



Akwesasne Residents Exempt From Quebec Health Contribution

On April 18, 2012 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne held a meeting with representatives from Revenue Quebec and confirmed that registered status Indians will be exempt from making the Quebec Health Contribution. The province's health contribution plan went into affect on July 1, 2010 and required that all adults living in the province to make annual payments.

According to Kanatakon District Chief Rachel Roundpoint, "As a result of efforts undertaken by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, Quebec officials have confirmed that Akwesasne community members living in Kanatakon and Tsi Snaihne are now exempt from the Quebec Health Contribution."

The Quebec Revenue Agency submitted Notices of Assessment to Kanatakon and Tsi Snaihne residents indicating that they must pay a health contribution of \$25 beginning in the 2010 tax year. Afterward, they were required to pay \$100 in 2011, and \$200 in 2012, up to a maximum of \$500 per year. The payments, or fees, were to be taken out of income tax returns starting in the spring of 2011.

According to Article 96 of An Act Respecting the Ministère du Revenu, there are existing exemptions for certain groups from making the general health contributions. One of those groups are legally recognized, or registered Indians, as defined by the Indian Act.

"We are aware that the Quebec Health Contribution has caused some confusion and may have resulted in some Akwesasne residents making a payment to Quebec," stated Tsi Snaihne District Chief Karen Loran. She added, "As a result, we are continuing our discussions with Revenue Quebec and they advised



(Left to Right) Jacques Paquet, SAA; District Chief Rachel Roundpoint; Jean St. Gelais, Revenue Quebec; Grand Chief Mike K. Mitchell; Carol Imbeault, Revenue Quebec; District Chief Karen Loran, Bob Laramy, Ontario Ministry of Finance, Barry Bonspille, IGL-MCA; Caroline Beauregard, Revenue Quebec, Luc Moisan, Revenue Quebec; Natalie Pronovost, Revenue Quebec; District Chief Wesley Benedict

that Akwesasne residents will be reimbursed if they have already submitted a payment to the province."

More information on the Quebec Health Contribution, as well as how individuals can obtain a refund, will be shared in the near future.

Table of Contents

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Joe Lazore's Report.....	page 4
Kawehno:ke District Chief Abram Benedict's Report.....	page 6
MCR's.....	page 8
Mohawk Council Makes \$25,000 Contribution.....	page 11
Akwesasne Leaders Meet with Border Officials.....	page 12
Akwesasne Welcomes Japanese Ensemble	page 13
Tsi Snaihne Diagnostic and Wellness Centre.....	page 16
Dept. of Health Hosts Career Fair.....	page 18
Introducing Get Fit Plus	page 19

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Grand Chief

Michael Kanentakeron
Mitchell

Kan:takon District

Chief Larry King

Chief Florence Phillips

Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

Chief Rachel Roundpoint

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Abram Benedict

Chief Wesley Benedict

Chief Brian David

Chief Louise Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief John Adams

Chief Joe Lazore

Chief Karen Loran

Chief William Sunday

◆◆◆◆

Onkwe'ta:ke - MCA's monthly,
community newsletter, is
published by MCA's
Communications Unit. For more
information email
ashley.tarbell@akwesasne.ca or
call (613) 575-2348 Ext. 2212.

Wat'kwanonweraton/Greetings

Onerahtòka/ April 2012

She:kon,

*I hope this issue of
Onkwe'ta:ke will find you and
your families in good health.
With the change of weather, it
is nice to see hockey nets put
aside and lacrosse nets coming
out of storage and being uti-
lized by future lacrosse stars.*

*As a major portfolio co-
chair for the Department of
Technical Services, I share the
following updates of ongoing
projects:*



TSI SNAIHNE WATERLINE UPDATE

Throughout the past three years, the personnel of the Department of Technical Services [DTS] and the DTS Portfolio Chiefs have been working diligently to obtain the necessary funding for the first and second phases of the Tsi Snaihne waterline project. I am pleased to announce that the final phase of the Tsi Snaihne waterline has been approved and bridge financed by Council.

An enormous amount of progress has been made and will continue to be made until the final phase is completed. Lobbying efforts for the final phase will continue throughout the current fiscal year. We are pleased that the funding strategy being implemented is working and are confident that it will continue to work and the Tsi Snaihne waterline will be completed sooner than later.

In fact, by utilizing this same funding strategy, the first major step has been taken toward the completion of the Kawehnoke waterline. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC, formerly INAC) recently reimbursed the money originally allocated by Council to pay for the feasibility study required for this project.

Please keep a close watch out for announcements from DTS on upcoming community meetings which are being scheduled to provide the community with updates on current projects.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Canada has recently introduced new legislation called the "Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act" (Bill S-8). While Council is not opposed to the idea of making legislation for safe potable water for First Nations, we as a Council, do oppose the proposed act in its current form. In its current form Bill S-8 contains numerous clauses that we view as cause for concern, such as:

Section 3

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act or the regulations is to be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any existing Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, except to the extent necessary to ensure the safety of drinking water on First Nation lands. [emphasis added]

The exception part is what we are concerned about here because it basically claims that Canada can infringe upon our rights as Aboriginal people as long as their reasoning pertains to safe drinking water on reserve lands.

Section 5(3)

Regulations made under section 4 may incorporate by reference laws of a province, as amended from time to time, with any adaptations that the Governor in Council considers necessary.

The incorporation of provincial laws causes concern because Akwesasne has the ability to enact our own laws, as evidenced by the acceptance of By-Law #5 Waterworks System, which was passed by Council and subsequently approved by the Ministry in 1964. The Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne does not fall under the jurisdiction of either one of the provinces we deal with. The development of this by-law back in 1964 demonstrates how advanced Akwesasne is and always has been, especially when compared to other First Nations and why Akwesasne should not be included in the proposed Canadian legislation.

Section 7

Regulations made under this Act prevail over any laws or by-laws made by a First Nation to the extent of any conflict or inconsistency between them, unless those regulations provide otherwise.

We, as Council, are doing our best to inform Canada that we oppose the imposition of the legislation they are proposing and are seeking an exemption from such imposition. Our existing by-law can simply be updated through an amendment in order to satisfy the objectives set out in Bill S-8. It is in our community's best interest for us to govern ourselves by passing our own legislation, which will truly ensure access to safe drinking water for our community members.

It is so good to see everyone who is actively cleaning their yards and homes now that spring is here. As a reminder, the pick-up of 'spring clean-up' trash is no longer scheduled on an annual basis. Instead, this type of pick-up now takes place on a monthly basis, during the last week of every month. Nia:wen kowa for doing your part to help keep Mother Earth clean.

I hope you enjoy the warm weather as I intend to, and we may even cross paths while doing so,

*Chief John Adams
District of Tsi Snaihne*

MCA EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Sheree Bonaparte
Executive Director

Donna Roundpoint
*Assistant
Executive Director*

Jay Benedict
*Director,
Technical Services*

Joyce King
*Director,
Justice Department*

Sandra Benedict
*Director,
Housing Department*

Maggie Terrance
*Director,
Dept. of Community
& Social Services*

Saka Pembleton
*Director,
Dept. of Health*

Barry Montour
*Director,
Akwesasne Mohawk
Board of Education*

Jerry Swamp
*Chief of Police,
Akwesasne Mohawk
Police Service*

James Ransom
*Director,
Tehotienawaken*

Report from Chief Joe Lazore

Environment: Preserve and Protect

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."
~ Proverb

For the past two years, Council has been working diligently to ensure the best interest of Akwesasnon, and to give the people a voice. As Environment Portfolio Major, I have been working with the Environment Department in order to preserve and protect the fragile lands and water of Akwesasne.

