

# ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Issue 12

FREE

Tsiothóhrha/December 2021

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## VACCINATION EFFORTS: MCA HOSTING 3RD DOSE AND AGES 5-11 CLINICS



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is continuing to ensure the community has timely and adequate access to life-saving COVID-19 vaccines. A 3-day vaccine walk-in clinic was held in November on Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) for those wishing to receive their third dose or any dose of Moderna or Pfizer. Vaccine walk-in clinics are scheduled to be held in the Tsi Snaihne district from Dec. 2-3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation. MCA's first vaccine clinic for children ages 5-11 is also scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2 by appointment. Additional dates will be scheduled and announced. Help keep yourself and others safe from COVID-19 and its variants by getting vaccinated. It is safe and effective.

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### GENERAL MEETING

The December General Meeting will be postponed until the new year.

### MCA CLOSURES

All MCA Offices will be closed from December 24-January 2 for the holiday season.

Council wishes everyone a very happy holiday season and Happy New Year!

# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2021-2024

## **Grand Chief**

Abram Benedict

## **Kana:takon District**

Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell

Chief Ryan Jacobs

Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

Chief Tim Thompson

## **Kawehno:ke District**

Chief Vanessa Adams

Chief Jackie Benedict

Chief Edward Roundpoint

Chief Vince Thompson

## **Tsi Snaihne District**

Chief April Adams-Phillips

Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo

Chief JoAnn Swamp

Chief Dwayne Thomas

## **Administration**

Heather Phillips

*Executive Director*

Leslie Papineau

*A/Director,*

*Department of Infrastructure,  
Housing & Environment*

Joyce King

*Director,*

*Akwesasne Justice Department*

Angela Caldwell

*A/Director,*

*Department of  
Community and Social Services*

Amber Montour

*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,*

*Tehotienawakon*

# WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS



She:kon/Wat'kwanonhwera:ton,

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

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

# FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS &  
IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1

The MCA is offering a public tender for 5 vehicles from the MCA Fleet. If you are interested in one of the vehicles, please see page 5.

2

The Community Health Program is now offering vaccines for children ages 5-11. If you would like to learn more about the vaccine, see page 6.

3

The 2021-2022 Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program deadline is Friday, December 10. If you want to see if you qualify, see page 10.

4

The holiday season is usually a joyful time, but with COVID-19, there are new types of stress we may encounter. If you would like tips to avoid the holiday blues, see page 28.

5

The next COVID-19 vaccine clinics are on December 8 and 22. To register, please call Community Health at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 or see page 30 for more information.

# NEWS

## CANADA TO DROP COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENT FOR BORDER CROSSING

Starting November 30, 2021, fully vaccinated Canadians and permanent residents who are visiting the United States (US) for less than 72 hours won't need a COVID-19 PCR test in order to return home.

Akwesasronon were exempt from the testing requirement, and this update applies to non-Akwesasronon.

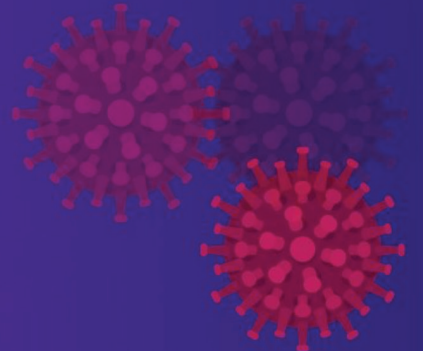
Travelers were responsible for providing a negative PCR test result in order to return back to Canada, which could prove costly for those needing to take the test. The PCR test could range anywhere between \$150-

\$300 per test.

Any traveler crossing into the U.S. will be required to provide their proof of vaccination in order to cross the border.

Travelers who are out of the country of Canada for longer than 72 hours, however, will be required to provide a negative PCR test at the border when returning back to Canada.

# CANADA TO DROP COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENT FOR BORDER CROSSING



# NEWS

## COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PASSING OF MCA COMPTROLLER, RICHARD FOURNIER

It is with a heavy heart that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne announces the sudden passing of longtime finance employee and current comptroller, Richard Fournier.

As Richard begins his journey into the spirit world, MCA extends sincere condolences to his family, work family, friends, and MCA staff. We all share the sorrow of this great loss.

Richard was a dedicated employee with Mohawk Council for nearly 30 years. He was kind, funny and left a positive impact on many who crossed his path throughout his long career in the organization. Although he wasn't a member of Akwesasne, he was well-known and loved both in the organization and throughout the community.

Richard's coworkers remember him as "a dedicated and hardworking employee", "a great mentor to all of us," and "someone who could always make you laugh." During stressful times in finance, he would encourage staff by reminding them, "Everything will be alright." Richard will be greatly missed and never forgotten. We

ask that positive thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family and friends during this difficult time.



## REMINDER: DOMESTIC LANE AT CBSA CORNWALL POE

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to remind the community that the Domestic Lane Pilot Project has been extended until April 2022. The lane was launched through collaboration within the MCA & CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI), intended to improve the border crossing experience. The initial pilot was for a six-month period from November 2020 to April 2021, but due to the U.S.-Canada border being closed to in-

ternational travel, the pilot is being extended to gain accurate measures of the lane's usefulness.

For more information on the Domestic Lane Pilot Project, please visit the [akwesasne.ca](http://akwesasne.ca) website.



# NEWS

## 2021 VEHICLE TENDER NOTICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is offering a public tender for 5 vehicles from the MCA Fleet. They can be seen at the locations listed in the accompanying flyer. The vehicles are available for tender in "As Is Condition".

Vehicle bid forms can be picked up Monday to Friday (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at Admin. 4 or via email by contacting Samantha White at [samantha.white@akwesasne.ca](mailto:samantha.white@akwesasne.ca). Please do not submit completed bids via email.

It will be the successful bidder's responsibility to remove the vehicle from its current location no later than two weeks after sale. The deadline for receipt of bids is Monday, December 20 by 4 p.m. The bids will then be opened by 3-4 finance personnel on Tuesday, December 21 at 10 a.m. and the successful bidder will be notified by phone.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha White (613-575-2250 ext. 2467) or Craig Roundpoint (613-575-2250 ext. 2468).

## 2021 VEHICLE TENDER NOTICE

1

**2007 Chevrolet Silverado**

Color: Grey  
Mileage: 198,810 km  
Condition: Poor  
Located: Sweetgrass Manor, Kanatakon

2

**2007 Freightliner**

Color: Yellow  
Mileage: 208,444 km  
Condition: Fair  
Located: JB Enterprise Repairs (603 Island Rd), Kawehno:ke

3

**2007 Freightliner**

Color: Yellow  
Mileage: 162,780 km  
Condition: Fair  
Located: JB Enterprise Repairs (603 Island Rd), Kawehno:ke

4

**2007 Freightliner**

Color: Yellow  
Mileage: 152,639 km  
Condition: Fair  
Located: JB Enterprise Repairs (603 Island Rd), Kawehno:ke

5

**2005 International**

Color: Yellow  
Mileage: 216,315 km  
Condition: Fair  
Located: JB Enterprise Repairs (603 Island Rd), Kawehno:ke



Vehicle bid forms can be picked up Monday to Friday (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at Admin. 4 or via email by contacting Samantha White at [samantha.white@akwesasne.ca](mailto:samantha.white@akwesasne.ca).

Please **do not** submit completed bids via email.

Bids must be returned sealed to:

**Samantha White**  
MCA Finance Dept.  
Administration #4 Building  
13 First Street, Kanatakon (St. Regis)

It will be the successful bidder's responsibility to remove the vehicle from its current location no later than two weeks after sale. The deadline for receipt of bids is **Monday, December 20 by 4 p.m.** The bids will then be opened by 3-4 finance personnel on Tuesday, December 21 at 10 a.m. and the successful bidder will be notified by phone.

