

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Tetewaie:na - Honoring the past, facing today's challenges, building a strong future.



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Seskehko:wa/September 7, 2016

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope everyone is having a great start to the month of September! Our Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) students returned to school as of yesterday and our high school students did as well. Arguably this is one of the most wonderful times of the year, and if you have a teenager like I do, you'll feel relieved knowing that they are no longer able to sleep in until noon.

Last Thursday (September 2, 2016) the regularly held monthly General Meeting took place at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre. The meeting was attended by approximately 15 people, as well as a few MCA staff members who presented on various agenda items. The agenda included presentations on Traditional Harvesting, Akwesasne Tourism, and the Snye Trails Initiative. Updates were given on the recent Trustee Appointments, the Akwesasne Election Law amendments, the newly established Akwesasne Youth Council, the progress made by the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup, and the rumors surrounding Hamilton Island & Triwin.

The Traditional Harvesting presentation was provided by a member of the MCA environment staff, who discussed a tragic occurrence that took place in our waters, where a number of sturgeon were found to have been caught, killed, and left floating in the St. Lawrence River. Staff of our environment program have been working collaboratively with staff of the SRMT's environment program to determine who committed this horrendous act. Sturgeon are listed as an endangered species and it takes a very long time for them to mature before they start reproducing. The recent killing of these fish (we found 11) could have a greater impact on the sturgeon population than we know. The presentation was delivered to educate the community on the negative impact made and to ask the community for help in finding and stopping those responsible. Should you have any information to share, please contact either the MCA or SRMT environment programs or our local police services.

My monthly report was made available for distribution to the community at last week's General Meeting and is attached for anyone who was unable to attend. Please take a moment to read through the report and feel free to reach out to me or any District Chief with questions regarding the content, or to provide your suggestions on additional communication methods that could be utilized as a best practice for continuing to share information with you. Your input is appreciated.

I look forward to this coming month as well as seeing you at the upcoming 2016 Akwesasne International Pow wow!

O:nen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abram Benedict", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict

AKWESASNE-LAND WHERE THE PARTRIDGE DRUMS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

613-575-2250

WWW.AKWESASNE.CA

BOX 579 CORNWALL, ONTARIO K6H-5T3

MOHAWK GOVERNMENT OFFICES

613-575-2348



Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of Ohiarihko:wa / July 2016

JULY 4, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) presented to Council on a request received to use a lot on Stanley Island for boat docking purposes; OVS will follow up with legal regarding right of way options.
- Council discussed whether or not to extend the reduced island lease fees payable by Akwesasne Members; a recommendation will be forth coming for Council's consideration.
- Council was briefed on the need to meet with the Akwesasne Membership Board; a request to meet will be sent to the board.
- Council was briefed on the 'Executive Director for the MCA' recruitment progress.
- The possibility of declaring September 21 as an International Day of Peace was discussed and will be considered through resolution at a later date.
- Council discussed the need for road maintenance funding to be subsidized by Quebec and agreed that a letter will be drafted and sent to Quebec as follow up.
- The various processes and means for communicating MCA and Council activities to the community were discussed; further review and discussion between Mohawk Government and Communications program staff will take place as follow-up.
- MCRs passed: Approval of amendment to Akwesasne/Canada fiscal agreement; Approval of the Akwesasne Comprehensive Community Plan; Approval of contract with MCYS for Community Based Mapping Project; Approval of Audit for Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities; Approval of assignment of lease for Hamilton Island; Approval of Council Meeting minutes.

JULY 4, 2016 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT LAW REVIEW

In November 2013 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne passed a resolution forming a MCA Financial Administration Law Working Task Group with the mandate to research and develop a draft MCA Financial Administration Law. Over the last few years this working task group has been researching and drafting the law as required by the MCR. On the morning of July 7, 2016 members of Council met with Nation Building staff and

legal counsel to review the nearly finalized draft of the MCA Financial Administration Law. The law is very comprehensive and takes into consideration all MCA financial policies currently in place. The working task group explained the numerous sections of the law to Council. The next step will be for Council to accept the law in principal to begin the law enactment process.

