

# ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 11

FREE

Kentenhkó:wa/November 2025

## IN THIS ISSUE:

FAMILY  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PROJECT

KANA:TAKON &  
KAWEHNO:KE  
BY-ELECTION INFO

AMS STUDENTS  
CONNECT WITH  
AKWESASNE ANIMAL  
SOCIETY

DOH HOSTS  
INAUGURAL BREAST  
CANCER WALK

ADDICTIONS  
AWARENESS WEEK:  
CELEBRATING  
STRENGTH & SOBRIETY

25-26 AKWESASNE  
HEATING ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM INFO



## CELEBRATING COURAGE & COMMITMENT AT AMPS AWARDS



*In October, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service held its annual Award Ceremony at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. The event brought together family, friends and community members to honor officers and staff for their exceptional service, courage and dedication. Read more on page 26.*

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### MCA COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNERS

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**December 8, 2025**

Kana:takon Recreation Center

**December 10, 2025**

Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

**December 15, 2025**

Kawehno:ke Recreation  
Center

### FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT CHEQUE DISTRIBUTION

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**December 15 & 16, 2025**

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

**December 17, 2025**

Kanohkwa'tsheri:io  
Health Facility Atrium

**December 18 & 19, 2025**

Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

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

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**December 13, 2025**

Kanohkwa'tsheri:io  
Health Facility  
(Entrance via Sweetgrass Lane)  
Tri-District Elders Lodge  
(Entrance via Buckshot Road)

### AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AHAP) DEADLINE

**December 19, 2025 - 4:00 p.m.**

\*Full application schedule on page 24\*



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 Ahkwesahsne 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

- MCA warmly invites community members to come together for our annual Community Holiday Dinners. Join us from 5-7 PM on the following dates: Dec. 8 (Kana:takon Rec.), Dec. 10 (Tsi Snaihne Rec.), and Dec. 15 (Kawehno:ke Rec.). Enjoy a complimentary holiday meals and photos with Santa!
- MCA is committed to supporting our community during challenging times and will be providing a financial assistance payment of \$2,000 to eligible individuals. Deadline to apply is December 8, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. For eligibility requirements and distribution dates, please refer to page 3.
- The upcoming Mohawk Council of Akwesasne By-Election is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Voting location are Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility (Kana:takon), and Tri-District Elders Lodge (Kawehno:ke). Check ahead to ensure you are on the voters list! For more information available on page 4.
- MCA's Community Support Program is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Heating Assistance Program (AHAP). Open to Akwesasró:nnon who reside under the MCA jurisdiction in Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne, or within the City of Cornwall boundary. Deadline to apply is Friday, December 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. More information listed on page 24.
- Have you heard? Peace Tree Mall on Kawehno:ke is getting a facelift, as part of an exciting revitalization project! For the community's safety concerns, construction fencing has been added to the front of the building but businesses remain open during their regular operating hours. Stop in and give them a visit today!

NEWS

FAMILY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS TO COMBAT RISING FOOD COSTS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is committed to supporting our community during challenging times. In response to the rising cost of food driven by inflation, global tariff concerns, and the unfavourable currency exchange rate, we are pleased to announce that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is providing a financial assistance payment of \$2,000 to eligible individuals to help our community households manage these challenges.

This project aims to provide immediate relief to families facing increased grocery expenses and economic uncertainty. We recognize the financial strain many are experiencing, and we are taking this step to help ease the burden.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Group 1: Individuals who are identified as the Head of Household on the current Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) eligibility list;

AND

- Group 2: Individuals who are not identified as the Head of Household on the current Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) eligibility list, but:

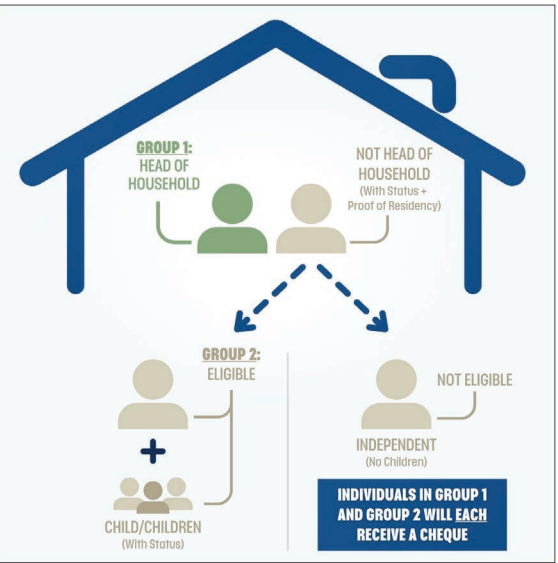
a) reside in a multi-generational home with an identified Head of Household (who is not their spouse, partner, or co-parent) or their heating costs are included as part of their rent; and

b) reside within the Territory of Akwesasne under the jurisdiction of the MCA (Cornwall Island, St. Regis, or Snye)\* or in Cornwall, Ontario\*; and

c) have a status card that has the Mohawks of Akwesasne listed as the registry group; and

d) have a child or children who reside with them who also has/have a status card(s) that has the Mohawks of Akwesasne listed as the registry group.

\*Proof of residency is required.



HOW TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

- For individuals who are part of Group 1 (identified above), there are no additional steps required. You can contact Executive Services at extension 2100 to confirm that you are on the current AHAP eligibility list.
- For individuals who are part of Group 2 (identified above), you will need to submit a signed attestation and provide proof of residency to determine your eligibility for this project. The attestation form is available at Executive Services.

DEADLINE TO APPLY

Community members are encouraged to spread the word about this project. The eligibility list for the Family Sustainability Project will be finalized on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Late submissions will not be accepted and no exceptions will be made.

DISTRIBUTION DATES

Cheques will be available for pick-up during the week of December 15-19, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- December 15 — A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- December 16 — A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- December 17 — Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility
- December 18 — Snye Recreation Center
- December 19 — Snye Recreation Center

While pick-up locations are being rotated between the three districts during this period, all cheques will be available at each location. This means you can pick up your cheque in a district other than the one you live in.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- If you recently moved to the Territory of Akwesasne under the jurisdiction of the MCA (Cornwall Island, St. Regis, or Snye) or to Cornwall, Ontario or have recently relocated from one of these areas to another, please reach out as soon as possible.
- If the Head of Household listed on the current Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) has recently passed away and you are now the Head of Household, please reach out as soon as possible.
- For any questions or to obtain the attestation form, please contact Kristy Lauzon, Special Projects Officer at Executive Services, by phone at 613-575-2250 ext. 2121 or by email at kristy.lauzon@akwesasne.ca.



# NEWS

## AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW AMENDMENT MOVES TO PHASE IV “PHASE III – POST CONSULTATION” DRAFT ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL IN PRINCIPLE

The Akwesasne Election Law (AEL) Working Task Group (WTG) has been diligently following the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR). We’re pleased to share that the proposed amendment to Section 16.2 is now advancing to Phase IV: Enactment of an Akwesasne Law.

This milestone follows the successful completion of Phase III: Community Consultation, where information sessions were held in each district to ensure transparency and gather feedback from community members.

Community consultation sessions for the proposed amendment were completed on September 3, with additional comments accepted until September 5. The WTG reviewed all feedback and made revisions as needed. The updated language was then submitted for legal review. After considering both community and legal input, the Legislative Services Manager presented the WTG’s report to Council.

On October 20, during its regular meeting, Council passed a resolution to accept in principle the proposed amendment to Section 16.2. This decision moved the process into Phase IV, as outlined in ALEPR. On November 3, during its regular meeting, Council passed a resolution confirming that the method of enactment shall be by way of Referendum.

Once dates and locations are confirmed, the community will receive full details about the Referendum and the schedule of informational meetings prior to the vote.

The Working Task Group will continue to keep the community informed and share updates as new information becomes available.

If you have questions for your Community District Representatives on the Oversight Committee or general inquiries, please contact Legislative Services Manager Alyson Thompson at [alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca).

