

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Kentenhko:wa/November 1, 2016

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope everyone had a great Halloween, and if you're from Kana:takon I hope you survived the rush of 100s of children coming through the village yesterday afternoon and evening. I extend my sincerest appreciation to the organizers of the Golden Ticket search and all the volunteers who helped out at the numerous events held over this past weekend throughout the community. This Halloween will surely be a memorable one for many Akwesasne families.

As you may know, we held our monthly General Meeting at the St. Regis Recreation Center last week. We had approximately ten (10) community members in attendance at the General Meeting. The agenda included a roundtable update from each Council member on the portfolio work they are doing. This update gave the community in attendance an opportunity to ask questions and address portfolio matters with portfolio holders. The rest of the agenda included updates on Land Claims; the 2016/17 Heating Assistance Program; upcoming MCA Open House dates; the new MCA Inclement Weather Policy; and finally, business from the floor.

Leading up to the General Meeting, I was able to work with MCA Communications Unit to record our first video announcement which outlined the agenda for the General Meeting, all in about 2 ½ minutes. I'm hoping that on a go forward basis, we will be able to record more video messages for the community and would like to get to the point where Council Meetings are recorded for release and/or streamed live to the community. In fact, at the General Meeting last week a community member in attendance questioned Council as to why we aren't already doing this. We will continue to examine this option for future consideration. **We would like to receive your feedback on whether or not you feel Council should be: (1) recording General Meetings for release; (2) live streaming General Meetings; (3) recording Council Meetings for release; or (4) live streaming Council Meetings.** All feedback received has the potential to greatly influence Council's ultimate decision. As part of our strategic plan, we want to find new ways to modernize, and that includes our methods of communicating information to the community.

My monthly report is attached for your review. Please note that while the majority of my meetings have been captured, every meeting may not have been captured and every attendee may not be included. Many Council members have included their own reports in Onkwetake—MCA's Community Newsletter, which I encourage you to read for additional information. All editions of Onkwetake and my monthly reports can be found at akwesasne.ca. Do not hesitate to contact me or any Council member if you have any questions.

Please enjoy the rest of your day as well as the month ahead.

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

Grand Chief Abram Benedict



Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of Seskehkó:wa / September 2016

SEPTEMBER 2, 2016 FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM (FNEDE) CONFERENCE CALL

The Chiefs planning committee for the upcoming Ontario First Nations Economic Forum (OFNEF) held a conference call on September 2, 2016. The planning committee reviewed the list of presenters and the list of workshops being proposed for the forum. The following keynote speakers were confirmed: Chief Clarence Louie—Osoyoos Indian Band, Gary David (who played Little Foot in the movie *Indian in the Cupboard*) and Ted Nolan. The committee agreed to have a welcome reception and an evening banquet on the first day of the forum. The forum dates were set for October 12th and 13th in Toronto.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 WELCOMING WORDS AT IOHAHI:IO

On the morning of September 6, 2016 I was invited to attend Iohahi:io to welcome the new students to the Food Service Worker and Pre-Health Science programs. These two programs are one year programs being delivered at the Iohahi:io Campus in partnership with St. Lawrence College and Algonquin College. I welcomed the students to the facility and commended them for taking the first step to furthering their education. Iohahi:io is currently in the planning stages of offering a General Art and Science program beginning in January 2017. Anyone who is interested in taking this program is encouraged to contact Iohahi:io for more information.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 AKWESASNE/CANADA TSIKARISTISERE DUNDEE NEGOTIATIONS

On the morning of September 6, 2016 members of our Tsikaristisere/Dundee negotiations team met with Canada to review the newest language being proposed for the final settlement agreement. Akwesasne has been pushing back on Canada's requirement for a double majority referendum vote. At this meeting we again reiterated that the threshold being put forward as a requirement by Canada is unreasonable and that we are prepared to conduct a referendum using the Akwesasne Referendum Regulations. Akwesasne and Canada agreed that we will continue to examine the threshold restrictions. The negotiation committee further reviewed language proposals from Canada; Canada agreed to follow up on a number of items including a presentation to Council on the new Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING WITH ONTARIO REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL (RDG) FOR INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA (INAC)

On the morning of September 7, 2016 Chiefs Joe Lazore and Vince Thompson, the Director of Technical Services, and I met with the Ontario Regional Director General (RDG) for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to discuss a number of ongoing files. We spoke with the RDG and her staff about our recent capital projects funding proposal submission for the Tsi Snaihne School wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Over the last several months we have been going back and forth with INAC on our upgrade submission. INAC has now sent the finalized submission to the Ministry of Environment to review the specifications to ensure that the design meets minimum environmental standards.

