

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 8

FREE

Seskéha/August 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

AKWESASNE STUDENT
BURSARY AWARDS

CANADA POST RURAL
MAILBOX GUIDELINES

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR
HIGHLIGHTS

INDIGENOUS PATIENT
NAVIGATOR CONTACT
INFO

ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAM HOSTS
TURTLE RELEASE

AMPS & HAVFD GAIN
NEW EMERGENCY
RESPONSE VEHICLES



YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP RETURNS TO AKWESASNE



On July 24, 2025, the uOttawa Gee-Gees and Ottawa Redblacks brought their youth football camp back to Akwesasne at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena! Led by Gee-Gees Quarterback and Tyendinaga's own Ben Maracle, the camp gave 30 Akwesasnon youth a fun day of drills, team-building, and a chance to connect with players. Read more on page 17.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

SEPTEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS

September 15, 2025 · 6 p.m.
Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne
Recreation Centers

MCA GENERAL MEETING

September 25, 2025 · 6 p.m.
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

ORANGE SHIRT DAY EVENT

September 30, 2025 · 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Generations Park, Akwesasne

MOHAWK
COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE
2024-2027

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District
Chief Fallon David
Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell
Chief Theresa Jacobs
Chief Teresa Oakes

Kawehno:ke District
Chief Vanessa Adams
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
A/Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Akwesasne Mohawk
Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell
A/Director
Dept. of Communications

Dan Bruyere
A/Director
Dept. of Community
& Social Services

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic
Development

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Tessa Jocko
A/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 Mark your calendars, the Akwesasne Powwow will be held on September 6-7, 2025 at Lamoureux Park, Cornwall. Enjoy a day of dancing, drum and smoke dance competitions, plus traditional craft and food vendors! Gates open to the public at 10 a.m., Grand Entry begins at 12 p.m.
- 2 The Kawehno:ke District Chiefs are pleased to announce their Weekly Constituency Hours, held every Friday throughout September, October, and November. These sessions provide Kawehno:ke community members with the opportunity to connect directly with their District Chiefs, ask questions, and share any concerns. The full schedule can be found on page 7.
- 3 MCA and the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) are seeking interested community members to join the Claims Advisory Committee. Deadline to apply is open until filled. Go to page 14 to view the summary of responsibilities and criteria to see if you're a good fit and how to apply!
- 4 Do you know what to do when you spot a nesting turtle, injured turtle or simply have questions about turtles? You can reach out to MCA's Environment Programs Turtle Team at env.turtles.team@akwesasne.ca, and they can assist you with any questions or concerns! View page 25 to check out their recent turtle release.
- 5 MCA in partnership with Akwesasronon Sonatanoron and SRMT, will be hosting an Orange Shirt Day event on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at Generations Park. Join us from 10 AM - 2 PM as we honor the courage, strength and resilience of our residential school survivors. Enjoy various hands-on activities, community walk/social, cultural presentation, and medicine game. This is a free community event open to everyone!

NEWS

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES: 2025 AKWESASNE
STUDENT BURSARY AWARDS

Each year, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne partners with the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and Enbridge to award bursaries to Akwesasne youth pursuing post-secondary education. Education is a powerful tool for building brighter futures — and these students have shown determination, resilience, and a commitment to their goals. The Akwesasne Student Bursary Awards not only celebrate individual achievement, but also reflect the collective strength of our community, where encouragement, opportunity, and cultural pride help our youth succeed. This year's ceremony was held on Friday, August 8, at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, where MCA proudly recognized the accomplishments of this year's recipients, emphasized the importance of honouring our youth's successes, and encouraged them to draw on the strength and support of the community throughout their journey.

Congratulations to recipients of this year's BMO Awards:

- Roclan Boots
- Rylee Cole
- Alivia David
- Ethan Jacobs
- Ieionkwenhawi Lazore
- Blake Nutall
- Joey Phillips
- Kaysia Swamp
- Drey Thompson
- Tayla Thompson-Mitchell



Congratulations to recipients of this year's Enbridge Awards:

- Jaylan Adams
- Travayla Back
- Kyra Benedict-Sylvester
- Chuya Cook
- Louie Diabo
- Lyta Francis-Smerdon
- Wil Lazore
- Molly McDonald
- Miley Mitchell
- Miguel Point

Congratulations to the winners of the Wade Lafrance Memorial Award:

- Jack Cook-Lazore
- Kamri King
- Garin Thompson

MCA extends its heartfelt nia:wen to BMO and Enbridge for their continued support in recognizing the hard work and dedication of Akwesasne students. These bursaries not only celebrate academic achievement but also encourage our youth to continue pursuing their educational goals with pride and confidence.



POWER IN PARTNERSHIP: ORANGE SHIRT DAY FUNDS
HELP FUEL NEW FREEDOM SCHOOL

On Wednesday, July 23, community partners gathered at the Akwesasne Freedom School for a special cheque presentation — a powerful moment that marked the success of last year’s Orange Shirt Day event at Lamoureux Park.

Through the sale of “Every Child Matters” orange shirts, the event raised an incredible \$9,000 in support of the Akwesasne Freedom School’s building campaign. This powerful initiative was made possible through collaboration between the City of Cornwall, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, the Children's Aid Society of SD&G, and other committed community partners.

The funds will go directly toward the construction of a new facility for the Akwesasne Freedom School — a vital step in strengthening Kanien’kehá:ka cultural education and the revitalization of the Mohawk language for generations to come.

Representatives from partner organizations attended the cheque presentation to show their support. Pictured (left to right): Sherry Johnson-Oakes (Office Manager, Akwesasne Freedom School), Nova Cook (Children’s Aid Society of SD&G), Alvera Sargent (Executive Director, Friends of the Akwesasne Freedom School), Carolyn Francis (Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy Program), Elaine MacDonald (Cornwall City Councillor), Kimberley Ransom-Herne (Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy

Program), and Kawehno:ke District Chief Vince Thompson.

The event served as a heartfelt reminder of what can be achieved through community, compassion, and a shared commitment to truth and reconciliation.

And the efforts don’t stop here — another Orange Shirt Day event is set to take place once again at Lamoureux Park on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Proceeds from this year’s shirt sales will once again go toward the Freedom School’s building campaign.

Nia:wen to all who continue to support this meaningful cause and the incredible work of the Akwesasne Freedom School. Your commitment helps build a stronger future rooted in culture, language, and love for every child.

Learn more about the Akwesasne Freedom School at akwesasnefreedomschool.org.





Connect With Us on Social Media!

 facebook.com/akwesasne.ca

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

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

 youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

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

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

CANADA POST RURAL MAILBOX GUIDELINES

The proper placement and maintenance of rural mailboxes ensures continued safe delivery of mail by Canada Post. Please consult with your local post office to ensure that all mailbox specifications and road safety criteria are met before installing a rural box. Your Local Postal Official can answer any questions you have about rural mail delivery.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- When choosing a rural mailbox, ensure it is strong enough to hold the weight of letters and parcels and that it is weatherproof.
- All rectangular mailboxes must have an opening of at least 17.5 cm (7”) in width and height, and an interior of at least 45 cm (18”) in length.
- A cylindrical mailbox must have an opening of at least 25 cm (10”) in diameter and an interior of at least 45 cm (18”) in length.
- The bottom of the box should be at least 100 cm (and preferably 107-114 cm (42”-45”)) above the ground. It should not obscure or obstruct access to any other boxes near it.
- Mailboxes must have a door located in the front, with a sturdy handle, lip or flange. They must remain open while mail is being picked up or delivered, and be able to open with ease and close securely.
- The mailbox must be upright and securely attached to a fixed post or an arm on a lever, and must not be allowed to swing freely.