## KANA:TAKON & KAWEHNO:KE BY-ELECTION

The upcoming Mohawk Council of Akwesasne By-Election is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Voting Locations & Access:

- **Kana:takon:** Kanonhkwa’tsheri:io Health Facility – Entrance via Sweetgrass Lane (main entrance closed)
- **Kawehno:ke:** Tri-District Elders Lodge – Entrance via Buckshot Road

Clear signage will be provided at both locations to guide community members on voting day.

### Candidates:

#### **Kana:takon (2 seats | Term ending June 2027):**

Cody David • Paul K. Francis • Kallen Martin • Leonard “Lenny” Oakes Jr. • Teresa Oakes

#### **Kawehno:ke (1 seat | Term ending June 2027):**

Vanessa Adams • Bryan John Sharrow • Rosemary Square • Tom “Gulla” Thomas

### Advance Polls:

Thursday, December 4 & Friday, December 5 – By appointment only at the Angus Mitchell Memorial Building in Kana:takon.

### Voter Lists & Registration:

Community members are responsible for checking the posted Voters Lists to ensure they are registered:

- **Kawehno:ke:** Bank of Montreal, Peace Tree Trade Centre, Jock’s Kwikstop
- **Kana:takon:** Canada Post Office, Village Currency

If an individual’s name does not appear on their district’s voters list, or if they need to register to vote, they may do so by following these steps:

- Obtain a Voter Registration Application form from the foyer of the Angus Mitchell Memorial Building.
- Complete both sides of the form, including Schedules G and H.
- Submit the completed form to the Chief Electoral Officer no later than 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

The final voters list will be posted after 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025. If your name does not appear on the final list, you will not be eligible to vote on December 13, 2025.

For advance poll appointments, voter registration, or other questions, contact the CEO at [chief.electoral.officer@akwesasne.ca](mailto:chief.electoral.officer@akwesasne.ca) or 613-575-2250 ext. 2126.

# NEWS

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CARE AND COMPASSION: MCA DONATES TO LIFTING THEIR MINDS

On November 6, 2025, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), through the Healing and Wellness Committee, proudly presented a cheque in the amount of \$24,538 to Diane Boots of Iahki’nikonhketskwas (Lifting Their Minds), in recognition of their compassionate work supporting families and community members through end-of-life planning and care. The Healing and Wellness Committee, made up of MCA Chiefs, was formed to distribute funds dedicated specifically to healing and wellness efforts within the community, following a call-out for applicants earlier this spring.

Lifting Their Minds assists families and community members who are planning end-of-life arrangements, offering guidance before, during, and after the loss of a loved one. The program provides education, spiritual support, and emotional care, at no cost, to those within an individual’s personal circle.

This is a non-judgmental, non-medical, and non-residential support project that works collaboratively with local hospice

services, nursing homes, funeral homes, and faith organizations to help families navigate end-of-life care with dignity and compassion. Additional services include the Good Grief Cafe and community grief support groups, offering safe spaces for healing and connection.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is honored to support Lifting Their Minds and the meaningful comfort and guidance they continue to provide. We extend our heartfelt best wishes as they carry forward their work in nurturing understanding, compassion, and emotional wellness within our community.



## HEALING THE LAND: MCA DONATES TO RED SKY OUTDOORS

Taking a meaningful step towards a healthier environment, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), through the Healing and Wellness Committee, proudly presented a \$30,226 donation to Red Sky Outdoors (RSO), a grassroots initiative rooted in Akwesasne that focuses on reforestation, food sustainability, and community wellness. Founded in 2022, RSO has blossomed from a deep commitment to environmental stewardship guided by Haudenosaunee values and Indigenous-led action.

Through their dedicated efforts, Red Sky Outdoors is helping to restore balance to the environment by planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers throughout Akwesasne and beyond. Each seed planted helps to strengthen local ecosystems, provide homes for wildlife, and encourage the return of culturally significant species that once thrived on this land.

Beyond replanting, RSO also shares traditional teachings through environmental education, partnerships, and cultural preservation efforts. By reconnecting community members to the land, they nurture a deeper understanding of who we

are and our responsibilities as caretakers for future generations.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is honored to support Red Sky Outdoors and their ongoing mission to heal the land, restore traditional knowledge, and build a vibrant, resilient future for Akwesasne and beyond.

The Healing and Wellness Committee, made up of the MCA Chiefs, was formed to distribute funds dedicated specifically to healing and wellness efforts within the community, following a call-out for applicants earlier this spring.





GROWING TRADITION: MCA DONATES TO ONKWE

Bringing tradition and community together, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, through the Healing and Wellness Committee, proudly presented a \$117,636 cheque to Onkwe, honoring their inspiring work to keep traditional teachings strong and growing.

Onkwe, a dedicated group of Onkwehonwe (Original Peoples), continues to breathe life into traditional knowledge passed down through generations. Their work focuses on teaching traditional farming and gardening practices inherited from our elders, guiding families and youth in reconnecting with the land and the values that sustain us.

With every seed planted and every story shared, Onkwe helps our community reconnect with who we are and where we come from. Their work grows more than food, it grows understanding, respect, and a stronger connection to the land and to one another.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is honored to support Onkwe and their commitment to cultural preservation, community wellness, and the sharing of traditional knowledge for the future of Akwesasne.

The Healing and Wellness Committee, made up of MCA Chiefs, was formed to distribute funds dedicated specifically to healing and wellness efforts within the community, following a call-out for applicants earlier this spring.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALING: MCA DONATES TO THE HEAL LODGE

On November 6, 2025, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, through the Healing and Wellness Committee, proudly presented a cheque in the amount of \$117,600 to the Haudenosaunee Everlasting Academy of Learning (HEAL) Lodge, strengthening their mission to provide a traditional healing space for the community. The Healing and Wellness Committee, made up of MCA Chiefs, was formed to distribute funds dedicated specifically to healing and wellness efforts within the community, following a call-out for applicants earlier this spring.

Owned by knowledge holders Eddie Gray and Della Adams, the Heal Lodge is dedicated to fostering a community that is culturally knowledgeable, healthy in the mind, body, and spirit, and who is also empowered in maintaining a balance within their lives and all of creation.

The HEAL Lodge offers a wide range of services rooted in traditional knowledge and practices, including healing sessions, reading sessions, massage therapy, medi-

cine walks, ceremonial teachings, traditional medicines, a sweat lodge, and more.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is honored to support the HEAL Lodge’s vision and the invaluable services it provides to the community. We extend our best wishes to the HEAL Lodge as they continue their important work of nurturing wellness, cultural strength, and balance for generations to come.



COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



October 6, 2025

Discussion Items:

- Council discussed a previous meeting held regarding the Victory Cruise Line and the support letter that was requested. A further follow up meeting will be scheduled.
- An update was provided regarding an encroachment.
- Council discussed Meeting Minutes and the need to keep the minutes as consistent as possible.

Portfolio Updates:

Portfolio Chiefs provided full Council with updates on:

- AMBE
- Nation Building

Presentation:

- A presentation was provided by an external contract and members of the Environment Program regarding the American Eel Symposium Report.

**MCRs:** *Tsi Snaihne School - HVAC/Boiler System Replacement; Approval of five (5) applications to the Healing Fund; ISC Amendment No. 171 to funding agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; Assignment of Lease; Approval of two Upgrade Application Loans; CMHC Loan Renewal*

October 20, 2025

Discussion Items:

- **CERB Border Issues:** Chiefs talked about the CRA coming after community members for COVID money that needs to be paid back because of those that crossed the US border during COVID 2020.
- **Indigenous Women’s Committee:** Chiefs gave an update on the recent Indigenous Women’s Committee meeting.
- **Elected Women’s Council:** Chiefs gave an update on the recent Elected Women’s Council Meeting.
- **Quebec Constitution:** Chiefs talked about abortion laws in the Quebec Constitution and the Councils stance on this topic.
- **Public Safety Response Boat for HAVFD:** Council discussed purchasing a new boat

for the HAVFD to increase service time.