## CONTACT

**Samantha White**  
613-575-2250 ext. 2467

**Craig Roundpoint**  
613-575-2250 ext. 2468



# NEWS

## AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP BOARD ELECTION OFFICIAL RESULTS

The Akwesasne Membership Board held elections on Saturday, November 20, 2021 in the districts of Tsi Snaihne and Kawehno:ke.

No appeals were filed by the deadline of Thursday, November 25, 2021 at 2 p.m.

### OFFICIAL RESULTS:

**Tsi Sniahne 2 year Board Member:** Esther Jock

**Kana:takon 2 year Board Member:** Kristy Lauzon

**Kawehno:ke 2 year Board Member:** Iris Caldwell

Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Leona Benedict, the Chief Electoral Officer at 613-575-2250 ext. 2406.

## HEALTH CANADA ANNOUNCES COVID-19 VACCINE APPROVED FOR AGES 5-11

Health Canada has officially approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11, stating that the vaccine is more than 90 percent effective against the COVID-19 virus.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be delivered in doses one-third the size of those given to adults and children 12 years of age and older. Health Canada authorized the two-dose regimen to be administered three weeks (21 days) apart.

Clinical trials showed the vaccine was 90.7 percent ef-

fective at preventing COVID-19 in children aged 5-11, and that no serious side effects were identified. Health Canada will continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in this age demographic. If any safety concerns are identified, action will be taken immediately.

Pfizer-BioNTech has changed the formulation of the pediatric vaccine slightly, so new vaccines must be delivered to Canada before children can receive the shot. When MCA's Community Health Program has received the doses, vaccine clinics for youth ages 5-11 will be announced.

# HEALTH CANADA ANNOUNCES COVID-19 VACCINE APPROVED FOR AGES 5-11



# NEWS

## COMMUNITY IN QUARANTINE PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is providing the community with the Community in Quarantine Program contact information. The Community in Quarantine Program was established to assist community members who have been directed by a healthcare provider to quarantine due to an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person, or they have tested positive for COVID-19.

To receive a box of essential food supplies, please call 613-936-1548 ext. 1300 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), or 800-480-4208 during after-hours or on weekends. If staff are unavailable at either phone number, please leave a voicemail, and staff will get back to you as soon as possible. Delivery or pick up directions will be provided to you by staff.

### 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.**

**613-575-2130**

**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

## MCA & SRMT RESPOND TO NOVEMBER 8TH U.S. BORDER REOPENING (NOVEMBER 5)

AKWESASNE — With the Massena Port-of-Entry (POE) scheduled to begin allowing non-essential border travel for fully vaccinated individuals beginning on Monday, Kentenhkó:wa/November 8, 2021; the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council have received assurance that Akwesasne residents will be exempted from showing proof of vaccination.

“We have continued to work collaboratively with the Tribal Council and both border agencies to recognize and facilitate border crossing for Akwesasne residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through open and regular dialogue, there is an understanding of each other’s goals and the need for our community members to cross the border -- regardless of vaccination status or test result,” shared MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict.

During the weekly update call between the border agencies and both councils, representatives from the Massena POE and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) indicated that proof of vaccination or a negative test result will not be required for Akwesasne residents. US Customs will require proof of First Nations/Native American status such as a tribal card or Mohawk Nation membership card. Akwesasne residents reporting to CBSA will require the Canadian-issued status card in order to be exempt from the testing and vaccine requirements. The exemption applies only to residents of Akwesasne.

“As a border community, we’re pleased that there continues to be a cooperative relationship and understanding of the unique border travel needs of Akwesasne residents. We’re also pleased that lifting the travel restriction for fully vaccinated individuals will allow Canadian travelers to safely return and support Akwesasne businesses that have felt the economic pain of the border closure,” stated the SRMT Tribal Council.

For non-residents, starting November 8th border travelers arriving at the Massena POE will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, as well as verbally attest to their reason for travel and COVID-19 vaccination status during a border inspection.



# NEWS

## SIBC TOLL PLAZA TO RESUME HANDLING BRIDGE PASSES

The Seaway International Bridge Corporation would like to inform the community that as of November 8, 2021, in coordination with the easing of border restrictions, the SIBC Toll Attendants have resumed verifying bridge passes as per their regular protocol.

SIBC has signage installed near the booth in both directions and a flyer with the same message has been

distributed to travelers and community members informing them of the upcoming change.

In order to continue to protect travelers, community members and SIBC staff, Toll Attendants will continue to practice their COVID-19 sanitation practices that are already in place, as well as wipe down bridge passes before returning them to their customers.

### NOTICE OF UPCOMING CHANGE TO BRIDGE PASS VERIFICATION PROCESS

The Seaway International Bridge pass verification practices will resume upon the easing of COVID-19 international border restrictions on November 8, 2021. Travelers will be required to have their bridge passes manually verified once again.

### AVIS DE CHANGEMENT À VENIR AU PROCESSUS DE VÉRIFICATION DES PASSES DE PONT

Les pratiques de vérification des laissez-passer de la Corporation du Pont International de la Voie Maritime reprendront dès l'assouplissement des restrictions aux frontières internationales COVID-19 le 8 novembre 2021.

Les voyageurs devront à nouveau faire vérifier manuellement leurs passes de pont.

### OHÉN:TON TKARIHOWANÁHTON TENSKATÉNION NE TSI KANA'KEHTSHERATÁKIE TSI NA'TEKIATENATÁTERE, AHSKWÀ:KE AOHIATÓNHSERA TEIAKOIA'TOHESTÁHKHWA KARIHWAHNIRÁ:TON TSI NÍ:IOHT TSI TEIOTOHESTONHÁKHWA

Nè:'e Tsi kana'tsheratákíe Tsi Na'tekiatenatátère  
ahskwà:ke aohiatónhsera teiakoiatohetstákhwa,  
karihwahnirá:ton ronteweiénstha, tentewatáhsawen,  
nó:nen tenkio'serón:nehte tsi kahnhratarineskó:wa, ne  
COVID-19 Na'tekiatenatátère karistatákíe kahnè:'on ne  
Kentenhkó:wa 8 shískare 2021. Tehonatstikahwhenhákies  
entá:on'k enhatihá:wake ne raotihiatónhsera,  
teionhskwiià:ktha, enhshá:wake enskarihwahnirá:ton á:re.

THANK YOU/MERCI/NIÁ:WEN



# NEWS

## REMINDER: 2021-2022 AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program will once again be offered for the upcoming 2021-2022 winter months. The eligibility application process now includes Akwesasronon who are residing within the municipal boundary of the City of Cornwall, Ontario, provided the applicant is a registered member of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne under the Akwesasne Membership Code. The program is also extended to clients of the Community Support Program.

The application process is open to Akwesasronon who reside under the jurisdiction of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, one per household. Applications from last year are now being taken over the phone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You do not have to fill out an application again for this year. If you applied last year, someone from the Community Support Program will be in touch with you soon.

Individuals who applied last year will automatically

be contacted by staff of the Community Support Program to verify your application and to see if you wish for your heating source payment to remain the same, or go to a different provider. If you are a new applicant or have not heard from the Community Support Program, please call our office at (613) 575-2341 ext. 3262 and we will assist you with the application process over the phone.

If you are age 59 and under, the heating assistance amount will be \$500.00 per eligible household. If you are an elder age 60 years and older, the amount will be \$800.00 dollars per eligible household.

Once approved, your name will be provided to your heating source provider and your allotment will be credited to your account.

**The final deadline for applications will be Friday, December 10th, 2021.** There will be no exceptions after the deadline date, as the fuel distribution will commence at that time.

