

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



Ennisko:wa/March 28, 2017

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope everyone is well today; it's just a few more days before the month of April will be here. I'm sure there will be many jokes told and tricks played on April Fools' Day...and with any luck the snow will completely melt away and we will finally begin to see spring!

Last week our Council hosted the regular monthly General Meeting in the district of Tsi Snaihne at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center. The agenda for the evening included a presentation and update from our newly formed Akwesasne Green Team. Members of the Green Team outlined their ongoing initiatives to assist the community and the MCA in becoming more conscience of our waste and discussed ways that we can all do our part to become a much greener community and organization. Following the presentation, roundtable updates were given by each of our District Chiefs on the work they have been doing over the past month in their portfolio areas. Update were then provided on the Quebec Solidary Tax, the recent 60's Scoop decision, Mohawk language initiatives the Mohawk Council has undertaken, and other ongoing initiatives to revitalize our language.

As previously announced we are now recording and streaming the General Meetings online in an effort to get information out to as many people as possible. **Here is the link to the March 2017 MCA General Meeting:** <https://youtu.be/XVeYJ3xMSW4>. Please take a moment to listen in, stream it on the way to work, or download it to your phone. Your feedback is greatly appreciated; please let us know whether or not streaming the meeting is of use and/or interest to you. We are always looking for new ways to improve our accountability and transparency to the community. If you have any suggestions, please share them with us.

I provided the community with a copy of my monthly written report at the General Meeting, which is attached for your information. Please take the time to review the report, which provides a quick snapshot of the meetings and activities that occurred over the past month. You can also view all my past reports online at www.akwesasne.ca or on my Facebook Page.

Enjoy the month ahead and Happy early Easter!

Sken:nen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abram Benedict', is written in a cursive style.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict

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Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Enniska/February 2017

FEBRUARY 1, 2017 MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

On the morning of February 1, 2017, the Executive Director (ED) for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and I met with the Deputy Minister for Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) Deborah Richardson to introduce our new ED to the Deputy Minister. We took the opportunity to discuss the Mohawk Council's Change Management plan and the recommendations from the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup with the Deputy Minister. The Deputy shared several initiatives the ministry has undertaken to improve the MIRR workplace as well as some of the challenges faced in the ministry workforce. We also dialogued on the upcoming tobacco presentation and the potential benefits from this proposal.

FEBRUARY 3, 2017 MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

On the afternoon of February 3, 2017, I traveled to Ottawa with the Education Portfolio Chiefs and the Director of the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education for a follow up meeting with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on our governance proposal presentation to INAC on November 14, 2016.



The INAC officials provided us with an update on the next steps for our proposals consideration under the education transformation budget and explained that we would have to work with the department to submit it to the Treasury Board of Canada for funding. The department representatives outlined that funding would also be available for the 2017/18 fiscal year to assist with capacity development to prepare for the Treasury Board submission. We will continue to work with INAC to prepare our funding proposal for submission to the Treasury Board of Canada.

FEBRUARY 6, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from the Akwesasne Area Management Board (AAMB) as well as the MCA Human Resource (HR) program provided Council with an overview and presentation on a proposed partnership between the MCA and AAMB on an Intern/Apprenticeship program to begin April 1, 2017.
- Council was further briefed on a recent incident where Akwesasne hunters were charged by the New Brunswick government for hunting without authorization; the incident will be further discussed at the upcoming Iroquois Caucus meeting.
- A briefing was provided on an ongoing HR issue.
- Council agreed to provide a letter of support to MP Anne Minh-Thu Quach for her private members bill to create a Pan-Canadian Local Food Strategy.
- Council discussed the Block 1 Additions to Reserve (ATR) process and the timelines associated with the process.
- A briefing was provided on the service level challenges with the Bank of Montreal.

- MCRs passed: Approval of contract renewal with Dr. Brian Young; Approval for Executive Director to sign contribution agreement for Canada 150 grant; Approval of community business application for AEDF fund; Approval of MCA application to AEDF fund for Thompson Island Youth Camp; Approval of Letter of Agreement with First Nations Market Housing Fund; Approval of two (2) sets of Council Meeting minutes.

FEBRUARY 7, 2017 MEETING WITH CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION

The Mohawk Council has been working with Ontario since 2013 on a pilot project to support the development of an Akwesasne Tobacco Law and Regulatory Framework. This pilot has supported Akwesasne's development of our own Tobacco Law which was accepted by the community in June 2017. The Chippewas of the Thames is also working with Ontario on a similar pilot project on tobacco. On February 7, 2017 I travelled to Oshawa to participate in a meeting between the Chippewas tobacco technical team and Akwesasne tobacco technical team. The Ontario government had organized a Tobacco Forum for later in March and invited each of our communities to present on our pilot projects. The purpose of the meeting in Oshawa was for each of our communities to preview each other's presentation, as well as to discuss each community's progress and challenges. We will continue meet with the Chippewas to learn from each other's experiences and to ensure we have a common understanding of the impacts and benefits to the entire 'on reserve Ontario tobacco quota' system.

