



## **Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of September 2015**

### **September 1, 2015 Tuesday Council meeting update**

- Council requested to have Department of Technical Service (DTS) provide a presentation on the proposed Snye Administration Building, a date will be scheduled for this presentation.
- Council reviewed a request for a Right of Way over band land and referred the request to Administration for research.
- A request to meet from the Stormont Dundas South Glengarry (SDSG) New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate was discussed, a meeting will be set up.
- MCR's passed: Acceptance of contribution agreement with National Energy Board (NEB) for participation in the hearings for the TransCanada Energy East pipeline project; Approval of new permit for a navigation light on Lame Squaw Island; Approval of transfer of land to community member (loan paid off); Approval of expansion permit for Bell Canada equipment; Approval of Access to Territory for the purpose of private business financing; Acceptance and approval of AMBE board report and recommendation to offer position of Interim Director of Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education to successful candidate; Approval of a ten year Health Canada Transfer Agreement amendment to include Non Insured Health Benefits within agreement; Appointment of a community member to the Akwesasne Review Commission to represent Kana:takon for a three-year term.

### **September 3, 2015 Continued Orientation with the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS)**

On August 5, 2015 staff from the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) provided Council with an orientation session of the program. OVS encompasses Lands & Estates, Leasing and Membership. On September 3, 2015 the staff provided a continuation of the orientation from August 5 which mainly covered the Akwesasne Membership Code aspect of OVS.

### September 3, 2015 Meeting with Bank of Montreal – Lunch meeting

The Bank of Montreal (BMO) Senior Commercial Account Manager Frances Mannarino asked to meet over lunch in order to introduce me to the MCA's new Account Manager, Kelly Evans, for the Bank of Montreal. Our Senior Account Manager Frances Mannarino is in the transition phase of retirement and wanted her replacement to meet me prior to her departure. Although the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne banking needs is generally met by the Bank of Montreal, I raised concerns with some ongoing challenges for our businesses in Akwesasne. Many banking regulations have changed over the years making it increasingly difficult for a business to deposit and withdraw cash. This poses a problem for some Akwesasne businesses since a large bulk of Akwesasne deals in cash. I explained these challenges to the BMO representatives and asked that considerations be made for Akwesasne. I also expressed the need for BMO to continue to recruit and hire Akwesasnon.

### September 4, 2015 Meeting with Patrick Burger NDP Candidate

With the Federal Election in Canada set for October 19, 2015 the local New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate for the South Dundas South Glengarry (SDSG) Patrick Burger asked for an opportunity to meet with myself and members of Council. We met at the Cornwall Island Administration Building (CIA3) to discuss Akwesasne community priorities; I took the opportunity to press upon Mr. Burger the need for any SDSG Members of Parliament (MP) to have a working relationship with Akwesasne. I explained to Mr. Burger that although Akwesasne has a working relationship with the government as a whole that we currently don't have much of a relationship with the current SDSG MP Guy Lauzon. Mr. Burger explained that the NDP viewed relations with Aboriginal communities as a government to government relationship and that is how the NDP if elected would conduct business with Canada's Aboriginal Communities. Subsequent to our meeting, NDP Patrick Burger was unsuccessful in the October 19, 2015 election.

### September 8, 2015 Tuesday Council Meeting update

- A representative from Information Services provided Council with a demonstration on the use of iPads and how to navigate through an electronic agenda.
- The Akwesasne Tobacco Manufacturing and Products Law Working Task Group update Council on the progress of the law and outlined next steps as part of the Law Enactment Process; Council will review recommendations from a community feedback session at a later date. District Meeting dates set for September 2015 and will be released shortly.

- A draft General Meeting agenda was discussed and will be finalized next week.
- The 2015-2018 draft portfolio selection was reviewed and will be finalized and accepted next week.
- Council reviewed recommendations from administration and the Staff Relations Committee on proposed amendments to the General Personal Policy of the MCA, policy will be accepted by an MCR in the coming weeks.
- MCR's passed: Acceptance of proposed budget to conduct community education and consultation process and referendum to consider the final settlement of Tsikaristisere Dundee Claim; Acceptance of a funding proposal to AANDC for enhancement to law making processes in Akwesasne; Acceptance of a funding agreement with the Ministry of Community and Social Services for various programs; Acceptance of an amendment to Akwesasne / Canada Financial Agreement.

