

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 10

FREE

Kenténha/October 2025

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN AKWESASNE



On September 30, 2025, the community of Akwesasne gathered at Generations Park to honor residential school survivors and recognize Orange Shirt Day. Under bright autumn skies, survivors, leaders, youth, artists, and community members came together in unity and reflection, creating a meaningful day of healing and cultural pride.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

MCA OPEN HOUSE

November 13, 2025
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center
2-3 p.m. (Elders Only)
3-6 p.m. (Open to All)

November 22, 2025
Tsi Snaihne School
10-11 a.m. (Elders Only)
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Open to All)

November 24, 2025
Kana:takon Recreation
2-3 p.m. (Elders Only)
3-6 p.m. (Open to All)

NOMINATIONS FOR KANA:TAKON & KAWEHNO:KE BY-ELECTION

November 8, 2025 · 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
AMS Foyer, Kana:takon School Foyer

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

November 20, 2025 · 6 p.m.
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

MOHAWK
COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE
2024-2027

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District
Chief Fallon David
Chief Theresa Jacobs

Kawehno:ke District
Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict
Chief Lacey Pierce
Chief Vince Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District
Chief Scott Peters
Chief Tesha Rourke
Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo
Chief JoAnn Swamp

Administration
Shannon Roundpoint
Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Akwesasne Mohawk
Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell
A/Director
Dept. of Communications

Jaime Beechey
Director
Dept. of Community
& Social Services

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic
Development

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Tessa Jocko
Director
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure,
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiostha Swamp
A/Chief of Police

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

She:kon and welcome to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's community newsletter, Onkwe'tà:ke, which means "For the people." The primary goal of this publication is to deliver MCA's news and updates straight into the hands of community members. Should you wish to stay connected in other ways, the following channels are provided:

Contact: If you have any questions about MCA departments and services, please email info@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575-2250.

E-newsletter: Register for a weekly e-newsletter delivered straight to your email inbox. It's a great way to quickly stay up to date! Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/signup.

Social Media: Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat!

Mobile/Cell Text Alerts: Receive urgent or important messages right to your cell phone. Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts.

Website: News and general information can be found on our website at www.akwesasne.ca. This includes job postings and Council contact information.

Local Media: Find our news and information in Akwesasne's long-serving local media, CKON 97.3 Radio.

FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 1 The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne invites all community members to attend our upcoming Open House Sessions this November to learn about the different programs and services MCA offers! Sessions will be held November 13 at Kawehno:ke Rec, November 22 at Tsi Snaihne School, and November 24 at Kana:takon School, with elders-only hours from 2–3 p.m. and open to the community from 3–6 p.m.
- 2 Nominations for two Kana:takon District Chiefs and one Kawehno:ke District Chief, for the remainder of the 2024-2027 term will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Kana:takon School and Ahkwesasne Mohawk School (AMS) foyer. Nominations will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More information available on page 5.
- 3 MCA's Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector is proud to provide foot care services to the community through both clinic appointments and home visits. If you would like to get more information or see if you are eligible for a home visit, please contact Clinical Care Services at 613-575-2341. More information available on page 19.
- 4 MCA and SRMT are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for Akwesasronon youth to participate in a Cultural Exchange and World Suicide Prevention Conference in New Zealand, taking place on September 14-23, 2026. Deadline to apply is November 6, 2025. To learn about requirements and application assistance, please view page 24.
- 5 On October 31, 2025, garbage collection for West End Residents on Kawehno:ke has moved from Saturdays to Fridays. This change does not apply to James Lane or Kawehno:ke Apartment Road Subdivision (collection for these areas remain on Wednesdays). More information on page 25.

NEWS

ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN AKWESASNE: A DAY OF STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE

On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, Akwesasne came together under bright autumn skies to honor residential school survivors during Orange Shirt Day. Survivors, leaders, community members, youth, and local artists gathered at Generations Park in a spirit of unity and remembrance, creating a day filled with healing, cultural pride, and powerful moments of reflection.

Orange Shirt Day 2025 marked the first time the event was hosted together in partnership by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Akwesasronon Sonatanoron, a local non-profit led by survivors and their families. The organization's proposal to Council inspired a community event to honor residential school survivors. Their guidance was central to planning the day in a way that honoured the strength, courage, and resilience of our survivors, while offering space for the community to come together in solidarity and healing.

The day began with a free orange shirt giveaway, featuring designs created entirely by local artists. Each shirt carried teachings, imagery, and stories that honoured our children, elders, and cultural survival.

From there, the community took part in a unity walk, beginning at Mill Street. With support from the Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education's Transportation Services, Seven Dancers Coalition and the Akwesasne Young Women's Singing Group, Route 37 was transformed into a sea of orange. Together, Akwesasró:non reflected, sang, burned tobacco, and carried their good minds into the day.

The walk led into the Travis Solomon Lacrosse Box, where Akwesasne held its first official ceremony honoring residential school survivors. Survivor Billy Sunday opened the ceremony, followed by words from MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, SRMT Sub-Chief Derrick King, Akwesasronon Sonatanoron Executive Director Rick Oakes, and members of lonkwahronkha'onhátie', a grassroots Kanien'kéha language group that expressed gratitude



to survivors who continue to guide language revitalization efforts. An honor song, led by Keena King and community singers, filled the space as survivors were gifted quilts by Renee Adams, as well as baskets lovingly made by Shirley Thompson, Denise Jock, and Judy Cole. The gifts were presented to the survivors by Akwesasró:non youth, symbolizing the connection between generations.

The day continued with presentations by Marjorie Skidders and Phillip White-Cree, whose discussions grounded the event in culture and healing. Akwesasne's Youth Hoop Troupe and Ahkwesasne Ratirennenhawi (Akwesasne Men's Singers) brought energy and spirit through dance and song. Attendees enjoyed a Three Sisters sit-down meal along with a variety of refreshments from local food and drink vendors, who provided delicious and nutritious options for the community. Meanwhile, interactive activities and teachings showcased the depth of knowledge, artistry, and spirit within our community. Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who shared their skills and teachings — from the artists, to organizations showcasing their programs, to those offering healing services at the SRMT Senior Center — for creating important spaces for connection, culture, learning, and wellness.

To close the day, laughter and joy rang out as Seven Dancers Coalition and MCA's Traditional Medicines program hosted a spirited medicine game, reminding us of the strength of our people and the healing power of coming together.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends its deepest gratitude to all survivors, speakers, artisans, youth, volunteers, and partners who made this day possible. Orange Shirt Day in Akwesasne was good medicine — a gathering that honoured the children who never came home, celebrated the resilience of survivors, and strengthened our path forward together.

Every Child Matters.



DISTRICT CHIEF OF KANA:TAKON CINDY FRANCIS-MITCHELL
RESIGNS FROM OFFICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that Kana:takon District Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell has resigned from her position on Council. In accordance with the Akwesasne Election Law and the Akwesasne Procedural Regulations, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has 90 days to hold a by-election for the vacant Kana:takon District Chief seat.

Cindy Francis-Mitchell was first elected to Council for the 2021–2024 term as a Kana:takon District Chief and was re-elected to serve the community in 2024. She was also appointed Acting Grand Chief by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in July 2024, following a re-election in which the former Grand Chief stepped down.

At the time of her resignation, Cindy was serving on the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office, Government Secretariat, Justice, and Nation Building portfolios. She also sat on the following committees: CBSA, Executive, Finance, Gover-

nance, Green Team, Beautification, Waterways, and Hydro Québec.

Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell was recognized as a strong advocate for border rights, ensuring that Akwesasne’s unique cross-border challenges remained a priority. She championed women’s leadership through her role as an elected women’s representative with the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), advancing the voices of Indigenous women in governance. On Council, she contributed to nation-to-nation relationships, governance renewal, and rights advocacy. She was also dedicated to language revitalization, actively learning Kanien’kéha and encouraging others to strengthen cultural identity through language.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne thanks District Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell for her dedication and contributions to the community, and we extend our best wishes to her in all future endeavors.



**CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS**

KANA:TAKON & KAWEHNO:KE BY-ELECTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School Foyer
Kana:takon School Foyer



A By-Election to be held for two (2) Kana:takon District Chiefs, and one (1) Kawehno:ke District Chief, for the remainder of the 2024-2027 term. If needed, the By-Election will be held on December 13, 2025.

MCA PETITION RESULTS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is notifying the community of the outcome of petitions presented at the September 25, 2025 MCA General Meeting for the removal of three district chiefs. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Cheryl Jacobs completed the verification process of signatures and the results were delivered at the October 23, 2025 MCA General Meeting with the following results:

Kana:takon District Chief Teresa Oakes

- Threshold required: 84 signatures
- Total signatures: 182
- Invalid signatures: 14
- Total Valid Signatures: 168
- Result: Valid Petition

Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams

- Threshold required: 150 signatures
- Total signatures: 192
- Invalid signatures: 16
- Total Valid Signatures: 176
- Result: Valid Petition

Tsi Snaihne District Chief Sarah Sunday-Diabo

- Threshold required: 177 signatures
- Total signatures: 187
- Invalid signatures: 15
- Total Valid Signatures: 172
- Result: Invalid Petition

According to the Akwesasne Election Law (AEL), Section 16. 2: A member of the Mohawk Council is removed from Council if: (a) a petition requesting the removal of a District Chief is signed by an equal number of votes plus one from the official total number of votes he/ she received on election/by election day and delivered to the Council at a duly convened General Meeting.

According to the AEL Section 16. (3) Any petition submitted pursuant to section 16. (2) shall be examined by the C.E.O. to verify that each signature on the petition is that of an eligible voter.

According to the AEL Section 16.(5): Should the verification process in Section 16. (3) above establish that a minimum number of eligible voters for section 16. (2) have signed the petition, the results shall be delivered to a duly convened General Meeting of Council. Council shall declare the member removed and order a By-Election for that position.

Council held an Emergency Council Meeting on Oct. 24, 2025. Council passed a motion directing that the declaration noted in 16.(5) be made by the Grand Chief. Therefore, by way of this notice, on behalf of Council, Grand Chief Leonard Lazore declares to the community that Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams and Kana:takon District Chief Teresa Oakes have been removed from office by petition.

A By-Election has been called for Dec. 13, 2025 for these two seats for the remainder of the 2024-2027 term, in combination with the By-Election already scheduled for one Kana:takon seat. This announcement is forthcoming.

MCA CALLS BY-ELECTION FOR KAWEHNO:KE & KANA:TAKON

On October 24, 2025, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne accepted petition results removing two district chiefs from office and ordering a by-election to be held within 90 days. Chief Electoral Office (CEO) Cheryl Jacobs thereby announces that a By-Election for the Districts of Kana:takon and Kawehno:ke has been called pursuant to the Akwesasne Election Law.

The Kawehno:ke By-Election will be for one (1) district chief. The Kana:takon By-Election will be for two (2) district chiefs, as there has been a previously announced By-Election for one vacated seat.

The By-Election for both Kawehno:ke and Kana:takon will be held on Dec. 13, 2025 if necessary. Locations are yet to be determined. All three seats are for the remainder of the 2024-2027 term.

Nominations for all three seats will be held at the Kana:takon School and Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School (AMS) foyer on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Nominations will be open from 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

NOMINATION PROCESS:

Eligible voters may nominate or second a candidate as many times as there are seats available. If you intend on nominating a candidate, please ensure you attend with your seconder and bring your status card.

Please check the Voter’s List located at the following locations:

District of Kana:takon: Canada Post Office or Village Currency

District of Kawehno:ke: Jock’s Kwikstop & Bank of Montreal

It is your responsibility to ensure you are eligible to nominate.

Candidates wishing to accept their nomination will have until November 12, 2025, no later than 12:00 p.m. to accept and return their nomination forms. Forms are to be turned into the Chief Electoral Officer located at the Angus Mitchell Memorial Building in the village of Kana:takon.

Any nominee wishing to accept their nomination must:

- (a) complete the Eligibility of candidates - Schedule “E”, and
- (b) do so by 12 noon of the third business day following nomination by submitting Schedule “E” to the CEO.

If the nomination process results in the need for the By-Election, the date of the Advanced Polls will be held on December 4 & 5, 2025.

Please contact the CEO Cheryl Jacobs by calling 613-575-2250 ext. 2126 or by email at chief.electoral.officer@akwesasne.ca to obtain more information.

MCA HONORS DEDICATED EMPLOYEES AT LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION & RETIREMENT AWARDS

On Friday, October 3, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) proudly celebrated their incredibly dedicated employees at the Long Service Recognition & Retirement Awards.

This event acknowledges the commitment to those who remained with MCA over the years. Each recognized employee received special gifts and certificates in appreciation of their milestone at MCA, including handcrafted items made by local artisans.

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore and Executive Director Shannon Roundpoint both shared words of gratitude, thanking employees for their dedication and the important role they play in delivering MCA's programs and services to the Akwesasne community.

The community could not be served without the hard work and commitment of our team, and we are proud to celebrate these accomplishments. Niawenhkó:wa and congratulations to all who have worked over the last several years to bring programs and services to the Akwesasne community.

The following employees were honored for their work MCA years of service:

10 YEARS:
Naeem Irshad
April Terrance
Cullen Jacobs
Danielle George
Madeline Peters
Herbert Oakes
Aliyah Thompson
Natalie Jacobs
Rhonda Garrow
Fallan Jacobs
Breann Bigtree
Gordon Sunday
Shauna C. Thompson
Katie E. Cook
Cheavee J. Willie
Derek Cook
Justice Thompson
Christopher Nalepa
Lauren A. Chubb
Nathan Thompson

Amy Benedict
Aaron Terrance

15 YEARS:
Lisa Cook
Yolanda David
Tasha Thompson
Tameka E. Thompson
Vincent R. Lazore
Walter Peters
Angela Caldwell
Phillip Boots
Andrew Francis

20 YEARS:
Sharla Burns
Tina Mitchell
Spencer R. Thompson
Rachel T. George
Misty D. Lazore
Deana A. Mitchell
Micheal L. Buckshot

20 YEARS CON'T:
Amber J. C. Lazore
Charlene A Lazore
Robert W. Mitchell
Tracey Lynn Sunday
Micheal Boots
April Adams Phillips

25 YEARS:
Clayton R. Barnes
Lynn M. Tarbell
Corrine T Johnson
Colette M MacDonald
Mary Faye Roundpoint
Kellie A. Jacobs
Norman King Sr.
Phillip Mitchell
Delia Thompson
Aroniennens Porter
Delores Oakes
Christine Francis
Karakwenta Lazore

Sarah R. Peters
Ryan M. Seymour

30 YEARS:
John T. Lazore
Philip Swamp
Patricia M. Ransom
Arlene David
Sheila Oakes

35 YEARS:
Maryann Jacobs
April White
Kim M. Loran
Velma Cook
Donna Roundpoint

RETIREES:
Maureen C. Thompson
Patrick Pyke
Phillip Mitchell
June King



COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT
SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



September 15, 2025

Discussion Items:

- Council discussed the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting on September 25 in Tsi Snaihne.
- Council reviewed a letter received from the Akwesasne Freedom School.

Portfolio Updates:

- Nation Building: Nation Building Portfolio Chiefs provided Council with an update on recent works.

