

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Onerahtohko:wa/May 11, 2016

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

Happy Wednesday to all of you, I hope everyone is doing well.

I would like to say we are off to a great start to spring but I'm not so sure that's exactly what is happening; it seems that spring is starting out quite slowly this year. Up until two days ago I was still getting frost warning notifications through my phone. I was actually hoping it was my phone that was malfunctioning.

Last month's General Meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday—April 28, 2016 in the District of Tsi Snaihne, but due to the unfortunate passing of a number of community members which affected the entire community, Council decided to postpone the General Meeting to Saturday—May 7, 2016. Unfortunately, the losses within our community have continued to occur. As a result, Council decided that the April General Meeting will be cancelled altogether and we will proceed with our regularly scheduled General Meeting for the month of May, scheduled to take place at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center on Thursday—May 26, 2016 starting at 6:00 pm.

I want to extend our deepest sympathies to all those who have lost loved ones over the last several weeks. Our Council and I know that the loss of a loved one is a difficult time and all of you have been in our thoughts.

Even though the April General Meeting didn't occur I still want to share my monthly report for March with you, as attached. As always, I encourage you to review the report. Please note that I do my best to capture the information from the various meetings attended, but I don't always capture who else attended each meeting. For the most part, other Council members are in attendance or otherwise involved in the various files and have working knowledge of the happenings.

You are encouraged to like my Facebook page "Abram Benedict" where you will have access to my regularly posted updates and reports. Please feel free to reach out to me or any District Chief if you have any questions.

I wish you all the best for the spring season ahead!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Abram Benedict". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict



Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of Enniskó:wa/March 2016

March 2, 2016 Council Meeting

Council meeting update:

- Council reviewed and approved a request from the Cornwall Canada Day Committee to use the Anowara'kó:wa grounds as a launch site for the Canada Day fireworks.
- Council discussed next steps in relation to a petition received at last month's General Meeting and directed a resolution be drafted for this month's General Meeting.
- A brief was provided for the upcoming NHL Native Alumni Game and events around the game.
- Senior Maintenance Manager for MCA facilities provided council with an overview of the protocols and procedures followed on days which MCA is closed or delayed in order to keep the facilities walkways cleared.
- A brief was provided on a proposal being submitted for the update of emergency management procedures and training.
- Council discussed agenda items for an upcoming Iroquois Caucus meeting and provided direction on specific items.
- MCR's passed: Approval of 2014/15 audit for AEDF financial statement. March 2, 2016

March 2, 2016 Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Grand Opening Reception

On the evening of March 2, 2016 I attended a grand opening reception for Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Cornwall Branch. BDC does business development consulting, lending, capital venture and provides other business development services. They also have an Aboriginal division who works with Aboriginal business on and off reserve.

March 3, 2016 CEO Daniels Watson - Parks Canada



Phillip White-Cree, Cactus Cook-Sunday, Katherine Patterson, Chief Loran, Grand Chief, Daniel Watson

Late in September 2015 we wrote Daniel Watson Chief CEO for Parks Canada asking for a meeting to discuss Tsikatsinawhere / Cairn Island. MCA had been in previous discussion with Parks Canada for the return of Cairn Island to Akwesasne but due to staffing changes the discussions stalled and never resumed. On March 3, 2016 Chief Loran, staff members from the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) and I met with CEO Watson and regional representatives from Parks Canada to discuss the return of Cairn Island to Akwesasne. CEO Watson was very receptive to the return; he explained that Cairn Island had been transferred to Parks Canada from the Department of Interior (INAC) which has been designated as a Historical Site. CEO Watson is committed to start the return negotiations of Cairn Island.

March 3, 2016 Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders Association

On the afternoon of March 3, 2016 I met with SDG Highlander Major Jason Steeve's informal meet and greet to hear what the work the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders Association is doing in the Cornwall and surrounding area. Jason is the recruitment officer for the Canadian Arm Forces.

