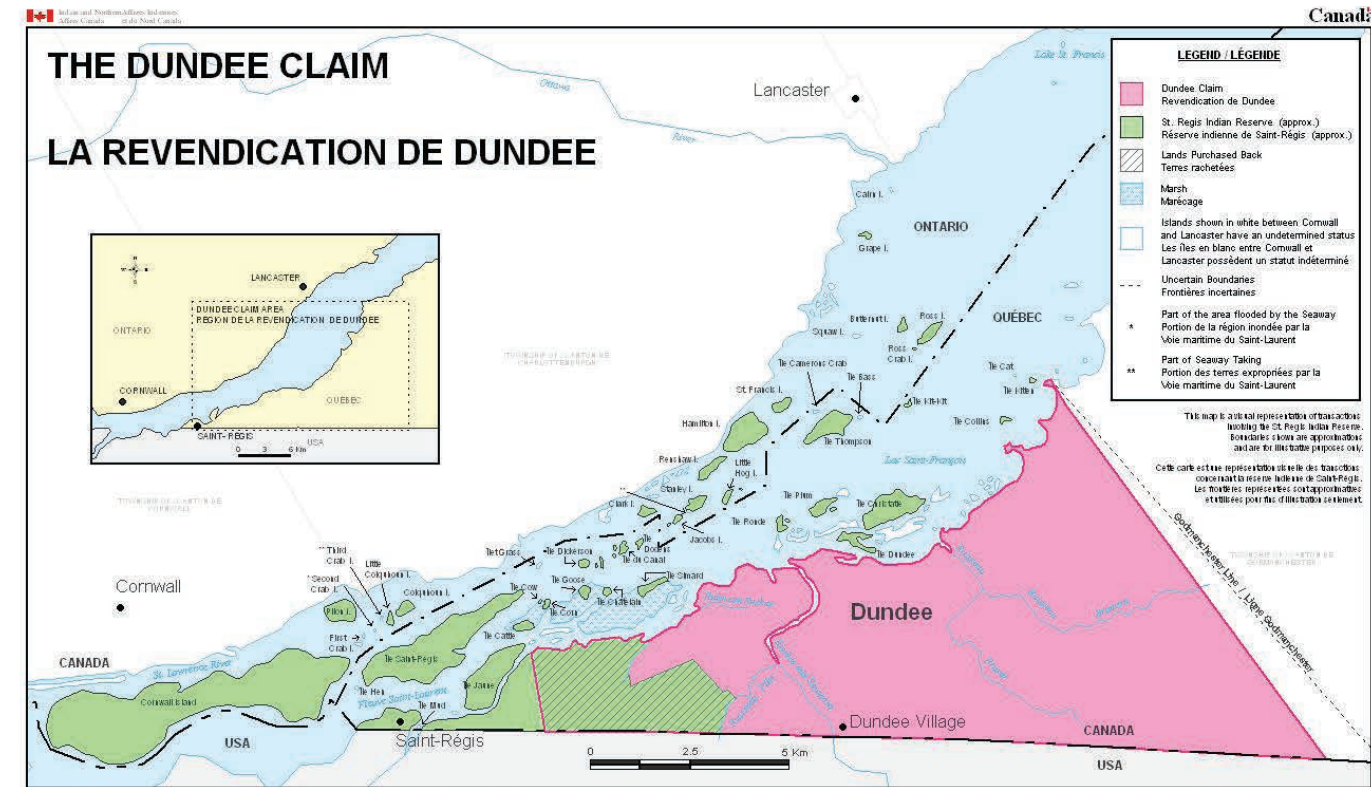


# MCA Announces Tsikaristisere/Dundee Specific Claim Settlement Offer

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne announced on May 25, 2015 that it is now in the final stages of its negotiations with the Government of Canada on its Tsikaristisere/Dundee Specific Claim. After careful consideration of the facts, evidence, and arguments presented by the Mohawks of Akwesasne and the Government of Canada, the Mohawks of Akwesasne were presented with a global settlement offer from Canada in the amount of \$239,808,436.00 for the full and final settlement of the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Specific Claim. The offer includes legal, negotiation and ratification costs. As part of the settlement offer, the Mohawks of Akwesasne have the opportunity to have up to 18,282 additional acres of land turned into Reserve lands, subject to Canada's "Additions to Reserve" policy. This additional land covers lands owned and lands to be purchased by the Mohawks of Akwesasne on a willing seller and willing buyer basis. A final settlement of the Claim requires a release by the Mohawks of Akwesasne of all their claims in the Dundee lands and ratification by community referendum, to be held in the coming months, and after a



series of educational community focus sessions, to be scheduled in the near future. If successfully ratified, the final settlement agreement of the Tsikaristisere/Dundee Specific Claim would be executed by the Mohawks of Akwesasne and Canada.

Schedules for the sessions will be posted on [www.akwesasne.ca](http://www.akwesasne.ca), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/akwesasne.ca](https://www.facebook.com/akwesasne.ca), in the Indian Time newspaper, and on 97.3FM CKON Radio.

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## MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

### Grand Chief

Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell

### Kana:takon District

Chief Larry King  
Chief Florence Phillips  
Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs  
Chief Steve Thomas

### Kawehno:ke District

Chief Abram Benedict  
Chief Brian David  
Chief JoAnne Jocko  
Chief Louise Thompson

### Tsi Snaihne District

Chief April Adams-Phillips  
Chief Joe Lazore  
Chief Karen Loran  
Chief William Sunday

### Administration

Sheree Bonaparte  
Executive Director

Jay Benedict  
Director,  
Technical Services

Joyce King  
Director,  
Justice Department

Heather Phillips  
Director,  
Housing Department

Robyn Mitchell  
Director,  
Community & Social Services

April White  
Director,  
Department of Health

Dr. Barry Montour  
Director,  
Akwesasne Mohawk Board  
of Education

Jerry Swamp  
Chief of Police,  
Akwesasne Mohawk Police  
Service

James Ransom  
Director,  
Tehotiiennawakon

**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](mailto:communications@akwesasne.ca), call (613) 575-2348 Ext. 2210, or visit our Facebook page.

## Wat'kwanonweraton/Greetings

*Wa'tkwanonwera:ton/Greetings,*

*It is my pleasure to introduce this spring's issue of Onkwe'ta:ke—The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne community newsletter. It is my hope that Akwesasronon and our surrounding communities are in good health and spirits—after this long winter, I would like to wish everyone a joyous spring season!*

*The FBCL Bridge Demolition is underway and new traffic routes have been planned for travelers in our corridor as well as the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Unit. Due to the changes in traffic routes, travelers may expect delays when crossing. Please plan accordingly—especially during high-volume traffic times on the weekends and holidays. Please be patient and proceed with caution.*

*As, the Public Safety Portfolio Chair, I have included a report on recent activities which can be found on Page 18. Our portfolio meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, where departments/programs and agencies meet to provide updates and discuss issues that affect Akwesasne and its members. In attendance are AMPS, Conservation, Compliance, Emergency Measures, Environment, Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance, the Environmental Health Officer, the CBSA Community Advocate and portfolio Council members—Chief Loran, Chief Adams-Phillips, Chief Lazore and Chief Jocko.*

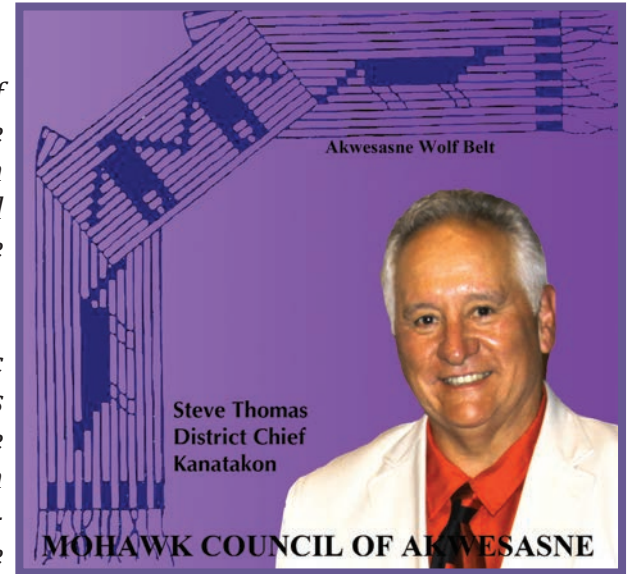
*This issue of Onkwe'ta:ke contains information on the following topics:*

- *MCA COUPLES PROPERTY REFERENDUM*
- *TSIKARISTISERE/DUNDEE LAND CLAIM UPDATE*
- *MARCH BREAK: HEALTH AND FITNESS CAMP*
- *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE*

*I encourage you to continue reading this issue, as it provides essential information for awareness on MCA and Council activities, issues and initiatives.*

*Sken:nen/In Peace,*

*Steve Thomas  
District Chief of Kana:takon  
Public Safety Portfolio  
Tehotiiennawakon Portfolio*





# MCA Couples Property Referendum Makes History With Record-Breaking Voter Turnout

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Justice Department and Chief Electoral Officer are proud to announce that the Iatathróna Raotiientáhtsera/Couples Property Law referendum voting concluded on March 31, 2015 and received the required number of votes in order for the results to be recognized by Canada.. A total of 2,096 eligible referendum voters participated in total, over double the number of votes of any other referendum or election in MCA's history, and above the required threshold of 1,883 total votes.

"To say we are proud of Akwesasne is an understatement," said Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell. "For every referendum and election we have held, reaching the people and inspiring them to vote has always been the biggest challenge. This referendum has proven that the people of Akwesasne care about their community and the laws that guide us."

Akwesasne also made history with this referendum by becoming the first First Nation in Canada to utilize online voting. This process enabled community members to vote from anywhere, at anytime. MCA hired

a team of referendum officers to visit every community member's home and assist them with the online voting process using electronic tablets.

"Online voting absolutely contributed to the success of this referendum and will most definitely be used again at MCA," said Justice Director Joyce King. "We hope that other Nations will be inspired to use this means of voting, especially when faced with requirements from Canada to obtain certain percentages of membership votes."

Prior to this referendum, MCA's largest voter turnout in history was the 2003 General Election which received a total of 1,014 votes. (Note: There are different voter requirements for elections.)

All external governments that need to be informed of the referendum results have been informed that it passed and met the threshold of voters Canada required. One appeal was received and withdrawn .

The final results of the referendum, as released by the Chief Electoral Officer, are as follows:

**YES VOTES - 1815**  
**NO VOTES - 105**  
**DECLINED - 88**

A vote tracker allowed community members to see daily how close the referendum was to reaching the goal of 1,883 votes.



Referendum Officers received certificates of appreciation along with a decorated feather for their efforts.



## Mohawk Council Resolutions (MCRs) Enniska-Ennisko:wa / February-March 2015

Enniska/February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #323 Capacity Building Proposal to Ontario Power Generation; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Thomas; For – 6, Against – 1 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #324 Support For UNDRIP and Member of Parliament Romeo Saganash; Moved by Chief Thompson, Seconded by Chief Thomas; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #325 Rescind MCR 2014/2015 - #196; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; Seconded by Chief Thompson; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #326 Rescind #MCR 2014/2015 - #233; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #327 MCA Logo; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Sunday; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED

Enniska/February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #328 First Nations Market Housing Fund; Moved by Chief Jocko, Seconded by Chief Phillips; For – 11, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #329 Participant Funding Program and Application to National Energy Board for the TransCanada Energy East Project; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Adams-Phillips; For – 7, Against – 3 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #330 Council Meeting Minutes Dated October 28, 2014; Moved

by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 9, Against – 1 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #331 To Approve the 2013 Statement of Trust Account for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Tsiionkwanonhsote Program; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs, Seconded by Chief Phillips; For – 10, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #332 To Approve the 2013 Schedule Annual Reconciliation Report for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Tsiionkwanonhsote Program; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs, Seconded by Chief Phillips; For – 10, Against – 0 CARRIED

Enniskó:wa/March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #333 Nation Building Capital Investment Strategy (NBCIS); Moved by Chief Phillips, Seconded by Chief King; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #334 IFN Health Coordinator Relocation to Akwesasne; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #335 Assignment of Lease Lot 18 Block C Hamilton Island; Moved by Chief Sunday, Seconded by Chief Adams-Phillips; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #336 Housing Application – Upgrade Program (Rescind); Moved by Chief Thompson, Seconded by Chief Adams-Phillips; For – 8, Against – 0

2014/2015 - #337 Housing Application; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #338 Housing Application; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Lazore; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #339 Housing Application; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Lazore; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #340 Endorsement and Support for the Aboriginal Institutes Consortium; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs, Seconded by Chief Adams-Phillips; For – 6, Against – 2 CARRIED

