

MCA Breaks Ground on New Tsi Snaihne Walking Trail

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is excited to announce that construction has officially begun on a new walking trail at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre. The gravel trail is expected to be ready for its first walkers in late November.

“This project has been in the works for many years and we are so excited to see the construction finally begin,” said Kawehno:ke District Chief Troy Thompson, who first worked on a trails project as a staff member and now as a chief. “The community made it clear this was something they wanted and needed, so Council made it a priority to move forward.”

A Comprehensive Community Plan was conducted recently which revealed that many community members wanted walking trails to be a priority in community development. As a result, a Trails Working Group was created and MCA began pooling different departments for partnerships. The Tsi Snaihne District Walking Trails Project was launched and with dedication and commitment from a plethora of different programs, and the trail is now becoming a reality.

“This is truly a collaborative project between several programs within MCA as well as external organizations,” said Project Lead Tracy Sunday-Cook. “This project really proves how much we can do when we work together.”

The current trails project has had involvement from MCA’s Department of Tehotiiennawakon,



Council, Staff and the work crew officially breaking ground on the new walking trail.

Economic Development, Environment, Department of Technical Services, Community Support, Department of Health, Traditional Medicines, Community Health, Housing, Roads, and the Communications Unit. The Akwesasne Area Management Board is also a partner and has sponsored workers to help build the trail.

As the project continues, even more programs and groups will be encouraged to join to assist in beautifying the trail with flowers, gardens, benches and other park décor.

“The residents of Tsi Snaihne have been especially vocal in telling us how much they needed a place close by to exercise,” said Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips who was heavily involved in pursuing the trail. “We realize how

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Abram Benedict

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Chief Tim Thompson

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Onkwe'ta:ke (For the People) – Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's monthly community newsletter is published by the Communications Unit. For more information or to provide feedback, email staff at: communications@akwesasne.ca, call (613) 575-2348 Ext. 2210, or visit our Facebook page.

Wat'kwanonweraton/Greetings

Watkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

I am pleased to provide the Greeting for the August/September Issue of Onkwe'ta:ke. This is our first issue that is Bi-monthly, and I am looking forward to this increased reporting as it will provide more updates and information to the community.

Fall is upon us, but I hope that everyone enjoyed the hot weather during the summer months. The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) students, our high school students and our Post Secondary students have returned back to school. Arguably for some, this is one of the most wonderful times of the year. I now know my teenage daughter can no longer sleep in and is off to school making my family and I proud. This is also a good time to remind you, especially those heading to work in the mornings or back during the afternoon, to be cautious of the school-buses and students walking on the sidewalks. Our children's safety is all of our responsibility!

This issue of Onkwe'ta:ke is an extra exciting issue. Typically Council provides our monthly updates but this issue marks our one-year anniversary for the term. It is so remarkable that one year has flown by, but I am pleased to see all of the work and progress our Council has been working on. I hope that you read all of the reports that are included and learn more about the hard work our Council is doing for our community.

In the past month, MCA through Iohahi:io has joined forces with SUNY Potsdam and St. Lawrence College (SLC) to provide easier access to an archeology program delivered in partnership with SLC taught right at Iohahi:io. After completing this two-year certificate, students will then have the option to transfer to SUNY Potsdam and receive their Bachelor of Arts degree in Archeology after two more years of study. This is an exciting opportunity and I am pleased that I was able to be a part of it. You can read more about it within this edition.

As you can see on our cover story, ground-breaking also took place in the Tsi Snaihne District for Trails Development. I would like to commend all those involved in this project. It is so wonderful that this initiative is getting off the ground, and with more hard work from our team other trails will be developed in the other districts. This project was also identified as a priority in the Comprehensive Community Plan that was developed with community input.

Although there are many positive efforts within the organization and community, I was saddened by the tragic occurrence that took place in our waters, when a number of sturgeons were killed and left floating in our St. Lawrence River. Our staff has been working collaboratively with the SRMT Environment staff in order to investigate this horrendous act.

In closing, I hope that you find all the updates and reports informative. We at the Mohawk Council are always looking at ways to improve our information means to the community, and this bi-monthly report is one the ways we are doing our best to ensure you, the community, is aware of our exciting happenings. If at any time you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any one of our District Chiefs at the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2348. I am also looking forward to seeing community members at the next monthly General Meeting! Nia:wen for taking the time to read our newsletter!

Sken:nen,

Abram Benedict



Trails Continued from Page 1.

isolating the district can feel from other areas of the community. It's our long term goal to have walking trails in all districts, but we are excited that the district of Tsi Snaihne will have a safe place to walk in just a few months."

Later phases of the trail include plans to connect it to the Hemlock Street housing development

where it can be accessed by many families, as well as residents of the Iakhihsohtha Home for the Elderly and students at Tsi Snaihne School and the Iohahi:io Adult Education Facility. Phase 1, now underway, focuses on the main trail itself, which loops around the perimeter of the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre's back yard. Grand Chief Abram Benedict noted, "Council

is proud to see such positive projects develop using the resources of our own departments and programs. We are proud as well that our community identified this as a priority, placing health and wellness first, for all ages."



A map highlights the new trail's location and future phases of development.



Mohawk Council Resolutions (MCRs)

Seskéha-Seskehkó:wa/August-September 2016

2016/2017 -#068 Akwesasne Economic Development Fund-Community Infrastructure Application for the Department of Tech. Services, Kana:takon School Underground Storage Tank Removal & Replacement with Above Ground Storage Tank.

Moved by: Chief S. Thomas
Seconded by: Chief Darryl Lazore
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017 #069 Hydro Quebec Next-Generation Meters

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief K.Loran
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#070 INAC call for Applications-on-Reserve Housing Budget 2016

Moved by: Chief T.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#071 Housing – Upgrade Application

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief J. Lazore
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#072 Lot 3 Stanley Island-Assignment of Lease

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#073 Accepted and Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Onerahtohkó:wa/

May 30, 2016

Moved by: Chief S. Thomas
Seconded by: Chief D.Chaussi
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#074 Accepted and Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Ohiari:ha/June 7, 2016

Moved by: Chief D.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 9 Against: 2
CARRIED

2016/2017-#075 Akwesasne Oién:kwa Kai-aneréhsera (Akwesasne Tobacco Law)-Final Results

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#076 To open a US Account at BMO Harris Bank in Chicago Illinois

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief K.Loran
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-# 077 To open a new Account at BMO Peace Tree Branch to Facilitate the Insurance of cheques to beneficiaries selected by the Trustees of the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Trust.

Moved by: Chief K.Loran
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#078 The Trustees of the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust:

Documents (1) Acknowledgement and Understanding re: Distribution from Trust (2) Project Funding Agreement

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief D.Chaussi
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#079 Audit of the Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures for Literacy and Basic Skills Program under the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 12 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#088 Lot 16 Block C Hamilton Island –Assignment of Lease

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#089 Award Contract for Parking/Sidewalks, Septic System and Site Prep for Whoville Project Lot 31, 32, 33

Moved by: Chief J.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief D.Lazore
For: 4 Against: 3
CARRIED

2016/2017-#090 Release of Funds for Band Capital Accounts

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 12 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#091 Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services NILO Program

Agreement 1700/16/877773 FY 2016-2017

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 12 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#092 International Day of Peace

Moved by: Chief T.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief A.A.Phillips
For: 11 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#093 Allotment – Lot 45-2-2 Che-nail Range

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief V.Thompson
For: 11 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#094 Award Contract for Construction of Whoville Apartment Buildings Contract #2016/1

Moved by: Chief D.Chaussi
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 8 Against: 3
CARRIED

2016/2017-#095 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Development Canada Emergency Shelters Operations Budget Adjustment FY 2016-2017

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 10 Against:0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#096 Ministry of Education 2016-17 ChildCare Service Agreement

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 10 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#097 Access to Territory Request

Moved by: Chief V.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For:10 Against:0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#098 Akwesasne Community Settlement Trustee Appointment for four (4) year term

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief T.Thompson
For:7 Against:3
CARRIED

2016/2017-#099 Akwesasne Community Settlement Trustee Appointment for four (4) year term.

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief L.Thompson
For: 7 Against: 3
CARRIED

2016/2017-#100 Akwesasne Community Settlement Trustee Appointment for four (4) year term

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief L.Thompson
For:0 Against:8
DENIED

2016/2017-#101 Council Recommendations for Shareholders

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief V.Thompson
For: 8 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#102 Council Recommendations for Shareholders

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief V.Thompson
For: 9 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#103 Assignment of Lease –Lot 1-14 Pilon Island

Moved by: Chief V.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief L.Thompson
For:9 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#104 To seek approval of Council on the revised job description and Executive Expectations Policy for the Chief Administra-

tive Officer position.

Moved by: Chief C.Lazore
Seconded by: Chief S.Thomas
For: 9 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#105 To Accept & Approve General Meeting Minutes dated Ohiarí:ha/June 30, 2016

Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 9 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#106 To Accept and Approve Council Meeting Minutes Ohiarí:ha/June 27, 2016

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief T.Thompson
For: 8 Against: 2
CARRIED

2016/2017-#107 New Construction Application Approval

Moved by: Chief V.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For:8 Against: 2
CARRIED

2016/2017-#108 Housing-Upgrade Application

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief D.Lazore
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

2016/2017-#109 Ministry for Children and Youth Services 2016/17 CAS-Child Welfare Budget Allocation

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#110 Ministry of Children and Youth Services 2016/17 Partner Facility Fire Code Retro Fit

Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED



Mohawk Council Resolutions (MCRs) Seskéha-Seskehkó:wa/August-September 2016

2016/2017-#111 Ministry of Community and Social Services 2016-17 Service Contact
Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief D.Chaussi
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#114 Emergency Council Meeting Minutes dated Ohiarikhkó:wa/July 6, 2016
Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief K.Loran
For: 10 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#115 To Accept & Approve Council Meeting Minutes dated Ohiarihko:wa/July 25, 2016
Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief A.A.Phillips
For: 11 Against: 0
CARRIED

2016/2017-#112 Akwesasne Community Settlement Trustee Appointment for four (4) year term.
Moved by: Chief T.D.Thompson
Seconded by: Chief C.Lazore
For: 8 Against: 3
CARRIED

2016/2017-#113 To Accept & Approve Council Meeting Minutes Ohiarikhkó:wa/July 4, 2016
Moved by: Chief S.Thomas
Seconded by: Chief J.Lazore
For: 10 Against: 1
CARRIED

Kawehno:ke and Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs Available to Meet with Community Members Friday Afternoons

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Mohawk Government office would like to remind community members that Tsi Snaihne and Kawehno:ke District Chiefs offer office hours in their home district every Friday afternoon between 2-4 p.m.

One Tsi Snaihne District Chief is available to meet with community members at Iohahiio between 2-4 p.m. every Friday Afternoon.

One Kawehno:ke District Chief is available to meet with community members at the CIA #3 small meeting room between 2-4 p.m. every Friday Afternoon.

For more information, please call 613-575-2348.

Grand Chief and Council Year in Review Grand Chief Abram Benedict

July 2016 marked the one-year anniversary of our Council taking office. The last year has gone by quickly, but your Council and I have been working very hard on a number of community priorities. It's just crazy to think that one year has already passed! When I was a District Chief of Kawehno:ke, I always provided monthly reports on what I was working on. Now as your Grand Chief, I continued to provide those monthly reports and updates. Transparency and accountability is important to me-when I became Grand

Chief, I let the community know that I would continue to promote greater transparency and accountability even as Grand Chief. I will continue to provide these reports to the community so that everyone is better informed on what Council and myself are working on. I would also like the community to know that if at any time they wanted to see my monthly reports, you can view them by requesting a hard copy at the Mohawk Government Offices or by visiting the akwesasne.ca website, "Community" tab

and they are also available on the MCA and my personal Facebook page.