There have been concerns over the river, local species, forests and wetlands. With the ongoing interruption of the life cycle of walleye, sturgeon being placed on the endangered species list, a fish advisory on yellow perch, the yellow eel spawning difficulties, and the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (which attacks and can kill Ash trees native to North America), Mohawk Council, with cooperation from residents, need to ensure that the next seven generations will be able to enjoy the same harvest of fish, game, birds and medicines that we enjoy today.

One of the initiatives to protect the walleye is to patrol all commonly known local spawning beds during the 2012-spawning season. We ask that all Akwesasne anglers assist in conservation efforts and to practice responsible fishing.

Sturgeons were placed on the endangered species list; therefore, Anglers meetings have been focused on collaboration with surrounding fisherman. Individuals from Massena, NY and Cornwall, ON are assisting Akwesasne on the river and we hope to get numbers up (of sturgeon).

The yellow eel have had difficulties spawning. Although eel ladders were constructed for the eels to avoid the turbines, some eels are not using them and unable to bypass. In order to increase the yellow eel numbers, the Ontario Power Generation is offering local fisherman \$25 per live eel. This is an attempt to boost eel numbers. For more information, please contact David Stanley, OPG Senior Environmental Scientist at 905-357-0322 ext. 7015.

Currently, there is a fish advisory on yellow perch.



Due to contamination levels (individuals should not consume yellow perch until the advisory is lifted).

Mohawk Council, partnering with SRMT, will be completing tests on fish, muskrat, beaver and deer. The hope is to send a full animal specimen from different areas to test and make sure there is no contamination. When we receive the results, we will share with the community.

The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect species native to Asia, arrived to North America within the last ten years. Since its arrival, it has killed millions of native ash trees, an important hardwood species in North America. Although the adults nibble on the ash foliage, they cause little damage. The larvae are the cause of so much destruction. They feed on the inner bark of ash trees and disrupt the trees ability to transport water and nutrients. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to detect early if the larvae are attacking the trees and the fear is that the Emerald Ash Borer could cause widespread ash tree mortality. These metallic green bugs create vertical, shallow tunnels under the bark and severely attacked trees may exhibit crown dieback from the top down in the first year of infestation. Always be cautious where you cut your trees as you could unknowingly transfer the Emerald Ash Borer to our location.

The Environment Conservation Law is in the process of being upgraded. This will provide Conservation officers additional authority to enforce on the river and the land. Currently Conservation officers are patrolling the rivers to ensure anglers are using proper and responsible fishing practices.

On April 21, 2012, the Mohawk Council in partnership with the SRMT is giving away seeds and trees to Akwesasne residents.

On April 28, 2012, the annual roadside cleanup is once again held in Akwesasne. For more information, please contact MCA or SRMT environment.

Waterline

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water."
-Loran Eisely

The Tsi Snaihne waterline is rapidly approaching the final phase (three).

On April 18th, there was a meeting for the community to attend if there were any questions or concerns about the water hookup.

A feasibility study was accepted to complete Kawehno:ke east end. When we receive additional information, it will be shared with the community.

Kanien'keha Awenhnisera

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."
-Nelson Mandela

On March 30, 2012, The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne hosted the second annual Kanien'keha Awenhnisera (Mohawk Language Day). Guests from Kahnawa:ke and Tyendinaga performed, as well as local community members. I was honored to participate in the "A'no:wara" segment with MCA staff. It is very important to keep our language alive, and I am very proud of the large turnout. It showed how many would like to improve the education of our people. Nia:wenkowa to all that came to Tsi Snaihne to watch the great performances!

Fire Department

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!"
-Maya Angelou

Tsi Snaihne District Chief William Sunday and I were approached by the Tsi Snaihne fire department for an incident command center. Firemen and divers utilize a command center when attempting a rescue. Command centers relay imperative information to the police, ambulance and other agencies. The command center that was previously used was an old school bus converted from donated equipment. After an appropriate vehicle was located, we approached council and were approved for the purchase. The firemen are all very thankful for the new command center and are using it today.



District Chief Joe Lazore and District Chief Bill Sunday with members of the H.A.V.F.D

Report from Chief Abram Benedict

MCA Budgets

Over the past several months, MCA has been going through its annual budgeting process. As a member of the finance committee, I have been directly involved. As part of the process, each department and program of MCA develops a narrative of their goals and objectives that they'd like to achieve in the upcoming year. These narratives include a vision and mission statement that is in sync with the vision and mission statement of the Council. Once the goals and objectives are identified, a budget is developed that will enable the department or program to operate. The narratives and corresponding budgets are then reviewed by the Finance Department and each department director or program manager will then present their proposals to the finance committee. Generally in these sessions, discussions take place to determine where budgets can be decreased in order to balance the entire MCA budget. There are several programs within the MCA that are classified as "unfunded programs" which means that they are not supported financially by outside funding sources, and are generally funded wholly through the overall MCA budget. Within the last three years a number of new programs have been created to meet the needs of either Council or the community and, unfortunately, not enough external funding has been secured, which results in the MCA having to cover these costs from either the Ontario Lottery Gaming Commission [OLGC] monies or reserves. The annual budgeting process is nearly complete and the final budget will be presented to Council for acceptance on April 24, 2012.



Donations

Council recently made a donation of \$500 to the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment for the Akwesasne Annual Roadside Clean-up Day.

Council also donated \$4500 to support the Mohawk Language program that is broadcast on CKON on Saturdays.

Akwesasne Child and Family Service (ACFS)

Recently the Ontario Government announced its budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year. Within the budget, Akwesasne was mentioned as being a new Aboriginal Children's Aid Society, which received designation in 2011. The Ontario Government also acknowledged that they downsized from thirteen

Canada Eases Entry Restrictions For Criminal Offenses

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has learned that Citizenship and Immigration Canada has recently changed its criminal inadmissibility policy for entry into the country. In the past, if you have been convicted of an offense, such as mischief or driving under the influence, you were not able to enter Canada without a permit, which had a processing fee of \$200. To support Canada's Federal Tourism Strategy, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Canada

Border Services Agency have made it easier for individuals with prior offenses to now enter the country. On March 1, 2012, certain individuals previously denied entry into Canada due to a conviction, are now eligible to receive a temporary resident permit, which is good for one visit into Canada without having to pay the \$200 processing fee.

children's aid societies to six. The fact that Akwesasne was mentioned in the budget indicates that Ontario deems the designation of ACFS as a positive model, especially when you take into consideration that seven societies were closed. Immediately following the budget announcement MCA sent a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services to thank Ontario for the support that was expressed and to remind them of the capital shortfalls Akwesasne has incurred due to the recent improvements made to Kanonkwatsheri:io to accommodate additional ACFS staff. The letter also invited the Minister to Akwesasne for a tour of the community and to celebrate the recent designation. Council will continue to follow up with the Ministers office on these requests.

Homeowners Insurance

Recently the MCA was approached by AMERIND which is a risk management company that sells homeowners insurance on reserves located in the United States and Canada. Several meetings have been attended with a representative from AMERIND and the process to establish an office here in Akwesasne has been started so that Akwesasne clients will be able to obtain quotes face-to-face and make payments locally. Prior to securing a local office, AMERIND is willing and able to accept new clients interested in purchasing homeowners insurance within Akwesasne. Insurance policies offered by AMERIND are comparable to those offered by other insurance companies but AMERIND provides more competitive and affordable rates. Interested community members can speak to Dave at AMER-

IND by calling 1-800-352-3496 or by emailing him at: DPowless@AMERINDRisk.org.