### 2021-2022

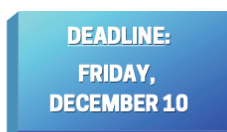
## AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Individuals who applied last year will automatically be contacted by staff of the Community Support Program to verify your application and to see if you wish for your heating source payment to remain the same, or go to a different provider.

If you are a new applicant or have not heard from the Community Support Program, please call our office at

**(613) 575-2341 ext. 3262**

and we will assist you with the application process over the phone.



# NEWS

## WINTER WARMTH SAFETY TIPS!

When the weather is extremely cold and you can't avoid going outside, be sure to protect and cover to avoid unnecessary sickness, frostbite and hypothermia.

### WINTER CLOTHING



### SAFETY TIP

**HAT:** Covers and protects your head and ears.

**SCARF:** Covers and protects your face, neck and nose.

**GLOVES/MITTENS:** Covers and protects your hands.

**JACKET:** Should be water resistant and protects your body and preserves your body heat.

**SOCKS:** Is a first layer of warmth and to protect your feet.

**BOOTS:** Should be water resistant, have dense insulation and thick rubber soles. Boots protect your feet.

**Be a winter buddy!** Please check on your family, friends and neighbors, especially if they are elders and live alone. Please be sure they are safe inside their home.

Have a safe winter! Brought to you by MCA's Emergency Operation Center.

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT



### OCTOBER 8, 2021 EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

- **MCR's passed:** Approval of

Tsiionkwanonhso:te 40-ton Condenser Replacement, Air Conditioner, Approval of AMBE Tuition Contribution Agreement, Approval of OVS Assignment of Lease-Lot2G-9 Pillon Island, Approval of FIN Accept Audit of Consolidated Audit 2020-21, Approval of Executive Services Limit Hiring to Vaccinated Individuals, Approval of AMBE Allowing Executive Director to sign

and accept Indigenous Institutes Mental Health Grant, Approval of Akwesasne Tsiionkwanon-sohthe-lakhihsohtha One Time Funding for Nursing Care ISC, Approval of Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Champlain Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Amending Agreement 2021-2022.

### OCTOBER 18, 2021

- Representatives from Lopii Production provided Council with an overview of their French children's TV show and requested permission to film in Akwesasne. Council determined due to the limited ability to timely plan and have COVID plans approved the request will be declined.
- Council agreed that they will support the district holiday fundraisers and support a tree/wreath etc.
- A briefing was provided on the ongoing effects to open the Akwesasne Healing Centre and the challenges being faced with permit issues for the facility.
- Council agreed that an MCR will be forthcoming on the need to be double vaccinated in order to attend any MCA in-person group meetings and/or participate in

functions at any MCA facility.

- An update was provided on the preparation for a shore side clean-up in Kana:takon.
- Council discussed a recent request for Council to consider changing "Thanksgiving" to Indigenous Peoples Day". After much deliberation Council decided to leave it status quo for the time being.
- A briefing was provided on the plan to have a Council session following the strategic planning session to review and strategize on plan political goals.
- Council discussed the possible impact of economic recovery payments to community support clients and determined that impact payments will not affect the clients.
- A concern with a vacant lot in Kana:takon was discussed. The

community member was informed of the research conducted to validate the claim.

- Council set the General Meeting agenda for October 28, 2021.
- A briefing was provided on the upcoming ground-breaking ceremony with Habitat for Humanity.
- Council discussed and determined that in lieu of Holiday Dinners, the community will be provided with Christmas gift cards.
- **MCR's passed:** Approval of Community Strategy for Cairn Island; Approval of initiation of amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law; Approval of MOU with AMBE and St. Lawrence College; Approval of MOU with AMBE and Algonquin College; Acceptance of funding agreement with ISC for Jordan's Principal; Approval of agreement with LMS system for Iohahi:io; Approval of

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

the issuance of Cannabis Retail license; Approval of establishment and allocation of Akwe-

sasne Community Healing Fund; Approval of Finance Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Approval of

amendments (s) to Akwesasne / Canada funding agreement.

## OCTOBER 25, 2021

- Eric Duncan, Member of Parliament for Stormont-Dundas and South Glengarry introduced himself to Council and provided an overview of his priorities for the region and explained how he would like to assist Akwesasne with our community priorities.
- The Program Manager for the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program provided Council and with an update and overview of the Akwesasne Healing Centre.
- An update and overview were provided from a recent meeting between the Chiefs of Ontario and the Government of Ontario regarding the dispute between the Optometrist of Ontario and Ontario. The Chiefs of Ontario

will continue to advocate for a resolution to the dispute.

- Council discussed a request to expand the eligibility boundaries for the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program. After much debate, Council determined that the boundaries would remain status quo for the 21/22 heating season.
- A concern was raised regarding burned-out street lights in Kana:takon; administration will follow up on repairs.
- Council discussed the need to have more interaction and the possibility of meeting in person on a rotating basis. Logistics and location will be researched and followed upon.
- **MCR's passed:** Approval of

agreement with ACCESS for wage subsidiary; Council directs that all individuals attending public events in an MCA facility must be fully vaccinated; Approval of community members to sit on the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development; Approval of contact with ACCESS for a welding program at Iohahi:io; Approval to place freeze on Cannabis Retail License Intakes effective December for 180 days, at which time it will be reviewed; Approval to retain a lawyer for the Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program.

## NOVEMBER 1, 2021

- A briefing was provided on the ongoing work on the MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative.
- Council discussed possible format changes to the monthly General Meeting to ensure the agenda items are covered. This will be further discussed.
- An overview and offer from Clarkson University to further explore collaboration was discussed and

will be followed up on.

- Council discussed the overlap between the Chiefs Committee on Special Needs and the Special Needs Committee. The Chiefs committee will follow up on clarifying.
- **MCR's passed:** Approval to continue with reduced capacity limits at MCA public facilities; Approval of (4) housing upgrade loan(s); Approval of funding agreement

with ONWA for human trafficking program; Approval of funding agreement with IFN for victim services; Approval for AFWP to proceed with purchase of outreach vehicle; Approval of lease agreement for office space; Acceptance of gesture to utilize a2z Strategic Consulting services for MCA Strategic Plan.

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES



**Portfolio Selections:** Department of Health (DOH); Department of Community, Social Services (DCSS); Public Safety; Economic Development

### Monthly Notables:

- My sincere condolences to the family, co-workers, and friends of the late Richard Fournier, MCA Comptroller- Memorial Ceremony November 23, 2021.
- Attended in-person Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Special Chiefs Assembly—November 16-17, 2021.
- Attended IFN in-person Strategic Planning on November 18, 2021.
- Attended Rotary Club Cornwall Sunrise; presented in-person on Homeless Initiatives on November 10, 2021.
- Participated in Mohawk Council Strategic Planning 2-day in-person session.
- Niawenhko:wa to our Communications team for assisting in the draft of a Community Victim impact Statement in support of Ashley David Thompson. This has

been submitted and accepted by the Court to be read in court by the Crown.

- Attended all Council Meetings, General Meeting and District meetings on virtual platform.

### WORK IN PROGRESS:

#### Public Safety

1. If any street lights are not operational on Kawehno:ke, please make note of the location and pole # and contact either myself 613-363-3891 or Cornwall Electric 613-932-0123 directly.
2. Participated in bi-weekly meeting with MCA/SRMT Leadership, Executive Director and EOC.
3. Participated in MCA/SRMT EOC COVID-19 Update call to provide and receive COVID-19 updates from various stakeholders in Akwesasne including area schools.
4. Participated in Monthly Border Partners Zoom Meeting with SRMT Leadership, US Border and CBSA.
5. Participated in Jay Treaty Border Alliance Session—November 2-3, 2021.
6. Attended Monthly AMPS Police Commission meeting on November 8, 2021. Next meeting is December 13, 2021.