Although I have been providing these monthly reports through Onkwe'ta:ke, online and at the General Meetings, I just wanted to briefly recap on some of the major events that occurred over the past year. Please note that my monthly report updates will continue in the next issue of Onkwe'ta:ke.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict (continued)

- In November 2015, MCA welcomed the Honourable Carolyn Bennett to visit Akwesasne to learn about the community's advancements since her last visit in 2006 and to tour the "Walking with our Sisters" commemorative art installation.
- In March 2016, the MCA welcomed the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to Akwesasne so that he could learn about the community and tour the Experience Akwesasne Welcome Centre, a tourism hub in Akwesasne, which opened its doors on Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) in October 2015.
- In March 2016, the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena hosted the 3rd Annual NHL alumni game. This year, the Akwesasne Stars took on the NHL Native Alumni Team.
- As part of the Quebec Cultural Agreement, in March of 2016 Akwesasne held the premiere for Sharing Through the Generations. This documentary focused on a Quebec Artist, John Ryan and Akwesasne Artist, Natasha Smoke-Santiago as they established a cross-cultural exchange through art mediums.
- The 7th Annual Youth Symposium was hosted by MCA on Kawehno:ke in coordination with the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council in March 2016.
- MCA/ Iohahiio and St. Lawrence College renewed a three-year agreement to deliver MCA's post-secondary services to the community of Akwesasne.
- MCA, in collaboration with the the St. Lawrence River Institute, hosted a river clean-up in Akwesasne during Summer 2016. This successful event removed (literally) tons of garbage from the St. Lawrence River.
- During the Fall 2015, MCA was pleased to welcome Donna Lahache as the new AMBE Director of Education. MCA was also pleased to announce that Dr. Ojistoh Horn from Kahnawake jointed the medical clinic team in Kana:takon.
- There were a series of community meetings, focus groups and online surveys to collect feedback from community members on how they see they community of Akwesasne evolving over the next 20-30 years. This created the Comprehensive Community Plan, which is available to view online or in hard copy.
- Field technicians from the Akwesasne Archaeological Field School joined forces with Francis Scardera in search of historic, Iroquoian artifacts to conduct excavation in Kana:takon.
- The Couples Property Law Referendum made history with record-breaking voter turnout and received federal approval.

Nia:wen for reading this report on some activities that have been going on for the past year for MCA. I also wanted to thank the District Chiefs for providing updates for the community. Please take your time to read their important reports!



Grand Chief and Council

Kawehno:ke District Chief Dennis Chaussi



Major Portfolio: Department of Community and Social Services; Health

Minor Portfolio: Department of Technical Services; Housing

She:kon/Hello everyone,

For my first year/term as a Kawehno:ke District Chief, it has been a very eye-opening experience. Right away, we became immersed into the inner workings of Mohawk Government with respect to the community and with Canadian politics, in general.

As a District Chief, I am responsible for community members' issues, as well as the community as a whole with respect to federal and provincial programs. I have to stay updated and informed as these can impact or affect the programs within the portfolios that I sit on.

Department of Health

In this Department, the majority of projects that have been worked on have mainly been administrative in nature. Thus far, there has been a limited need for political assistance in securing funding for projects. Although Council has as much involvement as possible, the Department of Health administrative staff will expand upon projects.

The Aboriginal Mid-Wives Project

The Aboriginal Mid-Wives Project involved two Akwesasronon Mid-Wives that the MCA has assisted in terms of supporting their application for funding. We find these positions of vast importance so they can continue to provide their services to the community of Akwesasne. In July 2016, the applications were submitted and through the application process, we are still awaiting word on the outcome. Midwifery, or obstetrics, is the health science and the health profession that deals with pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period (including care of the newborn). This also deals with

the reproductive health of women throughout their lives. With the Aboriginal Mid-Wives Project, all the necessary Mid-Wife practices will be adhered to, in addition to incorporating Onkwehonwe Traditions with child-birth.

Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Service

This program within the Department of Health is working towards obtaining their Advanced Life Support (ALS) Accreditation to better serve the community of Akwesasne.

Department of Community and Social Services

As Co-Chair of this Portfolio, my main focus has been supporting the administration with projects that are moving forward. In this realm, administration has been able to negotiate with the proper agencies for the majority of their program requirements.

Community Support Program-Disability Assistance

I have taken a special interest in this area. I would like to see our Disability Program funded as a separate program similar to the Ontario Disability Support Program. Meetings in the future with the Department of Indigenous and Native Affairs (I.N.A.C.) will take place to secure funding for our Disability Program as a stand alone program for our disabled who require these benefits.

Department of Technical Services (DTS)

As a Minor Portfolio, I lend support to the various projects that are ongoing by attending Portfolio meetings and bring forward any concerns that DTS may have to Council's attention. I also assist in lobbying for unfunded projects that DTS have identified are needed for the community of Akwesasne. As a member of the Quebec Negotiating Team, we bring unfunded projects within the Quebec portion of Akwesasne to the Quebec Governments attention that we would like them to fund. This includes projects within

the scope of DTS.

Department of Housing

I hold the Minor Portfolio in Housing. Here, I attend meetings and lend support to the various projects that are developing and moving forward to meet Akwesasronon housing needs.

Workplace Revitalization Workgroup-WRW

The objective of this committee is to look at the organizational structure of the organization and recommend any changes of the structure to Council. The WRW Committee has, with the assistance of our employees, developed a new structure for the organization, which will be implemented in Fall 2016.

Quebec Negotiating Team

As a member of this team, we are responsible for carrying out projects within the jurisdiction of MCA that are located in Quebec portion of Akwesasne to the proper Quebec Governments for funding submissions. We are responsible for lobbying efforts with the Quebec Government to get those needed funds.

Property Acquisition Team (PAT)

The objective of this committee is to research land that may be used by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. This can either be for business or for MCA development. This committee makes recommendations to Council on possible land acquisitions.

If you have any questions, issues, concerns or input, please contact me at the offices Monday-Friday at 613-575-2348. You can also reach me on my cell at 613-363-3891.



Kawehno:ke District Chief Troy Thompson

Major Portfolio: Tehotiiennawakon

Minor Portfolio: Education, Government Secretariat, Youth Elders Culture Language

She:kon /Hello everyone,

Thank you for taking the time to enjoy our latest edition of Onkwe'ta:ke. As Chiefs we have recently celebrated our one year anniversary. This first year as chief has been very busy and challenging yet a beneficial and rewarding experience. I look forward to my next few years in office as I'm working on programs and projects that will benefit our community. I enjoy working with this Council. We have a great team all with the same goal: to help make Akwesasne the best it can be.

TEHOTIENNAWAKON

Economic Development

I've been working with other Chiefs and MCA Department of Tehotiiennawakon to try to find solutions to remedy the high costs of electricity/power in Akwesasne. We are looking into the best options to generate our own power with solar, hydro, wind turbines etc - this will enable us to have the lowest possible rates on power, generate income for the community and create jobs for our people.

I'm greatly interested in a helping local artists, artisans and crafts people. Imagine a "Maker Space" in Akwesasne? A "Maker Space" is a place where you can go to use machines and tools to make just about anything. This facility would have 3D printers, etching machines, CNC machines, welding machines, a wood shop, a plastic shop – all accessible to our people to design and make whatever they wish! Local consultants, experts and designers would be on hand for professional help – to develop that product or invention and get the know-how to take it to the next level. Classes and workshops

would be held for anyone wanting to learn or improve different skills. A regular staff could potentially create everyday items on a contract basis and sell all over the world. The sky would be the limit if we had one of these facilities in Akwesasne. I'm currently talking to two different groups about bringing one of these facilities to our community. It's a bit of a dream but worth looking into.

MCA Environment Program:

I've taken a stronger stance on the protection and preservation of Mother Earth – in and out of Akwesasne – and became the Major Portfolio Holder for the MCA Environment Program. I want to support and help our program get the respect and recognition it deserves. We have one of the best Environment Programs in the country and I feel we need to help them the best we can. Council will now be meeting with them on a regular basis in hopes that we can make a bigger impact on protecting Mother Earth. We will start by taking care of the environment here in Akwesasne. We all need to start doing our part. We all can do a better job and I'm confident we will!

Montreal Sewage Release:

I attended meetings with the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, Environment Canada and the City of Montreal in Montreal. I was very disappointed with the entire process. They all knew about the plans to release 8B liters of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River almost a year before any neighboring First Nations were notified (they planned on releasing it the week following the first meeting). This plan was the "only option" because the City of Montreal simply neglected the entire wastewater/sewage system to a point where it is on the verge of a collapse – when 100B liters of raw sewage would flow into the rivers when this collapse occurs – and in order to make necessary repairs they have to empty the system and release 8B liters into the

river. Montreal is considered one of the best cities in the world in one of the best countries in the world so I became increasingly frustrated at how they could even allow this to happen. They spent money on schools and libraries and swept this sewage issue under the rug. To make matters worse the City of Montreal said "only 5B liters were released and studies show there are minimal to low effects on wildlife." The Councils of Kahnawake and Akwesasne expressed our great disappointment with this process.

St. Lawrence River Shoreline Cleanup:

On July 27, 2016 I participated in the Shoreline Cleanup that was organized by the MCA Environment Program, the River Institute, The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club (ABGC) and Adam's Marina Staff at Adam's Marina in Snye. It was great to be a part of the effort. The children from the ABGC and I were astonished at how much trash we collected on the shoreline. We walked along beautiful riverfront properties with incredible views and were discouraged by all the trash that was put by the riverfront and/or in the river. One of the kids asked "Why would someone do this? It's so awful! Don't they care about the earth?" That was a powerful question. We need to start caring about the earth and do what we can to protect it. The cleanup was a success. Thank you to everyone that was involved! We will be having more cleanups moving forward (dates to be determined). I encourage everyone to participate.

Environment Club/Presentations at our Schools:

A large disconnect exists between most of our youth and our environment. To remedy this trend MCA Environment will now offer programming at our AMBE schools. The MCA Environment Program will be hosting an Environment Club once a week and visiting the schools to do presentations each month. This is extremely important because it will teach the

Kawehno:ke District Chief Troy Thompson (continued)

kids the importance of taking care of our Mother Earth at an early age.

Green Team

We as Onkwehonwe people are the stewards of the earth. Yet we are not doing enough. Akwesasne can be a much greener / environmentally friendly and conscious community if we make a greater effort. We are capable of doing much more for the environment. With this said, Chief April Adams Phillips, Chief Connie Lazore, Chief Joe Lazore, Chief Ryan Jacobs, MCA Quebec Liaison Natalie Jacobs, MCA Communications Officer Ashley Tarbell and myself have started an environmental club called the "Green Team". The purpose of this club is to help preserve and protect Mother Earth and bring awareness to as many people as we can about the importance of caring for the environment. We welcome anyone who wants to help us on this important task.

Other Initiatives:

I believe our children are our future. We need to give them the tools they need to live a rewarding life. In my opinion, the key to living a rewarding life is health and wellness.

I was instrumental in bringing three grow rack systems to AMS aiming to develop healthier eating habits. The students now have access to fresh and organic vegetables all year around. Chef Darius makes the green drink from the produce he grows on this system – the green drink is a hit among the students and staff! Great job Darius!

I talked to Clarkson University, who provides a robotics program to Salmon River School, about bringing robotics and technology programming to our three AMBE district schools. I recognize that not all of our youth are athletes so we need to create programs and activities for those who are not into sports. With this in

mind I am starting a Maker/Tech Club at AMS. We have a lot of creative kids in the community and I believe they will enjoy this club. New technology like 3D printing is the future - everything and anything is being made on a 3D printer. The possibilities are endless when you give children access to these technologies and let them run with it.

I've also reached out to Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller who is willing to visit AMBE Schools as part of a new initiative to offer Mentorship Programming. We are also targeting Montreal Canadians goaltender Carey Price to be a part of this initiative.

I played an important role in the creation of "Aktiv Akwesasne", a group with the sole purpose to make Akwesasne more physically active and healthy through the development of trails and parks, playgrounds and outdoor learning/recreational spaces in each district. We will be building the first trail behind the Snye Rec Center starting in September. This is only phase 1 of many phases in Akwesasne. Future phases in Snye will include a trail in the wooded area south of the Rec Center that leads to Iakhihsotha, the school, and Iohahiio, then back north to the Rec Center. This trail is beneficial in many ways. It will prevent and combat the rising health issues that we have in the community. It will provide a safe place for people to walk and/or jog in the summer and cross country ski and snowshoe in the winter. It will aim at getting kids off their electronic devices and doing something physically active. It will also get people of all ages back outside and connecting them with their families and with Mother Earth. It will create jobs in the construction of the trails and parks, cross country ski and snowshoe rentals, and design and construction of all outdoor furniture and structures. Plans are in the works to bring trails and parks, playgrounds and outdoor learning/recreational spaces to

Kawehno:ke and Kana:takon.