- **General Meeting Agenda – October 23, 2025:** Chiefs discussed the contents of the General Meeting agenda for the October 23 meeting.
- **PAT Update:** The PAT Committee provided updates to the Council on recent initiatives.
- **Housing Issue:** Chiefs discussed the ongoing housing issue in Akwesasne.
- **Kana:takon School:** The Chiefs discussed issues with the Kana:takon School.

Presentation:

- **AEL Update by the Justice Department:** The Justice Department provided an update on the amendments to the Akwesasne Election Law.

**MCRs:** *Rescind – Lot 8 St. Francis Island; Rescind – Lot 1 Drummond Island; Permit Lot 1 Drummon Island; Approval for the Public Release of Tiaweron:ko (American Eel) Symposium Report; Housing Renovation Funding Strategic Approach 2025/2026 ISC ON Region; Oversight Committee Ontario Legislative Development TOR; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2025; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2025; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2025; AEL*

Contact Us!



MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

To reach a member of Council, call the Mohawk Government Office:  
**613-575-2250**

Or, find phone numbers and email addresses for all Council members online:

[www.akwesasne.ca/about-us/meet-council](http://www.akwesasne.ca/about-us/meet-council)



KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF FALLON DAVID UPDATES



**Portfolios:**  
Dept. of Health, Dept. of Community & Social Services, Akwesasne Justice Dept., Dept. of Public Safety

**Selected Committees:**

CBSA; Dundee Port of Entry Beautification; Hydro Quebec; Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)

MONTHLY NOTABLES

- **September 22, 2025 | Council Meeting** — Eight (8) MCRs were presented and passed.
- **September 22, 2025 | Kana:takon District Meeting** — Four individuals were in attendance, topics included ATVs on the roadways; Elders Home Improvement Fund; and Elders Services; Fiber-to-the-Home and concerns about not being hooked up; question regarding MMIP within Akwesasne and if these cases are still active or if they are cold cases; when will Sweetgrass Lane begin construction; and data on how many community members have gotten their green card.
- **September 23, 2025 | PAT Meeting** — Spoke about having the Housing Sector conduct more housing inspections and look over some community submissions on those interested in selling their property.
- **September 23, 2025 | Meeting with Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH)** — Council met with CCH to go over any issues and provide updates. These meetings are crucial in making sure we continue to have a good communitive relationship with CCH. This gives us the ability to address issues quickly.
- **September 24, 2025 | Oversight Committee Terms of Reference Presentation** — To

present the changes to the Terms of Reference (TOR) to council before it comes by MCR. Most changes to the Terms of Reference were grammatical.

- **September 25, 2025 | General Meeting** - Held at the Snye Recreation Center.
- **September 26, 2025 | General Meeting Debrief** — Discussion on the new General Meeting format and how we felt it went. Council expressed the changes made to the meeting worked well and will continue this new format.
- **September 29, 2025 | Weekly Council Meeting** — Eight (8) MCRs were presented and all were carried.
- **October 2, 2025 | BCI Cornwall Port of Entry Working Group** — Items discussed were proper communication when lines are long, and why are people getting pulled in from the domestic lane when they have not even left Canada. They will look into these matters further.
- **October 2, 2025 | OVS Meeting** — Provided staffing updates with a new additional Leasing Officer. Membership Board elections took place, and seats were filled for Kawehno:ke and Tsi Snaihne. Kana:takon had no nominations. Status cards had been out of stock due to the Canada Post strike, however, they have since been restocked.
- **October 6, 2025 | Weekly Council Meeting** — 10 MCRs were presented and they were all carried.
- **October 7, 2025 | DCSS Org. Chart Meeting with Portfolio** — Director and Program Managers (See below)
- **October 8, 2025 | Child Rights Law Line by Line** took place at OPG (See in DCSS section)
- **October 10, 2025 | DCSS Portfolio Meeting** (See in DCSS section)
- **October 17, 2025 | OSPCA Ceremony** - I attended and spoke at the OSPCA groundbreaking ceremony in Cornwall, ON. The new building is set to be ready in 2027, and it will be a larger space with a veterinarian on site. I have been working with the OSPCA to continue our partnership, and I sit as one of their community advisors.
- **October 20, 2025 | Weekly Council Meeting** — 13 MCRs were presented and carried.

- **October 23, 2025 | General Meeting** - Held at the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School.
    - » **Update:** Lands Canada by Chief Vince Thompson and Chief Sarah Sunday Diabo. The community was given an update about federal lands available for purchase. These properties are along the waterfront and could offer a lot of community, environmental, and economic benefits. Akwesasne has been given first choice to buy 10 parcels, eight in Cornwall and two in Iroquois. If MCA decides to purchase them, the land could be used to build affordable housing for community members by using funding available through the Chiefs of Ontario’s \$143 million for off-reserve housing.
  - **October 27, 2025 | Weekly Council Meeting** — Four (4) MCRs were approved.
  - **October 27, 2025 | Oversight Committee Meeting**
  - **October 28, 2025 | PAT Meeting** — Looked over proposals of properties received from the RFPs, spoke of department needs.
  - **October 29, 2025 | MCA and SRMT Quarterly Meeting** — The agenda items were the following: Discussion requested on Hunting and Fishing in other First Nation communities; Proposed Upstate New York Nuclear Power Plant in news; SRMT-MCA Interagency Agreements: Between Environment Divisions and Social Services-Akwesasne Child & Family Services (expired Employment/Licensing Background Checks) from Canada/Reciprocity; Presentation on litigation against Department of Education; Partridge House Clients Residing in MCA districts; SRMT update on Final Land Claim Settlement Ratification.
  - **October 29, 2025 | Council met with Minister Anandasangaree** — The agenda items were the following: USA/ Canada Relations; The relationship between the RCMP and the Council’s police force; Trafficking issues in the Swanton sector; Overall border security collaboration; MCA/CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative; Funding challenges for Akwesasne Public Safety.
- DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES (DCSS)** — Portfolio met with the Director and Program Managers to go over the Org. Chart and to see which positions are no

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF FALLON DAVID UPDATES

longer needed and positions that are beneficial. A lot of discussion was had, and some great points were made. With the new Special Needs Department, conversations on how we hope the department will continue to expand as this was a need for our community for a very long time.

The September 30th Truth and Reconciliation events were well attended and a great success. The Cornwall location at Lamoureux Park will be moving back to educating the people next year. National Childs Day was held on November 16, 2025, at the St. Regis Mohawk School with games and educational activities for the children. A group from ACFS participated in a Too Good for Drugs training and are now trained to go into the schools.

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP) is beginning to consider the need for a men’s house due to the number of men needing assistance. Last holiday season, they were able to assist 65 families with food and gifts they hope to do the same this year.

**AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT** — Oversight Committee continues to work on the Akwesasne Election Law (AEL). October 20, 2025, council accepted in principle the draft amendments to the AEL. The Oversight Committee will now move on to phase VI. On October 8 and 9, Council was given a line by line of the Akwesasne Child’s Rights & Responsibilities Law. Some suggestions for changes were made, and it will return for a line by line in November. There was a call-out for Akwesasne Review Commission Members that was open until November 3, 2025 for community members to apply.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE** — From October 21-23, 2025, the MCA Environment Program hosted another E-Waste Drive in the district of Tsi Snaihne. At the request of the Beautification Committee and Council, the MCA Environment Program will be arranging a large waste pick-up in all three districts. An RFP was out for the clean-up that ended on October 31. The hope is for the large waste pick-up to take place before snowfall, if not first thing in the Spring. Northern Landscapes is to begin work at the Y in the village of Kana:takon.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** — A site visit was carried out at Iakhihsohtha Lodge to evaluate the current palliative care space. A proposal has been put forward to relocate the room closer to the clinic area to improve both privacy and accessibility. The plan includes the installation

of fire doors to meet safety standards. The existing shared space currently used for palliative care will be returned to its original function. The Department of Health (DOH) explored the establishment of a DOH Foundation Fund to support department-wide needs, specifically addressing financial shortfalls related to equipment purchases, facility improvements, and fleet replacement. More information to come.