District Meeting Update

The Kawehno:ke District Meeting was held on March 18, 2012 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre. The Council members in attendance were Chief Wesley Benedict, Chief Louise Thompson and I. Each Council member provided an update on recent work activities and meetings. A discussion took place with the members present on the use of the Cornwall Island police substation and the need for this facility to be utilized more frequently. Further discussion was held about the AMPS issuing traffic tickets that cite offenses to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. These issues will be further discussed with the full Council. In previous District Meetings the issue of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance having to make a three point turn at the bottom of the bridge when on route to the hospital was discussed. Chief Wesley Benedict provided an update that he has made contact with the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) and the City of Cornwall to examine the possibility of cutting the curb on Brookdale to allow for the ambulance to make a complete U-turn without having to back up. Future meetings will be arranged to follow up on this. A request was made for MCA to change its mailing address to an Akwesasne civic address, and a request was made for the disclosure of the amount of the per capita payments issued from outside governments to the MCA for each member of Akwesasne. These two requests will be brought forward to the full Council for consideration.

Under the new policy on criminal inadmissibility, you may be eligible for the fee waiver if you:

- have been convicted of an eligible offense (or its equivalent in foreign law);
- have served no jail time;
- have committed no other acts that would prevent you from entering Canada; and
- are not inadmissible for any other reason.

Under the new policy the types of convictions that are eligible for the fee waiver are:

- driving under the influence of alcohol;
- public mischief; or
- shoplifting.

All serious criminal offenses are not eligible for the fee waiver.

For more information please refer to the Citizen and Information Canada website.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/faq/inadmissibility/index.asp>



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Resolutions (MCRs) March 2012

March 6, 2012 Special Meeting

- 2011/2012 - #323 Accept Akwesasne Governance Code, Community Outreach Findings
Vote: 5-For, 1-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #324 Approve local plumbing company for funding from Akwesasne Economic Dev. Fund
Vote: 6-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #325 Approve local construction company for funding from Akwesasne Economic Dev. Fund
Vote: 6-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #326 Approve BMO Housing Loan for Community Member
Vote: 6-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

March 13, 2012 Special Meeting

- 2011/2012 - #327 Agreement of funding continuation for Literacy and Basic Skills programming at Iohahi:io
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #328 Accept Ministry of Children & Youth Services Report and approve audit by PWC
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

March 20, 2012 Special Meeting

- 2011/2012 - #329 Accept MHLTC Community Services Report and approve audit by PWC
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #330 Approve CMHC Oak Court 4 Units Family Housing Project and audit by PWC
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #331 Accept and approve Tsiionkwanonhso:te draft Long Term Care Facility Reprt-Audit by PWC
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #332 Approve draft audited Community Justice Program report and audit by PWC
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED
- 2011/2012 - #333 Approve draft audit of report from MAG Partner Assault Response and audit by PWC
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

March 23, 2012 Special Meeting

- 2011/2012 - #334 Accept Agreement for Aboriginal Health Centre Parking Lot Project shared cost contract
Vote: 6-For, 1-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #335 Accept Agreement for Akwesasne Aboriginal Health Access Centre Renovation Project
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #336 Accept Financial Arrangement ARFA 2011-2015 Amendment No. 0006
Vote: 7-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

March 27, 2012 Special Meeting

2011/2012 - #337 Approve Nation Building Governance and Relationship Agreement
Vote: 7-For, 1-Against, 1-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #338 Accept (3) Special Gen. Meetings Sched. for Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Settlement Agrmnt
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #339 Authorize Agreement with St. Lawrence Coll. for programming at Iohahi:io for 2012-2015
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #340 Accept and approve Min. of Health Smoke Free Ont. Program report draft and audit by PWC
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #341 Accept and approve Min. of Health and Long-Term Care Diabetes Program report draft and audit by PWC
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #342 Grant lending institution access to Territory as requested by community member
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #343 Appoint (3) Finance Committee Chiefs for 5-year audit services contract recommendation
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #344 Approval transfer registry from Oneida Nation to Akwesasne for community member
Voting: 8-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #345 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Kentenhko:wa/November 22, 2011
Vote: 8-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2012/2011 - #346 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Tsiiothohrha/December 9, 2011
Vote: 8-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #347 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Tsiiothohrha/December 13, 2011
Vote: 8-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #348 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Tsiiothohrha/December 20, 2011
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0- Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #349 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Tsiiothohrko:wa/January 17, 2012
Vote: 9-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstentions CARRIED

2011/2012 - #350 Accept and approve Special Meeting Minutes from Enniska/February 7, 2012
Vote: 8-For, 0-Against, 1-Abstentions CARRIED

New Additions to Mohawk Government Support

Jamie Bay, a member to the Mohawk Government Support Unit, is the new Government Support Manager. In prior years, Jamie has worked in various capacities within the community, primarily under the auspices of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, beginning in 2000.

After graduating from the University of Southern Maine, in Portland Maine with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor focus in Economics (1997), Jamie worked for Oneida Nation Summer Youth Recreation program in Oneida during the summer of 2000. In August 2000, he moved to Akwesasne and began working with at-risk youth in the community under the then Youth Advocate Program (YAP) for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. In 2003, Jamie became the Asst. Director for Human Services, under the St. Regis



*W. Jamie Bay
Government Support Manager*

Mohawk Tribe, and moved on to become the Director and Commissioner of Human Services from 2003–2005. From 2006– 2011, Jamie served as the Asst. Executive Director for Tribal Administration, under the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. From mid-2011 through late 2011, Jamie served as the Project Manager for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Broadband Initiative, an initiative that he worked on and helped to facilitate since 2008.

Jamie has resided in Akwesasne since 2000 with his wife and two daughters. "I'm very excited for the opportunity to work for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and I look forward to making a valuable contribution to the collective work effort that strives to produce benefits and services to the community."

Barry Bonspille has joined the Mohawk Government Support Unit as the Inter-Governmental Liaison Officer. It seems that Barry has always been a part of the progressive development of Mohawk Council structures, first in his home community of Kanehsata:ke, then in Kahnawake, and now here in Akwesasne.

Between 1994 and 2004, Barry served as the Kanehsata:ke Mohawk Roundtable Administrator where, in co-operation with his counter-parts from Kahnawake and Akwesasne, he assisted in the inter-governmental affairs of each Mohawk Council in their direct political relationship with the federal government.

Since 1996, Barry and his wife Lisa have operated a private Quebec license in-home daycare centre called the Tsi Thontahsa:wha Learning Centre (TLC). Their home is one big classroom.

Between 1996 and 1998, Barry took on the role of the Kanehsata:ke Policing Co-coordinator where he assisted in the negotiation and implementation of the first Kanehsata:ke Tri-Partite Policing Agreement with the Public Security Departments of Canada and Québec. Then between 2002 and 2004, Barry was appointed as a member of the Kanehsata:ke Police Commission.

Between 2001 and 2005, Barry was hired as the

first ever Kanehsata:ke Executive Director where, under the direction of the Grand Chief and Council Chiefs, he provided administrative supervision and leadership to all the departments and their staff. His principal responsibility was to ensure the efficient management and delivery of the daily council services to the citizens of Kanehsata:ke.

From 2005 to 2008, Barry taught math, biology, French, and English to the high school students at the Kahnawake Survival School. Later, from 2008 to 2010 he became the Principal of Ratihenthe High School in Kanehsata:ke.

Barry is a member of both the Ontario and Québec Teachers Federations, as well as a certified orthotic and prosthetic technician since 2004. He has been elected 4 times as a member of the Québec Senior Lacrosse Commission.

Barry is an alumni of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he earned his B.A.(honours) in Political Science, his B.Ed.(honours) in History & Social Studies, and a specialized directed reading in Public Administration (local government).