March 4, 2016 Meeting with Trustees for the Akwesasne Community Trust

On Friday March 4, 2016 members of Council met with the Trustees for the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust and the Overseers of the Akwesasne Community Trust to review the results of a recent survey the trustees had conducted. The trustees are required to consult with the community annually on the development of their priorities for the upcoming year. The survey identified housing, promotion of the preservation of language and cultural heritage, promotion and support of the health and safety and wellbeing of our members and finally the promotion of economic development as priorities for the community. The trustee will now incorporate the priorities into the annual disbursements criteria of the trust funding. Additional information on the trust can be found on the trust Facebook page by liking "Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust ", email comm.akwtrust@gmail.com, or by simply speaking to one of the community trustees.

March 7, 2016 Leadership Meeting

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC) generally try to meet monthly to discuss various issues. At the March 7, 2016 meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Update on the NYS Land Claims. Recent meetings with the County and the State regarding the claims.
- Border ID update from the MNCC
- Presentation on Mohawk Electrical Cooperative by MCA

- Common issues at community meetings
- Ambulance and Police protocol for "Out of Service"
- Update on Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance
- Joint press release on water safety and community Vigilance on suspicious activity.

March 8, 2016 Council Meeting

Council meeting update:

- Representatives from Vires Capital presented a summary draft for the Akwesasne Electrical Cooperative study.
- The Director of Tehotiiennawakon provided an update on future consultation meetings with community on the Energy East Pipeline project.
- Council set a date for an upcoming session with MCA directorship to discuss priorities and lobby strategy.
- The itinerary for an upcoming meeting with Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister Zimmer was reviewed.
- Council agreed that the General Meeting for March would be moved to Wednesday March 30 to accommodate the Cultural Portrait community presentation scheduled for the 31st.
- With the recent discussion at the General Meeting around the Census Survey, Council will be reaching out to Statistics Canada for additional information, possible additional community meetings and timeline considerations;
- Council discussed agenda planning for General Meeting to ensure ample time for discussions.

- MCR's passed: Approval of letter to TransCanada regarding Communications and Engagement Agreement; Approval of renovation loan to community member; Approval of amendment to Canada/Akwesasne funding agreement; Approval of (6) Council Meeting Minutes. March 8, 2016

March 9, 2016 Iohahí:io and Carleton University

On March 9, 2016 a delegation from Akwesasne including representatives from Iohahí:io traveled to Carleton University to meet with the President of the University and her faculty staff to discuss the possibility of partnering with Iohahí:io to deliver a bachelor program here in Akwesasne. Over the last few years we have seen a rise in the need for qualified individuals with bachelor degrees in social work especially since receiving our Ontario Children's Aid designation. Iohahí:io had previously partnered with Carleton University in the past to deliver a bachelor program, but it has been a number of years since any programs had been delivered in Akwesasne. The President was very receptive to partnering, but was concerned with ensuring we had enough interest and commitment from students to operate the three year program. Each party committed to meet again, Iohahí:io staff was tasked with gathering and compiling potential student profiles and speaking with MCA programs to ensure commitment from the organizations to allow flexibility from existing staff to complete the program. A future meeting with Carleton is planned.

March 11, 2016 Meeting with Minister Zimmer

On March 11, 2016 Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, David Zimmer, met with Akwesasne leadership to discuss various initiatives which Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has ongoing with the Ministry. The Minister also toured the Experience Akwesasne Welcome Centre in which we partnered with Ontario to open the centre. Our afternoon meeting with the Minister included a number of presentations from various departments within Mohawk Council who have existing relationships with Ontario through various agreements. The departments highlighted the successes and challenges within the Ontario partnered programs. We discussed our community



Grand Chief, Latoya Rourke and Minister Zimmer at the Akwesasne Tourism Centre on Kawehno:ke.

infrastructure needs with Minister Zimmer and also spoke about the economic impacts the toll location has on our community. Minister Zimmer provided an overview of Ontario's commitment to provide Indigenous cultural competency and anti-racism training for every employee in the Ontario Public Service sector. We explained to the Minister that Akwesasne has already partnered with other

organizations to provide training. Akwesasne would like to partner with Ontario to deliver cultural competency training to the Cornwall area. Wrapping up from our afternoon meeting the Minister and his staff toured the future site for the White Pines Healing Lodge.