PLACEMENT:

- All rural mailboxes must meet Canada Post’s safety criteria so the Corporation can ensure the safety of employee, customers and motorists.
- A rural mailbox should be located along the right-hand side of the road in the direction that the delivery agent travels.
- Mailboxes must be placed where the delivery agent can safely deliver the mail through the passenger window without getting out of the vehicle.
- It is the responsibility of mailbox owners to ensure that the location for the rural mailbox is free of underground obstructions such as power, gas, and cable lines, water mains, etc. Please call your local utility locator service before you dig.
- Delivery vehicles must have sufficient clearance to drive up to the mailbox and then continue in a forward direction while merging back into traffic.
- Rural mailboxes should never be placed in lane ways or driveways.

IDENTIFICATION:

- The civic address of each resident or homeowner should be marked on the right-hand side of a rural mailbox when facing the receptacle from the front.
- In non-civic addressed areas, a resident’s full name should be clearly indicated on the side of the box.
- A resident’s name or address information must be placed on the side of the box, so it is clearly visible to the delivery agent as he or she approaches the mailbox.
- Local post offices should be advised of the names and/or businesses that will receive mail at a rural mailbox.

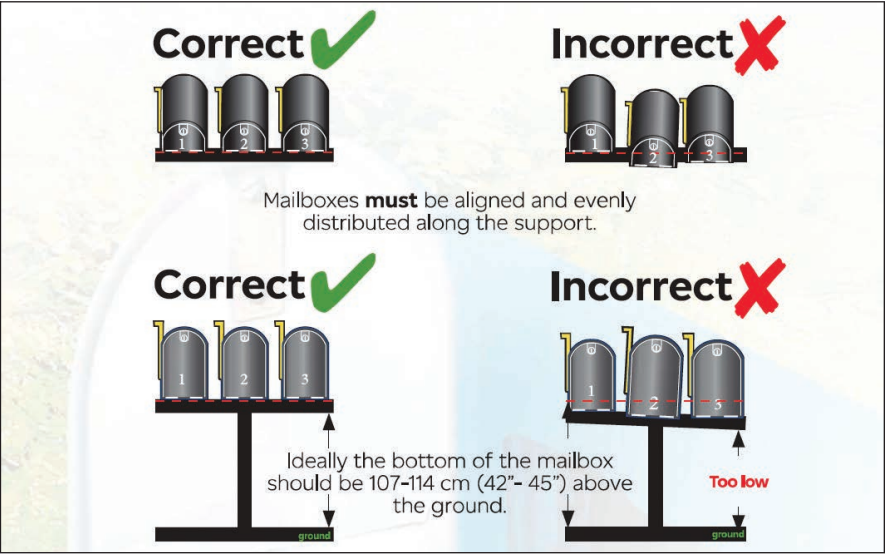
SNOW CLEARANCE:

- The area in front of a rural mailbox must be kept clear of snow and ice to ensure uninterrupted delivery of letters and parcels.
- Delivery agents require at least one car length on both sides of a rural

mailbox to pull over safely, deliver the mail, then safely merge back into traffic.

CLUSTERING:

- Approval must be obtained from local post offices to cluster rural mailboxes.
- Clustered mailboxes must be aligned at the same height and in the correct numerical sequence.



SIGNAL DEVICE:

- A signal device is used by our customers to indicate that there is outgoing mail to be picked up (proper postage must be affixed to all outgoing mail).
- The signal device should be easily visible from a distance and should not obstruct a name or address on a rural mailbox.
- Signal devices must be on the right-hand side of rural mailboxes when facing the receptacle from the front.

MAINTENANCE:

- Rural mailbox owners are responsible for all costs associated with placing, relocating and for ongoing maintenance of their mailbox and the surrounding terrain.
- Replacing or reinstalling a mailbox that becomes damaged or knocked down is also the responsibility of the owner.
- Please ensure that, during delivery hours, access to mailboxes remains free of obstructions such as garbage and newspaper receptacles, parked vehicles, etc.
- The area in front of a mailbox must be firm and level to allow safe and easy access for Canada Post delivery vehicles.
- Delivery agents are not required to leave their vehicle while delivering to a rural mailbox and their inability to access a rural mailbox may result in non-delivery.
- Metal mailboxes are prone to rust and should be checked frequently to ensure that they do not pose a risk to Canada Post employees.

For more information, contact your local post office or call Canada Posts Customer Service at 1-800-267-1177.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



July 7, 2025

Presentation:

- **JT Business Services** – JT Business Services provided Council with a presentation outlining their services and brought up a proposal to the Chiefs.

MCRs

Upgrade Applications (4); BMO On-Reserve Housing Program (2); Council Meeting Minutes – April 28th, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – May 5th, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – May 12th, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – May 26th.

SUPPORTING UNITY THROUGH CELEBRATION: MCA DONATES TO “ROCK THE BLOCK” EVENT



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was proud to support the Rock the Block community celebration with a combined donation of \$30,000 CAD and \$10,000 USD to help bring the event to life.

Event organizers Trent David and Jackie Fawn of Fishbear Studios shared their plans with Council for Rock the Block — a community event that took place on August 9, 2025, at Generations Park and

the Amphitheater, in recognition of World Indigenous Peoples Day. The event aimed to bring together families, youth, local businesses, artists, and tribal programs in a safe, welcoming space to celebrate culture and arts, inspire youth and community members, and contribute to the resilience of Akwesasronon.

In support of this grassroots initiative, Council has committed a generous donation directly to the event, which was made possible through the First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) Funds. These funds will assist with expenses outlined in the project proposal, helping organizers deliver a free and inclusive celebration for all of Akwesasne.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is grateful for the hard work and creativity of Fishbear Studios and everyone who helped to make Rock the Block happen. This donation is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to community wellness, cultural connection, and creating meaningful spaces for Akwesasronon to come together.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT



KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEFS WEEKLY CONSTITUENCY HOURS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Kawehno:ke District Chiefs will hold weekly constituency hours to connect directly with community members.

These sessions are held **every Friday** from **1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the **CIA #3 Meeting Room**. See the dates below.

SEPTEMBER

5, 12, 19, 26

OCTOBER

3, 10, 24, 31

NOVEMBER

7, 14, 21, 28

Disclaimer:

Constituency hours will be scheduled according to the District Chiefs’ availability to ensure consistent leadership presence. We recognize the importance of community access and remain committed to balancing this with operational responsibilities. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF THERESA JACOBS UPDATES



Portfolios:

Dept. of Health, Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment, Government Secretariat

Selected Committees:

Executive, Governance, Property Acquisition Team (PAT)

MONTHLY NOTABLES

- Participated in the MCA General Meeting for the month of June.
- Participated in the General Meeting debrief on Friday morning.
- Participated in a meeting with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNAC) and Transport Canada.
- Participated in the Monday Council meeting. Council received a presentation from Fish Bear Studios to host an event at Generations Park on World Indigenous Day August 9, 2025. Council agreed to help fund some of the presenters at this event.
- Met with a community member on a housing issue.
- Participated in the Monday Council meeting. Several MCRs were presented to Council including an MCR to fund the Rock the Block community event. Council received a presentation from JT Business Services, which were looking for a letter of support for their business.
- Participated in the Kana:takon District meeting. Meeting discussion items included: the three laws per year that are being put out (new law, draft form, and one law to be amended), membership code and the issue of drug dealers in the community, repairs to the post office, and hydro funding that is received every year to aid in the high cost of electricity for many families.
- Participated in the Property Acquisition Team (PAT) meeting. A few properties have been sent to the team for review and a letter will be sent to the property owners for interest and to set a viewing of the property.
- Missed the Borders Partners meeting due to the PAT meeting running the full duration it was intended to.
- Went to the Native North American Traveling College for a highlight to raise awareness of women leaders. I did not participate in an interview, as the event started the day before, but attended for a photo-op.
- Participated in the AFN National virtual forum on Bill C-5. Discussions were around the Bill that was passed in less than 20 days and received royal assent. The concern was there may not be a duty to consult First Nation communities if the Government gives permission to go to construction without all the proper assessments that should take

place prior to beginning construction. The Act provides a basis for weakened protections of lands and resources.