Barry enjoys sports, reading mystery books, and playing Dad to his three dogs. Barry resides in Kanehsata:ke with wife Lisa and daughter Stephanie.



*Barry Bonspille,
Intergovernmental Liaison*

Mohawk Council Contributes \$25,000 to Support 2012 Tekawitha Conference



L-R Debbie Thomas, National Board Member of Tekakwitha Conference; Kanata:kon District Chief Larry King; Tsi Snaihne District Chief William Sunday; Bernice Lazore, Chairperson of Tekakwitha Conference Committee; Alma Ransom, Public Affairs Officer; and Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell.

Mohawk Council has generously donated \$25,000 to the 2012 Tekakwitha Conference. On April 10th, the Akwesasne Kateri Prayer Circle and the St. Regis Mission Kateri Tekakwitha Circle co-hosted a check presentation event in the Maple Room at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. At the event, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe matched the \$25,000 Mohawk Council donation.

Alma Ransom, public affairs officer and member of 2012 Tekakwitha Conference Planning Committee, thanked both Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for their contributions. She also wanted to thank members from the prayer circles for their continuous commitment to raise funds for the Tekakwitha Conferences.

The monies raised will go toward the related costs of the 73rd Annual Tekakwitha Conference. The 2012 Tekakwitha Conference will be held in Albany, New York, July 18-22nd. This conference is entitled "Walking in the Footsteps of Kateri". Participants will visit Kateri's birthplace and site of baptism during a one day pilgrimage. "We the Mohawks are so pleased to host this year's conference on the East Coast, in Kateri's homeland," noted Alma Ransom.

"With Kateri becoming a Saint later this year, we are sure to see the usual number of participants rise. We typically see 1,000 participants gather at the Tekakwitha Conference's. This year we are expecting more than 1,500" said Debbie Thomas.

"May her spirit be at peace, may those who rely upon her healing powers find strength and may all Indigenous people regardless of their faith be provided the opportunity to celebrate her life."

-Excerpt taken from Grand Chief Mike Mitchell's, "The Story of Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)".



Alma Ransom,
2012 Tekakwitha Planning
Committee

Notice: Indian Residential School Survivors

**The deadline to apply for the
Independent Assessment Process [IAP]
is September 19, 2012.**

The Independent Assessment Process (IAP) is a process for the resolution of claims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and other wrongful acts suffered at Indian Residential Schools (IRS) in Canada. The process is claimant centered, confidential and does not take place in court. The claimant decides where the hearing takes place, and whether the adjudicator is male or female. Compensation is available up to \$275,000 in the standard track.

If you fail to file a claim by September 19, 2012, your claim will be barred and forever lost.

If you are a survivor of abuse at an Indian Residential school, you may be entitled to compensation.

*Please contact us to discuss your claim at 613-575-2348.
We also have Russell Kronick, Attorney-at-Law, to assist
claimants at
613-567-4922.*

Akwesasne Leaders Meet with New Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

On March 11, 2012 the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council were invited to meet with the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, David Aguilar.

In the meeting leadership raised a number of issues including: the “Beyond the Border Plan” that is a joint action plan between Canada and the United States that focuses on border security; the proposed relocation of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Port of Entry; and an update on the proposed Native American Indian border crossing card for Akwesasronon when travelling through the Port-of-Entry in Massena, New York.

One of the major concerns for MCA was information sharing across the U.S.-Canada border as it relates to the cameras located at the Massena Port-of-Entry and privacy issues. Deputy Commissioner Aguilar explained that the Beyond the Border Plan is a way to improve security in North America and align regulatory approaches between Canada and the United States. One of the four areas is cross-border law enforcement. The approval to place the cameras was given by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Leadership asked about discussions on the possibility of Massena having a shared port with the CBSA. Deputy Commissioner Aguilar advised that the discussions are being held with the highest levels of government and that there are several functional and reciprocal factors to consider. No decision has been made; however, a final decision will be made by December 2012. Grand Chief Mike Mitchell expressed concern about the lack of involvement in this process and advised that leadership must be involved in any future discussions as the Akwesasne community will be directly impacted. Deputy Commissioner Aguilar agreed to include leadership in any further discussions.



District Chief Wesley Benedict, Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, District Chief Karen Loran, Deputy Commissioner David Aguilar, District Chief Rachel Roundpoint, Acting Deputy Commissioner Thomas Winkowski, Chief Patrol Agent John C. Pfeifer

An update was also provided on the proposed U.S. border crossing card titled “Native American Indian” which is similar to a Nexus card without the stringent criteria. The card would include your name, date of birth, country of birth and would contain Radio Frequency Encryption and will be Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant. WHTI is a U.S. law that required all travellers, including U.S. and Canadian citizens, to present a valid passport or other approved secure document when entering the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. This newly proposed border crossing card would be an acceptable form of identification and will be designed to expedite the border clearance process for Akwesasronon when travelling through any U.S Port-of-Entry that has a card reader. This will be done by holding the card in front of the card reader and proceeding to the inspection booth.

When Council receives additional information regarding the Beyond the Border Plan, the relocation of the CBSA Port of entry or the proposed Native American Indian Card, it will be shared with community members.

Akwesasne Welcomes Japanese for Cultural Exchange

On April 12th, the Kitanodai Gagaku Ensemble from Japan came to Akwesasne to give two traditional performances open to the public. This event was held at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center. Many gathered to enjoy the performances. The traveling Ensemble wished to thank the community for their aid after the Japan earthquake. The performance was also to honor the 100th anniversary of the giving of the cherry trees.

Once the Kitanodai Gagaku Ensemble completed their routine, the crowd broke for a twenty minute intermission. After the crowd and the Ensemble took their seats, it was time for the Akwesasne Freedom School students to sing traditional Mohawk songs. Next to entertain those in attendance were the National Native American Travelling College singers and dancers. Our visitors seemed to really enjoy the exchange of traditional songs and dances. Some of the Kitanodai Gagaku dancers even joined in on the Round Dance. Nia:wen to all the singers and dancers, and everyone involved in making this event a success!



Kitanodai Gagaku dancers, Bagaku "Kanshu"



*Bagaku "Karyôbin",
Kitanodai Gagaku dancer*



Japanese dancers join community members for Round Dance



Kitanodai Gagaku dancers, Akwesasne Freedom School students, NNATC singers and dancers



Kitanodai Gagaku dancers with members of NNATC



Box 579, Cornwall, Ontario K6H 5T3

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

OPG SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PROCEEDS FOCUS MEETINGS

There will be 3 Focus Meetings held in the Month of May 2012 to further discuss ideas for the use of the OPG Settlement Agreement proceeds.

At previous meetings held in March 2012 ideas included:

- Finishing the Kawehnoke Waterline
- Swimming Pools and Recreation facilities in each District
- Walking path on Kawehnoke
- Educational studies for students
- Survival Training
- Economic Development
- Tourism and other recommendations.

On the following dates meetings will be held to gather more ideas from the community. Information gathered from these meetings will be included in a report that will be presented to Council.

- Tsi Snaihne Recreation **May 3, 2012** starting at 6:30 pm
- Tri-District Elders Lodge **May 17, 2012** starting at 6:30 pm
- Kanatakon Recreation **May 24, 2012** starting at 6:30 pm

Council encourages all community members to come share their ideas as recommendations for the use of the proceeds.

For more information concerning these meetings contact Mohawk Government at (613) 575-2348.

