



GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Ohiarí:ha/June 26th, 2025

Kana:takon Recreation Center

6:00 pm

General Meeting Cancellation Protocol:
MCR 2015/2016 - #260 In the unfortunate circumstance where a community member passes in one of the three districts, the meeting will occur as regularly scheduled in the other two districts where the member did not reside. A moment of silence will also be taken in their memory.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Opening Address
- B. Council Attendance
- C. Moment of Silence

2. COUNCIL AGENDA ACCEPTANCE

3. RULES OF ORDER

4. ACTION ITEMS | Onerahtohkó:wa/May 29th, 2025

5. UPDATE | Akwesasne Election Law 16.2 Amendment

6. PRESENTATION | Entewatatha:wi/Nation Building

7. PRESENTATION | Gladue Reports

8. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

9. RESOLUTION | General Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohkó:wa/May 29th, 2025

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Ohiaríhkó:wa/July District and General Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Closing Address
- B. Motion to Adjourn



General Meeting Rules of Order

Prologue:

General Meetings are to occur the last Thursday of each month and will occur in each district on a rotating basis in Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, and Tsi Snaihne.

The exception to this is with the General Meeting Cancellation Protocol: MCR 2015/2016 - #260 *In the unfortunate circumstance where a community member passes in one of the three districts, the meeting will occur as regularly scheduled in the other two districts where the member did not reside. A moment of silence will also be taken in their memory.*

The General Meetings are an opportunity for Community Members to hear information from Council and assist Council with issues that affect the community.

The following General Meeting Rules were originally developed at a community General Meeting in July of 2006. The principles for 'General Meeting Rules' is based on respect for each other, and all attendees are expected to behave respectfully and professionally at all times.

General Meeting Rules:

1. Meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and proceed to a maximum of 8:00 p.m. at which point the community will be asked if they choose to continue past 8:00 p.m.
2. Personal issues will not be dealt with in a public forum/General Meetings. Personal items can be dealt with on an individual basis with Council Members (or by appointment through the Mohawk Government Office).
3. If you have questions or comments during the meeting – raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged by the Chairperson. The Chairperson will keep note of the order that community members indicate to be acknowledged.
4. Please keep the questions and comments relevant to the point of order within the agenda and be considerate of the time used.
5. A list will be made of issues you wish to address to Council and if the answer cannot be provided at the current meeting, the issue will be taken back to Council table for further discussion and follow-up.



Akwesasne Election Law Section 16.2 Amendment Update

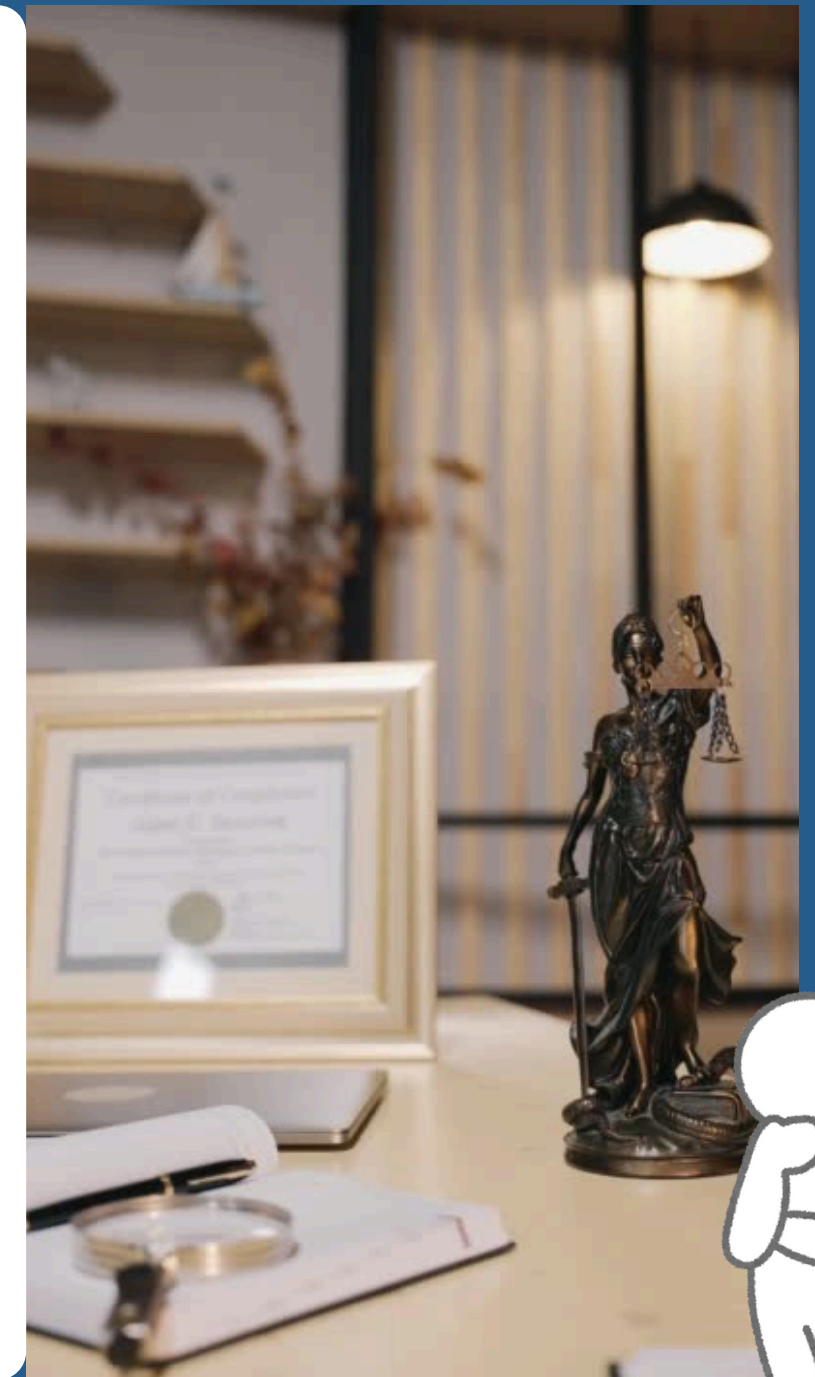


Acronyms to know

- AEL - Akwesasne Election Law
- ALEPR - Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation
- WTG - Working Task Group
- OSC - Oversight Committee on Legislative Development

The purpose of the ALEPR is to...

- Ensure an open, transparent, and accountable law development and ratification procedures for the Mohawks of Akwesasne.
- Establish standardized legislative enactment procedures for the development, ratification, enactment, amendment, and repeal of Akwesasne Laws.



Akwesasne Election Law (AEL) Working Task Group (WTG) Updates:

- Members: the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC) three District Representatives, the Akwesasne Justice Department Director, the Executive Director, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Government Support Manager, as well as Legislative Services staff, who act as Administrative Support.
- The Mohawk Council Portfolio Chiefs recused themselves from being involved in the AEL Amendment process.

- The WTG established to only work on section 16.2 of the AEL as requested by community petition.
- The WTG had established that the AEL was at section 4.8 of the ALEPR where community comments will be considered.
- The Community Comment Period ran from May 8 to May 23, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m. ensuring that the 10-day minimum period had been met.

- The WTG discussed the results of the Community Comment Period. In total, 47 submissions were received via email or physical drop-off at the Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD) Administration Office.
- The WTG voted to proceed to Legal Review. The AEL was sent to Legal Counsel Bonnie Cole to conduct the Legal Review as stated in section 4.10 of the ALEPR.

- An MCR went before Council to recuse themselves from any steps of the ALEPR that they are not required to do to avoid delays or conflicts of interest. An example of this would be the multiple 'opportunities' outlined in the ALEPR to have a line-by-line meeting conducted with the WTG. On June 16, 2025, MCR 2025-2026 #090 was passed.
- The Legislative Services Manager sent a request for the WTG to be added to the June General Meeting to move into Phase II of the ALEPR.

Section 16.2 of the AEL

Original

16. (2) A member of the Mohawk Council is removed from Council if: (a) a petition requesting the removal of a District Chief is signed by an equal number of **votes** plus one from the official total number of votes he/ she received on election/by election day and delivered to the Council at a duly convened General Meeting; or"

Proposed Amendment

16. (2) A member of the Mohawk Council is removed from Council if: (a) a petition requesting the removal of a District Chief is signed by an equal number of **his/her/their eligible District voters** plus one from the official total number of votes he/ she received on election/by election day and delivered to the Council at a duly convened General Meeting; or"

Five Phases of Development

Phase I – Development of Proposed Law

Phase II – Acceptance of Proposed Akwesasne Law In Principle

Phase III – Community Consultation

Phase IV – Enactment of an Akwesasne Law

Phase V – Procedures after the Enactment Phase of an Akwesasne Law

Phase I

Law Development



- Resolution passed and notice to community for comment and input on law before law is drafted
- Law is developed
- Legal Review
- Submitted to Council for Acceptance in Principle

Phase II

Acceptance-in- Principle

- Mohawk Council accepts or rejects the law
- If accepted, move on to Community Consultation

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Phase III

Community Consultation

- Community Notice of Meetings
- Meetings are held in each District
- Draft law is made available
- Members comments will be accepted until announced deadline
- Post-consultation drafting sessions to incorporate comments

Phase IV

Enactment of an Akwesasne Law

- MCA accepts or rejects the draft Law
- May also send back to OSC for further revisions
- MCA sets voting method, Referendum or vote at a Special General Meeting



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Phase V

Procedures after the Enactment Phase of an Akwesasne Law

- Council confirms vote results
- Notice of results to the community within 7 days
- Ratified Law is sent to the Akwesasne Law Registry or
- End of the process
- If Law is Rejected it will not see further development dealing with the same subject matter for 120 days



Niá:wen



Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Regulation Flowchart

MCR 2022/2023-#351 Dated: March 27, 2023

Phase I: Law Development Phase

MCR or Petition initiates proposed Law

Notice to Members seeking input & comment period

Law Development

Legal Review

Council Review

Post-Legal Review draft presented to Council who determines if further revisions are needed or if ready to be accepted in principle.

Prepare Submission for Phase II

Revise

Phase II: Acceptance in Principle

Council Meeting

Council decides to accept in principle or reject.

Prepare Submission for Phase III

Reject

End of Proposed Law
– Notice to Members

Phase III: Community Consultation

Notice to Members of Acceptance in Principle and
Information Meetings

Community Consultation – Minimum 1 Information Meeting
in each District

Post-Consultation – Law Development

Post-Consultation – Legal Review

Post-Consultation – Council Review

Prepare Submission for Phase III –
Post Consultation

Revise

Phase IV: Enactment of Law

Council Meeting

Council decides to accept in principle or reject.

Prepare Draft for Phase IV –
Final Draft

Reject

End of Proposed Law
– Notice to Members

Council Determines Enactment Method

Referendum

Special General Meeting

Phase V: Ratification/Rejection

Council Meeting

Council confirms results of enactment

Ratification of a Law

Rejection of a Law

Notice to Members of Final Results – End of Process

Frequently Asked Questions on AEL sec. 16.2 Amendment

Q: Why are we here tonight?

A: We're holding this part of the process in front of community members to ensure transparency and fairness as we complete Phase II: Acceptance in Principle of Akwesasne Law. Once Council decides to accept or reject the law in principle, the WTG must update the community by reading a summary of the work at a General Meeting, as required in Section 5.6 of the ALEPR. By completing Phase II tonight, we can move forward to Phase III and keep the process moving efficiently.

Q: Why was there a delay in starting the amendment process?

A: The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC) did not have a representative from the district of Tsi Snáihne so it could not meet quorum to have an official meeting, as outlined in the Legislative Terms of Reference.

Q: Why is it taking so long to change just one word in one section?

A: Even small changes must follow the full law-making process. Section 4.1 and the ALEPR require that all changes—big or small—go through Phases I–V. This ensures transparency, fairness, and community involvement, even if the change is just one word.

Q: Why is there a comment period and community consultation sessions?

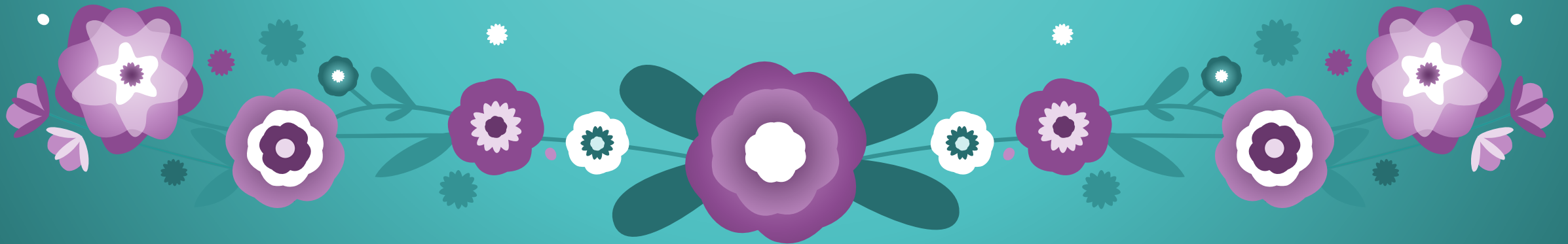
A: The ALEPR “strives to engage the Mohawks of Akwesasne in the law-making procedures.” It ensures that the process is open, transparent, and accountable. Community members have two key opportunities to share their thoughts: Before drafting begins, to express initial ideas or concerns. During Phase III, to give feedback on the proposed law, amendment, or text. These steps help make sure the law reflects the voices of the community.

Q: When will the entire AEL be amended?

A: Right now, there are no plans to amend the entire AEL. The OSC is currently focused on four specific laws: Child Rights Law, Residency Law Amendments, Fire Safety Law, and Section 16.2 of the AEL. The community helps set priorities by voting on which laws matter most. The OSC then confirms the top priorities based on that input.

Akwesasne Community Justice Program: Gladue Reports

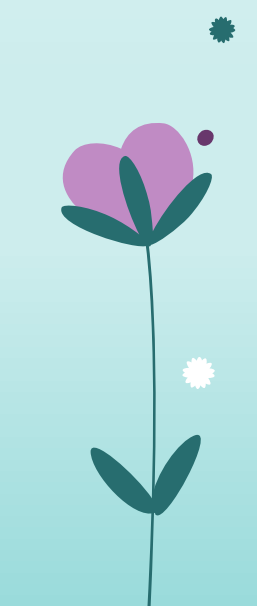
Jacy Jacobs





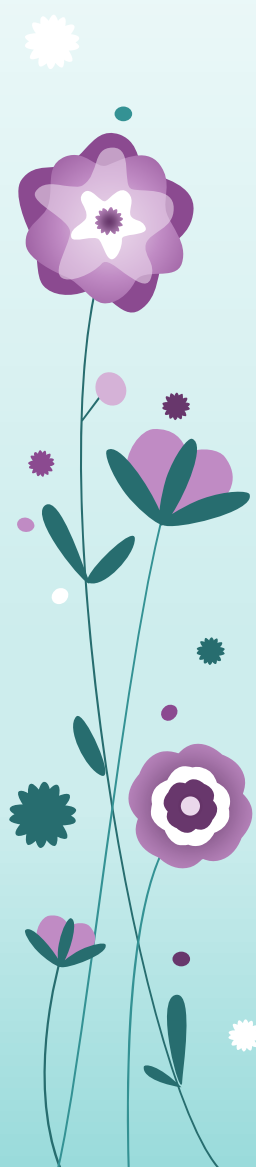
ABOUT US:

The Akwesasne Community Justice Program is administered through the Akwesasne Justice Department, located in the District of Kana:takon. The Akwesasne Community Justice Program (ACJP,) which houses the Gladue Unit, has been temporarily relocated to 55 Water Street W, Cornwall Ontario.



WHAT IS GLADUE?

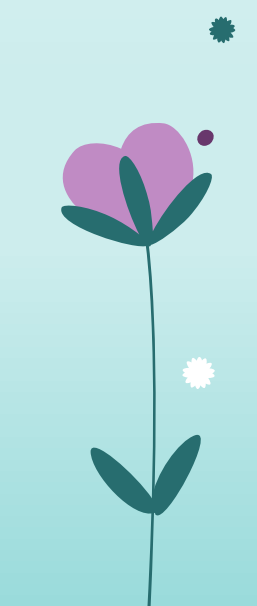
Gladue refers to a right that Indigenous People have under section 718.2 (e) of the Criminal Code. Gladue is a sentencing principle which recognizes that Indigenous Peoples face racism and systemic discrimination in and out of the criminal law system and attempts to deal with the crisis of overrepresentation /inequities of Indigenous Peoples in custody through changing how judges' sentence. Gladue instructs judges, when sentencing or setting bail, to consider: *“all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances, with particular attention to” the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders.*”

A decorative floral illustration on the left side of the slide. It features a tall, thin green stem with several leaves. At the top is a large, multi-layered purple flower with a white center. Below it are smaller purple and pink flowers, some with white centers, and small white daisy-like flowers. The background is a light blue gradient.

In the Canadian criminal justice system, judges must take into consideration the individual circumstances of the person before them in court to determine a fit and fair sentence.

If you identify as Indigenous and are charged with a crime, the judge must apply **Gladue Principles** when in court. Gladue principles are a way for the judge to consider the unique circumstances (experiences) of Indigenous peoples.

These unique circumstances include the challenges of colonization faced and resisted as Indigenous people, and how those barriers continue to affect us today. These challenges include racism, loss of language, removal from land, Indian residential schools, and the involvement of the foster care system. These challenges are called **Gladue factors**.

A decorative floral illustration on the right side of the slide. It features a tall, thin green stem with several leaves. At the top is a large, multi-layered purple flower with a white center. Below it are smaller purple and pink flowers, some with white centers, and small white daisy-like flowers. The background is a light blue gradient.

History of “Gladue”:

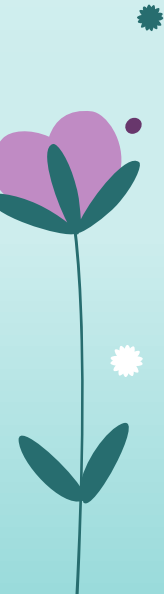
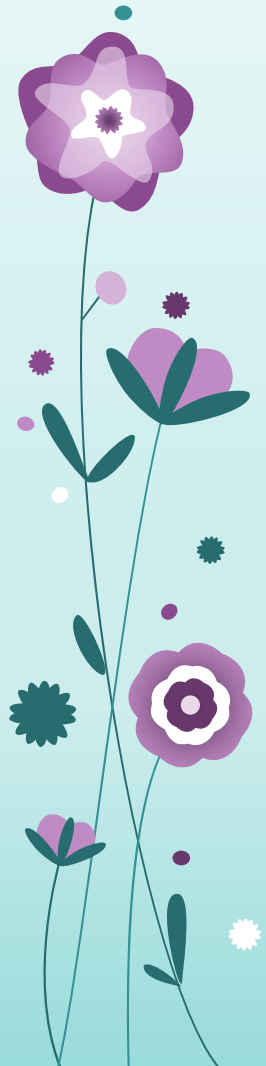
- In 1999, in a case called *R V Gladue*, the Supreme Court of Canada said that colonialism creates challenges for many Indigenous people, and they are more likely to be sent to jail because of those barriers. The criminal justice system has repeatedly failed Indigenous people. Gladue principles try to address these failures and make sure judges don't repeat the same mistakes that add to our discrimination.
- Judges must consider Gladue factors when they make decisions about us and must consider options other than jail to help us address the challenges that we face. For example, one might participate in a restorative justice program to help work with those that were affected by the crime, with the aim to repair the harm that was done.

Gladue principles also require judges to make decisions that are appropriate to the offender's particular Indigenous heritage or connection.

This means judges must consider:

- The community's perspective on the situation, their needs, and their suggested alternatives to jail;
- The laws, practices, customs, and legal traditions of the Mohawk Nation or the Nation where the alleged offence took place;
- The ways of making decisions that are sensitive and appropriate to our culture.

The judge might still decide to send them to jail, but if an Indigenous Offender is giving a custodial sentence, the judge must respect Gladue principles when deciding for how long and the following terms of probation.






Canadian courts have found that Gladue principles apply at:

- bail
- sentencing
- appeals
- parole board
- hearings to determine parole ineligibility in sentencing
- extradition
- mental health review boards
- professional disciplinary decisions
- long-term or dangerous offender hearings

Gladue principles can also apply in other situations, such as negotiations and sending someone to an alternative measures program. In this program, the person accepts responsibility for their actions and takes steps to repair the damage without going to court.





Before any decision is made, the judge needs to think about:

- The background (the story) of the offender, as well as that of their family, community, and culture;
- What Gladue factors might have played a part in the offender getting in trouble with the law (for example, colonization, racism, foster care, abuse, poverty, Indian Residential School and Indian Day School);
- The offender's current needs and strengths, and the best options to address the challenges they face;
- Where the offender can get help for the challenges that brought them before the court;
- Perspectives from their family and community/Nation about healing and ways to repair and address the harm done;

This is done in the form of a Gladue Report.



The Gladue Report Process:

- The Akwesasne Community Justice Program receives a Gladue Report Request from the Court System and a writer is assigned to the file;
- The writer then works to obtain the documents pertinent to the case such as the synopsis of the offence, the offender's criminal history, names of the defense counsel and the judge, etc.,
- The writer will meet with the offender to outline the process of a Gladue report, what the role of the writer is, how long the process might take, and what the client should expect during the process;
- The writer will then begin the Gladue Interviewing Process with the offender;
- The writer will also meet with collateral stakeholders including but not limited to family members, friends, religious advisers, past teachers, really anyone the offender feels knows them best;
- The writer will prepare a comprehensive, accurate, and objective report that include Gladue factors and a detailed restorative justice plan;
- The writer will ensure all court reports are reviewed and revised prior to court submission for the Court's consideration.

Gladue After-Care:

Should the recommendations be adopted by the Judge and an order is a result, the Gladue Aftercare Worker will work with additional supervising parties (probation) to help assess and support the client through understanding and maintaining their order by incorporating culture, connection, and healing.