#### September 9, 2015 Multi-Jurisdictional Table: Sub Table on Justice

Akwesasne meets regularly with Canada, Ontario and Quebec at a table which is known at the Multi-Jurisdictional Table. This Table was established several years ago in order for Akwesasne to discuss issues with the Provinces and Canada that arise from our unique geographical location on the international and provincial borders. Akwesasne also has a Sub-Table with the Provinces and Canada on Justice. This Table was established to examine specific issues in the justice sector. In this specific meeting we focused on:

1. Funding for Legal Aid: Resources to host Legal Aid clinics in Akwesasne to better help and prepare members who have to access Provincial Court services. Ex: Family Law, Civil Matters, Legal Aid etc.
2. Training for Akwesasne Conservation Officers: Access to Provincial Training Programs for the Akwesasne Conservation Officers this would better equip the Officers in the awareness, preservation and enforcement within the Community.
3. Recognition of Birth and Marriage Certificates: Recognition of an Akwesasne Birth or Marriage System, be it existing or new, would expand jurisdiction and alleviate future problems.
4. 4. Ontario Jury Duty: Proposition of a viable solution to Ontario's requirement to Jury Duty. An Akwesasne based system would be voluntary.

After the federal election we will schedule future meetings to continue the ongoing discussion on the Sub- Table of Justice.

### September 10, 2015 Tobacco Technical Table

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Province of Ontario established a working relationship to examine the expansion of the regulations and control of the distribution and manufacturing of tobacco products; this committee is known as the Tobacco Technical Table. The Province of Ontario and Akwesasne met on September 10, 2015 to further and update on the ongoing work. The updates included the current status of the Draft Akwesasne Tobacco Products Law and the current status of the agreed upon work plan. Akwesasne presented a proposal on a Marine Unit for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service to Ontario, this unit would have a multi prong benefit to the community and Akwesasne would like Ontario to contribute to the cost. Akwesasne provided Ontario with current concerns regarding the Ontario quota wholesale distributor for Ontario to follow up on. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the middle of November early December.

### September 10, 2015 Call from Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services

On the afternoon of September 10, 2015 the Minister of Children and Youth Services Tracy MacCharles phoned me to let me know that the Ontario Cabinet had accepted the Ontario Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy for implementation. I had been involved over the last several years on the committee working on developing this strategy. I extended my appreciation to the Minister for supporting the strategy and also reminded her of my invitation for her to visit and tour our community.

### September 10, 2015 Internal meeting on Tsikaristisere / Dundee land claim

In the late afternoon of September 10, 2015 the Tsikaristisere negotiations team met with legal counsel to discuss strategy and next steps in the final settlement agreement negotiation. All negotiations with Canada were on hold until after the federal election.

### September 10 & 11, 2015 – Nation Building Entewatatha:wi

On September 11 & 12, 2015 the Canada, Akwesasne self-government negotiations teams met over a two day period to continue the negotiations on the Akwesasne Governance Code and the Akwesasne Land Code. On the second day I was able to participate in the ongoing negotiations. Canada presented on the fiscal policy for self-government agreements, Akwesasne provided feedback and concerns on the policy to Canada. This policy framework will form future negotiations when Akwesasne and Canada get to the fiscal negotiations stage.

### September 14 - 15, 2015 Governance Training

The Mohawk Council Chiefs engaged the Consultant Services of Carol Hopkins to orientate Council around Board Governance. The two day training provided Council with an overview of what the function of a Governance Board is and how it should operate. Carol outlined what the Board should expect of Senior Management and how they should be accountable to the Board. The accountability measures surround around performance measurement and how the collection of data should support the measurement and effectiveness of the organization the Board represents. Although Board Governance is a bit different when it comes to Chief and Council there are governance principals that are in common. Council engaged with Carol on how the Council can make changes to the current Governance System for the Mohawk Council. Carol also spent a lot of time explaining how important the Council Strategy Plan is and how this Plan should be realistic and should be used as a tool to move the Organization forward.

