

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI

"We Will Govern"

Mission

To negotiate a self-government agreement with Canada that recognizes expanded jurisdiction and authority; and protect the Aboriginal rights and title for the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

Vision

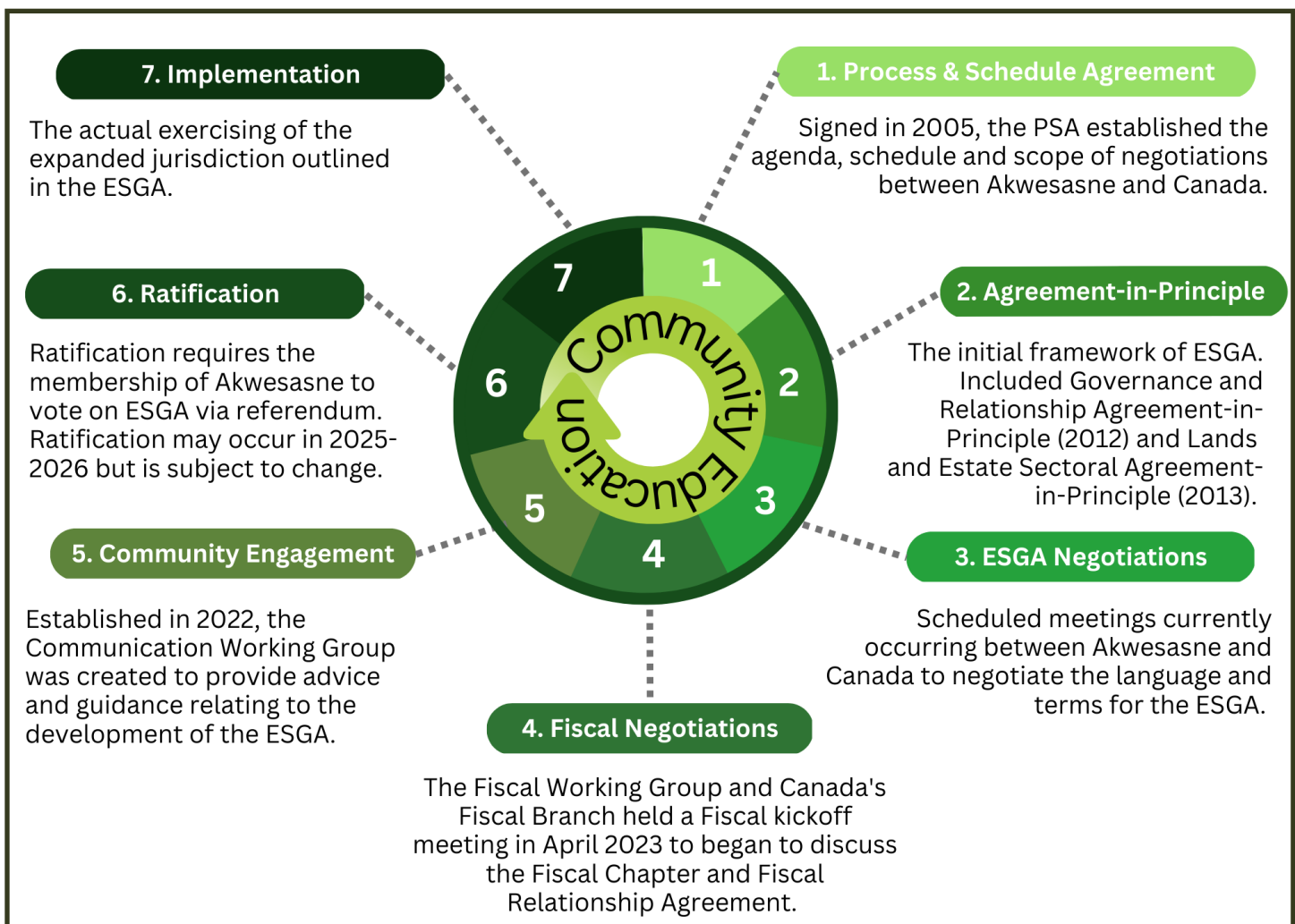
To implement the inherent right of self-government of the Mohawks of Akwesasne through the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatatha:wi Self-Government Agreement.

Kakwitè:ne | Spring 2023

Entewatathá:wi Process

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) have been implementing self-government since the 1980's. In 1999, the MCA created the Nation Building also known as the Entewatathá:wi project, for the purpose of negotiating a Self-Government agreement with the Government of Canada for recognition of new and expanded jurisdiction and authority over the affairs of Akwesasne.

The graphic below describes the Entewatathá:wi process.



ENTEWATATHÁ:WI PROJECT



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the Government of Canada (Canada) are currently entering in the latter stages of negotiating the agreed subject areas to exercise governance, jurisdiction, and authority by the Mohawks of Akwesasne pursuant to the Akwesasne-Canada Governance and Relationship Agreement-in-Principle.

The parties agree that best efforts are to move toward the completion of the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA), Implementation Plan, Fiscal Relationship Agreement (FRA), and any other legal instruments required.

The parties recognize that Akwesasne is geographically unique due to the location of the Canada and United States International border. Nothing in the “work plan” precludes the parties from undertaking additional activities to those set out below to respond to issues that may arise as a result of Akwesasne being a “border” community.