MCRs:

2024-2025 MCSS Generic Transfer Payment Ontario; 2024-2025 MOHLTC IHWS Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures; Request to Increase Funds FY 2025-2026 Elders Emergency Fund; Request to Increase Funds FY 2026-2027 Elders Emergency Fund; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application – Rescind Approved Reno Loan; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; 2024-2025 Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Child Protection Services; OFNLP 24-25 Audited Financial Statements; Kana:takon School Heat Pump Installation Project; ISC Amendment No. 169 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; Assignment of Lease – Lot 24 Block C Hamilton Island; Assignment of Lease – Lot 8 Block B Hamilton Island; Allotment – Lot 140-8 St. Regis; Assignment of Lease – Lot 7 Thompson Island; Allotment – Lot 87A-1-2 St. Regis; letsiiatahonhsatat Victim Support Worker; Gladue Aftercare Worker;

Ministry of the Solicitor General – NILO Program- TPON Agreement; AMPC New Members; 2025-2026 FNCFS Spending Plan; Council Meeting Minutes – July 21st, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – July 28th, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – August 11th, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – August 18th, 2025; Council Meeting Minute – August 25th, 2025; Hiring of Executive Director.

September 22, 2025

Discussion Items:

- Council Discussed Iroquois Caucus Harvesting Working Group upcoming conferences.
- Council discussed final agenda for General Meeting at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation on September 25th.
- Council discussed a proposal for a traffic radar system.
- Council disussed handicap bus owned by DCSS.
- Council discussed a community member inquiry.
- Council discussed the proposal made by Village Currency.
- Council discussed the logistics of the yearly large item garbage pickup day.
- Council discussed the potential partnership with OSPCA in Cornwall.
- Council discussed ensuring community is informed for NYS Land Claim Update.
- Council discussed the Via Rail Project.

Portfolio Updates:

Portfolio Chiefs provided full Council with updates on recent projects:

- Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO)
- Environment Program
- Akwesasne Justice Department

Presentation:

- Cornwall Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan by Heather McLeod, Shelley Treveathan, Katherine Wells and Farhana Meghji, Orbis Risk Consulting

- » Cornwall's representatives provided Council with an updated version of their Truth and Reconciliation Plan.

MCRs:

CMHC 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements; Funding Support for AEDA to Provide Daily Kanieni:keha Classes; Indigenous Initiatives Fund (IIF IV) – Shaeffer Town Beef; MCA 2025 Holiday Closure; Authorize ED to Sign/ Accept the Mental Health and Accessibility MultiProject Grant Transfer Payment Agreement; Approve the Indigenous Institutes operating Grant 2025-26 and 2026-27; Award Contract for Hawthorne Road Apartment Construction; Re-authorize Additional Amendments and Signature of Settlement.

September 29, 2025

Discussion Items:

- Council discussed a recent meeting with an Upper Canada representative and discussed next steps.
- Council discussed the upcoming Minister visit and will send to Portfolio for further discussion and updates.
- A debrief was had on a recent presentation to Council.
- The Cornwall Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan was discussed.
- Council discussed a housing concern in a community member's home. Further follow-up will be done.

Portfolio Updates:

Portfolio Chiefs provided full Council with updates on:

- DIHE

Presentation:

- Economic Development Presentation Regarding Business Opportunity with Director and Legal Council.

MCRs:

Appointment of five members to Claims Advisory Committee; Conservation Officer Contribution Agreement – Parks Canada; Rescind MCR 2025-2026 #164; 2024-2025 MCSS Generic Transfer Payment Ontario

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES



Portfolios:

Akwesasne Rights & Research Office, Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment, Dept. of Economic Development, Nation Building (Entewatathá:wi)

Selected Committees:

Akwekskowa; CBSA; Property Acquisition Team (PAT); OVS; Hydro Quebec; Iroquois Caucus; Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)

PORTFOLIO & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Hydro-Quebec Battery Distribution

— The Hydro-Québec battery initiative, led by the Department of Health (DOH) and Chiefs is still in progress. Eligible recipients are being determined by DOH for those that require power to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The distribution will involve Health and Elder Services, Home Care, Home Support, Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE), EOC and Chiefs, and will take place in the near future.

Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) — The CBSA Preclearance Working Task Group continues its efforts to relocate Canadian Customs to the U.S. side of the border. This remains

a work in progress, involving the Grand Chief, Council, and high-ranking CBSA officials. The P4 lane (designated for all Akwesasronon) was introduced to this working table. The P4 lane (designated for all Akwesasronon) was introduced to this working table.

The Port of Dundee Working Table includes CBSA Quebec regional partners, the Grand Chief, and Chiefs. Discussions are focused on improving the tax remission order, addressing language barriers, and possible expansion of the port due to suspected increase in port traffic as a potential result of the Dundee Settlement. MCA is in the process of scheduling an in-person meeting to advance this work. The in-person meeting occurred on September 11, 2025. We restarted discussion on the tax remission order. Expressed an experience while travelling through the Dundee port, which raised concerns to questions that was asked, which were deemed as inappropriate.

On a local issue, I assisted with a case involving the seizure of a multi-use utility vehicle at customs. After speaking with CBSA on behalf of the community member, the vehicle was returned without penalties, and the matter was resolved.

Housing & Infrastructure — The Lot Readiness Grant Funding proposal is still being worked on. This project, led by DIHE and Portfolio Chiefs, aims to secure funding in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The goal is to support housing infrastructure for lots that need to have roads, hydro, and surveying completed, and are ready for development. The proposal will be submitted to ISC once finalized. This initiative is ongoing.

Legal & Governance — The Seaway Settlement Claim is ongoing, with a strategy plan being developed by MCA Legal, Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO), Portfolio Chiefs, and the Grand Chief. Restarting the Seaway Land Claim is ongoing.

Land Update — Canada Lands Corporation under Transport Canada, is releasing lands from their holdings and has given MCA the right of first refusal. This file is being overseen by the Grand Chief and Council, with a community presentation expected in the near future.

Entewatathá:wi — Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA) is not a treaty but a self-government negotiation that will provide MCA with greater authority and control over self-governance, land, and resource management. There are still high priority items to be finalized, which are tax exemption of Section 87 and expropriation, which is in the beginning stages. It is being worked on by ESCA staff, Portfolio Chiefs, MCA Legal, and Entewatathá:wi Community Advisors who offer valuable insight.

Economic Development & Nation-to-Nation Relations — The Iroquois Caucus (IC) Economic Development Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement was signed by member communities to support nation-to-nation trade. The IC also signed an MOU with the Blackfoot Nation of Alberta to explore a potential harvesting agreement. This is ongoing and next steps are to be discussed at the Iroquois Caucus General Meeting, scheduled for October 20-22, 2025, in Akwesasne. The Wendake (Huron) community has expressed interest in a harvesting

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES

agreement with the IC, to rebuild relationships and revive the One Dish, One Spoon principles. A new IC Coordinator is in the process of being hired, and updates will be shared as work progresses. It is great news to hear Wendake (Huron) getting into the One Dish, One Spoon discussion.

Harvesting & Conservation — The Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Group (ICHWG) is addressing challenges faced by over 20 harvesters from MCA and Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke who are hunting without provincial permits. Discussions have taken place with the Ministry of Natural Resources to find a solution without court involvement.

A recent ICHWG meeting was held in Tyendinaga to review progress on harvesting issues. Representatives from Akwesasne, Six Nations, Kahnawà:ke, Oneida, and Tyendinaga were present. Plans are underway for a Cultural Sensitivity Workshop for some Federal Groups, and a Hunting Summit is scheduled for March 2026 in Montréal, hosted by Kahnawà:ke. If anyone is interested in attending the Hunting Summit in Montreal, please contact the Mohawk Government office.