- After-care will assist with the implementation of Gladue recommendations by providing direct services and necessary referrals to identified programs and services to support the client in addressing underlying issues;
- Work in partnership with Gladue writers to provide continuity of care and Trauma informed services avoiding re-traumatization while supporting restorative justice through accountability (TOC Model);
- Work in partnership with Probation services following sentencing to ensure follow through with recommendations from their Gladue Report and providing updates on shared client progress;
- Work closely Section 84 Development Officer and Community NehKanikonriio Council on reintegration according to the specified recommendations outlined in inmates Gladue Report.

ACJP's Gladue Unit

Gladue Writers

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<u>Portfolios:</u>	<u>Committees & External Tables</u>
AMBE DCSS Gov't Sec Nation Building	Akwesko:wa/Port Divesture ~ Finance ~ Governance Special Needs ~ Lobbying ~ Hydro Quebec ~ CBSA Iroquois Caucus ~ Jay Treaty Border Alliance



Meetings:

- **May 23rd - Governance Committee**
Reviewed procedures and regulations to ensure that they are aligned.
- **May 26th - Weekly Council Meeting**
11 MCR's passed. Discussion items included preparing for General Meeting, fishing boundaries, and tuition issues.
- **May 27th - DCSS Policy Review**
A/Director and legal gave us a breakdown on sections of the ACFS Policy.
- **May 29th - Monthly General Meeting**
No presentations from any Programs. Only business from the floor was addressed. This included auditor questions, casino winnings concerns, CBSA Survey, financing for local businesses, homemakers needs and special needs.
- **May 30th - Detox Presentation**
Presentation by Dr. Scott to discuss the medical side of addiction. A lot of prevention discussion by everyone in attendance. One of the main reasons that the Detox Center is not open on the weekends is that there is no pharmacy open on the weekends that can provide the pharmaceuticals needed for care.
- **May 30th - Quebec Political Protocol Prep Meeting**
Discussed next steps and agenda for the upcoming first meeting with Quebec.
- **May 30th - Special Needs Presentation**
A presentation by a community member who is a Special Needs Advocate, accompanied by a prospective partner organization with the capability to offer testing and supportive services for individuals in our Special Needs community.



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- **June 2nd - Weekly Council Meeting**

A total of 11 MCRs were on the agenda for this meeting, which was held on Thompson Island. The focus of the meeting was solely on addressing the MCRs, allowing us the opportunity to fully experience the Island.

My fellow district chiefs and I participated in a canoe journey for the second time. As with our first experience, it was a truly meaningful and rewarding opportunity. Following the canoe journey, we attended an informative presentation by ARRO on the significance and history of various wampum belts. The session was highly appreciated and provided valuable cultural insights. To conclude the day, we took part in a mindfulness session led by the Associate Director of Mental Health. This session served as a reflective and grounding exercise, helping us reconnect with our purpose and further strengthening our sense of unity as a team. Overall, the day was a powerful and enriching experience that supported both our professional responsibilities and our personal growth as leaders.

- **June 3rd - Border Partners Meeting**

CBSA updates were the same as last month. The only new addition is that they will have four (4) new recruits by the end of June. USCBP did not join the meeting.

- **June 3rd - AMBE/ARRO Meeting**

AMBE presented and discussed the Creation of Record as well as other options for funding.

- **June 4th - City of Council Truth & Reconciliation Meeting**

A meeting was held to discuss Cornwall's Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan. Concerns were raised and they agreed to hold meetings in person to engage more with Akwesasne.

- **June 4th - Nation Building Portfolio**

A review of the community survey was discussed. Nation Building will be presenting the results at the June General Meeting.

- **June 5th - Media Training**

The Communications Department recently conducted a training session for Council, which was both informative and engaging. The session effectively reinforced the importance of delivering a unified message, emphasizing that Council should consistently present a cohesive voice. The team provided valuable communication strategies and kept participants highly engaged throughout—so much so that the session felt brief.

- **June 5th - BCI Dundee Port of Entry Meeting**

Introductory meeting was held. A sub-circle working task group was discussed for the remission order that we would like in place with the Dundee Port. ARRO will be available to host cultural sensitivity training to new recruits at the Port.



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- **June 5th - Quebec Political Protocol Meeting**

Virtual meeting with Minister Ian Lafreniere, who is the Minister responsible for relations with First Nations and the Inuit. We discussed the current Quebec Political Protocol and assigned technicians to ensure that the new Quebec Political Protocol is in place before the current one expires.

- **June 6th - Governance Committee Meeting**

Continuance of line-by-line readings to ensure that our different policies, regulations, etc, don't conflict with each other.

- **June 6th - IFN Bank Presentation**

Dialogue and a presentation on partnering with other Independent Nations to offer on territory banking.

- **June 9th - Weekly Council Meeting**

A total of 15 MCR's were on the agenda. Discussions included a new business venture for a local company, an update to the Special Needs Program becoming a reality, COOP Plans, Emergency Measures helping with Sandy Lake First Nations Evacuees, FNCFS Sustainability Checks, Color Run, Bill 5, Grand Chief and Community Gathering Information Sessions.

- **June 10th - Special Needs Committee Meeting**

An update was given on where the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) is in beginning this much needed program.

- **June 10th, Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting**

Discussions included reviving the Tri-Leader Agreement that was once started between MCA, SRMT and MNCC. Updates were given from Administration where space needs, PAT, Contracting, Leases were discussed. Updates from ARRO included Bill 5, comments of opposition were submitted on time, Seaway negotiations are forthcoming, duty to consult policy is being worked on, encroachment letters, and creation of record opposition. Nation Building updates included the roll out of the Political Protocol after it is signed.

- **June 11th, Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Presentation**

Myself along with 3 other District Chiefs met with OSPCA and Humane Society. Great presentation with a lot of information that was shared. They offered to train community to be able to do humane education outreach within community. They highlighted the MASH clinics they have within community. They also noted that Quebec residents in Akwesasne can access their services. They are opening a new OSPCA building in Cornwall which will allow them a 30% increase in capabilities.

- **June 16th, Weekly Council Meeting**

On the agenda was 7 MCR's. Discussions included holding a separate day for presentations due to the abundance of requests Mohawk Government is receiving.

- **June 16th, Sustainability Check Pick-Up**

Each district held the check pick-up, a lot of grateful community members.



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- **June 17th – 18th, Sustainability Check Pick-Up**

Helped at the reception area of Admin 1 to continue giving out the Sustainability Checks to community members who missed the original pick-up event.

Monthly Notables:

- **May 29th - AMBE Cultural Day** - Attended the second event for grades 4-8.
- **May 31st - A Velvet Affair Event** - Attended an event hosted in partnership between Century 21 Shield Realty and BoostMe Marketing. Proceeds from the event went to the Optimist Club of Cornwall.
- **June 13th - Sandy Lake First Nation Free Garage Sale** - On June 11th, I visited DevCore (formerly Nav Centre) to check in on the evacuees. I was deeply moved to learn that many had been forced to evacuate with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Upon discovering that the Red Cross was unable to accept clothing donations at the site, I immediately began coordinating a response. After receiving approval from Emergency Measures, a plan was quickly set into motion.
Within hours, and with the support of my fellow District Chiefs, MCA Programs, and Mohawk Government staff, we organized a large-scale donation and support event at the Arena. Several buses brought evacuees from our sister community, where they were able to select clothing and other essential items to assist them during their stay.
In addition to meeting material needs, we, alongside dedicated staff and community volunteers, provided food, entertainment, and emotional support to those affected. The response from Akwesasne was swift, compassionate, and powerful.
By the end of the event—though physically exhausted—we were filled with gratitude and pride for how our community came together in a time of need. Akwesasne should be proud of the kindness and unity shown in answering the call to help.
- **June 19th - Kana:takon School Beach Day** - Attended the beach day, students were taken to Massena Town Beach. Great job by teachers and staff in ensuring the kids were taken care of and watched while enjoying a beach day.



Chief Report

Chief Fallon David

Kanatakon District

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613-577-5596



Portfolios: Justice, Department of Community and Social Services, Public Safety, Health, Economic Development.

Committees: Special Needs, Beautification, Hydro Quebec, Youth Education. Language and Culture, CBSA, PAT, Dundee Port of Entry

Monthly Notables

- May 29, 2025- Meeting with ARAP. The meeting was to discuss their program and provide portfolio Chiefs with an overview of their work. Kim and Carolyn did a great job!
- May 30, 2025-Detox Presentation by Dr. Scott, who is the Detox Doctor. He did a great presentation with lots of information provided on addiction and the process they use at the facility. It is essential to understand that detoxification is only the first step in the comprehensive recovery process.
- June 2, 2025- Weekly Council Meeting
- June 3, 2025- Meeting with AMBE to discuss plans for Canadian-born Akwesasne Students.
- June 3, 2025- Membership Code Meeting Update
- June 4, 2025- meeting with OSPCA to prepare for council presentation
- June 5, 2025- BCI Meeting Dundee Port of Entry- first meeting of this term, introductions, discussion on remission order and whether it will be part of this group or have its own separate group.
- June 9, 2025- Weekly council meeting.
- June 10, 2025- Special Needs Committee meeting to discuss upcoming trip to visit Six Nations Assisted Living Facility, July 2, 2025
- June 11, 2025- Meeting with OSPCA, a fantastic presentation was done by the OSPCA and they shared the work they have been doing in the community with animals. They would like to develop a more solid partnership with us. They are currently in the process of building a new facility, which could have great impacts for us, especially with dogs as we could form a partnership to me to have some holding areas for our dogs in Akwesasne. More to come.
- June 11, 2025- Beautification Committee Meeting, approval of the flowers at the Y in the Village as well as all the District signs.
- June 12, 2025- Justice Portfolio (details below)
- June 13, 2025- Assisted at the Arena with activities for the Sandy Lake Evacuees.
- June 16, 2025- Weekly Council Meeting

- June 17, 2025- Distributed Family Sustainability Cheques
- June 19, 2025- Health Portfolio (see below)
- June 20, 2025- MCA closed
- June 23, 2025- Weekly Council Meeting.
- June 23, 2025- Council had a Meeting with David Flute, David Flute, a South Dakota official and member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, who will serve as the new Senior Tribal Advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Flute's promotion comes after serving as South Dakota's Secretary of Tribal Relations, where he was appointed in 2018 by then-Governor Kristi Noem, who now leads DHS as Secretary. Topics of discussion were Public Safety, Green Cards, Identification, working together, and Haudenosaunee Passport. This was a very good introductory meeting, and I look forward to further discussions.
- June 23, 2025- Kana:takon District Meeting, no community members in attendance

I assisted many community members with concerns and guided them to the proper areas.

Health- The new special projects manager is in the process of reviewing noninsured health benefit policies. Within the upcoming 6 months, Tsiokwanonsothe will begin repairs, resident room upgrades will be first on the list all repairs will be done in phases. 135 community members attended Jordan's Principle, Bear Day it received very good feedback. The Quebec patient navigator now has an office at the Ormstown Hospital to assist community members. All five of the health sectors participated in the Health Fair at the Snye Recreation very well attended with 300 community members, with good feedback from those who attended.

Public Safety: Ambulance has moved under Health. Currently, there is only Compliance under AMPS. I attended the police commission meeting on June 9th. The concerns brought up were dog complaints, boat safety. Communications put out a social media post addressing boat safety. Compliance will be adjusting their hours for the summer months to be able to patrol the waterways. AMPS has begun having Community Meal Gatherings, which is to build community connections. There are informal meetings to have a respectful conversation with AMPS officers. The first meeting will be held on June 24, 2025.

Justice: Power of Attorney kits will be made available for community members who want to plan and ensure their legal affairs are in order. Ontario and Quebec have slightly different processes; therefore, the community must be aware of these differences and families can properly prepare. The Akwesasne Community Justice Program is getting ready to offer training in civil and family mediation. Stay tuned, details will be shared soon. Justice will be joining with AMBE to start a restorative justice project to combat bullying. This will be part of the K-8 curriculum. ARAP has donated 6 every child benches to AMBE for them to display on school grounds.

DCSS: Portfolio Cancelled at director's request





Chief Theresa Jacobs

June 2025 Monthly Report

Chief.theresa.jacobs@akwesasne.ca

613-575-2250 ext. 2176



Portfolios: DIHE – (Capital Projects) Portfolio, Housing Portfolio, Environment Portfolio, Health Portfolio, and Government Secretariat Portfolio

Committees: Lobbying, PAT, Governance Committee, alternate on the Executive Committee and any Committees/Working groups for the Portfolios that I would be working with

This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Monthly Notables:

- Attended the Housing Authority meeting. Updates provided on surge protection from power outages were discussed as well as housing overcrowding. An MCR will be going to Council table for overcrowding funds.
- Attended the General meeting for the Month of May.
- Participated in a presentation with Dr. Scott on the Detox Center. There were questions asked at the General Meeting on why the Detox Center is not open on the weekend. It is a matter of not having a nurse available during the times when there are clients in the facility. Intake is on Friday and the client is able to come in Monday. A list of meetings will be available to the client for the weekend when they are released.
- Participated in Council meeting on Thompson Island. A few MCRs were reviewed and passed. An MCR was passed to extend the Police Commission until a new commission call out is completed.
- Participated in Cultural Day on Thompson Island with most of Council.
- Participated in the Border Partners meeting with CBSA and the SRMT. CBSA reported that one lane will be worked on per day for the license plate reader. CBSA got four (4) new recruits starting at the end of the month. CBSA are asking us to do up a draft letter for service providers so there are no issues going through the border.

- Participated in the Truth and Reconciliation meeting with Cornwall on the September 30th event in the City of Cornwall. They will hold more meetings with us to ensure they have the proper information for the event.
- Participated in media training with our Communications program. The goal is for good communication, and to understand traditional media, digital media, podcasts etc. The medias job is to inform the public.
- Participated in a meeting with Minister Lafreniere on the Quebec Political protocol agreement.
- Participated in Governance Committee meeting held, and discussion was around the meeting regulations.
- Participated in a meeting with IFN Banks presentation with Shawn Mutch on zoom.
- Participated in Council meeting on Monday. A few MCRs were reviewed and passed. The agenda for the General meeting was set.
- Participated in Government Secretariat meeting. A number of updates from members were presented.
- Went out and met with many community members to see what needs are in the event of power outages and any other needs that may arise. It was found that a few Community members did not have anything to fall back on. They will be issued a backup battery in the event of power failure.
- Participated in Governance meeting.
- Participated in the gathering of items for Sandy Lake at the Arena.
- Participated in Council meeting on Monday. Presentation on DCSS Org Chart by Acting Director.
- Participated in Food Sustainability check distribution.
- Travelled to Parliament Hill to oppose Bill C5 with Chief Lacey Pierce. Member of the Youth Council, members of the Environment program and members of MCA were in attendance.
- Executive Committee meeting and then in afternoon gave out checks for Food sustainability at Admin 1.
- Environment Portfolio meeting took place with myself and Environment Manager in attendance. Many updates were provided.

Environment Updates:

Aquatics – 5 Summer Students assisting Staff to conduct Aquatics work. FINS and Turtle Surveys have commenced. Sturgeon and cutlip minnow work is planned for this summer.

Waste Management – Staff will be submitting an MCR to approve HGC as an interim receiver of our recycling materials. The former Waste Coordinator, has returned as a summer student while she is in university and has been assisting Tianna.

Terrestrial – Plans to complete soil sampling for nutrients contributing to Eutrophication (Excessive Algae in waterways) and for contaminants. Funds requested through the FNCFS for an additional 75 samples to be analyzed for contamination. Forestry Technician participating in OVS Tree Assessment Requests but will also participate in Aquatics projects until next Black Ash and Butternut Grant is awarded. I have been informed this will be announced after the federal budget has been tabled.

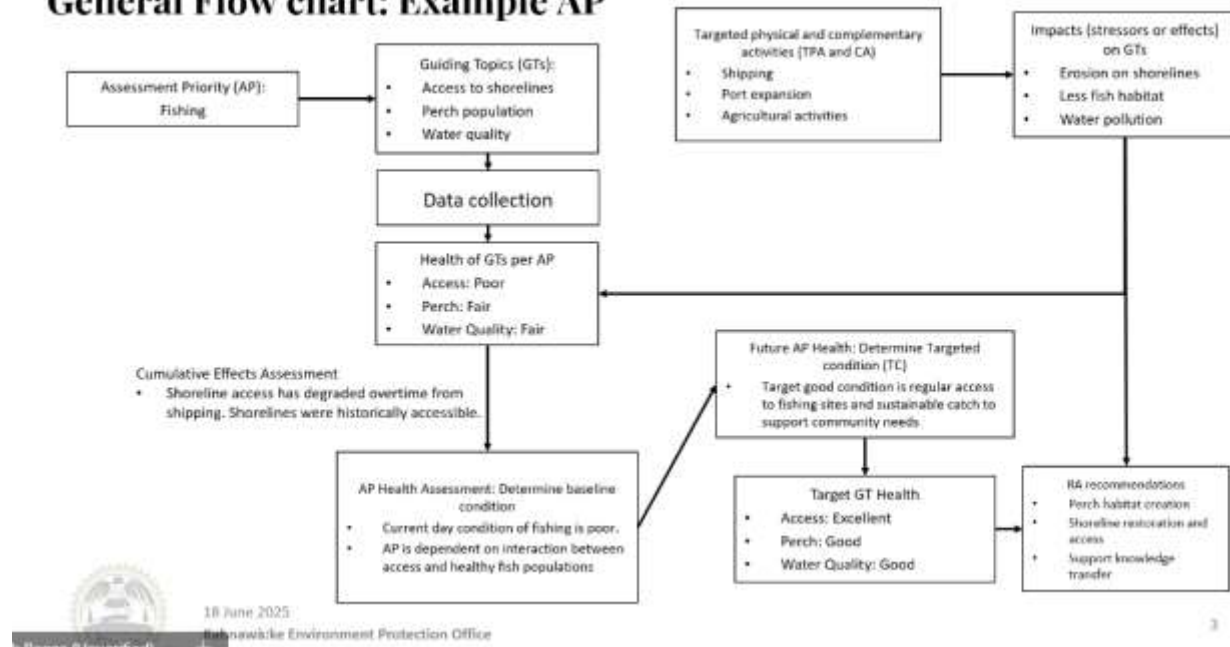
Remedial Action Plan – The 60-Day Engagement Period has commenced for the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). Information sessions and community surveys are planned for June. Question is being posed whether or not the community is satisfied with the information given and if based on that information, the RAP has demonstrated that this BUI is no longer impaired. Community members may indicate if more monitoring is needed, if information should be added to the Delisting Report to clarify things and voice other concerns. Feedback will be considered by the committee overseeing the RAP – the St. Lawrence Restoration Council (SLRC) and SLRC will provide a recommendation to the Ontario and Canadian government who will ultimately decide whether or not to delist.

We will be returning to Council in September to present the results of the community engagement and determine if MCA Council wants to provide a letter endorsing or opposing the delisting of the Fish Tumor's and Other Deformities BUI.

St. Lawrence Regional Impact Assessment – Environmental Assessment Officers attended the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects National Conference to gain understanding the Impact Assessment they'll be participating in. Terms of Reference will need to be endorsed through an MCR for further financial support on this project. Env Staff participating in planning how assessment will be undertaken including the level of participation by MCA and the Impact Assessment Agency (federal). Subregion including waters of Kahnawake, Kanesatake and Akwesasne

created to focus on more local issues. Will be engaging the community to determine is taking the lead. This diagram illustrates the proposed assessment process

General Flow chart: Example AP



Events - Roadside Cleanup Day was a success with a full dumpster of waste collected at Generation Park and a partial dumpster collected at A'nowara'ko:wa Arena. Next waste event will be an E-Waste collection day which is being planned for later this summer. Overnight fishing in the Otentiks at Thousand Islands National Park occurring this weekend.

We have received enquiries about whether or not MCA will host a large item pickup day. This was an initiative that was funded through a Chief's initiative, not waste.

MCR Updates and Discussion

1. Contract for processing of recycling materials being sent for MCR, (HGC Management) I will sponsor this MCR coming to Council table. Until a Contract is in place the disposal will continue to travel farther away.
2. Data Sovereignty – Exploring funding to develop an in-house Data Sovereignty Policy – What types of data should and shouldn't be shared? Environment doesn't have a policy in place to protect our Data. They are

exploring options on intellectual property policy and are looking at ways to develop that. EDNA has been found and Environment would like to protect the species at risk with actually capturing any. The policy will prevent any scientists from coming on Territory and overtaking our waterways. MCA currently has ATIP policy in place.

3. Species at Risk handling permits – how to handle this as a sovereign nation. Records show previous discussions revolved around Council issuing permits if needed. SD&G reached out to Environment to see if there was an interest in picking up Turtles that are in the roadway. SD&G are unable to due to their laws and they can be charged for doing this. They offered to notify MCA when this occurs. Some Environment staff are comfortable doing this, but others are not. It was decided to decline their offer because they currently have incubators full at this time.
4. River Institute Scientist Mary Ann Perron reached out regarding a concerning matter of a wetland which she is trying to prevent development. The McClennon Marsh north of the 401 is slated for Development for the Great Wolf Lodge. It is found that this is a significant wetland that has good ecological impacts may take place if developed. Field work was completed to classify EDNA through evaluation and it was scored due to the indicators. The location is behind the old 5th Wheel in Cornwall. There are also Cultural significance species like the black ash , animal species like the binding turtle and EDNA of other Turtles there. A letter was submitted to designate and to protect the wetlands but that may not be able to stop from developing the area. A suggestion to send this to ARRO to review.
5. Ross Island Archaeological Assessment – pending Environmental Assessments waiting for completed archeological assessments. Meanwhile, lots have been paid for and OVS is collecting fees.
6. Clarification how decisions which affect Akwesasne are made between the Councils of SRMT and MCA.