Enniskó:wa/ March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #341 Supplementary Contribution Agreement for Police Services; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Adams-Phillips; For – 6, Against – 0 CARRIED

2014/2015 - #342 Assistant Director of Tehotienawakon; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Loran, For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

Enniskó:wa/ March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #343 - “Literacy and Basic Skills at Iohahi:io - Authorization to Enter into a New Agreement With the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities”; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs, Seconded by Chief Benedict; For – 8, Against – 0 CARRIED

Enniskó:wa/ March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

2014/2015 - #344 For Review and Consideration of 2014/2015 Aboriginal Recipient Funding Amendment; Moved by Chief Phillips, Seconded by Chief David,



For – 9, Against – 0 CARRIED	Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 8, Against – 1 CARRIED	Chief Thomas; For – 7, Against - 0 CARRIED
2014/2015 - #345 Transfer of Balance of Investments Held in Trust on Behalf of BMO Nesbitt Burns to the Name of the Trust; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief King, For – 6, Against – 1 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #353 Council Meeting Minutes dated November 4, 2014; Moved by Chief Phillips-Jacobs, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 9, Against - 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #363 Contract with Dr. France Levac; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Thomas; For – 7, Against - 0 CARRIED
2014/2015 - #346 Contribution Agreement for Government of Canada and Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief David; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #354 Council Meeting Minutes dated November 10, 2014; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 8, Against - 1 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #364 Contract with Eddie Gray; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Phillips; For – 7, Against - 0 CARRIED
2014/2015 - #347 Aboriginal Recipient Funding Agreement/Amendment for 2015-2017 for Review and Consideration; Moved by Chief Phillips, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #355 Council Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2014; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 8, Against - 1 CARRIED	Enniskó:wa/March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
2014/2015 - #348 Akwesasne Mohawk Court Justices Remuneration Extension to Memorandum of Agreements to June 30, 2015; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Thompson; For – 6, Against – 1 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #356 Council Meeting Minutes dated November 25, 2014; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 9, Against - 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #365 AMPS Agreement for funding for Organized Crime Initiative; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by Chief Thomas; For – 7, Against – 0 CARRIED
Enniskó:wa/ March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	2014/2015 - #357 Council Meeting Minutes dated November 28, 2014; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief King; For – 9, Against - 0 CARRIED	
2014/2015 - #349 Ministerial Loan Gaurantee for CMHC Section 95 Project; Moved by Chief King, Seconded by Chief Benedict; For – 9, Against – 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #358 Council Meeting Minutes dated December 16, 2014; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 8, Against - 1 CARRIED	
2014/2015 - #350 Housing On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program; Moved by Chief Benedict, Seconded by Chief King; For – 9, Against – 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #359 Council Meeting Minutes dated December 9, 2014; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 9, Against - 0 CARRIED	
2014/2015 - #351 Proposal for the development of Tobacco Regulatory Framework Phase II; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Loran; For – 9, Against – 0 CARRIED	2014/2015 - #360 Contract with Dr. Young; Moved by Chief Thomas, Seconded by Chief Phillips; For – 7, Against - 0 CARRIED	
2014/2015 - #352 OVS Lot 2-21 Lot 141, St. Regis Village; Moved by Chief Phillips,	2014/2015 - #361 Contract with Dr. Saylor; Moved by Chief Phillips, Seconded by Chief Phillips-Jacobs; For – 7, Against - 0 CARRIED	
	2014/2015 - #362 Contract with Dr. Forson; Moved by Chief Loran, Seconded by	

# Council Meeting Roundtable Reports

*The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is committed to ensuring accountability, transparency and community engagement. This ongoing effort includes sharing a summary of the Mohawk Council's weekly Roundtable Reports for the purpose of informing and promoting dialogue on portfolio topics and other important community issues. The information provided within the individual reports are for educational purposes and are without prejudice to any and all past, current and future claims of the Mohawks of Akwesasne or official positions taken by the MCA. Chiefs not in attendance for a Council Meeting may be on travel or on sick leave, which is announced at the start of the meeting. Individual chief's can also choose to submit a more detailed update for the newsletter.*

## February 17, 2015 Council Meeting

### Kawehno:ke Chief Louise Thompson

- Helped out at the Winter Carnival and cooked for the search and recovery.
- Attended the Justice Portfolio Meeting. There is an extensive report coming from Justice. LT will distribute the report when she receives it.
- Attended the Governance Meeting and the EAC dinner.

### Kana:takon Chief Steve Thomas

- Participated in the Tehotiiennawakon interviews for Assistant Director
- Prepared an update report on the Three Nations Bridge demolition for the General Meeting
- Signed off on interview board report for Assistant Director Tehotiiennawakon
- Attended the International Disaster Conference

### Kana:takon Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

- Attended the Organizational Review Interviews with Welch.
- Was out sick a few days taking care of her son.
- Participated in the AANDC debriefing for the Community Support Program review.

### Kawehno:ke Chief Brian David

- Participated in an interview for the Watertown Daily Times and for Akwesasne TV.
- An affidavit is coming from the Seaway Case.

### Tsi Snaihne Chief William Sunday

- Met with the representatives of CBSA and OPP officers that were attending Cultural Sensitivity Training.
- Met with MCA's CBSA liaison to CBSA, AMPS, RCMP and staff. Discussed the role they will have in our territory.
- Attended the Nation Building meeting.

Discussed land disputes, Akwesasne territories and own source revenue was discussed.

- Will be bringing Nation Building staff to the next Finance Meeting to talk about our own source revenue.

### Kana:takon Chief Larry King

- Attended Port Divestiture meeting. The Federal divestiture is stalling the process. Both parties have signed a letter of intent. There is a pre-contribution agreement that speaks to environmental issues and impacts, etc. This particular offering towards the divestiture process ends on March 31st. We will need to form a single entity between Akwesasne and Cornwall to manage the port lands as well as to receive any funding going forward.
- On February 13, 2015 there was a NYS land claim meeting. The meeting was in Albany and Franklin County claims that they were intimidated at the last meeting with the State and SRMT. NY State has given Franklin County two weeks to review and better understand the MOU and offer their comments or register concerns.
- Tim Kimpan is on the agenda to present and he is also going to be retiring from the RCMP.

### Kawehno:ke Chief Abram Benedict

- Met with the Welch LLP representatives at the Comfort Inn for interview on Organizational Review.
- DCSS Portfolio meeting – DCSS is meeting with DTS on space needs and impacts to Community Support with renovation at Kanonhkwa't'sheri:io and costs associated. Staff will be in staff wellness training March 5-6.
- Meeting with Social, Education and Health departments to discuss behaviour issues at the school, discussed how the 3 departments can work together. Each department will follow up with programs

and will meet again.

- Evening dinner meeting with Aboriginal Affairs Reps regarding Community Support Review, unofficially NCB allocation with remain the same amount.
- Friday morning meeting with Aboriginal Affairs to review the findings from the Community Support review, AANDC will provide a more comprehensive report.
- Called Canada Post and have not heard back from them regarding request for support.
- Suggesting next referendum to do a callout for referendum officers to ensure transparency.

### Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips

- Met with Welch LLP at the Comfort Inn.
- Attended International Disaster Meeting Conference
- Attended Public Safety Meetings

### Tsi Snaihne Chief Karen Loran

- Attended the Organizational Review Interview with Orbis.
- Attended Tehotiiennawakon Portfolio monthly meeting.
- Worked out of Snye Homemakers.

## February 24, 2015 Council Meeting

### Kana:takon Chief Steve Thomas

- Attended the Public Safety follow up meeting on missing community member.
- American Bridge tax exemptions of Native workers will begin. Demolition of the north approach will begin by the first week of April (Cornwall side).
- Out sick Thursday and Friday.
- SIBC is accepting applications for summer student employment; applicants should register at the Akwesasne Employment Resources Centre (AERC) in Hogansburg.

### Kawehno:ke Chief Louise Thompson

- Update on the referendum votes: As of

February 24, 2015 there have been 286 ballots cast.

- As of February 23, only 14 Deputy Referendum Officers had reported for work. A search for 5 Deputy Referendum Officer Replacements has been conducted.
- Attended the Conservation law line by line read through.
- Attended the District Meeting.
- March 2, 2015 there is a meeting with Corrections Canada regarding a proposal for a healing centre.
- LT shared that there was a community member detained at CBSA. CBSA mistook her for someone else.

#### **Kawehno:ke Chief Brian David**

- Attended the regular meetings.
- Attended the preparations for the Seaway examination. The Seaway examination is to occur next Tuesday and BD will be there and not present for the next weeks Council Meeting.

#### **Tsi Snaihne Chief William Sunday**

- Attended the Nation Building meeting. Encouraged staff to do more community consultations and use language community members can understand. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18 & 19, 2015.
- Attended a Conservation Task Force meeting. Staff read through the Conservation Law.
- Recommended that Quebec Hydro reps should be invited to General Meetings and inform the public about the Smart Meters they plan to install in homes.
- Recommend that Nation Building staff be invited to a special meeting to discuss Own Source Revenue.

#### **Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips**

- Was out of office most of last week.
- Attended the DTS Portfolio meeting.
- Attended the District Meeting.
- Discussion regarding Lot A should be added to the agenda for the next new administration meeting.
- AAP shared that soil testing for the

new Administration Building came back insufficient. DTS Director suggests preloading site and testing soil again.

#### **Tsi Snaihne Chief Karen Loran**

- Attended the AFNQL Elected Women Conference in Quebec City from Monday, February 16 to Thursday, February 19, 2015. The conference went well. There was some good dialog. A protocol of solidarity was signed.
- Attended the wooden stick festival meeting. The festival is to happen in March 15 – 16, 2015. A four team lacrosse tournament using wooden sticks is to happen.
- Attended District Meeting. Updated the community on the Administration #2 Building and Space Needs.

#### **Tsi Snaihne Chief Joe Lazore**

- Attended the District Meeting
- Attended a read through of the Conservation Law line by line.

#### **Kana:takon Chief Larry King**

- Attended the read through of the Conservation Law line by line. The Conservation Law is a work in progress. February 22, 2015 is the next scheduled meeting for a read through of the law.
- Attended the District Meeting.
- There is a scheduled ATR meeting on islands scheduled Tuesday afternoon.

#### **Kawehno:ke Chief Abram Benedict**

- Attended an OACAS meeting on Wednesday and Thursday- Shared Services visioning exercise; discussion on emerging issues on the Northern Strategy, CPIN, Auditor General currently doing a review of Ontario CAS's and will publish report.
- Ohwistha Capital ceased operations and has filed for bankruptcy, very unfortunate because the only ones that will be affected is the business and now have no place to borrow money from to start a business.
- There were two calls regarding CBSA seizures. One was pertaining to the misidentification of a community member and the other seizure was of an elderly

resident who failed to report and got her vehicle seized for the second time. She was detained for quite some time at CBSA.

#### **Kana:takon Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs**

- Attended a meeting at AMPS for an update on the search and recovery of a community member and discussion on how we could assist.
- Spent Wednesday to Friday unpacking her office at the new Mohawk Government office.
- There was a call late Friday on the fuel situation. The communication was all over the place and confusion was present as who was taken care of the donation. The donation was complete and the community member received her fuel. There was also another community member Monday morning that ran out of fuel. The donation has been complete for that elderly woman.

#### **Kana:takon Chief Florence Phillips**

- Attended the Health Portfolio meeting. There is ½ million in bills for US hospital visits.
- Attended the DTS Portfolio meeting. The Tsi Snaihne waterline is complete. There is some concern with the political agreement with Quebec because there is not much attention from Quebec on roads. (Chief Joe Lazore mentioned that the waterline in Tsi Snaihne is not complete because Birch Road was not included. Funding will have to be found for Birch Road.)
- DTS wants Council to identify other locations in Akwesasne where there should be "no parking" restrictions. Akwesasne Street and the area in front of the AMPS station (on Sweetgrass Lane in Kana:takon) have been identified as no parking areas.
- The Tsi Snaihne soil testing failed and will cost \$680,000.00 to better the soil presently there.
- There is an issue with the first floor renovations of Kanonhkwashteri:io. AANDC wants Health to resubmit a proposal.
- FP reported that she is still working part time.



## ...ROUNDTABLE REPORTS CONTINUED...

### Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

- (The influenza virus was circulating amongst MCA staff and the Grand Chief had contracted the flu requiring him to work from home for the first couple of weeks in February 2015. He was unable to attend Chiefs Meetings until the last week in February, and the following is a report on his weekly activity:)
- Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Travel by VIA Rail to Toronto for Chiefs of Ontario Meeting.
- Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Toronto, Chiefs of Ontario office, Pre-meeting regarding 'Energy'; the actual meeting was with the Ontario Energy Board in the afternoon. Later that day, Chiefs met with COO Advisors regarding a 'Polishing the Chain Accord' with the Government of Ontario. The purpose of the accord is to form the basis to address long standing Treaty grievances and recognition for inherent rights. This is specific to the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario, with a purpose to uphold the inherent and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples by advocating for transformative change. A final report will be presented to the AFN Chiefs Assembly in June 2015. Return travel to Akwesasne occurred the following day.