MCA's Conservation Department also participated in a gathering in Kahnawà:ke with MCK. The meeting emphasized protecting our lands, resources, and waters and included shared contacts and funding information. MCK's conservation team has decreased from the original 10-person department. Joint efforts are being made to restructure their Conservation Department and MCA's Conservation Program is looking to create partnerships with MCK to be able to support one another. MCA's Conservation Program

has submitted a proposal to potential funders and has since received funding to hire an additional Conservation Officer. A working task group will be put together to work on this file.

Transport Canada Lands (The Canal Lands in the North Shore) — Discussions with Canada Lands Group are taking place to advance this file in hopes of Akwesasne gaining these lands being released by Transport Canada. The process is ongoing.

Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI) Port of Entry Cornwall — Matters that were addressed were Domestic Lane issues, secondary inspection issues, questions being asked and seizures occurring while travelling domestically. Additional discussions were lineups/wait times and questions were raised on the possible implementation of call-in hotlines for delayed reporting for Akwesasronon so they will not be impacted by the lineup. Further discussions are to be had, when finalized they will be communicated to the community. Process is ongoing.

Council was also informed of pedestrians and bikers failing to check-in to the Cornwall Port of Entry after leaving Kawehno:ke and the concern with CBSA. We are discussing possible solutions to mitigate this issue.

MCA was informed that the domestic lane usage has increased by 30%, which raises a concern with mixed corridor travellers and improper usage of the domestic lane. We are discussing a campaign to inform the community of the proper usage of the domestic lane.

DIHE Hydro Quebec Update – Iohahi:io Cultural Center and Outdoor Pavillion — Ran into and issue

with Hydro Quebec on August 26 due to a guy wire interference relocating the existing portable. It was discussed at a DIHE Portfolio meeting and agreed upon to have political intervention to address the matter with Hydro Quebec, which was successful. Hydro Quebec was onsite September 29 to address the matter. Received an update on September 23 that Hydro Quebec delayed until Summer 2026 for the cultural center and outdoor pavilion work being done at Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute. Political intervention was completed and issue was resolved.

DIHE Road Repairs and Replacements — Request for Proposals (RFP) have been completed for Harbor Road on Kawehno:ke and was awarded to Lazore's Construction on September 23 (construction underway). Sugarbush Road in Tsi Snaihne detailed phase is underway, possibly tender ready for Spring 2026. Three more additional roads are under review (Sweetgrass Lane and Johnson Road in Kana:takon, and Iohahi:io Road in Tsi Snaihne).

Other Work:

On a local front, I did assist with a power line vegetation overgrowth concern on Kawehno:ke.

Closing:

In closing, if there is anything I may have missed, my fellow Portfolio Chiefs may have covered it in their own reports. You are always welcome to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Chief Vince Thompson
Kawehno:ke District Chief
Cell: 613-363-3164
Office: 613-575-2250 ext. 2168
Email: chief.vince.thompson@akwesasne.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in September

- 1. Birds Eye View of Akwesasne’s Three Districts (Video)
- 2. Orange Shirt Day Giveaway Now Underway at Generations Park!
- 3. MCA Names New Executive Director
- 4. Community Health Services Welcomes New Health Promotion & Prevention Supervisor
- 5. MCA Department of Health Appoints New Director

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in September

- 1. Birds Eye View of Akwesasne’s Three Districts — 30,509 Reached
- 2. Orange Shirt Day Giveaway Now Underway at Generations Park! — 21,249 Reached
- 3. MCA Names New Executive Director — 17,216 Reached
- 4. Department of Health Welcomes New Paediatrician, Dr. Raven Dumont-Maurice — 16,681 Reached
- 5. Community Health Services Welcomes New Health Promotion & Prevention Supervisor — 15,486 Reached



X STATS

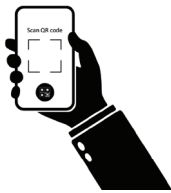
Top Post in September



YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for September

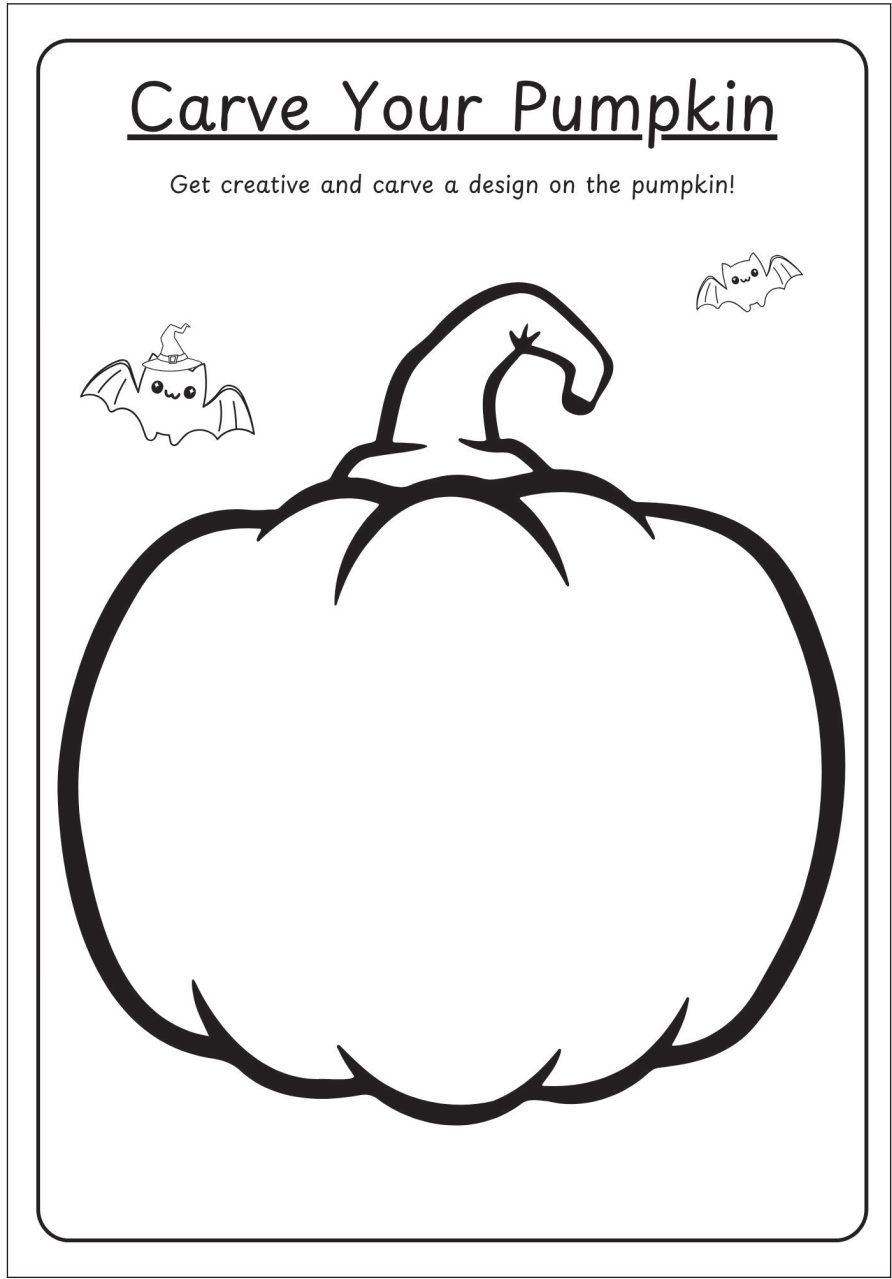
Green Food Bag Recipe: Veggie Loaded Tuna Wraps



Scan QR Code to view video!

To view more videos, please visit:
www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

CHILDREN'S PAGE



COLOR THE TURTLE SORCERER



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
It didn't have the guts to do it.

What do ghosts use to wash their hair?
Sham-boo!

What's a witch's favorite subject in school?
Spelling!