7. Discussion negotiations with Circular Economies regarding recycling services for MCA. Negotiations from Circular are being worked on.
8. Environment has hired an Emergency hire for a Conservation Officer.

Council meetings continued:

- Participated in Council meeting on Monday.
- Participated in a meeting with Border Security issues with Council.
- Attended the Kana:takon district Meeting on Monday evening and no one showed up. A community member did stop in at my house to get updates. Council are asking the Community member to see if there is a need for Google earth to have access to our community. The member was hesitant to allow this due to our information being out there.
- Sat in Interviews for all Day on Tuesday.
- General Meeting Scheduled for Thursday.
- Transport Canada meeting scheduled for Friday.

Other issues:

Portfolio Issues:

A community raised an issue of the rates of Hydro getting out of hand. Hydro bills are going up and the Community are being affected with this rising cost.

District of Kana:takon resident requested street lights.

Housing needs.

Additional Updates:

Met with a number of Community members who are without help during power outages. Also met on other concerns. I have forwarded the information on to the Departments that can help.

Other works to be set up:

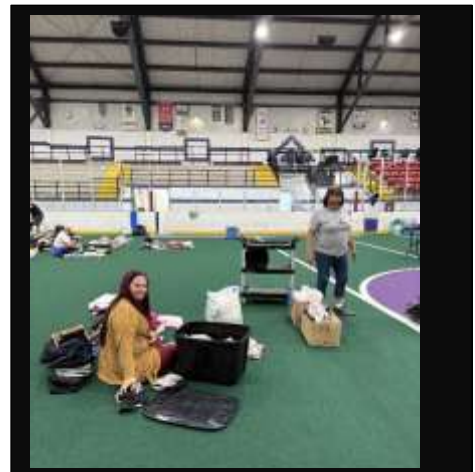
Looking to bring the Multi Jurisdiction table back so we can sit down and look at what the Roads needs are in order to go after funding. This has been sent to the Director and it was announced at the DIHE Portfolio meeting in which we all agreed to. This was discussed at Portfolio meeting and agreed that we need funding from all sources. Would like to have phases of projects begin this year and each year moving forward.

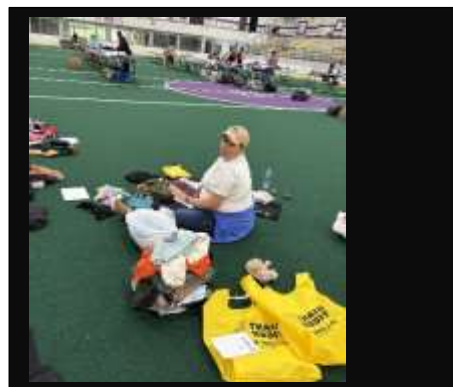
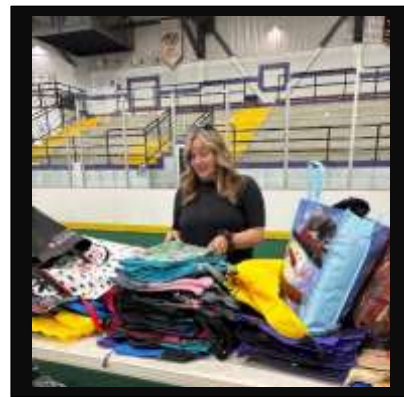
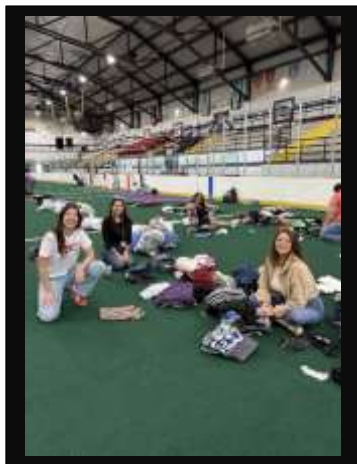
PHOTOS

HOMPSON ISLAND CULTURAL DAY: June 2nd 2025



DONATION COLLECTION FOR SANDY LAKE FIRST NATIONS: Friday June 13th 2025





PARLIAMENT HILL RALLY AGAINST BILL C-5: June 15th





Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict



Kawehno:ke District

Email: chief.lisa.fbenedict@akwesasne.ca Cell: 613-577-5593

PORTFOLIOS

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education
(AMBE)

Department of Infrastructure, Housing and
Environment (DIHE)

Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD)

Entewatathá:wi Nation Building (NB)

COMMITTEES

Internal: Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA),
Governance, Iroquois Caucus (IC), Youth, Elders,
Culture and Language (YECL)

External:

Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council
(FNWC)

Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs & Technical Committee on
Languages and Learning (CTCLL)

COO Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table
(OBELT)

Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Board

Monthly Report for Ohiarí:ha/June 2025

She:kon Sewakwe:kon:

At the **General Meeting of Onerahtohkó:wa/May 29th, 2025** held at the Snye Recreation Centre, there were comments about how Council is perceived. Comments were made that there is a shown breakdown in communication, a split of Council, etc. I have even heard previously, that this is the *worst* Council. I take this *very personally* as I don't see it this way. But, I am hopeful that this Council can continue to work through the growing pains and be the Council that continued to move things forward.

I would like to ask what changes are needed. Again, the word change is used. As I have mentioned in previous monthly reports, during elections, the community was stating they wanted change. But really what is the change that is wanted and needed. Perhaps this is where the conversation starts, and also includes input from everyone. This includes both the community and Council. *What are your thoughts?*

The summer months are upon us once again. It seems to come in as quickly as it leaves. We have experience some extreme heat these past few days and everyone is trying to keep cool. Be sure to take care of yourself during this hot weather and take precautions to keep yourself safe.

The **Kawehno:ke District Meeting for Ohiarí:ha** was cancelled out of respect of passing of a District community member. The next District Meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

Meet the Latest Member of Akwesasne Youth Council

Kayanna Cook-Jackson joined the Akwesasne Youth Council after signing her Oath of Office on Onerahtohkó:wa/May 15th, 2025. The Youth Council offers a meaningful opportunity for young individuals to get involved in local governance, advocate for you and contribute to shaping the future of Akwesasne. Congratulations and welcome to Kayanna! **Youth Council Members include:** Taylor Day, Starlyn Mason and Cayde Lazore.

The Youth Council members attended in the 50th Anniversary | Chiefs of Ontario | Annual Chiefs Assembly on Ohiarí:ha/June 17-19, 2025.

Call-Out for Members of an Elder's Council



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE
Respect for the past, facing today's challenges, building a strong future.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:
Ohiari:ha-wa/May 13, 2025

CALL OUT FOR ELDERS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to appoint three (3) elder's council representatives to represent the community of Akwesasne.

Eligibility:
The Akwesasne Elders Council membership shall consist of representatives, with a goal of equal gender composition, and staggered terms of two to three years. In order to be eligible to represent the Mohawks of Akwesasne, applicants must:

1. Be enrolled or have an active application to be a Member of the Mohawk of Akwesasne, according to the Akwesasne Membership Code;
2. Be 60 years of age at the time of appointment;
3. Reside in one of the three districts of the Akwesasne: Kawehsako, Kanatakos, or Tsi Snathne;
4. Must pass a Criminal Reference Check (CRC) prior to appointment and not be convicted of any criminal charges during the appointment term;

Responsibilities in accordance with the terms of reference:

1. Share ideas and issues, recommendations, and/or solutions with MCA;
2. Liaise with Grand Chief and Council on an as-needed basis;
3. Be committed to being a positive role model and promote a positive lifestyle;
4. Be respectful to all;
5. Support and work with Akwesasne youth and elder initiatives.

Please be advised that there are additional responsibilities in accordance with the Terms of Reference. Individuals selected will be appointed as an MCA Elders Representative through a Mohawk Council Resolution for a two to three-year term.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letter of interest and resume to Kayra Chauvin at kayra.chauvin@akwesasne.ca or by mail/in person to the Mohawk Government Offices located at 12 Akwesasne St., Akwesasne, QC H9M 1A0 (Admin #1 Building in Kanatakos), positions open until filled. For further information or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Mohawk Government offices at (613) 575-2250 ext. 2162.

Akwesasne (Mohawk) 2025-26
Tel: 613 575-2250 ext. 2162

Akwesasne, 12th Street, 1st Floor, District
Akwesasne, QC H9M 1A0
Tel: 613 575-2250 ext. 2162

Mohawk Government Offices
12 Akwesasne St., Akwesasne, QC H9M 1A0
Tel: 613 575-2250 ext. 2162

Meetings Attended

Week of Ohiari:ha 2, 2025	Week of Ohiari:ha 9, 2025	Week of Ohiari:ha 16, 2025	Week of Ohiari:ha 23, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council Meeting ✓ Border Partners Meeting ✓ Media Training ✓ Entewathatha:wi Portfolio Meeting ✓ Chiefs of Ontario ~ Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning ✓ Annual Chiefs of Ontario Dialogue Session ✓ IFN Bank Information Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 53rd Annual North American Indian Women's Association Conference ✓ Justice Portfolio Meeting ✓ Youth, Elders, Culture and Language Committee Meeting ✓ Annual Chiefs of Ontario Dialogue Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council Meeting ✓ Community Sustainability Cheque Distribution ✓ Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly 50th Anniversary ✓ Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Council Meeting ✓ Governance Committee Meeting ✓ Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Portfolio Meeting ✓ Enientihswanon:na Working Task Group Meeting Child's Rights Law ✓ Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School Moving-Up Ceremony ✓ Oversight Committee on Legislative Development Meeting

The list provides an overview of meetings that I attend mostly on a monthly basis. The monthly Portfolio Meetings are normally scheduled at the same time. Details of some of the meetings is included below.

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Overview of Meetings

City of Cornwall Council | Reconciliation Action Plan ~ there was discussion on thoughts on the details to be included in an action plan. The action plan is being developed to help focus the city's efforts to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and provide a concrete approach to put truth and reconciliation into practice in the work it does. They have already taken some action to adopting the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and proclaiming Seskehkó:wa 30th as Orange Shirt Day throughout the city.

Next Steps: Invitation to tour the community, additional meeting to be scheduled.

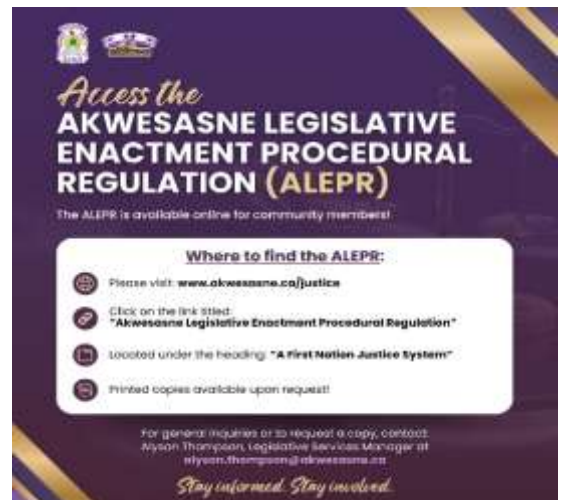
Entewatatha:wi Portfolio Meeting ~ The program conducted a survey to assess community awareness of the Entewatathá:wi Self Government process and to identify preferred methods of outreach. The survey took place from Enniskó:wa 27-Onerahtohkó:wa 8, 2025 and was available to all members of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, including both the northern and southern portions of Akwesasne. The survey was offered in three (3) formats: on-line, in person and paper. *Report as prepared by staff included:* **Key Findings:** 503 respondents completed the survey. 481 respondents were members and 20 were not. **Conclusion:** The survey results of the survey show that while many community members are aware, there remains a need for greater understanding, more frequent updates, and clearer explanations of how the agreement will impact daily life. Respondents expressed strong interest in more accessible and varied engagement opportunities, especially through online sessions, simplified summaries, and small group discussions. Barriers such as timing, limited access to transportation, and a lack of clarity around the agreement's content continue to limit participation. However, the high level of interest in learning more signals a strong foundation for continued outreach. Moving forward, the Entewatathá:wi team can use this feedback to tailor communications, improve transparency, and strengthen engagement strategies to ensure that community members feel informed, supported, and empowered to participate in the self-government process.

The goal was to collect 500 survey responses. Niawenkó:wa to the team ~ Rachel, Cheavee, Jacey, Brandi, and Community Advisors, Bernice, Laura, Lucy, Nadine, for achieving the goal!

Justice Portfolio Meeting ~ Power of Attorney Kits | Akwesasne Justice Department are producing Power of Attorney kits to make available for community members who want to plan ahead and ensure their legal affairs are in order. In Ontario, there are two main types of Power of Attorney: one for property and one for personal care. In Quebec, the process is slightly different. Powers of Attorney are often referred to as "mandates," and Quebec distinguishes between general and special mandates, depending on the scope of authority being granted. The kits will include information for both provinces, helping bridge a legal gap that many Akwesasne families face. Kits will be made available in the coming weeks.

Legislative Services | The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development continues to meet at least monthly.

Residency Law and Fire Law meetings also continue; both are in the early planning stages. Enientihswanón:na (Child Rights Law) working task group meets every two weeks, and the working task group is moving into phase II of the Akwesasne Law Enactment Procedural Regulation, which is Council review. The Akwesasne Election Law working task group is updating the community at this General Meeting.



Oversight Committee on Legislative Development

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
Emily King, Research Analyst
Theresa Benedict, Tsi Snaihne Community Rep
Gary Cole, Kawehno:ke Community Rep
Dr. Doris Cook, Kana:takon Community Rep
Chief Cindy Francis Mitchell, Justice Portfolio
Chief Tesha Rourke, Justice Portfolio
Chief Lisa Francis Benedict, Justice Portfolio

Fire Safety Law Working Task Group

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
Emily King, Research Analyst
Dr. Doris Cook, OSC Kana:takon Community Rep
Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict, OSC Justice Portfolio
Chief Tesha Rourke, OSC Justice Portfolio
Andrew Lazore, HAVFD President
Jeremy Thompson, HAVFD tech

This monthly report is provided as part of the Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios and Monthly Activities.

Enienthihswanón:na (Child Rights Law) Working Task Group

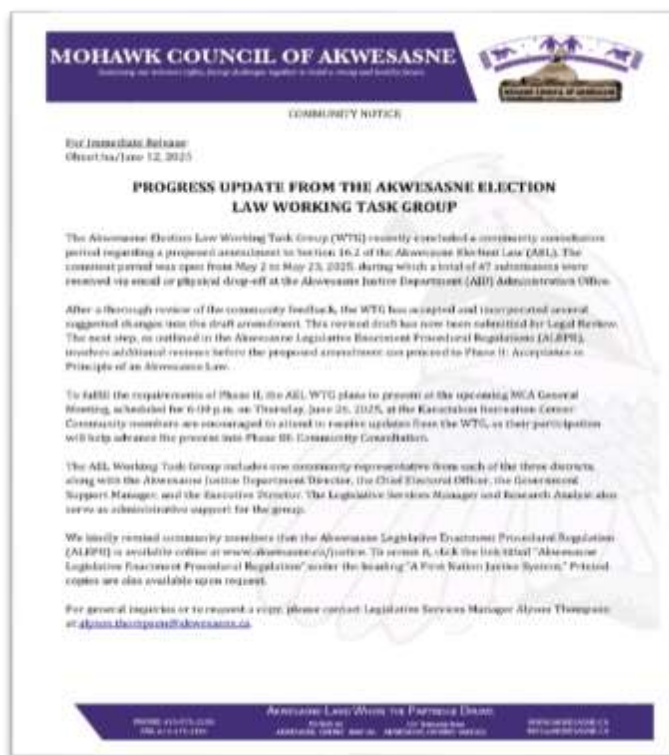
Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
Emily King, Research Analyst
Ruth Ambros, Legislative Drafter
Theresa Benedict, OSC Tsi Snaihne Community Rep
Chief Lisa Francis Benedict, OSC Justice Portfolio
Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell, OSC Justice Portfolio
Chief Lacey Pierce, District Chief Rep
Cactus Cook Sunday, Director of Justice
Barb Thompson, ACFS tech
Shara Francis-Herne, DCSS tech
Kim Herne, ARAP tech
Ashley Tarbell, Communications
Glenn Lazore, Elder

Residency Law Working Task Group Members

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
Emily King, Research Analyst
Gary Cole, OSC Community Rep
Chief Cindy Francis – Mitchell, OSC, Justice Portfolio
Chief Fallon David, OSC Justice Portfolio, Public Safety Portfolio
Chief JoAnn Swamp, Government Secretariat Portfolio
Carol Lafrance, OVS Tech

Akwesasne Election Law Working Task Group

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
Emily King, Research Analyst
Gary Cole, OSC Kawehno:ke Community Rep
Cactus Cook Sunday, Director of Justice
Dr. Doris Cook, OSC Kana:takon Community Rep
Theresa Benedict, OSC Tsi Snaihne Community Rep
Cheryl Jacobs, OSC Community Rep Chief Electoral Officer
Taylor Armstrong, A/Government Support Manager
Shannon Roundpoint, A/Executive Director



Akwesasne Community Justice Program | Program will be looking to host training in civil and family mediation, so be on the lookout for advertisements on when that will occur. The program currently has two positions to fill:
1) **Quebec Indigenous Court Worker/Gladue Writer** ~ assisting community members and Indigenous individuals navigating the criminal justice system in Quebec

2) **Native Inmate Liaison Officer** ~ providing culturally relevant services to Indigenous inmates located at Ottawa/Carleton Detention Center.

The Family Court Worker is busy familiarizing themselves with community agencies and their respective standards of practice in order to build a solid foundation and gauge what the working protocols will look like in the new service agreement(s). Gladue Writers will be providing an overview of their services at this general meeting.

For further information on employment with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, check out www.akwesasne.ca or the FB page.

Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program | The program is currently working with the City of Cornwall, Children's Aid Society SD&G, Akwesasne Child and Family Services, and other organizations to plan its 4th Annual Seskehkó:wa 30th event in Lamoureux Park where the core theme is "Every Child Matters" on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The program has also recently donated six (6) orange "Every Child Matters" benches to Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education to be placed at each school and daycare in the three districts of Akwesasne. They are working on a tender to have these benches installed by the end of the summer or early fall. Additionally, as more community members and agencies have become aware of the ARAP since its establishment in 2021, the program has been experiencing a noticeable increase in First Nation Representative files and an increase in providing services to Akwesasne families going through matters with child protection agencies across Canada. Due to this increase in First Nation Representative services, particularly in Quebec, the program is currently working on posting a Request for Proposals for Quebec legal counsel. This legal counsel will advise the program in Quebec child protection matters that need to go to court and help to further assert our inherent rights as representative of our community in having a say in what happens to our Akwesasne children going through the Quebec child welfare system.

Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Board | I sit on the Board as an ex-officio member. The Club has their annual Golf Tournament scheduled for Seskehkó:wa/September 27th. More information will follow in my report next month.

Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Portfolio | Air Conditioning for Schools ~ Estimated cost for completion of project is approximately \$5 Million. needed for 3 districts Schools. This situation has been an ongoing issue for the past couple of years. It is only thought about when the temperatures are unfavorable that they begin to want action taken quickly. HVAC Unit lead time will be anticipated at 20 weeks to be delivered (now we are looking at Kenténha). Children and staff cannot be in the buildings during the installation due to liability. Arrangements will need to be made that accommodates this. Construction could have taken place during the summer break when the building is empty. For Tsi Snaihne School, the service line to Hydro Quebec needs to be upgraded. A further update will be provided. *This topic has sparked some concern from community members. Be assured that the Council fully supports air conditioning in schools.*

Travel

Native American Indian Women's Association 53rd Annual Conference held on Ohiarí:ha/June 9-11, 2025 in Niagara Falls, New York.

Total Expenses: \$1,200.00

100th Anniversary of the Chiefs of Ontario Annual Chiefs Assembly held on Ohiarí:ha/June 17-19, 2025 on the Hiawatha First Nation near Peterborough, Ontario.

Total Expenses: \$1,500.00

Reports are attached.

Things to Note

On Ohia:ri:ha/June 19th, 2025 the Seaway International Bridge Corporation Ltd. unveiled a mural created by Kirby Thompson. Kirby works as a SIBC toll attendant and daughter of Vince and Gina Thompson. *Great Job to Kirby!!*



Nia:wen for reading my monthly report for Ohia:ri:ha. *Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or would just like to have a chat. ~ Lisa*



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

613-363-3891

613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

WEEKLY REPORT

JUNE 2ND-6TH, 2025

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting June 2nd, 2025

Thompson Island Cultural Camp

No council meeting presentations No Discussion items

MCRS: Akwesasne Review Commission member, ACCESS Training agreement, Early years AMS Extension, Kawehno:ke Land Allotments, Council Use of Discretionary funds, Arena Youth Playground, Settlement Payment Cannabis Business, Legal services, payment Cannabis business, Ontario Probation agreement

1965 AC Meeting

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025, 10:00-11:00am

Virtual via Teams As a member of the Chiefs Committee on Social I participated in the virtual meeting. As a member of the CCOS I will be given access to information that is deemed confidential and subject to settlement-privilege by virtue of my role on the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement Advisory Committee. This is consistent with my previous work on the FNCFS Reform. I will provide key updates and seek input as the work moves forward.

Meeting with ARRO/AMBE Educational Green Card MCA Leadership was provided with AMBE Post Secondary in relation to the Education Green Card implementation, scope of effect on our Akwesasne youth, there was a comment to the possibility of fraud for using US addresses may pose. Due to the fact that the Community of Akwesasne straddles the imposed borders our Inherent rights to border mobility negate this possibility. Jay Treaty Border Alliance website has information available as well as MCA ARRO provided historical and current information helpful to our families. As this is an issue of great importance, we will continue to work in partnership with our respected departments and counterparts to mitigate impacts to Akwesasne. Suggestions included holding application nights and workshops for information, applications, and to provide follow up information. Collaboration with the SRMT, MNCC and US Border Port Director Tracy Casey and of course our AMBE Post Secondary

Executive Committee Meeting June 6th, 2025- Executive Director interview preparation and interview process for the Executive Director position.

