

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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



OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

Seskehko:wa/September 27, 2016

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I hope all of you are well this Tuesday morning. It's been a very busy month for our Council; earlier in the month we were able to spend time with our Totas and staff at Iakhihsotha. Council enjoyed the BBQ as much, if not more than, the Totas and staff did.

Throughout this month, we have had a number of meetings with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada including a meeting with the Deputy Minister that took place last week. We spent the day discussing the ongoing challenges within our community and highlighted a number of exciting projects taking place. Follow-up on the topics discussed will be taking place with the Deputy Minister.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the monthly General Meeting held last Thursday due to a scheduling conflict; I participated at a Roundtable Meeting on First Nations Access to Indian Monies in Tsuut'ina Nation in Calgary, Alberta on that day. I'm confident that our Council did an awesome job presenting at the General Meeting and responded to any questions raised. Niawenko:wa to Chief Ryan Jacobs for agreeing to chair the General Meeting in my absence.

My Monthly Activity Report was distributed to the community at the General Meeting and a copy is now attached for your review as well. As always, I hope you take a moment to read this report to receive a quick update on some of the ongoing work your leadership is doing. I have done my best to capture the majority of the meetings, events, and functions I have been involved with throughout the month of August.

I trust that the information provided is both useful and informative as I strive to keep the community updated using as many means possible to reach as many community members as I can. You can follow me on Facebook by liking my page "Abram Benedict", where you will have access to my regularly posted updates.

I hope you enjoy the month ahead and encourage you to attend the next General Meeting, which is taking place at the end of October.

Nia:wen and all my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abram Benedict', is written over a white background.

Abram Benedict
Grand Chief



Grand Chief Activity Report for the Month of Seské:ha/August 2016

AUGUST 2, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting update:

- A PhD Doctoral Candidate from McGill University presented on his thesis titled 'Framing Borders—Indigenous Difference at the Canada /US Border'; a project history was given as well as the methodology on the research.
- A representative from Royal LePage presented on properties listed for sale; the Property Acquisition Team (PAT) will follow up with the representative on behalf of Council.
- Council was briefed on the need to work with Canada Post on a long term solution for the relocation of the Kana:takon Post Office; future research and follow up will take place.
- A concern with respect to non-Members using the Peace Tree Mall for tax free delivery of newly purchased vehicles delivery was discussed; further research will take place regarding this concern.
- The annual contribution to the Akwesasne International Pow Wow was discussed and future options will be researched.
- Council discussed the financial implications of purchasing and operating splash pads in each of the three districts, further research is being done.
- A request for campsite options on the islands within Akwesasne was considered and was referred to portfolio for more research to be conducted.

- Chiefs travel budgets were briefly discussed and will be further discussed with Chiefs at a later date.
- MCRs passed: Acceptance of Council Meeting minutes

AUGUST 2, 2016 MEETING WITH MCA ENVIRONMENT

On the afternoon of August 2, 2016 members of Council met with MCA's environment staff to discuss ongoing activities whereby individuals are reportedly filling in shorelines and marsh lands within the community. These actions have an immense effect on the wildlife and habitat of many animals and species, including some who are considered 'species at risk'. Council received a number of complaints about these activities and is examining options that would serve as a deterrent and/or a penalty. Environment staff outlined the federal legislation that could be utilized to provide protection but also discussed the risk in setting precedent by enforcing external federal laws. Council and staff agreed that community education is the first step. Other options will continue to be considered by Council. The protection of our indigenous wildlife and their existing habitats, now and for the future, is in our hands.

AUGUST 2, 2016 MEETING WITH OVERSEERS

Recently the Overseers for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust conducted a call out for interested community members to serve as trustees for the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust. On the evening of August 2, members of Council met with the Overseers to discuss their existing processes and to discuss how Council can support the overseers with policy and procedure development. Over the coming months, Council will work with the Trustees and the Overseers to ensure each party is collaboratively working to support each other.

