefing was provided on the current process to assist community members with disputes/issues with Bell Canada.
- Council discussed the ongoing power outages and formed a Chiefs committee to examine options and to arrange a meeting with Quebec Hydro to discuss solutions.
- A briefing was provided on the continued development of the tennis courts on Kawehno:ke.
- Council received a briefing on the current arrangements for shared working space and the space limitations amid COVID-19 restrictions.
- A briefing was provided on a recent tour and meeting with the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.
- Council discussed a request from Walpole Island First Nations for elected officials' salary ranges; a decision will be deferred to next week.
- An update was provided on the recent announcement of the warehouse being removed at the Port Lands.
- Council discussed a letter received from the Iroquois Woodland Metis requesting a meeting regarding the Iroquois Indian Head on the Iroquois Water Tower. Further research will be done regarding the Metis Group.
- Council agreed that all members of Council will have BMO signing authority.
- MCR's passed: Approval of funding agreement with Ministry of Health, Child and Youth Health Services; Approval to rescind previous renovation loan (loan declined).

## **JULY 21 & 22, 2021 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On the morning of July 21 & 22 2021, I participated in the ongoing 2021-2024 Council orientation. On July 21, 2021, the Executive Director (ED) for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne provided our Council with an overview of the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law. On July 22, 2022, the MCA ED provided a department-by-department budget overview of the MCA operating budget.

## **JULY 26, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

- The Program Manager for MCA Environment and representatives from Food Cyler presented to Council a proposed pilot project whereby members of Akwesasne will use the Food Cyler to help reduce waste.
- Council discussed the need to examine the placement of guardrails in various locations in Akwesasne. Administration will follow up on existing considerations/studies and report back.
- A briefing was provided on concerns regarding flooding in various parts of Tsi Snaihne; administration will follow up with the department on the status of issuance of RFP for a water level/flood assessment.
- Council agreed that no Council meeting will take place next week in light of the civic holiday.
- A briefing was provided on the status of portfolios and the upcoming selection session.
- MCR's passed: Assignment of lease - Thompson Island, Assignment of lease - Hamilton Island, Approval of new lease - Ross Island, Approval of Fish Identification Nearshore Survey participation, Approval of funding application for Caring About Our Waste Initiative, Approval of signing officers for MCA BMO Canadian account.

## **JULY 23, 2021 BI-WEEKLY MEETING 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.

## **JULY 27, 2021, INTERVIEW WITH CFRA 580**

On the morning of July 27, 2021, I provided an interview on CFRA 580 Ottawa regarding our community's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Matt Harris the morning show producer and I discussed the impacts of the international border on our community. I explained to Matt the challenges of being in two provinces but also the impacts of the two different approaches to the pandemic by Canada and the United States. I explained to Matt that in Akwesasne we enacted several local directives over the course of the pandemic to keep Akwesasne safe. Some of those directives were the community curfew and the travel radius restrictions. I also explained to Matt our vaccine role out in Akwesasne on both sides of the border.

## **JULY 27, 2021, CKON UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY**

On July 27, 2021, I provided the community with an update on CKON 97.3 Radio. Since April 6, 2020, I have been providing regular updates on the radio to the community. The topics I discussed included the

current COVID status in Akwesasne and the surrounding areas, current restrictions, and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to the community, Council 2021-2024 orientation. Following my update and presentation, I took questions from the community regarding a variety of subjects. The entire update can be found at: <https://youtu.be/Um8BPVtiMqw>

### **JULY 28, 29, 30, 2021 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On July 28, 29 & 30 2021, I participated in the ongoing 2021-2024 Council orientation. On July 28, 2021, the Government Support Manager for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne provided our Council with an overview of the current MCA strategic plan. On July 29, 30, 2022, the Program Manager for the MCA Nation program MCA provided background on the Canada Akwesasne self-government process. The Program Manager further provided an overview of the current status of the negotiations and outlined the current outstanding issues between Canada and Akwesasne. Canada's negotiating team joined the Zoom call for a short period of time to introduce themselves to Council.

### **JULY 30, 2021, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ERIC DUNCAN**



On the morning of July 30, 2021, I met with Member of Parliament for Stormont Dundas South Glengarry Eric Duncan for breakfast. Routinely I have met with Eric to update him on our community needs and current challenges. On the morning of July 30, 2021 I discussed the Akwesasne, City of Cornwall harbor project, and the surplus lands landowner by Transport Canada. I also discussed with Eric our continued challenges with Canada Post.