Mohawk Gov't Office (613) 575-2348
(613) 575-2220



Admin. Office (613) 575-2266
(613) 575-2222

Akwesasne - Land Where The Partridge Drums

KAWEHNOKE-EASTERBROOK SPECIFIC CLAIM PROPOSED FINAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On January 5, 2012, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has concluded negotiations with the Canadian Federal Government regarding the Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Specific Claim, which is a "Loss of Use Claim."

The basis of the Claim was breaches of the Crown's fiduciary responsibility to the Mohawks of Akwesasne during the period of 1816 to 1934. The breaches were failures to protect the interests of the Akwesasne community for 188.5 acres of land that spans from present-day Ronathahonzi Cultural Center to the Fire Hall on Kawehnoke.

The outcome of negotiations with Canada is the proposed Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Proposed Final Settlement Agreement, which lays out the terms of the proposed settlement. The land in question, formerly known as the Easterbrook Farm, was returned to Akwesasne's possession in 1934.

The major settlement terms that are subject to ratification by voters are:

Compensation:

- \$4,448,932 million within forty-five days after the effective date of the Settlement Agreement to resolve past grievances associated with loss of use of the land in question.
- \$567,098 to recover costs relating to the Settlement Agreement's Negotiation and Ratification.

Other Key Points:

- Akwesasne forever releases and discharges Canada from any actions with respect to the Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Specific Claim and Negotiation Costs after Canada has fulfilled all of its obligations in the Settlement Agreement.

Two (2) Special General Meetings, two (2) radio talk shows and more than two dozen informational meetings have been held to share information with those that will ultimately decide on the Settlement Agreement. A third Special General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th at the St. Regis Recreation Center.

Community members can arrange an informational meeting for families, friends and other groups by calling MCA's Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) at 613-575-2348.

REFERENDUM VOTE:

Saturday, May 26th
7am – 7pm

POLLING STATIONS:

Snye Rec. Center
(Tsi Snaihne)

Tri-District Elders Lodge
(Kawehnoke)

St. Regis Rec. Center
(Kanatakon)

Members not residing in Akwesasne three (3) northern districts may vote at the Kanatakon Polling Station, or may submit their vote by Mail-In Ballot. If you have not received a Mail-In Ballot, please contact the Chief Referendum Officer at 613-575-2250 or email leona.benedict@akwesasne.ca.

For more information about the Specific Claim and Settlement Agreement, please contact Cactus Cook-Sunday at 613-575-2348 (ext. 2205), or email cactus.sunday@akwesasne.ca.

To arrange an informational meeting, please contact Dawn David at 613-575-2348 (ext. 2204), or email dawn.david@akwesasne.ca.



Tsi Snaihne Diagnostic and Wellness Centre Update

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is working toward the creation of a health care facility in the district of Tsi Snaihne. The consulting company, Maple Key Health Group Limited, was introduced to Mohawk Council through the working task group with the Departments of Health and Technical Services, after a proposal was submitted on a health concept.

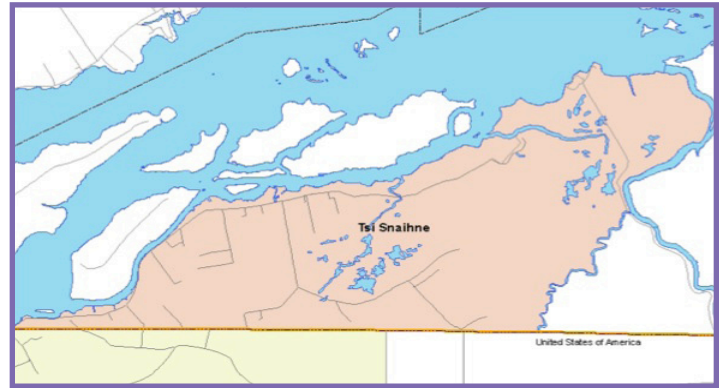
“What Council liked about the proposal was that it was conducted in phases and was community based,” said Karen Loran, Tsi Snaihne District Chief.

The Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs are conscientiously working to move the clinic initiative into a reality.

“The approach is to work through the development in phases to ensure all areas of importance are adequately reviewed and evaluated based on the needs community members have prioritized for the center. In addition we must ensure that the project is self funding, as not to financially lay burden on the community,” noted Frank Suraci, Chief Executive Officer of Maple Key Health Group Limited.

One of the primary objectives of the project, is to improve access to Quebec healthcare for Akwesasro:non. Community members residing in the districts of Kana:takon or Tsi Snaihne, who are covered under Quebec health insurance, Regie de l’assurance maladie Quebec or RAMQ, can actually be spending additional funds on co-pays, due to the difference in service costs of Ontario based healthcare.

For the first phase of the proposal, a key objective was to hold community consultation sessions with focus groups of community members and Mohawk Council. Maple Key was tasked to identify what the benefits of an additional clinic would be and to give the community an arena to voice any concerns or issues. The study, along with a comprehensive report from Maple Key, has been completed and shared with the community.



Maple Key is now working on the second phase of the initiative. An integral part of this phase is to recruit two Quebec licensed physicians, willing to establish a full time practice at the new health centre. Maple Key is searching various venues and sources of candidates to attract potential physicians to the community. Interested physicians will be introduced to Chief Loran and April White, Department of Health Assistant Director. One physician will be visiting the area in the next couple of weeks.

The next steps will also include the confirmation of the site location and medical services. The Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs directed Maple Key to review the possibility of renovating the Ironworkers Training building, located on River Road near the Homemakers center. Residents indicated this would be a viable site for a medical center. Since that discussion, other parties have indicated to expand the facility to accommodate other medical services and possible businesses. Although, this is a preferred location, alternative sites are being researched.

The anticipated medical model will provide services that may include primary care, a blood lab, dialysis unit, telehealth studio, and an ambulatory unit. These services will decrease medical costs to the community, provide the continuity of healthcare, and add to patient convenience with enhanced access to localized medical services.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of your District Chiefs at 613-575-2348

Introducing Maple Key Health Group Limited

Frank Suraci is the Chief Executive Officer of Maple Key Health Group Ltd. The company was founded on the principles to assist First Nations communities with health and medical programming that enhances access and localizes medical services. Their flagship program is the "First Nation Health Model", where communities and private investors work to enhance primary care services that improve the medical outcomes for patients. Further the model enhances employment opportunities and business development initiatives that generates revenue to sustain the model.

The company utilizes its health and medical experts who have extensive background working in the Canadian healthcare sector and with First Nations.

Much of Frank's experience in the health sector is from his time with a globally recognized corporation as it's National Director of Aboriginal Affairs. His exposure to healthcare systems

around the world provided the basis for the First Nation Model that integrates medical care with economic development and provides employment opportunities.

Frank also has over 15 years of experiences in the energy and utility sectors on both sides of the regulated and deregulated facets of the business. On the regulated side, he managed the sales and marketing departments of the central Ontario region for one of the country's largest utilities. In 1990, he was commissioned until 2001 to be part of the startup team to develop the utility business on the Vancouver Island project as Business Development Manager. His main focus was to develop alternative use and generation of electricity from renewable sources.



Frank Suraci

Today, Frank applies his experience advising and consulting to First Nation groups and non-native communities to create economic development initiatives and power generation opportunities.

Administration Building #1 Parking Advisory

Effective Monday, April 2, 2012, there is no vehicle parking behind or adjacent to the lower side entrance of the MCA's Administration Building # 1 in Kanatakon. This is due to the closure of the rear parking area behind the building as well as repairs

and renovations taking place.

Please note that the side door will still be open and useable for clients who wish to make Hydro-Quebec payments, but clients will have to park in front of the building.

Support a Drug Free Community!