AUGUST 3, 2016 PRE MEETING FOR MINISTER OF FINANCE

On the morning of August 3, 2016 members of the Political Confederacy (PC) met to strategize for the afternoon meeting with the Ontario Minister of Finance David Sausa. The purpose of the meeting with Minister Sausa was to

outline the ongoing dispute with Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) and the Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation (OLGC).

AUGUST 3, 2016 MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE



L-R: Grand Chief Abram Benedict; Grand Chief Ava Hill; Minister of Finance Sausa; Ontario Regional Chief Day; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Zimmer; Chief Arnold Paul Temagami FN.

Following the morning strategy session with the members of the Political Confederacy (PC), the PC and the Regional Chief traveled to the Ministry of Finance to meet with Minister. The PC Chiefs outlined the ongoing dispute between the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) and the Ontario Lottery Gaming Corporation (OLGC) over capital and operating reserve dollars from the Casino Rama deal. The Minister was very receptive to considering options outside of court and committed to meet again to review the facts of the dispute.

AUGUST 4, 2016 ALL COUNCIL MEETING

On the afternoon of August 4, 2016 Council met to review the current portfolio selections for each Chief and the current Chiefs travel budgets. The Mohawk Government program has a global department budget for the Chiefs travel. Each member of Council reviewed their own travel reports as well as cell phone usage reports. The Council also discussed and reviewed a newly proposed political services agreement, which would replace the working conditions agreement that Council currently works under. The proposed political service agreement is part of our shift to move Council toward more

of a policy governance model, and to be more reflective of the actual expectations rather than continuing to use an outdated agreement. Council reviewed the draft agreement which sets out to clarify that members of Council are not employees and therefore have different expectations, but in the end agreed to reconsider the draft at a later date. The Chiefs in attendance also discussed the meaning of 'conflict of interest' and the process for declaring a conflict. Council agreed to meet again in a few weeks to continue to review their portfolios and processes.

AUGUST 5, 2016 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF CARLETON UNIVERSITY

On the morning of August 5, 2016 the Acting Manager of Iohahiio, Chief Jacobs, and I met with the President of Carleton University to discuss the next steps for the delivery of a bachelor of social work program at Akwesasne. We have been working with Carleton on options for consideration. Earlier in the summer, Carleton provided the MCA with a proposal which required that a minimum number of students be maintained throughout the entire four year program, and should the number drop below that threshold the MCA would be responsible to financially support the program. The meeting on August 5th was the first meeting with Carleton since we received their proposal and we relayed to Carleton that the proposal wasn't workable to the MCA. We will continue to examine other options for service delivery.

AUGUST 5, 2016 HIGGINS EXECUTIVE SEARCH

On August 5, 2016 members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) and I met with consultants from Higgins Executive Search to review a list of potential candidates for the position of Executive Director for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Higgins has been searching and screening 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. The committee provided feedback to the consultants who will now go back and begin to dialogue with potential interviewees. Follow up meetings between the WRW and Higgins are scheduled to take place every two weeks.

AUGUST 8, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting update:

- A representative from Code Heroes presented to Council on what their organization is about and what they have to offer to the community regarding recruitment of youth who are interested in computer programming.
- Council was introduced to an Emergency Management Consultant who will be assisting with updating the MCA emergency plans.
- Council agreed to proceed with a general call out for land available for sale.
- Council discussed the process for the issuance of residency letters.
- Council was briefed on a concern regarding BMO on-reserve mortgages; a meeting with BMO Aboriginal Banking will be scheduled to follow up on concerns.
- A letter was received from a community member requesting that a fence be installed on their property line. Follow up will be conducted by portfolio.
- Council was briefed on an upcoming meeting with the Akwesasne Membership Board.
- MCRs passed: Approval of construction loan to community member; Approval of upgrade loan to community member; Approval of budget with Ministry of Children and Youth Services; Approval of retro fit contract with Ministry of Children and Youth; Approval of contract with Ministry of Community and Social Services; Approval In Principle of the Appointment of a Community Member to the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust.