March 16, 2016 Council Meeting

Council meeting update:

- A representative of Statistics Canada provided an overview of current canvas maps, Council agreed to arrange two more community presentations on the Census Survey prior to making a decision on community participation.
- Council was briefed on an upcoming youth gathering being held in the community this weekend.
- Staff from ARRO introduced our communications consultant who will be working on the education campaign for the Tsikaristisere Land Claim; staff also briefed Council on the status of the vehicle seizure civil case.

- Council passed a motion to withdrawal the vehicle seizure civil case.
- The General Meeting agenda was set and will be released shortly.
- MCR's passed: Approval to develop a proposed Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Law; Acceptance of amendment to Akwesasne / Canada funding agreement; Approval of amendments to the MCA Salary Administration Policy and Procedures; Approval of Amendment to Approval of (2) Council Meeting minutes. March 15, 2016

March 16, 2016 Cornwall Port Divestiture

On the morning of March 16 Chief Loran, Aboriginal Rights and Research Manager and representatives from the City of Cornwall met with the Transport Canada to continue our ongoing negotiations with transport for the divestiture of the Cornwall port. Part of the ongoing process Akwesasne must formalize its relationship with the City of Cornwall in order to receive the transfer of the Cornwall port. Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall have a June 2016 deadline to accept the transfer from Transport Canada. The Council will continue to update the community as the file progresses.

March 16, 2016 Inter-Jurisdictional - Sub table on Justice

Part of the ongoing self-government negotiations with Canada under Nation Building a Justice Sub-table with Canada, Ontario and Quebec was established to begin the process of developing a sectoral agreement with the provinces to implement the Akwesasne Mohawk Court and Akwesasne laws. During the afternoon meeting a number of presentations were made on the following: The Akwesasne Review Commission; Political Protocol; Akwesasne Couples Property Law; Law Enactment Procedural Regulations; Akwesasne Mohawk Court; past Akwesasne referendums. We explained how all these laws and processes are administered in Akwesasne and explained the need to have recognition of the Akwesasne Mohawk Court which could be rectified through a sectoral agreement with the provinces. Future Justice Sub-table meetings will occur with the provinces and we will continue to lobby the provinces for implementation.

March 17, 2016 Nation Building Self Government Negotiations

The Akwesasne Governance and Relationship Self Government Negotiations team met with Canada on March 17 to continue the ongoing negotiations between Akwesasne - Canada self-government agreement. These negotiations occur tentatively every other month with Canada. The agenda for this meeting included: Application of Indian Act and transition; Nature and form of Agreement; Implementation; discussion on fiscal; update on Political Protocol; Notification of Akwesasne Laws; Update on Inherent Right Policy; Capital Money and Estates; Exchange of Lands; Update on Mohawk Court Law; Work plan.

March 18, 2016 Call with Public Safety Associate Deputy Minister Gina Wilson

During Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Washington in March, Trudeau and President Barack Obama announced changes to the Canada U.S border as it relates to the way travelers and goods cross the border. The announcement focused on data sharing and pre clearance. Following the announcement I arranged for a telephone call with the Associate Deputy Minister of Public Safety Gina Wilson to discuss the recent announcement and what, if anything, it meant for Akwesasne. The recent announcement by Canada and the United States called for additional pre clearance sites in Canada and the U.S which would allow for U.S border officers to be in Canada and Canadian border officers to be placed in the U.S. This sort of initiative would be needed in order to relocate the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA) port of entry into the United States. Gina informed me that the immediate pre clearance would be for major airports. Land pre clearance was not out of the question, I expressed to her that Akwesasne would be supportive of pre clearance. We also spoke about Akwesasne's proposed alternative reporting, and that pre clearance and alternative reporting are connected. The Minister of Public Safety has accepted to tour and meet with Akwesasne leadership in the near future.