FEBRUARY 8, 2017 IROQUOIS CAUCUS MEETING

On February 8, 2017, I attended one day of the quarterly Iroquois Caucus (IC) meeting in Ottawa. Approximately every 3 months, the elected Iroquois Caucus communities come together to discuss issues of common concern to our communities. During the first day of this quarterly meeting a presentation was given to the communities by a local Ottawa lawyer on behalf of his clients, the Akwesasne hunters who were recently charged in New Brunswick for hunting without authorization. The lawyer outlined what the circumstances were of the charges and outlined what his legal argument would be to prove that the individuals charged had an Aboriginal right to hunt in another First Nation community's territory. The leadership determined that the hunters needed to get the support of their local leadership prior to the IC considering any support for the case. The leadership also discussed the ongoing impacts of provincial enforcement on our community people trying to hunt on Crown land and in other community's territories. A Chiefs Committee was established to work toward creating protocols and agreements for communities to consider. An update was provided on Six Nations' involvement in the upcoming North American Indigenous Games and a

separate update was provided on the recent appointment of a Ministers Special Representative on border issues. The leadership also reviewed the overall financials of the IC and previous meeting minutes, which is part of regular IC meeting business. Unfortunately, I had to depart from the IC meeting after the first day to attend other commitments in Akwesasne.

FEBRUARY 9, 2017 AKWESASNE WINTER CARNIVAL BINGO

As part of the opening ceremonies for the 2017 Akwesasne Winter Carnival I was able to join the residents of Iakhihsotha for bingo. Even though I didn't win, playing bingo was fun because I was able to visit with the residents and other community members who attended. A big Niawen: kowa goes out the Tsi Snaihne Recreation and all the volunteers for the hard work they all put into making the carnival a huge success!

FEBRUARY 10, 2017 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) POLITICAL CONFEDERACY (PC)

On February 10 I attended the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) meeting in Toronto. The agenda was full for the daylong meeting and the entire morning was focused on leadership relations. The PC asked for an in-camera session with the Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) to address several issues around conduct and the role of the ORC. The ORC committed to making improvements and to working with the PC to develop a work plan to improve the efficiency of the Chiefs of Ontario office and secretariat.

Motherisk Commission

The Motherisk Commission representatives provided an overview of what the commission's mandate is and provided a briefing on the 25 child welfare cases they have determined to have been affected by potentially faulty hair testing. The Motherisk Commission was established following a court challenge that determined the Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory was faulty and unreliable for court use. The commission will be working to mitigate with each case affected, in the best interest of the children. Earlier in 2016, Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS) was contacted by the Motherisk Commission and it was determined that Akwesasne had no cases affected by the Motherisk Drug Testing Laboratory.

Ontario First Nations Technical Service Corporation (OFNTSC)–Water and Environment

Matt Hoppe, the Acting Executive Director for the OFNTSC, provided an update on the Trilateral Working Group on Water, which is comprised of representatives of First Nations, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada, the Ministry

of Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. A number of Chiefs expressed concern with the lack of involvement of the Political Territorial Organizations (PTO). Mr. Hoppe also informed the PC that there will be a one day follow-up meeting after the Chiefs Water Crisis Summit Assembly on Water held in Niagara Falls in October 2017.

Bill Maloney, OFNTSC Climate Change Specialist, provided the PC with an overview on Ontario's Cap and Trade Program as well as Ontario's climate change policies. The Chiefs of Ontario will be sending a letter to Ontario outlining the following concerns regarding the overall approach:

- Ontario expects to invest \$5.9-\$8.3 billion dollars of new money raised through their Cap and Trade Program back into the economy to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are concerns around how or if First Nations will benefit from this new money.
- The Cap and Trade Program will cause prices to increase on many products (gas, diesel, fuel oil, etc.). Ontario has said it will help mitigate the impacts of these increased costs on First Nations, but has not specified how or when this will happen, and gas prices have already increased.
- Carbon offsets/credits will be allowed to be generated and sold into the Cap and Trade Program. Ontario is currently reviewing 13 different types of offset projects, and it seems that forest management will likely qualify by 2018. There are many rights based issues regarding carbon credits and it is not clear how First Nation's rights will be protected, or how they may benefit from any carbon credits generated in their territories.