## **Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report**

### **Seskeha / September 2021**

#### **AUGUST 3, 2021, CORNWALL HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

On the morning of August 3, 2021, I attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the demolishing of the warehouse located on the Cornwall Akwesasne Harbour lands. Earlier in July, the owners approved the award of a tender contract to demolish the warehouse and replace it with a temporary green space until the owners and the community determine the use of the property.

#### **AUGUST 3, 2021, BORDER PARTNERS CALL**

On a monthly basis MCA's Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs, representatives from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and I participated on the monthly call with the Port Directors for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP). The calls now occur on the first Tuesday of the month on the Zoom platform. These calls are designed for Akwesasne to receive regular updates from the Port Directors on current traffic volumes, any issues with local travellers, and reports of any customs officers that may be in quarantine for any reason. These meetings also give our local

governments the opportunity to provide relevant updates to the CBSA and USCBP representatives.

### **AUGUST 3, 4, 2021 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On the morning of August 3, 2021, I participated in an orientation session with the Director of Economic Development Kylee Tarbell. The Director explained the programs and services the economic development provides to the community and how they support business within Akwesasne. The Director also provided Council with an overview of the Fiber to the Home project and explained the construction phases. On August 4, 2021, I participated in an orientation session with the Chief of Police Shawn Dulude. Shawn explained the many services that the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) provides to the community of Akwesasne. Members of Council were able to dialogue with Shawn on community policing priorities for future consideration. Shawn also spoke about the numerous partnerships AMPS has with external agencies.

### **August 4, 18, 2021 BI-WEEKLY COVID CALL**

On a bi-weekly basis throughout the month of August 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, active case number, current provincial reopening, and upcoming directives from the province. While discussions may occur at length during these weekly Wednesday meetings, decision-making is reserved for the regular Council Meetings.

### **AUGUST 5, 2021, INTERVIEW WITH ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE**

On the morning of August 5, 2021, I provided an interview to the editor of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute regarding the



Cornwall Akwesasne Harbour project. Carolyn Camilleri the editor asked me questions regarding the history of the port project and asked what Akwesasne's vision was for the harbour. I explained to Carolyn the history involving Transport Canada and our community's desire to work with the City of Cornwall to jointly develop a project for the benefit of both our communities. Carolyn explained to me that our project was very unique and that other communities should learn from our joint partnership.

### **AUGUST 5, 2021, 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On the morning of August 5, 2021, I participated in an in-person orientation / training session on health and safety. Our MCA Health and Safety Officer provided our Council with an overview of section two of the Canada Labor Code and explained the requirement of the employer under the Canada Labor Code. The Health and Safety Officer explained that the Council is ultimately responsible for the organization and the health and safety of the employees of the organization.

### **AUGUST 5, 2021, GENERAL MEETING**

On the evening of August 5, 2021, our Council hosted our first official General Meeting utilizing the Zoom platform. The agenda for the August 5 General Meeting included an introduction of the members of Council to the community followed by a powerpoint presentation from our manager on the upcoming orientation schedule our Council will be undertaken in the coming weeks. The entire recording of the August General Meeting can be found at: [https://youtu.be/2En\\_BVBuHDY](https://youtu.be/2En_BVBuHDY). The next General Meeting will occur on September 23, 2021. Questions in advance can be emailed in advance to [meetings@akwesasne.ca](mailto:meetings@akwesasne.ca) to ensure they are answered at the next meeting. You can also request the General Meeting link by emailing the same email address.

## **AUGUST 6, 20, 2021 BI-WEEKLY MEETING 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, upcoming state, provincial, and federal directives, updates from the monthly border calls, and other COVID-19 related discussions.

## **AUGUST 9, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

- A briefing was provided regarding the past weekend's meet and greet with the Deer Lake First Nation.
- Council agreed that the next regular General Meeting will take place on September 23, 2021. Agenda forthcoming.
- A request to include regular self-care exercises and a moment to reflect was requested and will be incorporated into Council's calendar.
- Council discussed the need to ensure the Council calendar is updated timely and that members of Council are sharing their calendars with staff.
- An update was provided on the annual evaluation for the Executive Director.
- Council discussed the decision to host District and General Meetings on Zoom, Council determined that the decision to have them online will continuously be revisited.
- A briefing was provided on a conflict-of-interest definition in the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law.