AUGUST 8, 2016 CHANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN—PRESENTATION REHEARSAL

On the afternoon of August 8, 2016 Council and members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) held a rehearsal of the Change Management Plan presentation, which was set to be delivered to all MCA employees the following day. A variety of individuals from several MCA departments were invited to attend the rehearsal to hear the presentation and provide constructive criticism. At the end of the presentation, employees in attendance provided very vital feedback to the presenters (the A/Executive Director and I) that resulted in improvements being made to the presentation and the physical set up.

AUGUST 9, 2016 CHANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN—PRESENTATION TO ALL MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE EMPLOYEES

On the morning of August 9th the members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) and Council attended the A'nowara'kó:wa Arena to provide a presentation to all MCA staff on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup; this presentation was titled 'Change Management Plan'.

Initially, the WRW's primary focus was to:

- 1) develop a workplace environmental health action plan to respond to recent employee surveys;
- 2) develop a strategy to strengthen MCA's citizen-focused culture;
- 3) update MCA's performance review and employee development policies and process; and
- 4) develop and propose options to strengthen the MCA administration organizational structure.

As a result of the work of the WRW, there are significant changes being planned with the overall intent being to improve the quality of service provided by MCA to community members. This information was provided to all MCA employees by the Acting Executive Director and I, as the first step in

making improvements to the organization and for the community. Current Council recognizes the importance of not only telling our employees that they are our most valuable resource in making this change, but to show them as well, by being transparent with our plans for improvements. We wanted to be sure that all employees received the same consistent messaging on this important step toward improving service to the community. Following the presentation, employees were able to give their comments and input, and to ask questions to the WRW and Council. We were thrilled at the enthusiasm shown by our employees. The first step in making the change real is to complete the recruitment of our new Executive Director (ED). One of the responsibilities of the new ED will be to implement the changes identified. The community will soon see the positive results of our Change Management Plan.

AUGUST 10, 2016 MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS NORTHERN CANADA/ FIVE LARGE FIRST NATIONS

On the morning of August 10, 2016 Chief Tim Thompson, Chief Connie Lazore, and my Executive Assistant travelled to the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada office in Gatineau for a presentation on the funding formulas for INAC programming. This meeting had been arranged by Chief Don Maracle and was intended for the five largest First Nations in Ontario to address funding formula inequities for larger communities. In 2008 the five large First Nations in Ontario commissioned a study to conduct a financial comparative analysis of funding formulas for larger First Nations versus smaller First Nations. The study found that larger First Nations were financially penalized for being large when it came to how INAC funded the communities. INAC committed to updating the Five Large First Nations Study.

AUGUST 11, 2016 ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC FORUM (OFNEF) PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

On August 11, 2016 the Chiefs planning committee on the Ontario First Nations Economic Forum (OFNEF) met at the Chiefs of Ontario office to continue the planning of the upcoming forum scheduled for October 12th and 13th in Toronto. The committee agreed that the agenda would include

morning main plenary sessions with presentations from invited business leaders. The afternoon would consist of workshop sessions on the following areas: Infrastructure, Training and Skills, Marketing and E-Commerce, Climate Change and Environmental Protection (Cap and Trade), Legal and Tax Immunity, Small Businesses, Provincial and Federal Government, Resource Revenue Sharing Sales and Customer Service, Development Corporations, and Gaming. The Province of Ontario and the Federal government have offered to assist in facilitating the forum and providing sponsorship resources for its costs.

AUGUST 15, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting update:

- The renewed Cultural Development Agreement with Quebec was discussed and will be further researched for possible resourcing to support the partnership.
- A representative from Day Labor Akwesasne presented background information on the business model being used at Day Labor and outlined the concept of establishing a Food Co-op for Akwesasne; Council will respond in writing with possible options for consideration.
- Council was briefed on an upcoming BBQ at Iakhihsohtha and asked to participate.
- Recent changes on how students who attend the High School Diploma or Literacy Basic Skills Programs at Iohahi:io are supported; follow up with funding partners will take place.
- Council identified Chief R. Jacobs as the Chair for next week's Council Meeting, in my absence.
- The agenda for the upcoming General Meeting on August 25, 2016 was reviewed and approved.