- Participated in the Executive Committee meeting for discussion on the interviews that took place. A recommendation will be made to all of Council.
- Participated in the Monday Council meeting. Several MCRs were presented to Council including discussion on Hydro Quebec request from a group of Elders. A presentation from DCSS on the department organizational chart.
- Participated in the first half of the Partnership of MCA (POM) meeting at the Arena with OPG staff. Had an appointment to attend. Introductions of projects that are coming up were discussed, as well as the hiring of a percentage of Native content on the jobs.
- Participated in a meeting with AMPS Chief of Police regarding a complaint.
- Attended the Christmas in July event at the Kana:takon Recreation Center.
- Participated in the Environment Portfolio meeting. (Updates provided at the end of the report).
- Attended a tour of a home for the PAT team.
- Participated in the Monday Council meeting. Several MCRs were presented to Council including discussion items. AEDA did a presentation on language.
- Participated in the DIHE portfolio meeting. (Updates provided at the end of the report).
- Participated in the PAT team meeting. There have been community members reaching out to sell properties to MCA. A list has been compiled and a date for viewing of the properties are being set up. Letters have also been sent to show there is interest.
- Participated in the Housing Authority meeting. Updates were provided on all the facilities under the Housing Program.
- Participated in the Quebec Political protocol meeting to look at what MCA would like to have in the document from the departments that are under the umbrella of the protocol. Directors gave their input on areas of concern.
- Attended the introductions of the AMPS Community Sken:nen Meal Gathering at the Kana:takon Recreation Center on July 23rd.
- Participated in the Monday Council meeting. Several MCRs were presented to Council including discussion items. A presentation from the DIHE on the Fire Hall history. DIHE would like to know next steps to continue with the project.
- Met with Elders in Kana:takon to discuss needs and backup batteries for power outages. I also met with a community member regarding their local business.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM UPDATES:

Aquatics – Staff and five summer students are conducting FINS and eel tailwater surveys regularly. Staff is planning a sturgeon spawning habitat restoration initiative and are looking for a suitable site to implement this. The turtle team, which includes a staff member and summer student assistants, are currently incubating 249 turtle eggs with plans to start releasing hatched turtles in various areas starting in August. Nutrient monitoring of Akwesasne tributaries is undertaken quarterly but monitoring will be intensified in August in partnership with the River Institute to weekly sampling in order to characterize the conditions when harmful algae blooms are most likely to occur.

Waste Management – Contract to retain recycling services has been submitted for MCR approval but we have not yet received the final confirmation to proceed.

To promote education of what can and cannot be recycled, the Waste Coordinator is looking into the Recycle Coach app which is currently used in Cornwall. This can identify an item by photo and tell you how it should be disposed of, either as waste, recycling, compost or hazardous material.

Other waste reduction initiatives include a composting workshop to be delivered in August.

Large item pickup is currently part of the MCA Waste Management Plan; however, we are reviewing the current contract to determine if this is currently being implemented.

There was a concern raised that the penalty for littering is so low that it's not a deterrent (\$10). This is a law and needs to be looked at by the community.

Terrestrial – Acting Manager and a staff member attended a Black Ash Alliance meeting in Kahnawake to look at solutions to aiding the recovery of black ash trees through seed saving, chemical treatment in hopes of finding resistant trees if they are present.

We will be meeting with Erika Wabigwan to discuss black ash tree health and how to assess it. She works with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and has worked with other First Nation communities to protect black ash and their habitat.

The most recent grant submitted under the RAP included a request to conduct additional soil monitoring for historical contaminants.

The Terrestrial Coordinator has been meeting with South Nation Conservation on LIDAR acquisition, processing and interpreting for the purpose of developing floodplain mapping for Akwesasne.

As part of the overarching flood mitigation initiative, a staff member has been involved in beaver trapping workshops and has attended the 2025 Midwest Beaver Summit to learn about current research into beavers.

The employee is also heading up the delivery of drone training to MCA Environment Program staff members.

Remedial Action Plan (RAP) – The 60-day engagement period has commenced for the fish tumours and other deformities Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). Information sessions and community surveys are planned to be held in all three districts with a follow-up meeting at a centralized location (SRMT Housing Authority Building), to present what we heard and ask what was missed. Results of this engagement will be presented to Council on September 29, 2025, and asking whether or not, based on the feedback if Council supports redesignating this BUI as not impaired. Council's response will be provided in the form of a letter addressed to the governing body of the RAP – the St. Lawrence Restoration Council (SLRC).

An Environment staff member presented a summary of MCA's role in the RAP to Chiefs of Ontario during the conference, which took place July 8 and 9.

- Some other Areas of Concern (AOCs) had no representation at all from the nearby First Nations.
- Other First Nations that were participating were receiving significantly more funding than MCA.
- Discussions were had about the new Freshwater Initiative Proposal, which is being managed and delivered by Chiefs of Ontario.
- Funding provided to this initiative is from Canada Water Agency (formerly ECCC).
- Funding over four years to be split amongst 70 first nations.
- Goals of increasing Indigenous inclusion and participation in restoration/protection efforts, including governance, science, monitoring and stewardship activities.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF THERESA JACOBS UPDATES

- MCA's presentation included overview of our Remedial Action Plan and Area of Concern, work accomplished over the past five years, and issues we are experiencing in the RAP.

The Environment Program submitted a grant last week to continue participation in the RAP asking for 4x the amount previously requested. This includes a request for a full-time RAP Coordinator.

DIHE PORTFOLIO UPDATES ON CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Sunday Warehouse (May 27) – Drawings submitted for review. DIHE will forward drawings to Directors for review of layout and provide comments. June 24 (On-going) drawings issued to Directors/IT for review and comment.

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic/MCA Records Repository (CIA #3 Site) – The environmental assessment and geotechnical investigation is in progress. The project for the first phase; feasibility study, was awarded to A49/WSP (May 27 – on-going). A meeting was held with A49 (June 23) to discuss coordination of projects. A49 will be contacting MCA's Department of Health for meetings.

Tsi Snaihne Administration Building (Corner of Iohahi:io Road and Snye School Road) – SLT has completed their geotechnical report regarding surcharging the site with enough bearing capacity to allow slab on grade construction but also recommends piling (on-going June 24).

Akwesasne Community Hub and Youth Centre (End of Wade Lafrance Memorial Road and School Road in Tsi Snaihne) – Geotechnical investigation and archaeological review are needed for each site, and the environmental assessment is underway. Work is to include a feasibility study as Phase 1, followed by design development. A community survey will be initiated on this project to look at programming and needs for the community (On-going June 27).

Ahkwasasne Mohawk School Addition (Current AMS Location) (May 27) – Proposals were received and reviewed by DIHE/AMBE. Consultant contract was awarded to Architecture 49. MCR was prepared and contract. June 27 – Contract issued to consultant and Letter of Intent.