JULY 5, 2016 INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT CANADA

As part of our ongoing efforts to resolve the Seaway litigation against Canada outside of the court process, the Akwesasne team met with representatives of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Transport Canada on the morning of July 5, 2016 here in Akwesasne. The representatives from Canada provided us with an update on research completed and additional items were discussed. We are working diligently to walk the path toward a final resolution on the 40 year old lawsuit against Canada for the construction and maintenance of the seaway shipping channel. When the original lawsuit was filed in 1976 it included damages for the construction of the seaway and the hydro dam. The damages for the construction and maintenance of the hydro dam were settled in 2008 under the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) settlement agreement which was ratified by the community on June 14, 2008 for \$45 million dollars. The next meeting with Canada will take place in the fall.

JULY 6, 2016 NATION BUILDING

On July 6, both parties to the self-government negotiation team, namely Entewatatha:wi-Nation Building staff and representatives from Canada, provided a 'Self-Government 101' workshop to Council. The purpose of the workshop was to provide both parties with the opportunity to collectively explain why negotiations are taking place, what self-government is and what it is not, what the current status of the negotiations are, what will happen once the negotiations have concluded, and what timelines are being anticipated. The presentation will also be used as a tool for community engagement and information meetings.

JULY 6, 2016 CORNWALL UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE

On the afternoon of July 6, 2016 I attended a Cornwall University Steering Committee meeting at Nav Centre in Cornwall. A report was given on the recently co-hosted drone course which had been done in collaboration with Carleton University at Nav Centre. The course was well attended and a future course is planned for October. During this meeting I provided an update to the committee on Akwesasne's ongoing efforts to

partner with Carleton University to deliver a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program at Iohahi:io. Currently Akwesasne has been negotiating with Carleton on a delivery model; the challenge for us has been the requirement to have a minimum number of students signed up in order to deliver a 4 year program. The next meeting with Carleton to discuss other options has been scheduled. Other items that were updated and discussed at the Cornwall University Steering Committee meeting are as follows: Report on Center of Innovation, Update on BIT Carleton/River Institute, Airport Update, Relationship and Communications, and Fundraising.

JULY 7, 2017 LUNCH & TOUR WITH MINISTERS



On July 7, 2016 our Council hosted Minister Geoffrey Kelly—Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for the Province of Quebec, Stephanie Vallee—Justice Minister for the Province of Quebec, Stephane Billette—National Assembly of Quebec for Huntingdon, Anne Minh Thu Quach—Member of Parliament NDP, Minister David Zimmer—Minister of Indigenous Affairs for Ontario, representatives from the Minister of Justice Canada’s office, and

members of the Cornwall City Council, including the Mayor. The afternoon began with a luncheon with our guests followed by a tour of Akwesasne, which took place on the river. Our Council used this day as an opportunity to network with our partners but also to discuss the need for federal and provincial representatives to work with Akwesasne on the development of an agreement regarding the Akwesasne Mohawk Court. Akwesasne has established an inter-jurisdictional sub-table on Justice, and the events on July 7 served to complement the progress being made.



JULY 8, 2016 NATION BUILDING

On the morning of July 8, 2016 I participated at the self-government negotiations with Canada. The negotiations started on July 7 but I was unable to participate on the first day due to scheduling conflicts. The negotiation committees reviewed the proposed language regarding 'Application of Provincial Laws' within the agreement. This section was discussed at length and in the end Canada committed to examining further options on the wording to be used, for future consideration. Expropriation provisions within the agreement were also reviewed at length. The Akwesasne team has been very strong on minimizing the expropriation abilities of Canada and in the end, Canada committed to examining further options on the wording to be used, for future consideration.