Pathways/ Mohawk Council of Akwesasne - Executive Director Interviews June 6th, 2025 Virtual Sessions.

Baby Shower Luncheon for EA Shaydi Oakes we wish her every happiness as she awaits the arrival of her new little one. June 6th, 2025

FN Banking Presentation from Steve Williams and Shawn Munch June 6th, 2025 I was not able to attend this session however I have received this information at the IFN Quarterly Meetings previously.

Media Training for Council by MCA Communications Team

June 5th, 2025, Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

Communication Skills Training for Council. Council learned about understanding media, community and government landscapes, and the significance of community trust and collaboration, scenario-based message mapping, techniques to keep of track, importance of respect, clarity, and preparation in effective communications, crisis communication, designated spokesperson, transparency and consistent messaging. This excellent session concluded with tips to developing key messaging, honesty, using relatable examples, to enhance leadership and trust.



FNCFS Family Home Repairs

For more information or to apply, please email charmaine.caldwell@akwesasne.ca or gina.thompson@akwesasne.ca.
Charmaine Caldwell
Gina Jones-Thompson 613-575-2250 ext. 1051

FNCFS/ISC Website
Information available,
funding guidelines,
restrictions and
program goals.



MCA FAMILY
Sustainability

Please Call Kristy Lauzon
by June 6th, 2025

JUNE
2ND, 2025

Council Meeting Day @
Thompson Island

Key Points from Communications Training

Community wants to be informed heard and included,
What to expect: Emotional Investment, Long Memory of past Issues, Diverse or divided issues. Communication is not the same with Community and Media.

Communication with Government - Be clear and focused, Lobbying preparation work with technical staff. Research elected official, know policy and portfolio relevance and stick to the facts. Know your ask be prepared with hard copies.

Facts are incredibly important when social media is full of misinformation and disinformation.

Truth Matters.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

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613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting June 9th, 2025 No presentations

Discussion items: . Service Canada Outreach Services, Sustainability Check – Youth Refused, Booking D. Austin on Tour, General Meeting Debrief, FNCFs Funding Barriers, Color Run, IFN Youth Council, HAVFD, General Meeting Agenda – June 26th, 2025, Bill 5

MCRS: ISC Amendments, BMO Signing Authority, Akwesasne Settlement Trust and Iakhisohtha Resident signing authority, Caisse Populaire Signing Authority, 4 Housing Loan Applications, 2024-25 Housing FNCHF, Akwesasne Cultural Facility & Pavilion.

Special Needs Committee Meeting June 10th, 2025, participated alongside MCA DCSS EA Alicia Hill and Special Needs Committee received current updates and encouragement for next steps which includes a site visit to Six Nations Community living to gain an understanding of the development of our program and services. Why recreate the wheel when we can visit a living center that is meeting their community members with inclusion and wrap around care. Site visits are important to gain knowledge have conversations and will be included as needed to Beyond 21 and the SRMT to ensure our program has everything Akwesasne has asked for to meet ongoing needs and requests. If you have knowledge of a program that is working and would like to share information, please reach out.

ARRO Portfolio Seaway Negotiations Prep Meeting June 10th, 2025 at this meeting it was determined that we require further understanding and planning before we proceed with Seaway Negotiations meeting and working alongside ARRO will prep all members for the negotiations component arming us with our historical significance and facts needed to effectively proceed.

Executive Committee Meeting June 11th, 2025-met with current acting Executive Director to discuss information required for the Executive Committee

Executive Committee Meeting June 11th, 2025 with Pathways to further the process in hiring/interviewing the next permanent Executive Director.

COO FNCFs Virtual Meeting June 12th, 2025

Chiefs of Ontario - Chiefs Committee on Social IFN Rep - Leadership Meeting Social Sector Resolutions and Updates Meeting - SSCU / CCOS

MCA & Council Sandy Lake Evacuees Free Garage sale and Events June 13th, 2026 at the Anowarakowa Arena This event coordinated by our District Chiefs Teresa Oakes and Tesha Rourke with assistance from our District Chiefs, MCA EOC and MCA Programs and many Volunteers. This event provided much needed necessities and supplies as well as recreation, fun and a break from the Dev Centre. I am so proud of the District Chiefs for stepping up and creating such a positive event centered around kindness and connection. I would also like to say Niawen:kowa to the many community members who mobilized to donate so many wonderful and thoughtful items from clothing necessities, baby items strollers, toys, games, books and beauty items. Your kindness and generosity was a true representation of who we are as a people.

WEEKLY REPORT

JUNE 9TH-13TH, 2025

Council General Meeting Debrief June 9th 2025

This meeting discussed the number of administrative and personal matters that arise at the General Meeting and how best to create a solution based discussion to ensure that the information questions and inquiries are forwarded to the appropriate department, executive director or where it belongs

Going forward the Council will be meeting the Friday after every general meeting to proactively address and direct action items from the GM



FNCFS Family Home Repairs

For more information or to apply, please email
charmaine.caldwell@akwesasne.ca or
gina.thompson@akwesasne.ca.
Charmaine Caldwell
Gina Jones-Thompson 613-575-2250 ext. 1051

DCSS Portfolio Meeting
June 13th 2025
Canceled by A/Director

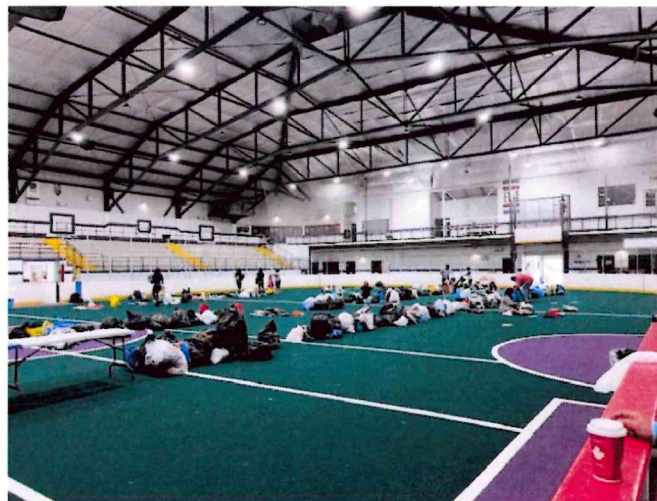


GENERAL
MEETING

June 26th 2025
Kanatakon

JUNE 26-27TH

CCOS 1965 Toronto



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

613-363-3891

613-575-2250(2174)

chief.vanessa.adams@akwesasne.ca



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting June 15th, 2025, Not Available to attend due to work travel. At the encouragement of the Grand Chief and Council on the importance of networking I accepted invitation to play in COO golf tournament and was able to meet and talk with Former Chief Ava Hill, Chief Shelly Moore Frappier, Indigenous Deputy Minister Shawn Batisse, Former Grand Chief Kahsennahawe Sky Deer, Former Ontario Regional Chief Gord Peters, Mel Green from Enbridge. To be honest I am not a golfer. Golf was FREE and a great networking opportunity. I have made great connections, glad I took the encouragement

Rally in Opposition of Bill 5 and Bill C5 Ottawa Parliament Hill June 16, 2025.

Bill 5 Protect Ontario "Unleashing on our Economy Act" in Ontario Bill 5 gravely reduces or eliminates regulations, processes and considerations essential for environmentally responsible decision making in partnership with First Nations, Bill 5 proposes changes to the endangered species act to repeal provisions requiring the development of species at risk management plans and recovery strategies that include First Nations input.

Economic and resource development decision-making must be undertaken in full partnership with First Nations and be consistent with their inherent, treaty and constitutional rights and responsibilities.

Bill 5 empowers government to exempt designated projects and trusted proponents from required legislation that aims to protect the environment from harm and conserve species at risk - removing established policy that triggers the duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.

Bill 5 proposes a new SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES ACT which provides the Lieutenant Governor in Council with powers to designate any area a "special economic zone" which remove the need to follow existing laws with legislation that ultimately will infringe on Free Prior and Informed Consent rights encompassed in the UNDRIP Articles 19 and 31 which is considered law under federal jurisdiction.



WEEKLY REPORT

JUNE 16TH - 20TH, 2025

She'kon - Check out our Akwesasne Youth Council Leaders Taylor, Star, Cayde and Kayanna

The Akwesasne Youth Council has begun their term with some great events they participated in the Rally in opposition to Bill 5 Bill C5 and then travelled on to Hiawatha First Nation where they proudly participated networked and took part in the COO 50th Anniversary Chiefs Assembly and Gala Event honoring all previous Regional Chiefs - Niawen:kowa You all make me so proud!!!



COO ACA
Opening day/Rally in Ottawa
Ontario Financial Stability Plan
Bill C5
Consultation and Community
Leadership
Bill 5 Overview
Ontario First Nation Strategy Meeting
Ontario Child Welfare Reform
Herbicide- Glyphosphate Ban
Advocacy
Future Generations Fund
Knowledge Keepers Presentation,
Youth and LGBTQ+ Council

Shout out to our MCA Environment Students

Niawen:kowa to our MCA
Environment Dept Students for
Stepping up and Showing up at the
Rally to stop Bill 5 Bill C5 These
Youth are our future leaders and
stewards of the land Your activism is
appreciated they even met Adam
Beach



Six Nations
Community Living

July 1-2nd 2025

SEPT
2-5TH, 2025

AFN
AGA - Winnipeg MN

She'kon - What an exciting week! Just checking in Kawehno:ke - Hoping you are enjoying the beautiful weather staying safe & being kind. Please reach out if there is anything that I can help out with. For clarity or more information call, text or email I am always available for conversations. Let's set up a time to meet. My work energies for the past few years have included the Chiefs committee on Social - FNCFS and by now you've seen FNCFS everywhere on our website and social media announcements. FNCFS stands for First Nations Child and Family Services Reform. I have been on committee since 2019 and participated to ensure our Akwesasne voice and needs are being addressed. I continue this work now on Jordan's Principle and the 1965 agreement reform task groups. Benefits to Akwesasne include providing our input and recommendations to ensure that changes made positively impact our large community, as well as providing incite as to our experience being not part of the 1965 agreement. Benefiting First Nations across Ontario



Chief Report

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Vince Thompson



Reporting Period: May – June 2025

She:kon,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirit. I want to extend my deepest condolences to anyone in our community who is grieving the loss of a loved one. My thoughts are with you, and I hope you continue to find strength through family, friends, and our community.

Over the last few months, I've continued to attend all mandatory meetings and participate in my portfolio responsibilities. Below is a summary of my activities and updates from May through June.

Coteau-du-Lac Reburials

A follow-up meeting is scheduled in July to finalize the next steps in the reburial process for ancestors discovered at Coteau-du-Lac near Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC. The ókewi society will present on ceremony and process, educating neighbouring nations. A repatriation ceremony will be held, and 34 buckskins have been purchased to respectfully cover the ancestors before they are returned to the earth.

Language Revitalization Initiatives

Council has approved two Kanien'kéha revitalization projects.

Fish Population Concerns

A Conservation and Environment meeting is scheduled for July 9 in Kahnawà:ke. The goal is to gather insight for the development of a more robust conservation department and to implement protective measures for Akwesasne's natural resources.

First Nations Child and Family Services – Information Spending Session

Topics included fixed and flexible funding for enhanced recreational areas, development of a Parks and Recreation Department, new walking trails, and support for language revitalization structure development. Housing sector discussions covered home improvement funding, septic maintenance, a tiny home community, and a windows/doors/roof program.

Kawehno:ke District Meeting – May 2025

Community concerns included the need for cameras at key intersections, an infestation of Box Elder Beetles affecting elders, and missing signage at the Island and Recreation Road intersection. Discussion topics included:

- Arrowhead Pharmacy delivery service
- Status cards being "appointment only" with no walk-ins

Announcements included:

- General meetings scheduled for July and August
- Saturday clinics now available at Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic
- New Community Paramedic Indigenous Patient Navigator: Darryl Diabo

CBSA plate reader cameras are also set to be installed at Canadian customs laneways.

Special General Meeting – May 13, 2025

Continued discussion from April's meeting, with a main focus on the 2025–2026 fiscal year budget presentation.

New York State Land Claim Update:

Discussion items:

- New York State Land Claims Internal Agreement.
- Debate regarding next steps after Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.
- Announcement of MNCC's self-removal from NYS Land Claim. Legal opinion was provided on the impacts of their withdrawal.

Doctor Horn Presentation

Covered ongoing environmental pollutants from surrounding industries and their continued health impacts on Akwesasne. A second presentation is being planned.

OVS Committee Meeting

Topics included lease increases on Hamilton Island (to be addressed by OVS), the MRZ Secure Card Intake session scheduled for June 13, membership board election results, and the continued backlog of membership applications. Two positions within OVS are currently open.

Recycling Circular Materials

An introductory meeting was held to explore new contractor options for accepting Akwesasne recycling materials.

Entewatatha:wi Negotiations

Discussions centered on Canada's response to expropriation issues, the Lands Protection Act (specifically how Chapter 4 overrides community law), and acknowledgement of the elders' contributions.

Language Revitalization Presentations

Attended three presentations hosted by the YECL Committee where community members passionately presented their language initiatives.

ARRO Portfolio Meeting

Key updates:

- Lack of consultation from Enbridge on natural gas expansion in the Glendale area.
- It's been agreed upon for MCA Environment Program to be allowed to do site visits.
- The agreement with Enbridge is near expiration and requires renegotiation.
- Updates on the Dundee ATR process and Nutfield Tract claims.
- Cairn Island – no public release of archaeological report, council is in agreement.

Space Needs Committee Meeting:

Reviewed rental needs for DCSS; requesting policy and procedures from the PAT team. Discussed creating relocation criteria for programs/departments – business case needs to be provided to prove benefits to the community.

DIHE Portfolio Meeting:

- Discussed district waterline connections.
- Council has allocated \$1M in funding to waterworks for the next 4-year period.
- Lot readiness dollars was discussed from the COO Housing and Infrastructure Committee.

Working Task Group – Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility

It was discussed that a conceptual drawing is needed for a proposed multi-purpose recreation facility, along with identifying three possible sites on Kawehno:ke. Additional items discussed:

- Request made for DIHE's protocol for capital projects
- Paving, new fencing, and a new playground to be installed at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center.
- Other First Nations' recreational facilities were reviewed for comparison.
- Possibility of conducting a survey on Kawehno:ke's recreational needs.

Border Collaboration Initiative – Pre-Clearance Working Circle Meeting

An update on the pre-clearance project and we are requesting support from the Public Safety Minister.

Updates included:

- Pre-clearance land identified by Americans.
- Feasibility and environmental studies complete.
- In-person meeting expected Fall 2025.

Detox Center Presentation

Withdrawal and detox management program presented by Dr. Scott. Discussions focused on the need for additional staffing to support 24/7 operations and a transitional home connection to support clients post-detox for higher success rates.

Special Needs Presentation

Led by advocate Fawn Cole and Aspire Academy representatives: Ashley Foster (Director of School Development), Kim Moore (Director of Clinical Development), and Catherine Stapley (Instructor Therapist).

Topics included:

- Identifying autism and special needs; the importance of remembering every child matters; how there is not just one type of autism and the different types of assessments.
- Garnering MCA support with programming, helping Council get a better understanding of autism and how to provide greater support for our community members with special needs.
- Wait times for Jordan's Principle approvals are too long for what the family's need.
- Looking for an early intervention/learning center for autism – potential for partnership with Aspire Academy Ottawa.
- Need facility to implement an Akwesasne autism screenings & assessments.
- Will provide updates as these initiatives progress – will share with the Space Needs Committee.

OVS Membership Code Meeting

Focused on communication strategies to distinguish between Indian status and Mohawk of Akwesasne membership. Membership Committee also provided updates on their activities and meetings.

ARRO & AMBE Meeting

Discussion was on post-secondary education requirements and the "green card" (creation of records) concerns for Akwesasne students born in Canada and attending school in the U.S.

Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan Presentation – City of Cornwall

Presented by Katherine Wells, City of Cornwall's Director of Government Relations & Corporate Priorities.

- Recommendation made for the action plan to include additional research into Akwesasne's history, with teachings like the One Dish One Spoon, Tree of Peace, and Two Row Wampum identified as educational tools.

Hydro Quebec Power Storage Banks

Working with DOH to prioritize elders and vulnerable members for battery distribution to power essential appliances (medical devices, fridge, lights, etc.) during outages. Distribution timelines are still being finalized, but this is a priority for the team.

Council Media/Communications Training

Delivered by Ashley Tarbell and Waheson Lazore of the MCA Department of Communications. The session was informative and well-received, with more to come.

Border Collaboration Initiative Meeting – Dundee POE Working Circle

CBSA and MCA both had strong representation; it was nice to see a previous CBSA employee who was instrumental in the implementation of the domestic lane pilot project at the Cornwall POE. Discussion topics included:

- Need for remission order working circle.
- Updated matrix document, which identifies the activity tasks that need to be completed for the Dundee POE Working Circle.
- Need to determine an MOU agreement for the ANIHB's Non-Emergency Medical Transport who are travelling through both ports of entries (Cornwall and Dundee).
- Cultural sensitivity training requested, including education on sacred items.

Akwesasne-Quebec Political Protocol Agreement Negotiations

Meeting held with Ian Lafrenière, Quebec's Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit. Minister will send letter to MCA on Bill 84 (Language bill requiring French language in QC schools) clarifying potential impacts and solutions for Akwesasne schools.

Additional discussion included:

- MOU Political Protocol Agreement timeline for completion (three months).
- Quebec cable ferry operations – being reviewed by Council.
- Looking to invite Ian Lafrenière to be a part of the multi-jurisdictional table for infrastructure needs in Akwesasne.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these updates, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my fellow chiefs. Nia:wen for your continued support.



Chief Lacey Pierce

Kawehno:ke District



Email: Chief.lacey.pierce@akwesasne.ca Office: 613-575-2250 Ext 2173 Cell: 613-363-3498

This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Portfolios:

- Department of Health (DOH)
- Public Safety
- Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE)

Committees:

- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Green Team
- Beautification
- Waterways
- Iroquois Caucus
- Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)
- Healing and Wellness Fund
- Special Needs Committee
- Property Acquisition Team (PAT)
- Orange Shirt Day Committee
- AMBE Tentewaienáhsheke Student Leadership Team

Attendance:

Bereavement: 1.5
Personal: 1
Sick:
Vacation: 4

Monthly Expenditures:

\$53.00

(Gas/Parking for
Bill-C Parliament Hill Rally)

MCA General Meeting Video — May 2025

- The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's video recording of the May 2025 General Meeting is now available for viewing. To watch, please visit <https://youtu.be/XJswW6ro9qc>

MCA General Meeting for June 2025

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's General Meeting is scheduled for Ohiari:ha/June 26, 2025 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center, 6 p.m. start time.

The MCA General Meeting will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual). To receive the Zoom meeting link, please email meetings@akwesasne.ca. Questions and comments can also be sent to this email prior to the General Meeting for Council to address.

Council encourages community members to attend the monthly general meetings to receive updates and information. If you have any questions regarding these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact the Mohawk Government Office at 613-575-2250.

Monthly Notables:

UNITY IN ACTION: AMBE STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY

May 29th the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education hosted its very first Middle School Unity Day — a celebration of togetherness, wellness, and fun at Generations Park!

Grade 6, 7, and 8 students from all district schools came together for a day filled with kickball, lacrosse, basketball, cornhole, arts and crafts, and more. One special activity — the Unity Basket — gave students the chance to reflect on what unity means to them by sharing their thoughts along with their name, grade, and school.



But the most inspiring part? This day was sparked and steered by students themselves. The idea began with members of the Student Leadership team, who turned their vision into reality — planning the day, organizing the activities, and even writing and submitting a grant to help bring it all to life. Their dedication shows what's possible when student voices lead the

way.

The event even featured a special performance by Uncle Bubba, adding to the day's excitement and good vibes.

Nia:wen to the students, staff, and community partners who made this day possible. Here's to many more Unity Days ahead!

COMMUNICATION MEDIA TRAINING

On June 5th at Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center 9:00-12:00pm Council and staff were provided media training by MCA Communications department that encompassed the Foundations of effective communications and lobbying strategies.

INDEPENDANT FIRST NATIONS BANK PRESENTATION

On June 6th Council met with Shawn Mutch via zoom of the IFN Bank initiative that is currently privately owned and operated by First Nations peoples across turtle island. Potential for investment from Mohawk Council to become a shareholder, logistics are still be gathered by Council with consultation with MCA Finance department and legal team. Meeting was just a introductory and information session, a follow meeting has yet to be scheduled.

PRESS RELEASE Ohiari:ha/June 6, 2025, MCA STANDS IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO ONTARIO'S BILL 5

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) stands in strong and unequivocal opposition to Ontario's Bill 5: Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act. This legislation is a direct attack on Indigenous rights, treaty responsibilities, and environmental protection.

Bill 5 proposes changes that would allow developers to bypass archaeological assessments, which then puts sacred burial sites, ceremonial grounds, and ancestral lands at risk of destruction. It removes key environmental protections, limits legal recourse, and eliminates Ontario's constitutional duty to consult with Indigenous Nations.

This Bill threatens to silence our voices and erase the history and rights of First Nations people across the province, undermines Canada's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada.

Through the work of our Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO), the MCA has taken every available step to oppose this legislation. Letters have been submitted, concerns have been raised, and the fight continues.

ARRO Portfolio Chief Vanessa Adams noted, "Bill 5 undermines our Inherent Rights as recognized in UNDRIP, Article 32 affirms our right to determine the use of our lands and resources and to be consulted in good faith. Ontario's attempt to bypass is a breach of International and Constitutional Law. Our heritage is not dispensable."

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore added, "This Bill dishonours our treaties, disrespects our ancestors, and disregards the role we have in protecting our lands. We will not accept being cut out of decisions that affect our people, our culture, and our future."

We are calling on the Province of Ontario to immediately withdraw the proposed exemptions, remove immunity provisions and restore full archaeological and environmental protections. We urge the Ontario Government to uphold the Crowns' legal and moral duties under the TRC and UNDRIP, and engage in meaningful, nation-to-nation dialogue with Indigenous Nations.

