



COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

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MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY VISITS AKWESASNE TO DISCUSS BORDER SECURITY AND COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) welcomed the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety Canada, for his first official visit to the community. The visit highlighted Akwesasne's vital role in border security and the ongoing jurisdictional and economic challenges of being a cross-border First Nation.

The Minister's visit included stops at the Cornwall Port of Entry, a cultural event at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena hosted by the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education, and a driving tour of the Akwesasne districts. A working lunch at Iohahi:io provided an opportunity for introductions and discussions with members of Council on key community concerns.

Akwesasne is geographically and politically unique, spanning Ontario, Quebec, and New York State. Community members frequently cross both international and provincial borders, and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) responds across more than 40 miles of shoreline. Given this frontline role, Akwesasne is calling for inclusion in Canada's \$1.3 billion Border Enforcement Strategy.

"Our community is doing the work. We are the frontline presence at this border every single day," said Grand Chief Leonard Lazore. "We want to be involved and bring solutions. If Canada is serious about border security, it must include Akwesasne as a true partner — not just in words, but through action, meaningful investment, and long-term solutions."

Some issues raised included the urgent need for federal funding for AMPS, infrastructure improvements at border crossings, and concerns about the economic strain caused by the current location of the CBSA port of entry and toll plaza. The border's location and associated delays not only affect daily movement and commerce, but also pose serious risks during medical emergencies — where seconds can mean the difference. MCA emphasized that continued collaborative work with CBSA is key to building stronger relationships and improving mobility and safety for the entire community.

MCA looks forward to continued discussions with the Minister and federal departments on these important matters. The Minister's office has also committed to arranging a future meeting with AMPS leadership.