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

DID YOU KNOW THAT SELF-GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE SAME AS BECOMING A MUNICIPALITY?

Self-government is the opposite of becoming a municipality. Municipalities are created and controlled by provincial governments, with limited powers that can be taken away at any time. Instead, Akwesasne's self-government agreement is based on our inherent right to govern ourselves, a right that existed long before Canada, and one that is now being formally recognized and protected through the Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement.

Self-government affirms our status as a distinct Indigenous community with our own laws, identity, and systems of governance. It does not mean giving up rights or becoming like a city or town. Instead, it strengthens our ability to make decisions for our members, based on our culture, values, and community priorities and ensures that this authority is respected and upheld by Canada.



ENTEWATATHÁ:WI
"WE WILL GOVERN"

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

THE BEGINNING OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND ITS IMPACTS ON AKWESASNE (1950-1959)

In the early 1950s, residents of Kawehno:ke experienced the first signs of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Canada announced plans for a massive deep-water shipping route, which would connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. While government leaders celebrated the promise of trade and power, families in Akwesasne braced for the disruption that would soon ensue.

For decades, Canada had pushed for the Seaway project along with the United States participation; however, the United States resisted due to cost and security concerns. In 1952, Canada announced that it would begin construction, a move widely seen as an attempt to pressure the United States into joining the project. Canada's strategy succeeded. For Akwesasne, this meant that large-scale development would proceed without meaningful consultation.

In 1954, the United States agreed to join the project, and full-scale construction began. Over the next five years, construction, dredging, and shipping channels reshaped the St. Lawrence River and the daily lives of those living in Akwesasne.



By the mid-1950s, families on Kawehno:ke saw their daily lives disrupted by construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The constant blasting, dredging, and heavy machinery shook homes and unsettled community members. Dredged clay and rock buried farmland, while changes to the river disrupted traditional fishing and travel routes.

As construction continued, the impact became more severe. Portions of the reserve were expropriated, forcing some families to give up land and relocate. Islands long used for settlement, fishing, and travel were cut off, while traditional fishing grounds were permanently altered as currents shifted and habitats disappeared. What governments described as progress brought in-

stead environmental damage, economic hardship, and dislocation for Akwesasne.

By the time the Seaway officially opened on June 26, 1959, the community had already paid a steep price. Fields were flooded, islands were inaccessible, and fishing livelihoods had diminished. While governments and corporations celebrated the project as a triumph of engineering and international cooperation, for Akwesasne it marked years of displacement, the loss of farmland and livelihood, and a permanent transformation of the river that had sustained the people for generations

Did You Know?

Talks between Canada and the United States about a deepwater seaway began as early as 1921. Smaller ships could travel sections of the St. Lawrence, but ocean-going vessels could not pass beyond Montreal. The Seaway allowed deep-sea ships to reach the Great Lakes, opening new trade routes at the expense of Akwesasne lands and waters.

Timeline: 1950-1959

1952: Canada announces its intention to build the Seaway

January 11, 1954: United States agrees to join the project

August 10, 1954: Construction begins

1954-1959: Dredging, blasting, and dam construction reshape Akwesasne lands, waters, and island access

1955-1958: Government of Canada expropriates parts of Akwesasne reserve for the Seaway Project

1958: St. Lawrence Seaway Authority established

April 25, 1959: Seaway opens for commercial traffic

June 26, 1959: Official opening ceremonies attended by Queen Elizabeth II and President Dwight Eisenhower



Queen Elizabeth II and U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower at the grand opening ceremony for the St. Lawrence Seaway.

From 1950 to 1959, the Mohawks of Akwesasne experienced one of the most significant disruptions in their modern history. While Canada and the United States framed the Seaway as a symbol of progress, for Akwesasne it brought displacement, environmental damage, lost access to islands, ruined farmland, and the steady disruption of daily life. Remembering this story ensures that the voices of those most affected are not forgotten.

AMBE CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE AMS WALKING TRAIL

On October 16, 2025, The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) celebrated the grand opening of the AMS Walking Trail with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Superintendent of AMBE Early Years, Lani Sunday, shared a few words before cutting the ribbon to officially open the trail. Lani was joined by Superintendent of Student Services, Denise Jackson, Board of Trustee members Kuy Chaussi and Mary Terrance, and two spooky little ghosts who helped mark the special occasion.

We're excited to announce that the AMS Walking Trail is now open for students, staff and families to enjoy! Let's keep moving, exploring and staying active together. This trail stands as a testament to the dedication, teamwork, and resilience of Lani Sunday and everyone who helped bring this project to life.

Niawenhkó:wa to AMBE Early Years for donating glow sticks and prizes, and to lakwa'shatste Youth Fitness for allowing us to join in on their wildly successful event!



AMBE EARLY YEARS LICE POLICY

Head lice can happen to anyone, and we handle it with care and understanding.

For our AMBE Early Years children (Childcare and K3 programs), if live lice are found, parents will be contacted to pickup their child so treatment can begin right away. Children with only nits can stay until the end of the day but should be treated before returning. Staff may offer treatment shampoo if available and will recheck your child's hair when they come back.

This gentle approach helps us keep our youngest learners comfortable and our classrooms healthy.

Please note: K4-Gr.8 students follow a different procedure; they remain at school and continue learning while treatment plans are shared with families.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we care for every child in our community

Have questions about head lice? Contact MCA Community Health at 613-575-2341.

Looking for FREE head lice treatment(s) using your health and status cards? Contact Proxim Pharmacy (Kana:takon) at 613-575-2341 or Arrowhead Pharmacy (Kawehno:ke) at 613-938-9885.

MEET THE AMBE MOHAWK LANGUAGE & CULTURE DEPARTMENT



The AMBE Mohawk Language & Culture Department is dedicated to preserving, revitalizing and promoting Kanien'keha and the rich cultural heritage of the Akwesasne community. Through curriculum development, language instruction and cultural programming, the team supports educators, students and families in strengthening our shared identity and connection to the language.

Over the past year, the department has continued to grow, welcoming new team members, expanding resources and enhancing programs that foster language learning and cultural engagement across all AMBE schools and the Akwesasne community.

Let's meet the team:

- Alice King, Superintendent of Mohawk Language and Culture

- Shayleen Thompson, Associate Superintendent
- Iahkohkatste Delisle, Administrative Assistant
- Kaitlyn Lazore, Program Support Officer
- Angela Elijah, Kanien'keha Curriculum & Resource Developer
- Marjorie Skidders, Kanien'keha Curriculum & Resource Developer
- Tyler Laffin, Kanien'keha Curriculum & Resource Developer
- Mary Ann Gray, Kanien'keha Curriculum & Resource Developer
- Ruth Seymour, Kanien'keha Curriculum & Resource Developer
- Raweras Mitchell, Cultural Facilitator
- Tekaronhiakwas McDonald, Cultural Facilitator
- Jenna Thompson, Digital Resource Developer
- Crystal Henry, Digital Resource Developer

A DREAM COMES TRUE: NEW AMBE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS FOR OUR CHILDREN

The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) is proud to announce the installation of six new inclusive playgrounds across its three schools. This long-awaited project marks an exciting milestone for the community and will provide children with safe, accessible, and engaging spaces to play and grow.

The project began with the dedicated work of the AMBE Team, led by Belinda Koostachin, who collaborated closely with Parks and Water to establish the initial designs and plans. Funded through AMBE reserve funds, the playground initiative reflects the team's foresight and commitment to creating inclusive spaces for all students.

In the final stages of the project, the Department of Infra-

structure, Housing & Environment (DIHE) team provided essential expertise and support to bring the playgrounds to completion. AMBE also extends its appreciation to the Arena Maintenance team for their help in clearing out the old playgrounds.