While at INAC we followed up with the RDG on the funding for Buckshot Road on Kawehno:ke. Following the meeting the finalized funding submission for Buckshot Road was sent in.

We expect to receive responses by the beginning of November 2016. We will continue to pursue INAC for funding approval.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE WITH CHIEF OF ONTARIO

On the afternoon of September 9, 2016 members of our Council met with environment staff from the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to receive updates on regional and national environmental files. There are a number of legislative amendments happening in the province as well as at the national level that COO has been either participant in or monitoring.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representatives from a community business updated Council on their progress to establish the business and requested support; the Economic Development Portfolio Chiefs will follow up.
- Council agreed to issue a public call for community members to submit their interest in selling land for Council consideration.
- Communications staff briefed Council on the potential options for video recording General Meetings; further follow up will be done.
- Discussion on the National Energy Board processes took place and Council requested a briefing note update on Akwesasne's involvement.
- Representatives from CBSA provided Council with an update on their upcoming recruitment strategy and briefed Council on the safety concern due to the increased number of port runners.
- OVS portfolio briefed Council on a recent request for a year-round lease on Hamilton Island; Council agreed that a letter will

go to all lessees informing them that Council will not be granting any new year-round leases.

- Portfolio Chiefs updated Council on a new e-map program taking place in cooperation with the Akwesasne Welcome Centre.
- MCRs passed: Approval of transfer of land to community member (loan paid off); Approval of 15/16 Audit for MCSS –AHWS program; Approval of 15/16 Audit MHLTC–Health Access & Diabetes program; Approval of 15/16 Audit for AHWS; Approval of 15/16 Audit for Ministry of Health–Smoke Free Ontario; Approval of 15/16 Audit AIDS Program; Approval to rescind renovation loan to community member; Approval of Water/Wastewater Plant Operator Salary Grid; Approval of 15/16 Engagement Reports; Approval of 15/16 MCA consolidated Audit; Approval of 2015 Statement of Trust Account for Ministry of Health; Approval of 16/17 INAC enhanced Woman's Shelter Funding.

SEPTEMBER 13 & 20, 2016 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

In July 2016, the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) and I began working with Higgins Executive Search to search and screen candidates who meet the required qualifications and possess the type of work experience the Mohawk Council is seeking for an individual to hold such a position. Recently the MCA has done extensive work to develop a number of change management strategies to address organizational and community needs. The WRW and Council have made it clear to Higgins that the MCA needs an administrative leader who can manage the implementation of these strategies by empowering the workforce and moving toward the positive changes that our community deserves. After several months of reviewing resumes and seeking out candidates, the WRW interviewed four candidates on September 13th and September 20th, 2016. A successful candidate will be announced in the month of November to the organization and community.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS) MEETING

The board for the OACAS met on September 15, 2016 to conduct its regular monthly business. The agenda included a lengthy board orientation for new board members; recently a number of terms had expired for board members which resulted in new members being appointed. The orientation included an overview of the OACAS organization as well as fiduciary responsibilities of each board member. A presentation and update was given on the new CAS worker authorization training the OACAS has been working on over the last several months. This training is very vital to ensuring CAS workers are well orientated with new legislative changes and agency requirements. Another project that the OACAS has been working on is the shared services project, this project has been ongoing for a number of years and regular updates are provided to the board on its progress. Since the OACAS is a member based agency, the board is comprised of regional (intra zone) representation, and board members report back to regional sectors of agencies. The regular updates at the board help ensure that the entire sector is aware of OACAS's work. Other board business and updates provided on September 15 including: Update on Child welfare reform; Mutual Accountability Reporting; CEO report, and financial statement reporting. The next regular scheduled board meeting is set to occur on October 15, 2016.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER HELENE LAURENDEAU AND SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER JOE WILD OF INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

In July 2016 we received a letter from Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (Senior ADM) of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Joe Wild informing us of Canada's new Fiscal Approach for Self-Government Arrangements. At our July 8, 2016 Canada / Akwesasne

self-government negotiations, the Akwesasne negotiations team requested that the Canada representatives assist Akwesasne in securing a meeting with Senior ADM Wild to discuss the new fiscal approach as well as other policy issues that affect Akwesasne. On August 15, 2016 I sent an official request to meet to Senior ADM Wild and outlined a number of agenda items we wished to discuss with him. On September 16, 2016 Senior ADM Wild and Deputy Minister (DM) Helene Laurendeau came to Akwesasne to meet with our Council and members of the Entewatatha:wi Nation Building staff.