Hamilton Island Bridge Design (May 27) – Waiting for update from Jacobs Engineering on drawings. DIHE called an electric company and Bell Canada to relocate pole and Bell relocations. June 27 – Project meeting was held with DIHE/Jacobs Engineering June 18. Archaeological Assessment was received by Jacobs Engineering. Replacement approach from Highway #2 under review. Utility relocations to be confirmed. Lighting & permitting from DFO & Transport Canada at 100% stage.

Iakhihsotha Kitchen Renovations – Tender drawings are complete and DIHE is waiting on finalizing of the Class A estimate from consultants. May 27 – DIHE was informed funding was declined. DIHE to find other funding sources. June 24 – on-going. DOH submitted to the FNCFs funds.

New HAVFD Fire Station #3 – The community survey is complete, and the Communications Department has shared the results. The design will be updated accordingly, and the design consultants have prepared two site orientation options for discussion with HAVFD, AMA, and AMPS, with a meeting to be scheduled. However, DIHE has received mixed messages about the project's status as an emergency service building and requires confirmation from Council on how to proceed. May 27 – on-going. June 24 – DIHE has a presentation to Council on the firehall project July 28.

Hawthorne Road Extension/Subdivision Site – Construction underway for the five units. (May-27 – On-going June 24 – On-going).

Kawehno:ke Salt Dome – The Kawehno:ke Salt Dome Project is 100% tender ready. DIHE is working on PAR submission to ISC. (On-going June 24).

Capital Plan Update – Roads Needs Study was submitted to DIHE. Discussion on priority roads. Jp2g Consultants submitted proposal to develop two road designs June 24 – Capital Plan DIHE/Jp2g draft under review. Road Report issued to Roads Program for review.

Iohahi:io Cultural Center and Outdoor Pavillion – The tender call was issued for construction with a mandatory site meeting with contractors on November 15, 2024, with five contractors in attendance. Project was explained and questions received. Closing of tender was December 2, 2024. No bids received due to the winter timeline. This project was retendered in March 2025 with a construction start date in the spring. DIHE has notified ISC, who will release funds when a contractor has been awarded. May 27 – Project closed, and two contractors submitted. Currently under review with consultants. June 24 - Project awarded and MCR completed. Kickoff meeting scheduled on June 19, Contractor mobilized on June 23.

Iohahi:io Portable Classroom Project (May 27) – Project has been linked with the Cultural Center Project. Request for one contractor to complete two projects due to the locations. Foundation and site work construction began on June 23 as part of Cultural Center work with one General Contractor (two separate projects).

LED Street Lights – DIHE met with AMPS to discuss projects. AMPS to seek funding and confirm locations of lights.

Kana:takon Beach Project – Kana:takon Beach Project is tender ready, completed by A49 & EVB Engineering. DCSS to obtain funds for project. February 25 - Project funds have been allocated. DIHE to initiate a tender call for construction. Will contact A-49 to ensure all documents are in order. May 27 – Consultant has requested additional funds and finalizing tender documents to be issued in June. June 24 – Project was issued to tender.

New Tsi Snaihne School – DIHE is working with AMBE and Figgur Architects/ HSP Engineering to complete tender ready package. Preliminary design has been completed on this project. A community consultation will be scheduled, once building 3D elevations are finished by the design consultants. DIHE has stopped the project until funds allocated. (June 24 - On-going).

Roof Condition Reports – Snetsinger Consultants has been initiating roof assessment to Kanohkwa'tsheri:io, Admin. 4 and the central Akwesasne Mohawk Police Station, that are in need of repair. The reports gathered with estimates that will help to seek funds for repair. April 22 – On-going. May 27 – PO issued for the Roof consultant, Snetsinger Consultants to proceed. (June 24 On-going).

Road Repairs/Replacement – DIHE is working on RFP's to obtain a consulting firm for an "Engineer of record" for detail design to achieve tender ready projects for road replacement/repairs towards priority roads. May 27 – River Road, Chief's Road detail design underway with Jp2g. Design is 90%. MCA needs to find funds if project is to go to construction this season.

Generators – Generator installation completed at Iakhihsotha Lodge, Akwesasne Homemakers and Tsionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care facility. Kawehno:ke Recreation Center - delivery was scheduled for delivery on February 5. On May 27, DIHE submitted a report to funding source for this project (Kawehno:ke Rec.). There have been many delays in this project.

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena – DIHE is assisting MCA's Department of Economic Development on the Arena expansion project. DIHE has prepared an RFP for consultant services to achieve tender ready project for a new arena addition with Class A estimate. RFP was released and six consultants submitted. DIHE is working with Economic Development in seeking funds for a feasibility study. April 22, proposal to the Trust was denied, as they do not fund feasibility studies. DCSS may be able to fund the feasibility study. May 27, DIHE prepared an MCR to get the project underway and are awaiting confirmation to see if the funding source can fund the project.

Block 97 Sewage Pumping Station – DIHE obtained EVB Engineering to complete a condition assessment report on the existing pumping station which is 30+ years old. This services Tsionkwanonhso:te LTC and the surrounding housing units. The station has been in constant repair and corrosion is now apparent. The operation has encountered instances of backflow issues. May 27 – project is 90% design complete. DIHE submitted to CHIF funding application. June 24 – on-going.

Community Water Connections (in collaboration with WWW, OVS, DIHE and Jp2g Consultants) – The first priority waterline connection in Tsi Snaihne took some time to resolve. The homeowners have decided against turning their private lane into a public road and to keep the 2" line that will extend to the priority no. 1 house. Jp2g is completing drawings for this work. All other residents in the District of Tsi Snaihne have been notified and data, paperwork has been collected. May 27 – discussion on long run water service connections. MCR to be reviewed on requirements & MCA water law. June 24 – on-going questions regarding who to service and requirements to be put in place. MCR does not stipulate.

Tsi Snaihne Water Study and Distribution System – Regarding capacity, condition and risk assessment, includes a water tower. Proposal submitted by Jp2g, as preventative measures. March 25 – flow testing needed to calibrate water modeling. Water tower is being considered and Jp2g will continue with our study. DIHE will continue to monitor the break to ensure it was holding, no issues with repair work, flows have returned to pre-leak demands.

HVAC Replacement for AMBE Schools – AMS School (Phase 2): Detailed design for full HVAC replacement is ongoing, with funding still needed. Tender drawings underway. Kana:takon School (Phase 1): Drawings and specs are now complete. seeking funding for interim project. Tsi Snaihne School (Phase 2): The project is tender-ready for full HVAC replacement. Work with Quebec Hydro on new power lines is ongoing, and DIHE will upgrade lighting to LED to reduce power demand. DIHE has issued request to AMBE to fund the project. Finance has agreed to fund Kana:takon School and Tsi Snaihne School. Due to timelines, DIHE cannot provide air conditioners in the schools to be ready for September. This will be reviewed further with consultants to confirm timelines.

COMMUNITY/PORTFOLIO CONCERNS:

- A community member raised an issue of the Hydro Quebec rates getting out of hand. Hydro bills are going up and the community are being affected with this rising cost.
- District of Kana:takon resident requested streetlights. Streetlight was installed and was awaiting power the next day. The company did state that the power will be on.
- Housing needs – There is a waitlist for apartments and building homes.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

July 30 update: I was on bereavement for the week due to the passing of a family member and did not attend the July General Meeting.