March 19, 2016 Meeting with Deputy Minister of Ministry of Children and Youth Alex Bezzina

Over the weekend of March 19 & 20 the Ontario First Nations Young People Council (OFNYPC) held a Youth Symposium in Akwesasne which attracted about 100 youth delegates from across Ontario to Akwesasne to discuss issues of commonality and emerging regional and national concerns. The youth focused on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and how the youth could embrace the recommendations and advise community leadership. During the Saturday morning opening I was able to share a few welcoming words with the youth, along with, Sub Chief Cheryl Jacobs and Mohawk Nation Chief Richard Mitchell who shared in the welcoming. The Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Alex Bezzina was also in attendance at the youth gathering; the ministry was a major contributor to the symposium. The Deputy Minister and I met for a bit to discuss the infrastructure challenges our child and family services unit has had since we were designated approximately five years ago. We also spoke about the upcoming Children and Youth Strategy leadership roundtable meeting in May. I reiterated that Akwesasne would like to create our own Child Law in the future and would be looking for Ontario's support.

March 21, 2016 Meeting with Transport Canada & Indigenous Affairs Canada

Recently Akwesasne has begun meeting with representative from the Department of Indigenous Affairs Canada and Transport Canada to discuss the ongoing seaway litigation against Canada. Late in December we presented Canada a proposal of areas of which we would like to discuss potential resolve with respect to the construction of the shipping channel. We met on March 21st to respond to questions and to hear back from our proposed areas. A series of upcoming meetings have been planned with Canada to begin the dialogue.

March 22, 2016 Vice News



On the afternoon of March 22, I was invited by Vice News to meet with a few journalists in their Toronto office who were doing a documentary on border communities and the impacts the international border has on the communities. I spent about one hour with the crew from Vice explaining the everyday impacts of the border from, services delivery, to international security, to every day inconvenience. Vice committed to come to Akwesasne to experience the border first hand.

March 23, & 24, 2016 Chiefs of Ontario – Ontario First Nations Working Group on Water

On March 23 & 24, the Director of Technical Services and the Water and Wastewater Manager and I attended a two day session in Toronto with the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Ontario First Nations Working Group on Water. A number of presentations were provided on various work around water that is ongoing either at the Ontario Region, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) with a bit of discussion on other provincial works across Canada. Guests from the Navajo Nation presented on their water regulatory framework and challenges they have encountered in the development and implementation stages, as well as ongoing challenges they face today. The Navajo Nation received

delegated Authority over the water from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States. The working group broke out into a number of working sessions to review and discuss a number of regulatory options for Ontario First Nations to consider. The regulation of water and source water protection has been an ongoing challenge for the communities mainly because of resourcing and capacity for the communities. Akwesasne has proposed to Canada to develop its own Akwesasne Water law. This is something we will be pursuing over the next few years.

March 23, 2016 Meeting with Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development



DTS Director Jay Benedict, RDG Howlett, & Grand Chief

On the afternoon of March 23rd the Director of Technical Services and I traveled to the Indigenous Affairs office in Toronto to meet with Regional Director General (RDG) Howlett to follow up on our capital submission to the department on the expansion of the Tsi Snaihne wastewater treatment plant. We explained to the RDG that Akwesasne has made

significant investments into the planning and design of the treatment plant. The project is ready to go. We requested an update on the financial submission and suggested the department to consider reimbursement of our costs for the design; we explained we would prefer to contribute to the project rather than design. While meeting with the RDG we presented the Kawehno:ke Buckshot Road surfacing projects, and also talked about the governance review the Mohawk Council has undertaken to enhance our service and delivery models. The RDG committed to follow up with her staff on the areas we raised during the meeting.

March 29, 2016 Legal Review

On the morning of March 29, Council met to review previous year's expenditures for legal costs and also to discuss how Council can bring down the costs going forward. Mohawk Council engages various lawyers for the varying legal files, from employment to contract to aboriginal rights. The Council agreed that we will continue to examine ways to curb the costs and also agreed that administration would issue a call for tender for employing legal services.