In an effort to recognize the outstanding achievements of our community members I came up with the idea of a book of recognition titled Ionkwakwe'nion "We Accomplished It". A committee has been formed and an event is being planned for the 2016 holiday season. The book was created to recognize and celebrate noteworthy and amazing accomplishments by our people in the realm of academics, athletics, art, culture, music, the fine arts etc. I will keep you updated on the progress of this initiative.

If you have any questions regarding the projects I'm working on, or just want to say hi and talk about golf or the upcoming NFL season, please call me at 613-363-3498. I look forward to hearing from you!





Kawehno:ke District Chief Vince Thompson

Major Portfolio: Housing

Minor Portfolio: Department of Technical Services; Nation Building; Public Safety; Tehotiennawakon

She:kon/Hello,

I want to thank everyone for reading the reports and also acknowledge that as Chiefs, we have recently celebrated our one-year anniversary. Starting my term, I was coming from the construction field to the office setting and it did take some time to adjust. I was thankful for the guidance from previous chiefs and orientation from the programs and I feel like I have found my rhythm. I have improved with the technology, and although there was a difficult transition stage, it has been worthwhile and rewarding knowing that I am helping out my community.

Housing

As the Major Portfolio for Housing, we have been working on several different projects. One of the efforts we have been working on includes creating multi-year agreements with CMHC and INAC. These organizations are open to establish a multi-year agreement, which will hopefully lead to other First Nation communities committing to multi-year agreements. The agreements that we have negotiated for include building houses, and I am hopeful that we will have enough funding to build 12 houses per year, and also to allot money to use for the survey of land. I have also been attending a lot of infrastructure meetings that have taken place in Toronto and across Canada. With these meetings, I am hopeful that we can find solutions for our infrastructure issues in Akwesasne.

Ontario Housing Steering Committee

As part of the OHSC, we meet every other month. The most current meeting was in August 2016, which was held in Six Nations.

Ontario First Nation Housing

Steering Committee

I recently touched base with the Ontario First Nation Housing Steering Committee. This group is open for us to educate and employ Akwesasne surveyors for the community. INAC is also interested in working with us, and possibly to fund us. Although this is still in negotiation and discussion, I am hopeful that it will become a reality for the future of Akwesasne.

Language and Culture

I currently sit on the Youth and Elders Cultural Committee. I am hoping to have more Akwesasnon involved in restoring the language and learning about our culture. It is promising with initiatives that have already created a stepping stone, such as the Skawatsira program through AMBE, the Akwesasne Freedom School, The Cultural Restoration Program and the AEDA Language Nest.

Reclaiming Lands

A passion of mine is the researching and reclaiming of lands for Akwesasne residents. Whenever I find areas of lands in trust, I am always vocal and work hard at articulating these issues to the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office. Other Council members have supported me on my endeavors and agree that this is an area that needs continued research.

Entewathatawi

Being on the part of the Entewathatawi Negotiating Team, I want to ensure that we can protect our inherent lands, rights and culture and start moving away from the Indian Act for Self-Government. It is promising when you see youth and community members involved, and I hope that more individuals start attending the informational meetings in order to gain a better understanding on these issues that will benefit the next seven generations.

Kawehno:ke Corridor

Right now, the North Side of Kawehno:ke needs to be completed for development. Discussions are underway on different avenues to take on how to beautify the area and make it a pleasant place for youth and members of the districts, as well as the extended community. How it sits right now, there are safety issues and we are hoping to make this area a safe place for community members for easier access and to travel through. When it is dark out, we want to increase lighting for residents that are walking through the corridor. These are just some areas we will be starting in the very near future.

Quebec Cultural Agreement

We are in the process of trying to establish another multi-year agreement with Quebec for a cultural agreement. In the past, we worked with them and developed Akwesasne: A Cultural Portrait, had an artist exchange and was able to provide community members with cultural classes free of charge to participate in. I am hopeful that we will be able to expand on these ventures and continue sharing our language and culture with the community.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this report. If you have any comments or concerns, please, do not hesitate to contact me at the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2348.

Kawehno:ke District Chief Louise Thompson



Major Portfolio: Nation Building; Justice

Minor Portfolio: Health; Youth, Elders, Culture and Language

This past first year as chief has been rewarding and difficult at times, but I still enjoy the opportunity to serve the residents of Akwesasne, respectfully, honestly and fairly.

Entewatatha:we – Nation Building:

As portfolio holder for Entewatatha:we or Nation Building, I sit on committees that assist in the development of codes, laws, regulation and policies that would govern new and greater areas of jurisdiction for our lands and local governing bodies. This process will be recognized through agreements signed with federal and provincial governments. The committees formed represent the voice of the community of Akwesasne to identify what areas of jurisdiction of self-government we desire to control; rather than being governed by an archaic system under the Indian Act which has proven time and time again is Canada's act designed to cause the genocide of all First Nations people in Canada. With the support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognition, the apology from Canada on the residential school abuse resulting in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, the many court cases recognizing Canada's negligence and inadequate consultation process or protection, the time has come for First Nations to stand up and say enough is enough! Canada, you will no longer determine how we co-exist with the rest of Canadians and its welcomed immigrants- First Nations will determine that.

The areas of jurisdiction that Mohawk Council is entertaining is:

- complete control of land administration;
- law making;
- Court jurisdiction
- Education system; and

- Environment.

The committees created by Mohawk Council have been active in developing draft documents, negotiating with Canada and Indian Affairs representatives to prepare the agreements for both Akwesasne and Canada to agree to this new relationship. We have committed to finish these documents in the next 2-3 years to bring it to the community for a full review before agreeing to its contents. In fulfilling this initiative I would like to acknowledge the past and present staff personnel who have put an enormous effort and time into this initiative and also to the summer students youth placement who had in-depth exposure.

Justice

As a major portfolio holder of this portfolio – actually I am a co-major with fellow chief Connie Lazore – I have monthly scheduled meetings with the Director Joyce King to get monthly reports on the activities of the current programs administered through the Akwesasne Justice Department. These services include:

- Probation and parole;
- mediation;
- community justice program;
- administration of justice;
- Akwesasne Court
- Compliance and Conservation Program;
- Legislative Development; and
- Paralegal Program.

Throughout this first year the following laws have been drafted and enacted through our law enactment regulations:

- Akwesasne Court law;
- Akwesasne Tobacco Manufacturing and Products Law;
- Iatathrona Raotiientahtsera – couples property law.

The next course of action relating to these laws is to develop the necessary regulations of how

to administer and implement these laws and get them ratified by council. The time frame to get this done is outlined in the MCR ratifying the results of the voting on the laws.

Other Activities

I have been actively involved assisting Kawehno:ke residents complete an application to the Ontario Energy Board- Ontario Electricity Support Program. Kawehnoke residents are eligible to apply for this subsidy by submitting a form which requires information of your electricity supplier, your social insurance number and the number of residents in your house. If you have non-taxable income you could qualify to get up to \$75.00 per month which equals to \$150.00 per billing. This program will be in effect for 2 years, so it is not too late to apply.

Another matter I have been involved is the class action law suit against the Canadian Government for the thousands of First Nation children who were taken from their families between 1960 – 1980's and were placed in mostly non-native adoptive families. A hearing is scheduled in Toronto in August to hear testimonies from victims and hopefully a decision will be reached soon as a type of compensation will be awarded to the surviving victims. A coach bus was provided by the legal firm heading the class action suit for the victims and supporters to attend the hearing.

This past year I have committed to include in my schedule of meetings to be available for elders and community residents at Tri District Elders the first Wednesday of the month and on a rotating basis with my fellow Kawehno:ke district chiefs every Friday at CIA III. I can also be reached at 613-575-2348, on my cell phone 613-930-3016 or at my home at 16 Chief Thompson lane 613-932-3379.



Kana:takon District Chief Darryl Lazore

Major Portfolio: Housing

Minor Portfolio: DTS, Public Safety,

I want to start out by sending out a niawenko:wa to all that voted me to be a District Chief of Kana:takon. The first year as a chief was a big learning experience. I read a lot, learned a lot. I made mistakes, learned from those mistakes and moved on. I am looking forward to helping to change the community for the better and serve Akwesasronon in the remainder of my term.

Housing

As portfolio holder for Housing, I have attended quarterly meetings for Ontario First Nations TSC. There were negotiations on multi-year agreements, negotiations to increase funding for all First Nation communities, improve the infrastructure of First Nation communities and deal with the social, housing and homelessness issues.

Space Needs

Although people don't think of homelessness as an issue in Akwesasne, there are issues with space needs. One of the problems that can arise

is that there can be two 4-5 family member households, living in one unit or 8-10 people living in a 2 bedroom house. We want to create more housing that is adequate for multi-families sharing a home.

There is a need for social housing and housing for elderly. A lot of elders have their homes, live in them for many years and then turn it over to their family. We want to have more multi-unit homes for our elders in order to meet their health and safety needs.

Home repair and maintenance

We are trying to also improve the general home repair and maintenance for community members. We are hoping to find more funding in order to negotiate in order to meet our housing needs, and to find more housing for Akwesasronon. Our community is growing and continues to grow, and we want to ensure that our youth will have land and housing available for the future.

Updating Infrastructure

Currently, there is a lot of infrastructure that is getting older and needs to be upgraded. We want to upgrade the infrastructure, like water and waste-

water hydro in order to serve the community. Again, we are trying to find additional funding services in order to create opportunities for the community.

Public Safety

In addition to Housing, I have also been very busy working on the Public Safety Portfolio. Akwesasne is a multi-jurisdictional community and we have an international border that divides Akwesasne into a United States and Canadian Portion and again divided by the Quebec and Ontario province. These imposed borders creates problems that are a daily issue for community members. I am hoping to continue to have a positive relationship with these external entities so that Akwesasne community members will have a better day-to day experience when inevitably crossing the border.

Have a good and safe fall season. I am looking forward to hearing from the community. Please voice any concerns or issues with me day or night. You can reach me in my office or by cell at 613-363-3128.



Kana:takon District Chief Ryan Jacobs

Major Portfolio: Education

Minor Portfolio: Executive Services; Housing; Justice

For the first term and year as a District Chief of Kana:takon, I would like to thank everyone that made it possible for the opportunity to become involved in the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne organization. Previously, my experience in work was involved outside of the MCA, but it was great to start this new learning experience. I want to mention that the previous District Chiefs were instrumental in guiding the new

council and easing all the newly elected Council Chiefs into the role of Council.

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education

As the Portfolio Major for Education, I felt like this was a great transition as the majority of my past work experience was in the educational field. Most of my career training in the past was on how schools and communities operated, and I was eager to see how the AMBE organization ran internally. Donna Lahache was the new AMBE director appointed. Since I have been on council, working with Donna has been such

a pleasure and we have been producing great ideas and great teamwork. I believe that she is looking out for our community and has the best interest in mind for our youth. Along with the staff, there are many great and progressive ideas for the future of the community, regardless of age.

Youth Council

I felt like it was very important being involved with the Youth Council. For the current term, I am the only Council Member that previously was a member of the Youth Council, and it

Kana:takon District Chief Ryan Jacobs (continued)

is very inspiring that as a current Chief, I can guide and inspire future leaders. I am hopeful that youth recognize the fact that being a part of this Youth Council is a great area to start your leadership skills. Being a part of the Youth Council was definitely one of the contributions that led me to want to be a part of Council.

Change Management Presentation

I am a member of the Workplace Revitalization Workgroup. For the first time, we were able to gather Council, Directors and all of staff to discuss how we want to improve the organization for the betterment of the community and to provide an exemplary service experience for

all of the individuals that are utilizing the MCA organization. We are eager to start and look forward to building off the successes we already have to benefit and better serve the community.