September 15, 2015 Tuesday Council meeting update:

- Representative from the Entewatatha:wi Program updated Council on the upcoming callout for community members to sit on various Entewatatha:wi working groups and committees, callout will occur in the coming weeks.
- Council reviewed recommendations for the upcoming Iroquois Caucus meeting.
- Council discussed the 2015 Heating Assistance Program and will make a decision next week.
- Council reviewed and discussed a proposed conceptual design for the old north channel high level bridge abutment on Kawehno:ke received from the Federal Bridge and will arrange to meet with FCBL to discuss.
- Administration was tasked to follow-up on a request for MCA Commission to have ID badges and for community members to have access to MCA Mohawk Language class materials; both requests will be examined and reported back on.
- MCR's passed: ; Approval of allotment of land to community member for mortgage being paid off; Approval of allotment of land to community member for declined mortgage; Approval of an Assignment of Lease on Pilon Island; Approval for Grand Chief to inform Triwin Holdings that their proposed projects do not fall within current Council priorities and the MCA will not proceed with any projects with Triwin; Approval of 2015-2016 Council portfolio listings; Approval 2014/2015 audit for CMHC Section 95; Acceptance of amendment to Akwesasne / Canada Financial Agreement.

### September 15, 2015 Leadership Meeting

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chief (MNCC) generally try to meet monthly to discuss various issues. At this September 2015 meeting we used the opportunity to update each party on the New York State Land Claim. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is the lead on the ongoing negotiations with the State and provides progress reports back to the MCA and the MNCC.

### September 17, 2015 Monthly Ontario Association of Children's Aid Society (OACAS) Board Meeting – Toronto

The monthly meeting of the OACAS was held on September 17, 2015 at the office of OACAS in Toronto. Consultants provided the board with an update on the Decision-making project, which is an extensive review of how the OACAS board makes decision and how they consult and receive direction from its membership prior to a decision being made. The consultants will make recommendations for improvement at the end of the review. This is part of the governance reform to ensure all members of the OACAS are being heard and considered. Updates/ discussion from the follow areas/committees:

- New board member orientation
- Governance Advisory Committee: Overview of activities, planning for governance form in November, Evaluation of Strengthening Child Welfare Governance Initiative.
- Appointment of new OACAS member – Kunuwanimano Child & Family
- Appointment of member to OMERS Sponsors Corporation

Other regular board business was conducted which includes Treasurers' report, Chief Executive Officers' report and Local Directors' report. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2015.

### September 21, 2015 Monday Council meeting update:

- Alain Boisvert presented a video documentary of "Sharing through the Generations" a documentary which showcased the cultural project between the government of Quebec and Akwesasne.

- Council reviewed a request to sponsor the Christmas Tree Enchantment, a few chiefs will meet to determine the theme.
- Council reviewed the General Meeting follow up items and approved the agenda for Thursday September 24, 2015.
- Council was briefed on an issue regarding construction on Hamilton Island and deferred the issue back the OVS Committee to review and make recommendations to Council.
- Council briefly discussed upcoming Strategic Planning as it relates to recent Governance Training and tasked staff to follow up with planning options.
- MCR's passed: Approval of Contribution Agreement with the Ministry of Community & Social Services; Approval of Assignment of Lease on Renshaw Island; Approval of Assignment of Lease on Hamilton Island; Approval of the 2015/2016 Heating Assistance Program to eligible Head of Household; Approval of Contribution Agreement with Department of Fisheries and Ocean for "Minnows and Shorelines in Akwesasne" Project.

#### September 24, 2015 Meeting with Representative from the Bank of Montreal (BMO)

I met with Steve Fay National Director Aboriginal Banking and other member of the BMO team. I explained again to the Representative of the bank the concerns and challenges as already expressed in our meeting of September 3, 2015. Although the Bank may meet the needs of MCA, there is real concern how difficult it is for Businesses to deal with the Bank and in some cases the Bank will not deal with some Akwesasne Businesses. I reiterated how important our Akwesasne Businesses are and how certain actions of the Bank make it difficult to believe the Bank wants to work with us. The BMO Representative committed to examining the Bank Policy Regulations in order to better meet our Community needs.

#### September 24, 2015 Interview with CBC on Missing Murdered Indigenous Woman

On Thursday September 24, 2015 I met with Nichole Ireland from the CBC to discuss Missing Murdered Indigenous Woman and how it relates to the upcoming Federal Election. Nichole is a Reporter from the CBC and wanted our perspective on whether or not the Federal Government's campaigning were paying enough attention to the Missing Murdered Indigenous Woman issue. I relayed to Nichole that this should be important to everyone and that whichever Party is elected they can say anything but it's the action once the new Government is elected. I explained that Akwesasne doesn't

have many if any documented Missing Woman, but we have had Murdered Woman. I also spoke about Akwesasne having Missing Men which is equally important to us.