### March 3, 2015 Council Meeting

#### Kawehno:ke Chief Louise Thompson

- Attended a meeting with Corrections Service Canada (CSC) on a healing centre proposal for Akwesasne. CSC is willing to help us with the application. They think that Akwesasne is a good location to house a healing centre. The healing centre will house inmates that are low level release (section 81).

#### Kana:takon Chief Florence Phillips

- Attended the Budget review for DTS.
- Received an email from DTS regarding employee Keith Mitchell. Keith Mitchell has received the operator of the year award from *Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario* (AWWAO).

#### Kana:takon Chief Larry King

- Franklin County is supposed to put together a promise list regarding the New York State (NYS) Land Claim. The NYS claim is waiting on Franklin County. The state is putting pressure on Franklin County.
- Attended the Housing Authority meeting.
- On March 26, 2015 there is a presentation scheduled from the IAS.
- There is an individual who uses horses for mental health. LK is talking with her to present to Council.
- Attended a joint implementation meeting. The meeting went well and there was some good dialogue.

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief Joe Lazore

- Feb. 26&27- attended the Iroquois Caucus with Chief Sunday and the Intergovernmental Liaison. IC is confirming a date to meet with the MPs and Senators. IC is trying to set up a meeting on hunting in Cree territory. Is Akwesasne in favour of addressing the Cree on letting Akwesasne hunt in their territory? Maybe an agreement can be made between the Crees of northern Quebec and Akwesasne. The Crees are calling Akwesasne and want to hunt here. (Grand Chief Mike Mitchell shared that he does want to see our Akwesasne hunters hunting and we can build on what we already have.)

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief Karen Loran

- Participated in a teleconference with the working task group for the missing Aboriginal women.
- Attended a meeting for Entewatatha:wi.
- Attended a meeting regarding the Justices.
- Attended the National Women's Roundtable. Met with Premiere Wynn. KLo wishes that there was more Federal Government Ministers at the Roundtable. A 2016 Roundtable is being looked into.
- Attending a meeting with the Native North American Traveling College regarding the lacrosse pre-contact re-enactment. The two day event is scheduled for May 15-16 with a social, meal and lacrosse

tournament.

- and almost hit a child walking. The driver's license plate was reported to the police and the police were able to track the driver and vehicle down. The driver was arrested and charged.
- There are currently four community youth reps: Bonnie Lauzon, Victoria Ransom, Shara Francis Herne, & Phillip White Cree. Requesting staff put together a list of potential youth reps. What is their mandate as youth reps? The reps should not be from MCA.

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips

- Attended a meeting with AMPS.
- AAP was chosen to participate in the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNEEES). AAP admitted that there is not enough information given to surveyors in order to complete identify parents.
- Helped AMBE student with funding issues.

#### Kana:takon Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

- Attended the AMBE Board meeting
- Attended the DCSS budget review.
- Attended an Education Portfolio meeting with the acting director.
- Shared that Nolan Terrance became the first male wrestler of Massena Central high School to win the State Championship.

#### Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

- Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, internal meetings were held with MCA advisors on various projects:
- Preparations of a Nation Building training session with Native Nations Institute with the University of Arizona. Mixed Martial Arts event development – discussion about a commission members and requirements. Dental clinic - article for MCA Newsletter. A meeting with BMO was postponed at BMO request due to poor weather conditions. A meeting request from the BMO Aboriginal Market Manager is planned for the next time (Grand Chief) is in Toronto.
- Meetings with Ministry of Ontario related to Tobacco Technical Table planned for



## ...ROUNDTABLE REPORTS CONTINUED...

February 26<sup>th</sup>, were postponed for this day. The General Meeting, is postponed to March 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Attendance at gatherings and meetings for Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> included the monthly Tobacco Burning at the Kanonhkwashteriiio Health Facility, the (RCMP) Border Security Outreach Meeting, at the AMPS Training Room. Items discussed included reports on security, Ship Rider, and cultural awareness training. At the end of the day was participation in an interview with Consultants for the MCA Organization Review.

### March 10, 2015 Council Meeting

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief William Sunday

- Was invited to attend a meeting with Traditional Medicine Task Force. Most of the discussion was about relocation the program staff possibly to Snye.
- Attended the Tehotiiennawakon meeting and discussed the Triwin proposal.
- Attended the Cultural Restoration meeting. There was a demonstration on to how to skin muskrat and beaver.

#### Kawehno:ke Chief Louise Thompson

- Yesterday, Monday, March 9, was the last day to apply for the IRS Personal Credit.
- Received a request from an elder to have Revenue Canada reps available at the Tri District Elders to help fill out OHIP card applications.
- Next week is the Federal Negotiations. March 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are the prep meetings for the negotiations.

#### Kawehno:ke Chief Brian David

- Missed last week's Council Meeting due to being in court for the Seaway Case. The court case lasted three hours. BD thought it would last for four to five days.
- Participated in an interview for the Traveling College. They are preparing an information program on Nation Building for the community. BD believes this program is going to be very good for the community.

- Attended the Conservation Law re-read. There is a lot of touch up work that needs to be done on the law.

- Yesterday, Monday, March 10, BD was invited to read Dr. Seuss in Tsi Snaihne to third graders. This was the first time BD read Dr. Seuss. He enjoyed reading to the children and seeing their reactions. BD read "The Lorax".

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief April Adams-Phillips

- Attended the Cultural Sensitivity training along with Grand Chief and Chief Loran. The training was well attended. Also well received by the CBSA Customs and US Customs officers, who attended.
- Attended the Traditional Medicine meeting and visited the site that Traditional Medicine is interested in relocating to in Tsi Snaihne.
- Attended the Public Safety teleconference with Sandra Stevens on the demolition of the old CBSA POE. There is minor asbestos within the buildings. A tender will be posted on site on April 2015. The bidder's conference will be held at arena in the next couple of weeks.
- Received a call from a community member on Friday, March 6, regarding a complaint on MCA services. The Executive Director reported that the Asst. ED receives all complaints made under the 'Respect in the Workplace' Policy. All other complaints will be sent to the new Complaints Officer, who will be hired when Lewis Morris retires.

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief Karen Loran

- Attended the CBSA Cultural Sensitivity training. There was an evaluation report done at the end of the training and the participants requested videos. They were overall very satisfied with the training. The participants recommended a tour of Akwesasne by water.
- Attended the Conservation Law re-read along.
- Attended the meeting regarding the Triwin proposal.

#### Kana:takon Chief Steve Thomas

- Attended the Border Security Meeting with the RCMP and discussed the electronic surveillance fence, and Ship Rider program.
- Attended the Contraband Tobacco Panel discussion, Aboriginal Perspective discussion, and Tobacco Technical Table
- AMPS Marine Unit proposal given to Minister of Economic Development & Transportation.
- Attended a meeting with Department of Economic Development – Marine Unit Funding & Extension to Tobacco Pilot Project
- Attended a teleconference with John Lees, (Orbis) Organizational Review update
- Attended the monthly Finance meeting
- Contacted Dan Flatley, of the Watertown Daily Times regarding a border story involving Akwesasne. A teleconference call was arranged.

#### Tsi Snaihne Chief Joe Lazore

- Attended the Cultural Sensitivity Workshop.
- Working with the Intergovernmental Liaison who is setting up a meeting with the Crees of Northern Quebec regarding free trade with Akwesasne.

#### Kana:takon Chief Larry King

- Suggested a date of March 19, 2015 to meet with the City of Cornwall at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. The City of Cornwall can present their waterfront plans for the port lands.
- Attended the Conservation Law re-read.
- OPG ISN is having a meeting at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre on March 26, 2015.
- Shared that Franklin County met with SRMT and Franklin County is finally getting their position in NYS Claim.

#### Kawehno:ke Chief Abram Benedict

- Housing Authority meeting - received letter regarding buy out of section 95 home, a response will be sent to the community member. OVS gave update on new AANDC requirements for land transfers as a result

## ...ROUNDTABLE REPORTS CONTINUED...

of the new federal legislation regarding couples property.

- OACAS Bi annual meeting – Presentation panel on Ethics, legal and medical issues regarding children's consent to treatment.
- Aboriginal Advisory Meeting – presentation from MCYS on draft strategy, facilitated session from Harold Tarbell on Shared Services.
- DCSS Portfolio meeting -letter was sent to AANDC regarding the Community Support Program review no response yet, Crown ward review being done in April. Reviewed budget for DCSS. Working with Canadian mental health – looking to set up a crisis response team.
- Met with Al Gravelle of Welsh to discuss a review of the Post Secondary Program under AMBE.
- Received a call regarding installation of more camera at toll booth.

### **Kana:takon Chief Florence Phillips**

- Attended the Finance Committee meeting

and talked about donations, and the cost of the waterline bursting.

- The current operating budget is showing a deficit of \$4.1 Million dollars.
- Cigarette revenues have dropped.

### **Kana:takon Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs**

- Attended the AMBE Board meeting, Finance Committee meeting, and DCSS Portfolio meeting.
- An Akwesasne student from CCBS who is also part of the yearbook committee came by to inquire if MCA would like to place an ad in the year's yearbook. The cost of the ad space is: \$200.00 for a full page, \$150.00 for half a page and \$50.00 for a quarter of a page. (Council approved a full page ad.)

### **Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell**

- A training presentation of Cultural Sensitivity was held for CBSA on March 4<sup>th</sup>; it was held at the OPG Visitor Centre in Cornwall. Travel to Toronto occurred later

that evening to attend an EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2015: A GATHERING OF EDUCATION LEADERS for March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

- On Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> there was an invitation by Elders to meet regarding a better facility that would meet the needs of the Traditional Medicine Program. The meeting location was in Snye. In the afternoon there was a Tehotiiennawakon Portfolio Meeting held regarding a letter to be sent to the Triwin representative.
- A letter was received from a lawyer representing a Member that was shared with Council regarding nominations for Grand Chief position. This will be shared with MCA legal Counsel for follow up.
- The Open House for the new Mohawk Government location in Kanatakon occurred on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Some community members attended.

## Tsikaristisere / Dundee Land Claim Background

**T**sikaristisere / Dundee claim lands are located directly east and adjacent to the Tsi Snaihne District of Akwesasne Mohawk Territory. The claim is for loss of use of the lands, for value of lands and improvements lost as well as replacement of reserve lands.

### **History of the Claim:**

The Claim Lands - sometimes known as the Dundee lands, are on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River roughly opposite Cornwall, Ontario. They consist of approximately 20,000 acres being a part of the most westerly portion of the Province of Quebec now known as the Township of Dundee. Historically, it is part of the land that was set apart for the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

The Dundee lands, starting in the early 1800's, had been leased out to non-Mohawks. Some of the leases were made directly by Akwesasne Chiefs while others were made with the involvement of the Crown. Contrary to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the leases were issued without proper legal procedures. Administration of the leases and collection of the rent was irregular. As leases expired,

the Mohawks demanded a return to them of the leased lands which they needed for their own purposes. The problems with the Dundee lands were studied in a federal Commission in 1887.

In 1888, the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs came to Akwesasne and proposed to the Mohawks that they surrender their interest in the leased Dundee lands. A document was signed, but the Mohawks claim that their intention was to reclaim the leased lands gradually rather than surrender them.

After 1888 most of the leased Dundee lands were patented by the federal Crown to private individuals. About 10% of the patented lands were purchased by the federal Crown in the years following 1888 and up to 1927 and turned back to Akwesasne Reserve lands. Starting in 1971, about another 17% were purchased by the federal Crown and are still held by it. Part of the land is environmentally sensitive, and both Canada and Akwesasne have stated their intention to protect those areas.

### **Tsikaristisere/Dundee Claim:**

The Tsikaristisere/Dundee Claim is based on specific instances of Canada's failure to protect the interest of the Mohawks of Akwesasne in lands leases, resulting in the 1888 loss of nearly 20,000 acres in what is now the municipality of Dundee, QC.

Akwesasne commenced proceeding in Federal Court in 1981, and has been in suspension since 2005, when productive negotiations with Canada began. The MCA subsequently resubmitted its claim in the context of evolving case law and submitted additional research.

In response to this development, Canada conducted a legal review of the revised submission and new evidence. Canada accepted the claim for negotiation on the basis that the original leases were irregular, and that the surrender amounted to an exploitative bargain and should never have been ratified by the Canadian government in 1888. In the negotiations between Canada and MCA, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is seeking to resolve these outstanding issues.