OTHER WORKS TO BE SET UP:

Looking to bring the multi-jurisdiction table back so we can sit down and look at what the roads needs are in order to go after funding. This has been sent to the Director, and it was announced at the DIHE Portfolio meeting, in which we all agreed to. This was discussed at the portfolio meeting and agreed that we need funding from all sources. Would like to have phases of projects begin this year and each year moving forward. DIHE will be compiling all projects that are tender ready and will meet with Portfolio Chiefs for future planning with funding sources.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in July

- 1. Nia:wen to Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Team
- 2. MCA & ACFS Announce Retirement of Barbra Thompson
- 3. Tsiakwawennatónhe'ts Moves Closer to Completion with MCA Support
- 4. Pontoons and Lunches: The Totas at Tsiionkwanonhso:te Hit the Water to Enjoy a Day on the Pontoon
- 5. Supporting Kanien'kéha Language: MCA Donates to lonkwahronkha'onhátie'

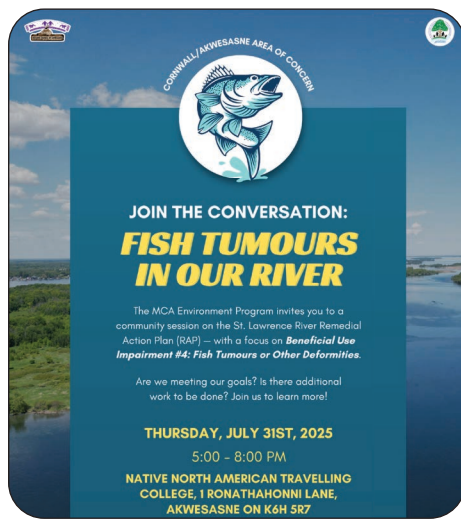
Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in July

- 1. Nia:wen to Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Team — 20,775 Reached
- 2. Pontoons and Lunches: The Totas at Tsiionkwanonhso:te Hit the Water to Enjoy a Day on the Pontoon — 14,779 Reached
- 3. Tsiakwawennatónhe'ts Moves Closer to Completion with MCA Support — 14,097 Reached
- 4. MCA & ACFS Announce Retirement of Barbra Thompson — 13,513 Reached
- 5. MCA Summer Student Spotlight: Meet Ryder Sunday — 12,567 Reached



X STATS

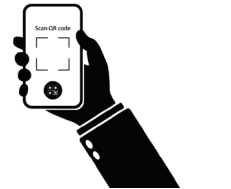
Top Post in July



YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for July

Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center Virtual Tour



Scan QR Code to view video!

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

CHILDREN'S PAGE

CONNECT THE DOTS!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Unscramble the words

Kapabkcc

Dergian

Cepnli

Tamh

Rsiscsso

HELP THE KIDS FIND THE SCHOOL BUS!

All About Me!

My picture

HELLO My name is

My Teachers Name

My favorite summer memory

I love

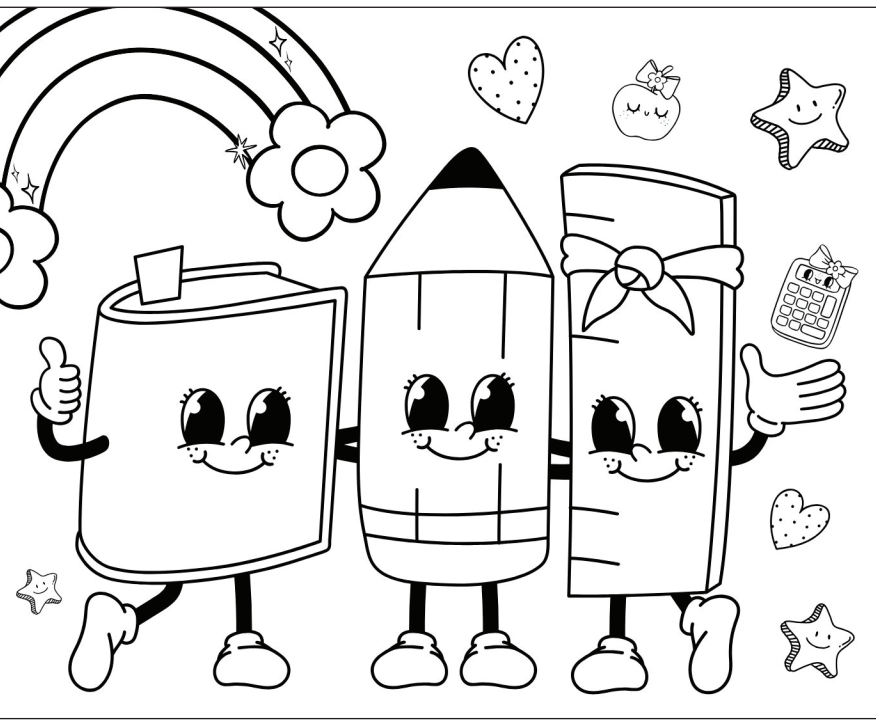
I like to play

I want to learn about

FAVORITE

Color	Animal
Game	Friend
Food	TV Show
Drink	Sport

COLOR THE BOOK, PENCIL & RULER!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do you call a cold hot dog?
A chili dog.

What do you call a cow that plays a musical instrument?
A moo-oo-sician!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear.

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI COMMUNITY SURVEY

At the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's June 2025 General Meeting, the Entewatathá:wi team shared the results of the Community Survey on the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA). The survey was conducted to access community awareness of the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government process and to identify preferred methods of outreach. The survey aimed to gauge awareness of the ESGA and collect feedback on communication preferences and community engagement needs. The survey was open from March 27 to May 8, 2025, and received over 500 responses — showing strong community interest in the ESGA process.

The survey results showed that while many community members are aware of and have a basic understanding of the ESGA, there is still a need for:

- greater understanding,
- more frequent updates,
- and clearer explanations of how the agreement will impact daily life.

Respondents expressed strong interest in more accessible and varied engagement opportunities, especially through online sessions, simplified summaries, and small group discussions.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Moving forward, the Entewatathá:wi team can use this feedback to tailor communications, improve transparency, and strengthen engagement strategies to ensure that community members feel informed, supported, and empowered to participate in the self-government process.

The project will continue to offer tools that promote deeper engagement and support community members’ education and understanding of the ESGA. We are currently working on developing a calendar that outlines key components that highlights the contents

of the ESGA. We also started to draft a plain-language summary of the ESGA. Both documents will be shared with the community once completed.

We will also create real life scenarios and comparisons to help community members have a better understanding on how the ESGA may impact will have on their daily lives.

The project also aims to offer more in-person presentations throughout the community. To reach a broader audience, presentations will be offered at various times to accommodate diverse schedules and commitments.

A secure MCA Portal is being developed and will be launched soon. This portal will include member only access to confidential documents and important updates.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- Visit www.akwesasne.ca
- Read our Community Newsletters
- Follow Entewatathá:wi on Facebook
- Talk with us – start the conversation in your home, in your district, and in the community.

We encourage community members to stay informed by following updates on the Entewatathá:wi project. Visit our website, read our community newsletters, and follow us on Facebook.

LET’S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Self-government is a journey that we take together. Entewatathá:wi is committed to ensuring that every voice is heard and every member is informed.

Niawenhkó:wa to all who took the time to take our survey.

UNDERSTANDING OUR ROLE WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

For researchers who study history, culture, and language, we observe how technology can help further our ability to preserve not only historical sources but also culture and language as well. This article is to provide a brief overview of what artificial intelligence is and its issues, how Indigenous researchers utilize AI for learning, and how to build a future with AI in mind. While this is just scratching the surface of what is discussed around the use of AI and Indigenous use, it's also an invitation to explore this field and how you may be able to contribute to its development with little to no experience.

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)?