To the community of Akwesasne: we are acting. We are defending our responsibilities to our people, to our land, and for our future. We encourage all community members to stay informed, speak out, and support the collective effort to protect what cannot be replaced.

For more information, please contact ARRO at 613-575-2250.

AIR QUALITY ALERT — JUNE 6, 2025

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is informing the community that wildfire smoke is creating poor air quality and reduced visibility across our region. Environment Canada has issued a high-risk air quality warning that will remain in effect into this evening.

Northerly winds are expected to help improve air quality later tonight. However, as smoke levels increase, so do health risks, particularly for vulnerable groups.

We thank you for taking these precautions seriously and helping to protect the health and safety of our community.

SIBC BEGINS SOUTH CHANNEL BRIDGE PAVING WORK

The Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) wishes to advise commuters and stakeholders that an important paving and maintenance project began on the South Channel Bridge on June 2, 2025. This planned work is designed to improve the bridge's driving surface, ensuring a smoother and safer journey for all users.

The work will take place in phases and is expected to continue until mid-September 2025, with final paving scheduled to occur after Labour Day. Construction activities will take place Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. SIBC encourages commuters to plan for potential delays during these times.

During this period:

- Intermittent lane closures and traffic delays should be expected.
- Temporary changes to traffic patterns may occur to accommodate equipment and personnel.
- Every effort will be made to minimize disruption while ensuring the safety of workers and commuters.

For more information:

Marc Chénier, Bridge Director

The Seaway International Bridge Corporation, Ltd.

mchenier@sibc.ca

OSPCA MEETING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY PORTFOLIO CHIEFS

On June 11th Public safety portfolio chiefs David, Pierce, Oakes and Peters met with OSPCA Rob Hunter-Development Officer for Eastern Ontario, Jennifer Bloom- VP of Community Outreach and Sonya Riffle- VP of Operations.

Develop ongoing partnership between OSPCA and MCA- Joint initiatives continue to be coordinated between OSPCA, MCA- Josh Mitchell and The Akwesasne Animal Society for clinics, sheltering and food giveaways.

Upcoming: MASH Clinic- June 13-15th 7am-5pm Kawehnoke Recreation Center

OSPCA will assist MCA with direction on building requirements for animal shelter in Quebec portion of Akwesasne that abide by code and standards. OSPCA has agreed to take in any animals that are picked up by animal control and need shelter or rehoming.

OSPCA is currently fundraising for new facility that will begin construction the fall of 2026 on 2nd Street west in Cornwall. Ongoing conversation between Council and OSPCA will continue to see how we can support with the build that will provide continued access and care to Akwesasnoron animals.

Next Steps: Speak with council to support OSPCA and Akwesasne Animal shelter

OSPCA will be getting together a donation letter for new building in Cornwall

OSPCA available to zoom meet for follow up

SUPPORT EFFORTS UNDERWAY FOR SANDY LAKE FAMILIES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is extending its full support to over 375 evacuees from Sandy Lake First Nation who have arrived at the Devcore Centre in Cornwall due to the ongoing wildfire emergency in Northern Ontario.

The City of Cornwall, the Canadian Red Cross, and other key partners have activated a coordinated response to provide shelter, medical care, and wellness services at the Devcore Centre. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne remains committed to working alongside these partners to ensure evacuees are welcomed in a safe and supportive environment.

“We appreciate Cornwall opening their doors to the evacuees,” said MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore. “We understand how difficult it is to leave your home behind. Akwesasne is here to offer a welcoming hand and a connection to community during this challenging time. These are our relatives, and we stand with them.”

The MCA’s Emergency Measures Program is on-site providing key logistical coordination, recreational programming, and assistance in meeting day-to-day needs. Staff are working closely with partners to ensure evacuees feel supported, respected, and comfortable during their stay.

“We are here to make sure families from Sandy Lake feel cared for in a way that honours who they are and what they’ve been through,” said MCA A/Executive Director Shannon Roundpoint. “This response is a true collaboration, and we are proud to stand alongside our partners to provide meaningful, respectful support.”

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends its thoughts and continued support to the entire Sandy Lake community. MCA staff will remain involved throughout the evacuation period and will share updates with the community as needed.

SANDY LAKE CALL FOR DONATIONS

Volunteered June 12th 11:00-5:00pm at Kawehno:ke Recreation Center for clothing donations from community for Sandy Lake Evacuees. Niawen kowa to everyone that donated and the volunteers who helped sort, wash and fold clothing.

Volunteered June 13th 8:00-4:00pm at Anowarakowa Arena for clothing disbursement for Sandy Lake evacuees along with meals and recreational activities. Niawen kowa to all volunteers that arrived to give a helping hand and AMBE for shuttling Sandy Lakers to and from event.

FAMILY SUSTAINIBLITY CHECKS DISPURSEMENT

Volunteered June 16th 3:00-8:00pm at Anowarakowa Arena for checks disbursement to Kawehno:ke and Cornwall residents. Continued with offering home deliveries the following week for residents of Kawehnoke and Cornwall that did not pick up checks on June 16th. Niawen to all volunteers and employees that have assisted with this community initiative. Please note there are 10 Kawehnoke checks and 1 Cornwall resident checks I was unable to make contact with to deliver. Checks are being held at Admin 1 in Kanatakon for pick up, should you need delivery, please feel free to contact me to assist. Chief.lacey.pierce@akwesasne.ca

COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT: COO BILL C-5 RALLY IN OTTAWA

On June 17, 2025, Kawehno:ke District Chief Lacey Pierce and Kana:takon District Chief Theresa Jacobs joined members of the Akwesasne Youth Council — Cayde Lazore, Starlyn Mason, Taylor Day, and Kayanna Cook-Jackson — at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Bill C-5 Rally held at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario.

The rally, organized by the Chiefs of Ontario, brought together First Nations leadership, Elders, youth, and community members from across Turtle Island in collective opposition to Bill C-5: The One Canadian Economy Act. The bill has sparked widespread concern for its potential to undermine Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and responsibilities.

Key Takeaways:



- Bill C-5 poses serious risks to Indigenous rights, including land title, environmental protection, and governance.



- Akwesasne's youth and leadership continue to play an essential role in national advocacy and resistance efforts.
- Intergenerational unity remains a powerful force in protecting sovereignty and future generations.

Next Steps:

- Monitor federal developments related to Bill C-5 and provide timely community updates.
- Advocate for meaningful consultation and uphold Section 35 and UNDRIP commitments.
- Strengthen community awareness and engagement around Indigenous rights and legislative impacts.

MCA OFFICES CLOSED FOR NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's offices closed on Friday, June 20 in observance of National Indigenous Peoples Day. Essential services and 24-hour care facilities remained operational. Offices will resume normal business hours on Monday, June 23.

COOLING STATION OPEN JUNE 23-24

With high temperatures and humidity expected this week, community members were encouraged to take precautions during the heat wave. To help keep Akwesasne safe and cool, a designated cooling station were open on Monday & Tuesday for anyone needing a break from the heat. Community members of all ages were welcome. Refreshments were available throughout the day and a waterslide rental was provided as courtesy of Akwesasne Child & Family Services.

June 23-24, 2025 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Akwesasne Homemakers

KAWEHNOKE ODSP CLIENTS- ADDITIONAL CSP SUPPORT

MCA Community Support Program provides additional support for members receiving disability support through Cornwall program. CSP provides meat box deliveries to ensure basic needs are met.

If you have not been receiving meat deliveries and are on ODSP, please phone CSP office and they will accommodate accordingly.

The program apologises for any individuals that may have been missed with this initiative.

613-575-2341 ext. 3262

Committees:

Border Partners Monthly Meeting

(MCA All Chiefs, SRMT All Chiefs, CBSA Chief of Operations Cornwall POE Pierre-Luc Bazinet, USCBP Port Director of Massena POE Tracy Casey)

CBSA LICENSE PLATE READER UPGRADES AT CORNWALL POE

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will begin upgrading its license plate readers at the Cornwall Port of Entry starting the week of June 16, 2025. This initiative is part of CBSA's ongoing efforts to enhance border security and efficiency.

Installation work will be completed one lane at a time, with only a single lane impacted per day. CBSA will maintain at least two open lanes throughout the upgrade to help manage traffic flow and minimize inconvenience to travelers. While minor delays may occur, every effort is being made to reduce disruption for community members and commuters.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as CBSA completes these important upgrades.

NEW PORT DIRECTOR AT MASSENA PORT OF ENTRY

Following the retirement of Robert Dwyer In May 2025, Tracy Casey has been the successful candidate to fill the role of Port Director at Massena Port of Entry. Tracy has been a partner and collaborator with the ongoing border partners meeting with Council and external entities sitting in a Chief CBP Officer/Tribal Liaison and PAL.

Next Meeting Tuesday July 8th, 2025 10:00-10:30am Zoom

ENIENTHIHSWANON:NA CHILDS LAW WORKING TASK GROUP

(Chiefs Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Lacey Pierce & Lisa Francis-Benedict; Justice Dept Cactus Cook-Sunday, Kim Herne, Ruth Ambrose, Alyson Thompson & Emily King; DCSS Barbara Smoke-Thompson, Gary Cole, Shara Francis-Herne; Communications Ashley Tarbell; Community Members; Glenn Lazore & Theresa Benedict)

Meeting June 10th, 2025, Justice Boardroom

Meeting June 24th, 2025 Admin 1 Boardroom/Zoom

Enientihswanon:na working task group continues to review line by line recommendations received post legal review by Bonnie Cole and possible changes that need to be made.

Next steps: Finalize the package to be provided to MCA in advance of the line-by-line to be scheduled for Tuesday, August 5 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Community Consultation and referendum TBA

Next Meeting July 22, 2025, 3:30-5:00pm location TBD

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

(Chiefs Fallon David, Lacey Pierce, Teresa Oakes, Tesha Rourke & Vanessa Adams; DCSS EA Alicia Hill)

Meeting June 10, 2025 9:00-10:00am

Special Needs Policy will be revised to reflect the issues with Jordans principle applications taking years to approve and the hardship that causes. Special needs fund application and policy needs to be more tailored to Akwesasnoron needs as well as the elimination loop holes.

Job Postings- HR is in receipt of postings and will be posting Manager and Supervisor positions for Special Needs Program soon.

Six Nations Community Living Tour scheduled for July 2nd, 2025 for Committee to tour special needs facility and gather information to incorporate and create new Special Needs Department facility & services. www.communitylivingsixnations.ca

Meeting Friday July 18th, 2025 Kanonhkwatseriio 2:00-4:00pm all council presentation of Special Needs Program by DCSS.

Next committee meeting TBA

YOUTH ELDERS CULTURE & LANGUAGE COMMITTEE

(Chiefs Fallon David, Joann Swamp, Lacey Pierce, Lisa Francis-Benedict, Scott Peters, Tesha Rourke & Vince Thompson; Youth Council Cayde Lazore, Kayanna Cook-Jackson, Starlyn Mason & Taylor Day)

May 26th 2025 Council Meeting there were MCR's for 2 Language Programs within the community that were carried with full funding support per proposal and presentation to council.

June 12, 2025, Elder's Council Callout, it has been posted since May 13th. We have only received one application from a Kawehno:ke community member and one elder inquiry. A recommendation for editing the criteria for applicants be changed to just a letter of interest instead of letter of interest and resume. Proposed changes were approved by YECL Portfolio Chiefs. A revised call out will be posted until all positions are filled.

3 Proposals for funding of Language and Cultural community initiatives were received and scheduled for presentations for the council for further information and clarification.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY COMMITTEE

(Ashley Tarbell; Chiefs Lacey Pierce & Lisa Francis-Benedict; Sonatanoron Richard Oakes, Viola Rourke & Bill Sunday; AMBE Andrea Carpenter, Alice King & Lacey Thompson; AMPS Lee-Ann O'Brien, Nathan Thompson; DOH Rachel George & Leah Mitchell; DCSS Dorian Benedict & Chantel Vachon; Justice Carolyn Francis & Leah Lamesse)

June 2nd 2025 Council Meeting MCR to support the purchasing of 25 quilts to be gifted to residential school survivors during upcoming event.

Financial requests for honorariums, shirts, district tree planting and interactive activities have been submitted and are currently pending.

Sent regrets for June 11, 2025 2:00-4:00pm meeting with SRMT as there were scheduling conflicts (Double booking)

SRMT is also bringing great ideas to the table, such as filled baskets for survivors, sweetgrass braiding, log pounding, and a community walk. Many of their programs are planning to participate and host booths as well. I am sure we can also have interactive booths with our programs as well.

(Next meeting TBA)

Kawehno:ke District Meeting:

June 23, 2025- Kawehno:ke Recreation Center **CANCELLED**

Due to the passing of a community member in the district, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Kawehno:ke District Meeting scheduled for June 23, 2025 has been cancelled.

Portfolio Meetings

Department of Infrastructure, Housing, Environment (DIHE)

Leslie Papineau- Director

NOTICE OF TENDER: KANA:TAKON BEACH WATERFRONT PROJECT

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment is inviting tenders for the development of the Kana:takon (St. Regis) Beach Waterfront Project.

The new community beach will be located at the St. Regis Recreation Center in Kana:takon (St. Regis), Quebec. The scope of work includes the supply and installation of all necessary materials, equipment, labour, and services for features such as the sand beach, extended pathways and parking, site furnishings, lighting, landscaping, and the relocation of existing structures.

A mandatory site visit will take place on June 19, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. at the St. Regis Recreation Center parking lot.

Tender submissions are due by 11:00 a.m. on **June 26, 2025** and can be submitted to:

Leslie Papineau, Director
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment
Administration Building No. 3
Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island), Ontario K6H 0G5
Phone: 613-936-1548

For full project details and tender requirements, please visit: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/dihe-tender-notice-kanatakon-beach-waterfront-project-june-2025/>

FNCFS HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment is pleased to launch the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Home Repair Program — an initiative designed to support Akwesasne families with essential home repairs.

This program is available to community members living with children under 18 who need critical repairs to their primary residence, such as mold remediation, roof or siding replacement, furnace upgrades, and more.

The Housing Sector will manage this program to address necessary repairs (not cosmetic improvements), with a maximum of \$15,000 per civic address.

Program Criteria:

- Must be the head of household
- Primary residence only
- Must reside within MCA jurisdiction in the northern portion of Akwesasne
- Must be in good standing with the DIHE Housing Sector
- Proof of income is required
- Applicants are responsible for any costs beyond the \$15,000 maximum

Application Deadline: June 13, 2025/ **CLOSED**

The goal of the program is to make homes safer and more comfortable for low-income families — ensuring access to heat, water, electricity, and healthy living conditions for our children. Priority will be given to families who have previously applied and not yet received assistance.

For more information or to apply, please email charmaine.caldwell@akwesasne.ca or gina.thompson@akwesasne.ca. You may also contact Charmaine Caldwell, Associate Director, or Gina Jones-Thompson, Housing Services Manager, by phone at 613-575-2250 ext. 1051.

View the notice at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/fncfs-home-repair-program-june-2025/>

***This call out received 180 applications from community members**

Department of Health (DOH)

Tessa Jocko- Acting Director

MEASLES PREVENTION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

The MCA Community Health Services Infection Prevention and Control Program (IPAC) is providing important information about measles, a highly contagious virus that spreads easily through coughing, sneezing, or talking. Symptoms typically appear 7-21 days after infection and include fever, cough, pink-eye, and a rash that spreads from the face down the body. Severe complications can occur, especially for young children, adults over 20, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals. These complications may include pneumonia, brain swelling, and, in rare cases, death. Measles can linger in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves, and 9 out of 10 non-immune people will contract it if exposed.

The best protection is immunization with the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine, which is part of routine childhood vaccinations. If you or your child develop symptoms, isolate at home and contact your healthcare provider immediately.

For more detailed information, please review the attached Measles Information Sheet or contact MCA Community Health Services' Infection Prevention and Control Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES ANNOUNCES SATURDAY CLINICS AT THE KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC

The MCA Department of Health (DOH) Clinical Care Services (Sector 4) is excited to announce to the community that the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC) will begin to offer Saturday clinics starting on May 3, 2025. Saturday clinics will be a blend of same-day and follow-up appointments in 30-minute increments.

Community members will be required to call the KMC on the day of the clinic for a same-day appointment. The 30-minute schedule will be strictly adhered to. Arriving late for your appointment will result in the forfeit of your time slot. Please ensure to arrive at least 10-15 mins early for your appointment.

The Saturday clinics at the KMC will be overseen by Nurse Practitioners Olivier Lemay and Chelsea Albright. Olivier and Chelsea will alternate Saturdays, occasionally providing clinic services on the same day, as their schedules allow.

Clinic hours for Saturdays will run from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Olivier specializes in adult care and will be unable to see child patients. Chelsea will be seeing children and adult patients.

There will be one administrative staff person available to answer the phone and take calls for appointments. Therefore, we ask the community to be patient and kind to our administrative staff when calling in for a Saturday appointment.

To schedule an appointment for the Saturday clinics with either Olivier Lemay, NP, or Chelsea Albright, NP, please call 613-938-5808 on the morning of the clinic starting at 8:00 a.m.

MEDICAL CLINIC REMINDER: PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CANCEL APPOINTMENTS

The MCA Department of Health is reminding clients of the importance of notifying the clinic if they are unable to attend a scheduled appointment.

If you need to cancel or reschedule, please call the clinic as soon as possible. This allows staff to offer the time slot to another client who may be waiting to be seen, helping to keep the clinic schedule running smoothly and efficiently.

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please contact the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at 613-575-2341 ext. 3215 or the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.

MEDICAL CLINIC REMINDER: ENSURE YOUR INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE

The MCA Department of Health's medical clinics are reminding clients to ensure their personal information is current with clinic staff. Keeping your information up to date helps create a smoother visit and ensures the accuracy of your medical records.

When attending a medical clinic appointment, please confirm or update the following with registration staff:

- Full name (including any recent changes or corrected spelling)
- Address (especially if you've moved or relocated)
- Phone number (ensure your current contact information is on file)
- Health insurance number (make sure it is valid and up to date)

Please also bring your health card to every clinic visit. Keeping your health insurance information updated helps avoid billing issues and delays.

If you have questions or need to update your information, please contact the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at 613-575-2341 ext. 3215 or the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, LAND-BASED HEALING PROGRAM OFFER COMMUNITY GARDENING EVENT

Community Health Services and the Land-Based Healing Program offered a community gardening event for Akwesasne residents. This is the first session in their cultivation series which is a great way to get your garden growing and support a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.

June 5th at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m

June 25th at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility Pavilion 4:00-6:00pm

June 26th at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Parking lot 4:00-6:00pm

CHS and LBH staff distributed gardening kits that consisted of growing bags, soil, and vegetables on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. There is no registration required.

For any questions, or more information, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

RATIWERAS TEACHINGS & CLAY PIPE CLASS

The MCA Land-Based Healing Program is hosted a Ratiweras (Thunder) Teachings & Clay Pipe-Making Clas led by Nihahsennaa Peters. Monday, June 9 2025 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Kawehno:ke Recreation Center 10 participants were selected by random draw.

ELDER LAWN CARE SERVICES NOW AT FULL CAPACITY

MCA Elder Services would like to inform the community that they are now at capacity for elder lawn care services. Should availability increase, we will notify the community. Nia: wen for your interest and understanding!

For more information, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 1626 or email summer.francis@akwesasne.ca.

MCA Elder Services is located at the Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility on Kawehno:ke. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LAND-BASED HEALING CONTACT UPDATE

Please be advised that there has been an update to the contact information for the MCA Department of Health's Land-Based Healing Program.

Moving forward, all Land-Based Healing requests can be directed to landbasedhealing@akwesasne.ca or by phone to LaToya Rourke at 613-575-2250 ext. 3114.

KEN'NIIHONTÉSHA — STRAWBERRY CEREMONY TEACHINGS

The MCA Land-Based Healing Program held Strawberry Ceremony Teachings with Aronhiaies Herne at A'nowara'kó:wa Arena – Turtle Room on June 18, 2025 (5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) and June 19, 2025 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) providing the meaning and teachings behind the strawberry, our first fruit.

TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE HOSTING 'HELPING FAMILIES UNDERSTAND DEMENTIA' WORKSHOP

The Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care facility (LTC) is hosting a workshop "Helping Families Understand Dementia with Josee." Led by Josée Desrochers Luduc, Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society of Cornwall & District. The information session took place June 16th 2025 at the Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care facility's South Activity Room from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

This workshop geared towards families of loved ones living with Dementia/Alzheimer's.

SLIME MAKING AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE

A group of bright and caring Akwesasne youth made a heartwarming visit to our beloved totas at the Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care (LTC) facility, spending the day chatting, giggling, and teaching them how to make slime. Not only was it fun, but it was also therapeutic — helping to engage hand and finger muscles in a playful way.

A huge nia:wen/thank you to the incredible staff at Tsiionkwanonhso:te for making this magical moment happen and continuing to build meaningful connections between our youth and elders.

Special shoutout to our superstar youth visitors:

Jihstagaen Thompson, Ganagowetha Thompson, Mia Jacobs & Mila Thomas

NEW DATE FOR JULY: CULTURAL CONNECTIONS & CONVERSATIONS

The MCA Traditional Medicines Program invites speakers and learners of Kanien'keha to a monthly gathering focused on language, culture, and community.

Tsi niionkwarihò:ten' entewahthá:rahkwe' tánon' enkakhwà:rake' — We are going to talk about our culture and there will be food.

Join us every second Wednesday of the month for thoughtful conversation and a shared meal.

Dates: **July 23**, August 13, September 10, October 8

**Please note the date change for July.*

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Atsiakta – By the River (89 Rourke Rd, Akwesasne, NY)

Everyone is welcome — come connect, share, and learn together!

SEED SONG TEACHINGS SERIES

The MCA Land-Based Healing Program invites the community to take part in Seed Song Teachings with the Kontiwennake'tskwás Singing Group — a powerful opportunity to reconnect with the land through traditional song.