We began our meeting with an overview of Akwesasne's unique challenges with being a community in two provinces, one state, and two countries. We outlined the fiscal and everyday impacts the border has on our lives as well as our challenges with the location of the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). Members of our Council outlined challenges with the current Inherent Right policy and its restrictions on expanded governance and rights & interests of Akwesasne Members. The policy fails to recognize Akwesasne institutions such as the Akwesasne Mohawk Court which creates a hindrance on the expansion of our governance and our ability to exercise jurisdiction over our territory. We explained to the DM and Senior ADM that Akwesasne continues to exercise our jurisdiction outside of the Inherent Right Policy.

With Canada's recent announcement that it will begin to review the Fiscal Harmonization Federal Policy, we reiterated to the DM that Akwesasne needs to be involved in the review and that our involvement in the review will only complement and assist our self-government negotiations.

We presented our views about Canada's insistence that expropriation language be included in our final agreement with Canada. I explained that in the 1950's when the Government of Canada and the United States constructed the Seaway, Canada

expropriated large parcels of our land. The construction of the seaway was a dark time in Akwesasne and the expropriation of land still affects the community today. We pushed very hard on Canada to not have expropriation language in the final agreement because of our past experience with Canada expropriating our land.

Other agenda items included: Canada 20 Exploratory tables; Reconciliation Initiative; Canada's new Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy; and 5 Large First Nations Study. The Deputy Minister was very appreciative of the on-the-ground perspective we provided to her and the ADM. She committed to follow up on a number of files, and is interested to hear more about our education system in Akwesasne.



To the left of Grand Chief are the Deputy Minister Helene Laurendeau, and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Joe Wild.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

- Representative from the MCA environment program briefed Council on Ramsar sites in the Akwesasne area and outlined options for acquisition.

- Council set the General Meeting agenda for September 22 and identified Chief Ryan Jacobs as Chairperson for the meeting while Grand Chief is away on travel for MCA business.
- The General Meeting format was discussed after recommendations were received from the last General Meeting; Council will consider options over the next few weeks.
- Council was briefed on an upcoming water symposium taking place in Niagara Falls.
- MCRs passed: Approval of lease Renshaw Island; Approval of (2) leases Pilon Island; Approval of lease Stanley Island; Approval of permit renewal for TM Mobile; Approval of schedule of revenue for MOHLTC Community Support Service Program 15/16; Approval of TPAR report for MCYS CAS Child Welfare 15/16; Approval of 15/16 Audit report for OFNLP; Approval of 15/16 Audit for Tsikaristisere Dundee land claim expenses; Approval to amend MCR for Akwesasne Election Law Working Task Group to include Government Support Manager on Task Group; Approval of Budget 2016 Immediate Needs Funding for Housing; Support for White Pine Healing Lodge funding proposal submission to Ontario.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 AKWESASNE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On the afternoon of September 19, 2016 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne representatives to the Akwesasne Harbour Development Corporation met to conduct required regular business of the corporation. With the recent transfer of the Cornwall Harbour/Port lands, the MCA needed to create a corporation to jointly hold and own the transferred lands on behalf of the MCA. The MCA created the corporation prior to the transfer but now needed to formalize the corporate requirement of having a shareholders meeting and an election of directors to represent the shareholders.

The Council agreed that the shareholders for the corporation would be District Chiefs Troy Thompson, Steve Thomas, Karen Loran and

Executive Director Heather Phillips. These individuals now hold the shares in trust for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The Council also agreed that these same individuals and the Grand Chief would be the interim directors until the joint commission between the City of Cornwall and Akwesasne is formed and functioning.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NAEDB) ROUNDTABLE ON FIRST NATIONS ACCESS TO INDIAN MONIES



L-R: Senator Scott Tannas, Senator Lillian Dyck , and Grand Chief Abram Benedict

On Thursday September 22, 2016, I was invited by the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB) to attend a roundtable session on First Nations Access to Indian Monies in Tsuut'ina Nation Calgary. In June 2015 the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal People recommended that Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada take immediate steps to convene a national roundtable with the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB) to explore ways to improve access to