An initiative of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Substance Abuse Strategy.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Wholistic Health & Wellness <i>(Addictions & Counseling)</i> (613) 575-2341 ext. 3100	Mohawk Police & Ambulance (613) 575-2000	CRIMESTOPPERS (613) 575-2255	ONEN'TO:KON TREATMENT SERVICES (450) 479-8353
Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center (613) 932-5050	MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE 1-866-996-0991	Cornwall Detox Withdrawal Management Services (613) 938-8506	Grandparent's Support Group (613) 575-2341 ext.3100
Iethinesten:ha Family Violence Program (613) 937-4322	Akwesasne Eagle Watch <i>Promoting a Safe and Drug free Akwesasne</i> 	Akwesasne Child & Family Services (613) 575-2341 ext. 3308 (613) 575-2000 (After Hours)	ASEO-STE O <i>ADDITION SERVICES OF EASTERN ONTARIO</i> (613) 936-9236 (800) 272-1937

Department of Health Hosts Career Fair

On Thursday March 22nd, the Department of Health hosted a Career Day and extended the invitation to Akwesasne high school students. Counselors from Salmon River Central School, Massena Central School, J.W. Leary, Cornwall Collegiate Vocational School, St. Lawrence High School and T.R. Leger alternative education bussed in their students to the St. Regis Recreation Center. This made for a busy afternoon for all of the excited students and exhibitors that were in attendance.

Students were each given a passport to have stamped by the various exhibits and presenters. Exhibits included dental, ambulance, dietician, prenatal, optometry, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, home care personal support workers and medical officer, environmental health officer, healthy homes, Akwesasne Mohawk Police, and community health nurses. Each representative had a wealth of knowledge and information to share with students interested in their field.

Shealene Gibson reached out to the local school counselors and asked that their students take part in the art or essay contest. The judges received essays, posters, paintings, drawings and even beadwork. The organizers were impressed with the submissions. Students did an excellent job and put a great deal of effort into their submissions.

Contest winners received prizes. Door prizes were also won by random selection. The community health nurses provided lunch that was prepared by Agnes Jacobs. It was delicious! Students were also asked to fill out a survey and evaluate their experience. Department of Health Career Day was a success.

All students were very excited to participate in the Career Fair, and all organizers were pleased to see such a large turnout of students.

Niawen:kowa organizers, presenters, students and staff, and cook!



Rebecca Bonaparte, Ambulance Unit presenting to students

Winners list:

Art

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st Place | Laptop- "Ultrasound Technician" |
| 2nd Place | iPod Touch- "Every baby is a gift from the Creator" |
| 3rd Place | \$100- Beadwork |

Essay

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1st Place | Laptop- "Oncologist" |
| 2nd Place | iPod Touch- "Paramedic" |
| 3rd Place | \$100- "Pediatrician" |

Door Prizes

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Grandprize | iPad Kalli Delormier |
| Grandprize | iPad Teni McDonald |
| 1st prize | Laptop Kyran Sunday |
| 2nd prize | iPod Touch Dacotah Tyo |
| 3rd prize | iPod Touch Jaden Barnes |
| 4th prize | \$100 Star Mason |
| 5th prize | \$100 Rawisaketskwas |



Mohawk Language Students and Prize Winners with Instructor Debbie Rourke

Community Health Introduces Get Fit Plus Program

The community has spoken and Community Health has heard you!!! Our physical activity programs have grown and this is how we're responding to your requests:

Effective April 1, 2012

The Community Health Program has made improvements to our "Get Fit Program" to better suit the needs of the community, as well be more beneficial for individual members. We are merging the "Get Fit Program" and the "Make it Work Program" into a new and improved physical activity program called "Get Fit Plus".

The "Get Fit Plus" program is designed to reward individuals who are actively taking control of their health and maintaining a healthy weight. It's simple to do and you earn from the action you take. You put in the effort; we'll give you a FREE gym membership.

This program is open to anyone who is serious about getting and staying healthy.

The criterion for "Get Fit Plus" is;

- 16 years or older,
- living in one of Akwesasne's 3 northern districts (Tsi Snaihne, Kanata:kon, or Kawehno:ke),
- QHIP or OHIP recipient, and
- First Nations member.

Membership is this easy;

- We will be taking clients who meet the criteria at the start of every month;
- You will attend a one-hour orientation session with a Registered Dietitian, a Community Health Nurse, and a Community Health Representative.
- You will have a Body Composition Analysis done, as well as a Blood Pressure check and an A1C Test (A test that measures a person's average blood glucose level over the past 2 to 3 months.)
- After orientation, you will be given a FREE gym membership.
- You will be responsible for attending the gym a minimum of 10 times a month, failure to do so

will result in not being eligible to renew your gym membership. If you make the minimum visits, you simply bring in proof, and we'll renew your membership, by appointment only.



If you do not make your minimum visits per month, you will have 2 options for the following month;
Option 1: You can pay for your one month membership and make your 10 visits, return with proof of your visits, and we will allow you to renew the following month.

Option 2: You can attend 10 sessions of group Physical Activity with our Community Health Representative, show proof of your attendance, and we will renew your membership for the following month. You can also combine your gym visits and attendance at our group physical activity. You will be required to do a yearly blood pressure check and A1C test with a Community Health Nurse.

Please note that these new guidelines are subject to change without notice, and it is important for you to maintain contact with the Community Health Program while you are enrolled in the program. We also reserve the right to review each situation on a case by case basis. The Community Health Program is not responsible for any injury that may occur during your physical activity.

So, get empowered. Take an active role in your health and get rewarded by Community Health through the "Get Fit Plus" Program.

Nia:wen tanon Sewata'karitat.
(Thank you and Good Health to all of you.)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Community Health Office at 613.575.2341 ext. 3220.

MCA Employees Honored at 2012 S.P.I.R.I.T. Awards

For the second consecutive year, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was proud to honor MCA employees who have demonstrated exceptional skills, behaviors and aptitudes in any of the following areas: Safety and Health, Professionalism, Integrity, Respect, Inspiration and Tradition (as well as one individual that excelled in all five of the areas). In order to be eligible, an individual had to be nominated by their peers and co-workers. There were over 80 entries, the winners were selected by a panel of judges made up of employees from various parts of the organization. Four employees were chosen for each category, and one employee was selected for all categories. During the award ceremony those who nominated the winners were asked to read their nomination forms aloud to the crowd. There were a few teary eyed moments, however it was a celebratory occasion. Congratulations to all employees that were selected for the 2012 S.P.I.R.I.T awards!



Shaking the hands of the 2012 S.P.I.R.I.T Award Winners



Kawehno:ke District Chief Wesley Benedict reading Veronica Thompson's nomination on behalf of the Benedict family.



Winner Sarah Peters Hugs her nominator Karole Mitchell, as MCA Executive Director Sheree Bonaparte looks on.

Safety and Health

Shealene Gibson
Noreen Cook
Liliane Macias
Tony Benedict

Integrity

Carol Lafrance
Christine Bowman
Jamie Cole
Ernie Gambill

Inspiration

Pamela Lazore
Barbra Thompson
Candice Thompson
Terry McDonald

All Categories

Elaine Thompson

Professionalism

Karole Mitchell
Veronica Thompson
Catherine Bush
Ashley Levac

Respect

Kariwate Mitchell
Allison Mae Lazore
Jennifer David
Katy Tarbell

Tradition

Kawennenhawi Nelson
Dawn David
Mary Lafrance
Sarah Peters

Nine Employees Recognized at Retirement Luncheon

On March 26th Mohawk Council of Akwesasne invited nine retirees and their families to a prime rib luncheon. The luncheon commenced after Chief Bill Sunday recited the opening address. Executive Director Sheree Bonaparte and Special Projects Officer Lewis Morris, thanked the retirees for their service and dedication. Each Retiree received a plaque, mug, pin and a beautiful quilt to express the gratitude of Mohawk Council. Grand Chief Mike Mitchell was on hand to offer words of thanks and to formally close the celebration. Nia:wen for your years of service and dedication! Happy Retirement!