Language and Culture Work

One of my most passionate areas is restoring and promoting language and culture. Working with the Education Director, we are taking different approaches in the Mohawk Language curriculum and putting together a 5-year plan. We are looking forward to implementing this in creating results for all the AMBE schools.

I have been regularly reporting in Onkwe'ta:ke

and I hope that you have enjoyed reading my updates. If any community members have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me day or night. My cell phone number is 613-363-2483 or you can contact me at the Mohawk Government Office at 613-575-2348.

Kana:takon District Chief Tim Thompson

Major Portfolio: Department of Community and Social Services; Executive Services

Minor Portfolio: Government Secretariat

She:kon all,

As Chiefs, we have recently celebrated our one year anniversary for our current term. In my past, I have worked for 18 years on council as a District Chief of Kana:takon and one 3-year term as Grand Chief. I also worked in the past as the Acting Program Manager at Iohahiio and Staffing Officer at Human Resources and have also worked in Finance, so I do have a lot of experience working within the MCA Organization. In my previous Council work, I have held the Health Portfolio. I also sat on the Police Commission for 10 years as a community member. During this term, becoming oriented into council was an easier process due to my previous experience. It was nice to help the new chiefs facilitate through our MCA bureaucracy. Nia:wen to all community members that made this possible and elected me into office. I am happy to serve our community.

Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS)

There are many programs that fall under DCSS. Since the designation in 2012 of the Child and Family Services to a Childrens Aid Society, I have been working closely with the Department to meet the ministry requests. I am working hard with the programs so that we can work on children's needs and keep the best interest of children first. I am happy to report that there have been a number of successful reviews with the ministry.

Violence Against Aboriginal and Indigenous Women.

One project that I am working on is Ending Violence Against Aboriginal and Indigenous Women. I sit on the task group with the Independent First Nations and provincial representatives. With these projects, funding has been secured for Akwesasne to review 2 positions to work with the Family Wellness Program to provide services to end violence against women. The Family Wellness Program will take the lead for this project. This position will be for 2 ½

years and they will be in the community working with members to provide workshops that will promote an end of violence against women.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

I sit on the OPG Working Task Group with Chief Karen Loran. This task group meets on a monthly basis and we are working with meeting the requirements of the OPG within the MCA organization in order to fulfill each organizations responsibilities.

Independent First Nations of Ontario

am currently the chair-person on the Independent First Nations of Ontario. There are twelve independent nations in Ontario that have no affiliations with any other provincial territorial organizations. We do a number of projects with them in order to secure funding for the Independent First Nations. This past summer Akwesasne hosted the Independent First nations in Akwesasne in which 25 independent representatives visited and tour Akwesasne and just admired our territory and our facilities.



Kana:takon District Chief Tim Thompson (continued)

Executive Services

I am working with Executive Services to work with administration and administrative programs in order to facilitate issues that arise in order to bring back to the council table for further discussion and review.

Iohahiio

I work closely with Iohahiio Adult Education to secure courses for community members. One of the courses we were happy to bring in included an Archaeological course. Recently, there was a signing ceremony between SUNY Potsdam, St. Lawrence College and the MCA

which will provide the students with the opportunity to obtain their bachelor's through Potsdam after they obtain a certificate through SLC but taught at Iohahiio. This is the first time that SUNY Potsdam joined with a Canadian University for archaeology to provide students with the opportunity to pursue a transfer in the field and obtain credits. We are also working with Carleton University to hopefully be able to provide community members the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in social work. Through Iohahiio, I also worked with the Aboriginal Institute Consortium. There are aboriginal organizations throughout the provinces of Ontario in order to further the educa-

tion of students and adult learners, working to get aboriginal Institutions such as Iohahiio as an accredited institution on reserve through the province.

In you have any questions please contact me at 613-363-1669. You can also call me at the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2348.

Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas

Major Portfolios: Public Safety; Tehotiiennawakon

Minor Portfolio: Department of Technical Services Minor; Government Secretariat

Boards, Committees, Commissions:

Akweks:Kowa Corporation; Akwesasne/Cornwall Harbor Development Corporation; Space Needs Study; Akwesasne Community Fund; Cornwall Port Divestiture; Police Commission

Quad Partie/ Tri Partie Funding negotiations with Federal/Provincial Governments

First as a Commission appointee and current lead negotiator for Council, on a new four year agreement, proposed a novel approach to the Federal negotiators, on developing a Tri Partie agreement with the Provinces; which will give us access to discretionary funds at the end of the fiscal year. The Proposal for a dedicated Marine Unit has been submitted for consideration to the Ministry

Three Nations Bridge Demolition - Ongoing Committee working on the beautification of the corridor, with the Akwesasne Tourism Group,

Tehotiiennawakon, DTS, and Kawehnoke Chiefs (3).

Working with FBCL & SIBC on the corridor

As yet an unnamed corporation for business development, utilizing this venue for future business development ventures through Tehotiiennawakon, to protect Akwesasne assets and to realize a healthy profit margin to access future opportunities and projects. Tobacco Manufacture and Trade with other First Nations, Tourism, and Eco Tourism.

Akwesasne/Quebec/Ontario Economic Development Fund Committee – AEDF, since renamed as the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund II (AIFII)

Through Tehotiiennawakon and portfolio, another extension of funding from Quebec for community economic development projects was signed between Akwesasne and Quebec in January 2013 and has since been renamed the Aboriginal Incentive Fund (AIF). The recent political elections and appointments in Quebec have delayed our funding applications; a meet-

ing was arranged with the new person appointed by Quebec to facilitate the process and the funds will begin to flow to our applicants, new applications have since been passed by Council and forwarded to Quebec. Ontario has since initiated its version of the AEDF, through successful lobbying efforts during the year, providing Akwesasne with another source of funds for business development, and expansion.

Finance

Addressing the need for fiscal management, and a thorough detailed policy review and revisions within MCA, vendors and suppliers. The finance committee, with Chiefs(4), meets monthly to oversee any and all instances of spending patterns and recommends to the rest of council on a fiscal management strategy. Controlling the projected deficit is a priority for the council.

First Nations Fiscal Management Act

Financial Administration Law, part of the working task group is assigned to develop the law.

Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas (continued)

Climate Survey

Requested during new incoming Council orientation in 2012, to address the concerns of the employees in the work environment, providing an avenue for employees to access a confidential survey with questions for employees to gauge the shortfall of MCA's commitment to staff. Using the information provided to analyze data and to suggest remedies for the organization in creating a healthier working environment. The results of the survey has been forwarded to all staff and management, recommendations are currently being addressed by MCA.

Request for Proposals for Consultants

Request for proposals for a consultant was developed to address the employee's concerns, three proposals were received and evaluated. Evaluation and selection process by the working task group. Orbis/Welch was the successful bidder. Information gained from the climate survey of employees, the 360 evaluations of management, security assessment report were utilized in this review. There are time-lines to encompass several fiscal years, to offset the cost to the organization.

Emergency Measures Planning

As part of the Public Safety portfolio, this department ensures the health and safety of Akwesasnon, during all emergencies. Currently, the Ambulance access and egress through the new bridge compound has been negotiated with SIBC, FBCL and CBSA; negotiations are ongoing for an emergency evacuation route plan for Kawehno:ke residents. Discussions have been initiated with CBSA for the duty to report to be waived for setting up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Kawehno:ke for demonstrations and weather related emergencies. Attended the International Disaster Conference with 2 members of the United States Customs Service (Massena port).

Customs, USC&BP, CBSA

Initiated contact with the new port director for the Massena port of entry, issues covered were the successful passing of traditional and sacred items by our members, funeral processions, and a Communications Protocol between all of Akwesasne stakeholders. Interest to attend the Cultural Sensitivity Training and the Haudenosaunee Awareness Training by its staff, regular meetings as required.

Local Government: SRMT, MNCC, Cornwall City Council, North/South Stormont, Town of Massena

Regular communications for all stake holders utilizing the Three Nations Bridge Corridor, communications are ongoing for mutual concerns in this area. Cornwall Port Divestiture Agreement between MCA/City of Cornwall, economic development initiatives, employment opportunities for our people. Negotiations between CBSA QC for a remission order at the Dundee port of entry, stemming from MCA's land claim settlement offer from Canada and the future referendum, will necessitate a remission order for our people in this area.

Regional Government: MAA, SAA, COO, IFN, IC, AFNQL

Successful negotiations have resulted in the continuation of the Economic/Tobacco "Technical Tables" with Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Ministry of Finance to further Akwesasne Economic Recovery Strategy Plan. Negotiation meetings have resulted in furthering our AERSP to all levels of government, resulting in additional funding for the department. Bill 51, Contra Terrorism and Bill C 10, Contraband Tobacco and its legislation which will negatively affect Akwesasne, have been brought to the attention of various Parliamentary and Senate committees and is a regular agenda item with the Iroquois Caucus.

National Governments: Canada/USA – past, present

Testified before a Senate committee on the negative effects of Bill c 10 (Contraband Tobacco). Testified before a Parliamentary committee on the negative effects of Bill c 10 on Akwesasne. I was a Panelist to discuss the cross border Contraband /crimes along the northern borders at Washington, D.C. I also research any and all Acts, Bills which could affect Akwesasne, and communicate to Council on appropriate strategies.

International: Department of Homeland Security

In 2014/15, the Dawson Strategic and the Canada Institute convened representatives from federal government departments on both sides of the border, media, think tanks, embassies and the business community, as well as First Nations leaders and subject matters specialists for a panel discussion focused on the problem of cross border smuggling and border crime. Speaking on behalf of our community. The panel was informed on the negative stigma media plays on our people, territory and the affects it causes on our mobility rights travelling in and around Akwesasne.

Border Concerns

I have participated in this conference held in Detroit, Michigan. I have also requested a meeting in Akwesasne, with the President of CBSA to discuss ongoing issues related to the Port.

I have attended monthly meetings with the Buffalo office of the USCBP on cross border concerns for First Nations – Cultural Sensitivity Training, Green Card, Enhanced Tribal ID, Acceptable Identification, Blood Quorum Letters, Jay Treaty, UNDRIP.

A Border Crossing presentation was made to our local high schools in the spring (2016).



Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas (continued)

Current discussions for a unique border identification card for residents are ongoing.

Akwesasne/CBSA – SIBC & USC

Working with the Grand Chief, and as part of Public Safety portfolio's mandate, a new strategy was implemented to begin negotiations for a viable solution for Akwesasne residents. With the opening of the new bridge and regular communications with CBSA and SIBC has resulted in fewer delays for our people, commerce, and deliveries. An emergency egress plan through the new facility has been negotiated for our ambulance, emergency vehicles, resulting in quicker transits to local hospitals.

Tolls collected for deliveries to Akwesasne are currently in discussion with the SIBC general manager; consistency in the interpretation of current policy is identified as an issue.

Akwesasne/Ontario/Quebec –Tobacco Technical Table

Negotiations began with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in early August, 2012 in Toronto, using the Akwesasne Economic Recovery Strategy Plan as a template, and requesting the MAA department to form a technical table with senior members of management to identify, assist and finalize doable projects to eliminate the "Underground Economy" in Akwesasne. Tobacco was mutually agreed to by both parties as an avenue to begin negotiations in legalizing the manufacturing and sale of this product. A terms of reference was developed and accepted and further dialogue resulted in the Tobacco Technical Table meetings to occur on a quarterly basis, with alternating venues. Success in the negotiations resulted in a two year pilot project and the addition of (3) new positions within Tehotienawakon – a policy analyst, compliance officer, special projects officer, and

a community planner. Negotiations have continued, resulting in another two year funding extension of the project.

Akwesasne/Ontario/Quebec –Economic Development

As mentioned above, Economic Development was the focus of the other technical tables being formed and negotiations continue to find alternative measures to resolve the lack of viable/sustainable employment in Akwesasne.

Infrastructure Projects – Fiber Optic Broadband Network, Electrical Utility, and Community Services Complex (Tsi Snaihne) Transportation Linkages and the Three Nations Bridge Corridor.

Lands and Resources Management – Eco Tourism Opportunities

Promoting and Enhancing Self Government – Tobacco Pilot Project, Three Nations Bridge, POE Demolition, Drinking Water Regulatory Framework, High Stakes Bingo and a special events Facility and the Trans Canada Energy East Pipeline Project.

