

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together to build a strong and healthy future.



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Onerahtokha/April 30, 2018

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I'm pleased to provide you with my 29th written monthly report since becoming the Grand Chief in July of 2015. My Grand Chief monthly reports date back to November 2015 and can be found at <http://www.akwesasne.ca/mohawk-council/grand-chief-reports/>. As a District Chief, prior to becoming the Grand Chief, I provided monthly reports in the MCA Onkwe'ta:ke; these reports can be found at <http://www.akwesasne.ca/news-notice/onkwetake/>. These reports all provide an overview of the meetings I participated at, a brief description of each meeting's purpose, and the outcomes.

This month's report has a few follow up highlights I'd like to bring to your attention. We again met with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to further discuss the proposed alternative reporting station for Kawehno:ke. Through hosting three Focus Meetings and General Meeting presentations, 3 areas were identified, by the community, as needing further clarity: the proposed registry system, the need for a domestic lane, and how the community will provide approval for the project. These are the areas of concern that were discussed with CBSA as follow-up. At another meeting held in March with CBSA Executives, the President of CBSA offered to bring in a 3rd party consultant who specializes in assisting stakeholders in find transformative solutions to complex problems/challenges. Additional information about these initiatives is contained in the report.

The attached report was provided to community members at the April 2018 General Meeting at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre and is now being provided to you as well. A full recording of the General Meeting can be found at <https://youtu.be/LiLPr5UyANw>. In the near future, MCA may be considering entering into a tobacco revenue sharing agreement with the Government of Ontario. The Director of Tehotiennawakon outlined the proposed agreement with Ontario at the General Meeting and you are encouraged to listen in to learn more about this topic and the other initiatives we have underway.

As always, should you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact any of our District Chiefs or I at the Mohawk Government office.

I wish you and your family the very best for the month of May.

Sken:nen/Peace

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief



Grand Chief Monthly Activity Report Ennisko:wa/March 2018

MARCH 1, 2018 MEETING WITH ENBRIDGE GAS

On March 1, 2018 members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Technical Services and the Assistant Director of Tehotiiennawakon met with representatives of Enbridge Gas to discuss the recent the potential expansion of natural gas onto Kawehno:ke. The representatives from Enbridge identified potential next steps in the community consultation and outlined the environmental assessment component for the proposed project. A harmonized environmental assessment will be conducted collaboratively by representatives of Enbridge and MCA's Department of Tehotiiennawakon. Enbridge representatives in attendance explained that the MCA would have to explore the permitting process of the Indian Act for the actual pipeline, should the project proceed. The Department of Tehotiiennawakon will begin developing a proposal for services for the completion of the harmonized environmental assessment. In the meantime, the MCA will begin developing the communications plan to fully inform the community about the potential project, including any potential benefits as well as downsides.

MARCH 2, 2018 CONFERENCE CALL WITH CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

On the afternoon of March 2, 2018 I participated in a conference call with the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy and the Regional Director General (RDG) for Indigenous Services. The purpose of the call was to discuss an upcoming joint gathering between Indigenous Services and First Nations and Indigenous Representative Organizations (IROs). The RDG explained that Indigenous Services wanted to be able to communicate directly with

leadership on what the department is doing for communities and provide information on the programing available to the communities. The Ontario Regional Chiefs expressed concern with the IROs being invited to the gathering, since they are not accountable to any specific First Nation. The RDG explained that Indigenous Services is responsible to all First Nations and they try and be inclusive. After much discussion on the participation of the IROs, the Chiefs discussed how the upcoming COO Special Chiefs Assembly can be used to prepare for the joint leadership meeting.

MARCH 2, 2018 CALL WITH PRESIDENT OF FBCL

On March 2, 2018 I had a phone conversation with the President and CEO of the Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd. (FBCL), Micheline Dube, regarding the ongoing negotiations with Canada to settle the Seaway claim. The FBCL is one of the named plaintiffs in the claim and has been consulted by Transport Canada as the settlement negotiations have progressed. I explained to Mrs. Dube that Akwesasne is committed to finalizing a final agreement and that I hoped that FBCL was supportive to moving the file along. Mrs. Dube explained to me that she is committed to a resolution to the claim but also expressed the understanding that Transport Canada has a vital role as well. I reiterated to Mrs. Dube that I expect all parties to move this along to the best of our ability and that I look forward to a final resolution so that we can continue to build upon our relationship.