Joan Cook, Edith Adams, and Sheree Bonaparte

Honored Retirees Include:

Louis Connors – Dept. of Technical Services Caretaker	2 Yrs
Edith Adams – Dept. Of Health Home Care Home Support	4 Yrs
Wanda Mason – Dept. of Health Tsiokwanonhso'te	5 Yrs
Katherine Pascas – Dept. of Health Tsiionkwanonhso'te	9 Yrs
Cecelia Buckshot – Dept. of Health Home Care Home Support	10 Yrs
Andria Swamp-Cook – Dept. of Health Wholistic Health Wellness Prgm	18 Yrs
Anne Phillips - Dept. of Health Tsiionkwanonso'te/Iakhihsotha	18 Yrs
Elizabeth Thompson – Dept. of Health Home Care Home Support	25 Yrs
Lionel Cook – Dept. of Health Tsiionkwanonhso'te	38 Yrs



Joan Cook, Elizabeth Thompson, and Sheree Bonaparte



Lewis Morris, Louis Connors, and Sheree Bonaparte

Mohawk Language Show a Success

**Kanien'keha Awenhnisera
"Tehonkieronions"**

On Ennisko:wa (March) 30, 2012, the gymnasium at the Tsi: Snaihne school was packed to capacity and excitement filled the air as eager on-lookers waited for the second annual Kanien'keha Awenhnisera (Mohawk Language Day). The night began with Grand Chief Mike Mitchell welcoming everyone to the event, and continued with entertainment that ranged from singers and skits, to the grand finale performance from Elvis Presley.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has completed many initiatives to revitalize and restore the Mohawk language, and Kanien'keha Awenhnisera annual celebration is just one of the examples. Throughout the month of March, MCA worked with CKON to assist on promoting the Mohawk Language by airing stories, songs, and, skits.

MCA put together two segments that was included during the performances. Skahwatsi:ra 3 and 4, and 2 and 3 each had a singing portion, followed by a skit from the Ahkwesahsne Freedom School 5 and 6. The Ahkwesahsne Women Singers sang beautifully and was followed up by a funny puppet show from individuals from Kahnawa:ke. Kenhte:ke, a group from Tyendinaga, gave the popular fairy tale, Snow White a twist, and Erawhes Presley brought down the house with the final performance of the night.



A big niawen:kowa to all participants and guests of Kanien'keha Awenhnisera that made it possible. See you next year!



On April 4th, undergraduate students in the University of Ottawa's Aboriginal Studies and several graduate students made their annual visit to Akwesasne to learn more about our First Nations community. Led by Univ. of Ottawa's Adrienne Fleming and hosted by the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education's Lisa Francis-Benedict, their day-long tour included an overview of Akwesasne by AMBE Director of Education Barry Montour, Ph.D, guided tour by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Communications Unit Acting-Manager Brendan White, discussion with staff at the Akwesasne Freedom School, and an historical presentation conducted by the Ronathahon:ni Cultural Center's Darren Bonaparte, Josh Sargent and Dave Fadden

Open Invitation to Continental Grief Ceremony

Dear friend and relatives of the four directions:

Please accept this letter of invitation to attend and participate in an important ceremony of continental healing and unity. Approximately nine years ago the late Jake Swamp had a dream, a direct message from the spirit. In this dream he saw people dressed in white with red bandanas and their heads hanging low. As he observed, a hand appeared on his shoulder, and a man's voice told him "Entaon Enshoniatenkeha Thiken" meaning "you must help them." At the time Jake did not know the significance of the dream. Years later, as he was teaching a class on our clan system, it occurred to him that the Onkwehonwe people have been suffering for the last 500 years as a result of European contact. Jake knew then that his dream had been a message. The message had been sent that our Onkwehonwe people needed a ceremony to heal and wash away generational trauma. Generational trauma caused by the forced disruption of our Indigenous ways of life. He felt that we must move away from the pain of the past, so we can see clearly for our future generations. As our clan system involves a river, it was suggested that the Mississippi River be a central location to hold a grief ceremony. A grief ceremony for the Onkwehonwe people of the four directions to come together in the wiping of the tears and move toward unity and well-being. As you are aware, this generational trauma affects all aspects of our lives. No Indigenous person is immune to the dynamics of pain and suffering. Such dynamics cause us to turn on ourselves and each other in so many ways. This ceremony has been given by spirit to heal our spirit and embrace the new time coming.



Jake Swamp 1941-2010

A group of people heard about the dream directly from Jake Swamp who was committed to fulfilling it. He took the dream to his own people of the Longhouse. He took it to the people of the Three Fires Midewiwn Lodge of the Anishinaabe. He took it to the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth. He took it to the Maya and the Mexika and to many other Indigenous Peoples from Latin America. He spoke of the dream and of his commitment to fulfill the message to all he knew. Many agreed to participate. Jake's vision of healing and unity leaves a lasting impact on those who have heard it. There is a growing group of people who are committed to the manifestation of making his dream reality. The participants are coming from the four directions, here on Turtle Island as well as Abya Yala, the global South, North, Central and South America. We are inviting you to participate in this gathering of healing and unity. The ceremony will be held at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River in Northern Minnesota during the week of June 18-24, 2012. You are invited to participate through your presence or prayers and in any way that you can.

We are in need of financial support to ensure that our people are fed during this gathering as well as any costs to house our elders. Any and all help is appreciated.

For further information, contact:

Kahontineh Swamp, kahontineh.swamp@ambe.ca, (518) 358-9680

The late Jake Swamp was internationally known for spreading the message of peace. His wisdom and guidance will never be forgotten in the community of Akwesasne. Prior to his passing he worked for Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. His knowledge of the Mohawk Language was an asset as he worked as an Elder interviewer and transcriber for the Elder's History Project. Jake's wisdom and compassion guided him as he worked as a counselor for the Men for Change Program in the Akwesasne Family Health and Wellness Program. The depth of his knowledge of the Kanienkeha culture lead him to work as a Cultural Counselor in the Akwesasne Child and Family Services Program.

We are looking for valuable
players...



To be part of the ACF&S Team!

Be a positive role model for our children who need your
nurturing and guidance.

For more information to get on the roster, contact Akwesasne
Child and Family Services 613-575-2341 ext 3139 and ask for
the intake worker!

Relapse Prevention Group

Starting Wednesday April 25, 2012

Every Wednesday 6:30 – 7:30

Kanonkwa'tsheri:io Turtle Room

For further information you may call (613) 575-2341 ext. 3100

Fax: 613-575-1168

Or e-mail: cindy.oka@akwesasne.ca

Sponsored by: Tekanikonrahwa:koon/Wholistic
Health and Wellness Addictions Program



Welcome to MCA!