Strategic Economic Development Work Plan – discussion on how the technical table can assist in moving the ERSF forward

Comprehensive Community Development Plan – through negotiations with Ontario, we have managed to acquire funding for the CCDP Economic Leakage Study, (ELS funded through this initiative) is complete and the data received from both (CCDP) will prove beneficial for the future planning of initiatives. Funding has been secured for additional staff for the department. The Technical Table meetings will continue until all of our concerns are addressed and future negotiations on agreed upon articles.

Akwesasne/Qc – Public Safety

Successful negotiations by the Chief of Police and portfolio chair via the Aboriginal Chief of Police Association and with the support of the NDP & regional MP's have resulted in the resurrection and continuance of the Police Officer Recruitment Fund (PORF) for another five years. Public Safety having been identified as a priority, in the strategic plan and by the community; the renewal of the PORF comes as good news and will fund two additional officers. The increased complement to AMPS will assist in combating the drug issue and deter crime in Akwesasne. The continuance of the PORF comes as welcome news, to Akwesasne –the Quebec protocol negotiations will also bring much needed support from the province of Quebec.

Portfolio Chair has managed to secure a negotiation session with the Public Safety Minister's office on the proposed Quad Partie Agreement, one which would suit our needs.

Akwesasne/Quebec Protocol (Framework) Agreement Negotiations – one Chief from each district (KL. DC. ST.)

Following the election of a new government in Quebec, the negotiation team along with the Quebec Liaison Officer will be focusing on addressing the agenda put forward by previous council to the office of the Quebec's new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Geoffrey Kelly.

Items included in the negotiations include and not limited to:

- Medical professionals Quebec licensing requirements – waiver/other
- Quebec link – a bridge from Kana:takon to Tsi Snaihne
- Passenger Ferry service for the three districts
- Remission order at Dundee Port of Entry

Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas (continued)

- Infrastructure funding, and a multi - year funding for roads/ maintenance – initial meeting occurred in Akwesasne – agreement nearing on multiyear funding
- Public Safety , Erosion control
- A detailed work plan

Preliminary meetings have recently been held with CBSA Qc to discuss a remission order for the Port of Entry at Dundee; preliminary indications are the Quebec representatives are receptive to our request. Negotiations will continue and information will be shared with the

community as they occur.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2348.

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Joseph Lazore

Major Portfolio: Department of Technical Services

Minor Portfolio: Department of Community and Social Services; Justice; Public Safety; Tehotiennawakon

She:kon everyone,
I am pleased to be serving the community of Akwesasne as a Tsi Snaihne District Chief for my fourth term. For this term, there was quite a bit of turn-around from the previous term. I was pleased to be able to mentor the new chiefs coming in and help them make their transition into their position. It was also very encouraging to see how eager everyone was to begin their work.

During the beginning of our term, we went through a lengthy orientation in order to see how the MCA organization works and runs, and so that Chiefs could decide what portfolio they would like to work on. I think that it was beneficial for this orientation so that the new council was able to see the lobbying needs in order to better serve the community. Once again, I decided to select DTS.

Department of Technical Services (DTS)

My major Portfolio is DTS and some of the projects that I have been working on over the past year overlapped to a certain extent as DTS was my Portfolio in the previous term.

Upgrades

One of the priorities that DTS made was to upgrade the Tsi Snaihne Waste-water Treatment Plant. Some of these upgrades included providing more services to the District, including a sewage pumping station. We are still trying to lobby for funding in order to make this possible for the community.

In Kana:takon, the school needed some upgrading, needed the removal of the underground storage tank and replace that with an above ground tank. This would be to meet the Code requirements and also to make sure that the environment regulations would be met. Again, we are lobbying in order to secure funding to meet these needs for the students and for the community.

Resurfacing/Repainting

Every year, the MCA through DTS resurfaces and repaints the roads in order to provide safe roads for the community. These projects typically take place during the summer and fall seasons. We want to apologize when there are delays, but we appreciate the patience of the community when these necessary upgrades are made. DTS purchased a grater, which will hopefully expedite the completion of these projects and better serve the community.

Re-shouldering of Roads

A part of the re-shouldering of the roads was completed in Tsi Snaihne. This was necessary and important to complete due to the wear and tear of the roads that required the shoulder to be upgraded for safety and the maintenance of the roads.

Tsi Snaihne Recreation

Another project that was completed was the re-siding of the old part of the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Gym. Another exciting new project is the approval of a new box for lacrosse that will be placed at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation. We are always trying to make upgrades in order to better serve the community.

Trails Development

One of the committees that I am on through the Department of Tehotiennawakon is for Trails Development around the recreations in the Districts. This is important as it gives community members a place to enjoy the environment, and it will be a place to take in the beautiful scenery, as well as exercise and promote healthy living. I am excited that construction for the trails in Tsi Snaihne is starting in September and I hope to see more trails being developed in all of the districts for a more active and healthy Akwesasne.

Soil Erosion

Another project that I want to include, as it is



Tsi Snaihne District Chief Joseph Lazore (continued)

important to me, is to reduce the wakes for soil erosion. Individuals have to be cautious of the No Wake zones. The signs are complete and will be placed soon in the areas where community members have to be cautious. Soil erosion is a reality and we hope that the community will put forth efforts to reduce the rate at which it is occurring.

Turtle and Minnow Study

Recently, there was a turtle and minnow study that was completed through Environment. As

community members, we must be careful with the habitats and be courteous and careful when we are in those areas. This is an ongoing issue, but we are continuing to work on this in order to bring education to the school as well as the community.

Nia:wen for taking the time to read through this report. If anyone needs to reach me day or night, please do not hesitate to call me at 613-551-5292. I can also be reached at the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2348 ext.

2263. Please also be reminded that Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs are available to meet with community members every Friday from 2-4 at Iohahiio.



Tsi Snaihne District Chief April Adams-Phillips

Major Portfolio: Department of Technical Services; Education

Minor Portfolio: Government Secretariat; Department of Health; Public Safety; Tehotiiennawakon

Committees: Property Acquisition Team, WRW, YECL, Finance, Executive Services

She:kon,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who elected me in as a Tsi Snaihne District Chief. This is my second term, but this time I am working with a different area in regards to my Portfolio than I did in the past. I am pleased to be able to serve my community, and I hope that you find this report helpful.

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE)

As a Major Portfolio for Education, I am now beginning to discover how the AMBE system works. Donna Lahache, who is the new Director of Education, has been very helpful in assisting me on my journey. AMBE is modeled on the provincial system with elected board

members and the governance structure is based on provincial, federal and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne laws and by-laws. It has been beneficial for me to work with community members who are involved on the committee, and also with the Director, Educators and Administrative Staff. For those who aren't familiar with the AMBE structure, there are three district elementary schools- Kana:takon, Tsi Snaihne and the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Education School. In addition, there is Post-secondary education available in Tsi Snaihne through Iohahiio. One of my main priorities that I have been working on since I became major Portfolio holder for education is to assist on developing a lobbying strategy.

This year, the Tsi Snaihne and Kana:takon School Structure will continue going into grade 6, whereas previously, they stopped at grade 5. This is great news as it conveniently keeps the students within their Districts for one year longer.

Department of Technical Services (DTS)

As Major Portfolio for DTS, there are multiple projects that are underway or we are working

on starting. The River Road reconstruction in Tsi Snaihne is a projected project that is a full-depth reconstruction of 1.7 km of roadway. Much of the road condition has deteriorated dramatically. The asphalt is beginning to break, which can lead to safety hazards and traffic safety issues. Currently, we are lobbying in order to secure funding. The package is tender-ready and bid ready. The environmental assessment has been completed. We are waiting on funding opportunities and are hoping that Quebec funding sources will be able to commit the necessary funds in order to improve the hazardous roadways. The roadway cost is estimated to be approximately 1.424 million dollars, and we are hoping that this project will begin as soon as possible, and if necessary, with this project potentially phased over a 2-year period. In the districts of Kawehno:ke and Kana:takon, there are other roads that need attention and reconstruction. Any areas that are located in the Quebec portion of Akwesasne, we are trying to gain support from Quebec for funding purposes. I will continue to lobby in order to ensure that these needed services will hopefully be implemented by the end of the term.

Tsi Snaihne District Chief April Adams-Phillips (continued)

Infrastructure maintenance

There are multiple areas that need repairs, as there is deterioration of the existing Infrastructure and Assets that are used on a daily basis for programs, administration, operation, etc. MCA wants to meet current code and service requirements consistent with relevant regulations. Some of the repairs include, but are not limited to: Roof system and structure repairs; Health and Safety Repairs; Operational and system improvements; repairs to include environmental and energy efficiency related tasks and repairs; and major window replacement for the school systems, day care facilities, fire halls, etc.

Working Revitalization Workforce (WRW)

During the month of August 2016, the WRW, Council and Directors were able to meet with

the entire staff at the A'nowa'rako:wa Arena. When the WRW was making the plans for change within the organization, we based it on 4 Priorities: Self-Determination, Well-being, Sustainability and Modernization. We are hopeful that these changes will not only better serve the MCA Staff, but also the programs and services that the organization offers to the community.

Trails Development

A project that I am excited to announce will have further progression is in Trails Development. The Tuesday after Labor Day, the ground-breaking began for trails in Tsi Snaihne. We are pleased to create more Employment opportunities as well as providing community members with an area to walk/exercise, enjoy the scenery, or just have a place to enjoy the

beautiful community.

If you have any questions regarding any of the projects or initiatives that I have mentioned in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me day or night. My cell phone number is 613-362-7731 and you can also contact me at the office Monday-Friday at 613-575-2348.

While working in conjunction with the different portfolios, there are many programs and departments that work side-by-side in order to work with the schedules and to offer the best services and programs that the MCA can provide to the community. Nia:wen for the collaboration in order to meet the needs of the people.



Tsi Snaihne District Chief Karen Loran

Major Portfolio: Government Secretariat
Minor Portfolio: Health; Housing

She:kon /Hello everyone,
I would like to take this time to express my gratitude for the many forms of condolences the community of Akwesasne has shown my family during a very difficult time with the recent loss of my youngest brother Jeffrey. On behalf of my family we thank you. Families are the foundations of our community in Akwesasne. Spending quality time with family and friends has shed a new perspective in moving ahead with the needs to sustain a thriving and healthy community.

Our newly elected council has recently celebrated our one year anniversary. This has been

a very knowledgeable and learning experience as the major for the Government Secretariat Portfolio. Looking forward, we are now working on the Tsikaristisera/ Dundee Land Claims.

We are taking on different informational approaches to keep the community informed and up-to-date. The Aboriginal Rights and Research office is working on newsletter mailers to address information to the community. Planned focus meetings for the Tsikairistisere / Dundee Land Claims are as follows: Thursday September 8th at 6 pm at the Hogansburg Senior Center, Thursday September 22 at 6 pm at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. Additional meetings will be forthcoming pending availability of venues. I encourage all community members of Akwesasne to attend focus meet-

ings, keep up to date with the newsletter mailers and other media sources, provide additional information, and ask questions. Updates will also be provided at the General and District meetings as well.

If any community member has questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Mohawk Government offices, Monday-Friday at 613-575-2348.

Nia:wen for taking the time to read this report.



Tsi Snaihne District Chief Connie Lazore

Major Portfolio: Department of Justice;

Entewatath:wi (Nation Building)

Minor Portfolio: Executive Services; Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education; Department of Health

Committees: Executive Committee & Office Of Vital Statistics Committee

I would like to thank everyone for taking the time to read Onkwe'ta:ke, MCA's monthly newsletter. I have been submitting reports consistently, and I hope that community members have enjoyed reading the updates. This first year as a District Chief of Tsi Snaihne has been a learning experience. The knowledge gained over the years as an employee within the MCA organization has definitely assisted me with my work, with my portfolios, as well as my organizational and time management needs. I have declared two major portfolios for my term and in doing so my focus is concentrated on those portfolios: Justice and Entewatath:wi (Nation Building) and the goals set by these departments/projects.