Ontario First Nations Policing Act Mediation

Recently two human rights complaints were filed against the Government of Canada and Ontario for discrimination on wage parity for First Nations police. The complaints came to a mediated settlement and part of the settlement was a recommendation that the Government of Canada make a Treasury Board submission for a wage increase in the funding agreements. Several options for leadership's next steps have come from the settlement for the 19 communities affected by this settlement to consider. A further update will be provided when the 19 communities determine next steps. Unfortunately, due to meeting agenda being pushed back because of the leadership relations discussion, a number of agenda items were not covered.

FEBRUARY 13, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNFMB) provided Council with an overview of what the FNFMB mandate is and provided Council with overview of how they will assist the MCA with the review and implementation of the MCA fiscal management law.
- Representatives from the Bank of Montreal presented to Council on the banks commitment to improve the relationship between the bank, the community, and the MCA.
- A briefing was provided on the upcoming Restorative Justice Symposium being held here in Akwesasne in March 2017.
- An update and briefing was provided to Council on a recent Iroquois Caucus meeting held in Ottawa.
- Council was briefed on a jurisdictional child custody dispute.
- Council was briefed on a recent observation of an auto dealership using the Peace Tree Mall as a delivery site for a vehicle purchase; additional follow up will be done.
- Council further discussed the increase in requests for residency letters and discussed the requirement of the residency letters; continued follow up will occur with requesting government agencies.
- MCRs approved: Approval of (2) allotment of lands to community members (loans paid off); Approval of Expression of Interest to Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) for additional residential housing units; Approval for Tehotienawakon to proceed with 3 focus meetings in each district on MCA Economic Development Initiatives; Approval of MCA Space Needs Accommodations Strategy Working Committee; Approval of renewal of contract with Dr. Levac for services; Approval of renewal of contract with Dr. Saylor for services; Approval of renewal of contract with Dr. Forson for services; Approval of renewal of contract with Dr. Horn for services; Approval of renewal of contract with Alana Jaquemet for psychotherapy and counselling services; Approval of rescind and replacement of renewal of contract with Dr. Brian Young for services.

FEBRUARY 13, 2017 CALL WITH PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER

On the morning of February 13, 2017, I spoke to Gina Wilson, the Associate Deputy Minister (ADM) for Public Safety. She provided me with me an update on the appointment of the Ministers Special Representative (MSR) for border issues, Fred Caron, and his mandate. She explained that the creation of a inter-departmental committee of Deputy Ministers will be helping to guide the border crossing work, in addition to a technical committee. She indicated that the committee is also

working on alternative reporting and that we should be hearing more about this shortly. The ADM offered to facilitate a presentation to the Deputy Ministers and will follow up with my office at a later date. I inquired with her if any decision on pre-clearance had been made with respect to Cornwall and she responded that no decision had been made. I explained to the ADM that we presented to Fred Caron on February 25 and outlined the need for a machine-readable card which will help mitigate the wait times. The ADM agreed with this development, stating that an Indigenous border card is a longer term goal. The ADM mentioned that the committee is looking at what legislative amendments could be made to address the inadmissibility issues for American Indians. I will continue to make regular contact with the ADM on Akwesasne border crossing challenges.

FEBRUARY 15, 2016 CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON WEALTH CREATION

On February 15 I traveled to Toronto to attend a Chiefs Committee on Wealth Creation meeting at the Chiefs of Ontario office to review the results from the First Nations Economic Forum and discuss the next steps. The committee reviewed a draft Terms of Reference for a Ministers Advisory Committee and identified potential areas that could be used from the terms of reference as a guide for this committee.

A representative from the Canadian Council on Aboriginal Business (CCAB) provided an overview of programs available at the CCAB and upcoming functions scheduled that the Chiefs Committee and the CCAB could partner on to provide additional exposure and development opportunities to communities and First Nation businesses. The committee reviewed the notes and feedback from the First Nations Economic Forum and determined that a proposal would go forward to the government for support of another forum in 2017. Based on the feedback from the 2016 forum, additional planning will take place to maximize participation.

FEBRUARY 16, 2017 ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS) BOARD MEETING

The board for the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) met on February 19, 2017 to conduct its regular monthly business. The agenda included another lengthy discussion and presentation on the shared service project which also included follow up from the meetings on January 30 & 31, 2017. The board strategized, based on feedback received, on how the OACAS will proceed with the shared service project proposal to the ministry. An update was provided to the board on the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) deployment which was followed by a lengthy discussion on the individual agency challenges with the CPIN. Other board business and updates provided included: Child welfare reform via Bill

89; CEO report; financial statement reporting; update on the decision-making framework; and ongoing union CAS labor disputes and strikes. The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set to occur on March 16, 2017.