# Update: Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

## Trip to British Columbia

The Grand Chief attended a workshop that was put on by the First Nation Financial Management Group out of BC. This organization has an operation that is twofold. They provide a service that certifies the financial management and governance of First Nations across Canada. In order to achieve this certification, the First Nation must have qualified personnel, sound financial management procedures, they must have a revenue stream such as businesses, lease revenues or land claim revenues and finally they must pass a financial management law for their respective territory. Once certified, the First Nation is eligible to become a member of the organization. They would then be eligible to apply for low interest loan which is in the area of 2.5 percent. The lowest that the major banks can make a loan to a First Nation is just over 4 percent to 4.5 percent. This workshop provides valuable information for First Nations aspiring to become members of the First Nation Financial Management Group and gain access to low interest loans.

## Seshelt First Nation

Our delegation received a tour of Seshelt from Ms. Longboat, a local lawyer in Vancouver. Seshelt was one of the first in Canada to sign a self-government agreement which was in the 1980's. They received some criticism for patterning their governance style too closely with a municipality and implementing a taxation regime. There were also fears of loss of language and culture due to the residential school systems which were around in British Columbia until the 1990's.

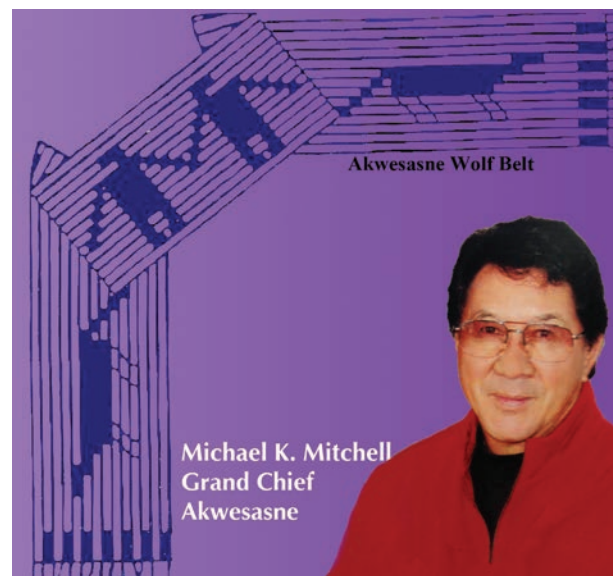
We were invited to a commemoration of the extension of the community library in Seshelt. This included the recognition of volunteers and people that provided community service. We were privileged to see dancers with elaborate masks and

hear the language of the shishalh people and enjoy a community meal. We were welcomed by Chief Calvin Craigan who recognized many of the incoming guests and delegates. It was very good to see that the self-governance agreement actually gave them revenue streams which they used to bring back the language and culture of the Shishalh people. We were honored to be invited to such a sacred ceremony.

## Westbank First Nation

The Westbank First Nation is one of the most advanced First Nations in Canada. It is close to the City of Kelowna, BC. Because of its proximity to Kelowna, the members of the First Nation have prospered through leasing land close to the highway leading to the city. Many have become affluent through the leasing of property. Westbank signed its self-government agreement in 2005. This allowed the First Nation to create sub-divisions and the power to charge taxation to Non Natives for the services provided within these sub divisions. The Westbank First Nation has been allowed to thrive politically and socially through its location, management and self-government agreement. Akwesasne and Westbank have been allies for some time. A modern treaty was signed in the late 1980's between Akwesasne and Westbank which has resulted in information sharing in the areas of Economic Development, lands and planning and governance.

Our delegation was given a tour of Westbank by Council members Mike de Guevara and Mic Worstuik. Meetings were held with Chief Robert Louie and we were given information from various departments within Westbank. We were invited to the 10 year anniversary of the signing of the Westbank Self Government agreement which was historic. The keynote speaker was Grand Chief since he was invited in 2005 to speak to the Westbank



people prior to the community vote. His insight into self- government agreements provided guidance to the Westbank First Nation. As a result, he was invited to return to Westbank to be the keynote speaker at the 10 year anniversary celebration. A video was played at the celebration which included footage of elders and people now passed on of the 2005 signing. This video was very touching to many people who wiped away tears for those passed on and for the success of their community. It was very insightful to be a part of this celebration given that Akwesasne will vote in the next couple of years on our future agreement.

## First Nation Financial Management Authority

We met with Steve Berna of the First Nation Financial Management Authority. He provided information on the requirements of getting a certification from the FNFMA. Since Akwesasne is in the process of passing its Financial Management law, it may already be eligible to get certification. Mr. Berna and Executive Director Ernie Daniels are planning to come to Akwesasne on May 26, to make a presentation to full Council in regard to the certification process and potential for low interest loans for the community to consider.

# Update: Kawehno:ke District Chief Abram Benedict

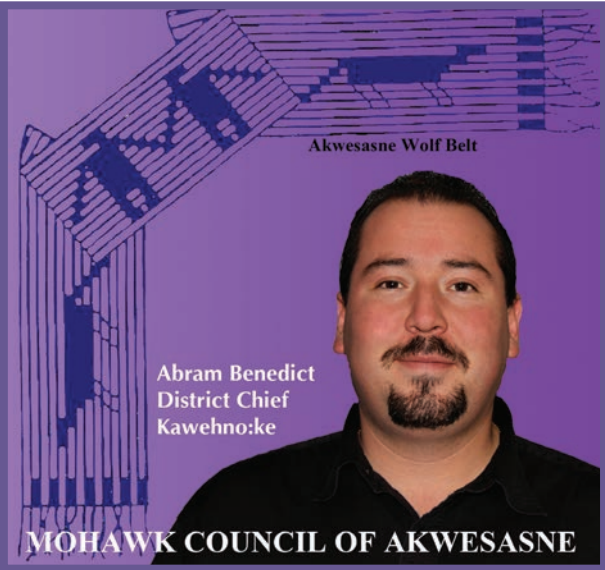
## MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES-ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY

The Minister of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) Tracy MacCharles and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer jointly hosted the 2015 First Nations Leadership Roundtable for the Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy (ACYs) on February 4, 2015. This roundtable session was organized to give the MCYS the opportunity to present the final draft of the policy framework strategy, which had been under development for eighteen (18) months. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Director of the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) and I both participated, at the MCYS-ACYs technical table meetings and at a number of strategy sessions with the Independent First Nations, on the strategy development throughout the eighteen (18) month period.

The roundtable session held on February 4<sup>th</sup> started with a traditional Opening Prayer from Garry Sault, Elder of the Mississaugas

of the New Credit, which was followed by remarks from John Beaucage who facilitated the session. The Minister of Children and Youth outlined that the government would like First Nations leadership endorsement of the strategy so they can take the framework to the Ontario Cabinet and ask for their endorsement so that it can be rolled out to other Ministries. Patricia Bishop, Director of Strategic Policy and Aboriginal Relationships Branch, presented the draft policy framework to the leadership and outlined the six pillars of the framework. The pillars include transformed relationships and collaborative action; First Nations jurisdiction/Aboriginal control; prevention, culture, and opportunities; coordinated and responsive circle of care; monitoring, evaluation, and shared accountability; and finally, wholistic approach.

Once the presentation was concluded, the Minister asked each representative to provide feedback on the policy. The Director of DCSS and I offered our feedback to the



draft. We expressed that any prevention models must also include wholistic approaches and explained that the use of traditional medicine includes healing all parts of the body, including physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional components of the body. We pointed out that even though the draft framework recognized culturally appropriate programs, the draft did not specifically recognize language. We



*Kawehno:ke Chief Abram Benedict with other First Nation Leadership, Minister of Children and Youth and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at Queens Park.*



expressed that the policy should specifically recognize language as an important element aside from being captured under culture. We also expressed our concern with the need to have an implementation plan *and* the financial resources to implement it. The draft also spoke about jurisdiction and engaging the Federal Government. I let the Minister know again that Akwesasne will be seeking Ontario's and Canada's support of our development of an Akwesasne Child Law to cover all of Akwesasne. The Ministers thanked the leadership for the feedback and also invited leadership to provide written submission. The Minister of Children and Youth again explained that they will be bringing the draft to the Cabinet and will be asking for endorsements and resources by way of cabinet submission.

### **TRADITIONAL MEDICINE**

Following the leadership roundtable meeting of February 4, 2015 I was asked by the elected Chief of Six Nations Chief Ava Hill if I would attend an ad hoc meeting with the Minister of Children and Youth Services Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Health and Long Term Care Eric Hoskins, and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer to express Akwesasne's support for traditional medicine. A recent court case in the Brant region between the Brant Children's Aid Society and the McMasters Children's Hospital in Hamilton found that a cancer-stricken 11 year old child could not be forced to resume chemotherapy because the Constitution protects her mother's right to treat the child with traditional Aboriginal medicine instead. This case sparked a lot of controversy between the right to choose traditional medicine over western medicine, as it relates to Aboriginal Rights.

The Chief of Six Nations asked for the meeting to explain the community's perspectives on traditional medicine and its importance in the community. The Ontario government had been silent in the news on the issue, even after public calls for them to weigh in on the case. During the thirty (30) minute

meeting, a handful of First Nations leaders took the opportunity to speak on each of their community's diverse use of traditional medicine. I explained to the Ministers that Akwesasne has had a Traditional Medicine program for over fifteen (15) years and that through our program model we not only focus on the physical condition of the person, but also on the spiritual, mental, and emotional aspect of our clients health because many sicknesses are associated with other problems within the body. The Ministers were very receptive to the presentations made. Following this meeting, I sent a letter to the Ministers thanking them for taking the time to meet with our delegation and I also invited the Minister of Health and the Minister of Children and Youth to tour our community and see our Traditional Medicine program firsthand.

### **AANDC REVIEW OF MCA's COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

During the week of February 9, 2015 representatives from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) were in Akwesasne to conduct a review of MCA's Community Support Program (welfare). The review was being conducted to assess the overall management of the program and examine a sample of files to validate the eligibility of beneficiaries and overall compliance with program requirements. This review was originally scheduled to take place last year but due to AANDC staffing resources the review was conducted this year instead. The review was conducted over a four day period which consisted of an examination of a number of files to ensure that benefits provided were done so in accordance with policy.

The Director of the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS), the Program Manager and the Case Manager for the Community Support Program, along with Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs and I, met with the four AANDC individuals for a review debrief. The Manager for Social Programs at AANDC

gave an overview of the process used and provided us with some immediate feedback from the review. Overall the program is in compliance, but some recommendations were made for improvement in a few areas. We requested to see a draft of the report before it's finalized so that we can provide input into the final product. A follow up letter has been sent to the Manager of Social Programs requesting a copy of the draft and also acknowledging the professionalism of the onsite reviewers from AANDC.

### **MCA ANNUAL BUDGETING PROCESS**

MCA carried out its annual budgeting process throughout the month of February. In preparation of final operating plan and budget reviews, I met with the Director of Housing to review her proposed budget along with representatives from the Finance and Executive Services programs. The budgeting process included a review of the proposed operating plan which outlined the department goals for the upcoming fiscal year and financial resources required to implement the plan. The proposed budget is very similar to last year's financial requirements with very minimal increase.

On February 27 the Director and Assistant Director of the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) presented the DCSS budget to the Finance and Executive Services programs. Some areas of concern include Childcare and the Community Support Program (CSP). Over the last few years the number of clients being served by CSP has increased which has caused the program to operate in deficit. Through current MCA financial arrangements with Canada, Akwesasne is provided with a block of funding to provide a number of services and the Community Support Program is only one of many programs included. The rise in the number of clients has made financial planning critical to meeting the needs of the CSP program. All MCA budgets are expected to be finalized and presented to Council for acceptance by the first week of April.

# Update: Kana:takon District Chief Larry King

She:kon,  
This will probably represent the last report for this particular Council's term, using this method. I will do a summary of issues that are sensitive in nature, at least from the standpoint of putting them in written form where it is difficult to manage and assure that it is for the Akwesasne community's eyes and ears only. I don't remember the last time that I was NOT on a General Meeting agenda to provide absolutely any snippet of information and update possible in the area of our Land Claims negotiations. I always provide a disclaimer to that effect, assuring to remind that we have to be careful with maintaining confidentiality on the information and ask for indulgence that we don't hand out any literature or put it in Indian Time newspaper or on CKON radio... folks accept and understand for the most part for which I am grateful. A good example of how this can be problematic and how things can be used for the wrong reasons are the recent and ongoing court cases dealing with CBSA. On more than one occasion CBSA's lawyers alluded to and presented to the court, several articles derived from Indian Time newspaper. The obvious intent is to levy these documents against the argument at hand.