Justice Department

As Co-Chair Portfolio Holder for the Department of Justice, we have been working on establishing the Mohawk Court. The Mohawk Court Law was ratified by the community and came into effect on August 12, 2016. We have been working with the Multi-Jurisdictional Sub-table on Justice to establish jurisdiction and recognition of the Court by the federal and provincial governments. This process is beginning to have movement and with the hard work of the Justice Department Staff, Mohawk Government Staff and the Portfolio Chiefs, the outcome is promising. All three jurisdictions have now committed to working on developing an agreement to recognize the Mohawk Court and the orders from the court. Meeting requests have been sent to the Minister of Justice to visit and meet in Akwesasne and the response is favorable.

Election Law

The Election Law is now in review. We have been meeting weekly with the Executive Director, Chief Electoral Officer, Justice Director and Portfolio Chiefs to review the document and all attachments. There has been good progress and good discussion on this file, meeting schedule to reflect the work plan has been developed into the coming year.

Compliance Program

The Compliance Program is an initiative that I am working on with the Director of Justice and Mohawk Government staff. We are working towards establishing improvements to the program in the areas of: personnel, training and acquiring additional equipment. I have established contact with Public Safety Canada and am now working with Justice and Mohawk Government staff to get the process started. It will take time but I plan to keep this as a main focus.

Entewatath:wi

As a Co-Chair Portfolio Holder for the Entewatath:wi (Nation Building) program, we are meeting weekly to work together in regards to either the Governance Code, Land Code and Sectoral Agreements. Negotiation Preparation Meetings are also held to prepare to meet with the Negotiation Team from Canada to discuss the Self-Government Agreement. We have attended meetings with Canada to discuss the Financial Transfer Agreements and Implementation Plan. These processes will not happen until the agreement has been completed and approved by the community. This process is a long process and will continue for the next few years. Education on the process will begin soon in order that the community is well informed of the process and work to be completed and the eventual final agreement.

Minor Portfolios:

I have been focusing on my Major Portfolio's and will admit that focus has limited my partic-

ipation and involvement with the Department of Health and the Mohawk Board of Education. Executive Services is another minor portfolio I hold to attend the Executive Committee meetings. I am also a member of the Office of Vital Statistics Committee and have been attending the meetings which occur monthly. I have also attended a couple of Membership Board Meetings to gain an understanding of the board's process of hearing applications.

Emergency Measures

I worked with the Emergency Measures Officer and together we submitted two proposals to Indian Affairs & Northern Development Canada (INAC).

- 1) Update our Emergency Management Plan and to conduct a Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment to incorporate into the revised plan.
- 2) To provide training to Council and Directors on the Emergency Operations Centres.

We were successful and received funding to conduct both proposals. These will start in early August.

Ongoing Meetings

I have also been attending the Iroquois Caucus Meetings with the following First Nations: Tyendinaga, Kahnawake, Kahnatesake, Six Nations, Oneida & Wahta. These meetings occur every two months to discuss issues relevant and common to our First Nations.

I have also been attending Assembly of First Nations Quebec Labrador, again these meeting have been occurring every two months. These meetings reflect the First Nations Communities in Quebec/Labrador. Again the meetings are to discussion common issues of concern.

Community Work

I worked with and continue to work with both the HAVFD Station #3 for a Replacement Engine for their station and the Snye Recreation for a Splash Pad.

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Connie Lazore (continued)

Other

I decided to enroll and attend in the Indigenous Policy & Administration Course with Carleton University. The outline of the course will help me to better understand of the role of the government, how they implement or administer

their policies while working on the Self-Government file. My remaining courses will be on-line courses.

This year has definitely been an interesting year and quite educational. I look forward to and

invite the continued learning, support and direction from the community, staff and Council. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Future Engineers Recognized with Two Awards

Congratulations are extended to two Akwesasne community members who are recipients of engineering-related awards. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Technical Services (DTS) held a presentation ceremony for both winners on August 30, 2016.



Taelor Jock received the Gerald Sharrow Award from DTS Director Jay Benedict. Pictured with Taelor are his parents, Maureen Thompson and Howard Jock, along with Gerald Sharrow's granddaughters Marcey Thompson and Kyla Gray, and Mohawk Council Chiefs Joe Lazore, Dennis Chaussi, and Vincent Thompson.

The Gerald Sharrow Award is presented annually to an Akwesasne student who is entering post-secondary school with a major in engineering, construction, or a related field. The recipient of this year's award is Taelor Jock who will be studying Mechanical & Industrial Engineering at Seneca College. The award is named for a 25-year employee of DTS and former MCA chief who was vital in seeing many community projects completed throughout his tenure. Mr. Sharrow's granddaughters, Kyla Gray and Marcey Thompson, attended the award presentation on behalf of their family. Mr. Jock received a \$500 bursary with his award and his name will be engraved on a large plaque that hangs in the DTS office.

The second award was a Student Achievement Award from the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation. These awards are given to First Nations students who have already begun their post-secondary education in the science, technology or engineering fields. Blake Tarbell, who is entering his second year at the University of British Columbia, represented Akwesasne as the recipient of one of these awards from the OFNTSC. Mr. Tarbell received a \$1000 bursary.

Good luck and much success is wished upon both recipients!



Blake Tarbell received the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation award. Pictured with him is DTS Director Jay Benedict and Mohawk Council Chiefs Joe Lazore, Dennis Chaussi, and Vincent Thompson.

Tsikaristisere/Dundee Land Claim-Getting Ready to Vote

Akwesasne will soon vote to accept or reject the Tsikaristisere/Dundee land claim final settlement agreement. There are a few things we can do to prepare.

The referendum on the Tsikaristisere/Dundee land claim settlement agreement has not yet been scheduled, but we as a community can begin preparing for it. This settlement and vote has been 30 years in the making, and it could be the largest in Akwesasne history.

As always, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne encourages voter participation whenever the opportunity arises to elect leadership, change or enact laws, or decide a land claim settlement.

Our community recently made history when we voted in favor of enacting the Iatathróna Raotiientáhtsera (Couples Property Law). The

2,096 votes cast in that 2015 referendum represented 26.7 percent of the MCA membership, our highest turnout ever. This milestone was achieved, in part, through the determination, innovation and participation of many people in the community.

Here are a few important things to know:

Members of the Mohawks of Akwesasne 18 years of age and older can check to see if their name is on the list of eligible voters for this referendum when it becomes available.

If you or your teen will turn 18 this year, or if a family member has passed away, notify OVS as soon as possible so the membership records can be updated.

Members of the Mohawks of Akwesasne who reside on the U.S. portion, and will be 18 years

of age or older at the time of the referendum are eligible to vote. Simply verify your status.

Any issues regarding your membership status should be brought to the attention of Carol LaFrance, Membership Officer at OVS, at (613) 575-2250 ext. 1011 or carol.lafrance@akwesasne.ca.



Tsikaristisere/Dundee Land Claim Presentations and Public Meetings



The community education period for the Tsikaristisere/Dundee ratification begins soon. The Aboriginal Rights and Research Office (ARRO) team has been preparing materials that tell the story of the land claim, from its beginning over 250 years ago up to today's settlement proposal and community engagement.

Presentations and Public Meetings

Join the ARRO team to learn more about the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Land Claim. Light refreshments will be available.

**September 29, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the
Kana:takon Recreation Centre**

Call ARRO at (613) 575-2348 to book your in-home information presentation.

MCA Making Community-Geared Changes Across Organization

On Tuesday, August 9, 2016, Grand Chief, Council, Directors and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) staff gathered at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to hear a presentation facilitated by Grand Chief Abram Benedict and A/Executive Director Heather Phillips. The purpose of the presentation was to discuss how changes within the organization will be implemented to better suit staff and community member needs.

The MCA has had many successes, and the community of Akwesasne has a reputation for being innovative and forward thinking with a vibrant culture, strong identity and rich heritage. As Management and Council heard feedback from the community and staff, they were committed to improving the organization as both an employer and service provider to the community.

The dedication toward making MCA a better employer and more effective and efficient government is something that has been ongoing

for many years. Beginning in 1999 surveys and reviews were conducted in order to find MCA's operational strengths and weaknesses. Through those recommendations and ongoing work, the Change Management Plan addresses ways in order to improve how the organization operates and delivers services. Some ways that MCA is planning on changing the organization for the better involves: reorganizing the structure of Executive Services and Mohawk Government Support; providing authority to Directors and Managers to make important program decisions; making MCA a healthier place to work; supporting our leader's and staff's development and growth; to improve services to the community; and become even more transparent for the reporting of MCA's program results.

The reorganizing of the structure is shifting the role of Council to be focused on Policy, Law Making and Lobbying rather than administrative matters. This will give Directors and Managers more authority to make program decisions. Stronger linkages are required between

Mohawk Government and Executive Services to ensure that the Executive Director and Council are integrated and coordinated. This restructuring will also assist in financial planning and reporting, employee learning and development, information management, technology management and strategic communications.

The new changes also will make the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne a better place to be employed. There will be a more consistent and fair application of policies for employees, there will be more transparency and openness required around decisions to rebuild trust, and there will be more consistent processes for addressing employee complaints.

In addition to making MCA a better place to work, there is also a commitment of providing a better "customer experience" to community members when they come to the organization for their services. Some changes that will be made include: an improvement in communications and marketing; more clear and transpar-



Council, Directors and staff gathered at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for the Change Management Presentation.

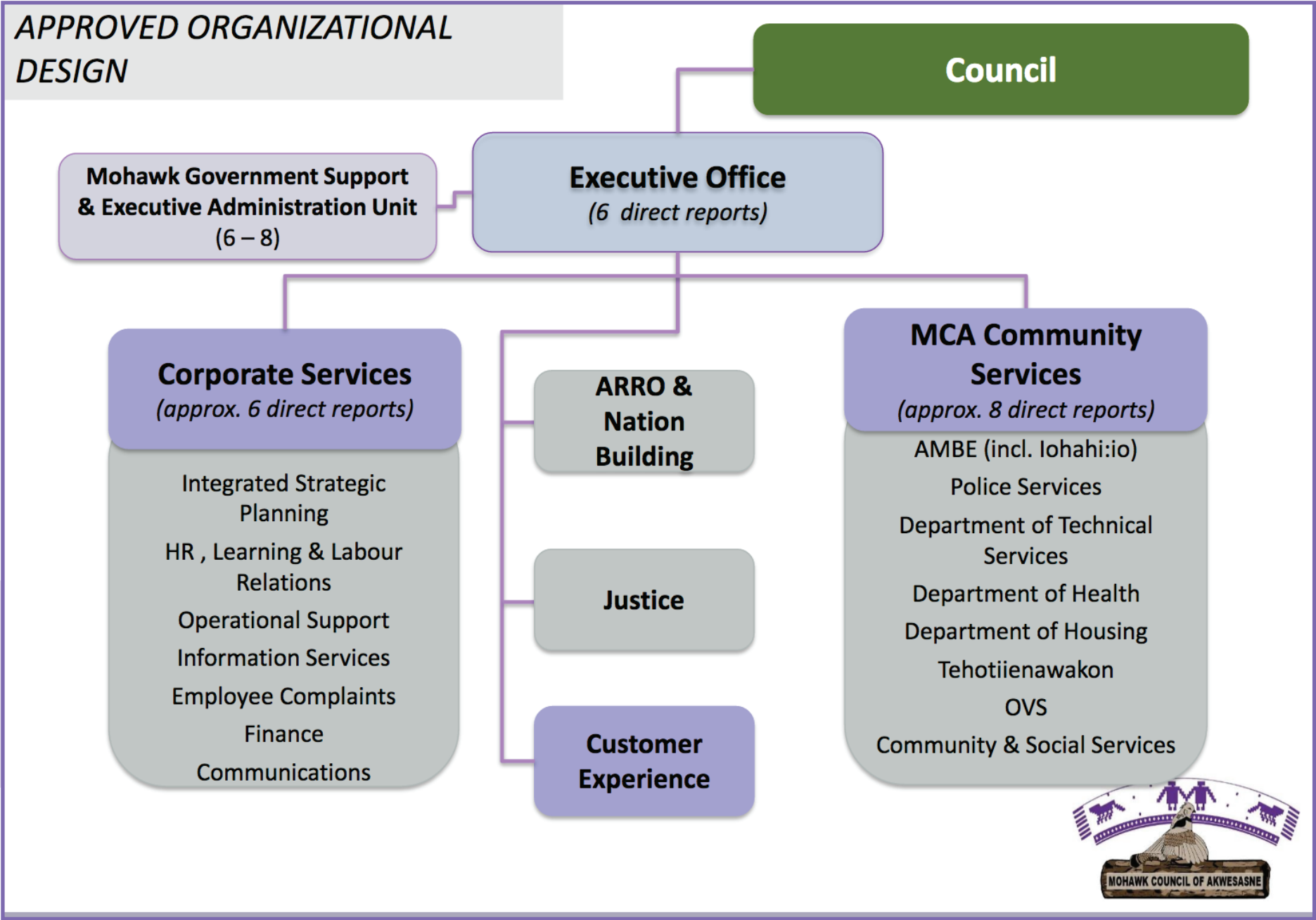
ent information available regarding service levels and standards and; the MCA processes for receiving and responding to complaints from community members will be improved.