Each school now features two new playgrounds — one for early years students and one for elementary students — ensuring all children can enjoy play areas that support learning, inclusion, and fun.

AMBE would like to thank the Board of Trustees and everyone who contributed to making this vision a reality. These new playgrounds are a testament to what collaboration, dedication, and community spirit can achieve.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTED



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Samantha White, M.S. as the new Associate Director of Human Resources.

Samantha has been part of the MCA since 2020 and brings more than 8 years of experience in finance and human resources. She has served in several roles within the organization, most recently as Talent & Wellbeing Manager.

In her role under the Department of Finance & Ad-

ministration, Samantha will continue to focus on building a supportive and inclusive workplace culture while guiding the Human Resources team with dedication and leadership.

Samantha holds an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration from St. Lawrence College, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from SUNY Potsdam, and a Master of Science in Management from SUNY Potsdam.

Her skills, knowledge, and commitment to the well-being of MCA staff will help strengthen the Human Resources program and support the organization's continued success.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MCA ATTENDS QUARTERLY MEETING WITH CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

On September 23, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) participated in a quarterly meeting with the Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) to engage in meaningful discussions on shared priorities, and opportunities for collaboration.

The meeting provided a space to address current health care issues and strengthen the ongoing partnership between MCA and CCH. Key topics included the hospital's continued support of having an Akwesasne representative on its Board of Directors, emergency room wait times, and the use of digital tools such as the MyChart app to improve patient access to health information.

Discussions also touched on the ongoing shortages

of health care professionals and the importance of exploring joint strategies to help address workforce challenges in both communities.

MCA values its continued partnership with Cornwall Community Hospital, recognizing the importance of working together to enhance health care services and improve access to care for Akwesasronon.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OUR CONNECTIONS TO THE STARS: CULTURAL ASTROLOGY TEACHINGS WITH SAMANTHA DOXTATOR

The totas at Tsiionkwanonhso:te were honored to experience a cultural presentation led by Samantha Doxtator, Dennis Danforth, and Eric Nicholas. This engaging session explored our deep connections to the stars and solar systems, beautifully weaving in our traditional culture and values.

The residents thoroughly enjoyed learning about these teachings and appreciated the unique perspectives shared. Following the presentation, the totas had the opportunity to create their own art pieces with the guidance of our presenters—an activity that sparked creativity and joy.

Nia:wen/thank you to Samantha, Dennis, and Eric for your time, energy, and dedication. Your interactive approach and thoughtful activities made this experience truly memorable for our elders.



CLINICAL CARE SERVICES WELCOMES TWO NEW HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO BETTER SERVE YOU

The Department of Health is proud to announce the expansion of our Clinical Care Services team with two amazing additions who bring specialized skills and compassionate care to our community!

Emily Templeton, Registered Dietitian & Certified Diabetes Educator



Emily joins us with expertise in diabetes care, as well as general dietetics such as fatty liver management, weight control, and general nutrition counseling. With Emily on board, we now have two Registered Dietitians who are Certified Diabetes Educators—including our long-standing team member Anne-Charlotte George, who continues to serve our community with dedication and excellence.

Together, Emily and Anne-Charlotte will offer expanded access to high-quality dietary support and diabetes care.

Nathalie Cannone, Advanced Foot Care Nurse



help keep you moving comfortably.

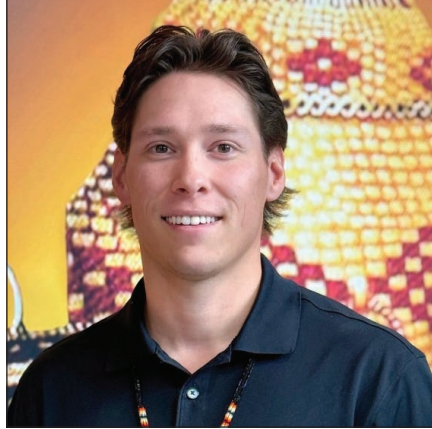
To schedule your office visit with Nathalie or Emily, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Emily and Nathalie to our care team. We're committed to continually expanding services to better meet the needs of our community!

We're also excited to welcome Nathalie Canonne, who is now offering Advanced Foot Care services in Akwesasne (ON & QC) from Monday to Thursday. Nathalie provides skilled, compassionate foot care to

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES WELCOMES NEW HEALTH PROMOTION & PREVENTION SUPERVISOR



experience to his new role.

Tyren was born and raised in Akwesasne and graduated from Marian University of Wisconsin with a dual Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. After graduating, Tyren started work with Spirit North, a non-profit organization focused on bringing land-based learning

The Department of Health's (DOH) Community Health Services (CHS) would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Health Promotion & Prevention (HPP) Supervisor, Tyren Boots. Tyren brings a wealth of knowledge and

to Indigenous youth in Okanagan Valley, BC.

Tyren returned to Akwesasne and worked in collaboration with the Iakwa'shatste Youth Fitness organization for two years. During this time, he also held the role of Assistant Coach to the Women's Hockey Program at SUNY Potsdam. This last year, Tyren started his own business, TB Performance & Development, to grow the game of hockey in Akwesasne and create more opportunities for youth to succeed at the next level through hosting Ice Warriors Hockey Camps. Alongside his passion for the sport of hockey, he also enjoys golfing.

Please join us in welcoming Tyren to the Department of Health and his new role within Health Promotion & Prevention.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WELCOMES NEW PAEDIATRICIAN, DR. RAVEN DUMONT-MAURICE



Dr. Dumont-Maurice graduated from McGill University School of Medicine in 2012 and completed her paediatric residency in 2016. She currently resides in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang where she practices

The Department of Health would like to extend a warm welcome to its new paediatrician, Dr. Raven Dumont-Maurice. Dr. Dumont-Maurice is a member of the Algonquin Nation of Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg.

community paediatrics, virtual medicine, as well as monthly clinics at the Maniwaki Friendship Centre.

Dr. Dumont-Maurice will be on-site twice a month, working in consultation with our health care providers within the Akwesasne Medical Clinic (AMC). To ensure the highest quality of care, our paediatrician will be seeing patients with complex medical needs by referral only from one of our healthcare providers.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Raven Dumont-Maurice to the community of Akwesasne and to the Department of Health.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON HOME VISIT FOOT CARE SERVICES

The MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector is proud to provide foot care services to the community through both clinic appointments and home visits. To ensure the continued delivery of safe, high-quality care, Sector 4 would like to clarify the eligibility criteria for home visit appointments.

Currently, home visits are reserved for individuals who:

- Have limited mobility
- Do not drive
- Have no access to transportation from family, friends or NIHB transportation services.

This approach allows staff to prioritize those who truly require in-home care due to physical or logistical limitations.

Whenever possible, clients are encouraged to attend appointments in the clinic. The clinic setting allows for the most hygienic, efficient, and comprehensive care, while also enabling staff to serve a greater number of community members each day.

The Department of Health appreciates your understanding and support as it continues working to provide services to our community safely and effectively.

For questions or assistance determining eligibility for a home visit, please contact Clinical Care Services at 613-575-2341.

STAY SAFE: WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SYMPTOMS

With cooler weather upon us and flu season just around the corner, it's important to take precautions against respiratory illnesses (like the flu, RSV, COVID-19, and the common cold) this fall and winter. Not sure what to do if you start experiencing symptoms?

Here's the suggested actions to take if you are experiencing respiratory illness symptoms:

Take the Self-Assessment Screener: www.ontario.ca/self-assessment

The Self-Assessment Screener will walk you through a series of questions and provide guidance on any severe symptoms or issues. Based on your answers, the screener will advise if you should be self-isolating.