#### September 25, 2015 Meeting with Anne Min Thu Quach – NDP Candidate

New Democratic Party (NDP) Member of Parliament for Salaberry De Valleyfield Anne Min Thu Quach came by the Mohawk Government office to talk about her platform and the NDP platform leading up to the election. I took the opportunity to refresh Anne on our Community's priorities, our challenges and reiterated that relationship building is important to me and that we wish to continue to strengthen our working relationship. Anne was an existing Member of Parliament prior to the October 19, 2015 election and we re-elected to represent the Salaberry De Valleyfield riding which technically includes Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne.

#### September 25, 2015 Opening Dream Catchers Studio

Shelby Mitchell and Family held their Grand Opening of "Dream Catchers Studio". Chief Loran and I were able to stop by the opening to see the newly constructed studio and hear about the services Dream Catchers Studio has to offer to the community of Akwesasne. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Mitchell family!

#### September 28, 2015 Meeting with Bernadette Clement – Liberal Candidate for South Dundas South Glengarry (SDSG)

Bernadette Clement and her Campaign Manager were invited to meet with myself and Members of Council to hear about the Liberal Platform and Ms. Clement's ideas around working with Akwesasne if elected as the Member of Parliament for South Dundas South Glengarry (SDSG). Ms. Clement is familiar with Akwesasne through her work as a Cornwall City Councilor, a Lawyer and as the 2011 Liberal Candidate for the SDSG riding. We spoke about our current relationship with the existing Member of Parliament and how there is a need to have better engagement from the MP representing riding Akwesasne (technically) included in. Unfortunately Ms. Clement was not successful on her run for MP for SDSG.

#### September 29, 2015 Tuesday Council meeting update:

- Council reviewed recommendations and action items from the last Iroquois Caucus meeting of September 22-23, 2015;
- Council passed a motion authorizing the annual contribution to the Iroquois Caucus be paid.



- An update was provided on recent issue regarding construction on Hamilton Island.
- Council discussed a recent MCA Administration Directive and will further clarify with Administration and report back on clarification.
- Council discussed a recent incident at CBSA and next step and also agreed to provide an update to the Community via Community Notice.
- MCR's passed: Approval of 2014/15 Audit for MCSS- AHWS; Approval of 2014/15 ACRS Child Welfare TPAR Report; Approval of 2014/15 Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel paid to Directors and Chiefs; Approval of 2014/15 Audit for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Community Support Service Program; Approve 2014/15 Audit for Ministry of Health & Promotions -Smoke Free Ontario, Healthy Eating/Living Diabetes Prevention; Approval of 2014/15 Audit for Ministry of Education Children's Services; Approval of 2014/15 Audit for Tsikaristisere (Dundee) Land Claim; Approval of Signing Authority Officers for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne; Approval of Transfer of Settlement payment of 2.5 million to the Mohawks of Akwesasne Settlement Trust; Approval of Agreement with CI Investment Inc. for Investment Manager Services for the Akwesasne Settlement Trust; Approval of Agreement with CGOV Asset Management for Investment Manager Services for the Akwesasne Settlement Trust; Acceptance of Agreement with Jazz Solar to assist in the development of a community energy plan; Approval to proceed with issuing a purchase order for a Motor Grader for the Department of Technical Services; Approval of Assignment of Lease on Colquhon Island; Approval of (7) Renovation Loan (s) to a Community Member (s); Approval of (4) Council meeting minutes.

September 30, 2015 Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) Federal Election Strategy meeting Kahnawake Quebec

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador held a meeting in Kahnawake on September 30, 2015 to discuss an election strategy to bring attention to First Nation Issues prior to the Federal Election of October 19, 2015. The Chiefs in Assembly agreed that we needed to make Canadians aware of First Nation issues and for them to consider what each political party is promising to do to address the issues. This meeting stirred a considerable amount of discussion on whether or not our people should even vote in the election and do we call for a support of a specific party. The Chiefs agreed that because of each Communities' perspective on participation the AFNQL would not weigh into that part. The Chiefs held a march in downtown Montreal on October 9, 2015.