



## COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

Enniskó:wa/March 24, 2026

### **CALL FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS – NEH KANIKONRI:IO COUNCIL (CNC)**

The Akwesasne Community Justice Program is seeking dedicated community members to join the Community Neh Kanikonri:io Council (CNC).

“Neh Kanikonri:io” means the Good Mind — approaching situations with peace, respect, and fairness. With this mindset, Council members play an important role in supporting healing, accountability, and wellness for both individuals and the community. The CNC is a panel of Akwesasró:non who assist individuals involved in the justice system through two streams:

#### **Diversion**

Referrals may come from Akwesasne Mohawk Police, other police agencies, or the Crown. Council members participate in a circle process where individuals speak about the circumstances that led to their offense and take accountability for their actions. The CNC works together to develop individualized, culturally appropriate recommendations that promote healing and positive change.

Program staff support the individual by connecting them with services and completing regular check-ins. Once completed, a report is submitted to the Crown. Successful outcomes may result in charges being stayed or withdrawn, while unsuccessful matters return to the court process.

#### **Ronathahi:io (Good Path) Section 84 Program**

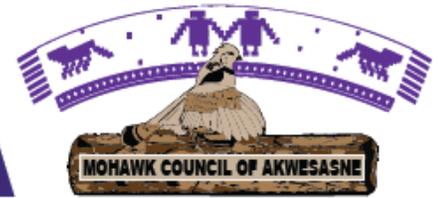
Section 84 of the Correctional and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) allows Indigenous individuals serving federal sentences, to request that their release be supported by an Indigenous community or organization.

The CNC carefully reviews each application, meets with the individual, and engages with community supports and correctional representatives. Members assess accountability, motivation, and readiness for reintegration, while considering community safety and available supports.

If supported, the CNC helps guide the development of a realistic, culturally grounded reintegration plan. Recommendations are included in reports submitted to Correctional Service Canada and the Parole Board of Canada, with ongoing involvement and updates throughout the individual’s sentence until warrant expiry.

# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together, and building a strong and healthy future.



Being part of the CNC is a meaningful opportunity to contribute to a community-based, restorative approach to justice — helping individuals build on their progress, break unhealthy cycles, and create positive paths forward.

## Interested in joining?

Contact Rena Smoke, Program Manager

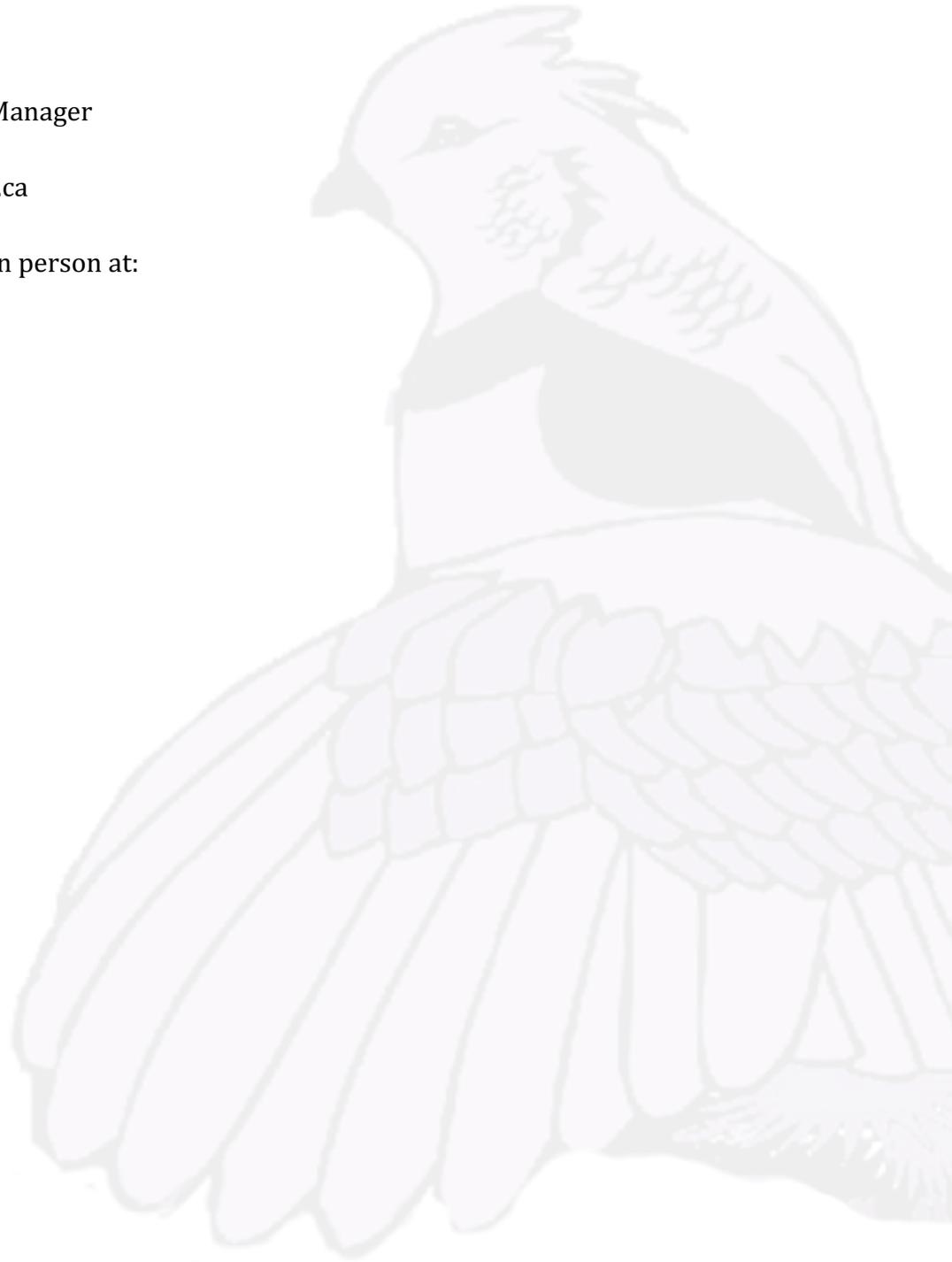
Phone: 613-575-5007 ext. 1331

Email: [rena.smoke@akwesasne.ca](mailto:rena.smoke@akwesasne.ca)

Applications are also available in person at:

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