FEBRUARY 21, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Quebec Liaison Officer (QLO) and members of the MCA finance staff briefed Council on a recent request from Quebec Revenue for the MCA to provide housing information for RL 31 Slips and the Solidarity Tax Rebate; additional research will be done.
- Council was further briefed on a recent incident where Akwesasne hunters were charged by the New Brunswick government for hunting without authorization; the incident will be further discussed at an upcoming leadership meeting with SRMT and MNCC.
- Council was further briefed on a jurisdictional child custody dispute, additional follow up will occur with SRMT.
- A briefing was provided on a recent meeting with Quebec regarding road maintenance dollars.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance of Canada 150 agreement for improvements at Anowarakowa Arena; Approval of renewal of leases for 2017; Approval to add Assistant Comptroller as signing authority for MCA BMO account.

FEBRUARY 21, 2017 LEADERSHIP MEETING

On the afternoon of February 21, 2017 leadership from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC) and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) met. The agenda included a presentation and update from the MCA Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) on the Dundee Tsikaristisere land claim which outlined the next steps. The leadership discussed a recent case whereby Akwesasronon were charged with hunting without authorization in New Brunswick. A briefing was provided by the SRMT on the NY land claim negotiations with the county. MCA briefed the leadership on a recent increase for residency verifications and outlined the potential long term impacts. A recent request from a renewable energy development company was discussed and will be further researched by the SRMT. The SRMT provided an update on a recent request from the MCA for assistance on an inter-jurisdictional child custody dispute.

FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2016 CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

On February 22 and 23 I attended a Chief Committee on Environment meeting in Toronto; the theme was Climate Change and Water Security. The Chiefs of Ontario hosted the meeting with about 30 participants. The afternoon of the 22nd began with a water ceremony by the Akii Kew water protectors which helped set the tone for the meeting. The day and a half session was facilitated by Dr. Deborah McGregor. After the outline for the session was provided, I was asked to say some welcoming remarks as the Environment portfolio holder for the Chiefs of Ontario. The afternoon sessions consisted of a number of presentations including Hydrology & Water Budgets; Source Water Protection Planning and Water Quality as well as student presentations on actioning your water beliefs. After each session the participants were able to ask questions of the presenters and dialogue on the presentations. On the morning of the second day a Traditional Knowledge panel provided information on Water Principles and Environmental Change. Following the panel, I departed the session early to travel back to Akwesasne to attend the monthly General Meeting.

FEBRUARY 22, 2017 ONTARIO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BOOK LAUNCH OF *150 STORIES*



On the evening of February 22, 2017 I was invited to attend a book launch at the Ontario Lieutenant Governor Suite at Queens Park. The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell commissioned a book with 150 short stories about Ontario from Ontarians to commemorate the 150 anniversary of Canada's confederation. Several of the book's contributors, as well as members of the provincial parliament attended the function at Queens Parks.

FEBRUARY 23, 2017 MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of February 23, 2017 we hosted our monthly General Meeting at the Kana:takon Recreation Centre. Representatives from the Akwesasne Election Law Working Task group provided the community with an overview of the recent survey and the results from that survey. The task group members outlined next steps as part of the amendment process. The community members in attendance had a number of questions on the process and on potential amendments, a considerable amount of discussion focused on clear criminal reference checks for Council members. An update on the Dundee land claim was provided. Following

the presentations and updates, each member of Council gave a 3-5 minute update on their respective portfolio work and other files they have been working on. Members of the community were able to ask questions on their reports.

FEBRUARY 24, 2017 MEETING WITH TRANSPORT CANADA AND INAC REGARDING SEAWAY CASE

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 February 24, 2017 here in Akwesasne. The representatives from Canada provided us with an update the return of Block 1 Lands on Kawehnoke and on Stanley Island. Canada also updated us on their progress of examining options for the corridor lands and possible considerations for foot print changes. Part of our ongoing efforts to work with Canada to institute alternative reporting for CBSA will require use of the corridor lands; options for this land use consideration were discussed with Canada.

FEBRUARY 27, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Program Manager and other staff for Entewatatha:wi provided Council with an overview of an upcoming Akwesasne History Summit being hosting March 13 - 16 in Akwesasne.
- The Quebec Liaison Officer (QLO) provided Council with an update on the RL 31 Slips and Solidarity Tax Rebate issue; the QLO will brief Council after an upcoming meeting.
- A briefing was provided on an ongoing jurisdictional child custody dispute.
- Council discussed the ongoing drug abuse strategy work within MCA and will meet with the committee in the coming months.
- Council agree to assist with Students on Ice, Canada C3 event happening in June whereby a ship traveling around Canada will make a stop in the area.
- MCRs passed: Approval of signing authorities for Bank of Nova Scotia; Approval of signing authorities for Caisse Populaire; Approval of negotiations funding agreement for Dundee Claim; Approval of new representatives to sit on the Akwesasne Health Board; Approval of agreement with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.