Two legal instruments must be finalized by the Mohawks of Akwesasne along with the ESGA to ensure continuity of critical government functions that will move Akwesasne outside most of the *Indian Act* provisions as soon as the Agreement comes into force. They are:

1. The Fiscal Relationship Agreement will address the funding of Mohawk governance to carry out the exercise of jurisdiction and administrative authority described in the ESGA. The principles guiding the negotiation of the FRA will be negotiated based on the ESGA fiscal chapter which is intended to reference the “real cost of Mohawk government” under the ESGA.
2. The Akwesasne Land Code which will set out the principles, basic rules, and administrative structures that apply to Akwesasne Lands. The Land Code will address sections 18 to 41 (see chart below) of the *Indian Act*, and these sections will no longer apply to the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

<p>Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement</p> <p>Agreement with Canada that will recognize Akwesasne's jurisdiction and authority.</p> <p>Fiscal Relationship Agreement Implementation Plan</p> <p>Akwesasne-Canada</p>	<p>Akwesasne Land Code</p> <p>The Akwesasne Land Code which will set out the principles, basic rules, and administrative structures that apply to Akwesasne Lands.</p> <p>Akwesasne</p>	<p>Indian Act Sections 18-41</p>	
		Reserves	Section 18(1)-19(C)
		Possession of Lands in Reserves	Section 20(1)-29
		Trespass on Reserves	Section 30-31(3)
		Roads and Bridges	Section 34(1)-34(2)
		Lands Taken for Public Purposes	Section 35(1)-35(4)
		Special Reserves	Section 36-36.1
		Surrenders and Designations	Section 37(1)-41

Contact Entewatathá:wi! Email: entewatathawi@akwesasne.ca | Phone: (613) 575-2250

Negotiations Team Meets with Minister Marc Miller



Left to Right: Chief JoAnn Swamp; Rachel Lazare, Entewatathá:wi Project Manager; Minister Marc Miller; Grand Chief Abram Benedict; Chief Edward Roundpoint, Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell, and Chief Vince Thompson. Photo submitted by Grand Chief Abram Benedict.

In February, members of the Akwesasne negotiation team met with Minister Marc Miller to discuss the ongoing progress of negotiations with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Requests were made to the Minister to further advance our negotiations and encourage Canada to prioritize dealing with Akwesasne's outstanding barriers so a final draft can be concluded. The community's best interests remain a top priority as this process continues.

The renewal of the Political Protocol was also discussed with Minister Marc Miller, he shares the same sentiments regarding the importance of renewing the Political Protocol between Akwesasne, ISC and CIRNAC. A letter was sent to the Grand Chief on March 7, 2023 advising they are engaging with their colleagues internally to prepare for extending the Political Protocol with the MCA.

Entewatathá:wi Project Legal Advisors

Farewell and best wishes to Micha Menczer of Arbutus Law Group, LLP on his retirement as legal advisor from the Entewatathá:wi project on behalf of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the community of Akwesasne.



Micha Menczer leaves the community of Akwesasne with the following sentiments...

"The leaders, the youth and elders have taught me so much and I am deeply grateful. I feel like the young child whose learning and legal path has been shaped by my relationship with Akwesasne from the beginning of my legal career to now. My interest in your development and wellbeing remains strong. I've made many friends, I look forward to continuing my relationship with Akwesasne even as my role changes from that of your lawyer to that of a friend. Thank you for the honour and privilege of having your trust, welcoming me into the community and teaching me so much.

Niawenhkó:wa Micha! Best wishes!

Entewatathá:wi welcomes Nathan Richards as legal advisor to the Entewatathá:wi project. Nathan Richards has been serving the Mohawks of Akwesasne and other Indigenous peoples since his call to the bar in 2001, advising on a variety of issues with a focus on Aboriginal title, Aboriginal rights, treaty rights, environmental law, administrative law, and governance. Nathan represents clients before the Federal Courts as well as the courts of Ontario and Quebec.



Recently, Nathan has been retained to act as counsel for the MCA in the negotiations with Canada relating to the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement. He brings many years of experience working with the Mohawks of Akwesasne to the table.

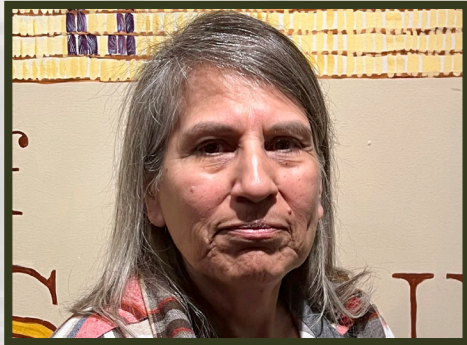
Welcome to the team Nathan!

Introducing the Entewatathá:wi Communications Working Group

The purpose of the Communications Working Group is to provide advice and guidance relating to the development of the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA) rolling draft, other legal instruments required, and the communication strategy.

The Communications Working Group members consist of the following:

- Nation Building staff;
- Nation Building Portfolio Chiefs;
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne technicians; and
- Four (4) community members.



Nadine Jacobs



Laura Francis



Lucy Papineau



Bernice Lazore

Akwesasne Entewatathá:wi Negotiating Team

Lead Negotiator - Grand Chief Abram Benedict
Portfolio Chief Vince Thompson
Portfolio Chief JoAnn Swamp
Portfolio Chief Edward Roundpoint
Portfolio Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell
Executive Director Tim Mills
Associate Executive Director Donna Roundpoint
Legal Advisor Nathan Richards

Entewatathá:wi Project Manager Rachel Lazare
Executive Assistant Cheavee Willie
Public Relations Officer Jacey Rourke
Community Advisor Lucy Papineau
Community Advisor Laura Francis
Community Advisor Nadine Jacobs
Community Advisor Bernice Lazore
Various MCA technicians as needed

Contact Entewatathá:wi!

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