#### Economic Development

1. Met with community members to provide Fibre to the Home Information.

2. If you have not registered for FTTH, please email [ftth@akwesasne.ca](mailto:ftth@akwesasne.ca), provide your street address, contact information phone & email – free modems for first 500 registrants

3. Watch for more presentations and mailers from Akwesasne Economic Development.

4. Was unable to attend Monthly Economic Development Portfolio Meeting on November 15, 2021.

### DCSS Portfolio

1. Participated in First Nations Technical Table – COO Tripartite Technical Table on November 25, 2021.
2. Indigenous Leadership Forum – Residential School meetings (5).
3. IFN Dept. of Social Services Representative.
4. Akwesasne Healing Centre remains unopened due to permitting issues.
5. Attended Zoom meeting for Community Support Program Policy and Procedures November 10, 2021.
6. Special Needs 5-year strategic plan completed and presented to Council on November 22, 2021.

### Department of Health

1. Participated in PSA via CKON radio for upcoming third dose COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Please call MCA Community Health if you

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES

choose to receive your third dose COVID-19 vaccine at 613-575-2341.

2. Attended Municipal and First Responders Weekly Briefing meetings – COVID-19 updates

### **CBSA Internal Working Group:**

1. Received and shared border crossing updates and requirements to ensure Akwesasronon are not adversely affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

2. Domestic Lane Pilot Project continues. Reminder to follow domestic lane rules to ensure it is effective for Akwesasronon.

3. Collaboration to improve border crossing experiences at the Port

of Cornwall with respect for our Akwesasne community members. Currently scheduling meetings to continue the work.

### **Collaborative Opportunities:**

1. Invited to participate on the topic of homelessness and effects on Akwesasronon for the Knox St Paul's United Church and Cornwall Interfaith Partnerships on December 10, 2021.

2. Participating in MCA Strategic Planning Steering Committee with a2z Strategic Consulting.

3. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Healing Fund Review held on November 19, 2021.

### **Financial Status/Lobbying Progress**

1. Ongoing permit issues for Akwesasne Care Centre Programs and Services.

2. Urgent need for Clinic Space for our Doctors/Nurses in Akwesasne- Kawehno:ke and Tsi Snaihne.

3. Need for Akwesasne Healing Centre to become open and operational before cold weather months.

4. Options for Homeless Akwesasronon in Cornwall/Akwesasne.

If you have any specific questions from my report or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-363-3891 or [chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca).

MCA IS HIRING

# JOIN OUR TEAM

TO VIEW THE POSTINGS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.AKWESASNE.CA/EMPLOYMENT](http://WWW.AKWESASNE.CA/EMPLOYMENT).



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF JACKIE BENEDICT UPDATES



**Portfolio:** DCSS, Government Secretariate, Economic Development, Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE).

### Monthly Notables:

- Meeting with SIBC regarding a

- pilot project with a bridge pass that can be scanned by the user.
- Follow-up site visit at the toll booth to see the new bridge pass project.
- Introductory meeting with Marc Miller- Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Kawehno:ke district chiefs, and several elders
- Kawehno:ke District meeting held via ZOOM in September.
- Traditional meal giveaway done at the arena for Orange Shirt Day.

### Council Notables:

- Meeting with City of Cornwall officials regarding the delayed

opening of the Akwesasne Healing Centre at the former General Hospital site.

- Council General Meeting held via ZOOM in September 2021.
- DCSS portfolio update with DCSS staff and outgoing Director.

### Questions, Concerns and Comments (Action Items)

- Request for a residency letter/assistance with the application for residency letter.
- Assistance given to a community member regarding the Indian Day School Settlement.

## TOGETHER WE CAN REACH



## SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINE APPOINTMENT TODAY!



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL UPDATES



**Portfolio:** Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS); Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE); Government Secretariate, Justice; Economic Development; Entewatatha:wi (Nation Building)

### MONTHLY NOTABLES:

- Attended Monday Council Meeting, General Meeting, & District Meeting all via Zoom platform.
- November 8 : Council held the first in-person session in new boardroom, going forward they will be in person, unless COVID numbers increase. Unfortunately, I was out sick and missed this first in person meeting.
- A2Z Consultants provided Strategic Planning Session held at Ramada Inn, on November 3 & 4. Very comprehensive approach for Strategic Planning Session, awesome representation and completed by organization representatives. Identify Portrait of current state of the organization, key relationships,

assess services/governance practices and began identifying emerging priorities & Vision Phase of change for MCA. Looking forward to our next session to see the strategic work that has been done and a big niawenhko:wa to AMBE for sharing their Strategic Plan and all the hard work and efforts their team put in to make it such a huge success.

- Participated in DCSS Interviews for Director.
- Forwarded information from ARRO to St. Regis Recreation regarding beach project.
- We were happy to have a community member participate in our Kana:takon District meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for November 22 at 6pm. To receive the link to any of the virtual meetings, please email [meetings@akwesasne.ca](mailto:meetings@akwesasne.ca) (and specify which district meeting you would like to attend). If you have any questions, please contact Mohawk Government at 613-575-2250.
- COVID Vaccine Walk-In Clinics are being held on December 2-4 at the Snye Recreation.
- Nia:wen to Simon McLinden, Project Manager ACC Futuresf or taking the time to review the Port Lands file, a great opportunity to get to know more about project and the team.
- Participated in First Nations & Inuit Food Securities Quebec Fo-

rum via Zoom - November 16, 17, 18 from 9am to 12pm.

### WORK IN PROGRESS:

#### Finance Committee

- First Introduction meeting, chaired meeting along with Chief Julie Phillips.
- General Meeting discussion for Audit presentation.
- Variance Reporting, not up yet.
- Audit takes the longest from RFP start-to-finish.
- Need to get AFAL up and running as it's a living document.
- Selection of Finance Committee members scheduled for November 10.
- Finance meeting scheduled for the first Thursday of month.
- Wage increase discussion for Ontario.
- Ongoing position employment development; reach out to Trust Committee.
- Finance Committee Meeting: Review of applicants for the Finance Committee, no applicants applied, therefore it will go back out to the community on an urgent need to get this filled.
- Information provided on a previous applicant that didn't get to the table, will review
- Discussion on wording and presentation in all 3 districts to have it posted

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL

- Discussion on reports and timelines that we are not meeting due to the inability to fill these positions, however the work is still ongoing, with Audit, variance reports etc.

### Homelessness Committee

- Follow up on Richelieu Bldg in Cornwall—are we interested or not?
- 2nd Street Site is not an acceptable building; take off the table for future discussions.
- Parisian Manor update; condition report to be done by EVB Engineering firm.
- Update on Akwesasne Healing Centre and expressed immediate need as well as issues ongoing with Fire Chief report.
- We all agree we need to focus on a building that services our needs for homelessness issue, mental health and victims services; cost effectiveness of any building that we look at needs to be considered.
- What are the true numbers; Chief Vanessa updated on the United Way presentation she attended.
- Discussion on the need to put the funding aside for movement on this project.

### Governance Committee:

- Initial meeting with Chiefs sitting on this file, working as well with Mohawk Gov't staff.
- Review of previous meet-

ing minutes, review of Governance Committee workplan revisions.

- Additions to areas of concerns, provide a survey to Council regarding the orientation process.
- Roberts Rules of Orders, Internal Governing Practices, Reports from Council.
- Next meeting scheduled for December 3 & 10.