First Nations money. Currently, through legislation such as the Indian Act or the Indian Oil and Gas Act, the Government of Canada is responsible for collecting and administering monies on behalf of Indian communities. The Roundtable was co-chaired by Senator Lillian Dyck and Senator Scott Tannas. The Chair of NAEDB outlined what role the NAEDB will play in the recommendation to the Government of Canada as well as the role of the Senators. The final recommendations will go the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada but the Senators involved can assist, should the government introduce

legislation. First Nation participants outlined current challenges with the current regime in INAC and the delays the bureaucracy poses when communities try to access monies INAC holds for the community. A number of First Nation organizations outlined their challenges with respect to the current processes. I gave an overview of the challenges we face with the Indian Act land regime as well as delays we face in general when trying to move projects forward.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 ALL COUNCIL STRATEGY SESSION

On September 26, 2016 Council met to re-visit our strategic goals that had been developed earlier in the year with Council and Senior Management of the MCA. The review also included an examination of the strategic lobbying priorities as they relate to the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). Council wanted to review the priorities to ensure our direction was in line with the previously established priorities. At the meeting, Council agreed to limit the portfolio system to two (2) Chiefs per portfolio instead of having one major and several minors on each portfolio. Limiting the number of Chiefs per portfolio will allow Chiefs to focus more on specific areas. The new rearrangement of portfolios will be presented at an upcoming General Meeting.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 INTERNAL SEAWAY CLAIM MEETING

On the afternoon of September 27, 2016 the Government Secretariat portfolio and I met with Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) staff to prepare for an upcoming October meeting with Transport Canada and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on the potential to resolve the Seaway Claim. The team recently completed a review of past compensation models and recommendations for potential settlement and met to review the report and determine the next steps.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA

Late in July I had a telephone conversation with Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Paul Mackinnon of Public Safety Canada. Paul is the ADM for the Strategic Policy Branch of Public Safety and is leading the expansion of pre-clearance with respect to the Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA). On September 29, 2016 Paul Mackinnon ADM, Joelle Montminy Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, as well as other representatives of Public Safety and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), attended a meeting with our Council at the Anowarako:wa Arena.



Back Row L-R: Chief Troy Thompson, Chief Vince Thompson, Steve McNaughton CBSA, ADM Mackinnon, Grand Chief, Chief Dennis Chaussi, Chief Darryl Lazore, Tehotiennawakon Director Jim Ransom; Front L-R: Chief Adams-Phillips, ADM Montminy, Chief Karen Loran, Chief Louise Thompson.

ADM Mackinnon gave an overview of Canada's work to expand pre-clearance and explained that the main focus for pre-clearance right now is for airports and railways, with the possibility of land crossing later on. We explained to Paul that in Akwesasne we are required to

report to the CBSA Port of Entry in the City of Cornwall, which requires you to cross over Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) first, report to CBSA in Cornwall, then come back to Kawehno:ke. The duty to report creates a hardship on the community and further creates potential issues with domestic (Kawehno:ke) traffic being processed at CBSA. While presenting on pre-clearance we also highlighted our repeated attempts to have an alternative reporting mechanism implemented for Akwesasne residents when coming onto Kawehno:ke.

These two initiatives are related to one another, if the Government of Canada proceeds with moving the CBSA Port of Entry to the USA side, the need for alternative reporting would be eliminated. The Director of Tehotiiennawakon provided the public safety representatives with an overview and presentation on our efforts to get CBSA to establish an alternative reporting structure and our efforts to create an Akwesasne specific identification card.

Following the presentations, members of our Council were able to describe everyday challenges that they and other community members face with the border location. The ADMs committed to bringing the messages back to the Ministers and also committed to continuing to work with Akwesasne on the issues.

After the morning presentation we concluded the day with a community tour including a stop on Border Road in Tsi Snaihne to show them the realities of the international border in Akwesasne.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA) & OTHER INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Recently the Chief of Six Nations of the Grand River asked for our assistance in establishing a meeting with representatives from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to discuss challenges Six



L-R: Harry Doxtator Oneida, Grand Chief Benedict, Grand Chief Ava Hill, Jan Burning Six Nations Membership Clerk

Nations members as well as other Indigenous members face when crossing into Canada.

On September 20, 2016 a meeting was held with regional and local CBSA representatives as well as leadership representatives from Oneida of the Thames, Walpole Island, Kahnawake, Akwesasne, Six Nations and the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. The purpose of the meeting was for community representatives to make connections with local CBSA representatives in an effort to

mitigate any border crossing issues. The leadership from the communities reiterated to CBSA that crossing the border freely is a right of our people. Other agenda items for the meeting included: the rights of First Nation citizens crossing into Canada; American Indians crossing into Canada; Taxes and Duties; Cultural sensitivity and historical training for border service officers; and employment opportunities. Overall the meeting went well and the CBSA officials committed to meeting with community representatives individually.