- Council discussed a concern with burned-out streetlights, administration will follow up on the concern.
- A briefing was provided on community members' challenges with vehicle registration in Quebec and having to pay taxes.
- MCR's passed: Approval of appointment of community members to Council of Elders; Approval of (3) Council Meeting minutes.

### **AUGUST 10, 2021, 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On the morning of August 10, 2021, I participated in a morning orientation session with the Director of Education for the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE). The director explained to Council the current AMBE strategic plan and explained the future initiatives of AMBE to increase language fluencies in the schools. The director also explained the challenges the pandemic has created for AMBE and the impacts on the students. During the afternoon of August 10, 2021, the Director of the Department of Housing and Infrastructure (DIHE) explained to Council the department's mandate and outlined current and future capital needs of the community.

### **AUGUST 11, 2021, CALL WITH MINISTER BENNETT**

On August 11, 2021, I hosted a follow-up call with Minister Carolyn Bennett to discuss the outstanding issues on the Akwesasne – Canada self-government negotiations. I expressed to Minister Bennett, Akwesasne desires to work through the outstanding issues that have previously been presented to Minister on several occasions. The Minister acknowledged the good work we have been doing with Akwesasne and committed to working through the outstanding issues.

## **AUGUST 11, 2021, CALL WITH QUEBEC ABORIGINAL INITIATIVE FUND**

On the morning of August 11, 2021, I participated in a Zoom call with representatives of the Quebec Government, our Director of Economic Development and portfolio Chief. I had requested a meeting with the Quebec representatives to discuss the Aboriginal Initiative Fund (AIF) that is available to Akwesasne businesses. Over the last several months businesses from Akwesasne have applied to the AIF fund for business expansion money, but Quebec has not been approving any new applications. On the call of August 11, 2021 the Quebec representatives explained to us that a number of previous projects had been approved but the reports had not been submitted resulting in new applications not being considered. On the call of August 11, we discussed with Quebec ensuring that we are continuously communicating on the applications to ensure new applications aren't delayed.

## **August 11, 2021, CALL WITH QUEBEC HYDRO**

On the morning of August 11, 2021, I hosted a call with Marie France Barrette the Aboriginal Liaison for Quebec Hydro. I had previously reached out to Marie France to arrange a phone call. On August 11, 2021, we discussed the Akwesasne file briefly and agreed that a follow-up call with her and the Quebec Hydro engineering team on the Akwesasne file would be set up. The call of August 11 was to exchange information and prepare for a follow-up call with a team from Akwesasne and from Quebec Hydro.

## **AUGUST 11, 2021, BRIEFING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

On August 11, 2021, our Council met with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) legal Counsel Nathan Richards to receive an update from Nathan on a number of legal files he is working on.

Nathan provided an overview and update of the proposed seaway settlement offer, the Akwesasne cannabis regulatory framework, the Akwesasne Harbour Development Corporation and the Akweks:kowa Corporation.

### **August 12, 2021, TRANSPORT CANADA**

On the afternoon of August 12, 2021, I participated in an introduction Zoom call with Marc Ranger-Olivier, Director-General for Transport Canada. Previously Melanie Todd had been the Director General previously and had worked closely with Akwesasne on the proposed Seaway Settlement offer. On the call of August 12, I explained to Marc our relationship with the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) and the challenges created by the SIBC and the toll plaza. I expressed to Marc Akwesasne's desire to find a long-term solution to the SIBC toll plaza. I also explained to Marc that I had sent a request to Minister Alghabra requesting a meeting to discuss the Akwesasne file. Marc committed to follow-up with the Minister's office to discuss the request.

### **AUGUST 12, 2021, CITY OF CORNWALL AKWESASNE HEALING CENTRE**

On the morning of August 12, 2021, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Executive Director, Chief Thompson and I met with a representative of the City of Cornwall to discuss the building permit delays with the Akwesasne Healing Center. We expressed the growing concern with the homeless population in the city and explained that the Akwesasne Healing Centre was being designed to support homeless individuals within the city limits. The city representatives explained the building permit process and explained the ongoing processes underway to approve a building permit for the Akwesasne Healing Centre.