### Municipal Covid Updates EOHU Bi Weekly meeting:

- Dr. Paul provided statistics on where we are with the province in terms of COVID-19.
- ICU numbers are coming down.
- 1.4% of cases gone down.
- Children continue to climb in numbers as they're unvaccinated, schools are doing well; once vaccination gets rolled out it will continue to protect the vulnerable.
- Overall vaccination rates at 91.5%.
- 3rd doses planned accordingly, you will see the roll out soon.
- Pediatric vaccines should be approved by early next week, hope to have them in the arms of children by end of November.
- Resumption of Services—November 15, timeline being watched; we need continued vaccination rates to increase, we need compliance (wear masks) at least until late spring.

- We can't jump the gun and not be compliant as other countries have suffered major setbacks from doing so.

- Getting the children vaccinated is major priority.
- Information is readily available on the EOHU website for any statistics community may want to read up on.

### Governance Secretariate:

- Initial first scheduled meeting with the team members.
- Reporting update presented by Aboriginal Rights & Research Office (ARRO).
- Active Land Claims, Claims Research, Addition to Reserve.
- Education, Training update.
- Indian Day School Claims.
- Archeological & Technical Support.
- ARRO Admin & Research.
- Negotiations ongoing, Official Canada Talks, Legal & Land.
- OPG Monthly updates provided from Natalie Jacobs.

### Ontario Power Generation:

- Partnership with MCA & OPG Meeting:
- Review of Agenda, approval of previous minutes from September 14, 2021.
  - Review of outstanding Action Items: share text from international Lake Ontario river board, meeting

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL

with Kylee Tarbell invite, develop capacity list, Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club (ABGC) request completed, Akwesasne Tour of Native North American Travelling College (NNATC).

- POM Terms of Reference review.
- POM Team meeting dates.
- Akwesasne & OPG Community Updates.
- Employment & Contracting update.
- Capacity Building Funding Activity.
- OPG Reconciliation Action Plan discussion.

### **Oversight Committee Working Task Group:**

- Introduction to team members and their priorities-Connie Lazore, Justice Coordinator, Committee Members: Theresa Thompson, Lisa Francis Benedict, Jeannine Hall.
- Review of Terms of Reference, Law Development Process; Community member process selection.
- Discussion on Laws: Cannabis, Elections & Emergency Response.
- Review of Laws that need repeal/amendments.
- A lot of good discussions on the processes, where they are at, what direction will be for future meetings including designating members to work on specific laws to move them along .

- Cindy /Julie/Lisa- Review of Cannabis Law File.
- Sarah/Jeanine - Review of Emergency Response Law.
- Election Law – Council cannot sit on review.
- Meeting dates to be scheduled bi-weekly after hours due to community members working schedule.

### **Oversight Committee Working Task Group:**

- Review of previous meeting held on November 3.
- Review of Oversight Committee Procedural Guidelines.
- All amendments to the Procedural Guidelines will be presented at next scheduled meeting for approval.
- Discussion on the current working task groups and dates and times made available by the members to commit to getting the needed laws reviewed.
- Introduction of Review of community laws that require amendments presented.

### **DCSS Portfolio:**

- Review of Policy as presented by Program Manager Daniel Bruyere.
- Background information presented on how it came to be and the movement to have one cohesive policy following Ontario guidelines.

- Jessica Nadjiwan Smith did a comprehensive overhaul and review of the entire document. It's one of the best plans she has seen, much of the work has been in limbo due to COVID.

- Process that needs to follow for MCR once its ready for submission and approval.
- Discussion on disability cases and movement for change on getting back.
- The need to move and set up meetings to review the system that has been offered in place, stop by and see what's happening in house.
- ED recommended that we stop in and review the documents in its entirety to get a better understanding of it all.

### **DIHE: -Kanatakon Road Construction Project:**

- Meeting update with Lazore Construction; DIHE A/Director Leslie Papineau and Daryl Seymour Project Manager on progress of construction and any ongoing issues for the residents.
- Any ongoing issues may be directed to Supervisor Mike Gray (613-930-3295).
- Phase near completion; paving scheduled for week of November 15.
- Communication will go out to residents on opening of the roadway and to use caution as lines are

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL

not on pavement.

### **DIHE: Environment Portfolio:**

- Shaping the Shift-Climate Change in Akwesasne: how well prepared are we?
- St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Science- 3 year agreement ending.
- River Rapport, FINS, Fish Contaminates, River Symposium, Climate Leaders.
- Clarkson: updates on all projects.
- River Environment and Sensor Observation, Talking Water, Training programs, advisory group, fish consumption, indigenous knowledge & listening sessions
- The Healing Place - tree planting, Shoreline Project-,TsiSnaihne Marsh Fires, Enironmental Assessments, Process, Parks , Canada Public Advisory, Hydro Quebec, Civic Address, Quebec Potential Regional Assessment , Consultation, Fibre to the homes, KRA Road Drainage, Canadian Cost Guard, Organizing urban Transects for a Sustainable transformation of Economic Partnerships, International Secretariate for water, Flood project, Maitland Tower, Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Food Cyler Project, American Eel Project, Emergency Measures, Akwesasne Wastewater Surveillance.
- Ongoing inhouse activities:

lab renovations, job postings, funding opportunities, Environmental Assessment officers' updates, Marine Liaison Officer, Conservation Officer, GIS Technician, Tech Support, Enivronmental Project Coordinator, Field Technicians & Projects Aides ( for more detailed information please request a copy of report).

- Lots of excellent work being done by Abraham and his staff throughout the community.
- Nia:wen and great job Environment!

### **DIHE: Housing Authority:**

- Meeting scheduled November 24. An update will be provided in next month's reporting

### **Economic Development:**

- Fibre to the homes: update provided in each district, backbone, cable laid, progress and any ongoing issues, project moving along, percentage of homes that have signed up, there is still time please reach out and contact the program if you are interested.
- Funding Update: provided an update on funds that they have received.
- Arena Update: Issue of theft of trees was discussed as this is part of a project that they had funding. Ongoing investigation; anyone having information please contact

AMPS.

- Delay with machinery caused the delay of ice being put on surface at Arena.
- Installation of Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles ongoing.
- Other areas of economic development discussed: sawmill, bus transportation system, food distribution, sustainability of own food.

### **Entewatatha:wi Self Government Agreement:**

- Briefing notes that have been put forward for review, should be ready soon.
- Discussion on MCR process, movement, sponsoring, and presenting to Council.
- The Governance Code work is done; only requirement that Canada said is that we have a foundation and MCA does have a strong foundation.
- They have done the technical work and would like to see this go forward. It has been years since it has moved forward.
- Funding was provided to Justice to work on three laws. These have not been completed.
- Discussed that they are currently back on the table as they have a new Justice Coordinator, & Oversight Committee has been actively working on these files.
- Common Assault: Section 107, Canada stopped appointing judges,

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL

the only Justice we currently have is Joyce King, appointed, no one else.

- Discussion on AMPS. They spent years reviewing Chapter 9 for example, power and delegation.
- We are not giving up anything with ESGA; all law making will stay here as it has always been done.

### **Nation Building- Preparation Meeting for Negotiation at Canada Table:**

- Peter Garrow, PM and his team provided us with briefing note documents for us to review, so we are aware the past history and current needs to move forward.
- Discussion on the process on how the Negotiation table works and what the expectations are when we meet with Canada.
- How we want to work collaboratively with the Justice program so we are all on the same page for any reviews that are ongoing.
- Review of the ESGA. Read over again and again and understand the implications to the com-

munity of Akwesasne.

### **Collaborative Opportunities:**

- MCA/SRMT COVID Updates Bi-weekly Meetings.
- All council provided updates on programs within the organization.
- EOC provided overall numbers within the territory and the EOHU region.
- Video training, rapid testing and Managers will be trained on providing the test.
- Reported that there were not too many cars at US Customs with opening of border, they need to attest that they were vaccinated.
- It's a long process for exemption, takes up to an hour causing delays as officers are pulled aside to do paperwork.
- 72 hr testing results are taking longer than expected; travellers need to be aware of this.
- November 15 changes most likely will not go into effect for EOHU due to the recent spike in

cases.