MARCH 5, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- The Acting Manager of the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office provided Council with a progress update on the Seaway and Dundee claims settlements.
- Legal counsel briefed Council on an ongoing right of way challenge that is blocking waterline access; Council agreed to consider recommendations next week.
- Council was reminded of the communications protocols for portfolio and emergency situations.
- A briefing was provided on a recent event whereby property was seized; Council tasked legal counsel to follow up.

- Council agreed that a MCR and a letter to the President of CBSA regarding a domestic lane will be developed and considered in the coming weeks.
- A briefing was provided regarding disability clients receiving Green Food Bags; portfolio will follow up with programs to consider expanding.
- Council was briefed on a recent proposed change to the support for MCA overseers; Mohawk Government will follow up.
- Council agreed that the scheduled April 2 Council Meeting will occur on April 3 due to the upcoming holiday.
- MCRs passed: Approval of appointment of Youth to Youth Council for a 3 year term; Approval of contribution agreement with Ontario for Akwesasne Justice Program; Approval of Service Contract with OneFeather consulting to provide education to the community on the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Claim settlement.

MARCH 7, 2018 INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CBSA CHALLENGES

On Wednesday March 7, 2018 the MCA Executive Director and I met with representatives of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to further discuss the potential for innovative solutions to the challenges encountered by community members at the Cornwall Akwesasne crossing. Previously, on November 12, 2017, MCA met with the President of CBSA and he asked that we consider agreeing to bring in CT Labs, a consulting firm that takes on situations/cases where there are complicated challenges and helps find innovative solutions. Additional information on the company can be found at <http://www.ctlabs.ca/>. CT Labs will interview stakeholders to better understand the situation and then propose unbiased transformative and innovative solutions for the parties to consider. The CBSA has also offered to bring in other government departments to help get through challenges outside of the CBSA's control, such as legislation. As we move forward toward our goal of finding solutions, CT Labs will soon be reaching out to begin the conversation about next steps.

MARCH 8, 2018 CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION



On March 8, 2018 Chief Tim Thompson, Chief Connie Lazore, the MCA Executive Director, Director of Tehotiiennawakon, and I traveled to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation to meet with their Chief and Council to dialogue on a number of areas of commonality. The Chippewas have developed three trusts from settlements and we felt it was important to get a better understanding of the structure they use as well as the benefits to their community. The trust manager explained to us the long process of community consultation in the trust development and explained that the three trusts were developed in response to community feedback. One of the trusts pays a monthly payment to community Elders aged 65 years or older; this was designed so that all community Elders are able to live above the poverty level. The community has 3,000 members so the payments are supported by \$60 million in trust to provide \$7,500 annually to Elders, in monthly payments. The remaining money of the trust is invested for economic development, education, and a guaranteed payment to the Council of \$1.1 million annually for Council operations. The

Chippewas of the Thames is another community who working with Ontario on a tobacco pilot project. We received an update from the Chippewas on the progress of their pilot project and our Director of Tehotiennawakon provided a presentation to their Chief and Council on the progress of our pilot project. The Chippewas have not yet signed an Agreement in Principal with Ontario. Following the presentations we held a Council to Council discussion on the Ontario Tobacco Pilot project. The head of finance for the Chippewas provided us with a presentation on the community's development of their fiscal management law and explained that their law was connected to the land claim settlements. As part of the \$120 million settlement, the Chippewas were required to have strong financial controls and the development of a financial management law ensured the requirement was met. The final presentation to our group was on the Chippewas Development Corporation and the administration of child welfare in the community. It was agreed that we would meet again in a few months with the Chief and Council of the Chippewas of the Thames and that a delegation would travel to Akwesasne to exchange knowledge.

MARCH 9, 2018 COO CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

On the morning of March 9, 2018 I attended a Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Chiefs Committee on Environment meeting in Toronto. A representative from the Ontario First Nations Technical Institute Corporation (OFNTSC) provided the committee with an overview and presentation on greenhouse gas reduction. The presentation explained how greenhouse is produced, what some major contributors are, how we can help reduce our footprint and use of greenhouse gas. Another presentation was provided on the OFNTSC climate change pilot projects and how they are supporting various communities with climate change actions plans. The MCA Director of Tehotiennawakon provided the committee with an overview of the many projects his department has under development in Akwesasne. Representatives from the Indigenous Culture Fund then discussed the community funding opportunities available from the

culture fund and explained the type of projects that would be considered under the program.