## **AUGUST 12, 2021, 2021-2024 COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

On the afternoon of August 12, 2021, I participated in a morning orientation session with the program manager for the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS). The manager explained the responsibilities of the program and what services are available to the community. The manager explained the leasing function of OVS and land management. OVS is also the administrative support for the Akwesasne Membership Board, which was discussed in detail.

## **AUGUST 16, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

- Council discussed the need to develop a process and protocol for requesting administrative reports and follow-up.
- A briefing was provided on a self-insurance initiative that was previously implemented for Council's consideration.
- Administration informed Council that revisions to the Good Standing Policy will be forthcoming to Council for consideration.
- A briefing was provided on a request for Council to consider reviewing and rescinding where appropriate outdated by-laws.
- Council discussed a request from a group of Akwesasne Residential School Survivors requesting assistance to attend a commemoration for Joey Commanda in Six Nations. Council agreed to provide financial support.
- A briefing was provided on the MCA's program's efforts to assist a homeless member, further, follow-up will be done on additional options.
- Council was briefed on the status of the lease reduction initiatives for Akwesasne leaseholders, Council will discuss the extension or expiry of the initiatives next week.
- A request for the MCA on-call listing was requested and will be distributed to Council.
- Council received a briefing on a complaint and situation on a driveway construction on Akwesasne International Road.

- A request for a presentation from AMPS on their efforts to combat the sale and trafficking of fentanyl and other opioids will be made and will be scheduled.
- Council discussed the current intoxicants by-law and will further discuss during the Justice Department orientation.
- MCR's passed: Approval of authority to Iethinisten:ha Family Wellness to grant occupancy licenses; Approval of Lease Ross Island; Approval of (2) assignment of lease Hamilton Island; Approval of assignment of lease Ross Island; Approval of agreement with Ontario for Gladue aftercare; Approval of application to Zero Emissions Vehicle Awareness Initiative and allocation of MCA contribution to the project; Approval of the issuance of cannabis retail license; Approval of contribution agreement with Canada for the Fibre to the Home Project.

### **AUGUST 16, 2021, FRIENDS OF HOOPLE CREEK**

On the afternoon of August 16, 2021, members of our Council and I met with a representative of Friends of Hoople Creek. Mr. John Sliter presented to our Council the initiative of trying to save Hoople Creek which is located near Ingleside Ontario. John explained that the creek was damaged in 1958 by the creation of the seaway and the walleye population was nearly desecrated. Over the course of several years, the government raised the creek with stones to encourage walleye spawning. OPG has lowered the water levels in the area and Hoople Creek has been severely affected. John Sliter requested the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne support to ask Akwesasne local fisherman to not overfish Hoople creek, and also to provide support to the Friends of Hoople Creek in seeking financial support to protect the creek. Following this meeting, the request for support will be presented to our full Council for consideration.



## **AUGUST 16, 2021, CORNWALL CARE CENTRE**

On the afternoon of August 16, 2021, our Executive Director and our program manager for the Akwesasne Family Wellness Center and our consultant engineer met with the owner of the Cornwall Care Center. Over the last several months the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been working to open the Akwesasne Healing Center but has had permit issues with the City of Cornwall has presented the opening. On August 16, 2021, our MCA team discussed resolving outstanding permit issues with the City of Cornwall.

## **AUGUST 17, 2021 NATURAL GAS EXPANSION**

On the afternoon of August 17, 2021, I met with the Kawehno:ke District Chiefs to discuss the proposed natural gas pipeline expansion. Over the last two years, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been consulting with the community on the proposed project. On the call of August 17, I discussed with the District Chiefs the project and we agreed that we would set up a meeting with the Enbridge representative to discuss the next step and options on the project consultation.

## **AUGUST 23, 2021, COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

- Representatives from the Nation Building Program provided Council with an overview of the draft governance code and the proposed actions to support governance development.
- Council discussed a proposed traffic study for all three districts and agreed that a resolution will be forthcoming to commission the study. Administration will follow up on the feasibility of temporary placement measures on McDonald Road located in the district of Tsi Snaihne to mitigate risks.
- A briefing was provided on the Ontario Residential School Leadership Meetings and the recent request from Akwesasne survivors.