If you have any respiratory illness symptoms (even if mild), such as:

- Fever (37.8° C or higher) and/or chills
- Cough, shortness of breath, or trouble breathing
- Decreased or loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Headache, extreme fatigue, or tiredness
- Sore throat

- Muscle aches or joint pain
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting)

It is recommended that you stay home (self-isolate) while you are sick. This means:

- Staying home until you have no fever and your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if you have gastrointestinal symptoms such as vomiting and/or diarrhea).
- After isolating, wear a well-fitted, high quality mask when out in public or at work for 10 days from when your symptoms started.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles and counters.
- Avoid non-essential visits to vulnerable individuals (e.g. seniors) and highest risk settings (e.g., hospitals, long-term care) for 10 days from when your symptoms started.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

For more information, please contact Community Health Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Services provided by OVS:



Indian Status



Lands



Estates



Membership/Residency



Leasing

CONTACT US

CIA #3 Building
101 Tewesateni Road (Kawehno:ke)
Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5

Tel: 613-575-2250 ext. 1013
Email: ovs.office@akwesasne.ca

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MCA DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDED OFNEDA 2025 AWARD

Kylee Tarbell, Director of Economic Development for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, was awarded the Ontario First Nations Economic Developers Association (OFNEDA) Economic Development Officer of the Year Award at the 2025 First Nations Economic Advancement Conference (FNEAC) — for the second year in a row.

Kylee was nominated by a community member and was one of three finalists at the gala evening. Each finalist spoke to the audience before the winner was decided by live vote. In her remarks, Kylee highlighted her team and the important role they all play in bringing positive change to the community. She showcased initiatives such as the Anowara'ko:wa Arena and grounds development, the Thompson Island staff and their incredible knowledge, and the community's entrepreneurs. She also emphasized MCA's commitment to upholding inherent and jurisdictional rights while advocating for the community.

Kylee noted, "I am deeply honored to be recognized as the 2025 Economic Development Officer of the Year by the Ontario First Nations Economic Developers Association (OFNEDA) at the First Nations Economic Advancement Conference (FNEAC). To stand among so many passionate leaders from across Ontario, and to have this award decided by a live audience vote, was truly humbling. This recognition is not mine alone, it reflects the incredible mentorship I've received, the hard

work and dedication from the incredible team I work with, and the determination of our entrepreneurs in Akwesasne. Every day I am reminded of our strength, innovation, and resilience. I am proud to serve my community and to support our businesses as they continue to grow, thrive, and shape our future!"

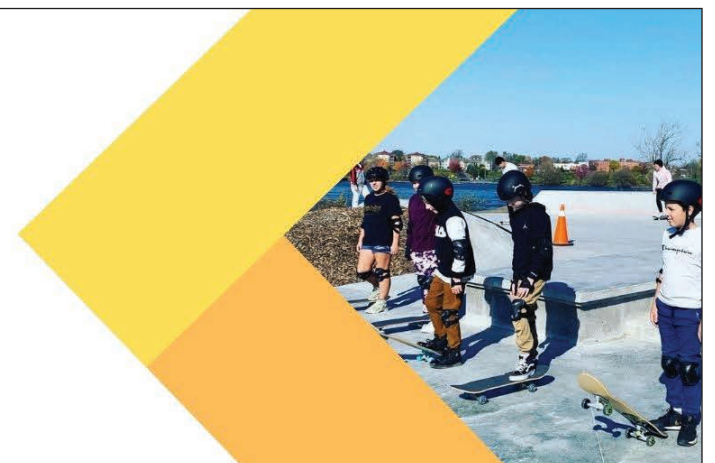
Congratulations Kylee on this wonderful achievement!



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The office of Economic Development is located at:
167 International Road Unit #3 - Peace Tree Trade Centre

Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1802 Email: ecdev@akwesasne.ca



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

ACFS LAUNCHES SKA'NIKÒN:RA CASE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) is proud to announce that its new case management platform, Ska'nikòn:ra, is officially live as of October 1, 2025.

The development of Ska'nikòn:ra has been a two-year process involving every part of the agency and their counterparts. From the beginning, ACFS staff provided input to ensure the system reflects Akwesasne's unique needs, culture, and language. Unlike the Ministry's standard CPIN system, Ska'nikòn:ra was designed in partnership with RedMane, allowing ACFS creative control to tailor the platform with Kanien'kehá:ka values and softer, more client-friendly language.

This new platform will streamline services across departments. For example, areas that once relied on handwritten documents will now have digital tools with built-in approval processes, improving efficiency even when staff are out of the office. Most importantly, Ska'nikòn:ra captures the voices and stories of families and children, creating person-based records that honor relationships and lived experiences.

The name Ska'nikòn:ra, meaning "One Mind," was chosen through a staff-wide vote after being suggested by Karen Jocko and reflects the collective effort behind this project. The logo,

designed by Courtney Skidders, represents the medicine wheel and the balance of working together in harmony to support families.

While the original launch was targeted for April, additional testing and refinements were needed to ensure the best outcome. Staff have since dedicated countless hours to data integration, training, and preparation, all while balancing their daily duties.

Their hard work and commitment are now coming to fruition.

Niawenhkó:wa to all staff (past and present) who dedicated countless hours of effort, training, and testing to make this launch a reality. Ska'nikòn:ra now provides ACFS with a modern,

culturally grounded, and person-focused platform that will benefit Akwesasne children and families for years to come.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH: DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES SPONSORS AKWESASNE INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW'S FIRST YOUTH FASHION EVENT

The Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) proudly sponsored the Akwesasne Indigenous Fashion Show's (AIFS) inaugural Youth Fashion Show, held at the Snye Recreation Center. Chiefs Tessa Rourke and Teresa Oakes graciously welcomed the community, setting the tone for an afternoon filled with pride, creativity, and celebration.

Over 50 Indigenous youth models, ranging in age from 3 to 16, lit up the runway with confidence and joy, showcasing the stunning creations of 13 local and regional Indigenous fashion designers. These young models dedicated time to runway practices and training sessions, preparing to shine in front of a packed house of family, friends, and supporters.

Nia:wen/thank you to the Akwesasne Indigenous Fashion Show committee for your tireless dedication, thoughtful planning, and commitment to uplifting our youth. Nia:wen/thank you to the community for showing up in full force to support the next

generation of fashion trailblazers. It was a packed house with standing room only!

Nia:wen/thank you to our hair and makeup team for making our models feel beautiful, handsome, and glamorous before stepping out on the runway!

A heartfelt Nia:wen/thank you to the incredibly talented designers whose awe-inspiring work brought this event to life:

- Jenny Conners
- Shquanebin Lone
- Aimee Benedict
- Chanelle Barnaby
- Eve Billie
- Terry Cree
- Sueann Swamp
- Ilona Austin
- Marlana Thompson-Baker
- Lyric Thompson
- Tisha Thompson
- Pudge King
- Stacey Mitchell
- Jaimee Lee Square-Cook



Photo credits: Laurie Gardner

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

AKWESASNE YOUTH INVITED TO REPRESENT COMMUNITY AT WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne are thrilled to announce an incredible opportunity for Akwesasne youth to participate in a Cultural Exchange and World Suicide Prevention Conference in Kirikiriroa (Hamilton), New Zealand, taking place September 14–23, 2026.

This initiative, called *ratinenhri:ne's* — “They Lead the Group”, will bring together Indigenous youth to share their cultures, stories, and strategies for wellness and suicide prevention. The trip will include attendance at the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention (WISP) Conference, scheduled for September 17–19, 2026.

Akwesasne delegation will have the opportunity to build meaningful global connections, exchange cultural knowledge, and strengthen their leadership skills as young ambassadors for the community.

This initiative is made possible through a strong partnership between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS), who are proud to support and encourage youth participation in this international experience promoting cultural pride, healing, and hope.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS:

- Must be a registered member of Akwesasne
- Must be between the ages of 15–24 years old at the time of travel
- Must submit a video application or essay
- The deadline to apply is **November 6, 2025**.