- Options for consideration regarding the recently discovered sturgeons that appeared to be caught and killed for eggs or organs was discussed and will be further researched.
- MCRs passed: Approval of Council Meeting Minutes (4).

AUGUST 16, 2016 HIGGINS EXECUTIVE SEARCH

On August 16, 2016 members of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup (WRW) and I met with consultants from Higgins Executive Search to finalize the list of candidates to offer interviews to, for the position of Executive Director for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Higgins has been searching and screening 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. The committee agreed to offer interviews to the top four candidates on the list and scheduled interviews for September.

AUGUST 17 - 22, 2016 ANNUAL VACATION

From the period of August 17 to August 22, 2016 I was away from the office on vacation.

AUGUST 24, 2016 INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA—LAND AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



L – R: Grand Chief, Mr. Allan Clarke, Mr. Stefan Matiation, Mr. Hiwott Adhanon, Ms. Simin Anderson, Mr. James Ransom, Director Tehotiennawakon.

Following our meeting with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on August 10 in Gatineau regarding funding formulas, we invited members of the Land and Economic Development branch to come to Akwesasne. On August 24, 2016 Allan Clarke—Director General for Lands and Economic Development (INAC) and other INAC staff met with members of our Economic Development program and members of our Council. The day began with a number of presentations from our economic development staff on the projects our department is examining. Those projects included: Mohawk Electric Cooperative; Broadband Initiative; International Bridge Corridor Tolls; and Renewable Energy Strategy. The INAC staff explained current funding opportunities to the group and discussed areas that we could work together on with INAC. The afternoon of the visit included a tour of the community with a stop at Iohahi:io to learn more about the education partnership we have within our community. Following the tour, Mr. Clark invited me to participate in a National Aboriginal Economic Development Board roundtable session on First Nations access to Indian Monies, taking place in Calgary Alberta in September.

AUGUST 25, 2016 GENERAL MEETING

On the evening of August 25, 2016 our Council hosted the monthly General Meeting at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre. The agenda included a presentation from our Environment Department on Traditional Harvesting, which included the incident where sturgeons were found dead floating in the St. Lawrence River. Following that presentation the Akwesasne Tourism Community Development members provided Council and Community with an update on the initiative. A final presentation was made on the Trails Initiative and future plans. There were approximately 15 community members in attendance at the meeting. We greatly appreciate those who were able to attend. The next General Meeting is set to take on August 22, 2016 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre.

AUGUST 29, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting update:

- The Director of Tehotiiennawakon updated Council on an ongoing Tobacco Pilot project with Ontario and briefed Council on an upcoming presentation and proposal forthcoming to Council.
- The Director of DCSS and Manager for Community Support Program (CSP) briefed Council on the Funeral Donation policy at CSP and asked for Council's direction on amendments; Council established a Chiefs committee to examine options and make recommendations to Council.
- The MCA Communications Manager was (re)introduced to Council and welcomed back to the MCA.
- Council was briefed on a request to expand the upcoming heating assistance program; more research will be conducted and reported back.
- Council reaffirmed that the workgroup to amend the Akwesasne Election Law is responsible to engage the community for feedback and determine what method/mechanism will be used to do this.
- Council agreed that a date will be set aside in the next month to review portfolio selections and to discuss department processes.
- MCRs passed: Approval of transfer payment with Ontario for Akwesasne Tobacco Pilot Project; Approval of lease reduction for Akwesasne Members for 2017-2021; Approval of (2) upgrade loan (s) to community member(s); Approval of amendments to Health Transfer Agreement.

AUGUST 29, 2016 SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE AND SUNY POTSDAM

After several years of back and forth with our partners at St. Lawrence College (SLC) and SUNY Potsdam on an articulation agreement, we signed a final Memorandum of Understanding with the partners on the afternoon of

August 29, 2016. The agreement will allow Iohahi:io to deliver a two year General Arts & Science program in partnership with SLC with the ability to transfer into SUNY Potsdam for an additional two years for an Archaeological Studies Bachelor of Arts degree. Council views this agreement as a positive step forward in creating opportunities for our community learners to further their studies in the Archaeology field.