JULY 8, 2016 MEETING WITH HIGGINS

On the afternoon of July 8, 2016 members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne met with Brock Higgins and Brenda Larose from Higgins Executive Search. Recently the Council agreed to retain the services of a recruitment firm to conduct the search for a new Executive Director for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Council agreed that the members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) would be the committee who will work with Higgins to seek candidates for consideration. With the recent presentation from Council and management to staff regarding the WRW plans for change and the roll out of the workplace strategies, Council feels that the recruitment of a new Executive Director is vital to the implementation plans. Over the next two months the workgroup and Council will work with Higgins to seek candidates that possess the skills and expertise to assist with the change strategies.

JULY 12, 2016 ACTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH

We reached out to Keith Conn Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Health Canada to arrange for a telephone conversation. On July 12, 2016 Keith and I connected by to discuss Akwesasne's health priorities. I explained some of our concerns with the non-insured health benefits and with the financial arrangements with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) to support our agreement with the EOHU. Keith and I committed to establishing regular communication and dialogue and to meet in person in the future.

JULY 15, 2016 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT NADA SEMAAN

On the morning of July 15, 2016 I met with Nada Semann, Executive Vice President (EVP) of Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). This was an impromptu meeting I received a call to attend. During the meeting I reiterated to the EVP that the reporting requirement continues to be a hardship on our community, I also outlined that we have been proposing alternative reporting to CBSA for a few years with no movement. I also explained that the Government of Canada's move to expand pre-clearance with the USA



was something that Akwesasne is interested in being part of; this initiative ties to alternative reporting. The other item we spoke about was the complaints process and the proposed establishment of an oversight board for complaints against CBSA. EVP Semann committed to following up with me on the issues raised and reiterated the President's commitment to meet with Akwesasne Leadership and tour the community.

JULY 18, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Manager along with 3 Overseers for the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust presented to Council on the recommendations for Trustee appointments and answered questions on the process.
- Representatives from Proteus Investment and Gowlings presented a proposed financial framework for consideration as part of the Dundee Tsikaristisere referendum question; a Council committee will work with the consultant to make a final recommendation to Council.
- Akwesasne Arena Manager and MCA Business Service Officer presented financial options for Council consideration and approval to purchase a new Ice Re-surfacer for the Anowarakowa Arena; Council will further research options.
- Administration presented potential options for a political service agreement for Chief; this will be further researched.

- An update was provided on Census Canada; Council agreed that no extension would be given for the canvassing timeline.
- A brief was provided on the need for a standardized complaints process for community members to use.
- Council was briefed on a complaint regarding dealerships delivering cars to the Peace Tree Mall for non-members.
- Administration and Finance Committee agreed to examine internal garbage and water fees for Sweet Grass Manor.
- Council agreed to contact 60's scoop class action applicants regarding an upcoming court hearing and rally in Toronto on August 28.
- Council agreed to provide a letter of support for an Akwesasne Elder to sit on the AFNQL Elders Council.
- MCRs passed: Appointment in principal of community members(2) as Trustee(s) to the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust; Approval request to INAC for funds held in trust capital account; Approval of contract with Ministry of Community Safety & Corrections Services for support for Native Inmate Liaison Officer; Declaration of International Day of Peace September 21; Approval of allotment of land to community member (loan paid off); Approval of contract award for 4-plex apartment to BT Custom Homes; Approval of amendment to Akwesasne/INAC funding agreement; Approval of Service Agreement with Ministry of Education for Child Care Services; Approval of access to territory for community business (for bank financing).

JULY 19, 2016 ORBIS RISK CONSULTING

In preparation for an August 9, 2016 presentation to all MCA staff, the Executive Director and I participated on a preparatory conference call with our consultant from Orbis Risk Consulting. The purpose was to review the content of the PowerPoint presentation. We agreed that we would give an overview of the history of why the MCA formed the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW), what studies have been conducted in the past that contributed to the current work being undertaken, what the WRW recommendations are, and what strategies are being proposed to bring change to the MCA workforce. The presentation was scheduled to take place on August 9 at the Anowarakowa Arena.