DOH had a call-out for their Health Advisory Board, which ended on October 3, 2025. On Saturday, October 25, 2025, a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk was held in Kana:takon starting at the Kanonhkwa’tsheri:io Health Facility.

Dental Office renovations continued with floor stripping, drywall repairs, and cabinet removal.

Dreamcatcher Studio moved into the framing and HVAC stage, and parking lot line painting and crosswalk upgrades were finished at Kanonhkwa’tsheri:io Health Facility.

On October 7, the Special Projects Officer began training the Privacy Officer with weekly sessions running until November 18.

ANIHB also started a policy review to align with new software and data management needs.

A total of 130 vaccines were given (85 Flu, 45 COVID) through community and school clinics.

Participation was strong at community events — 230 people attended the Halloween Road Event and 40 joined the Cancer Awareness Walk. Home visits included 36 prenatal/postpartum visits, and 60 food vouchers were distributed.

Food security programs supported more than 300 students every two weeks across AMS, Snye, and surrounding schools. Jordan’s Principle processed six new cases and submitted a group application for Kixcare. FNCFS provided 40 youth food gift cards and 20 family meals.

Sober October saw over 629 participants take part in more than 10 wellness activities.

Detox services completed five intakes, with two individuals moving directly into treatment afterward. Land-Based Healing Program welcomed 105 participants for outdoor hikes.

Staff completed Canada Labour Code training and reconnected with CONNEX Ontario to support coordination.

Site visit with CLSC Huntington was hosted to explore collaborative service options.

A department-wide Clinical Redesign Meeting

was held with providers and nurses.

A new Nurse Practitioner joined the team, with two more in negotiation. A pediatrician has also been added to offer clinics twice a month.

Home and Community Care expanded staffing (RN and temporary PSW) and launched evening and weekend services. Advanced palliative care training began for nurses and PSWs. Referral processes and client education improvements were also developed.

Meals on Wheels served 81 elders daily, delivering 1,782 meals

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care held Orange Shirt Day, cleansing ceremonies, bingo, and Halloween activities. Iakhihsohtha Lodge hosted Trick-or-Treat, facility cleanses, and recognized their Dietary staff. Elder Services completed 15 home maintenance visits, 10 social liaison visits, and 110 client check-ins. Community members highlighted the program’s compassion and responsiveness.

Emergency Services responded to 145 calls from October 1–30, 2025 (132 BLS, 13 ALS). They worked with Cornwall Paramedic Services on a mental health and wellness grant and secured \$30,000 to support staff wellness and first responder program development. Traditional Medicine practitioners were invited to begin cleansing the fleet and office to promote wellness, positivity, and safe operations.

ZOLL ventilator training has begun, with the goal of placing the new units into service by the end of November once all staff complete the modules.

EMT recruitment is ongoing, with five qualified applicants moving forward to interviews.

Updates to AMA SOPs continued, with revisions circulated for staff feedback.

The team also took part in several community events, including the St. Regis Mohawk School Fall Festival, Trunk-or-Treat, Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, and Halloween Night coverage.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** — The new police commission members have all been sworn-in and have begun their term. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission Members for each district are: Belinda Koostachin and Thomas Francis (Kawehno:ke), Karen Loran and Roberta Lazore (Tsi Snaihne) and Johanne Jackson and Steve Thomas (Kana:takon). Welcome to the police commission. No portfolio meeting for October.



# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



## FACEBOOK STATS

### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in October

- 1. Akwesasne Indigenous Fashion Show Celebrates Culture & Style (Video)
- 2. MCA Extends Condolences to the Family, Friends of Mary Ann Jacobs
- 3. Haudenosaunee Astronomy Night
- 4. Our Connections to the Stars: Cultural Astrology Teachings with Samantha Doxtator
- 5. Major Wildland Fire in Snye — Road Closed

### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in October

- 1. Major Wildland Fire in Snye — 8:30 PM Update — 51,441 Reached
- 2. Major Wildland Fire in Snye — Road Closed — 32,985 Reached
- 3. Major Wildland Fire in Snye — 8:00 PM Update — 23,945 Reached
- 4. MCA Extends Condolences to the Family, Friends of Mary Ann Jacobs — 19,873 Reached
- 5. Haudenosaunee Astronomy Night — 16,150 Reached



## X STATS

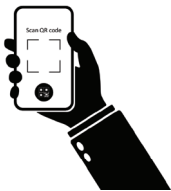
### Top Post in October



## YOUTUBE STATS

### Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for October

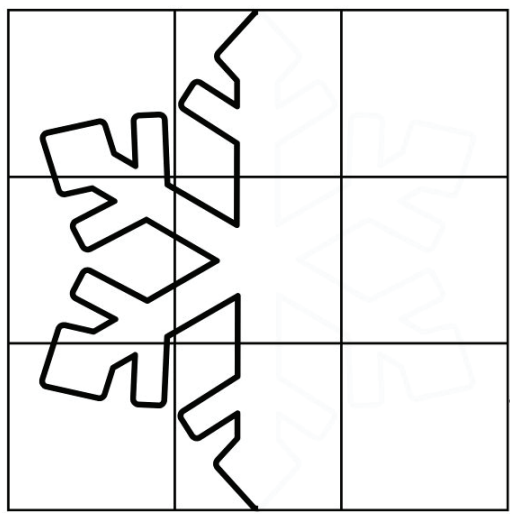
Akwesasne Indigenous Fashion Show



Scan QR Code to view video!

To view more videos, please visit:  
[www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne](https://www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne)

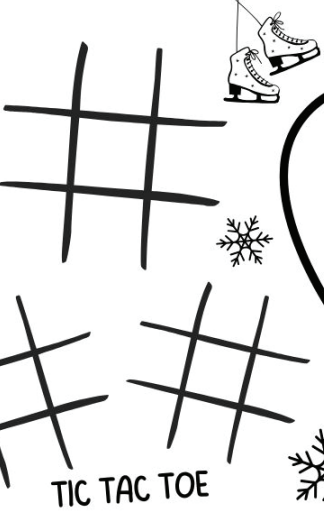
# CHILDREN'S PAGE



DRAW THE OTHER HALF



TIC TAC TOE

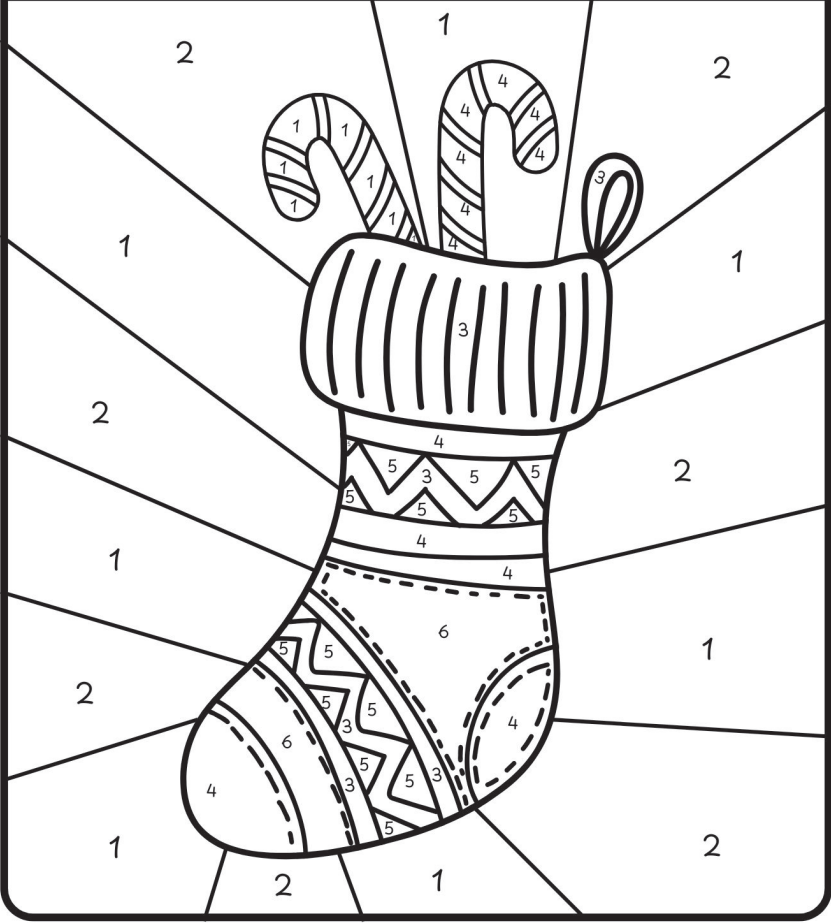


DECORATE THE MITTENS!