I begin by what I'm sure is sounding like a "broken record" as it pertains to the Tsikaristesere/Dundee Land Claim. I offer a reminder with a snap shot:

**The Tsikaristesere/Dundee Claim** is based on specific instances of Canada's failure to protect the interest of the Mohawks of Akwesasne in land leases resulting in the 1888 loss of nearly 20,000 acres in what is now the municipality of Dundee, QC.

Akwesasne commenced proceedings in Federal Court in 1982, which has been in suspension since 2005, when productive negotiations with Canada began. The negotiations finished in October 2011 when Canada agreed to

return with an offer for settlement. After subsequent meetings with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) officials, including a meeting with Federal Minister Valcourt as recently as September 25, 2014, MCA still awaits a proposal for settlement. These meetings with high level officials resulted in promises for a forthcoming proposal and with no such offer to date, MCA is considering its options to take further steps towards a settlement of this longstanding claim.

Once an offer from Canada is received a Settlement Agreement would be negotiated and presented to the community for ratification. This would entail an intensive education campaign so community members can make an informed decision which will be ultimately ratified by Referendum. While the Specific Claims agenda speaks to Loss of Use resulting in financial compensation, under the settlement agreement lands equal to the acreage lost can also be returned to reserve status when purchased from willing sellers.

We wait in eager anticipation that we will be informed that the Federal Government of Canada is prepared to present a Settlement Offer. It has been too long since we departed from the negotiation table feeling very content with our efforts and the argument we put forward through painstaking effort and an awful lot of time and energy from a good team. The Federal Negotiator in the last quarter of the Tsikaristesere negotiations (he was not there from the beginning) also sits in negotiations for Nation Building. Mr. Fred Caron informed me a month ago that he is as confident as he's ever been and hopes that a settlement offer will be coming soon. We spoke of the fact that we have a General Election in June and there is a Federal Election for the fall of 2015 and we were worried that their Federal Election would delay things further. He thought the contrary, and that the Federal Minister is putting a lot of pressure to have a settlement offer to us before then.



The Federal Government is very aware of our frustration while we keep a finger on the pulse of the Specific Claims agenda which appears to be faltering. We know we are far from being alone across Indian Country with the fact that we have concluded what we believe was successful negotiations and waiting for a very long time for a response.

There are many other First Nations in the same boat. There are Claims that have been outright denied and some First Nations that were offered much lower compensation than expected with a take it or leave it attitude. However we also know that some were sent directly to the Tribunal, which was originally and supposedly set up as an Appeal Tribunal, who have rendered some satisfactory offers. This Tribunal can only hear appeals on Claims that are \$150 million and below which ultimately means that if we receive an unsatisfactory offer the only recourse for us would be court because our argument far exceeded \$150 million. The last thing we need is another court case. Our frustration has led us to sign on to a class action approach to bringing attention to the sad state of affairs which is the Specific Claims process. I remind that Specific Claims is the name given by the Federal Government of Canada to files dealing with the mismanagement of Indian Lands. We have proven, and Canada agreed, that there was a breach of fiduciary



duty and that our Tsikaristesere/Dundee file would be accepted for negotiations.

We were approached by a letter from the National Claims Research Directors which reads as follows:

We urgently seek your endorsement of a report prepared by the National claims Research Directors from across Canada which will be presented to Prime Minister Harper on Monday March 9. The report entitled "In Bad Faith: Justice at Last and Canada's Failure to Resolve Specific Claims", details Canada's willful failure to fulfill its commitments to fairly resolve Specific Land Claims. The Harper Government has broken its promises to Canadians and allowed for longstanding historical grievances to remain unresolved, along with the significant burden of debt and uncertainty that these claims represent for all Canadians. Unresolved Specific Claims impinge upon economic opportunities, housing and access to resources and are often at the root of conflicts between First Nations, their neighbors and government. AANDC's recent treatment of Specific Claims is setting the stage for further conflict. The open letter to Prime Minister Harper on the resolution of Specific Claims and signed by many First Nations reads as follows:

*Dear Prime Minister Harper, As First Nations citizens, specific claims practitioners, lawyers and Canadians committed to the just, fair and timely resolution of specific claims in Canada, we present the enclosed report prepared by the National Claims Research Directors and call on you to act immediately upon the report's recommendations.*

*Claims Research Directors manage over 30 claims research associations across Canada and are responsible for advancing hundreds of specific claims for hundreds of First Nations. They are uniquely positioned to witness and participate in*

*all parts of the specific claims process.*

*The enclosed report, "In Bad Faith: Justice At Last and Canada's Failure to Resolve Specific Claims", details Canada's failure to fulfill its commitments to fairly resolve specific claims. Specific claims are historic wrongdoings committed by the Crown against First Nations that are rooted in racially discriminatory ideas, legislation and policies which Canada has publicly acknowledged and committed to address. The legacy of this continues to impact First Nations communities to the present day. Unresolved specific claims impinge upon economic opportunities, housing, and access to resources and are often at the root of conflicts between First Nations, their neighbors and government. AANDC's recent treatment of specific claims is setting the stage for further conflict.*

*In Bad Faith challenges recent public assertions made by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) that proclaim the success of Canada's Specific Claims Action Plan: Justice At Last. The report presents a review and analysis of available reports and data, and input from First Nations, and concludes that your government has effectively abandoned negotiation as the preferred and just means of resolving specific claims. Contrary to the promises articulated in Justice At Last, your government has allowed for longstanding historical grievances to remain unresolved, along with the significant burden of debt and uncertainty that these claims represent for all Canadians.*

*In 2014, James Anaya, then United Nations Special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples observed that Canada's claims processes are "mired in difficulties". As a result of these difficulties, many First Nations have all but given up on them. Worse yet, in many cases it appears that these processes have contributed to a deterioration rather than a renewal of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian state.*

*Anaya urges that "the government of Canada should instead acknowledge that the public interest is not opposed to, but rather includes aboriginal concerns". The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has called for a comprehensive strategy to uphold the human rights on Indigenous Peoples in Canada, including a national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). As a signatory to UNDRIP, Canada has made an international commitment to bring about justice for First nations in Canada and to improve its relations with First Nations. This includes ensuring that specific claims are resolved with finality through collaboration and negotiation with First Nations and creating the conditions for these processes to occur by providing adequate resources.*

*Specific claims will not be resolved if Canada continues to engage in the practices detailed in the enclosed report, nor will they disappear without honorable government leadership that respects the principles of justice articulated in its own policy documents. The debt burden on Canadians is mounting and the already fragile relationship between Canada and First nations is in danger of further deterioration. With an upcoming federal election, we urge you to implement the recommendations outlined in our report and uphold the promises made in Justice At Last to settle specific claims through fair, honorable and timely negotiations with First Nations, and ensure that the human rights of First Nations are fully respected.*

We have not heard the outcome of this letter which is not surprising because the Federal Government of Canada is a slow moving machine and process.

The Tsikaristesere/Dundee file as it is presented above is not the only grievance we have in that immediate area. The line that indicates the western most boundary, known as the **Godmanchester Line**, we contest

# Continued...Update: Kana:takon District Chief Larry King

is not accurate to the tune of 1,500 acres. This triangular shaped area was originally part of the Dundee lands that belong to the Mohawks of Akwesasne and were separated through an inaccurate survey commissioned by the Crown in the 1840's. The lands were never surrendered, and are separate from the Dundee Claim because the details and allegations were found by the MCA after the original filing of the Tsikaristesere Claim. This discussion was tabled at Tsikaristesere/Dundee negotiations and it was felt that the Godmanchester Line argument deserved its own and separate negotiation table because a quick estimate by our Economist indicates that this is very worthwhile to fight to be compensated for Loss of Use of this land.

Another Claim that I have been involved extensively is the **NY Claim or the 1796 Treaty claim**. This is for land that was infringed upon subsequent to a 1796 Treaty with New York State. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC) and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) are litigants in a land claim filed in the U.S. Federal Court against the State of New York, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and others for lands, islands and resources belonging to the Mohawks of Akwesasne. The original land claim was filed in 1982 by the MCA and MNCC and SRMT filed together in 1989. The court enjoined the parties in 1992. In July of 2013, all but one of the areas, the Hogansburg Triangle, was dismissed by Judge Kahn who basically rubber-stamped the recommendation put forth by Magistrate Dancks. In 2005, after successful referendums by both MCA and SRMT and consensus reached by MNCC, the three Mohawk parties entered into a Settlement Agreement with New York State and NYPA. This agreement was not ratified in the Senate and negotiations halted. In May of 2014 the SRMT entered into a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New York State, NYPA and St. Lawrence County to set principles in place for settlement negotiations. New York State continues to meet with Franklin County to achieve same to set forth similar principles on which a settlement can be reached. The MCA will make every effort to ensure that settlement would include Baxter and Long Sault Islands which were included in the original 2005 Agreement. The MCA has consistently taken the position that the islands are important to all of Akwesasne and that an avenue for their eventual return is included in any settlement. MOU negotiations are still underway and we will inform the community as they progress.

**The North Shore Claim** involves lands on the North Shore of the St Lawrence River from approximately Point au Beaudet QC to Long Sault, ON, representing approx. 30 miles long and 18 miles deep. These lands were historically farmed and hunted by the Mohawks of Akwesasne where a French deed granted in the early 1700's by Father Gordon of Quebec assured the lands' ownership. Beginning in the early 1800's, after the War of 1812, soldiers began both squatting on the lands and also were granted these lands for their service by the Crown. The lands within the North Shore were never surrendered and are subject of a claim that was filed with Canada in 2007. Our proposal was returned to MCA because it did not meet a new minimum standard. It was reformatted and subsequently refiled with Canada in May of 2012 and being that Canada is bound by a 3 year window to either accept or deny a submission we anticipate hearing anytime that we will hopefully be going into negotiations as May 2015 marks 3 years. We will request an accounting in letter form to remind and encourage a response to the file that we presented in person in Hull, Quebec which was

intended to expedite at least the notification process. I allude to the issues mentioned previous and consider our North Shore Claim among the casualties of the Federal Government of Canada's inabilities and shortcomings in dealing with Specific Claims.

As it pertains to the lands within what we consider as the parameters of the North Shore Claim, I continue to be involved in talks with Transport Canada and the City of Cornwall regarding divestiture of what has come to be known as the Port Lands. We attempted negotiation in 2005 when Transport Canada approached both Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall to gauge if we'd be interested in a shared approach to a divestiture of these lands...this is the only way that Transport Canada would entertain this notion. There were disagreements over the percentage of ownership between our communities and we were definitely unwilling to be considered as anything less than 50% owners and made argument that in actuality we should be 51% owners in any arrangement with the City of Cornwall as we remained steadfast that it is part of our Traditional Territory. These talks broke down and Transport Canada pulled their offer and maintained ownership over these lands. Transport Canada permitted a contract to a company that built holding tanks for calcium chloride which is mainly used as a dust suppressant during road construction. It was during sessions with Transport Canada where both Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall expressed our discontent that Transport Canada offered again the option of going into Divestiture talks, again only if both communities participated and benefitted. Ensuing discussions and meetings resulted in a renewed approach and under a 50-50 split in ownership with the City of Cornwall. Some may turn their nose to the idea but there is really no other way to outright return these lands back to our possession.



This includes even if we are successful with negotiating the North Shore Claim because we will receive financial compensation for Loss of Use and the land agenda would be under the Willing Seller banner. Presently much of the activity within the Divestiture negotiations involves Environmental Assessment of the property. A company known as CH2MHILL completed a Phase 1 Assessment and Phase 2 is nearing completion. Transport Canada is also unable to inform us of the status of their Department and Program which is under realignment therefore they do not know the extent of their overall budget and that which will be applicable to the Port Lands Divestiture. Meetings have been both in person and by conference call.

We continue to meet Ontario Power Generation (OPG) regularly as part of our **Joint Implementation Team** meetings which in turn are the result of our settlement with them under their original name of Ontario Hydro. The intent is to assure that all aspects of the settlement are applied as well as expanding into other areas such as employment opportunities and support under capacity building. We have not

had much success in enticing community contractors to consider going through the process of becoming eligible to bid on contracts within OPG despite them being readily available to provide guidance and assistance along the way. Several community presentations and offerings have not been well attended but we will continue because there is a huge project on the horizon as they refurbish their Darlington Nuclear Site. OPG has claimed that they will they will have difficulty meeting the demand to man this huge project. We anticipate being on CKON radio to do a Tetewatharen recording where we will speak on things in general and concentrate on OPG's Emergency Preparedness Plan. A portion of this presentation will also be to inform and invite community members to a community presentation on Kawehno:ke in the second week of May. We will inform the community when all the logistics are made concrete as to when and where, obviously knowing this before our radio presentation.