Recently filled Mohawk Council of Akwesasne positions

Name	Program Name	Primary Position Title
Duciaume Jr., Scott E.	DTS MAINTENANCE - ARENA	Caretaker
Francis, Justin R.	DTS MAINTENANCE - ARENA	Caretaker
Konwahentawi, NFN	MOHAWK GOV'T-ADMIN	Receptionist
Boots, Precious	DCSS-ACCP	Early Childhood Education
Thompson, Mona M.	DOH-HOME CARE SERVICES	Registered Nurse
McDonald, Wendy M.	DCSS-ACCP	Early Childhood Education
Jocko, JoAnne	NIHB ADMIN	Benefit Analyst
Garrow, Heather M.	JUSTICE - DIVERSION PROG	Community Service Monitor
David, Frank	CIA #3 ADMIN	Caretaker
Thompson-Buckshot, Sabrina	DCSS-ACCP	Early Childhood Education
Garrow, Duane V.	DTS MAINTENANCE - HEALTH FAC	Caretaker
Lazore, Lakota	DCSS-ACCP	Early Childhood Education
Molinaro, Shauna C.	AMBE-HEADSTART	Supply Teacher
Saucier, Emily R.	AMBE - KANATAKON SUPPLY STAFF	Supply Teacher
Bradford, Colby A.	DTS MAINTENANCE - HEALTH FAC	Caretaker
Roundpoint, Whitney M.	TSI-LAUNDRY & LINEN	Laundry Worker
Benedict-Bough, Jade	DOH-ADMIN RECEPTION	Receptionist

Hazard Help Sheet Emergency Preparedness Week

May 7-11, 2012
GetPrepared.ca



Emergency Preparedness Week is a national awareness initiative that has taken place annually since 1996. It is a collaborative event undertaken by provincial and territorial emergency management organizations supporting activities at the local level, in concert with Public Safety Canada and partners. EP Week encourages Canadians to take three simple steps to become better prepared to face a range of emergencies:

- Know the risks
- Make a plan
- Get an emergency kit

Meet Akwesasne's Emergency Officers

Monday, May 7, 2012 (9AM-3PM)
Kanonhkwashter:io Health Facility
St. Regis, Quebec



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?



Enter to
win an
Emergency
Kit!



For more information go to www.GetPrepared.ca

Brought to you by MCA's Emergency Measures



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Circle

At our self-help groups, grandparents can talk about the issues they are facing in parenting their grandchildren, including:

- Issues they or their grandchildren may have with the grandchild(ren)'s parents
- Financial concerns
- Health issues of grandchild(ren) and or grandparents(s)
- Retirement plans
- Changes in social life
- Mental issues with grandchild(ren)

Meeting Dates: May 10th and June 14th

Location: Senior's Center in Hogsburg 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Babysitting available plus refreshment and light snacks

For more information call Kanielshani or Leona at 613-675-2341 ext.3100

**TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY WE ARE COMMITTED AS
A TEAM TO BE SUPPORTIVE AND HELP MAKE ALL
FAMILIES SUCCESSFUL!**



In recognition of Immunization Awareness Week, the MCA Community Health Program is conducting an Immunization Blitz. There will be four Grand Prizes for each age group of 0-3 yrs, 4-8 yrs, 9-13 yrs & 14-17 yrs.

Your child can be entered into the drawing by bringing in the child's updated immunization record to the Community Health office Monday-Friday 8am-4pm from April 16 until the drawing takes place on May 31st, 2012. You can also fax the records to (613) 575-1152, be sure to include contact information (in the event that you are a winner).

Vaccinations are provided Wednesdays & Fridays 8:30-3:30 or by appointment.

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.
Community Health Program
(613) 575-2341 Ext. 3219 or 3223



Protect your world.
Get immunized.



Hosting a Parent Get-Together ... in the comfort of your home.

Hosting a Parent-Get-Together is easier than you think!!!

What is a Parent-Get-Together?

It's a different approach to getting parents together to discuss parenting issues on a selected topic of the hostesses choice, in the comfort of their home. AND the hostess receives a hostess gift, we bring the snacks and refreshments, a door prize is drawn for the guests and the hostess can qualify for tickets in the monthly parent-get-together drawing. All you do is invite family and friends.

No one has to buy anything!!

How much fun is that??



You decide on the date and time, you give 2 hours of your time.

Childcare is available
To set up your Parent-Get-Together date or for more information on the topics that we have to offer please call ACFS @ 613-575-2841 ext. 5171 and ask for Wanda Thompson

Sponsored by
Akwesasne Child and
Family Services
Community Support Unit



Carsten Mitchell, Grade 1, Tsi Snaihne School



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

Administration Building #1

Tel: (613) 575-2250 Fax: 575-2181

Administration Building #2

Tel: (613) 575-2348 Fax: 575-2884

CIA Building #3

Tel: (613) 936-1548 Fax: 938-6760

Adolescent Treatment Center	Ext. 1300	Housing	Ext. 2300	Pharmacy	Ext. 3250
Ambulance Unit	Ext. 3121	Human Resources	Ext. 2146	Records Management	Ext. 1202
Ahkwasasne Mohawk School	Ext. 1700	Hydro Quebec	Ext. 2189	Snye Child Care	Ext. 4300
Animal Control/Compliance	Ext. 2415	Iakhihsohtha	Ext. 4201	Technical Services	Ext. 1003
Aboriginal Rights & Research	Ext. 2203	Iethinisten:ha	Ext. 1500	Traditional Medicine	Ext. 3220
Board of Education	Ext. 1400	Iohahio Adult Education	Ext. 4100	Tsi Snaihne School	Ext. 4400
Child & Family Services	Ext. 3139	Justice	Ext. 2400	Tsi ionkwanonsote	Ext. 1600
Community Health Nurses	Ext. 3218	Kana:takon Medical Clinic	Ext. 3214	Wholistic Health	Ext. 3100
Computers	Ext. 2323	Kana:takon School	Ext. 2500		
Community Support Program	Ext. 3262	Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic	Ext. 1110		
Community & Social Services	Ext. 3307	Maintenance/Sanitation	Ext. 3400	OUTSIDE FACILITIES	
Dental Clinic	Ext. 3208	Mohawk Court	Ext. 1026	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	936-1583
Economic Development	Ext. 1053	Mohawk Government	Ext. 2200	Kawehnoke Water Plant	933-1971
Emergency Measures	Ext. 1030	Mohawk Police Reception	Ext. 3502	Child Care Administration	938-5067
Environment	Ext. 1039	Nation Building	Ext. 1055	Mohawk Security Services	932-5183
Executive Services	Ext. 2120	Non-Insured Health Benefits	Ext. 3201	Roads Garage	938-5476
Finance	Ext. 2168	Operational Support	Ext. 2100	St. Regis Child Care	575-1915
Health	Ext. 3300	Optometry	Ext. 3131		
Home Care/Support	Ext. 1069	Office of Vital Statistics	Ext. 1013		

Lawrence J. Leaf

October 26, 1937 - March 6, 2012



Dedicated Elder Representative for the
Nation Building Program 2005-2012.

For the past seven years,
Mr. Larry “Pudgie” Leaf dedicated his time
and knowledge to attending the
Nation Building working groups and
negotiation sessions.

His efforts aided in the drafting of the
Governance & Relationship Agreement in Principle and the
Lands & Estates Sectoral Agreement in Principle.

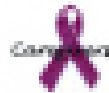
Larry also served as an original member of the
Community Advisory Committee on Land Claims since 2006. Mr. Leaf
represented the
District of Tsi Snaihne.

Larry offered much insight and perspective, he will be missed.

Akwesasne Cancer Support Group

4th Annual 5 mile Walk/Run

In Memory of Louie Lazore



Date: Sunday April 29, 2012
Place: Snye Recreation Center
Registration begins at 8am
Walk starts at 9am

Breakfast from 8-11am
 Sponsored by the
 Snye Recreation Committee



Firemen's BBQ Chicken
 11am - All is sold
 Sponsored by AH/VD



For more info &
 pledge sheets contact:
 Diane King at 575-2341
 George Adams at 575-2871

For Silent Auction info
 & Donations contact:
 Mamie David at 932-0042



Please have your dogs tied up between:
 8am-12pm along the walking route. Thank you