- Reginas Jacobs (EOC) is working on getting more signage for buildings that require it to get them back open as necessary.
- We continue to meet on a biweekly basis on the COVID response and update with MCA/ST. Regis Mohawk Tribe on active cases, mutual responses, vaccination rates, variants, vaccine clinics and update on overall numbers.
- Lots of opportunities for clinics within each of the organizations for community members to receive flu and Covid vaccinations.

### **Financial Status/Lobbying Progress:**

- Approved the draft Audit to be presented at next General Meeting
- Assist Finance Team with getting EFT, checks processed at on a weekly basis.
- No new updates on the Akwesasne Healing Centre; still waiting for permit.

STAY UPDATED ON ALL THINGS  
AKWESASNE



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES



**Monthly Report:** September- November 2021

**Portfolio:** Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment; OVS; Economic Development

**Selected Committees:** Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure; Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Task Group; Property Acquisition Team (PAT); the Youth and Elders Cultural Committee.

- On September 29th, Chief and Council met with Enbridge to renew natural gas discussions, next Steps and one key point was community questions asked need to be answered going forward.
- Also on September 29th was the Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Group (ICHWG); this meeting was to reconnect after elections, items of discussions were hunter's safety, hunting symposium in Kahnawake in 2017, topics for the hunting summit were respect responsibility and restrain. The IC strategy needs to occur to

revisit why the IC was formed in the first place.

- Been attending the COVID-19 Updates with the EOC.
- Been attending the bi-weekly meetings between MCA and SRMT.
- Was in contact with community members that were in COVID isolation, forwarded the contact information on the Community in Quarantine Program.
- Council met with a2z Stephanie Vucko to discuss Strategic Planning and next steps.
- Introduction meeting with Ontario Ministry of Transportation.
- Participated in the Fiber to the Home update meeting as the project has now moved to Kawehno:ke (project leads are Kylee Tarbell and Rhonda Adams; Ontario East is the consultant).
- Entewatathawi Portfolio Meeting was held; the main topic of discussion was the delegation of jurisdiction.
- Meeting on October 6th with MTO- Harbor Road and Hamilton Island Bridge were topics of discussion and MTO was to investigate funding initiatives and we questioned to have access to increase annual funding.
- Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure: there was a document shared with the Ontario First Nations on Reserve Hous-

ing and Infrastructure Needs Report.

- I participated in the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Housing Sovereignty Summit via zoom. Topics of discussion were land expansion in first nations communities or territories, infrastructure on First Nations Territory are aging out, land is most important for First Nations, Health Homes concept approach via grants and self-sustainable homes. The question asked is "would ISC be willing to fund?" There was also talks on the inclusion of the Quebec regional ISC representative involvement being that 2/3 of our territory is in Quebec. Lot servicing dollars is key before any housing development can occur. And multi arrangements with CMHC and ISC. We should be allowed to defer funding to next construction year if funding is approved late in that year. We also had Akwesasronon engineer Jeremiah Point as a key note speaker.
- Participated in an MTO Regional Table meeting and it was a presentation on the driver's examination service (meaning permits and drive tests) discussion to have Akwesasne-based drivers program as a pilot and we asked MTO if there was a willingness to add border crossing into their curriculum to those in

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES

Akwesasne and Cornwall areas. MTO is implementing the First Nations language to their class three knowledge test for first nations drivers. Knowledge test language implemented so far is Ojibway, Ogi-Cree and Cree.

- Participated in the General Meeting held on October 28, 2021.
- Entewatathawi Portfolio- renewing our negotiation sessions with Canada on Nation Building
- Assisted with Fiber to the Home concerns brought forth by Community Members.

- ICHWG met via zoom again- this was addressing fall hunting and the issues that arise this past hunting season with hunters from Akwesasne, and the harassment with MNR on stopping us from our right to harvest. Shipment letters were discussed acknowledging hunters in their regions and transporting to their home communities. Good discussion was had on the abuse of our hunters and the take what you need concept and not getting into overkills.

- I attended the Chief and Council weekly meetings.
- I was out on bereavement due to the loss of my aunt.
- A member from IFN came and briefed council on their role.
- Participated in Environment Portfolio Meetings, topics of discussion were environment program updates, monthly meeting coordination's, and priority discussion for the coming year.



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

**For the latest COVID-19 news visit  
[www.akwesasne.ca](http://www.akwesasne.ca)**

# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

## FACEBOOK STATS



### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in November

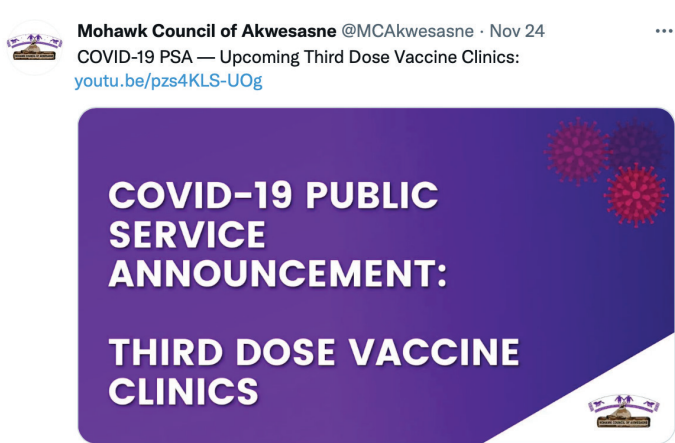
1. Council Announces Passing of MCA Comptroller, Richard Fournier
2. Wholistic Health & Wellness Welcomes New Staff
3. MCA Welcomes New Director of Health
4. Nurse Practitioner Week
5. Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Prepares for Crime Prevention Week

### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in November

1. Council Announces Passing of MCA Comptroller, Richard Fournier — 10,500 reached
2. Wholistic Health & Wellness Welcomes New Staff — 4,232 reached
3. Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Prepare for Crime Prevention Week — 4,138 reached
4. Benefit Raffle for Mel Jacobs, Joe Herne & Family — 4,072 reached
5. MCA Reports Sixteen New Positive Cases of COVID-19 — 3,547 reached

## TWITTER STATS

### Top Tweet in November



## YOUTUBE STATS



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

1. CKON & FB Live Show: Third Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine
2. Proxim Pharmacy Akwesasne: Blister Packs for Your Medication
3. COVID-19 PSA: Upcoming Third Dose Clinics

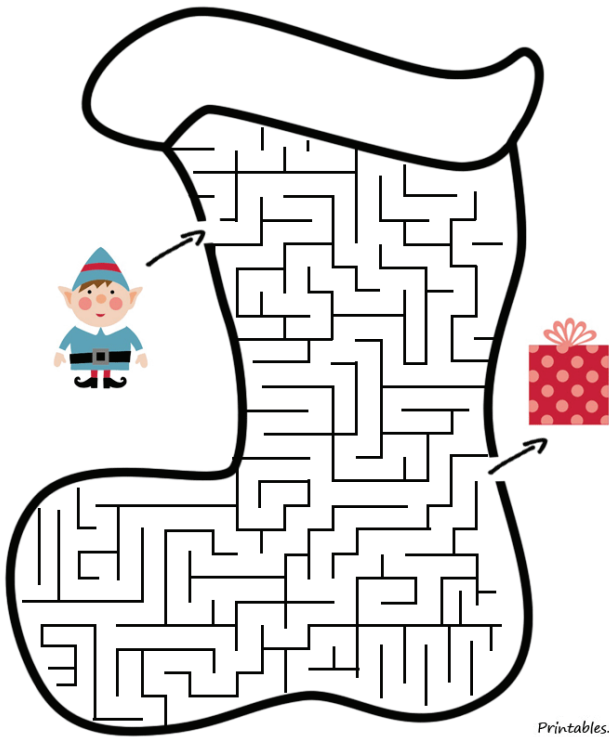
# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## COLOUR ME!