In the basic definition, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a computer language (Python, C, C#, C++) that can execute commands and directions. From Greek and Roman imaginations of automatons to Da Vinci’s sketches, to Alan Turing’s machine as the first computer, the fascination with an artificial mind that moves and thinks independently has always been around. Machine learning emerged in the 1960s with machines learning to play chess, the first industrial robot to work at General Motors, and the first chatbot to hold a conversation with humans. (Stryker & Kavlakoglu, 2024) (Tableau, 2025)

Deep Learning uses multilayered networks that mimic the human brain and can examine and predict patterns in unsorted data sets. These types of AI are found in natural language processing (NLP), which is used to create voice assistants such as Amazon Alexa, Apple Siri, and Google Assistant. (Stryker & Kavlakoglu, 2024)

Generative AI is currently dominating both the tech world and our everyday lives. It operates on the structure of deep learning, drawing from its vast networks of data and generating a response to a prompt. (Stryker & Kavlakoglu, 2024)We can ask an AI assistant to translate a document from French to English, summarize it, and give us the main arguments. While it’s a useful tool, it can also be exploitative and dangerous if there are no safeguards or ethical protocols in place.

With the possibilities seemingly endless, even Indigenous peoples look at AI inquisitively and critically. Their culture, language, and heritage were victims of exploitation, appropriation, and extermination. Indigenous researchers have already begun to debate these issues and create solutions that can address them. We’ll look at how AI helps with language learning and preservation, and how to imagine a future with AI on our side.

CREATING LANGUAGE MODELS FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Around the world, Indigenous languages are constantly at risk of extinction. According to the United Nations, by the year 2100, over half of the world’s spoken Indigenous languages, totalling 6,700, will have gone extinct. Michael Running Wolf, a Cheyenne and Lakota computer scientist, states that there is both a desire for a solution that can save a language, but an uncertainty about the unknown risks or costs. (Heidt, 2025) Running Wolf sees a solution in exploring ways to create these systems with an Indigenous methodology and tools, and to look for the similarities between an AI model and Indigenous languages to make them compatible. (Heidt, 2025)

Moni Garr, a Mohawk researcher in computer science and AI, explains that there are more similarities between the networks of AI software and nature. Fractals are repeating patterns that can be seen in plants, weath-

er, and the human body. Moni Garr also sees these with the Kanienkeha language. As a polysynthetic language, it carries multiple ways to conjugate verb forms to describe various situations. (Peters, 2025)

Researchers for the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) aimed to find a way to organize the verb conjugation of the Western dialect spoken in Six Nations of the Grand River and the eastern dialect spoken in Kahnawake, as the complexity of the language is difficult to visualize on paper. Through their work, they created software that can conjugate the verbs of Kanienkeha and other languages and developed a predictive text keyboard for various languages. (Kuhn, et al., 2020)

ETHICS OF BUILDING AI WITH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Position Paper, written by the Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Working Group, came from the discussions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers from various disciplines and nations. Their goal was to think about AI in its various forms and uses, what threats and issues Indigenous knowledge systems face in the present, and how we imagine a future where we create with an AI built with our needs in mind. (Lewis, 2020)

Dr. Hemi Whaanga, contributor to the paper, argued that indigenous people feel the impact of globalization on their culture. He believes that the task of adapting to rapid change will be up to those immersed in the technology world, the “digital natives”, to tackle. They will bridge the gap between the vast knowledge systems within their culture and the endless possibilities of AI. (Lewis, 2020)

Jason Edward Lewis, another contributor, discusses how the workshops brought together various fields of learning and developed relationships across disciplines and nationalities. (Lewis, 2020) With a fully indigenous AI, as Lewis mentions, we would not ask the questions of the colonizer, who makes the money, has ownership, and controls the AI. We would ask the questions of its creation, its care, its relation to the world and the people. (Lewis, 2020)

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?

These examples show that Indigenous people around the world are already thinking about how to make a place in the future, and how AI can be an ally if we guide its development. We can help by teaching youth about safety and critical thinking in a technological world, thinking critically about your known and unknown contributions to AI, and supporting those who want to do research into AI and its futures.

References:

Heidt, A. (2025, May 8). *Using AI To Preserve Threatened Languages*. Nature, 641, 548-550.

Kuhn, R., Davis, F., Desilets, A., Joanis, E., Kazantseva, A., Knowles, R., . . . Souter, H. (2020). *The Indigenous Languages Technology project at NRC Canada: An empowerment-oriented approach to developing language software*. Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (pp. 5866-5878). Barcelona Spain: International Conference on Computational Linguistics.

Lewis, J. E. (2020). *Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Position Paper*. The Initiative for Indigenous Futures, Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Working Group. Honolulu, Hawai'i: Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). doi:10.11573/spectrum.library.concordia.ca.00986506

Peters, M. (2025, March 30). *AI and Language: Learning from Fractal Structures*. Retrieved from Medium: <https://a1arts.medium.com/ai-and-language-learning-from-fractal-structures-fe2fdbb53db1>

Stryker, C., & Kavlakoglu, E. (2024, August 9). *What is artificial intelligence (AI)?* Retrieved from IBM: [https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Artificial%20intelligence%20\(AI\)%20is%20technology.and%20respond%20to%20human%20language](https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Artificial%20intelligence%20(AI)%20is%20technology.and%20respond%20to%20human%20language)

Tableau. (2025). *What is the history of artificial intelligence (AI)?* Retrieved from tableau by salesforce: <https://www.tableau.com/data-insights/ai/history>

CALL OUT FOR CLAIMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEADLINE TO APPLY: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) are seeking interested community members to join the Claims Advisory Committee.

This committee plays a vital role in supporting Akwesasne’s Land Claim Negotiation Team by offering community knowledge, feedback, and support throughout the negotiation process. Former committee members are welcome to reapply.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Review historical and communication material as required
- Provide support, guidance, and assistance to the MCA Principal Negotiation Team
- Meet regularly with the Principal Negotiation Team to share observations and anecdotal evidence
- Participate in meetings as needed to help finalize outstanding issues
- Offer experience and advice in the development of agreements in principle, final agreements, proceeds of settlement, communication plans, and other key process documents

- Maintain confidentiality as required
- Be involved in the development and implementation of the communication strategy
- Be a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne who has demonstrated a strong, ongoing commitment to the Akwesasne community.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be a registered Member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne
- Must reside in one of the three northern districts (Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, Tsi Snaihne) or the southern portion (Akwesasne, NY).

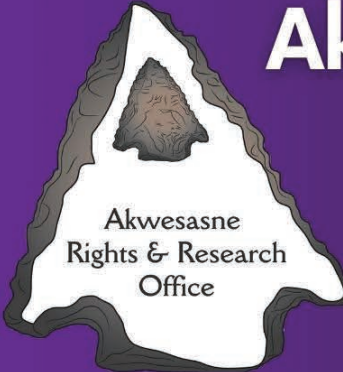
HOW TO APPLY:

Submit a letter of interest and a resume to:
Cheyenne Lazore, Manager, Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO)

Drop off at: Admin #1 Building, 12 Akwesasne Street, Akwesasne QC H0M 1A0

Or email: cheyenne.lazore@akwesasne.ca

For more information, call: 613-575-2250 ext. 2134.



Akwesasne Rights & Research Office

Contact Us!

 613-575-2250 ext. 2133

 arro@akwesasne.ca

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS ON AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW AMENDMENT

In accordance with Phase III: Community Consultation of the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation Sections 6.1, and 6.2, the Akwesasne Election Law Working Task Group will be holding Community Consultation sessions in each District, and one in the southern portion of Akwesasne as a courtesy to our Elders. Community members are encouraged to attend to share their views on the proposed changes to Section 16.2 of the Akwesasne Election Law (AEL). Refreshments will be provided.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS SCHEDULE:
August 20 Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility (Turtle Room) 5:00 PM
August 27 Akwesasne Homemakers (Tsi Snaihne) 5:00 PM
September 3 Kawehno:ke Recreation Center 5:00 PM
September 26 SRMT Senior Center 11:00 AM (Presentation)

Deadline to submit comments: September 5, 2025, by 4:00 p.m.