Applicants can visit the website to access the application or email wispc2026@gmail.com for detailed submission instructions and more information.

Download the application form by scanning the QR code below or visit: www.akwesasne.ca/news/posts/cultural-exchange-wisp-2026-youth-information-sessions-and-application-assistance/

Together, Akwesasne's leadership celebrates diversity, resilience, and the power of youth to lead change — both at home and across the world.



Scan QR code to download the application!

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program: 613-937-4322

DCSS Administration: 613-575-2341 ext. 3305

Community Support Program: 613-575-2341 ext. 3262

Akwesasne Child and Family Services: 613-575-2341 ext. 3139

DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

GARBAGE PICK-UP DAY CHANGE FOR KAWEHNO:KE WEST END RESIDENTS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and D&R Disposal would like to inform residents on the West End of Kawehno:ke that garbage collection will move from Saturdays to Fridays, starting **Friday, October 31, 2025**.

WHY THE CHANGE?

This update allows D&R Disposal complete collection across Kawehno:ke in a single day, rather than over two. It also supports more timely and consistent service for all households and helps reduce the chance of missed pickups in the West End.

Please ensure all garbage is placed curbside on Friday mornings by 8:00 a.m.

Note: This change does not apply to James Lane or Kawehno:ke Apartment Road Subdivision — collection for these areas remain on Wednesdays.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition, as we work toward a smoother and more efficient waste collection process for our community.

Questions? Contact Tianna Back at tianna.back@akwesasne.ca.



PICK-UP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY	RECYCLING
WEDNESDAY	MCA FACILITIES
THURSDAY	TSI SNAIHNE
FRIDAY	KAWEHNO:KE
SATURDAY	KANA:TAKON

CONTACT D&R DISPOSAL: 613-932-4588

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS WELCOMES NEW POLICE COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to the Police Commission: Roberta Lazore, Belinda Koostachin, and Steve Thomas. All three have been officially sworn in and will join current members Karen Loran, Johanne Jackson, and Tom Francis, as per MCR 2025-2026 #185.

The Police Commission provides civilian oversight of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, ensuring transparency, accountability, and community-focused policing. With the addition of these new members, the Commission will continue to strengthen its role in supporting public safety and fostering trust within the community.

The mission of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission (AMPC) is to oversee and ensure that the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service provides community-oriented policing services that are sensitive to the needs and culture of the people of Akwesasne and provides all people with protection to enjoy their lawful activities and customs.

The AMPC shall, in partnership with the people of Akwesasne, provide a policing service that:

- (a) promotes public peace, well-being and security;
- (b) promotes the prevention and detection of crime;
- (c) provides appropriate enforcement of all laws; and
- (d) promotes and supports community policing.



Belinda Koostachin
Kawehno:ke



Thomas Francis
Kawehno:ke



Karen Loran
Tsi Snaihne



Roberta Lazore
Tsi Snaihne



Johanne Jackson
Kana:takon



Steve Thomas
Kana:takon

The Police Commission shall be the governing authority for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and be subject to this Charter and any specific provisions in any Akwesasne Code, Law or Regulation, or the Standard Operating Procedures for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service adopted by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and any specific provisions in Agreements.

Please join us in welcoming Roberta, Belinda, and Steve to the Commission. Their dedication and commitment will be instrumental in guiding the AMPS as we work together to serve and protect the Akwesasne community. Here's a look at the full Police Commission at the district that they represent.

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission:

- Belinda Koostachin — Kawehno:ke
- Thomas Francis — Kawehno:ke
- Karen Loran — Tsi Snaihne
- Roberta Lazore — Tsi Snaihne
- Johanne Jackson — Kana:takon
- Steve Thomas — Kana:takon

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to focusing its efforts on the safety and well-being of our community. We encourage community support and involvement to report any suspected criminal activities. Anyone with information that would assist in any type of investigation can call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS ENCOURAGES SAFE PRACTICES FOR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is reminding community members about the importance of safe and responsible All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use. While ATVs are a popular way to enjoy the outdoors, unsafe operation can pose serious risks for riders, passengers, and the community.

Over the past several weeks, AMPS has received an increase in complaints related to unsafe ATV operation, including excessive speed, noise, operating on private property, and riding in unsafe areas. These activities not only endanger riders but also compromise community safety and quality of life.

When actions put oneself or others at risk, enforcement measures will be taken.

ATV Safety Reminders for Akwesasne to remain compliant with the Community ATV By-law #1993-1994-01

- NO operation of an ATV between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Youth riders should be supervised and only operate ATVs suited to their age and size.
- The driver MUST drive half the posted speed limit. Failure to do so will result in a speeding fine.

- All occupants MUST wear a helmet. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$75.00 for "inadequate head protection".
- When operating on the roadway, the ATV MUST be registered and insured.
- Failing to stop for police may result in a criminal code charge.
- A registration form for the ATV must be completed and can be obtained from the Akwesasne Justice Department Administration Office (45 Johnson Road, Kana:takon). License plates are also available at this location.

Restorative justice practices will be implemented, however repeat or dangerous violations, will result in fines or enforcement actions. Together, we can ensure ATV riding remains lawful, safe, and respectful in Akwesasne.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to focusing its efforts on fostering positive relationships with our community members. We encourage community support and involvement to report any suspected criminal activities. Anyone with information that would assist in any type of investigation can call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

SEPTEMBER 2025 STATISTICS

283	September	1	101 Firearms Act	1	1049 Medical Aid
1	024 Break & Enter - Residence	1	1011 By-Law - Other	6	1050 Youth Complaint
1	030 Theft - Other Motor Vehicles	4	1012 Civil Disputes	1	1056 Hazardous Conditions
3	040 Theft Under \$5000 - Other	46	1013 Community Services	2	106 Provincial Statutes - Other
1	061 Bail Violations	12	1014 Crime Prevention	11	1063 Marine Patrol
2	071 Mischief Over \$5000	1	1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)	2	205 Assault - Level 1
1	087 Cannabis - Possession	5	1018 Escorts - Prisoner	2	206 Assault Weapon/CBH - Level 2
3	100 Immigration Act	3	1023 Judge's Order (Court)	1	711 Impaired Operation MV
1	1000 Abandoned Vehicles	1	1025 Property - Seized	1	719 Drive Disqualified/Licence Suspended
2	1002 Alerts	1	1026 Property - Lost	2	720 Traffic - Federal Statutes
2	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Ambulance	1	1027 Property - Found	43	721 Traffic - Provincial Statutes
6	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Cornwall PS	6	1029 Suspicious Persons	1	725 PI MVC (Personal Injury)
2	1003 Assist Other Agencies - OPP	10	1030 Suspicious Vehicles	1	726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
15	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Other	10	1031 Suspicious Circumstances	5	Incident Type Not Listed
10	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Tribal PD	1	1035 Warrant - Committal		
35	1004 Assist Public	3	1036 Warrant - Bench/First		
1	1007 Breach of Probation	3	1040 Traffic Complaint		
7	1008 By-Law - Dogs	2	1041 Mental Health Act		

An average of 9.43 occurrence reports were generated per day by officers.



SAVE THE DATE

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

OPEN HOUSE

Stop by one of our three open houses to meet MCA staff, learn about our services and enter to win great prizes!

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
13

Kawehno:ke Recreation

2 PM - 3 PM (Elders Only)

3 PM - 6 PM (Open to Community)

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
22

Tsi Snaihne School

10 AM - 11 AM (Elders Only)

11 AM - 1 PM (Open to Community)

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
24

Kana:takon Recreation

2 PM - 3 PM (Elders Only)

3 PM - 6 PM (Open to Community)



Building a strong community for future generations.