MARCH 12, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) discussed the establishment of a domestic lane at the port of entry and outlined logistics and potential implementations; Council will follow up and discuss this further in the coming weeks.
- The auditor for the MCA briefed Council on an ongoing review with Quebec for the Akwesasne Economic Development Fund and outlined next steps.
- Council was briefed on and discussed some recent staff changes and concerns.
- MCRs passed: Approval of funding proposal to Ontario for Early Years Journey Together; Approval of funding agreement with Ministry of Community Safety for a Native Inmate Liaison Officer position; Approval of acquisition contract for police service equipment; Approval to proceed with the setting up of investment account with Caisse Populaire Desjardins.

MARCH 13, 2018 SEAWAY INTERNAL MEETING

On March 13, 2018 the internal negotiations team for the Seaway claim met with legal counsel to review the latest draft of the proposed final settlement agreement with Canada. Our legal counsel reviewed proposed language for the agreement and received feedback from our team to incorporate into the agreement. The vast majority of the language has been agreed upon, but we continue to negotiate a few remaining contentious language issues. Our lawyer will continue to work with Canada's lawyer to finalize the agreement, based on feedback we provided.

MARCH 14, 2018 UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

I accepted an invitation from the University of Guelph to participate on a leadership panel scheduled for March 14, 2018. The title of the

panel was Economic Growth on First Nations: Opportunity and Constraints. The other panel participants included Chief Ava Hill from Six Nations of the Grand River, Grand Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Union of Ontario Indians and Deputy Grand Chief Gord Peters of Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. The moderator provided each panelist with 15 minutes to present on community economic development and challenges. I spoke about the negative impact to our economy caused by the international border, specifically the challenges in attracting new business and customers to our community. Following the presentations, the moderator opened the discussion for follow up questions. Many of the questions centered on agriculture and how each panelist felt about food security and growing clean produce.



MARCH 15, 2018 ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

The board for the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) met on March 15, 2018. The entire board meeting was dedicated to developing the 2018-2023 strategic plan. The OACAS contracted a consultant to assist in the development. The board was broken into groups to begin the conversation of priorities of the child welfare sector as well as how the board sees the association supporting the sector in the coming years. Following a number of group sessions and plenary sessions, the consultants will develop a draft framework for presentation at the next board meeting. The next meeting for the OACAS is scheduled for April 19, 2018.

MARCH 16, 2018 MEETING WITH OPG PRESIDENT

On the afternoon of March 16, 2018, I met with Mike Martelli, the President of Renewable Generation for the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) at his Kipling office. This meeting was a follow up from the meeting in February regarding investment opportunities in OPG. At this meeting we continued the discussion on opportunities and agreed that I would follow up with a letter outlining next steps and requesting further engagement with the OPG finance team.

MARCH 19, 2019 SPEECH FROM THE THRONE



On Monday March 19, 2018 I was invited by the Premier of Ontario's Office to attend the 2018 Speech from the Throne. Premier Kathleen Wynne outlined the priorities of the government and explained which areas the government will focus on making investments in, over the coming year. Following the Speech from the Throne, I was invited to a reception at the Lieutenant Governors Suite within the legislature.

MARCH 20, 2018 INFRASTRUCTURE CANADA TOUR

On March 20, 2018 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted Deputy Minister Kelly Gillis and a number of staff from Infrastructure Canada. The day began with a tour of Tsi Snaihne and Kana:takon, all while discussing the daily challenges we face with being on an international border and the impacts it has on our service delivery. We explained to the Deputy Minister that because of the border, our construction costs are inflated due to restrictions on access and extended wait times caused by the border. During the tour, we made a stop at Kanonhkwashterriio to hear information about the health and social programs provided to community members. Following the tour of Tsi Snaihne and Kana:takon, we met

at the Tri District Elders Center on Kawehno:ke to receive presentations from our Director of Tehotiiennawakon and Director of Technical Services. The Director of Tehotiiennawakon provided the Deputy Minister and her staff with a presentation on economic development and fiber optic initiatives that are under development. Following the Tehotiiennawakon presentation, the Director of Technical Services gave an overview of the road infrastructure needs of the community as well as the challenges we face maintaining the aging administration buildings of the MCA. The Infrastructure Canada representatives provided us with an overview of the Smart Cities Challenge Fund recently announced by the Government of Canada. The representatives explained the three streams of money available and what the Government of Canada was looking to achieve through the awarding of the grants. This fund is being made available to all cities and First Nation communities in Canada. The Mohawk Council is currently working with a consultant firm to submit a proposal to the Smart Cities Challenge.