## Color By Numbers

Using the color key at the bottom, can you color in the Christmas stocking before Christmas Eve?



1. Red 2. Green 3. Yellow 4. Purple 5. Blue 6. Orange

## DECORATE THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE & COOKIES



## YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
Frosted Flakes!

What is a snowflakes favorite game?  
Freeze tag.

Where do polar bears keep their money?  
In a snow bank.



# ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

## ENTEWATATHÁ:WI UPDATES

### ENTEWATATHÁ:WI COMMUNITY EDUCATION PRESENTATION

On October 8, 2025, Entewatathá:wi hosted a community education session for members of the Tri-District Elders. This presentation continued from a previous session, offering deeper insights into understanding the Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA) and the Indian Act.

Rachel Lazare, Project Manager, provided a recap on the background and purpose of negotiations, explaining the differences between the Indian Act and Self-Government, the steps toward achieving self-government, and key chapters of ESGA and how they relate to the Indian Act.

The session was highly interactive, with community members asking questions and engaging in meaningful discussion.

Community education is a key component of the Entewatathá:wi Project, keeping the members of the Mohawks of Akwesasne informed and involved throughout the self-government process. These sessions provide opportunities to learn, ask questions, and share valuable feedback on important aspects of ESGA.

Presentations are available to families, and other community groups. To schedule an Entewatathá:wi educational presentation, please contact Nation Building at (613) 575-2250.



### ENTEWATATHÁ:WI MEETS WITH DAKOTA WHITECAP FIRST NATION

On October 21, 2025, the Entewatathá:wi team met with representatives from the Dakota Whitecap First Nation to learn first hand about their experience implementing their

Self-Government Treaty.

Murray Long, Director of Governance Affairs delivered a presentation outlining their communities background, the timeline of their self-government negotiations, and the completion of their agreement. When asked how their Self-Government Treaty has benefited them, Mr. Long explained that they now have a true government-to-government relationship across all levels and with all federal departments. While there are still barriers, he emphasized that these challenges are part of the ongoing process of learning and meeting the needs of Dakota Whitecap First Nation.

Chief Darcy Bear also provided an overview to the Entewatathá:wi team, alongside with Assistant Deputy Minister Heather McLean, highlighting the economic opportunities their community is currently pursuing. The update offered valuable insight into their current initiatives and future direction.

Every Self-Government Agreement is unique and developed to meet the specific needs of each Indigenous community. The Entewatathá:wi team found this meeting to be both valuable and inspiring, providing lessons, encouragement, and ideas to support Akwesasne's own steps toward self-government.

The Entewatathá:wi team is grateful to Dakota Whitecap First Nation for sharing their knowledge and experiences. We look forward to future meetings and continued collaboration as we advance on our own self-government agreement.



Pictured L-R: Councillor Brayen Eagle; Chief Darcy Bear; Rachel Lazare, Nation Building Project Manager; Nathan Richards, legal counsel; Ali Bear, legal counsel; Murray Long, Director Governance Affairs; Cheavee Willie, Nation Building Executive Assistant.

# AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

## ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY HISTORY: THE 1960s AND 1970s

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office are actively working on educating the community about the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway during the ongoing negotiations of the Seaway Settlement. In this segment, we examine the events of the 1960s and 1970s and how they influenced the case against Canada.

As the St. Lawrence Seaway entered its first decade in operation, Akwesasne Mohawk families who had land expropriated or changed during the construction began to feel the impact of the construction. Soil dredged from the river was deposited onto the riverbanks and farmlands, essentially rendering them unusable for agriculture. Erosion from the raised water levels and ship waves made life difficult for those navigating the shorelines.

Upriver on the North Shores of the river, the villages of Maple Grove, Mille Roches, Moulinette, Sheiks Island, Wales, Dickinson's Landing, Farran's Point and Aultsville had been flooded in 1958 to create Lake St. Lawrence. These communities had 7,500 residents and were compensated for their move to new towns inland; some structures were relocated while others were destroyed and recreated. The Lost Villages Historical Society was established in 1977 to commemorate those lost communities and preserve any artifacts or oral history from the families.

In June 1972, the Chiefs from Akwesasne approached the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority to negotiate compensation for the damages and expropriation of lands. Their meetings lasted for several years but were not productive in securing adequate compensation for the people. The Chiefs would file a lawsuit in the Federal Court in June of 1976 to claim Canada breached their laws of expropriation of Indian Lands, caused irreparable damages to the lands of the people, and breached their inherent right of Aboriginal title to their lands.

By the end of the decade and on the 20th anniversary of the Seaway, the annual tonnage of cargo that travelled through the Seaway reached 80.3 million tons, surpassing its previous record of 57.7 million set in 1977. This increased traffic of deep-water ships would become a significant environmental issue when invasive species from other waters began to negatively impact the natural environment of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes watershed.

In our next segment, we will cover the 1980s and 1990s, as many more environmental issues arise and their impacts are felt throughout Akwesasne.

*Submission provided by the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office.*



## Akwesasne Rights & Research Office

Contact Us!

 613-575-2250 ext. 2133











 arro@akwesasne.ca



# OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

## Registration under the Indian Act and applying for a status card, what's the difference?

Registration under the Indian Act is not the same as applying for a status card. This infographic helps explain the differences.

REGISTRATION	STATUS CARD
<p></p> <p><b>What is it?</b></p> <p>Your legal status as a person registered under the Indian Act.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>What is it?</b></p> <p>A government-issued identity document that confirms you are registered under the Indian Act.</p>
<p></p> <p><b>How long does it take?</b></p> <p>It usually takes less than 6 months to process a complete application for registration under the Indian Act. However, in some cases, it may take up to 2 years or more.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>How long does it take?</b></p> <p>Once you are registered under the Indian Act, a laminated status card can be prepared the same day as your appointment at the OVS office.</p>
<p></p> <p><b>How do you register?</b></p> <p>You can apply for registration <a href="#">by mail</a> or <a href="#">in-person</a> at any <a href="#">regional office</a>, or through a <a href="#">trusted source</a>, or your <a href="#">First Nations office</a> if they offer registration services.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>How do you apply?</b></p> <p>You can make an appointment at the Office of Vital Statistics to apply for a laminated Certificate of Indian Status.</p>
<p></p> <p><b>Does it need to be renewed?</b></p> <p>No. Registration doesn't need to be renewed.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Does it need to be renewed?</b></p> <p>A laminated status card needs to be renewed every 5 years for adults and dependent adults and every 3 years for children.</p>
<p></p> <p><b>Is there a fee?</b></p> <p>There's no fee to apply for registration, but there may be a fee for some required documents, for example, a proof of birth document.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Is there a fee?</b></p> <p>There's a fee of <a href="#">\$5.00</a> for the status card which will be waived if you hand in your old status card, and a <a href="#">\$5.00</a> fee for a photo unless you provide your own printed photo. There are no fees for elders aged 60 or above.</p>

# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## PAWS FOR WELLNESS: AMS STUDENTS CONNECT WITH THE AKWESASNE ANIMAL SOCIETY

In November, the MCA Mental Health & Wellness team partnered with the Akwesasne Animal Society for a heartwarming and educational visit with the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School Health Club's grade 6–8 students. The session focused on the many ways animals can support our overall wellness and the students were thrilled to learn from some very furry instructors!

Between snuggles with playful kittens, students discovered how animals contribute to our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. They also explored meaningful ways they and their families can help support the Akwesasne Animal Society, an important local non-profit in our community.