L-R: President Esterberg, SUNY Potsdam ; Ms. Margaret Lafrance, Iohahiio; Grand Chief Abram Benedict; President Vollebreght St. Lawrence College.

AUGUST 30, 2016 CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) POLITICAL CONFEDERACY (PC)

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) met on the evening of August 30, 2016 as well as all day on August 31, 2016 at the Six Nations of the Grand River territory. Below is an update on the meeting:

Energy Sector Update

Over the last several months, the Chiefs Committee on Energy has been meeting with the Ministry of Energy, and has been pressing the Minister for a First Nations rate for electricity in Ontario. The Minister has instructed the

Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to provide him with options for a First Nation rate. I explained to the PC Chiefs that Kawehno:ke is not part of the Ontario grid and that we would like consideration also on a reduction. An update was also provided on the energy grievance table; COO asked that individual communities who have grievances against Hydro One make contact with the Chiefs Committee on Energy in order to arrange for a meeting with Ministry of Energy staff.

Update on Hydro One

A term sheet has been proposed to leadership for 2.5 % of current outstanding shares, which represents an approximant value of \$377 million. The next steps will be for the Chiefs Committee on Energy to examine options for a holding company structure to hold the Hydro One Shares. The province has stipulated that 80% of First Nation communities must sign on to the deal in order for it to proceed.

Chiefs of Ontario Re-Structure

At the All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) in 2016 the Chiefs in Assembly raised the issue of needing to define and clarify the role and responsibilities of the: Ontario Regional Chief, the Political Confederacy, and the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat. Following the AOCC, the Chiefs of Ontario office researched the Chiefs' Assembly resolutions with respect to roles and structure. A report was provided to the PC; COO will continue to request feedback from community leadership on areas needed for improvement. Once additional feedback is received, a report on options will be prepared for leadership.

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN) v. Enbridge, National Energy Board of Canada (NEB), Attorney General of Canada

Earlier in August 2016, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Political Confederacy (PC) agreed that COO would file to become an intervener in the COTTFN case against Enbridge. COTTFN has taken Enbridge, the NEB and the Attorney General of Canada to court for failing to consult with COTTFN. COTTFN is

challenging whether or not the Canadian Government can delegate its consultation responsibility to the NEB. The lawyer for COO provided the PC with an update on the court filing and anticipates that the courts will allow COO to become an intervener in the proceedings. Once intervener status is granted, COO will become part of the case and will support the COTTFN position.

Climate Change

The Ontario Regional Chief provided an update on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) work on climate change, taking place at the national level. COO staff provided an overview of a situation created with the recent tabling of a resolution at the AOCC. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for Ontario has offered to provide COO with support for a Climate Change task Force. The resolution tabled at the AOCC would have authorized COO to enter into those arrangements with Ontario; the PC debated the merits in proceeding and agreed to proceed with the understanding that no individual community will be affected by COO receiving resources.

Child Welfare

Recently INAC has announced that it will be making new investments in the child welfare sector and providing \$5.8 million in immediate relief funding to communities in Ontario. No formula for distribution has been agreed upon, so at the current time no relief funding has been released. The Chiefs Committee on Social Services briefed the PC on the current status and recommended that the PC endorse the use of the OFNLP distribution formula for this year's allocation. The use of the OFNLP formula would allow the funding to be released right away, once that occurs the Social Committee would then work with the province and the feds to determine a formula to be used for next fiscal year's distribution.

General Updates

Updates were provided on the following: Ontario First Nations Economic Forum (OFNEF), Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Woman and Girls, Women

Chiefs gathering, OI Leasing (taxation), First Nation Policing and Police Service Act amendments, AFN Fiscal Relations MOU.

The PC agreed that a PC retreat will be held in the Treaty 3 territory in the coming months.