JULY 20, 2016 CKON RADIO - TETEWATARON

On the morning of July 20, 2016 Chief Troy Thompson, the Aboriginal Rights and Research (ARRO) Manager, and I went to CKON to participate in a Tetewataron talk show with Rene Cook to discuss the recent Cornwall Port/Harbor divestiture. While on the radio we gave background and history on the project, explained what work has been done leading up to the signing of the divestiture and also explained what consultation and community information session have occurred throughout the past two years. While live on the radio we also took question from the community.



JULY 20, 2016 CBSA CULTURAL SENSITIVITY



Over the last few years the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has partnered with Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA) to provide two-day cultural awareness training sessions to new recruits at the CBSA port of entry in Cornwall. On July 19th and 20th a training session was held at the OPG Visitor's Center. A number of presentations were given to the officers on the history of Akwesasne and the governance in Akwesasne. The culture and beliefs of Akwesasne are explained as well as the significance of ceremonies and the sacred items used in ceremonies. On the second day Chief Jacobs, Chief Lazore, and I were invited to sit on a discussion panel explaining some of our responsibilities as

leadership in Akwesasne. We took this opportunity to give a quick synopsis of what our general responsibilities are but we also spoke more about what we hear from our community with respect to CBSA. We elaborated on what community perception is on the border and also spoke about the hardships the border imposes. The daily realities in Akwesasne are important for the front line CBSA officers to understand since our community members comprise 70% of the users of the border crossing in Cornwall.

JULY 20, 2016 IAKHIHSOTHA MONTHLY CELEBRATION

Following our Tetewataron show with CKON, I made my way down to Iakhihsotha to participate in the monthly celebration for July birthdays of residents at Iakhihsotha. A number of residents celebrated along with staff and family members. Following lunch and birthday cake, Mr. John Francis and company provided musical entertainment for the residents as part of the celebration.

JULY 21, 2016 TSIKARISTISERE/DUNDEE CLAIM



Our internal Akwesasne Tsikaristisere negotiation team continues to work back and forth with Canada on the final settlement agreement document. On July 21 our internal team met with our legal counsel to review a current language proposal received from Canada. One of the main challenges we have been going back and forth on is the release language and the requirement for a double majority referendum. The double majority referendum poses a significant concern for our Council because our community would be required to reach approximately 4,000 eligible voters of our community.

This directly relates to Canada's language requirement under release in the agreement. Our internal team reviewed the current proposal from Canada and gave direction for a proposed response to Canada. An in-person meeting with Canada is set for September.

JULY 22, 2016 CHIEF OF ONTARIO CONFERENCE CALL

As part of the Political Confederacy (PC) portfolio system, I sit on the economic development portfolio. The PC and Chiefs of Ontario has agreed to proceed with an Ontario First Nations Economic Forum. On July 22 the economic development committee held a conference call to begin the planning process for the economic forum. It was agreed that the Chiefs of Ontario office would be the coordinating body

for the planning, but the format and agenda will be decided by the guiding committee. An in-person meeting of the committee is set to continue with the planning process for the economic forum, which is set to occur October 12 & 13 in Toronto.

JULY 22, 2016 HIGGINS CONFERENCE CALL

On July 22, 2016 members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) participated on a conference call with our consultant Higgins who is assisting with the recruitment of an Executive Director. Since the initial meeting with Higgins, the consultants began the process of searching for candidates who meet the MCA requirements. The consultant provided the workgroup with an update on the work conducted so far. Future meetings are set as the work continues to find an Executive Director for the MCA.

JULY 23, 2016 HAMILTON ISLAND BBQ

Every year the Hamilton Island Association hosts a BBQ on Hamilton Island. On the afternoon of Saturday July 23, 2016 I attended Hamilton Island to take part in the BBQ. The BBQ was hosted at one of the homes on the island, at the home of an individual who happened to be a member of Akwesasne.