To view a full copy of the Akwesasne Election Law, please go to the Kaiahnehronsehra lehiontakwa – Akwesasne Law Registry at <http://www.akwesasne.ca/legislation/>.

For general inquiries, or to obtain a printed copy of the AEL, please contact Legislative Services Manager Alyson Thompson at alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca or at 613-575-5000.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 16.2 OF THE AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW

The Akwesasne Election Law Working Task Group has been tasked with drafting a proposed amendment to Section 16.2 of the AEL which currently reads:

REMOVAL/VACANCY FROM COUNCIL

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; or

Following community input — gathered through a petition presented at the February 2025 General Meeting, a public comment period in May 2025, and legal counsel recommendations — the Working Task Group proposes the following revised wording:

REMOVAL/VACANCY FROM COUNCIL

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 **his/her/their eligible District voters** 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; or

We are now entering **Phase III** of the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR) — **Community Consultation**. As outlined in Section 6 of the ALEPR, the Working Task Group is seeking community input on this proposed amendment to Section 16.2, specifically the replacement of the word “**votes**” with “**his/her/their eligible District voters**.”

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO PATRICK BENEDICT ON DRIVER EDUCATION CERTIFICATION



The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) is congratulating Patrick Benedict on completing and receiving his "Professional Instructor in Driver Education" certification!

Patrick's dedication to the AMBE Transportation Department does not go unnoticed, serving as Acting Transportation Supervisor and filling in as a bus driver whenever possible, and now serving as one of our School Bus Driver Trainers.

Niawenhkó:wa Patrick for your dedication and playing a vital role in the AMBE Transportation Department.

Patrick will now join School Bus Driver trainers, Maggie King and Kahowine Adams, when it comes

to training new school bus drivers!

If you are or know someone who is interested in becoming an AMBE School Bus Driver contact our Transportation Department at 613-933-0409.

The Professional Instructor in Driver Education (P.R.I.D.E.) Program is a joint venture of the Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA), Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA) and School Bus Ontario (SBO). This one-of-a-kind program teaches fleet driver instructors how to properly train new and seasoned drivers. If a passing grade is achieved, a certificate is issued, thus providing one of the prerequisites for "Signing Authority" under the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's "Driver Certification Program".



AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Office: 613-933-0409 or 613-575-2250 ext. 1400

Akwesahsne Mohawk School
613-932-3366

Tsi Snaihne School
613-575-2291

Kana:takon School
613-575-2323

Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute 613-575-2754 or 613-575-2250 ext. 4100



Contact Us!

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ALL HEART, ALL HUSTLE: YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP RETURNS TO AKWESASNE

On Thursday, July 24, 2025, the grounds of the A'nowara'kó:wa Arena were full of excitement as the uOttawa Gee-Gees and the Ottawa REDBLACKS returned to host a youth football camp for Akwesasnon!

Led by Gee-Gees quarterback and Tyendinaga's own Ben Maracle, the camp brought together local youth for a day of learning, teamwork, and fun — all with the goal of fostering a love for football in Indigenous communities.

Now in its third year, the camp is a collaborative initiative made possible through the efforts of the Ottawa Redblacks, University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. This year's event was proudly supported by the MCA Department of Health, MCA Economic Development, and Akwesasne Child & Family Services, who joined in

by leading an energetic ice-breaker and volunteering throughout the day.

Around 30 young participants took part in skill-building drills, met with players during a Q&A session, and sported their official camp t-shirts with pride. The event wrapped up with autographs, photo ops, and plenty of smiles.

A delicious lunch was provided by Big Russ' Catering, featuring Indian tacos, Three Sisters salad, strawberry drink, and desserts — the perfect fuel for a fun-filled day.

Nia:wen to the Gee-Gees, the Redblacks, and all our partners for making this opportunity possible for our youth — your commitment to community and sport continues to make a lasting impact. See you on the field next year!



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STEPPING INTO WELLNESS AT THE MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

On August 7, the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena came to life as the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Mental Health & Wellness Sector invited Akwesasronon to take a meaningful step along the path to well-being at the Mental Health Fair!

Throughout the day, community members enjoyed a nourishing lunch, explored a variety of vendors and activities, and took a mental health walk to clear the mind while admiring the scenic beauty of Akwesasne.

Along with MCA Mental Health & Wellness, programs such as Akwesasne Animal Society, Oak Flower Design Co., and Iakwa'shatste Youth Fitness helped create a calming, supportive and inspiring atmosphere throughout the day.

Niawenhkó:wa to the MCA Mental Health & Wellness Sector and all who contributed to making this event a space of healing, learning, and community care.

If you or someone you know is seeking support or would like to learn more about the services offered, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3115 to connect with the Mental Health & Wellness team.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

INDIGENOUS PATIENT NAVIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health is pleased to share updated contact information for the Indigenous Patient Navigators – Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) Liaison and the Community Paramedic program.

CORNWALL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL LIAISON:

This program provides support and services including:

- Liaise between patients and Cornwall Community Hospital Services
- Collaborate with Ontario healthcare systems and services
- Facilitates appointments for consults and support services within the Department of Health
- Advocates for patients to receive positive patient outcomes

No referral is needed — clients can self-refer and access services directly between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday at the Cornwall Community Hospital (Room 4436).

To schedule an appointment or learn more, please contact:

April White, Indigenous Patient Navigator – Cornwall Community Hospital Liaison

CCH Direct Line: 613-938-4240 ext. 4542

Cell: 613-577-5445

Email: april.white.doh@akwesasne.ca

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM:

This program provides support and services including:

- Home visits
- Assistance navigating the Quebec healthcare system
- In-home primary care services

No referral is needed — clients can self-refer and access services directly.

To schedule an appointment or learn more, please contact:

Daryl Diabo, Indigenous Patient Navigator – Community Paramedic

Telephone: 613-575-2341 ext. 3207

Email: daryl.diabo@akwesasne.ca

Hours: Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (possible evenings & weekends)



April White, RN
Cornwall Community
Hospital Liaison



Daryl Diabo
Community Paramedic
Indigenous Patient Navigator

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits:
613-575-2341 ext. 3340

Community Health Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 3220

Jordan's Principle:
613-575-2341 ext. 2652

Addiction & Mental Health Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 3115

Land-Based Healing:
613-575-2341

Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center:
613-932-5050

Traditional Medicine:
613-575-2341 ext. 3100

Akwesasne Medical Clinic:
613-575-2341 ext. 3215

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:
613-932-5808

Home & Community Care:
613-575-2341 ext. 1618

Elder Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

Iakhihsohtha Lodge:
613-575-2507

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care:
613-932-1409



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WELCOMES NEW ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING CARE



The MCA Department of Health would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Acting Associate Director of Continuing Care, David Johnson.

David is a Mohawk of the Bear Clan from Six Nations and holds a Bachelor of Science from McMaster University, as well as a Master of Health Administration from Toronto Metropolitan University. He brings extensive experience in the long-term care sector, with a strong focus on both resident well-being and staff support.

David is committed to blending Western and traditional

ways of treatment in healthcare, ensuring that residents needs are met while creating a safe and supportive environment for staff to provide exceptional care.

"I am honored to serve the Akwesasne community," said David. "I will always speak up for and attend to the needs of our elders, as they are the heart of our community, carrying a wealth of knowledge to be cherished and passed down to their loved ones. I take this opportunity with the Department of Health with great respect and responsibility."