How pets support our wellness:

- **Physical Wellness:** Encouraging regular movement through walks, play and daily care routines.
- **Emotional Wellness:** Helping us co-regulate and

feel calmer during stressful moments.

- **Mental Wellness:** Reducing anxiety and boosting mood through companionship and routine.
- **Spiritual Wellness:** Deepening our connection to nature, responsibility and the natural world.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Akwesasne Animal Society for sharing their knowledge, bringing in the kittens and for the compassionate work you continue to do for



## MEET THE MOHAWK LANGUAGE & CULTURE DEPARTMENT

The 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 T. Henry, *Digital Resource Developer*





# DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION WELCOMES NEW COMPTROLLER



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is pleased to welcome Stéphane Bissonnette, CPA, CA as the new Comptroller for the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). Stéphane, originally from Cornwall, obtained his Bachelor of Business Administration [Concentration in Accounting] from Brock University in 1992 and subsequently obtained in Chartered Accountant designation in 1994. He has worked with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for several years in a consulting capacity and is familiar with the organization and community. He brings over 25 years of experience in finance, risk management, and strategic planning within both the public and private sectors.

Stéphane's extensive background includes serving as Chief Financial Officer with the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority, Director of Internal Audit for Ontario's French-language school boards, as well as

numerous senior financial management roles with Kraft Foods Global Inc. and Comptroller for the Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest (French public school board in the Toronto area).

He is recognized for achieving strong financial results through collaboration, sound controls, and a commitment to people development and process improvement. Stéphane has also provided consulting and financial leadership through his firm, S2Biss Consulting Inc., where he provided temporary comptroller and chief financial officer services to his clients.

Heather Phillips, Director of Finance & Administration, welcomed Stéphane to the team, stating, "We are pleased to have Stéphane join our team into the Comptroller role. His familiarity with the organization and his strong financial leadership will support the continued advancement of MCA's financial management systems and goals."

Please join us in welcoming Stéphane to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Department of Finance and Administration.



# Connect With Us on Social Media!

[facebook.com/akwesasne.ca](https://facebook.com/akwesasne.ca)

[@MCAkwesasne](https://www.instagram.com/MCAkwesasne)

[@MCAkwesasne](https://twitter.com/MCAkwesasne)

[youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne](https://youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne)

[@MCAkwesasne](https://www.snapchat.com/add/MCAkwesasne)

[@MCAkwesasne](https://www.tiktok.com/@MCAkwesasne)

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## WALKING TOGETHER FOR HOPE & HEALING: DOH HOSTS INAUGURAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WALK

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) proudly held its first Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in the District of Kana:takon.

Community members, friends, and families of survivors and those affected by breast cancer came together to raise awareness and show solidarity. Many participants carried heartfelt signs and wore commemorative t-shirts honoring loved ones. Community members also jumped into the walk as the crowd passed their driveway, adding to their presence to the moment.

Nurses from Community Health Services and Clinical Care Services were also on hand to provide resources, offering community members with vital information on

various cancer screenings available and what age demographics should begin cancer screenings.

The goal of the Breast Cancer Walk was to raise awareness about breast cancer within our community and to send a message of love and hope to those currently battling the disease. The DOH wants our community members to know they are not alone and that we stand with them in their fight.

The Department of Health extends sincere appreciation to the amazing and dedicated staff who planned and organized this meaningful event, and to every community member who joined us to show support. Your presence and commitment make a difference.





## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### CLINICAL CARE SERVICES SECTOR WELCOMES NEW NURSE PRACTITIONER



The MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services (CCS) is delighted to welcome Rebecca Boyer to our team as a Nurse Practitioner.

Rebecca is a proud Mohawk from the Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory and will be providing care at the Akwesasne Medical Clinic (AMC) and the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic (TMC). Her office will be located in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

A graduate of McGill University with a Master's in Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, Rebecca brings a wealth

of experience and dedication to improving access to quality care in Indigenous communities. Her background includes work with the Cree Health Board, internships within the same organization, and clinical roles at Groupe de médecine de famille (GMF) in Montreal and Kateri Memorial Hospital, where she contributed to innovative outpatient projects.

Rebecca will begin accepting clients in Mid-December 2025. Appointments and bookings will be scheduled through the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at 613-575-2341.

Please join us in giving Rebecca a warm welcome to the Department of Health and the Akwesasne community! We look forward to the compassionate care and expertise she will share with our community members.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF AKWESASNE MOHAWK AMBULANCE SERVICE



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Derek Comins as the new Associate Director of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Service (AMA). We extend a warm welcome to Derek as he joins our team, bringing exceptional experience and dedication to this vital role.

Derek has devoted his professional and personal life to safeguarding the health and safety of the Akwesasne community. His service includes decades of commitment as a volunteer firefighter with the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) since 1997, where he also served as Fire Chief. Additionally, Derek previously worked as an EMT and EMT Supervisor with AMA.

His leadership journey continued as Emergency Management Director for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), Deputy Director at Franklin County Emergency Services, and Emergency Management Specialist at FEMA. Derek has played a critical role in numerous disaster drills and real-world emergency responses, including flooding, severe weather events, power outages, and mass casualty incidents.

Complementing his extensive field experience, Derek has completed advanced training in emergency services and management, including Fire and EMS Leadership I, II, and III, Emergency Management for Tribal Governments, and Emergency Operations and Mitigation for Tribal Governments.

Please join us in welcoming Derek Comins to the Department of Health. We look forward to his guidance and leadership in strengthening the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Service.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### CALL OUT FOR HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) is seeking seven (7) community representatives to sit on the Akwesasne Health Board for the 2025-2028 (3 year Term); two (2) members from the District of Kana:takon, two (2) members from the District of Kawehno:ke, two (2) members from the District of Tsi Snaihne, and one (1) Student/Youth Representative member (any district).

To qualify for appointment to the Akwesasne Advisory Health Board a person must;

- Be a registered member of Akwesasne or immediately eligible to be registered as a member under the Akwesasne Membership code (does not include probationary members)
- Have knowledge of Mohawk cultures and traditions
- Have good character, credibility and reputation in the Akwesasne community
- Not be convicted of an indictable offense in Canada or a Felony in the United States within 5 years prior to their appointment
- Reside in the District for which they were appointed, unless otherwise approved by the Board
- Have a demonstrated knowledge and/or experience in healthcare quality and safety principles and the process to review and track improvements

- Have a strong understanding of evidence based practices in health safety and quality
- Have an adequate educational background or experience in the health field and possess an interest in health issues; for the youth representative, an interest in health issues satisfies this criterion
- Willingness to participate in workshops, training sessions, webinars, etc.
- Willingness to participate in quarterly board meetings.
- Must not be an employee of the Department of Health

Honorarium set by MCR guidelines for appointed Akwesasne Health Board members.

**DEADLINE: December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

If interested please submit a letter of interest, outlining your qualifications and interest to [saije.catcheway@akwesasne.ca](mailto:saije.catcheway@akwesasne.ca), or by dropping off your letter of interest at the Department of Health Administration Office, located in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

Please address your letter of interest to Attention: Department of Health Administration.

For more information please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3300 and direct any questions to April Adams-Phillips, Special Projects Officer, or Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Assistant Director.

### DOH NOTIFIES COMMUNITY THAT JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE RELOCATED TO DCSS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The MCA Department of Health (DOH) is notifying the community that the Jordan's Principle office has been relocated to the DCSS Administration office. Staff extensions and emails remain the same.

We apologize for any inconvenience or any confusion caused during this transition.

Jordan's Principle can now be accessed in-person at the top floor in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

For any questions, or more information, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 2652.

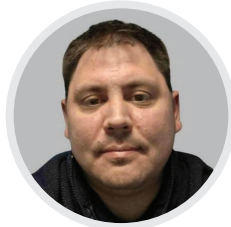




# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## CELEBRATING STRENGTH: MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK

For National Addictions Awareness Week, MCA's Mental Health & Wellness Services recognized Akwesasne community members who have chosen a path of sobriety by sharing their brave stories on MCA's social media platforms. Their strength, resilience, and commitment remind us all that recover is possible and worth celebrating. View their stories below.