JULY 25, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from RigiNative Partnership Development presented on a business development opportunity; Global Indigenous Bank. Council will defer the representatives to portfolio for further exploration and consideration.
- Representatives from Green Science Technologies presented on a technology that produces earth worm castings and discussed potential community benefits for consideration; portfolio will follow up for further considerations.
- Council set the General Meeting for Thursday July 24, 2016 at the Kana:takon Recreation to start at 6 pm.
- Council discussed environmental activities at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) level and also discussed an upcoming meeting with MCA environment in two weeks.
- OVS portfolio briefed council on recent clearcutting on MCA owned and privately owned property on Calhoun Island; follow up will be done with Administration and AMPS.
- Council requested that Administration follow up on technology concerns at lohahi:io.

- Recent press around Mikinak was discussed and Council agreed to follow up with the Chiefs of Ontario and AFNQL for support of Akwesasne's and Kahnawake's position.
- Council was briefed on individuals from Akwesasne going around Hamilton Island distributing misleading information about the MCA and Triwin; further follow up will be done.
- A brief was provided on a Human Resources strategy for the coming months.
- MCRs passed: Approval of recommendation for the shareholders for the Akwekskowa Corporation; Approval of recommendation of director for the Akwekskowa Corporation; Approval of assignment of lease Pilon Island; Approval of Final Job Description for the Executive Director position.

JULY 26, 2016 CALL WITH PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA

The Government of Canada announced that it was working with the United States Government to expand pre-clearance operations with respect to US Customs (USCBP) and Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). Earlier in May I had a conversation with ADM Gina Wilson regarding Canada's movement on pre-clearance and she provided me with contact information of Paul Mackinnon who is the lead on pre-clearance for Public Safety. On July 26, I spoke with Paul about Akwesasne's desire for alternative reporting and how that relates to the relocation of the CBSA Port of Cornwall to Rooseveltown. After a lengthy conversation with Paul he committed to come to Akwesasne to see the geographical location and border challenges in Akwesasne. The tour and meeting with Paul is tentatively scheduled for September.

JULY 26, 2017 CORNWALL CHILDREN'S TREATMENT CENTER

On July 26, 2016 I met with Angelo Towndale and Don Fairweather from the Cornwall Children's Treatment Center (CCTC) to discuss how Akwesasne can work closer with the treatment center. The treatment center provides outreach services to children, youth, and families affected by abuse. The youth treatment center on Cornwall Island accesses services available at the center. I believe that our community members should have access to a choice of services for counseling services. The CCTC does not require clients to have a referral to access services and CCTC does its best to not have long wait times for services.

JULY 27, 2016 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of July 27, 2016 our Council hosted its monthly General Meeting at the Kanatakon Recreation. The agenda included a presentation from our Community Planner on the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP), presentation on an upcoming project to construct a pavilion at the Anowarakowa Arena, and separate updates on Statistics Canada, Bell Fibre, Land Claims, and the Cornwall Port Divestiture. There was low attendance at the meeting but we greatly appreciate those who were able to attend. The next General Meeting is set to take place the end of August in the District of Tsi Snaihne.

JULY 28, 2016 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO—ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE CHANGE

On the morning of July 28, 2016 the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Environment portfolio had a conference call with the Environmental staff from the Chiefs of Ontario to discuss next steps with respect to work being undertaken within the province regarding climate change. A number of resolutions on environment had been put forward at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) in June in Thunder Bay, but unfortunately due to extended debate, the resolutions were not considered or passed by the Chiefs. With the lack of direction through resolution by the Chiefs in assembly, the environmental division at COO is not able to work further on climate change opportunities. The staff briefed the portfolio on the ongoing work and opportunities; portfolio directed that COO staff provide an urgent memo to the Political Confederacy (PC) to request further direction.