The Trustees for the Akwesasne Community Trust have been working diligently to assure that this is a tight process when they begin vetting ideas from the community on where

to apply these proceeds. As a reminder, we've had 2 settlements namely OPG and the Kawehno:ke Claim that, via community consultation, will be allocated and dealt with using the Trust process. Those that participated in the consultation process were adamant that the fate of these proceeds should not be decided by Chiefs and/or MCA Administration and shouldn't get placed in MCA coffers. Our consultants, Stone Circle Consultants, took all comments, suggestions and concerns under consideration and eventually strongly recommended that the best course of action would be to formulate a community trust which will allow the community to be involved and have a say in how these proceeds will be delivered using a priority approach. I urge community members to participate in the announced meetings where the Trustees will receive their marching orders and be tasked with formulating priorities from the ideas they receive at these gatherings. While there is more to report this is obviously getting quite lengthy so I will rely on my colleagues to report on other areas of my portfolio duties. Land Claims fall under the Government Secretariat portfolio to which I am the Chair or Major portfolio holder.

## MCA OBSERVES SAIOWISAKERON DAY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was closed on Friday, May 1, 2015 for the annual observance of Saiowisakeron Day, also known as Jake Fire/John Ice Day.

John Saiowisakeron Fire, known as John Ice Fire, and his brother, Jake Ohnehtotake Fire, are remembered for a tragic incident that occurred in the village of Kana:takon (St. Regis) on May 1, 1899. Ohnehtotake, a life chief, was arrested for opposing the elections Canada was forcing upon the Akwesasne community.

Hearing of this incident, Saiowisakeron went to the Indian Agent's office in Kana:takon

where his brother was held. Upon entering the office, he was fatally shot by police.

Akwesasne continues to honor Saiowisakeron for the price he paid to defend his community's traditions and sovereignty. The incident is symbolic of Akwesasne's historic pursuit of self-governance.

Every year on May 1st, please remember the two brothers who were early defenders of Akwesasne's independence.

*The Saiowisakeron Statue can be seen when entering the village of Kana:takon, where he was a resident.*



# Update: Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas

Date	Topic
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Public Safety Portfolio Meeting (rescheduled from January 15 <sup>th</sup> ).
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Contacted SIBC on traffic detour update to take place March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
February 9-13 <sup>th</sup>	Attended International Disaster Conference & Expo in New Orleans with Chief Adams-Phillips and US Customs Port Director and Aboriginal Liaison.
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Discussion with American Bridge Corporation on tax free status for First Nations workers.
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Met with Public Works Canada representative at Kawehno:ke POE.
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Border Security meeting at AMPS with RCMP, US Customs, Border Patrol, SRMT, MNCC and Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission. Discussed RCMP security fence, Ship Rider Program, Cultural Sensitivity Training, and Haudenosaunee Awareness Training.
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Attended McDonald Institute Anti-Contraband and Tobacco Panel Discussion in Toronto with the Director of Tehotiiennawakon.
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Attended CBSA Cultural Sensitivity Training.
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Attended Akwesasne Police Services Agreement Negotiations.</li><li>▪ Traveled through US Customs Massena Port and was pleased that the officer asked all of his questions in Kanienkeha.</li><li>▪ Followed up with ARRO on Cultural Sensitivity Training.</li></ul>
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Telephone conference with Watertown Daily Times reporter Dan Flatley regarding article on border security.
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Public Works Canada Conference call on Kawehno:ke POE building demolition.
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	CBSA Vehicle Seizures Court Case hearings at Supreme Court in Ottawa.
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Public Safety Portfolio Meeting. Next meeting May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2015.

More information on current activities:

### SIBC

MCA receives updates on a weekly basis for traffic plans, bridge demolition, toll booth relocation and signage. Contact: Wade Dorland.

### American Bridge

Mohawk Council and Public Safety receives monthly progress reports, including the Mohawk employment content reports. Contact: Pat Murphy.

### Kaweno:ke Port of Entry

MCA Public Safety liaises with the Public Works Canada and Service Canada (PWC & SC) through teleconference calls to discuss the eligibility to participate in the Aboriginal set-a-side program. PWC & SC is currently working with Tehotiiennawakon

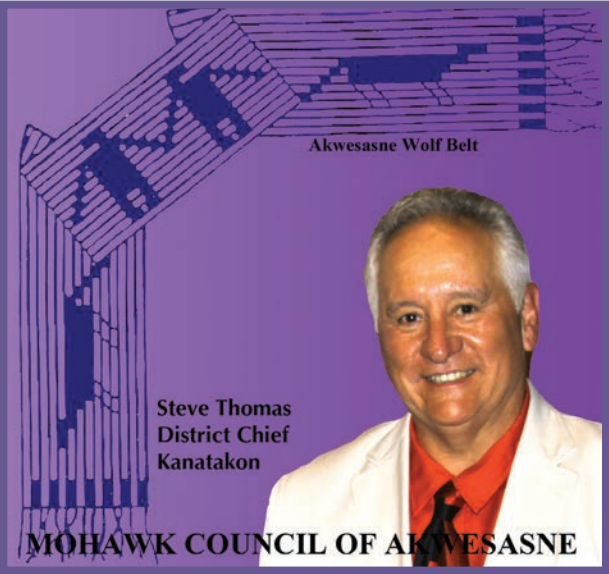
on providing the information to local Native contractors. Contact: Sandra Stevens.

### Border Security

MCA Public Safety will meet with the following on regular or semi-regular basis, as needed, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, United States Customs & Border Patrol, Canadian Border Services Agency (ON/QC), Ontario Provincial Police, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police and Police Commission, New York State Police, Massena Police, Sécurité Québec, Cornwall Community Police Service, United States Coast Guard, and the Citizen Immigration Canada.

### Tobacco

Participate on the two year Pilot Project and the Ontario Tobacco Technical Table, with discussions on the legalization of Aboriginal tobacco products. The growing of raw leaf



tobacco, implementation of the regulatory requirements, the development of the Akwesasne Tobacco and Products Law, as well as manufacturing, sales and First Nations trade. Also participate in the Ontario Tax Free Cigarette Allocation program, in Akwesasne.

### Contraband Tobacco

Participate on the panel discussions in Ontario, providing an Aboriginal perspective on First Nations Trade and the work completed on the Tobacco Technical Table.

### Quadripartite Agreement Negotiations

Participate in negotiating Akwesasne Police Association contract.

### Public Relations

Public Safety Chair participated in interviews on for an article on Border Security, in relation to Akwesasne—as well as testifies on Senate and Parliamentary committees and participated in the Federal and National discussion forums.



# New Logo Adopted By MCA



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Executive Services, Council and Communications Unit is proud to announce that a new logo has been formally adopted by MCA. This logo will be used across the MCA organization and replaces any previous logo versions such as the corner-Wolf Belt logo and the black and white partridge logo.

There were several reasons why a new logo was needed. No logo had ever been officially adopted by Mohawk Council Resolution (MCR) and therefore various versions had been used throughout MCA. Additionally, it was agreed that a fresh, updated look was needed for the organization.

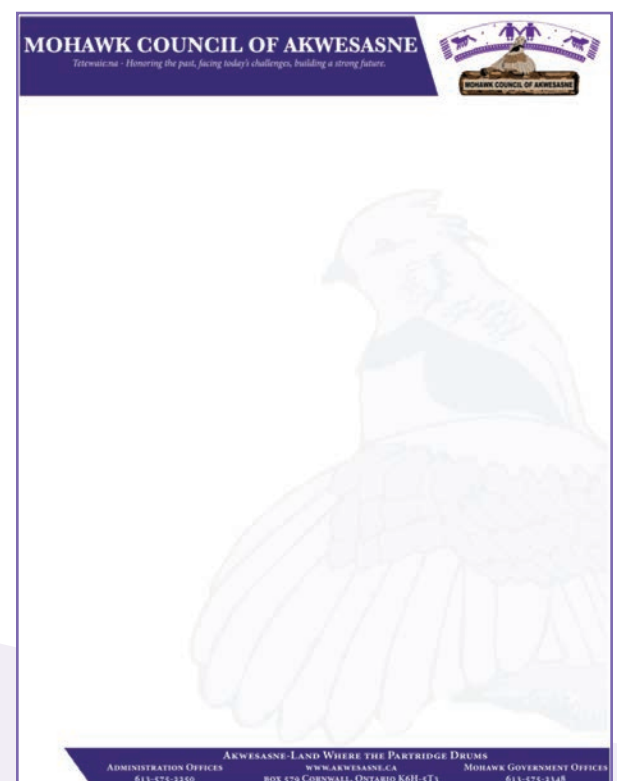
In 2014, Council decided that the new logo should be created through a community logo contest and a callout for submissions was conducted. Council determined that the logo needed to feature a partridge as a symbol of Akwesasne's known description as the "Land Where the Partridge Drums." Council also determined that the logo should feature the Akwesasne Wolf Belt for its historical

significance to the Akwesasne community.

When the contest submissions were received, Council selected four finalists and sent those submissions out to the community for votes to select the winner. Votes were cast through ballots (ballot box), by staff email, and through Facebook "likes."

The logo that received the most number of votes won the contest and was drawn by an artist who wishes to be anonymous. Runner-ups were Joseph King, Penny Peters and Thomas King. Council wishes to thank all the contest participants for their efforts and involvement.

Council and staff determined that the winning logo required technical changes and commissioned local artist Bruce Boots to make these changes. MCA Communications Officer Ashley Tarbell made additional improvements to the logo under Council's advisement, and the final logo was accepted as the new official MCA Logo on February 17, 2015 through the passing of MCR #327.



*A new MCA letterhead has also been adopted.*

## MCA Youth Employee Profile: Jori Rourke

**M**y name is Jori Kaniehtakohe Rourke and I am delighted to be the Youth Employee Profile for this issue of Onkwe'ta:ke.

Since 2012, I have been an Executive Assistant to Council with the Mohawk Government program—under the Executive Services department.

Prior to my employment with Mohawk Council I was the Project Clerk, in the Project Management Office at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. In my previous position, I simultaneously worked with many different departments, to achieve the goals of our office on various projects. I was responsible for documenting project meetings, keeping the departments on track as well as assisting them with what they needed to keep projects moving forward. I am also the owner of Powder Blush Bomb, a professional and international beauty service that I started in 2010, after I graduated from the Ottawa Academy of Esthetics. My education, employment opportunities and my experience in customer service as the owner of Powder Blush Bomb has sincerely developed my communication skills and prepared me so I can be confident in effectively interacting with people.

Working as an EA to Council involves a lot of multi-tasking and effectual time management to accomplish the many tasks



*MCA Executive Assistant to Council, Jori Rourke*

and assignments we receive from the Grand Chief and Council, the Government Support Manager and the programs and departments within MCA—as well as communicating and working with external organizations, agencies and companies.

I work on the portfolios for Public Safety, Health, Justice, and Tehotiennawakon with

their initiatives and issues, among others matters. It has been gratifying to work closely with Chief Karen Loran of Tsi Snaihne, Chief Louise Thompson and Chief Brian David, both of Kawehno:ke, and Chief Steve Thomas of Kana:takon. The Chiefs are all diversified in their portfolios and initiatives. I am grateful to work on numerous initiatives with them—it keeps my job interesting, as I can always expect something different every day.

The most rewarding aspects of my position include assisting community members and Council, with items such as community-based projects. Currently, one of the most professionally satisfying things I am working on is Sharing Through the Generations Project, as part of the Cultural Development Agreement, which MCA partnered in with the Quebec government and its agencies.

From working with Council, a future aspiration would be to continue my work with Mohawk Government and/or any of the core programs within Executive Services, as a staff member—and maybe one day as one of the political leaders for Akwesasne.

Support a Drug Free Community!

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

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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



## New Pharmacy Now Operating at Kanonhkwatsheri:io



*New pharmacists Ramy Yacoub and Gerges Kedice.*

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is notifying the community that there is a new pharmacy now operating at the Kanonhkwatsheri:io Health Facility in Kana:takon (St. Regis).

The new pharmacy, called PROXIM RAMY YACOUB ET GERGES R. S. KEDICE, is being operated by pharmacists Ramy Yacoub and Gerges Kedice, who purchased the former Ononkwasona Pharmacy earlier this year. The new pharmacy has been in operation since April 20, 2015.

“On behalf of Mohawk Council, I wish to acknowledge and thank the previous pharmacy owner Gus Pyke and his staff for the many years of quality service they provided to the Akwesasne community,” said Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell. “I want to also welcome the new owners and wish them great success in serving our community.”

The pharmacy is a private business. If you would like more information or require their services, please contact PROXIM RAMY YACOUB ET GERGES R. S. KEDICE directly at 613-575-1160 or Fax 613-575-1149.

## Space for Lease at Peace Tree Trade Centre

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that space is available for lease at the Peace Tree Trade Centre, located at 167 Akwesasne International Road, Kawehno:ke. The space available, Unit #2, is 2000 square feet and already set up for restaurant or food service business. This unit can also be utilized for other type of businesses.