MARCH 21-22, 2018 TAXATION THINK TANK

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted a Taxation Think Tax session on March 21-22, 2018 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. This session was sponsored by the Department of Tehotiiennawakon and the Mohawk Government Department. The purpose of the think tank was to bring together federal and provincial partners with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne technicians, legal counsel, and leadership to discuss taxation; the conflict

between community position and other governments' policies; and the implications to the community. The day and a half discussion included the topic of the Akwesasne Tobacco Law as well as the regulatory framework and its association with our self-government negotiations, and other potential options for consideration for the law's implementation. The impact of Elder's US benefits being assessed as foreign income and converted using unfair exchange rates was raised with the Revenue Canada representatives. We pressed upon Canada's representatives to work with Akwesasne on the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) and its implications to our Akwesasne businesses and explained that our businesses are already at a disadvantage due to the SIBC toll. The participants also discussed the need to expand and modernize the Akwesasne Bridge Workers Remission Order as well as the Akwesasne Residents Remission Order. The Canada Revenue Agency representatives who attended will be following up to learn more about our challenges so they can ensure the proper connections are made within the CRA to assist in finding solutions.

MARCH 23, 2018 INTERNAL DUNDEE MEETING

As the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne works towards a final settlement agreement for the Dundee Tsikaristisere claim, the internal negotiation team met to discuss the current status of the agreement and the next steps in the development of the Dundee referendum regulations.

MARCH 23, 2018 CBSA ALTERNATIVE REPORTING

On the afternoon of March 23, 2018, we met with representatives of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to continue our discussion on the proposed Alternative Reporting mechanism for Kawehno:ke. In November 2017, our Council hosted a number of presentations to the community on the concept of alternative reporting. At the meeting of March 23, 2018 we brought forward the concerns we heard from the community from the four meetings we hosted. We relayed to the CBSA representatives that the common themes of concern heard from the community were: the proposed

registry system, the need for a domestic lane, and how the community will provide approval for the project. We agreed that the community approval would be determined internally to our community. We reiterated to CBSA that our community was not comfortable with a registration system held by the CBSA. We agreed that we would follow up with Indigenous Services on potential options for Certificate of Indian Status cards to be used instead of the CBSA setting up a separate system. We will continue to dialogue, update, and consult with the community as this project progresses.

MARCH 23, 2018 MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



On March 23, 2018 Chief Connie Lazore, the MCA Executive Director, our consultant, and I met with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Paul Thoppil and other staff of Indigenous Services to present our proposal on Akwesasne's 10-year grant. Since Minister Jane Philpott committed to 100 communities being recipients of 10-year grants by 2019 we have been lobbying the Government of Canada for Akwesasne to be one of the recipients. We explained to the CFO our approach to the grant and further explained that our approach is outside of the approach being formulated by the department. We explained that because of our community's size, complexity, and capacity that we need Indigenous Services to work with Akwesasne

on a pilot specific to us. We will continue to inform the Government of our approach to meeting our community needs.

MARCH 26, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

- The MCA Emergency Measures Officer briefed Council on an upcoming resolution for Council to support a proposal for funding.
- Council was briefed on a recent request to lease on Hamilton Island being affected by the Good Standing Policy; Council agreed that administration will follow the policy.
- An update was provided on the efforts to establish the Conservation Authority.
- Council was reminded that presentations to Council should have the support of the portfolio and portfolio should be providing regular updates to Council prior to the presentation to Council.
- The agenda for the next General Meeting was set for March 29, 2018.
- Council agreed that a cost award from a recent court case would be registered as a bad standing with the MCA.
- A briefing was provided to Council on the need to establish a Trust Liaison position; Administration will follow up.
- Council was briefed on a recent e-mail received from the Chiefs of Ontario.
- MCRs passed: Approval of allotment of land to community member (loan paid off); Approval of three (3) leases on Pilon Island; Approval of appointment of youth to Akwesasne Youth Council; Approval of five (5) contracts with physicians for health services; Approval of contract with Dental Consultant; Approval of contract with a Traditional Medicine Man; Approval of amendment to Health Canada/Akwesasne funding agreement; Approval of consultant contract for River Road Reconstruction Project; Approval of amendment to Akwesasne/Canada fiscal agreement; Approval to offer position of Director of Housing to successful applicant; Approval of three (3) Council Meeting Minutes; Approval of amendment to

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services funding agreement; Approval of transfer agreement with Ontario for Justice Working Task Group; Approval of retroactive payment to Quebec foster parents.