Nick Lamesse

"Kwe! My name is Nick Lamesse and I am in my fifth year of recovery. More importantly, I am in my fifth year of freedom from the shackles of addiction. I believe addiction not to be a moral failing but a lack of spiritual connection. It was through my connection to a higher power and sharing with others I found the power of recovery healing.

As a young man filled with denial, I remember a conversation with the late Harry Thompson. He sat with me and told me many things, but the one thing that stuck out the most was, "The longest journey in the world is from the head to the heart." Nearly 15 years later, I finally understand.

Addiction has taught me a lot about myself. In fact it screamed so many things that I was not ready to hear, and I had no idea how to cope. Today, I live my life aligned with my true nature and try my best to keep my power and use my voice. I believe what Harry meant that day was for me to stop fighting the war within myself and accept the person I am today.

I value my recovery today as if it were my greatest possession because without it, I have nothing. Just like any fire that needs to be fed, so does my recovery fire. I feed it with self-love, compassion, kindness and humility. Most importantly I feed it with sharing my recovery story with others because "we only keep what have by giving it away."

Niawenhkó:wa."



Bonnie Bradley

"I chose to get sober many moons ago. I got sick and tired of being sick and tired, and I wanted to give my daughter a better life. I grew up in Akwesasne as a child of the 60's, the period of change, drugs, and hippie culture. I was a teen during the 70's and I made full use of that time and did not miss a beat!

I had my daughter in the end of the 80's and was slowly deciding the party life was not hitting anymore. I had responsibilities and I made the conscious choice to want better, to do better, and to make that change. I finally chose sobriety after a few unfortunate events and losses in my life. I went back to school and got my bachelor's degree and have worked on my master's degree while still contemplating change. I have been sober since the late 1990's, and remain so.

I have experienced life sober now for many years. I have relished my sober moments, my sober victories and achievements. I've always been a high achiever, only now doing so on a "natural high." I have found spirituality and my Onkwehonwe culture to be my saving grace. I enjoy life now and appreciate what life offers us. I have accomplished many things in my life and have reached the pinnacle of my career, working in the field and enjoy seeing others get sober and truly live.

I am a proud Akwesasne mother and grandmother, and enjoy my work life, and my ability to assist others who are attempting to find their way. I will help people to do so as sobriety and sober living is golden!"



Karatoten "Pray" Lazore

"My Rakeni never drank alcohol in his life. He always worked and provided everything that our family needed as best he could. I never wanted to disappoint him or let him down.

When I fell into addictions I saw the disappointment in his eyes and felt it in my heart. He never yelled at me to quit. He showed me there is a better way of life with his words and his actions. He never gave up on me. Never treated me different whether I was in active addiction or in recovery.

When I finally put the bottle down on May 8, 2014, after years of struggling, relapsing, getting back up, falling and rising again, he always believed in me, supported and encouraged me. He would do sweat lodges with me and come with me to meetings. He walked me out into the woods to do my fast and was there when I came out after my four (4) year completion. Along with my wife and children, I always knew I had support and love.

Nia:wen ko:wa Rakeni for showing me how to be a man and a father. My Rakeni is in the Sky World now, and I know in my heart that he watches over me, and is proud of the man I have become: a sober father, sober husband, sober son. I owe it all to the example he showed me my entire my life. I now show this same example to my children today, and everyday. Kanoronhkwa."



Mitchell Skidders

"She:kon, My name is Mitchell and I am a person who chose sobriety. Overcoming addiction is not about perfection, but about courage. Every person on this journey has faced moments of darkness, and yet, here we are, choosing light again and again.

My addiction led me to many mistakes and losses. I overcame the guilt, shame, and hurt to turn those losses into lessons. Recovery is not a straight line. It's a series of decisions to stand back up, even when the world feels heavy.

Addiction thrives in silence, shame, and isolation. Healing grows in culture, connection, honesty, and hope. No one overcomes addiction alone, we heal through community, through the people who refuse to give up on us, and through the strength we sometimes forget we have. With unity comes community. My mother and brothers believed in me, and my community helped me stand back up. Now, I am really honored to be helping my fellow community members stand back up.

Every small step matters. Every day sober is a victory. And every person in recovery deserves to be seen, not for their struggles, but for their resilience. Let today be a reminder that change is possible, healing is real, and your story is not over.

Niawenhkó:wa."

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## CELEBRATING STRENGTH: MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK



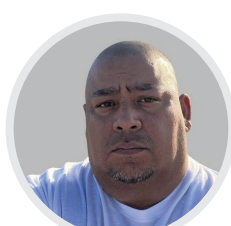
Harvey Herne

"She:kon/Hello,

Wathatkahateni ionkiats (He Turned Around is my name). That is the name that I received after I got out of rehab. My government name is Harvey. I am a recovering alcoholic and addict. I was beaten by my insanity, guilt, shame, etc.

I was suicidal, homicidal, hopeless. Out of spite, I went to the Partridge House, a place I swore I'd never go. I fought everything until I was so damn tired of fighting. I began to listen, started to believe things could change if I let them. I started to get honest with myself, to be open minded and willing to do the work on myself.

I have fulfilled so many tasks in my recovery journey. I will be forever grateful just for today. Life is awesome, even with the ups and downs."



Raun "Moon" Mitchell

"I choose sobriety because I was lost. I needed to find my spirit and myself," says Raun. "When I went to meetings and talking circles, I was able to share and relate to people. As I take life one day at a time, my life became easier. I enjoy bringing awareness and prevention work to others."



## ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK *Spotlight*

We are shining a light on one of our favorite local convenience stores that is sober friendly. That is **Wild Bill's One Stop**.

Take a look at the video featuring Owner and Operator of Wild Bill's, Jerry Cook as he shares why he chose not to sell alcohol in his store, creating a sober-friendly environment for over 30 years!

[www.youtube.com/@MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne](https://www.youtube.com/@MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne)

*Scan QR Code to view video!*





# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## PEACE TREE MALL BUSINESSES REMAIN OPEN

Please be advised that improvements are planned for the Peace Tree Mall on Kawehno:ke as part of an exciting revitalization project. Peace Tree Mall is getting a facelift! The project is currently in the design phase, with the intent of construction in the spring.

As part of the community's safety concerns, construction fencing has been added to the front of the building. During this period, all businesses will remain open during their regular operating hours. To support customer access, openings have been created in the fencing on the left, right, and center sections. These access points will guide customers directly to the business entrances.

We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work toward these improvements.



A'nowara'ko:wa Arena presents:

# COMMUNITY OPEN SKATE

All ages welcome!

Join us!

Every Monday to Friday  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena  
36 Arena Road  
Akwasasne, ON K6H 5R7

Helmets are recommended  
for youth and must be  
accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy skating in a friendly  
environment together!

VISIT US AND BRING YOUR SKATES AND LUNCH  
\*Skate and helmet rentals are not available.

There will be no skating during holidays/MCA closures.

## 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@akwasasne.ca](mailto:ecdev@akwasasne.ca)



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## CSP STAFF ACHIEVE FIRST NATIONS SOCIAL SERVICES CERTIFICATION

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne's Community Support Program is proud to announce the graduation of Charity Benedict, Dakota Caldwell, and Gary Cole, who have each earned their First Nations Social Services Administrators' Certification (FNSSAC) from Algoma University, in partnership with the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association (ONWAA).

Through this program, they successfully met the technical and educational requirements in Employment Assistance and Life Stabilization, Social Services Administration in First Nations Communities, delivered by Algoma University's Community Economic and Social Development Program.

The graduates attended their convocation ceremony in Toronto during October 2025 at the annual ONWAA membership gathering. This achievement reflects their dedication, commitment, and initiative in enhancing the work of the

Community Support Program, while supporting the growth and success of our services.

Please join us in celebrating Charity, Dakota, and Gary for this well-deserved recognition. Their accomplishment is a proud moment for our team and highlights the value of professional development in strengthening social services in our community.