June 23, 24, 25 & 30 at the A'nowara'kó:wa Arena 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

These gatherings honour the songs that call to our seed relatives — songs that are sung during planting and harvest as an act of relationship, respect, and renewal.

No registration is required. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please reach out to LaToya Rourke at 613-575-2341 ext. 2341 ext. 3114 or at latoya.rourke@akwesasne.ca.

ELEVATOR IN KANONHKWA'TSHERI:IO SCHEDULED FOR MAINTENANCE AND MODERNIZATION

The elevator in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility (KHF) is scheduled for maintenance and modernization. The 4-week project is scheduled to start on July 7, 2025.

During the 4-week elevator modernization project, the elevator will be out of service. Community members that are dependent on the elevator to access programs and services on the main floor in the health facility are asked to use the main entrance to the KHF and use the access ramp to enter the building.

Clients of Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB) who are elevator-dependent are asked to contact them to make arrangements to pick up or drop off any paperwork.

Services in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility on each floor are as follows:

Bottom Floor (Sweetgrass Lane Entrance):

- Akwesasne Child & Family Services
- Dr. Dubuc Optometry
- Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance
- Health Promotion & Prevention Program
- Community Support Program

Main Floor (Hilltop Drive Entrance):

- KHF Reception
- Proxim Pharmacy

- *Akwesasne Medical Clinic*
- *Community Health Services*
- *Clinical Care Services*
- *Mental Health & Wellness (Mental Health Services, Traditional Medicines)*

Second Floor:

- *Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB)*
- *ANIHB Medical Transportation*
- *Department of Health Administration*
- *Department of Community & Social Services Administration*

For questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Health's Administration Office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3300.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PARTNERS WITH OTTAWA HOSPITAL FOR HEPATITIS C SCREENING

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) and The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) will be collaborating to bring a Hepatitis C screening event to the community of Akwesasne. The screening will take place at the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic on July 11, 2025.

DOH's Clinical Care Sector will be collaborating with Registered Nurses (RNs) from The Ottawa Hospital to provide the following on-site services:

- Provide patients with general healthy liver and Hepatitis C virus information
- Fibroscan services (liver scan to detect any scarring to the liver)
- Point of care screening services for the Hepatitis C virus

There will be limited spots available for screening.

To schedule an appointment for the Hepatitis C screening event on July 11, please call the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.

MONTHLY TOBACCO BURNINGS WITH TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

The MCA Traditional Medicines Program invites staff to join us in ceremony for a monthly tobacco burning, held on the first Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility Pavilion.

Tobacco is one of our sacred medicines, used in a respectful and intentional way to support physical, emotional, spiritual, and community well-being. A gift of tobacco may be offered to the Creator, to a person, place, or being — as a sign of respect or when seeking help, guidance, or protection.

This gathering is open to all staff who wish to begin their month in a good way — through reflection, intention, and community connection.

Staff are welcome to bring their own tobacco or use what is provided.

Public Safety

Ranatiiosta Swamp- Acting Chief of Police

June 18, 2025, Public Safety Portfolio Meeting Cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with council due to Travel/ Interviews

AMPS IS CALLING FUTURE OFFICERS: JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY 2025

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is thrilled to announce the 2025 Junior Police Academy, running August 18–22, 2025. This unique opportunity invites Akwesasne youth ages 12–17 to step into the exciting world of law enforcement!

Hands-on training includes:

- Marine Patrol; Forensic Identification; Police Tools, Tactical and more

Applications will be accepted from June 16 – July 7 (by 4 PM) at joinamps.ca or by scanning the QR code on the flyer.

Please be sure to submit your completed application form along with a copy of your status card, and a 250-word essay to jobs@akwesasne.ca.

Limited spots available — don't miss this amazing opportunity to discover your potential, build confidence, and join the ranks for an unforgettable week!

SUSPECTED HUMAN SMUGGLING OPERATION DISRUPTED ON KAWEHNO:KE

Akwesasne, ON – On June 7, 2025, at approximately 12:30 p.m., the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) was contacted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police regarding a serious incident involving suspected human smuggling.

Three individuals — an adult male, an adult female, and a child — were intercepted by Tribal Police in the area of Raquette Point, Akwesasne, New York. The individuals, who had Brazilian passports and spoke limited English, reported that they had been held against their will for several days at a private residence. During this time, they were provided with minimal necessities.

Through investigation it led police to identify the location to a residence on Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island), Akwesasne, Ontario.

The victims also indicated that more individuals were being held at the same property. This prompted an urgent operational response involving the Akwesasne Organized Crime Unit (AOCU), patrol officers, and SAVE (Snowmobile, ATV, Vessel Enforcement) units.

While police were actively monitoring the location, two more individuals believed to be migrants were dropped off at the exact location. In the interest of public safety, officers entered the residence and located two additional migrants, along with a resident from Akwesasne. All individuals were safely detained. Background checks confirmed that the two additional migrants had active extradition warrants from the United States related to immigration violations.

The matter is still under investigation. No further information can be provided at this time.

This operation was carried out with the collaborative efforts of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, RCMP, Sûreté du Québec (SQ), CBSA and the RCMP.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service has identified persons of interest. If you have any information that may assist our investigators, please get in touch with AMPS at (613) 575-2340 or submit a secure tip by email at tips@akwesasne.ca. You may also provide an anonymous tip to Seaway Valley Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

AMPS REPORTS INCREASE OF BREAK AND ENTERS ON CORNWALL ISLAND

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is advising the community of a recent increase in residential break and enters within the territory of Akwesasne, with activity primarily occurring on Cornwall Island. These incidents have occurred over the past three weeks and are a growing concern for community safety.

In response, AMPS has increased patrols on Cornwall Island, with added attention during evening and nighttime hours. Officers will be closely monitoring neighborhoods for suspicious activity and working to deter further incidents.

The public is strongly encouraged to take preventative measures by locking all doors and vehicles, staying vigilant, and reporting any unusual or suspicious activity immediately.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service have identified a person of interest. If you have any information to assist with the investigation, please contact AMPS at 613-575-2340 or submit a secure tip by email at tips@akwesasne.ca. You can also provide an anonymous tip to Seaway Valley Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Your awareness and cooperation play an important role in keeping Akwesasne safe.

AMPS ANNOUNCES MONTHLY COMMUNITY SKÉN:NEN MEAL GATHERINGS

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is pleased to introduce a new monthly initiative: Community Skén:nen Meal Gatherings!

These informal meal gatherings will be held once a month for 1.5 hours and are open to all Akwesasne community members. We invite you to join us in sharing a meal and engaging in open, positive conversations with our officers.

This is a chance to get to know the officers who serve Akwesasne — not just in uniform, but as individuals — and for us to get to know you better as well. We believe that building strong, trusting relationships begins with meaningful connections.

We encourage respectful, uplifting dialogue during these sessions. Your voices matter, and these gatherings are a space to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns in a way that helps move our community forward together. This is not a forum for public complaints.

We look forward to seeing you there. Our first gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute. Afterwards it will alternate from district to district and lunch to supper times, so if you are unable to make it during lunch time session, come see us again the next month at a supper time session in another district.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to focusing its efforts on the safety and wellbeing of our community. We encourage community support and involvement to report any

suspected criminal activities. Anyone with information that would assist in any type of investigation can call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

CALL OUT FOR AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is currently filling six (6) vacant seats on the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission (AMPC); two (2) seats each for the districts of Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, and Tsi Snaihne with a term of three (3) years.

In accordance with the Akwesasne Mohawk Policing Agreement and the AMPC Charter, all interested residents are asked to submit completed packages no later than Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

For more information on qualifications and how to apply, please visit: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/call-out-for-akwesasne-mohawk-police-commissioners-june-2025/>

CONSTRUCTION ZONE ADVISORY

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is issuing a reminder to all community members and commuters utilizing International Road on Kawehno:ke — construction work is currently underway on the south span of the Seaway International Bridge. For your safety and the safety of workers, AMPS urges all drivers and pedestrians to strictly adhere to all traffic control measures in place within the construction zone.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Reduced Speed Limits: Temporary speed reductions are posted and must be obeyed at all times.
- Pedestrian Detours: Sidewalks are closed.
- Heavy Equipment in Operation: Remain clear of active machinery and obey all signage and flaggers.
- Noise and Dust: Construction activity may cause temporary noise and dust increases. Please exercise caution and patience.

ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN EFFECT

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, in collaboration with SIBC safety officers, is increasing enforcement in the construction zone. Violations may result in charges under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

Offences include, but are not limited to:

- Speeding in a Construction Zone HTA s. 128(13) – Fines are doubled when workers are present.
 - Disobeying Traffic Signs or Signals HTA s. 144(9) – Including failure to obey temporary signs, flag persons, or detour indicators.
- Careless Driving HTA s. 130 – Driving without due care or attention in a manner that may endanger others.

ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

- Increased AMPS Patrols: Officers will conduct regular patrols of the area to monitor compliance and ensure public safety.
- SIBC Onsite Enforcement: Bridge safety officers will monitor pedestrian and vehicular compliance.
- Zero Tolerance: For dangerous driving or any act that endangers workers or the public.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is committed to the protection and safety of all persons traveling through or residing near the construction zone. We ask for continued community cooperation and encourage residents to report unsafe activity or criminal behaviour by contacting Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000. Let's work together to ensure a safe and respectful work environment for all.

SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

Summer is officially here — and with it comes long weekends, camping trips, barbecues, and celebrations like Canada Day! As you enjoy the season, please keep these important fire safety tips in mind:

Firework Safety:

- Fireworks are exciting but dangerous if mishandled — only adults should handle them.
- Use long-handled lighters or lighting sticks instead of pocket lighters.
- Always follow manufacturer instructions and set fireworks off in open, clear areas.
- Keep a hose or bucket of water nearby in case of fire.





Campfire Safety:

- Campfires and bonfires have caused several structure fires in nearby areas this year.
- Clear the area around your fire pit of any flammable material (dry grass, leaves, wood piles).
- Keep fires a safe distance from any buildings or vehicles.
- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure it's completely extinguished before leaving.

Barn & Hay Storage Safety:

- Farmers: Ensure hay is completely dry before storing in barns. Damp hay can generate heat and ignite.
- The same goes for damp clothing or rags — piles of wet materials have caused fires before. Allow them to dry properly and store them safely.



Enjoy your summer safely and responsibly. A few precautions can make all the difference.

Wayne Samphier, Health & Safety Officer | wayne.samphier@akwesasne.ca | ext. 2151

SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK: FIRE SAFETY REMINDERS

Summer is here, and with long weekends, fireworks, and bonfires ahead, it's important to stay fire-safe! Be cautious with fireworks, keep campfires away from structures, and always fully extinguish fires before leaving them. Farmers: make sure hay is fully dry before storing.

A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND OF PET WELLNESS & PREVENTION

The recent Pet Wellness Clinic held in Akwesasne from June 13–15 was a huge success — thanks to the incredible collaboration between the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne!

Over the course of three days:

60 spay/neuter surgeries were completed
16 wellness appointments were provided
An estimated 3,300 unplanned puppies and kittens were prevented

Hosted at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, this MASH-style event made a meaningful impact for Akwesasnoron families and their beloved pets.



The MCA Compliance Program extends a heartfelt niawen kó:wa to the veterinarians, vet techs, students, organizers, and volunteers whose hard work, compassion, and care made this clinic possible. Your efforts truly made a difference!

Next meeting TBA

Works in Progress:

- Continuing to meet with Portfolio Departments and Committees to support in reaching goals set out in strategic plan.
- Continue to attend weekly Monday Council Meetings to review MCR's and Discussion Items

Collaborative Opportunities:

- Iroquois Caucus
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Iroquois Caucus (IC)
- CBSA Border Partners
- Tri-Council Initiatives with SRMT

Upcoming Travel/ Events:

- General Meeting- Kanntakon Recreation Center June 26th 6-8pm
- Six Nations Community Living Tour July 1-2nd

- Color Run 2025 Generations Park July 11th 6:00-8:00pm
- HEAL Lodge Tour July 22nd 10:00-12:00pm
- WAVES 2025 Global Indigenous Languages Summit August 11th- 14th Rogers Centre Ottawa

Community Announcements:

NOW AVAILABLE: MCA SERVICE DIRECTORY

Looking for information on programs and services available in Akwesasne? The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Programs & Services Directory is here to help!

This comprehensive guide provides an overview of MCA's departments, including health, education, public safety, social services, economic development, and more — all in one place. Find contact details, program descriptions, and resources to help you navigate available services.

View it online: www.akwesasne.ca/mca-service-directory

Physical copies are available at MCA offices across Akwesasne, the AMBE Administration Office, and the Native North American Travelling College. Copies will also be available at MCA District & General Meetings for distribution.

REAL ID REMINDER: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Starting May 7, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will enforce the REAL ID Act. If you're planning to fly within the United States, you'll need to show a REAL ID-compliant card or another acceptable form of identification at TSA checkpoints.

Good News for Akwesasnon:

You do not need a REAL ID to fly domestically if you have one of the following:

1. Tribal ID (issued by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe)
2. Canadian Status Card (issued by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne)

These cards will continue to be accepted for U.S. domestic flights as they are federally recognized forms of identification.

What is REAL ID?

REAL ID is a U.S. federal law that sets new security standards for state-issued IDs like driver's licenses.

After May 7, 2025, only REAL ID-compliant licenses or other approved IDs will be accepted to:

- Board domestic flights in the U.S.
- Enter secure federal buildings
- Visit military bases

REAL ID cards have a star marking on the top of the card.

Not REAL ID Ready?

You can still use:

- U.S. passport or passport card
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)
- Federally recognized tribal IDs
- Indigenous Services Canada status cards
- NEXUS/Global Entry cards
- And more...

To avoid delays or missed flights, be sure your ID is on the TSA's list of accepted documents.

Visit www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification for the full list and updates.

For more detailed information, check the DHS REAL ID FAQs: dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs

AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW UPDATE & NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBER

In pursuit of fair and just laws for our community, the Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD) called for a Tsi Snáihne district community member to serve on the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development. This Committee is comprised of appointed community representatives and Council who draft legislation to protect and advance the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, guided by principles of peace, respect, and fairness. We are pleased to announce that the successful candidate to represent Tsi Snáihne is Theresa Benedict.

Theresa has been a vital researcher with the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) since October 2018, working to preserve Akwesasne's history and cultural heritage while providing educational materials to the community. Her contributions to key projects like the Dundee-Tsi:karistisere and St. Lawrence Seaway Referendums highlight her dedication to advancing the community's interests. Theresa also supported individuals involved in the Federal Indian Day School Class Action, offering guidance with care and commitment. Her ongoing efforts to protect Akwesasne rights and celebrate its culture will bring valuable insight to the OSC.

We are excited to welcome Theresa to the Committee, where she will oversee and receive Council and community input, provide community guidance and direction in the development of Akwesasne Laws, and consider and balance the diversity of perspectives. Niawen:kówa for your commitment to the community of Akwesasne, and congratulations Theresa!

UPDATE ON THE AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW (AEL):

Now that the required community representation is met for the Committee — with one member from each district — work can commence on the AEL Amendment(s). According to the Oversight Committee on Legislative Terms of Reference (TOR), "In order to conduct business for the Oversight Committee, a quorum of three Oversight Committee members is necessary."

Since the four other members of the OSC are Justice Portfolio Chiefs, it would be a conflict of interest for them to work on the AEL. Therefore, quorum could not be met to establish a working task group (WTG) until a new Tsi Snáihne District member was accepted through MCR to serve on the OSC.

The next official OSC meeting will be held this week to discuss forming a Working Task Group (WTG) for the AEL. Along with the three district representatives, WTG members will include MCA staff who serve as administrative and technical support. This team will help guide the amendment process. Moving forward, the AEL WTG will address the petition and decide how to proceed. We appreciate your patience and will provide the community with another update as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: AKWESASNE SERENITY FARMS

[Akwesasne Serenity Farms](#) is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks, including animal care, general grounds maintenance, and light repairs to farm structures.

If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact Jean Laffin:

Address: 86 Jock Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655

Phone: 518-358-2437

Cell: 518-353-8468

AKWESASNE TURTLES

As May winds down and June begins, turtle activity is on the rise! Ista turtles are on the move from mid-May to mid-July — with early June being the peak time for nesting. You may see them along roadsides, in your yard, or near the shoreline, looking for the perfect place to lay their eggs.

If you spot a turtle nesting, please contact the MCA Environment Program!

Email: env.turtles.team@akwesasne.ca

Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1031

You can also reach out if you have general turtle questions or if you spot an injured turtle — we're here to help protect our turtle relatives.

Even after nesting season wraps up, turtles will still be on the move until late fall, so please stay alert while driving!

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Are you an indigenous high school student interested in learning about technology and the industry?

Join us for an 8-week internship program this summer to gain work experience and professional skills for your future.

Limited spots are available and no previous experience is required. For more information, please email Lisa Zeran at lisa.zeran@ambe.ca.

CALL OUT FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is seeking community members to fill three (3) vacant seats on the Finance Committee — one for each district:

- Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke & Tsi Snaihne

The Finance Committee helps guide Council decisions around Akwesasne's finances and ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity under the Akwesasne Financial Administration Law.

Honorarium provided as per Council policy. Application and letter of interest required.

Deadline to apply: Friday, June 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Download the application at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/finance-committee-call-out-june-2025/>

For more information, contact:

Dante Mitchell

Executive Assistant to the Grand Chief

Mohawk Government

Email: dante.mitchell@akwesasne.ca Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 2161

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS: 2025 SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Human Resources Program is now accepting applications for Summer Employment!

All interested students between the ages of 16-29 must complete a summer employment application and submit it to student@akwesasne.ca. The application form is available online at www.akwesasne.ca/employment — look for the Summer Student posting.

Deadline to apply: June 30, 2025

Kickstart your summer with hands-on experience, new skills, and a chance to grow — both personally and professionally!

For more information, please contact MCA Human Resources at 613-575-2250.

COTTAGE FOR SALE — LOT 14 ROSS ISLAND

A fully furnished, move-in ready 720 sq. ft. 2-bedroom cottage is for sale on Ross Island. The cottage includes: 3-piece bathroom, attached deck, 12V solar system, hot water tank, propane appliances, dock, lawn mowers, garden equipment, and more.

This is a seasonal leased lot with a current annual rent of \$2,440 for the period of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2026. The lease is for a fifteen-year term effective September 1, 2014, to July 31, 2029. Rent reviews are conducted every three years during the term of the lease, with the next one due to be conducted during 2026.

Buyers will be required to complete an application to lease and obtain approval to lease prior to purchase.

Asking price is \$97,000.

For further information, please contact: Dale Kinnear at 613-550-0574, 613-360-6984, or by email at dkinnear@cogeco.ca.

For more information or to view images of the cottage, visit: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/ovs/#ovs-leasing>

COMMUNITY MEDICAL CLINICS CALENDAR — JULY 2025

Stay on top of your health — check out the medical clinic calendars for this month or view them online at www.akwesasne.ca/medical-clinics.

Clinic Contact Information:

Akwesasne & Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinics: 613-575-2341 ext. 3215

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic: 613-933-5808 or 613-575-2341 ext. 1110

Reminder: A valid health card (OHIP/QHIP) is required for all appointments.

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

This June, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne proudly celebrates the strength, spirit, and diversity of our 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Pride Month is a time to uplift voices, honour identities, and reflect on the teachings of love, respect, and belonging that are deeply rooted in our Indigenous cultures.

Let us continue to stand together — embracing who we are, where we come from, and where we're going — in the spirit of unity, visibility, and empowerment.

Nia:wen for being exactly who you are!

2SLGBTQIA+ BEACH DAY AT BARNHART

Dive into summer fun with the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program on June 30 at Barnhart Beach! From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., enjoy games, family-friendly activities, beach yoga, and tasty food and drinks.

Everyone's invited — let's celebrate Pride Month and soak up the sunshine together!

View the flyer at: <http://www.akwesasne.ca/afwp-2slgbtqia-beach-day-at-barnhart-june-2025/>

CALL OUT: MEDICAL TRANSPORT DRIVERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Health's Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB) is seeking dedicated medical transport drivers to join our team! Our service provides essential transportation for eligible community members to access medically required health services.

ANIHB is currently looking for casual drivers, with the potential for these positions to become permanent. Applicants must be certified in CPR/First Aid or be willing to participate in training to obtain certification.

Job Description:

- Provide safe and reliable transportation for clients to medical appointments
- Operate vehicles in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Maintain accurate records of trips and client information
- Ensure client comfort and safety during transport

Requirements:

- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record

- Experience in patient transport or a similar role preferred
- Knowledge of the Akwesasne community and surrounding areas
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends
- CPR/First Aid certification (or willingness to obtain certification through provided training)

Benefits:

- Competitive hourly rate
- Opportunity to serve the Akwesasne community
- Training and professional development opportunities

Qualified candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to the ANIHB:

Laura Benedict, ANIHB Program Support Officer

lbenedict.nihb@akwesasne.ca

For more information, please contact our office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3349.

YOU'RE INVITED: CORNWALL CULTURE FEST 2025

Celebrate the vibrant cultures that make up Cornwall, SDG, and Akwesasne at this year's Cornwall Culture Fest! Enjoy a full day of live performances, multicultural vendors, delicious food, and interactive activities for kids.

Saturday, September 13, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Lamoureux Park, Cornwall Free & family-friendly!

For more event updates and general information, or to register as a vendor, performer or sponsor, please visit the the Cornwall Culture Fest:

- Facebook Page: facebook.com/cornwallculturefest
- Facebook Event: facebook.com/share/16ebX8AGA5

ACCESS THE AKWESASNE LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT PROCEDURAL REGULATION (ALEPR)

The ALEPR is available online for community members!

Visit: www.akwesasne.ca/justice

Click on the link titled "Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation"

Located under the heading: "A First Nation Justice System"

Printed copies available upon request!