New businesses' operating two years or less may qualify for first year reduced

rents. All business applicants must be, at minimum, 51 % Native Owned.

Applications may be picked up at the Economic Development Office at CIA #3 Building on Kawehno:ke. Applications will be accepted until the unit is filled.

For more information, please contact the Economic Development Offices at 613-575-2250 ext. 1052 or 1053.



# General Election Notice & Official List of Eligible Candidates

According to Section 9.12 of the Akwesasne Election Law, I, Leona Benedict/Chief Electoral Officer declare that a General Election will be held on **Saturday, June 27, 2015** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Tsi Snaihne: Snye Recreation Center  
Kawehno:ke: Tri District Elders Lodge  
Kana:takon: St. Regis Recreation Center

Advance polls will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 and Wednesday, June 24, 2015 by appointment only. The number to call for an appointment is 613-551-1622 or 613-575-2250 Ext. 2406.

The following is the OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

**Official Candidates for GRAND CHIEF:**

- 1. Brian David
- 2. Abram Benedict
- 3. Emmy Lazore Mitchell

**Official Candidates List for DISTRICT CHIEFS:**

**CORNWALL ISLAND/KAWEHNO:KE**

- 1. Louise Thompson
- 2. Rose Mary Square
- 3. Gary Cole
- 4. Nelson David White
- 5. Vince Thompson
- 6. Lloyd William Benedict Jr.
- 7. Lloyd Benedict
- 8. Ann Deer
- 9. Jennifer Boots
- 10. Jackie H. Benedict
- 11. Joanne Jocko
- 12. Laura Benedict
- 13. Charmaine Caldwell
- 14. Dennis Chaussi
- 15. Troy Thompson
- 16. Wesley “Fuzzy” Benedict
- 17. Laura Morris
- 18. Nona Benedict

**ST. REGIS/KANA:TAKON**

- 1. Amanda Jacobs
- 2. Darryl “Kermit” Lazore
- 3. Kristy Lauzon
- 4. Larry King
- 5. Sandra Thompson
- 6. Steve Thomas
- 7. Thomas “Baseball” Johnson
- 8. Ryan Jacobs
- 9. Theresa Jacobs
- 10. Tim “Dooley” Thompson
- 11. Julie Phillips-Jacobs
- 12. Cecelia “Ceely” King

**SNYE/TSI SNAIHNE**

- 1. Joe Lazore
- 2. Tanya Lazore-Square
- 3. Connie Lazore
- 4. Toby Sunday
- 5. April Adams-Phillips
- 6. Tobi Mitchell
- 7. Esther C. Jock
- 8. Karen Loran
- 9. Marlon Johnson
- 10. Theresa Cole
- 11. Scott Peters
- 12. William “Billy” Sunday



## Nia:wen to Community Members

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to extend a big Nia:wenkowa to all community members that volunteered their time to clean up the Point in Kana:takon recently. A special thank you goes out to the organizers Landon Mitchell and Dave Francis. Also thank you to Danielle Sunday Mitchell for sharing photos.

It is always appreciated when Akwesasne do their due diligence in ensuring that Akwesasne is kept clean. Nia:wen!



## MCA Water and Wastewater Facilities Annual Performance Inspection

The MCA water and wastewater facilities were inspected on December 4, 2014. There are 8 facilities total. They are the Kana:takon Water Treatment plant, the Kawehno:ke Water Treatment plant, the Kana:takon Wastewater Treatment plant, the Tsi Snaihne Wastewater Treatment plant, the Tsi Snaihne Communal Septic Field Bed, the Block 97 Wastewater Treatment plant, the AMS Wastewater Treatment plant, and the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Sewage System.

After each inspection, a System Risk Score is calculated based on the water quality, facility design, operation & maintenance, record keeping & reporting, and operator performance. A high risk score is greater than 7, medium is between 4 and 7, and low risk is less than 4.

The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Sewage System received a medium level risk score, 5.3, because the effluent water quality exceeded the regulatory limits. The inspection officer reported that this was due to inappropriate treatment and recommended that a coagulant be added to the treatment process. The MCA wastewater operators have resumed treating the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Sewage System with coagulant and they anticipate improvement in the laboratory analyses.

The potential risk that the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Sewage System imparts on the environment is due to the fact that the system does not operate continuously. The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena is not occupied seven days a week, therefore the wastewater settles in the tank after treatment. Converting the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Sewage System to a continuous system could be a better alternative to adding coagulant chemicals.

The Tsi Snaihne Communal Sewage System received a medium level risk score of 4.5. The inspection officer reported that the total suspended solids parameter exceeded the regulatory limits. The reason for this



Lorri Bova and her Water and Wastewater team award Keith Mitchell with AWWAO Water Operator of the Year award.

is that the treatment system was out of commission last winter. It has been repaired by the MCA wastewater department and the mechanical equipment is now fully treating the wastewater. Full treatment will enable the regulatory limits to be met and this will allow the System Risk Score to return to low level risk.

All of the other MCA water and wastewater facilities received low level risk scores from the inspection officer. If you would like further information regarding the inspection reports or if you would like to tour any of the plants you can reach MCA Water/ Wastewater department manager at (613)933-1971.





# Cornwall Boxing Sensation Brings Positive Influence to Akwesasne's Treatment Centre Youth

The Ionkwanonhsassetsi Adolescent Treatment Centre is proud to have a rising boxing star among them. Tony Luis, the current World Boxing Council (WBC) Continental Americas Champion has been working with the youth at Ionkwanonhsassetsi as a case aide and inspiring them to believe that they can become champions of anything they put their heart into.

Luis grew up across the river from Akwesasne in Cornwall, Ontario. As a small, frail child, his father encouraged him to learn karate at the age of 7 so that he would develop confidence and the ability to defend himself. Luis loved karate, but when he learned of his father's boxing past he began obsessing over all details of boxing and convinced his parents to let him try the sport.

By age 11, Luis had given up karate all together to focus his time 100 percent on boxing. He competed for the first time at age 12 and was boxing full time throughout his teens. He tried all different sports but boxing "really got to my heart," he said.

As young teenager, Luis was getting into trouble at school and amongst his peers, but as he grew more and more serious about boxing, the sport began to have widespread effects on nearly every aspect of his life. He spent hours a day at the boxing gym in Cornwall that was operated by his father, and he simply didn't have the energy to get into any trouble at the end of the day. As he began to win amateur fights, surprising himself, he grew more confident and found that he no longer felt the need to prove himself to anyone else. He was able to talk himself out of "hundreds" of fights throughout his teens and early adult life and said that boxing ironically made him less violent.

Folks in Cornwall began to recognize Luis and support him in his boxing career, and this too gave him the desire to lead a positive life.

At age 18, Luis won the 4 Nations Cup Tournament between Canada, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, also earning "Best Fight of the Night." He has since won countless tournaments and fights as he continues his rise to fame, with some being featured on ESPN 2 and The Sports Network. He is well-known to the Cornwall community and is a true rising star in international boxing.

This past January, at the age of 27, Luis was crowned the Continental Americas Champion going into a fight as the underdog and defeating the champion who was 17-

0. He is not planning to stop anytime and continues to gain fans and praise throughout the international boxing community. At Akwesasne's treatment centre, youth are fortunate to learn from Luis and how he has overcome his personal insecurities and rejected the pressures of adolescence to choose a good path.

"Working here, Tony is a mentor and a good role model for the kids of Akwesasne," said Ionkwanonhsassetsi's Program Manager Rick Oakes. "He tells them that they can achieve whatever they put their heart into. He has always been a positive influence here and is genuine about what he talks about with them."



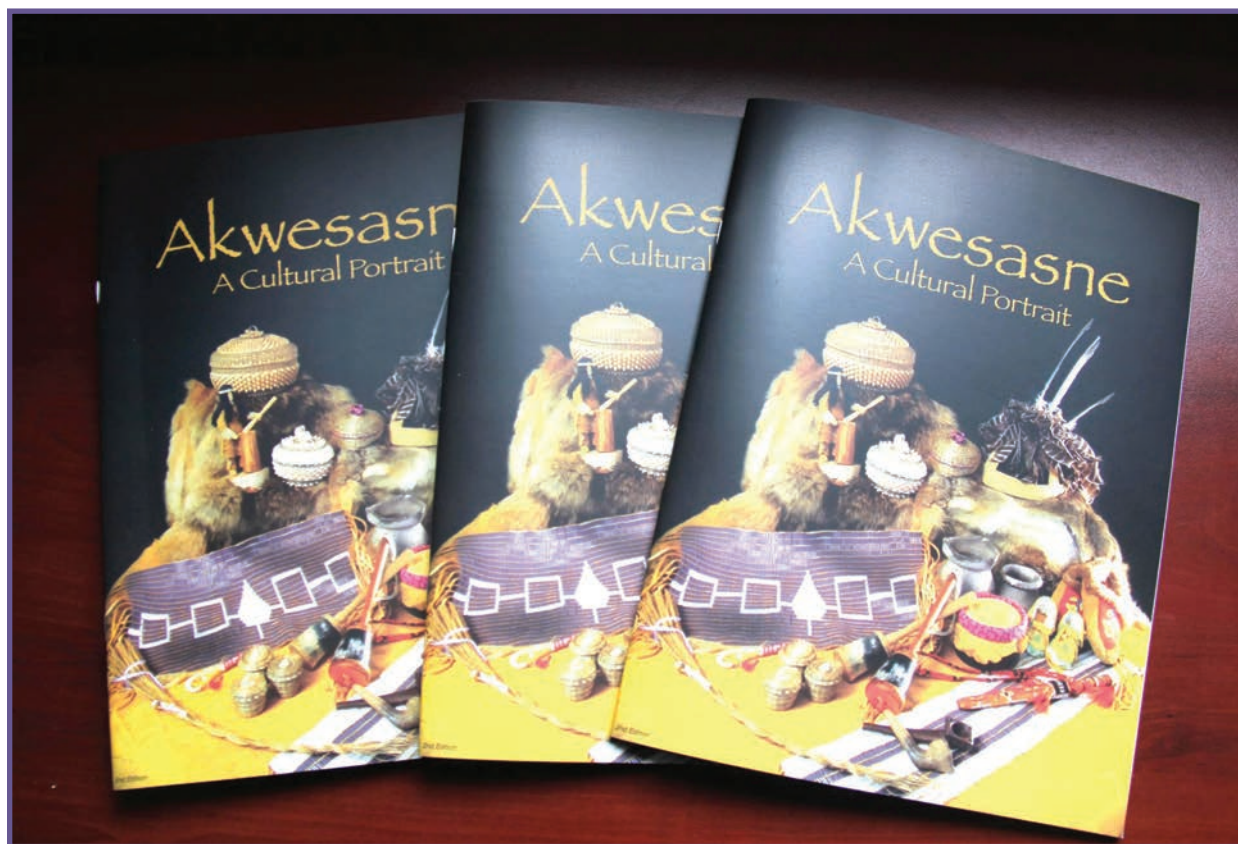
*Treatment Centre Program Manager Rick Oakes and Boxer Tony Luis*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> Edition of AKWESASNE: A CULTURAL PORTRAIT Published

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Communication Unit is proud to inform the community that Akwesasne: A Cultural Portrait has just been reprinted for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. This magazine-style publication was first printed as part of a Cultural Agreement between the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones Québec, Culture et Communications Québec, CRE Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. In the updated version, four new pages were incorporated featuring additional components of Akwesasne culture, and many new full-color photographs were added as well.

The publication gives an easy-to-read overview of Mohawk history and traditions and the vibrant culture of Akwesasne. It covers many important areas of Akwesasne life and livelihood, from the traditional clothing to the fine skills of beaders and basketmakers, and from the history of carefully woven lacrosse sticks to the summary of Haudenosaunee clans, songs, and dance. Although this publication is not all-encompassing (this would be very difficult to do in one publication), it does cover the core components of Mohawk culture. The first edition received widespread praise, especially from educators who had struggled to find one resource for teaching Mohawk and Haudenosaunee culture to students.



Akwesasne: A Cultural Portrait is available on the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's website [www.akwesasne.ca](http://www.akwesasne.ca). If you would like to request a free hard copy, please contact Shannon Roundpoint, Communications Unit Program Manager at 613-575-2348 ext. 2210 or email [Shannon.roundpoint@akwesasne.ca](mailto:Shannon.roundpoint@akwesasne.ca). The publication is also available at the Akwesasne Library and at MCA's Mohawk Government

Building #1 (former G&L buildings) on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the village of Kana:takon.