Council and Management gave staff the opportunity to ask questions during the day of the

presentation, and also encouraged individuals to indicate ways that changes could be made in order to better serve community members.

Council heard the call for change from the MCA employees and community, and during the first year of the 2015-2018 Term, there was a lot of

focus on establishing priorities, addressing immediate issues and developing a well thought out plan of action. The next two-years of this Council's term will be focused on building a strong MCA and preparing staff for the organization's future successes through these changes.



BMO And Enbridge Present Student Bursaries

On Friday, August 19, 2016, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) joined forces with the Bank of Montreal and Enbridge to assist in presenting bursaries to recent high school graduates. 20 young community members received awards that will contribute to their post-secondary endeavors.

The event, hosted by Kana:takon District Chief Ryan Jacobs and MCA Communications Office Ashley Tarbell, began with a traditional opening by Kawehno:ke District Chief Louise Thomp-

son and was followed by a lunch provided by the Kana:takon Recreation Centre. The students who were honored are as follows: Tashawna Francis, Preston Thompson, Amanda Lazore, Tewenete Fox, Dakodah Lague-Delormier, Andrew Lazore, Kahsenniiostha Jacobs, Kearin Adams, Reese Jacobs, Waylon Square, Madison Delormier, Aidan Francis-Forgues, Kiana Jacobs-Thompson, Dalton Thomas, Cherri Jacobs, Aimee Brown, Emily King, Shane Tarbell, Jacob Bero and Zachary Smith.

Commercial Account Manager Kelly Evans presented the awards on behalf of the Bank of Montreal and was accompanied by Frank Marceau and Kevin Gabri of BMO Nesbitt Burns. The Enbridge bursaries were presented by Peter Valiquet, Manager of Work Management Centre Operations. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne looks forward to future partnerships with these respective companies and to seeing the educational achievements of Akwesasne's future generations.



Student Recipients of Bursaries, BMO and Enbridge Representatives and Council Chiefs.

Support a Drug Free Community!

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

SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Wholistic Health & Wellness (Addictions & Counseling) (613) 575-2341 ext. 3100	Mohawk Police & Ambulance (613) 575-2000	CRIMESTOPPERS (613)575-2255	ONEN'TO:KON TREATMENT SERVICES (450) 479-8353
lonkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center (613) 932-5050	MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE 1-866-996-0991	Cornwall Hospital Withdrawal Management Services (613) 938-8506	SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ DRUG-RELATED CRISIS (800) 480-4208
IETHINISTEN'HA FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM (613) 937-4322	Akwesasne Eagle Watch <i>Promoting a Safe and Drug free Akwesasne</i> facebook	Akwesasne Child & Family Services (613) 575-2341 ext. 3139 (613) 575-2000 (After Hours)	ASEO-STE0 <small>ADDICTION SERVICES OF EASTERN ONTARIO</small> (613) 936-9236 (800) 272-1937

Akwesasne Court Law Comes Into Force

August 12, 2016 marked a momentous occasion for the Mohawks of Akwesasne when the community's Akwesasne Tekaiá'torehthà:ke Kaianerenhsera (Akwesasne Court Law) came into force. The Akwesasne Court Law sets out the principles, powers and authorities of the Akwesasne Court. This exercise of self-government is a landmark achievement for First Nations across Canada as it is the first aboriginal court created, sanctioned and enacted by an aboriginal community.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Court can trace its beginnings to the early 1970s. For the first twenty years of existence, the court operated within the limits of the Indian Act, not only with respect to the appointment of justices of the peace, but also in the limited remedies available and the limited by-laws that could be heard. Such by-laws at that time required the approval of the Minister of Indian Affairs.

The Akwesasne Court Law has some remedies and sanctions in line with what one may expect to be ordered from a provincial or federal court;

however, the newly-sanctioned law is unique: it is a combination of Mohawk values/principles and structural components of Canadian adversarial justice. In accordance with traditional principles, the Akwesasne Court Law presents a vision focused on restorative justice for offenders and victims. This illustrates an approach to justice that promotes the well-being of the community as a whole. Additionally, the Court Law ensures a Mohawk Justice from Akwesasne will hear cases and community members can choose to have court proceedings conducted in either English or Mohawk.

On a practical level, the Akwesasne Court Law also means less congestion in the nearby provincial courts, as it provides the Mohawks of Akwesasne with the possibility of having their matters heard in their own court.

The law focuses on restorative justice and rehabilitation as the primary remedial tools. These positive implications also extend beyond the Akwesasne community. As a result of the courts ability to utilize alternative dispute res-

olution mechanisms, the outcome facilitates a reduced need for the incarceration of community members in federal or provincial facilities. This wholistic view to rehabilitate the individual without incarceration will ultimately save money.

Over the past few years, Akwesasne has, as an independent First Nation, asserted the right to make decisions regarding judicial institutions. Although the concept of a First Nations Court is not a novel idea, the Akwesasne Court is the first indigenous court that has been developed by a First Nation community using restorative justice principles

The Mohawks of Akwesasne have been working for decades to implement a justice system within the community. With the Akwesasne Court Law coming into fruition, this represents a significant step not only for Akwesasne, but for all First Nation communities across Canada.

MCA Inviting Community to Three Open Houses

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is pleased to invite the community to a series of open houses.

MCA's departments and programs will be organizing an array of activities and information sharing at each of the three open house dates (one in each district). The goal is to share MCA's services with the community and inform you of everything we have to offer across our vast organization.

The Open House dates are:

Wednesday, October 12, 4-8 p.m. – St. Regis Recreation

Saturday, October 15, 11 am – 3 p.m. – Kawehno:ke Recreation

Saturday, October 22, 10 am – 2 p.m. – Tsi Snaihne Recreation

Please be on the lookout for more information about these events and stop in to learn more about us and speak face to face with staff.



Dead Sturgeon Found Floating in St. Lawrence River

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) would like to inform the community about a recent occurrence of sturgeon being intentionally killed and found in the St. Lawrence River.

The MCA Department of Tehotiennawakon-Environment Program has been informed that 11 sturgeon were recovered floating in the river after being gutted and discarded. It is believed that whoever is responsible for the killing of the fish are removing the eggs; it has been thought that the eggs are being harvested to sell and create caviar. At this time, both the MCA and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) are investigating the matter.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne does not condone these disturbing actions. As Onkwehonwe people, we believe that it is our responsibility, and also the responsibility of visitors to the area, to treat the environment with respect and protect the creatures that live in it. Currently, more conservation efforts have been put into place to help the Lake Sturgeon population recover such as improvements in water quality, regulated water flows from dams and stricter regulations or elimination of commercial

and recreational fishing of Lake Sturgeon in Ontario.

Lake Sturgeon is a threatened species in Canada that is under the protection of the Species at Risk Act, which was put in place in 2002, and currently is Canada's largest freshwater fish. They can be found in North America from Alberta in the west to the St. Lawrence River drainage systems in the east. It has ties to an ancient species of fish that lived more than 200 million years ago and sometimes is referred to as a "living fossil" as a result. Lake Sturgeon can grow up to 2 meters in length, weigh up to 180 kilograms and live up to 55 years for males, and 150 years for females. Females will spawn once every four to five years and most female Lake Sturgeon do not reach sexual maturity until they reach 10 years of age, meaning they do not reproduce as quickly as other freshwater fish. Threats to the Lake Sturgeon include: over-harvesting, poor water quality, and the construction of dams and other river barriers that block their migratory route.

We would like to thank the Akwesasne community member who alerted us of this situation. The Mohawk Council of

Akwesasne expresses its gratitude to them and all Akwesasronon who look after our waterways and environment. If you locate any sturgeon or notice suspicious behavior regarding this matter, please contact MCA Conservation at (613) 575-2250 ext. 1021, MCA Environment at (613) 575-2250 ext. 1040, the SRMT Environment Division at (518) 358-5937, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) at (613) 575-2340 or the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police at (518) 358-9200.



11 sturgeon were recovered floating in the St. Lawrence River after being gutted and discarded.

MCA Not Developing Mega Distribution Center on Hamilton Island

Several residents of Hamilton Island, Ontario notified the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) that individuals identifying themselves as 'the Seven Nations of Canada group' approached them, provided prepared handouts, and informed them that the MCA is working with Triwin to build a mega distribution center on Hamilton Island.

The reported information, as provided to Hamilton Island residents, is inaccurate and untrue.

Back in 2014 through 2015, the MCA informed the community, through Community Notices and Information Sessions, that exploratory discussions had been held with Triwin on the potential for economic development projects, but the continued exploration was not met with favorable review. On September 16, 2015 the Mohawk Council passed Mohawk Council Resolution 2015/2016 - #130 confirming that MCA would not be proceeding with any

projects presented by Triwin or with signing a joint venture development agreement with that company.

This information has been presented to the community through Community Notices, at General and District Meetings, and in Onkwe'ta:ke—the MCA Newsletter. Since the passing of MCR 2015/16 - #130, the MCA has not and will not pursue this venture.

Iakhihsohtha and Mohawk Council BBQ

On September 2, 2016, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Chiefs and staff hosted an end-of-summer barbeque at Iakhihsohtha to visit with the elders residing there and to provide them with a fun twist to their regular lunch routine. Jamie Ross, Activity Coordinator, said the residents would be talking about the event for days, sharing stories about which chief sat at their table. Likewise, chiefs enjoyed seeing old ironworker friends, aunts and uncles, and other community members who reside at the lodge.



Grand Chief Abram Benedict and Esther Burnham



Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips and Sarah Mitchell



Isabelle McDonald and Tsi Snaihne Chief Connie Lazore



Kawehno:ke Chief Tim Thompson and Iakhihsohtha staff



Darlene Sunday and Tsi Snaihne Chief Karen Loran



Above Image: Mohawk Council of Akwesasne chiefs and Iakhihsohtha staff.

Left Image: Kawehno:ke Chief Louise Thompson visiting and talking with guests at the BBQ.

September is Cancer Awareness Month

A Message From Your Community Health Program

Are you looking for ways to stay healthy and lower your risk of cancer? Sometimes cancer occurs for reasons outside our control, but you can also take steps to help decrease your risk. Read on to get tips to lower your risk of cancer and boost your overall health.

How can I lower my cancer risk?

1. Achieve and maintain a healthy body weight

This may be one of the most important ways to protect against cancer as well as other chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease.

Are you looking for support to help manage your weight?

2. Eat Well

Eating a healthy diet is important to lower your risk of cancer. Start by following Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Below are more tips to help you lower your cancer risk.

Choose traditional foods often

Traditional Aboriginal foods can help you and your family lower your risk of cancer. Make healthy meals with:

- Vegetables and fruit
- Wild meat and fresh/canned fish
- Whole grain bannock and noodles brown and wild rice, oats and other whole grains
- Eggs
- Legumes (beans, peas and lentils)
- Nuts and seeds

- Skim milk powder and UHT milk
- Limit foods high in fat, sugar and salt

Limit processed foods like:

- Fast food (like hamburgers, French fries and chicken nuggets)
- Pop, fruit drinks and drink crystals
- Chips and salty snacks
- Frozen dinners
- Pastries, cookies, baked goods, chocolate bars and candy
- Canned or processed meat (deli meat, hot dogs)
- Canned soups
- Processed cheese

Limit fat intake

Steam, broil, bake and roast foods rather than frying them. Use small amounts of vegetable oil instead of lard. Read more about reducing fat in the kitchen.