## MCA WELCOMES NEW SERVICE MANAGER OF PROTECTION SERVICES



The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne is pleased to welcome Jon Michael Lazore as the new Service Manager of Protection Services with the Department of Community & Social Services.

JM began his career with DCSS in 2015 at the Ikwononhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center (IATC),

first as a Summer Student and later as a Case Aid supporting Indigenous youth in their wellness journeys. JM's path toward a Case Supervisor role with IATC gave him valuable experience in case management, advocacy, teamwork, and trauma-informed practice.

In 2019, JM joined Akwasasne Child & Family Services, where he held a number of roles, including: Band Representative, Case Manager, Youth Delegate, Chief Steward (CUPE 5458), and Ongoing Services Supervisor. These experiences gave him a strong understanding of the needs, strengths, and challenges within the community and deepened his com-

mitment to supporting families through culturally grounded services.

JM has completed studies in Police Foundations, Bachelors of Indigenous Social Work and is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work specializing in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency. His education and experience support his goal of promoting services and policies that respect traditional knowledge while using modern practices to benefit families and the community and ensuring that our operations continue to align with evolving federal, provincial, and upcoming Akwasasne child welfare law.

In his new role, JM will work to build strong relationships with his team, community partners, and external organizations. He is committed to supporting frontline staff through coaching and development, promoting wellness, and encouraging teamwork. JM also hopes to help shift community perception of the protection field by emphasizing that our work is grounded in care, prevention, and support, not just intervention. He remains dedicated to strengthening community-driven social work in Akwasasne, supporting self-determination, healing, and wellness.



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

### 2025-2026 AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to inform the community that the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) has begun accepting applications starting Wednesday, November 12, 2025. **The final application deadline will be Friday, December 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.** There will be no exceptions after the deadline date, as the fuel distribution will commence.

The application process is open to Akwesasró:non who reside under the jurisdiction of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in any one of the three northern districts, or within the City of Cornwall boundary — one per household.

**All individuals MUST provide a copy of your updated (MOST RECENT) heating bill for the heating source that you would like paid. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Please ensure the name on your bill matches the name applied to the vendor to be paid.**

Individual checks will not be processed once approved, as your name will be provided to your heating source provider and your allotment will be credited to your account. The payments to supplier vendors will not go out until after the closing date of the heating application process of December 19, 2025. **Please ensure you keep making payments to your heating vendors before the closing date as there are no advanced payments allowed before the closing date.**

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2025 — at which time no more applications can be taken.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Support Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.


The MCA Community Support Program will be conducting 2025-2026 AHAP applications from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the following dates(which could be subject to change):

DECEMBER 1-6, 2025		
Monday - Friday	Community Support Program Office (Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility)	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 1	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 2	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 3	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 4	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 5	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 8-13, 2025		
Monday - Friday	Community Support Program Office (Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility)	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 9	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 10	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 11	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 15-19, 2025		
Monday - Friday	Community Support Program Office (Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility)	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 17	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>DEADLINE:</b> <b>Friday, Dec. 19</b>	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT



### PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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

CONTACT D&R DISPOSAL: 613-932-4588

### DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

**ADMINISTRATION:**  
613-575-2250 ext. 1003

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1022  
**HOUSING:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1056  
**ENVIRONMENT:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1038  
**ROADS DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISPATCH:** 613-575-2340 OR 613-938-5476  
**WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EMERGENCY:** 613-575-2000  
**AFTER HOURS PAGER:** 518-404-3352  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM-4PM 613-933-4924  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (GARBAGE AND RECYCLING):**  
613-575-2250 ext. 1048



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

On October 23, 2025, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS), along with family, friends and community members gathered under one roof to celebrate a vibrant event – the AMPS Annual Award Ceremony. Held at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort, this event recognized officers and staff whose exceptional service, courage, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the community and the organization.

The ceremony highlighted individuals who exemplify the values of integrity, dedication, and compassion – honoring not only those who went above and beyond the call of duty, but also the collective strength of the AMPS team and their unwavering support for one another, their families, and the people of Akwesasne.

Below are the award recipients for this year's AMPS Award Ceremony:

- Bravery Award: Constable Aaron Simpson
- Supervisor of the Year: Sergeant Phil Swamp
- Community Service Award: Constable Norman King Sr.
- Road Safety Officer of the Year: Constable Nathan Boots
- Behind-the-Scenes Hero: Network Analyst and Technical Support; Chris Nalepa
- Dispatcher of the Year: Dispatcher Lori White

All AMPS retirees were then honored for their years of dedicated service and lasting contributions to the organization,

with legacies that continue to inspire. Retired AMPS members Kevin Nanticoke, Peter Francis, Bill LaFrance, and James Sunday were present and further enriched the ceremony. Roger Mitchell, one of AMPS's retirees, played a dual role as both an honored attendee and the evening's DJ. We extend heartfelt thanks to all retirees for their service, and to those who joined us in celebration alongside AMPS members.

Members of the AMPS Police Commission, Steve Thomas and Johanne Jackson, also joined in the celebration, underscoring the deep community ties and shared commitment to public service. We extend our sincere gratitude to Steve and Johanne for their presence and continued support.

Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who helped make this year's ceremony a meaningful celebration. And a special congratulations to all the award recipients!



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## AMPS CELEBRATES HOLIDAY SEASON AT CORNWALL SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, including general patrol, SAVE Team members, and administrative staff, were proud to join Cornwall's annual Santa Claus Parade and showcase the decorated Marine Unit for the community.

This long-standing tradition has welcomed Santa to Cornwall for more than 50 years, and AMPS was honoured to take part in the festivities once again.

The parade took place on Saturday, November 15, starting from St. Lawrence Intermediate School and concluding on Augustus Street. Following the parade, attendees were welcomed at the Civic Complex with hot chocolate, hotdogs, and the announcement of this year's judging results, with shuttle service provided by Cornwall Transit.

This year's theme, "What is Christmas?", encouraged everyone to reflect on 54 years of holiday memories, traditions, and community spirit.

AMPS was grateful for the opportunity to connect with community members and celebrate the start of the holiday season.

Niawenhkó:wa/Thank you to the organizers, community members, and everyone who came out to enjoy the parade.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to building positive relationships within the community and our neighbours.



## OCTOBER 2025 STATISTICS

274	October	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.







# COMMUNITY Holiday DINNERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomes community members to attend the annual Community Holiday Dinners!

**MONDAY, DEC. 8**

Kana:takon Recreation Center | 5-7 PM

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10**

Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center | 5-7 PM

**MONDAY, DEC. 15**

Kawehno:ke Recreation Center | 5-7 PM



Photos with  
**SANTA**

**2025-2026**

## AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Open to Akwesasró:non who reside under the jurisdiction of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in any one of the three northern districts, or within the City of Cornwall boundary.

Applications will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on/at the following days/locations:

**DECEMBER 1-6, 2025**

December 1, 2  
A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

December 3, 4, 5  
Snye Recreation Center

**DECEMBER 8-13, 2025**

December 8, 9, 10  
A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

December 11, 12  
Snye Recreation Center

**DECEMBER 15-19, 2025**

December 15, 16, 17  
A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

December 18, 19  
Snye Recreation Center

**Monday-Friday:** Community Support Program  
(Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility)

**EXTENDED WEEKEND HOURS (8 A.M. - 2 P.M.):**

- **Saturday, December 6:** Snye Recreation Center
- **Saturday, December 13:** A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

Questions?  
Contact the MCA Community Support Program:  
**613-575-2341 ext. 3262**

**DEADLINE:**  
**DEC. 19**  
**2025**



# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE BY-ELECTION

KANA:TAKON & KAWEHNO:KE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**VOTING LOCATIONS & ACCESS:**

**KANA:TAKON**

Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility

Entrance via Sweetgrass Lane

**KAWEHNO:KE**

Tri-District Elders Lodge

Entrance via Buckshot Road



The final voters list will be posted after 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025. If your name does not appear on the final list, you will not be eligible to vote on December 13, 2025. Questions? Contact the Chief Electoral Officer at 613-575-2250.