March 29, 2016 Lobbying / Priorities Strategy Planning

As part of Council's ongoing strategic planning and prioritizing of lobbying strategies Council met with senior management to identify departmental priorities. Earlier in the year the Council went through a series of sessions with senior management to develop the Mohawk Council strategic plan for the 2015-2018 Council term. The lobbying strategy session was held at the Kana:takon Recreation and was facilitated by John Lees from Orbis Risk consulting. The daylong session included an overview of the completed strategic plan as well as a presentation on the recent comprehensive community plan survey results. The community comprehensive plan helped identify what the community priorities are outside of what the Mohawk Council views as priorities. Over the course of the facilitated session leadership and staff broke out into a number of smaller group sessions to discuss departmental priorities. Council felt this session was important to help to identify realistic priorities that could be part of Council's lobbying efforts over the next two years. A final report will be generated and shared with the community in the coming months.

March 29, 2016 Statistic Canada Census Survey Presentation

Council has been considering a resolution granting Statistic Canada access to canvas the community for the 2016 Census Survey. A council resolution would stipulate that participation is voluntary to each individual household. On the evening of March 29 representatives from the Statistics Canada held an information session in the district of Tsi Snaihne to answer questions from

the community and to share what the benefits are to the community for participating in the census survey. This information meeting was held to help the Council gauge the communities support, or, opposition for participation.

March 30, 2016 Monthly General Meeting

On the evening of March 20, 2016 Council hosted its monthly General Meeting at the Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io atrium in Kana:takon. The General meeting agenda included two presentations. One from representatives from Statistics Canada on the 2016 Census Survey and the other presentation was the Mohawk Council Environment Program on the Minnows and Shoreline Study that the program has undertaken. The General Meeting was attended by approximately ten community members.

March 20, 2016 Lunch with Michael O'Reilly - Cornwall Electric

I reached out to the new manager of Cornwall Electric to arrange a meeting to introduce myself, and also to follow up on a recent question posed at a general meeting. On March 30th I met with Michael O'Reilly over lunch in the City of Cornwall. I followed up with Michael on whether or not Cornwall Electric would purchase renewable energy produced by either wind or solar. In Ontario renewable energy is purchased by the province through a subsidy program, Cornwall Electric is not part of the Ontario grid therefore they are not part of the subsidy program which means they generally do not purchase renewable energy and if they do its not at a subsidized rate. Michael also confirmed that Kawehno:ke - Cornwall Island electricity rate is the same as Cornwall.

March 31, 2016 Think Tank on Consultation

The Mohawk Council has been in the process of developing a consultation policy for MCA to consider and accept. On March 31, 2016 the Department of Tehotiiennawakon arranged to have Council participate in a Think Tank session on what an Akwesasne specific consultation policy might look like. Three presentations were made by MCA legal counsel, Consultants from McDonald-Laurier Institute and Meyers Norris Penny (MNP) LLP, on various



L - R Top: Chief Darryl Lazore, Chief Ryan Jacobs, Gil Terrance, Nathan Richards - LLP, Grand Chief Benedict, Dwight Newman - Consultant, Chief Troy Thompson, Chief Dennis Chaussi, Karla Ransom, Lisa Francis-Benedict, Bottom: Chief April Adams-Phillips, Heather Phillips - A/Executive Director, Chief Karen Loran, Chief Connie Lazore, Chief Vincent Thomason. Chief Joe Lazore. Kvirie Ransom - AJC. Ian Craven – Consultant. James Ransom. Director

aspects of consultation, from legal definitions to case law. The participants of the Think Tank session focused on a number of key questions around practicality and jurisdiction. A draft policy will be developed based on the feedback from the Think Tank.

March 31, 2016 Sharing through Generations

On the evening of March 31 as follow up to our partnership with Quebec under our Cultural Development Agreement, Mohawk Council hosted an unveiling of the portraits that were developed under the agreement. Akwesasne's local artist Natasha Smoke Santiago and Huntington artist John Ryan both painted cultural portraits of each other's community. Earlier in the year Natasha's artwork was placed in the Huntington community centre. On March 31 we unveiled John Ryan's artwork at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation. This was the final component of the Quebec Cultural Agreement. We celebrated the evening with dinner and enjoyed the documentary of the cultural project.

The film trailer can be found on the following website:

<https://vimeo.com/user1443684/videos>

-End-