For general inquiries or to request a copy, contact:

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager

alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca

CURIOSITY IN ACTION: CREATING A CULTURE OF LEARNING AND INNOVATION

Turn issues into innovation with the power of curiosity. Join Achieve Centre's FREE virtual community event "Curiosity in Action: Creating a Culture of Learning and Innovation" on July 15 at 1 PM CT to learn how you can use curiosity to create a culture of creativity, collaboration, and trust.

Learn more at: <https://achievecentre.com/curiosity-in-action-free-event/>

JOIN THE PLANNING MEETING FOR ROCK THE BLOCK: AKWESASNE BLOCK PARTY

Community members are invited to take part in a virtual planning meeting on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. for Rock the Block: Akwesasne Block Party — a community-led event being organized for this summer.

Planned for Saturday, August 9, 2025, at Generations Park, the block party will coincide with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and aims to bring people together through culture, creativity, and connection.

Register for the virtual planning meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zfvyJFNoQOS5kn2aUX-G2g#/registration>

Interested in volunteering?

The Akwesasne Block Party Planning Committee is also seeking volunteers to help bring the event to life. If you or someone you know would like to support this community initiative, sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwrGzAoazkpqyVTaG8OjjJmbBvzjq7u1heB-Rlbuk2cDjBqg/viewform>

MCA MONTHLY POLICY OVERVIEW SESSION

MCA staff are invited to attend the upcoming Policy Overview Session, which will be held:

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: OPG Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor Centre 2500B 2nd St. W, Cornwall, ON K6H 5R6

Lunch will be on your own — you are welcome to bring your own lunch.

This month's session will include a review of the following policies and guidelines:

- General Personnel Policy
- Social Media & Professional Networking Guidelines
- Respect in the Workplace Policy
- Communications Overview & Guidelines

These monthly workshops are designed to help staff stay informed and support compliance with the Compensation Policy. If you are unable to attend this session, please watch for additional sessions offered monthly. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/C6HeU11Nuz>

For more information, please contact Kora Mitchell at kora.mitchell@akwesasne.ca.

FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY CHEQUE PICK-UP NOTICE

Community members who were unable to attend the distribution on June 16 can still pick up their Family Sustainability Project cheques at MCA Administrative Building #1 (12 Akwesasne Street, Kana:takon).

If you have any questions, please contact Executive Services at 613-575-2250.

AKWESASNE PUROLATOR PICKUP LOCATION: HUMMINGBIRD GIFTS & TOBACCO

Missing your package from Purolator? If your tracking information says “transferred to authorized agent” or simply “delivered to Akwesasne, ON,” your package may be ready for pickup at Hummingbird Gifts & Tobacco on Kawehno:ke.

Hummingbird Gifts & Tobacco, located at the Peace Tree Trade Centre, is the designated Purolator Quick Stop Agent for the Akwesasne area.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Monday–Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PUROLATOR QUICK STOP SERVICES

1. Door-Knocker/Notice of Delivery – If you're not home when Purolator attempts delivery, a note will be left and your package will be redirected to the nearest Quick Stop or Purolator retail location.
2. Prepaid Drop-Offs – You can drop off prepaid Purolator packages for pickup at this location.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Bring valid ID when picking up packages.
- When placing an order or tracking a shipment on the Purolator website, be sure to provide up-to-date contact information (phone number and/or email address) so you receive notifications.
- Tracking updates that say “Delivered to Akwesasne, ON” without a street address usually refer to the Quick Stop location.

For questions, contact Hummingbird Gifts & Tobacco at 613-933-9693.

Let's make sure Akwesasronon receive their deliveries — check your tracking and don't forget to visit the Quick Stop if needed!

HONOURING OUR TRUTH: HERITAGE NIGHT WITH AKWESASRONON SONATANORON

Join Akwesasronon Sonatanoron for an evening of reflection, learning, and community as they share their ongoing work to uncover the truth about children taken from Akwesasne to Indian Residential Schools across Canada and the U.S.

Thursday, July 3 at 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

Light refreshments will be provided.

This Heritage Night is an opportunity to stand together, hear the stories that have been silenced, and learn how the work of Akwesasronon Sonatanoron is helping to bring truth, accountability, and healing to our community.

CALL FOR STORYTELLERS & CULTURAL PRESENTERS

Thompson Island Cultural Camp (TICC) is seeking storytellers and presenters for the afternoons and evenings of July 7–16, 2025. We're looking for engaging traditional stories, hands-on demonstrations like fire-making, talks on healing and medicines, or any meaningful activity to enrich our students' experience during STEM camp.

Presenters are invited to participate on the dates that suit them — we welcome a diverse range of voices to offer a rich and varied program throughout the camp.

Interested? Please email ticc@akwesasne.ca with:

- Your available dates
- Your fees
- Length of your talk or activity
- A brief description of your presentation



Ohiarí:ha/June 2025 Monthly Report



Chief Sarah Lee Diabo

Email: chief.sarah.diabo@akwesasne.ca

Phone: 613.575.2250 ext. 2169

Cell: 613.577.3276

District of Tsi Snaihne

Portfolio: Department of Health, Akwesasne Board of Education, Public Safety, and Government Secretariat

This monthly report is provided as part of the Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Here is a recap of notable events:

- Attended all the Weekly Council meetings for the month of June.
- **June 2** – Council participated in the Canoe Journey and engaged in a meaningful day of learning and reflection. Highlights included an educational session on the Wampum Belts by the Staff of the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office, as well as guided meditation exercises facilitated by the Mental Health Program Manager.
- **June 4** – Participated in a meeting with City of Cornwall planning committee, on the truth and Reconciliation Day.
- **June 5** – Council and Government Support Staff participated in Media Training facilitated by our very own Communications Department. The session focused on building confidence when engaging with the media, community, and government. Key areas included how to stay on message, manage challenging questions, adapt communication styles to various audiences, and participate in live scenario practice.

- **June 5** – Participated in the Border Collaboration Initiative – Partners Meeting focused on the Dundee Port of Entry. Key discussions included incorporating Mohawk greetings and farewells at the port, addressing language barriers, and exploring the development of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to support a medical transport program. The meeting also included dialogue on the remission order in the context of the Dundee Land Claims Settlement.
- **June 12** – Assisted with the Clothing Drive in support of Sandy Lake families currently evacuated to the Dev Centre. The event was held at the Tsi Snaihne and Kawehnoke Recreation Center from 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We received an overwhelming amount of donations, including clothing, essential personal items, baby supplies, footwear, and toys. All donated items were in excellent condition—clean, gently used, and thoughtfully organized. The outpour of community support was heartwarming and deeply appreciated.
- **June 17–19** – Attended the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Chiefs Assembly held in Beupré, Quebec.

Key highlights from the Assembly included:

- Public Safety and Quebec Relations: Participated in a meeting with Quebec Minister Ian Lafrenière, focusing on public safety issues affecting First Nations in Quebec. Chief Scott effectively raised Akwesasne-specific concerns, including language barriers, professional licensing restrictions due to French language requirements, and challenges accessing healthcare for Akwesasronon in Quebec hospitals.
- Discussion with ISC Minister: Chiefs held a closed discussion with the newly appointed Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, the Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty. Topics included Bill C-5, the federal housing plan, and the development of a consultation framework with First Nations.
- Elected Women’s Council of AFNQL: Chief Tesha Rourke, one of three spokeswomen for the Elected Women’s Council, provided an update on their activities and emphasized the complex, intersecting issues facing Indigenous women across the territory.
- Strategic Session on Addictions and Wellness: A session was held with Dr. Stanley Vollant and Richard Gray on addictions, mental health, and collective healing strategies. Preliminary data from Quebec First Nations revealed a 20% increase in psychological distress between 2015 and 2024, and a 9.6% rise in suicidal thoughts—numbers that have significantly worsened due to the pandemic. Proposed responses include the formation of community mental

wellness teams, regional roundtables on wellness and addictions, and better integration with treatment centers.

- AFNQL Priority Setting: Chiefs worked with newly elected AFNQL Chief Ghislain (Francis) Verreault-Paul to identify regional priorities for the next three years.
 - International Engagement: A virtual presentation was delivered by Sara Olsvig, Chair of the Arctic Council delegation from Greenland, who shared insights on Indigenous governance in the circumpolar region.
-
- **June 23-** Held an introductory meeting with David Flute (Senior Tribal Advisor for Indian Affairs at DHS) and his staff to discuss the unique challenges Akwesasne faces due to the international border dissecting our community. Topics included how border regulations impact daily life, the exercise of our inherent rights, Jay Treaty, Haudenosaunee Passport and ongoing public safety concerns. This initial dialogue is an important step in building mutual understanding and exploring future collaboration on cross-border governance issues.

Portfolio Meetings

Public Safety Portfolio

- June 24 – I attended the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service’s first Community Skén:nen Meal Gathering, which was held at the Akwesasne Homemakers in Tsi Snaihne. This new monthly initiative creates a casual and welcoming space for community members to sit down with AMPS officers, share a meal, and have open, respectful conversations. It was great to see officers engaging with the community—not just as law enforcement, but as people who live and work here alongside us. These gatherings are a positive step toward strengthening relationships, building trust, and creating more understanding between police and community members. It’s not a space for formal complaints, but rather a way to share ideas, ask questions, and work together to move our community forward.

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education Portfolio:

- Attended a joint presentation by the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) and AMBE on the impacts faced by Canadian-born Akwesasne students in accessing post-secondary education in the U.S. It was shared that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has formally initiated litigation against the U.S. Department of Education. The session also included a discussion on the various forms of support available to assist our students.
- June 26th meeting with the board to discuss the AC situations in the AMBE Schools.

Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting:

- Executive Services provided updates on the Access to Technology, Transparency, Information, and Protection (ATTIP) policy, which is currently under review to ensure the language and terminology reflect current standards. Work is ongoing with the Space Needs Committee and includes proposed amendments to the Executive Services organizational chart. Discussions also explored alternative space options for the Dental Program. Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) provided an update on Bill 5, noting that a letter of non-support was submitted before the May 18 deadline. Discussions will soon begin on an internal agreement with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. A Wolf and Wampum Belt presentation was delivered to the Council of Chiefs. Under Nation Building, updates included preparation for the continuation of negotiations with Canada following the recent federal election. The team has been preparing materials and strategy for the main negotiation table.

- Quebec Liaison (as part of Government Secretariat)
 - Followed up with CBSA's Isabelle Crête on immigration matters and shared the Quebec parliamentary calendar with council
 - Coordinated the delivery of Hydro Quebec battery models and meeting setup with MCA's Hydro Quebec Committee.
 - Managed logistics and prepared briefing materials for a meeting with Minister Ian Lafrenière, including a summary of shared priorities across frameworks such as the Viens Commission, UNDRIP, TRC, and Quebec's Action Plan.
 - Updated Annex A to include Quebec Protocol-specific lobbying items from Directors' updates.
 - Reviewed documents and signed the road signage agreement for Droulers / Tsiionhiakwatha.
 - Coordinated the POM/OPG Table meeting on May 20 and supported the onboarding of the new portfolio chief.

TESHA ROURKE TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF MONTHLY REPORT

OHIAARIHA/JUNE 2025

PORTFOLIOS:

Department of Social Services
Department of Health
Department of Justice

COMMITTEES:

- CBSA
- Youth, Elder, Culture and Language (YECL)
- Special Needs
- Finance
- Governance
- Executive Committee (Alternate)

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES:

- Jay Treaty Boarder Alliance Entry of Goods Technical
- Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development Committee
- Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council
- AFNQL Elected Women's Council



CONNECT WITH ME:

Chief.Tesha.Rourke@akwesasne.ca

613-551-3825

613-575-2250 ext. 2197

HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, need clarification on anything shared in this report, or would like to meet up to talk, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always open to hearing your thoughts and continuing the conversation. I'm here to listen, support, and work with you.



Scott Peters

Tsi Snaihne District Chief

June 2025 Monthly Report



Email: chief.scott.peters@akwesasne.ca Phone: 613-575-2250 ext:2177

June 2nd – 6th

- Weekly council meeting
- Border Collaboration Initiative Partners Meeting with Massena Customs and Border Protection Office, Canada Border Services Agency and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
 - CBSA updates includes upcoming installation of new license plate readers, discussion about community members using the domestic lane from the American side has gone up approximately 30%, more new recruits will be at the port by July, residents living in Cornwall can use the Remission Order.
 - No update from Massena CBP as Bob Dwyer had recently retired.
- Green Card Updates with Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE). AMBE is having difficulties meeting with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Education Program to find out what to do with the Green Card issue affecting students. AMBE is raising the funding available to post-secondary students. Outcomes from this are to have MCA and SRMT work closer together.
- Meeting Cornwall Council to discuss working together on a Truth and Reconciliation plan the city would like plan for a fall time event.
- Entewatatha:wi review on sections that need to be negotiated with Canada. Review of community survey that was put out to gauge community knowledge on the Nation Building process.
- Media Training for council occurred to provide awareness on how to talk to media in various situations.

June 9th – 13th

- Weekly Council meeting
- Phone call with a community member regarding Tsi Snaihne issues
- Visited a Tsi Snaihne community member to discuss his yard flooding and the need for proper drainage and fill needed for his lawn to prevent flooding.
- Akwesasne Rights & Research Office meeting to discuss the next steps for the Seaway Negotiations relating to damage to Akwesasne Lands. What would Akwesasne like to see in the new proposal for negotiations? Looking at the potential of considering Impact Benefit Agreements.
- I attended the DevCore Center to meet with Chief Allen Rae, Head of Red Christopher Allsop, DevCore General Manager Ian Bentley, MCA Mental Health Valerie Roe to discuss evacuees' needs.
- Spoke with a community member who needed help finding services within MCA.

- Set up at Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center to collect donations for evacuees from The Sandy Lake First Nations in Northern Ontario that were brought to DevCore Center in Cornwall.
- Met with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) to discuss ways we can work together. The OSPCA is looking to work with the Compliance Officer to offer services such as:
 - Hold nuisance animals
 - Make low cost spay and neuter clinics available on Reserve
 - Provide educational information in school on pet safety
 - Provided information on how to construct our own nuisance animal holding facility
- Delivered donated clothes to the A'nowarako:wa Arena and sorted and piled so that the visitors from Sandy Lake could come through and take what they needed. Niawen'kó:wa Akwesasne for the generous donations on short notice, you really came through again

June 16-20

- Weekly council meeting
- Handed out Family Sustainability Cheques to Tsi Snaihne Residents.
- Travelled with Chiefs Tesha Rourke-Sunday and Sarah Diabo to Assembly of First Nations Quebec Labrador, Chief's Assembly on June 18 & 19, held at Beupré QC. Where topics such as Public Safety, Duty to Consult and Accommodate, Hydro Quebec issues and how Bills 69 (energy) & 97 (forestry) will impact Nations.

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June 23rd – 30th

- Weekly Council meeting
- Visited with a community member to discuss a public safety concern regarding nuisance animals and protection of people and property.
- Due to the high temperatures, a cooling center was opened at the Akwesasne Homemakers, and I was there helping out.

- Met with ARRO on local issues concerning the Duty to Consult and Accommodate on projects that may be within the Akwesasne Territory.

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June has been a very busy month for all on council and we have been working together to bring local issues up with Provincial and Federal agencies to the forefront once again. I have had the privilege to attend the Assembly of First Nations Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and meet up with other Chiefs from across these provinces.

I was able to also meet with Chief Wendell Metallic from Listuguj, Migmaw Nation. Minister Ian Lafrenière had suggested we reach out to leadership in the Listuguj Community to learn more about the Rangers Conservation Program. The Listuguj Ranger program began in 1994, resulted from Listuguj community's long fight to protect their fishing rights. In the early 1990s, Listuguj developed its own law and management plan for fisheries. The Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation Law on Fisheries and Fishing Fisheries Law, passed by the LMG in 1995, provides for a Listuguj Rangers Program.

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Services they provide

- Patrol of the Restigouche River estuary
- Fundraising campaigns
- Distribution of salmon and lobster to Listuguj community members

Pictures from AFNQL Meeting



New AFNQL staff members.



The Honorable Minister of Indigenous Services Canada Mandy Gull-Masty and AFNQL Regional Chief Verreault-Paul.



Ghislain Picard, Former AFNQL Regional Chief for the past thirty-three years at a celebration of his work and accomplishments.



Presenting a gift to Mr. Picard on behalf of Akwesasne.



Chief Tesha Rourke, Chief Sarah Diabo, Ghislain Picard and myself.

Monthly Notables:

Tsi Snaihne District Meeting

Key Topics:

- Focus Meetings: Community wants more focused discussions on specific topics.
- FNCFS Update: Support for early childhood (ages 3–6), sign language classes, healthy school food, food sustainability, and investing in PSWs.
- ABGC: Funding was cut; community wants quarterly updates on how funds are used.
- Mental Health: More youth support needed; suggest switching to quarterly health fairs.
- Policy Updates:
 - Update GPP and Compensation Policy.
 - Recognize volunteers and fluent speakers.
 - Community wants more say in policies, laws, and regulations.

Other Concerns:

- Share 2022–23 border survey results.
- Questions on grievances, acting positions over 3 years, toxic workplaces, and volunteer recognition.
- Hold meetings on-reserve, not in Cornwall.
- Concerns about police visibility, lack of dentist, and why budget/audit were held same night.
- Ask for AFAL to be rescinded and better conduct from leadership.
- Why is the Police Commission changing its charter on its own?

Monthly Notables:

May 14th- Executive Committee

- The selection process is moving forward with four (4) applicants, the interview process will proceed in two phases: virtual first-round interviews, followed by in-person community visits for selected finalists. Interviews will be scheduled over two days, with one hour allotted per candidate. Staff support will be provided for interview question development.

May 15th- Department of Heath Portfolio

- The DOH is working on transitioning ambulance services under its department, aligning with the paramedic program and exploring funding options. A detox presentation and facility tour is scheduled for May 30th. Meetings with hospital administrators addressed language barriers and access to support for community members. A new partnership is in progress to offer endoscopy services locally. The dental space is being reviewed, with options to bring in a new practice or offer alternate health services if needed. Planning is underway for a Jordan's Principle community meeting. Policy updates are being reviewed, and preparations are ongoing for the Health Fair and related fundraising activities.

Department of Child and Social Services Portfolio

- Key agenda items this month included updates to MCRs for RESP and child-in-care funding, along with a revised organizational chart and program realignments. A new youth initiative was introduced, aiming to build cultural identity and leadership skills through workshops and a planned international conference in 2026. Community support updates highlighted continued success in the heating program, food security efforts, and plans for clothing and registration support. Prevention programs are active in schools and the community, with ongoing planning for cultural camps and youth events.

May 16th- Presentation with Dr. Horn

- Dr. Horn recently gave a presentation to Council about the PCBs (chemicals) that are still affecting our community. She shared information from past studies, including the tree bark study done in Akwesasne, and how these toxins can impact our health, especially in children. We are now looking into more information to share with the community, as there are many concerns that outside communities and agencies are not paying attention to.

Monthly Notables:

May 19th- Victoria Day

May 20th- Meeting with 2Spirit Reps from Akwesasne

- Chief Lisa and I met via Zoom with Kit Thomas, one of the new representatives from Akwesasne on the newly established 2-Spirit Council. She will be joined by Abraham Francis, who will also represent Akwesasne at the Chiefs of Ontario. During our meeting, we went over logistics with Kit as the 50th Chiefs of Ontario Assembly is quickly approaching, and we wanted to ensure everything is in place. We also want to give a warm welcome to both Kit and Abraham; we are honored they have stepped into these important roles.

YECL presentation- Tyler Laffin

- A recent presentation shared with YECL Committee, highlights how important it is to support Mohawk language learning at every age. Right now, our language is at risk, and to keep it alive, we need to focus on full-time adult immersion, immersion childcare, and more opportunities for youth and fluent speakers. The goal is to raise new first-language speakers and create a full cycle of language learning, from babies to adults.

May 21st- Strategic Plan All Council

- We spent a full day at the Best Western for our strategic planning session, where we reviewed the priorities from the previous plan and took part in team-building activities. It was a strong start to align our organization with the goals set out in the new strategic plan for this Council's term.

May 22nd- Attended the AMBE Cultural Celebration

- I attended the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education's Cultural Celebration at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena alongside Chief Sarah, Chief Teresa and Chief Lacey. Our youngest students from Early Years to Grade 3 filled the gym with songs, dances and beautiful traditional outfits. It was heartwarming to see our culture celebrated with such joy. We were also joined by Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Gary Anandasangaree, who got to witness the strength of our community and culture. Nia:wen to everyone who made the day so special.

Monthly Notables:

May 22nd- AMBE Cultural Celebration



Health Fair Tsi Snaihne Recreation

- I attended the 2025 Health Fair, which had plenty of helpful information, activities, and health services for everyone. Nia:wen to all the community members who stopped by and a big nia:wen to the Department of Health staff and partners who offered a helping hand and shared their knowledge with us.

May 23rd- Governance Committee

- As the Governance Committee, we are currently reviewing the Council Meeting Procedural Regulations line by line to ensure they are up to date. This review is important to make sure our processes support clear, respectful, and effective meetings

May 26th- Council Meeting

May 28th- Phone Call with Maureen (Elected Women's Council)

- I had a phone call with Maureen to go over the logistics for the upcoming Zoom meeting with the Elected Women's Council. We reviewed the Terms of Reference and made sure I was comfortable with doing both the opening and closing for the meeting. It was a good check-in to prepare for the weeks ahead.

Met with Jonathan Berges- Integration and Implementation Lead for the Youth and Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO)

- Adam Jacobs and I gave Jonathan a tour around Akwesasne to visit various Mohawk Council facilities, with Adam sharing important historical information along the way. Jonathan will be returning in person every two months as we continue planning a youth-focused project. In the meantime, we'll be starting bi-weekly Zoom meetings with the team to keep the work moving forward.