3. Be physically active every day

Start with 30 minutes of physical activity a day, like walking. As you feel your fitness level improving, aim for 60 minutes or more of moderate activity. This includes walking briskly, cycling, dancing or swimming. Choose the activities you enjoy.

Limit sedentary activities like watching television, playing video games or sitting at your computer.

If you are new to physical activity, speak to your doctor before getting started.

4. Limit alcohol

If you drink alcohol, limit the amount to 2 drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women.

One drink is 350 mL (12 oz) bottle of beer or 150 mL (5 oz) of wine or 45 mL (1.5 oz) of liquor like vodka, whisky, rum or gin.

5. Quit smoking

If you smoke, consider getting help to quit with the Aboriginal tobacco program.

For more tips, read Lowering your Risk of Cancer.

Should I get screened for cancer?

Yes. Cancer screening means taking a test that can find cancer before you have any symptoms. Finding cancer early is one of the best ways to overcome it.

Ontario has an Aboriginal Cancer Strategy dedicated to improving cancer outcomes in First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Learn more about the screening programs available for colon cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

Talk to your doctor or health care provider about getting screened for cancer.

Bottom line

Take healthy steps to help prevent cancer by getting screened regularly, maintaining a healthy body weight, being physically active and making healthy food choices.

<http://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/articles/aboriginal-health/lowering-cancer-risk-for-aboriginal-people.aspx#.V64Ggmf6uUk>

Give us a call at 613-575-2341 ext 3220 or check our Facebook page

4th Annual Breastfeeding Walk

This year's World Breastfeeding Week 2016 theme is raising awareness of the links between breastfeeding and the Sustainable Development Goals. "By recognizing that breast feeding is a key to sustainable development, we will value our wellbeing from the start of life, respect each other and care for the world we share."

This year, Akwesasne held its 4th annual Breastfeeding Walk. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program partnered with MCA Community Health Program to organize the walk. The hot temperatures did not discourage our

breastfeeding moms and supporters; there was a total of 12 breastfeeding moms and their infants, 14 children and 17 breast feeding supporters in attendance. As they walked along the trail, they were able to read interesting breast feeding quotes and facts. After they walked, a healthy lunch was provided by Big Russ. Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes Rena Pat, Pauline Thompson, Haylee Sunday, Alex David, and Brenda Jocko.

Kim McElwain, WIC Coordinator and Amanda Garrow RN, Community Health Nurse would like to thank everyone that came out and

showed their support for breastfeeding. Kim McElwain stated that breastfeeding initiation rates in Akwesasne continue to be higher than regional and state rates, with community support and awareness these rates can continue to grow.

MCA Community Health Program will be hosting the Quintessence Breastfeeding Challenge on October 1, 2016 at the St. Regis Recreation. For more information, contact (613) 575-2341 ext. 3222.



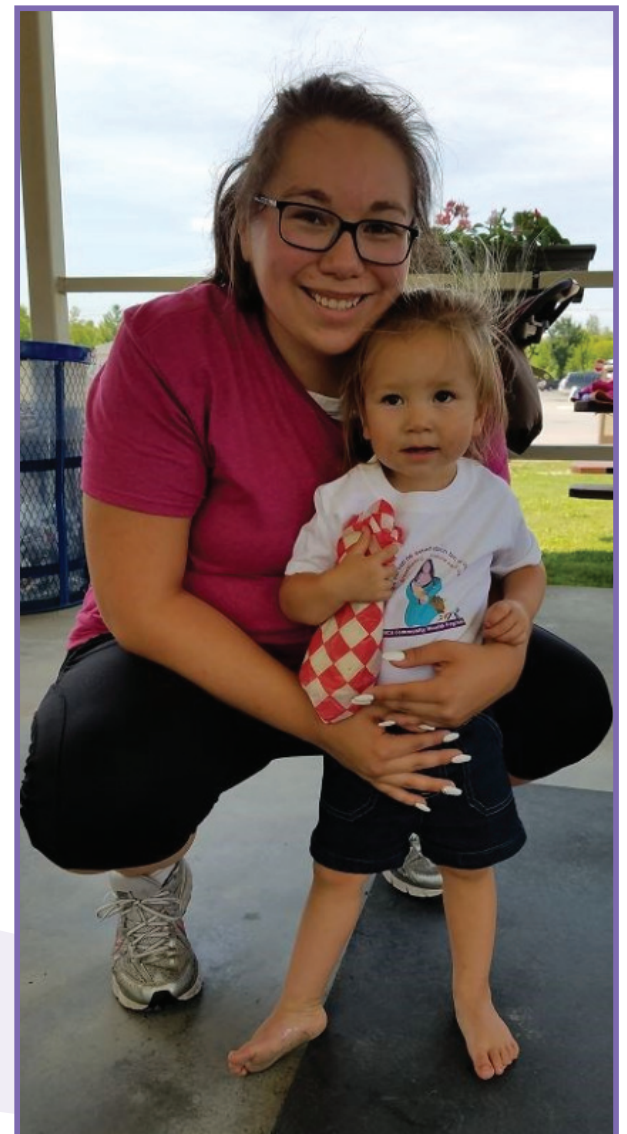
Kelly Back with daughter Kenna and Natalie Adams with son Clark



Many mothers and children came for the 4th Annual Breastfeeding Walk



Breastfeeding Moms



Cheyenne Jocko with son Tarihowaneh

A Message from AMBE Transportation Supervisor

Welcome parents, students, and the Community of Akwesasne to the 2016-2017 School year. There are a few things I would like to address before the start of the school year in order to ensure safe transportation for all children.

First: Riding the bus is a privilege and not a right. Failure to follow the rules of the bus will result in suspension of bus privileges. You will be required to drive them in and pick them up daily.

Second: Please be aware and have your children aware of the following five (5) bus rules.

1. **All Students will face forward.**
2. **Students will keep hands and feet to themselves.**

3. **Students will keep the bus clean.**
4. **Respect will be given to all students, bus monitors, and bus drivers.**
5. **No bullying will be tolerated.**

The AMBE School day ends at 2:45p.m. Your child(ren) will be transported home immediately after that time. Students up to grade 4 will not be dropped off at their residence if it appears that nobody is there to receive them. Students will be returned to the Latch Key program in the closest district and you will be charged \$10.00.

Students are not allowed bus passes unless in specific incidences (see Transportation Policy). They will be required to have a

written note for that day. Schools will not accept phone calls as a means of communication for bus changes.

Students should be ready to board the bus 3-5 minutes before their scheduled pick up times, buses will not wait (see Transportation Protocol).

Let's work together to ensure that all children have safe daily transportation.

If you have any questions regarding AMBE School Transportation contact Dwayne Thomas, Transportation Supervisor, at (613) 933-0409 ext. 1405 or at Dwayne.thomas@ambe.ca.

MCA Seeking Interested Landowners With 5 Acres or More to Sell

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Property Acquisition Team is seeking interested landowners who may have land for sale within the northern (Canadian) portion of the territory of Akwesasne.

The property must have a clear title and be free of right-of-way and easement issues.

This notice is in no way a guarantee to any landowner that such a property will be purchased by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, now or in future.

The call-out for property expires on Oct. 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Executive Services at 613-575-2250 Ext. 2120 if you are interested in discussing your property for sale, or submit property information to Admin 1 in Kana: takon or email brigitte.phillips@akwesasne.ca.



Milestone Memorandum for Indigenous Students

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) has partnered with the State University of New York at Potsdam (SUNY) and St. Lawrence College (SLC) to begin a unique cross-border agreement. Students will need to first successfully obtain their General Arts and Sciences diploma conferred by St. Lawrence College and delivered by Iohahi:io in Akwesasne. Afterwards, this partnership will facilitate the transfer of Mohawk Students to SUNY Potsdam as Juniors where they will receive a Bachelor of Arts in the Archeological Studies program, when they conclude their Undergraduate education.

“SUNY Potsdam is proud to partner with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and St. Lawrence College on this exciting initiative,” comments SUNY Potsdam President Kristin Esterberg. “Our archeological studies program is unique, and our faculty and students regularly conduct field work researching the history of indigenous peoples in our region and beyond. Through this partnership, we hope to prepare students to become leaders in this field.”

Grand Chief Abram Benedict of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, indicates that there is a need for archeological specialists in this region

“as the St. Lawrence Seaway holds centuries of shared history.” Residents of Akwesasne will be trained for an interdisciplinary and in-demand career.

“This agreement will provide a seamless transfer opportunity to help students get prepared for rewarding careers as archeologists. We are pleased to be able to offer this with our partners at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and SUNY Potsdam, it is a truly unique dual credential offering that goes across borders,” said Glenn Vollebregt, President and CEO, St. Lawrence College.



Glenn Vollebregt, President and CEO, St. Lawrence College; SUNY Potsdam President Kristin Esterberg; Grand Chief Abram Benedict



AKWESASNE COMMUNITY FUND CALL OUT FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Akwesasne Community Fund Review Team, on behalf of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), is pleased to announce that applications to receive funding from the **Akwesasne Community Fund** are now available.

Council has set aside a portion of the revenue received from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation to support various initiatives that might not otherwise receive government funding. The funding that's been set aside is referred to as the Akwesasne Community Fund.

A total of \$150,000 is available for distribution in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

For applicants to be considered eligible, the following criteria apply:

- Must be established and/or operate in the northern portion of Akwesasne, with proof of a physical address within the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne;
- Must be community-based and not for profit;
- Must not have an outstanding report or other obligation from any previous Akwesasne Community Fund call out;
- Must have two contact persons for an application—the applicant and both contact persons must be in Good Standing with MCA;
- Proof of an established Canadian bank account in the applicants name must be provided.

Akwesasne Community Fund guidelines and application forms may be picked up at MCA Administration Building 1 (the “A-frame”), which is located at 12 Akwesasne Street in the District of Kana:takon. These documents are also available on MCA’s website at www.akwesasne.ca and can be easily found by typing ‘Akwesasne Community Fund’ into the search bar.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information concerning the Akwesasne Community Fund guidelines, criteria, or application form do not hesitate to contact:

Kristy Lauzon—Special Projects Officer
MCA Administration 1 Building
12 Akwesasne Street
Akwesasne, Quebec H0M 1A0
613-575-2250 ext. 2121
kristy.lauzon@akwesasne.ca

DEADLINE

Applications must be hand delivered to location indicated above on or before the strict deadline of **Friday, October 7, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS will be made!**

Self Injury Behavior In Youth

Free 3 hour workshop for youth ages 12+

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Mother Earth Healing Lodge on Jock Road

(lodge is located at the very end of Jock Road. Please look for event signs)

with facilitator, Wennietanoron Oakes, OCT, CCC, QF-RP

Light Snack Will Be Provided

Self-injury refers to deliberate, self-inflicted tissue damage, such as cutting and burning for example. Self-injury has reached alarming proportions amongst our aboriginal youth.

This workshop will begin with a general overview to assist youth in understanding self injury and why youth may intentionally injure themselves.

The content will then focus on practical strategies for youth struggling with this complex issue. Participants will leave this workshop with increased insight regarding self-injury behavior and a framework for effective intervention.

To register or for more information, please contact:

Kyle Thompson, Intervention and Prevention Specialist

Wholistic Health and Wellness Program

613-575-2341 ext. 3107



This workshop is proudly sponsored by: The Wholistic Health & Wellness Program of MCA

Experience Akwesasne Welcome Centre Presents



FALL Family FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Peace Tree Trade Centre

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Rain Date 9/25/2016)

Apple

FOOD VENDORS

POWER WHEEL RACES @ NOON

Fall Fun

CRAFT VENDORS

MUSIC

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CRAFTS

PUMPKINS PAINTING

Face Painting

BOUNCE HOUSE



Vendors Wanted

Contact LaToya

613-575-5011