## SIMPLY A-MAZE-ING

Help the elf get to the presents!



## YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Why did Santa have to go to the hospital?

Because of his poor elf.



What do donkeys send out near Christmas?

Mule-tide greetings.



What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot?

"Get out of my face."



Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

They're always dropping their needles.



I got a Christmas card full of rice in the post today.

"I think it was from my Uncle Ben."



Why did the red-nosed reindeer help the old lady cross the road?

It would have been Rudolph him not to.



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC STAFF RETURNING TO CLINIC BUILDING

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Wholistic Health & Wellness Program is informing the community that effective Monday, November 22, 2021, the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC) staff will be returning to the medical clinic building.

When arriving for appointments at the KMC building, please wait in your vehicle until staff has informed you to enter the facility. Any information or paperwork that needs to be picked up can be done so at the pick-up window, or via curbside service.

For any questions, or to schedule an appointment with the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic team, please call 613-932-5808. We appreciate the community's patience and understanding during this time.

## UPCOMING COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

If you are interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, the Community Health Program has the following clinics scheduled:

**DECEMBER 8, 2021 • 10AM – 12PM**

**PFIZER (AGES 12+)**

**BY APPOINTMENT**

**KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO HEALTH FACILITY**

**DECEMBER 22, 2021 • 10AM – 12PM**

**MODERNA (AGES 18+)**

**BY APPOINTMENT**

**KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO HEALTH FACILITY**

*If you have any questions, please contact the Community Health Program at 613-575-2341.*



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## MCA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to welcome Amber Montour as the new Director of Health. The Department of Health includes the Community Health Program (Diabetes Services, Healthy Babies, etc.), the Wholistic Health Program (medical clinics, addiction services, traditional medicine, mental health), Non-Insured Health Benefits, Home Care/Home Support and two long-term care facilities.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health has been vital in providing services, support and information to the community. The new director will be responsible for ensuring the continuation of these services as well as implementing improvements and processes that will provide enhanced services to the community.

"We wish to welcome Ms. Montour into the position and wish her success in this important endeavor," said Grand Chief Abram Benedict. "We are confident that Ms. Montour's experience in the Department of Health will serve the community well and we appreciate her willingness to take on the responsibility."

Ms. Montour was most recently the MCA Department

of Health's Wholistic Health & Wellness program manager where she was responsible for securing medical clinic doctors, nurses, mental health and additions counselors and traditional medicine staff. She is a Certified First Nations Health Manager, with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies.

"I acknowledge that this past year has been a hardship and extend appreciation for our essential workers and their families," Ms. Montour said. "I send my condolences to those who have lost loved ones and would like to offer our support for healing & safe spaces for dialogue.

"The Department of Health provides community-lead services from first steps to end of life, with access to culturally competent and trauma-informed care. I work alongside an exemplary team of professionals that dedicate their time and skills to the creation of spaces specific to good health.

"Health and wellness in Akwesasne is our inherent responsibility and right. I love our community and I am excited to amplify our collective voices to create change together."



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## TIPS TO AVOID THE HOLIDAY BLUES

The holiday season usually is a joyful time. Many Akwesasne families look forward to gathering with relatives and friends, exchanging gifts, and celebrating traditions. In a normal year, the holidays can even be a bit stressful.

However, the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic and social distancing have brought a new kind of stress to the holiday season. Worries and anxiety about the increase in cases of COVID-19 and its impact can be overwhelming, especially at what is supposed to be a “happy” time of year. Although the past year is very different than any we have experienced before, it is possible to find some peace and even joy during this time.

Our heightened anticipation and excitement for our upcoming HOLIDAY SEASON may turn into feelings and levels of depression, commonly called THE HOLIDAY BLUES.

Symptoms of THE HOLIDAY BLUES can include headaches, insomnia, uneasiness, anxiety, sadness, loneliness, and unnecessary conflict with family and friends. Part of what happens in the holiday season, in terms of mood changes and anxiety, may occur because of the stressfulness of holiday events. Overdrinking, overeating, and fatigue may also contribute to THE HOLIDAY BLUES becoming an unwelcome holiday guest.

The demands of the season are many: shopping, cooking, travel, houseguests, family reunions, office parties, more shopping and extra financial burden.

Here are some tools to help you prevent or manage THE HOLIDAY BLUES. We hope these tips help you and your loved ones enjoy the holiday season.



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## TIPS TO AVOID THE HOLIDAY BLUES

1. Be reasonable & realistic with your schedule. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like how it was pre-pandemic. Even though your holiday plans may look and feel different again this year, find creative ways to celebrate.
2. Decide upon your priorities and stick to them. Organize your time wisely. Do not overbook yourself into a state of exhaustion - this can make us more cranky & irritable.
3. Remember, no matter what our plans, the holidays do not automatically take away feelings of aloneness, sadness, frustration, anger, and fear.
4. Set aside grievances and differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.
5. Use technology to your advantage. FaceTime or ZOOM with family and friends to keep family rituals going while staying within our social bubbles. Set a date and time for everyone to connect virtually to make cookies together, decorate the tree, say a prayer, have a meal, or open presents together.



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# TIPS TO AVOID THE HOLIDAY BLUES

6. Feeling like you are under scheduled or under planned for the holidays? Volunteer to serve at holiday community events. Work with any number of groups that help underprivileged or hospitalized children at the holidays. There are many, many opportunities for doing community service. No one can be depressed when they are helping out their community.

7. Plan unstructured, low-cost fun holiday activities: free community events, window-shopping, or viewing of holiday decorations. Drive around to see people's Christmas lighting on their homes, take a trip to the countryside, etc.--the opportunities are endless.

8. If you drink, do not let the holidays become a reason for over-indulging and hangovers. This will exacerbate your depression and anxiety. Contrary to popular opinion, alcohol is a depressant.

9. Give yourself a break; create time for yourself to do the things YOU love and need to do for your physical and mental wellness: aerobic exercise, yoga, massage, spiritual practices, taking long fast walks or any activity that calms you down and gives you a better perspective on what is important in your life.

10. Most of all, if you find yourself feeling blue just remember: The sky is partly sunny, and the glass is half full. The power is yours. Revel in the things you are most grateful for, and pride yourself in having courage to face each new day with hope and determination.



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## THE POSITIVITY PLEDGE



Today I awaken as my best self, filled with focus  
and resolve. I will rise above my challenges.

**For more information regarding THE HOLIDAY BLUES, please contact the  
Wholistic Health & Wellness Program at (613) 575 -2341 Ext. 3115**



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER LIST

### **WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM**

613-5752341 ext. 3115

### **AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM**

613-937-4322 (24 hour line)

### **AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE**

613-575-2000

### **AKWESASNE MOHAWK AMBULANCE**

613-575-2000

### **SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL POLICE**

518-358-9200

### **SAINT REGIS MOHAWK MENTAL HEALTH**

518-358-3145 (direct line)

### **CORNWALL HOSPITAL WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT**

613-938-8506

### **NORTHSTAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Citizens Advocates

209 Park St. Malone, NY 12953

518-483-3261

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

### **MASSENA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

1 Hospital Drive Massena, NY 13662

315-764-1711

### **CLAXTON HEPBURN MEDICAL CENTER**

214 King St. Ogdensburg, NY 13669

### **ST. LAWRENCE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER**

1 Chimney Drive Ogdensburg, NY 13669

315-541-2001

### **CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PHYSICIANS HOSPITAL**

75 Beekman St. Plattsburgh, NY 12901

### **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

### **FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HOPE FOR WELLNESS HELP LINE**

1-855-242-3310

### **KIDS HELPLINE**

1-800-668-6868

### **MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE**

1-866-996-0991



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## ADDICTIONS SERVICES

As a community, we are all affected by addictions in their many forms. The more information we have, the more we can support our friends, our family, and ourselves.