*A special thank you is extended to the Entewatathawi/Nation Building Program for sponsoring this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition printing.*

*Akwesasne: A Cultural Portrait is for educational purposes only and is not for sale.*

## Compliance: Dogs Must Be Leashed At All Times

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Compliance Program is reminding residents of Akwesasne to please ensure that your dogs are tied up or confined to your property.

There has recently been an increase in the number of complaints regarding loose dogs and also aggressive dogs chasing people on the road and in public spaces. There

have been serious incidences recently involving dogs who attacked persons on the roadway, which is a public space. Dogs have also been reportedly chasing children from their school bus drop-off.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner to restrain dogs to their property, and any dog that is loose in a public space is in violation of the Control of Dogs By-Law. All dogs should

be tied to the property to protect the general public from the animal.

Please help protect all of our Akwesasnon from loose dogs. All community members should be able to walk along the road without fear of a dog attack.

If you have a dog-related incident to report, please contact the Compliance Program at 613-575-2341 Ext. 2415.



# March Break: Health and Fitness Camp

During the March Break, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Community Health Program led by Aaron Jock, sponsored a Health and Fitness Camp for 25 kids. The goal of the Health and Fitness Camp was to encourage the children to be active and to live a healthy lifestyle. The 3-day camp was held at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center with meals and snacks provided.

The participants were split into three groups by age and each day they rotated throughout three stations. The stations were lacrosse skills with Aaron Jock and Mike Thompson, arts and crafts with Okemah Sharrow, nutrition education activities with Catherine Ciampini, and fun games. At the end of each day the kids were treated to social songs and dances with the Native North American Traveling College.

On the last day of the Health and Fitness Camp, two bicycles were given away to one boy and one girl participant. The lucky winners were Iohetio Peters-Martin and Rakwirahe Pembleton!

Nia:wen to the volunteers for contributing their time to the Camp: Wanda Thompson, Kyle Thompson, Tanya Diabo, Rachel George, and Arisawe Lazore.



March Break Health and Fitness Camp 2015 participants with organizers and volunteers.



Bicycle winners Iohetio Peters-Martin and Rakwirahe Pembleton.



Dietician Catherine Ciampini shares healthy recipes.



The children enjoyed singing and dancing with singers from the Native North American Travelling College.



Arts and Crafts were taught each day.



Keeping busy with classic boredom buster, Cats Cradle.



# Kana:takon School Health Fair

In an attempt to break up the winter blues, Kana:takon School Principal Alice King hosted a health fair for her students. MCA's Community Health Program and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's ACDP were invited to present information and related activities providing interactive booths for students, parents, and community members.

The interactive booths and corresponding activities were tailored for each audience. The students were provided with information on prevention and the student's parents and other community members were provided information on services and treatment.

Kana:takon School students were also visited by Bellybuttons the Clown during their lunch and were treated to balloon animals. Every participant went home with a goodie bag filled with information.



Lorri Caldwell and Aaron Jock led an obstacle course.



Abraham Francis takes a break to do some jumping jacks with the students.



Abraham Francis teaches the students about smoking prevention by telling students the difference between tobacco and traditional tobacco use.



Dr. Dan Hovsepian, DMD, talks about the benefit of dental care.



# Point of Care - Rapid HIV Testing



**National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NNHAAD):**

This Day of Awareness occurs, annually, on March 20<sup>th</sup> and is a way to promote HIV testing in Native communities. The day was created by the collaborative efforts of many organizations: CA7AE: HIV/AIDS Prevention Project, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, Intertribal Council of Arizona, Inc., National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, Begaye Consulting, Salish Kootenai College (SKC), Florida Department of Health, Education, Training and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ([www.nnhaad.org](http://www.nnhaad.org)).

## Community Resources:

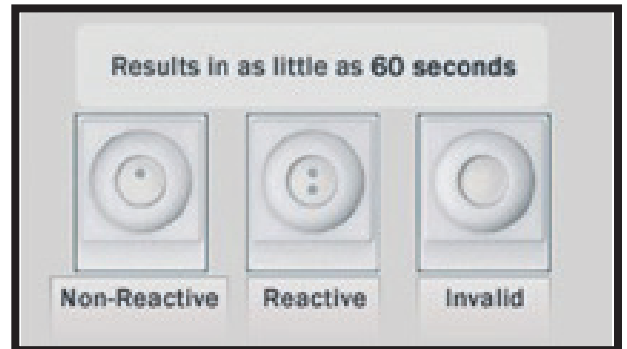
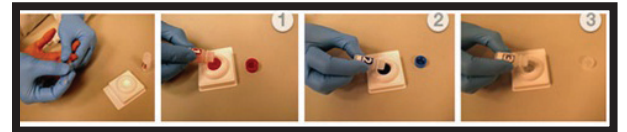
In honor of NNHAAD, the Community Health Program would like to remind all Akwesasronon of the incredible resources that our program offers. Among the First Nations' Communities of Canada, we have pioneered Point of Care (POC) (A.K.A. Rapid HIV Testing). Community Health Program makes the test available to community members in home or in office, and is willing to accommodate appointments made for evening hours, if necessary. We hope the rapidness, confidentiality and availability of POC is a step towards the destigmatization of HIV/AIDS and a means for Akwesasronon to reclaim their bodies and own their sexual health status.

## Testing:

The test was developed by bioLytical Laboratories and has been throughout tested for sensitivity, 99.4%, and specificity, 99.7%. The test takes less than one minute for results, but it is preceded by a thorough HIV/

AIDS educational session that takes about 20 minutes. It is a rapid in vitro qualitative test for the detection of HIV type 1 and type 2 in human whole blood. The test is conducted by our incredibly skilled and certified Community Health Nurses that are conscious of our communities needs and marry those needs with their Medical Expertise. As shown below in image 1, the test is conducted by collecting a finger stick of blood (50µL) and adding it to a solution. The solution is then poured into a membrane unit well that HIV antibodies, if present, are captured on a test spot by proteins located on the membrane. In image 2, reactive, non-reactive and invalid results are shown. Another solution is added to the membrane in order to color the test spot of protein if a reaction occurs and the control spot. The final solution is added to clarify the results by reducing background color. ([www.biolytical.com](http://www.biolytical.com)).

If you would like to know more about Point of Care or make an appointment, please contact Community Health Program at (613) 575 - 2341, Ext. 3242.



*The latest advancements in detecting HIV have led to the developed of a one minute HIV test with results taking less than one minute.*

## Tetewatska:hon Green Food Bag Program



Place your order and pay \$10 at the beginning of the month, and then pick up your fresh fruits and vegetables on the arranged pick up day.

It's that simple!

### Important Dates:

**Deadline to Order:**    **Kanatakon Pick Up Day:**    **Kawechnoke Pick Up Day:**

<b>Dec 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dec 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Jan 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jan 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jan 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Feb 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feb 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feb 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mar 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mar 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mar 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Apr 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Apr 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Apr 22<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>June 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>

All you need to do is stop in at Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io and Place your order at the Community Health Office.

Please contact **Heather Mitchell** at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 with any questions



# Nutrition Month - Breakfast

National Nutrition Month is an education campaign, celebrated annually in March, by the Dietitians of Canada (<http://www.dietitians.ca/>). Inspired by the campaign, MCA Community Health Program launched the “Real Food Challenge” for employees and community members. The Community Health Program posted daily nutrition suggestions and setup an education booth, located at the front entrance of Kanonhkwashteri:io.

Homemade meals are healthy and rewarding although the task of preparation and cooking can be stressful and studies show that may lead to poor food choices. The “Real Food Challenge” held March 16-20 targeted lunch and dinner. The Community Health



Program’s Registered Dietitians have collected

a series of suggestions to reduce stress and ease food preparation for homemade breakfasts. Healthy homemade breakfast can be quick, easy and affordable. Check out our collection of tips and recipe suggestions for breakfast– your body and wallet will thank you!


Skipping breakfast will put you at risk for the morning brain drain. Your body will lack the necessary fuel making you less alert and unable to concentrate at work. Rushed mornings can leave little time for a well-balanced healthy homemade breakfast. A healthy homemade breakfast will help maintain a healthy body weight, help to reduce weight gain over time, improve appetite control and promote the intake of key nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, potassium and fiber.

For breakfast, we suggest:


- Prepping breakfast ahead of time helps you avoid morning drive-thru stops, which can be riddled with sugary and fatty drinks and snacks. Take the time to wash and chop fruits and set up your coffee machine.
- Prepare some of these healthy food options:
- Make barley, quinoa or oat porridge and refrigerate in portions. Reheat with mix-ins, such as fruit and seeds, in the morning.
- Bake and freeze whole grain muffins, pancakes and mini frittatas.
- Stock up on ready-to-eat items such as fruit and containers of yogurt, and pack individual portions of trail mix to grab ‘n’ go.
- Mix up some muesli with toasted oats, dates, coconuts and almonds to enjoy with fruit and yogurt.
- Make hard-boiled eggs for breakfast on the run. Refrigerate for up to one week.
- More recipes can be found at [cookspirations.com](http://cookspirations.com)

Sponsored by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Community Health Program





Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Community Health Program



# Watch Me Grow

Informal Drop-In Center for parents and their children ages 0-6 years.

Every 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2-6pm

**Foster healthy growth and development in your child.**

**Immunizations available by appointment only.**

Check out our Monthly Themes

**Get answers to your questions about:**

- ▼ Infant feeding
- ▼ Nutrition
- ▼ Parenting

- ▼ Child development,
- ▼ Safety Issues,
- ▼ and much more.

It's a chance to meet other parents and to receive free information and material that will make being a parent less worrisome.

For more information, Contact Amanda Garrow, CHN at the MCA Community Health Program at (613) 575-2341 ext 3222

**\*\*To schedule appointment for immunizations, please call one week prior to dates listed below.\*\***

Kawehnoke Rec Center	Snye Rec Center	St. Regis Rec Center
2pm-6pm	2pm-6pm	2pm-6pm
April 8	May 13	June 10
July 8	August 12	September 9
October 14	No clinic in November	December 9
January 13	February 10	March 9

## Economic Development Program

The Economic Development Program's mission is to support the growth and development of a clean and sustainable Akwesasne economy through the development of Economic wealth generators, through Business Development, and through the delivery of training and finance programs to Akwesasronon.

*Stop in or call us for more information regarding our:*

- Business Registration
- Akwesasne Economic Development Fund (AEDF)
- Small Business Grant (SBG)
- Training

### INITIATIVES

**PLAN, PUSH, PLAY** workshop was in partnership with SRMT and MCA's Economic Development Offices with special guest AKIR; Always Keep It Real. It was held at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena February 18<sup>th</sup> and welcomed Akwesasne's local musicians, artisans and community members. The workshop focused on how to navigate in the music industry and the principles of social entrepreneurship. The topics of discussion included developing a web design and a 10-step business model of researching, branding, content, protecting intellectual property, presentation, merchandising, distribution, promotion, data and marketing.





**RIBBON SHIRT FRIDAY'S** we are encouraging the community to participate and lead by example. The goal is to promote our local ribbon shirt businesses! Together we can all support this unique part of the economy. If you would like to submit a photo of yourself promoting Ribbon Shirt Fridays, please send to [cathy.mitchell@akwesasne.ca](mailto:cathy.mitchell@akwesasne.ca) and we will be more than happy to share on our Economic Development Facebook page.

If we receive your photo you will be entered into a monthly drawing at the end of the month for a gift certificate from a local business!

**TAX-EXEMPT CIGARETTES** If you are interested in retailing Tax-Exempt Cigarettes at your place of business, please contact the MCA Tobacco Compliance Office for the requirements and more information at Pamela Brown, Tobacco Compliance Officer (613) 575-2250 ext. 1057 [pamela.brown@akwesasne.ca](mailto:pamela.brown@akwesasne.ca)

Selling Tax-Exempt cigarettes has the ability to increase revenue, increase patron traffic, create a closer working relationship with MCA and also diversify and increase your product offerings!

**YOUTH BUSINESS FAIR, SPRING FESTIVAL** will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> at the St. Regis Mohawk School from 11am – 3pm. This is in partnership with MCA's Child and Family Services, Economic Development Office and the Akwesasne Chamber of Commerce. Akwesasne youth will be selling art, crafts and food! There will also be a power wheels race hosted by AMPS, a babysitting meet and greet, raffles, free face painting and a bounce house! The HAVFD will also be hosting their first Firemen chicken dinner!

**PEACE TREE TRADE CENTRE** located on Kawehno:ke is welcoming a new tenant; Akwesasne Tire Company in Unit #7, right next to Bank of Montreal. They will offer a wide variety of products including tires, rims and car accessories. Grand Opening is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Restaurant COMING SOON!!



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Economic Development

**If you have any questions or would like more information please contact  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Economic Development Program  
(613) 575-2250 ext. 1053**

# Kid's Page

*Sponsored By: Akwesasne Child and Family Services*