- **NOTE:** No meeting will occur next week

MARCH 26, 2018 AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION STRUCTURAL READINESS STEERING COMMITTEE

On the evening of March 26, 2018 I attended a Structural Readiness Steering Committee meeting with the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) at the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School. Over the last several months I have been participating on this committee to help guide a review of the AMBE structure and administration. The purpose of this review was to determine what improvement AMBE needs to make in order to potentially become an independent school board. At the meeting of March 26, the consultants contracted to do the review provided the committee with a draft overview of the findings and recommendations. The recommendations to be provided in a final report will assist AMBE in strengthening its governance and administration to better support the overall system. The final report is scheduled to be presented to the full AMBE board in April.

MARCH 27, 2018 AKWESASNE/CANADA SELF-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS

On the morning of March 27, 2018 I attended the Akwesasne/Canada self-government negotiations. At the meeting of March 27, we reviewed proposed language for the self-government agreement. The Director of Education also participated in the meeting to review and provide input into the education section of the agreement.

MARCH 28, 2018 MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

On March 28, 2018 I met with members of the Akwesasne Membership review committee. As previously reported, our department, in collaboration with Entewatatha:wi, contracted

consultant Dr. Rose Alma McDonald to conduct a review of the policies, processes, regulations, and charters of the Akwesasne Membership Board; the Akwesasne Membership Code; the Akwesasne Residency Law; and the Council of Elders. Council felt it was important to conduct a review to ensure all policies and process of control and support under Akwesasne were supporting one another and the community. At the March 28, 2018 meeting, Dr. McDonald provided the committee with an update of the progress of the review and again provided updated information from the survey. Dr. McDonald also provided the committee with an overview of a report submitted to Indigenous Services who has provided resources to conduct community consultation on priorities areas and methods for community consultation on membership issues. Indigenous Services wants to rollout community consultation on Indian Registry reform but first wanted to understand how communities wanted to be consulted. Overall our community identified that they wanted to have surveys and in person meetings to discuss Indian registry and membership. The review will continue for the next few months.

MARCH 29, 2018 CBSA CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

On March 29, 2018 I participated in a Chiefs leadership panel at the cultural awareness training provided by the MCA in collaboration with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Over the past several years the MCA has been providing cultural awareness training to CBSA officers and on March 29, Chief Dennis Chaussi, Chief Ryan Jacobs, and Chief Connie Lazore offered the officers an insight into our role with border challenges and spoke about some of the common themes we hear from community. I spoke about the administrative challenges we face in delivering services to our community members due to CBSA, including additional costs.

MARCH 28, 2018 COMMUNITY COMPLIANCE OFFICER PILOT PROJECT GRADUATION



On the evening of March 28, 2018 Chief Connie Lazore and I were honored to take part in the graduation ceremony for the Community Compliance Officer Pilot Project. This 13-week First Nation compliance and bylaw enforcement training was the first of its kind and

provided 10 participants with the fundamental principles of compliance and bylaw enforcement in First Nation communities. Congratulations to all graduates.

MARCH 29, 2018 TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM GRADUATION



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, in collaboration with the Akwesasne Area Management Board (AAMB), offered a 12-week telecommunications program. The program was offered in response to the expansion of fiber optics into the community and the potential community infrastructure that will require this sort of expertise and qualifications. On behalf of the Mohawk Council, I congratulate all participants and thank our partners for making the program available.

MARCH 29, 2018 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of March 29, 2018 Council hosted our monthly General Meeting in the District of Kana:takon. The agenda included a

presentation from Dr. Dolly McDonald on the membership review project, as well as a presentation from the Director of Tehotiennawakon on the proposed Tobacco Pilot Project agreement with Ontario. Dr. McDonald explained the purpose of the membership review and also solicited feedback from the community. The Director explained the proposed agreement with Ontario and outlined the supports Ontario has provided to Akwesasne over the past several years. A group of Akwesasne Youth who recently attended an IFN Youth Gathering in Shoal Lake provided their presentation to the community. The youth provided highlights of their weeklong trip to Shoal Lake, from the travel to Winnipeg, the transit to Kenora and then the time spent in the community of Shoal Lake. After all presentations, updates were provided on the Akwesasne Election Law, Land Claims, and a follow up presentation was provided on funding options available at the MCA Housing Department. The full recording of the March General Meeting can be found at: <https://youtu.be/us4bSNYDU-o>