- Council discussed the decision to host General and District Meetings on Zoom rather than in person. Meetings will continue online for now and the decision will be revisited in two weeks.
- A briefing was provided on the current Council initiative to have Island annual lease fees reduced for Akwesasne members. Council determined the initiative will be extended but the annual fee will be adjusted from the current \$250.
- Council discussed a request from the Cornwall Community Museum for a representative to participate on a committee. Portfolio holders will identify a representative and follow-up.
- A request to include financial expenditures on Council reports was discussed. Council will examine the process and viability when regular financial reports are provided.
- Council reviewed the current Council committees and will provide the Government Manager with interest for appointment ratifications.
- A letter of request for Council endorsement on policing concerns in the corridor on Kawehno:ke was discussed and will be forwarded to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission.
- Council discussed the ongoing concern with vehicles parking on the street on Kana:takon. Administration will follow up on signage placement, MCA communications will remind the community of parking safety and the proposed traffic study will review parking considerations.
- An update was provided on the recent Kana:takon Shoreline clean-up initiative and upcoming initiatives.
- Council discussed the continued concern with multijurisdictional police chases and will follow up with the police commission.
- MCR's passed: Approval of (4) amendments to Akwesasne Canada funding agreement; Approval of new lease on Ross Island; Approval of (3) land allotment to community member(s) for loan paid off; Approval of MCA signing authorities BMO US Harris Account.

## **AUGUST 17, 24, 31 ABORIGINAL FINANCIAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (AFOA) TRAINING**

Over the course of three days in August members of our Council participated in training sessions with the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA). The AFOA provided Council with a training session on First Nation Governance and outlined the following: roles and responsibility of Chief, Council and the community, roles and responsibility of administration and the band manager, and best practices in First Nation Governance. Another day's training session included: Community Orientation, Community Assessment, Strategic Planning, Vision and Mission. The AFOA also provided a session on Nation Building. An additional two sessions are scheduled on finance in the month of September.

## **AUGUST 25, 2021, ACC FUTURES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

On the morning of August 25, 2021, I was invited to provide welcoming remarks at the ACC Futures Annual General Meeting. ACC Futures was formerly known as the Cornwall and the Counties Future Development Corporation (CFDC), the name change occurred in June 2021. I thanked the work of ACC Futures in providing a vital service to community businesses, especially during the last year while in a pandemic. I also acknowledge the commitment ACC Futures has provided in the consultation and project management of the Cornwall Akwesasne Harbour Development.

## **AUGUST 26, 2021, CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BOARD MEETING**

On the morning of August 26, 2021, I participated in a special board meeting of the Cornwall Community Hospital board to consider the hospital's staff vaccination policy. The board unanimously adopted the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy at the meeting of August 26, 2021.

### **AUGUST 27, 2021, QUEBEC HYDRO**

Following my brief conversation with Marie France Barrette, the Aboriginal Liaison for Quebec Hydro earlier in the month our Mohawk Council of Akwesasne team met with Quebec Hydro on August 27, 2021. The purpose of this call was to discuss the Akwesasne energy supply and its sustainability and reliability to our community. Over the last several months our Council has received several complaints from the community regarding Quebec Hydro. On the call of August 27, 2021, the Quebec Hydro team presented a technical presentation on the upcoming vegetation mitigation work being planned to protect the hydro lines and mainline upgrades being planned from the transfer station to Akwesasne. Members of our Council expressed frustration on the reliability of the Quebec Hydro and the response time to repair outages. Our MCA technical team will continue to follow up with Quebec Hydro on mitigation work. As well the MCA has identified an internal Chiefs committee on Quebec Hydro and they will continue to meet to discuss strategy.

### **AUGUST 31, 2021, NATIONAL CHIEF**

On the evening of August 31, 2021, I met with the newly elected Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Roseanne Archibald for dinner. I discussed the relationship between Akwesasne and the AFN and our expectations of the AFN. The National Chief and I agreed that a meeting would be set up in Akwesasne with our Council. Under the previous AFN leadership, the relationship between Akwesasne and the AFN has been strained when the National Chief hosted several Mohawk Communities but omitted Akwesasne.

### **AUGUST 31, 2021, CKON UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY**

On August 31, 2021, I provided the community with an update on CKON 97.3 Radio. Since April 6, 2020, I have been providing regular updates on the radio to the community. The topics I discussed

included the current COVID-19 vaccine rollout to the community, vaccine passports and Council orientation. Following my update and presentation, I took questions from the community regarding a variety of subjects. The entire update can be found at: <https://youtu.be/3VFEUVEQOA>