This year, National Addictions Awareness Week was held from November 21-27, 2021. National Addictions Awareness Week is an opportunity to learn about what addiction is, how it affects all of us, how we can help prevent substance abuse harm, and the different forms of treatment and recovery.

This year's theme was "Driving Change Together,"

which puts the focus on the efforts and actions of individuals. It's about making a choice to play a part in reducing the stigma surrounding substance use and people who use substances and committing to one change.

Recovery is possible and you don't have to do it alone. Our addictions services team is here for you. Let us help you on your journey.

For more information, please contact the MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness Program's Addictions Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.



**Tekanikonrahwa:kon**  
Wholistic Health & Wellness

### CONTACT WHW



**Addictions Services**  
613-575-2341 ext. 3115



[wholistichealth@akwesasne.ca](mailto:wholistichealth@akwesasne.ca)



## MEET THE TEAM



**Bonnie Bradley**

*Clinical Supervisor & Acting Program Manager (WHW)*



**Joey David**

*Cultural Addictions Specialist*



**Sierra Johnson-Sunday**

*Addictions Case Manager*

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The MCA Wholistic Health & Wellness Program is pleased to announce the arrival of a new staff member. We would like to welcome Wathahonni Mitchell, who has joined the WHW Prevention Unit as the new Prevention Specialist.

Ms. Mitchell brings a wealth of expertise in supporting the healing, wellbeing, and strengthening of our

families & adolescents through a variety of program services. She will be available to provide unique prevention work in our local schools and for all community members.

To speak to Wathahonni or to learn more about our prevention services, please contact the Wholistic Health & Wellness Program at 613-575-2341.



**WATHAHONNI MITCHELL**

*PREVENTION SPECIALIST, WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM*

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO PROVIDE COVID-19 TESTING FOR TRAVEL PURPOSES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Community Health Program (CHP) is notifying the community that the program is temporarily unable to conduct COVID-19 testing for leisure travel or border-crossing purposes. As of November 15, 2021, the COVID-19 Community Health Assessment Center will suspend testing for the purpose of pre-travel clearance.

The Community Health COVID-19 Assessment and Testing site is limited to those who require testing for the following reasons:

- Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 that are new, worsening, or different from an individual's baseline health status.
- High risk/close contact exposures of a confirmed case who are symptomatic, as directed by a Community Health Nurse
- Individuals who have been notified of inclusion in an outbreak situation, and are following directions given by a local public health authority/Community Health Program.

The CHP has prioritized the groups identified above as resources (human and time) to provide these services is very limited and there is a current high demand for testing. The Ministry of Health testing guidance documents excludes testing of asymptomatic (no symptoms) people for travel purposes. Anyone requesting a test for travel requirements is not eligible for testing through the Community Health Program Assessment Center. This is only a temporary measure to shift resources and meet the current demand for symptomatic testing for individuals.

Please see your healthcare provider or one of the clinics identified below if you require testing for travel purposes:

• **Walgreens (PCR Test):** <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing>

305 W Main Street  
Malone, NY 12953

• **Walgreens (PCR Test):** <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing>

173 Market Street  
Potsdam, NY 13676

• **Mountain Medical Urgent Care:** (315) 705-0700

2 Hospital Drive  
Massena, NY 13662

• **Massena Hospital:** (315) 764-1171

1 Hospital Drive  
Massena, NY 13662

• **Mountain Medical:** (518) 483-3000

3372 US 11 Suite H  
Malone, NY 12953

• **Appletree Medical Group:** <https://appletreemedicalgroup.com>

Ottawa locations - varying hours

• **Life Labs Pre-departure Testing:** <https://www.life-labs.com>

Ottawa, ON or Kingston, ON

• **PCR Travel Test Ontario:** <https://www.pcrtraveltestontario.com>

Ottawa, ON

• **Shoppers Drug Mart:** <https://covid-19.shoppersdrugmart.ca>

Ottawa, ON or Kingston, ON

# HESITANT TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE?



**MCA'S DR. HORN ADVISES AKWESASRONON  
TO RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE.**

**"If you had a choice between the short-term, short-acting response to the COVID-19 vaccine vs. the long-term effects of COVID-19, it's a lot safer to take care of symptoms from the vaccine than the unknown long-term effects of the virus."**

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO RECEIVE  
YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE, CONTACT:**

 **MCA COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM  
613-575-2341 EXT. 3220**

 **SRMT VACCINE CLINIC  
518-333-0230**



# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## IOHAHI:IO HOSTS MEDICINE CLASS

Nia:wen Alicia Cook of Canoe Woman Herbs for sharing her knowledge! Participants learned the basics of different herbs and experienced some tea tasting. Nia:wen to all the participants!



### CONTACT US!

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

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School  
(613) 932-3366

Tsi Snaihne School  
(613) 575-2291  
Kana:takon School  
(613) 575-2323

Iohahi:io  
(613) 575-2754 or  
(613) 575-2250 ext. 4100

# AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

## AKWESASNE LEGAL AID CLINIC PROGRAM—FAQ

As we gear up for this frosty holiday season, we want to reach as many Mohawks of Akwesasne as we can with our services.

Below is our Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs):

### **How do I get an appointment with the legal aid lawyer?**

To get an appointment with the legal aid lawyer, you must first initiate the intake process. To do that, call the Akwesasne Legal Aid Clinic at 613-575-2250 ext 1028. The Legal Aid Clinic Coordinator will start the intake process.

### **What types of issues can the Legal Aid Clinic help with?**

The types of issues we assist members with are far and wide. Our Legal Aid Clinic Coordinator will assess the type of programs or services available that can assist

you based on your intake application.

### **What if my issues are not within the funding guidelines?**

If your issues are outside of the funded areas that we provide legal services for, we can work with you on finding the correct program or service to address your issue.

### **If I have a child custody issue, can I get legal help from the Akwesasne Legal Aid Clinic?**

We can offer guidance on the process and assist with filing paper work. However, for instances where you need to appear in court, our legal aid lawyer cannot represent you because of the program's funding guidelines.

## LEGAL AID CLINIC

*The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has received funding from the Ministry of the Attorney General to establish a Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project. The project will provide assistance to victims of crime & their families in areas which are not provided for locally.*

*A legal aid coordinator will work with other agencies and programs, on and off-reserve, to establish a list of resources, programs and services for community members. This may include outside agencies which assist victims of crimes; appointments with legal counsel and/or assisting with processing Skennen (Peace) Orders within the community of Akwesasne.*



**CLINIC DATES:**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
(OCTOBER 2021 - MARCH 2022)

**QUESTIONS?** Contact the Akwesasne Legal Aid Clinic:

☎ **613-575-2250 ext. 1028**



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE



## Tips for Safe Holiday Shopping

### 1. Know who you are buying from

Verify that the business is legitimate using sites like Epinions.com or BizRate.com.



### 2. Be smart about your passwords

Longer passwords reduce the chances of a hacker making a correct guess.

@4rg&\*  
grAf3FF

### 3. Use secure sites for online transactions

Mark sure the online stores you're shopping from start with https://.



### 4. Use one credit card

Dedicate one credit card for all your shopping needs.



### 5. Beware of phishing attacks

Don't enter sensitive or financial information into pop-up windows on suspicious emails.



### 6. Update, update, update!

Make sure your security software is up-to-date before shopping.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MCA



2021

*The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes joy, happiness and health upon you and your family this holiday season and in the New Year!*