Monthly Notables:

Youth and Wellness Hub Ontario Continued:

- Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario is a program that helps youth ages 12–25 by offering free, walk-in support for things like mental health, addictions, physical health, cultural programs, and more. These hubs bring together different services in one youth-friendly space, making it easier for young people to get the help they need.
- Who is Jonothan?
 - Jonothan is part of the YWHO team working to help bring this support to local communities. He helps make sure services are set up properly and that youth voices are included in building the program.

May 29th- Meeting with Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program (ARAP)

- As part of the Justice Portfolio, we met with the ARAP program to learn more about the services they provide. It was a great opportunity to gain insight into the important work that Band Representatives do to support families in and around Akwesasne.

Met with Youth Council

- The Akwesasne Youth Council met with Council on May 29th at the Tsi Snaihne Rec Centre to discuss upcoming travel and new community initiatives. Members will be attending the Chiefs of Ontario Assembly (June 17–19) and the AFN Annual General Assembly (July 15–17). They also proposed new ideas, including an “Equipment Library” at local rec spots to share sports gear and a Pride Month Bingo event in partnership with the Kawehno:ke Rec Committee.

General Meeting

May 30th- Detox Presentation by Dr. Scott

- Dr. Cory Scott gave a presentation to Council about addiction and how withdrawal management works. He explained the science behind addiction, common drugs being used today, and the medications that can help people recover. He also talked about the services offered at Sahatiha’hará:ne Detox Center (SDC), including both residential and home-based detox options. The goal is to make support more accessible and reduce barriers like stigma or lack of transportation. His presentation gave helpful insight into how we can better support community members struggling with addiction.

Monthly Notables:

June 2nd- Council Meeting and Team Building on Thompson

- We held our Council meeting on Thompson Island, where we took part in a canoe journey guided by Brandon David and a meditation session led by Mary Terrance. It was a meaningful day focused on team building, connection, and grounding ourselves in the land and water.



June 3rd- Boarder Partners Meeting

- CBSA shared that from June 16–20, they will be replacing infrastructure, and one lane will be closed each day, but they are working to minimize delays. Four new recruits will start at the end of the month, which should help with traffic flow. A new plate reader system is being installed, it reads all plates but is just an updated version.
- For those living in Akwesasne and Cornwall, the remission order still applies—people must declare personal items when crossing.

Snye Constituency Hours- Home Makers

- 3 Community members showed
- 1 Phone Call



Sarah Sunday-Boke Tasha Boyke John Annawap Scott Peters

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEFS WEEKLY CONSTITUENCY HOURS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs have recently commenced constituency hours as of early June.

These sessions are held **every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **Akwesasne Homemakers** and will continue throughout the months of **June, July, and August**. See the dates below.

JUNE	3, 10, 17, 24
JULY	8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST	5, 12, 19, 26

Disclaimer:

Constituency hours will be scheduled according to the District Chiefs' availability to ensure consistent leadership presence. We recognize the importance of community access and remain committed to balancing this with operational responsibilities. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

Monthly Notables:

June 5th- Media Training with Communications

- We took part in a half-day media-training session led by Waheson and Ashley from our Communications team. They taught us how to speak clearly to the public and the media, stay calm during interviews, and share united, easy-to-understand message, even in a crisis, we learned a lot and are eager for more sessions. Nia:wen, Waheson and Ashley, for sharing your knowledge and guiding us.

June 6th- Governance Committee Meeting

- We're currently working on our Council Meeting Procedural Regulations governance document, and it remains a work in progress. This is an important step in strengthening how we operate as a Council.

June 9th- Council Meeting

June 10th- Check Signing Day

- Spent the day at the Finance Department signing checks for the Food Sustainability program. These supports will be distributed to community members the following Monday as part of ongoing efforts to promote food access and wellness in Akwesasne.

June 11th- Meeting with Elected Women's Council (EWC)

- Attended the virtual gathering of the Elected Women's Council, where I opened and closed the meeting with a Ohenton Kariwahtekwen. The session focused on reviewing and updating the EWC's terms of reference, which outline how the Council works together. Elected women had a chance to propose changes and discuss how decisions will be made going forward.
- I drove to DevCor to check in and see if there was any need for support for the Sandy Lake community members who are staying there due to the fires in their home community. That evening, there was a lacrosse game between Thunder and Kahnawà:ke. I called to see if the Sandy Lake families could attend, and thanks to the generosity of CAA Management, they were welcomed with open arms and invited to watch the game free of charge. For many of them, it was their first-ever lacrosse game, and it was a beautiful experience to witness. Nia:wen to everyone who helped make it such a special night.

Monthly Notables:

Regional Committee on First Nations Languages

- I joined the First Nations Languages meeting on June 11, 2025 via zoom, due to ongoing technical issues with the English translation, which made it difficult to follow the discussion. I am currently awaiting the official meeting minutes to review the full details, including updates on the First Nations Language Funding Program and follow-ups on regional, national, and international matters.

Signed checks

June 12th- Justice Portfolio

- The Justice Portfolio continues to focus on key community priorities, including updates to the Election Law, Residency Law, and Akwesasne Child's Rights Law. Discussions are ongoing with AMBE on a Restorative Justice initiative for students, and Power of Attorney kits will soon be available to the community.

Debrief: Elected Women's Council Zoom Meeting

- The Elected Women's Council held a debrief to reflect on the recent meeting with elected women and review the draft Terms of Reference, it was agreed that the document still needs more work and should not be rushed. While there were initial plans to present it at the upcoming AFNQL Assembly, the Council decided instead to focus on sharing member bios and discussing the funding required to support and sustain the ongoing work

10-7 p.m. Snye District Chiefs took donations for Sandy Lake Community Members

- I want to give a heartfelt shoutout to all the community members who came out to donate for the Sandy Lake families. Your generosity and kindness do not go unnoticed; we are truly grateful for every single donation. Nia:wen for showing what community support and compassion look like.

June 13 – All-Day Support at A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for Sandy Lake Community Members.

- Community members, volunteers, MCA employees, and Chiefs came together at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to sort and set up donated clothing for Sandy Lake families. Everyone worked hard to make sure they felt welcome and supported. Nia:wen to all who lent a helping hand. The kids enjoyed bounce houses, the playground, learned how to skateboard, and were treated to a good meal—it was a beautiful day filled with kindness and connection.

Monthly Notables:

June 16th- Council Meeting

Food Sustainability Check Distribution

District Chiefs and MCA employees were set up at the Snye Recreation Centre from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. to distribute checks for the Food Sustainability Program. This effort helps support families in accessing healthy food and promotes overall well-being in the community.

June 17th- Helped sort out the Checks at Admin 1 for Community members to pick up

Chief Scott, Chief Sarah and myself travelled to Saint Anne, QC for the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Assembly

- Met with the Elected Women's Council (EWC) to go over the presentation for the next day.

June 18th & 19th- AFNQL Assembly

- Chief Scott, Chief Sarah, and I attended the Chiefs' Assembly of the AFNQL held on June 18–19, 2025. I had the honour of delivering the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén (Opening Words) to start the assembly. The agenda covered a wide range of important topics including health reform, youth well-being, addictions, public safety, and operational planning. We also participated in discussions with federal and provincial representatives regarding future priorities, funding, and policy development impacting our Nations.
- **Elected Women's Council (EWC) Update**
 - On June 18, I attended the AFNQL Chiefs' Assembly where the Elected Women's Council (EWC) presented key updates. We reviewed the EWC's structure, roles, and financial summary, and confirmed the appointment of three spokespersons to strengthen representation and advocacy for First Nations women. Discussions focused on improving collaboration with Chiefs, ensuring women's voices are included in decision-making, and promoting equity rooted in traditional values. The EWC is also planning to take part in AFNQL committees and continue work on community wellness and governance initiatives.

Monthly Notables:



June 20th- Iahkiisotha visit to watch the Mohawk Singing group from Salmon River sing to the Totas

- The Traditional Mohawk Singers visited the Iahkiisotha Elders Lodge in Tsi Snaihne to sing them Traditional Mohawk Social Songs.
- Nia:wen for singing such beautiful songs, I truly enjoyed seeing the totas have a good time.





Finance Committee

- Community members are encouraged to apply for positions on the Finance Committee.

Youth and Elder Call out

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to appoint three (3) youth council representatives to represent the community of Akwesasne.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is also seeking three (3) Elders Council Representatives to help guide our community with wisdom, respect, and a strong voice for the future.

If you are 60 years or older, live in Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, or Tsi Snaihne, and want to help shape decisions that matter

—Contact Kuyra Chaussi 613-575-2250 ext. 2162 or email Kuyra.Chaussi@akwesasne.ca

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

July 17th- Ottawa, ON- Prime Minister and Cabinet meeting regarding Bill C-5

July 31st- August 3rd - Vacation

August 11-14th- Global Indigenous Language Summit Ottawa, Ontario (WAVES2025)

September 3-5- Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly Winnipeg Manitoba



Scott Peters

Tsi Snaihne District Chief

June 2025 Monthly Report



Email: chief.scott.peters@akwesasne.ca Phone: 613-575-2250 ext:2177

June 2nd – 6th

- Weekly council meeting
- Border Collaboration Initiative Partners Meeting with Massena Customs and Border Protection Office, Canada Border Services Agency and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
 - CBSA updates includes upcoming installation of new license plate readers, discussion about community members using the domestic lane from the American side has gone up approximately 30%, more new recruits will be at the port by July, residents living in Cornwall can use the Remission Order.
 - No update from Massena CBP as Bob Dwyer had recently retired.
- Green Card Updates with Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE). AMBE is having difficulties meeting with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Education Program to find out what to do with the Green Card issue affecting students. AMBE is raising the funding available to post-secondary students. Outcomes from this are to have MCA and SRMT work closer together.
- Meeting Cornwall Council to discuss working together on a Truth and Reconciliation plan the city would like plan for a fall time event.
- Entewatatha:wi review on sections that need to be negotiated with Canada. Review of community survey that was put out to gauge community knowledge on the Nation Building process.
- Media Training for council occurred to provide awareness on how to talk to media in various situations.

June 9th – 13th

- Weekly Council meeting
- Phone call with a community member regarding Tsi Snaihne issues
- Visited a Tsi Snaihne community member to discuss his yard flooding and the need for proper drainage and fill needed for his lawn to prevent flooding.
- Akwesasne Rights & Research Office meeting to discuss the next steps for the Seaway Negotiations relating to damage to Akwesasne Lands. What would Akwesasne like to see in the new proposal for negotiations? Looking at the potential of considering Impact Benefit Agreements.
- I attended the DevCore Center to meet with Chief Allen Rae, Head of Red Christopher Allsop, DevCore General Manager Ian Bentley, MCA Mental Health Valerie Roe to discuss evacuees' needs.
- Spoke with a community member who needed help finding services within MCA.

- Set up at Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center to collect donations for evacuees from The Sandy Lake First Nations in Northern Ontario that were brought to DevCore Center in Cornwall.
- Met with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) to discuss ways we can work together. The OSPCA is looking to work with the Compliance Officer to offer services such as:
 - Hold nuisance animals
 - Make low cost spay and neuter clinics available on Reserve
 - Provide educational information in school on pet safety
 - Provided information on how to construct our own nuisance animal holding facility
- Delivered donated clothes to the A'nowarako:wa Arena and sorted and piled so that the visitors from Sandy Lake could come through and take what they needed. Niawen'kó:wa Akwesasne for the generous donations on short notice, you really came through again

June 16-20

- Weekly council meeting
- Handed out Family Sustainability Cheques to Tsi Snaihne Residents.
- Travelled with Chiefs Tesha Rourke-Sunday and Sarah Diabo to Assembly of First Nations Quebec Labrador, Chief's Assembly on June 18 & 19, held at Beupré QC. Where topics such as Public Safety, Duty to Consult and Accommodate, Hydro Quebec issues and how Bills 69 (energy) & 97 (forestry) will impact Nations.

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Pictures from AFNQL Meeting



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Chief Tesha Rourke, Chief Sarah Diabo, Ghislain Picard and myself.



Ohiariha/June 2025
Monthly Report
Chief JoAnn Swamp
District of TsiSnaihne



Email: chief.joann.swamp@akwesasne.ca

Phone: 613-575-2250

Cell: 613-577-5592

Portfolio: DCSS (Dept. of Community & Social Services), DIHE (Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment), Government Secretariat, Nation Building (Entewatatawi)

Committees: OVS (Office of Vital Statistics), YECL (Youth, Elders, Culture, Language), Hydro QC, POM (Partnership with OPG and MCA), Executive Committee, PAT team, Iroquois Caucus.

Monthly Notables:

Tsi Snaihne District Meeting: June 23/25

There were nine community residents in attendance besides the four district Chiefs.

Updates were given from the trip to AFNQL.

Chiefs gave updates on their progress since elections. Their goals/etc.

Different community residents spoke on how we can deal with the toxic environment in the workplace. HR should be on board with this. Trauma training (call Jody at Tribe), Chiefs stated we had team building on Thompson Island. More team building will happen.

Possibly find funding to fill the gaps that are not funded by housing to help people out.

Preferential hiring, is this still in place and is it followed? The answer was yes, it's still in place and hopefully it is being followed.

Housing Issues; need qualified workers

Is Monday morning meetings going to be public for community? The answer is yes, working on some glitches right now but yes it will be open for community residents.

Community member wants a load of gravel or sand for all community residents who need it. Driveways are bad and should be kept up, but some cannot afford it.

Community members want directors to come to the general meetings to answer questions. Chiefs stated yes they have started this and will continue.

FTTH: is this over and why are people not hooked up. Chiefs will look into this.

Travel and Hotels for Chiefs: Is there a breakdown of what is being spent when Chiefs travel? For instance, food, etc. for accountability purposes. Chiefs stated no there is not a breakdown, just lumped together when it comes to travel. Chiefs expenditures are on the website. Chiefs can look into this if we can have a breakdown.

Quebec Protocol: what is being discussed with this agreement. Taxes, licenses with our professional workers, language, health care are some of the issues.

Community resident wants only one Akwesasne, why can't we work with Tribe on this and have our own laws here in Akwesasne.

Can the community be provided with a copy of leased lands especially on Hamilton Island.

Community would like a Special Needs presentation.
This is some of the issues brought to light, did not include personal issues.

General Meeting: To be held on June 26 in Kanatakon at the Rec Centre.

Council Meetings: June 2, 9, 16, 23/25

MCR's are presented and acted upon.

June 2, the MCA Chiefs and EA's minus participated in a team-building workshop on Thompson Island. Started with a short meeting to take care of MCRs, then went into team building. This was a very good workshop and more should be planned. Grand Chief didn't attend as he was at a meeting.

June 9 – absent, sick.

June 16 – Presentation from DCSS on new Org Chart.

June 23 – Presentation on Cairn Island from Parks Canada and ARRO.

Other Meetings: ARRO/AMBE meeting was held on June 3/25. The discussion was around the Canadian-born attending U.S. schools and having to get a green card to continue receiving funding from the States. The Jay Treaty was also discussed. Clarissa Jacobs, who works in Albany and may be able to assist through New York State Programs. There was mention that students can go to receive assistance and this was given by the AMBE Post Secondary workers. They stated that AMBE is not the #1 funding source. They can help with some of the funding. There seem to be lots of questions in regards to applying for the green card and both parties will continue to try and find ways to go around this issue. They are also talking with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. The Tribe has filed for an injunction with New York State regarding the green card and Canadian-born students.

Truth & Reconciliation – Cornwall – June 4/25

Discussions centered around Cornwall and the partnership we have with the city. They want to continue to learn about our culture and who we are as Mohawks. A strategic plan was put in place in 2023, where Cornwall contacted MCA about treaties and reconciliation and what it means. MCA stated at that time, there was more truth and reconciliation to be done. The ARRO department should be able to help with the history of the surrounding area. The next steps is for Cornwall to come to the community and meet with Council in person and figure out a way to meet with the community. Council shared the September 30 festivities for them to participate in. Possibly the first steps are a cultural training from the ARRO department, reflecting and structuring that knowledge, and then meet in person.

Media Training: Communications – June 5/25

Media Training was held at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation with the Communications Team. Centered around effective communication and builds trust. To represent Council clearly and responsibly. Managing nerves and staying on track. Tackling questions. Interview skills, what to do and what not to do. This was a very formative training and possibly should have been longer.

Akwesasne/Quebec Protocol Agreement – June 5/25

Discussions on Bill 84 and the concerns. Speak our language and protect our culture and our community. Minister Lafreniere reiterated that it is their intention to fix these issues and to discuss the MOU and to respect each other. This legislation was not to include First Nation and will follow it up with a letter. The Quebec Protocol agreement – working groups: Paul Girard, Marc Foisy, Natalie, and Taylor. Teams to work together and also to meet in person.

Discussed Cable Ferry, which would be faster than building a bridge. More discussions to come.

Executive Committee: June 6/25

Interviews are taking place.

June 11/25 – Met in regard to investigation conducted at Justice.

June 11/25 – Updates and sharing of the last two candidates from interviews.

June 18/25 – In camera discussions regarding confidential information.

Shawn Mutch Presentation on First Nation Bank: June 6/25

This was presented to Chiefs of Ontario about First Nation Banking. Also discussed with IFN who also indicated they wanted to do something like this. It is now underway. This is a short version of the background on First Nation Bank.

The bank is located in Six Nations with BMO. Possibly have a PowerPoint presentation with the community.

Government Secretariat: June 10/25

This was chaired by Chief Sarah Diabo. Natalie sent her regrets but sent a report, Taylor is in school. Chiefs gave their updates.

J. Swamp: Discussion on the PAT Team that was passed by MCR. This needs to be amended to include DIHE.

T. Oakes: The Special Needs committee has a couple of positions sitting at HR. All positions were on the org chart when passed.

S. Diabo: Green Card and tariffs. The template should be made so programs can access it when we have contractors or businesses that have to come onto the territory.

T. Jacobs: Site prep and lot servicing were discussed.

Associate Director: DR

is working on ATIP with Yvonne Gauthier to make the policy readable. Overseers will be working with Taylor.

Police Commission files are being stored at the Angus Mitchell building. They are running out of space. Changes are taking place. Compliance sits with AMPS. Executive Services now has EOC and Communications. Ambulance under DOH. A quality service officer and privacy officer for ATIP, a political advisor, will all be new positions under Executive Services. Also, a parks and recreation director will also be instituted. A/ED doesn't know yet where this position will sit.

ARRO – Cheyenne

Cultural sensitivity workshops are taking place with outside entities. Cultural awareness with truth and reconciliation. Cairn Island special claims, ACR submitted letters to Hopkins Point and letters came back. No trespassing signs will be put up on Sheik Island as black ash trees were cut down. The environment will be helping with this. Concerns were sent regarding the Green Card issue.

AMBE will sent out a pamphlet with information to student of their options in regards to the Green Card.

Nation Building: Rachel

Haven't been any negotiations with Canada because of the elections. This is now done and will resume with meetings. Working on the protocol and EcDev has an issue with financial institutions not accepting the licenses. Action Item: take back to EA for help

Karla: working with CBSA and their intentions. She read her intentions and there's a lot of lobbying that could be used in this area. Reviewing various Bills within the government, looking to COO, AFNQL, AFN. GC: has issues with the Green Card and using American addresses, this does not fit well with him. There is a class action suit, and I would like feedback from this table in regards to this. B Nesbitt Burns to give a presentation.

Nation Building: June 4/25

Chiefs gave their update on work being done. Land Law which was the land code, was passed by MCR. Bill 5 – is there going to be an impact? Business licensing with EcDev. Logan Hall is the new negotiator analyst with ISC.

The Entewatatawi survey was shared with the group.

Main Table negotiations will start back up now that Canada is back in session.

DCSS Meeting: The meeting was cancelled.

DIHE Meeting: had interviews, missed the meeting

OVS Committee Meeting: June 3/25.

Discussion on amending the membership code, but this was not on the list to be worked on at Justice, so the code will not be amended at this time.

A bielection was held, and Donna Delormier, Cody David, and Kathy Mitchell were voted in.

Housing: missed meeting

Works in Progress: Ongoing

1. Quebec Protocol Agreement: Renegotiating the agreement with Quebec. Reviewing for finalization.
2. YECL (Youth Elders Culture Language): working on terms of reference and reviewing the Charter.
3. Executive Director position: ongoing. Interviews are taking place this month.
4. Constituency Hours: June 10/25 – 1 pm-3:45 pm. No one showed up
June 17/25 – 1 pm – 5:15 pm – Lots of community members showed up.

Upcoming Events

June & July 2025

AMPS Skén:nen Meal Gathering

June 24

Iohahi:io

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**All are welcome!*

Land-Based Healing Program

Seed Song Teachings

June 24, 25, 30

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Community Health Services/Land-Based Healing Cultivation Series

Community Garden Planting Kits

June 25 — Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Pavillion

June 26 — Tsi Snaihne Rec. Parking Lot

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ACFS Traditional Support Program

Tetewata'theri:ke - We Are Filling Our Basket

June 26 & 27 - Tobacco Pouches, Medicine
Bundles, and Beading

July 4 - Braids with Chazy

**Female Youth Ages 14-18. Registration required.*

Boot Camp Fitness

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io (Bottom level)

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

**Final Class June 26. All fitness levels welcome!*

MCA General Meeting

June 26

Kana:takon Recreation Center

6:00 p.m.

AFWP

2SLGBTQIA+ Beach Day

June 30

Robert Moses Barnhart Beach

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Everyone welcome!*

ACFS

Beginner Smoke Dance Series

June 30

Native North American Travelling College

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Registration full.*

MCA Offices Closed (Canada Day)

July 1

Green Food Bag Order Deadline

July 4

Virtual Ventures

Indigenous STEM Land Camp

July 7-17

Thompson Island

**Registration required.*

Traditional Medicines Program

Cultural Connections & Conversations

July 23 — Atsiakta - By the River (89 Rourke
Rd, Akwesasne, NY)

12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Akwesasne Art Market & Juried Show

July 25 & 26 — Juried Art Show @ Akwesasne
Mohawk Casino

July 26 — Art Market @ Generations Park