Outside of work, David enjoys spending time with his family, exploring the outdoors, and staying active.

Please join us in welcoming David to his new role and the community of Akwesasne!

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WELCOMES NEW PSYCHOTHERAPIST, HILLARY BROWNLEE



The MCA Department of Health's Mental Health & Wellness Sector would like to extend a warm welcome to their new psychotherapist, Hillary Brownlee. Hillary brings many years of knowledge and expertise into her new role.

Hillary is a qualifying Registered Psychotherapist (RP) with the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. She has strong roots in the Cornwall area, having attended Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School (CCVS) before continuing her post-secondary education.

She holds an Honours Bachelor's degree in Behavioural Psychology from St. Lawrence College in Kingston and a Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology from York

ville University. Hillary brings to the Mental Health & Wellness field a diverse range of training, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Solution-Focused Therapy, Humanistic Therapy, and Mindfulness-based approaches.

Hillary has many years of experience in supporting individuals with addictions, mental health, and dual diagnoses. She is dedicated to helping individuals and families build emotional and psychological resilience, navigate adversity, and improve their overall well-being through compassionate, evidence-informed care.

Hillary will be available Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment with Hillary, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.

Please join us in welcoming Hillary to the Mental Health & Wellness team. We look forward to all of the great work she will do for the community of Akwesasne!

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECKED OUT: TALENT ON DISPLAY AT SKATE JAM

On Saturday, August 9, skaters braved the summer heat for an epic Skate Jam at the Akwesasne Skatepark, hosted by 2028 Olympic hopeful Zoe Zollinger and pro skater Adam Hopkins. The event brought together skateboarders of all ages and skills levels for a day of friendly competition, impressive tricks, and great prizes.

Throughout the day, attendees had the unique opportunity to skate alongside Hopkins and Zollinger, who shared words of encouragement, offered tips, and inspired participants with their talent and passion for the sport.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Akwesasne Child and Family Services for sponsoring the event and to all the attendees for making it a memorable day.



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



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)
Akwasasne, ON K6H 0G5

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

BRIGHT FUTURES BEGIN: ACFS COLLEGE STUDENT WELLNESS DAY

On July 26, Akwasasne Child & Family Services hosted a vibrant and uplifting College Student Wellness Day at the St. Regis Recreation Center! The event welcomed Akwasasne college students as they prepare to begin their academic journeys, offering support in all aspects of wellness: emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual.

The day featured a delicious luncheon, a resource fair full of helpful information, a book bag giveaway packed with wellness goodies, and fun, meaningful activities to help students feel grounded and prepared for the road ahead.

Niawenhkó:wa to ACFS for creating such a thoughtful and encouraging event to help our future leaders start strong!



Attention Community of Akwasasne:

**Akwasasne Child & Family Services
needs YOUR help!**

There is an urgent need for kinship/foster/customary care homes.

If you, or anyone you know, may be in a position to open your home to either temporary or long-term fostering, please call **613-575-5020** and speak to an intake worker to submit your information. A Resource Development Worker will be in contact with you.



DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & HOUSING



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. 1002

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

TURTLE TIME: CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION

The MCA Environment Program held its annual turtle release gathering on Monday, August 18, at King’s Marina in Tsi Snaihne. Under sunny skies, community members joined the Turtle Team to witness the joyful release of baby snapping turtles from their shells to the shores of Snye.

This year, the team incubated both painted turtles and snapping turtles — two species considered at risk. The painted turtles were released earlier in the season, while the snapping turtles made their way home during Monday’s event. Each year, the Environment Program works to protect vulnerable nests, incubate eggs, and support hatchlings in safely beginning their journey. These efforts, along with the support of community members, help ensure that these important creatures continue to thrive for generations to come.

In total, 156 turtles were released this year, including 54 snapping turtles on Monday!

The Turtle Team was joined by community members Dawn Day and Cindy Garrow, who shared traditional stories, legends, and songs about turtles.

The gathering was a beautiful reminder that when Akwesasró:non come together, we not only strengthen our ties to one another, but also protect the land and water that sustain us. Nia:wen/thank you to everyone who joined in giving these turtles the best possible start to a long and healthy life. If you spot a nesting turtle, an injured turtle, or simply have questions, please reach out to the MCA Environment Program Turtle Team at env.turtles.team@akwesasne.ca — together, we can continue protecting our turtle relatives for the future.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS JOINS ELDERS FOR A DAY OF FUN & FRIENDSHIP

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) was proud to take part in this year's Elders Play Day, hosted by the Kana:takon Elders Group on Thursday, July 31 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. The afternoon was filled with connection, laughter, and lighthearted competition — bringing generations together to celebrate community spirit.

Throughout the day, AMPS officers were honoured to serve dessert and refreshments, while also joining in on the fun. From bingo and beach volleyball to the crowd-favorite Ace to King card challenge, officers enjoyed taking part in a variety of games and activities — including the always-entertaining “bikini” contest and a lively puzzle competition.

It was a privilege to spend time with our community's elders in such a fun and welcoming setting.

Events like this strengthen the relationship between police and community, and we extend our sincere thanks to the Kana:takon Elders Group for hosting such a memorable day! Nia:wen also to MCA Elder Services for sponsoring the delicious meal and supporting a meaningful gathering for our elders.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service looks forward to continuing its community involvement and supporting events that celebrate and uplift all generations of Akwesasró:non. We remain committed to focusing efforts on the safety and wellbeing 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

- Non-Emergency Phone: **613-575-2250**
- Emergency Phone: **613-575-2000**
- Email: info.amps@akwesasne.ca

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS & HAVFD GAIN NEW TOOLS FOR TOUGH TERRAIN

In July, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department took part in two days of training with their newest emergency response vehicles: Fat Trucks.

These amphibious, all-terrain vehicles are built to take on the most challenging environments — from water to wetlands and everything in between.

With support from both teams and hands-on training, AMPS and HAVFD are enhancing their ability to reach and assist our community safely, no matter the conditions.





SEE THE FAT TRUCKS IN ACTION

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@MOHAWKCOUNCILOFAKWESASNE



JULY 2025 STATISTICS

273 July	9 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Other	2 1041 Mental Health Act
1 023 Break & Enter - Premises	7 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Tribal PD	4 1049 Medical Aid
1 029 Theft - Motorcycles	41 1004 Assist Public	1 1050 Youth Complaint
1 030 Theft - Other Motor Vehicles	9 1008 By-Law - Dogs	3 1056 Hazardous Conditions
1 035 Theft Over \$5000 - Other	1 1009 By-Law - Noise	1 106 Provincial Statutes - Other
2 040 Theft Under \$5000 - Other	12 1012 Civil Disputes	16 1063 Marine Patrol
1 041 Possession Stolen Property	20 1013 Community Services	3 205 Assault - Level 1
2 045 Frauds - Other	4 1014 Crime Prevention	1 206 Assault Weapon/CBH - Level 2
4 061 Bail Violations	2 1018 Escorts - Prisoner	1 208 Bodily Harm
2 063 Disturb The Peace	6 1023 Judge's Order (Court)	2 6666 Assist Other Departments - Fire
1 072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5000	3 1023 MVC - Non-Reportable	3 705 Dangerous Operation MV
1 100 Immigration Act	1 1024 Phone Calls	3 711 Impaired Operation MV
1 1000 Abandoned Vehicles	1 1028 Probation Orders	1 715 Fail to Stop/Remain (CCC)
7 1001 Alarms	11 1029 Suspicious Persons	1 716 Drive MV Prohibited (CCC)
1 1002 Alerts	12 1030 Suspicious Vehicles	16 721 Traffic - Provincial Statutes
8 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Ambulance	15 1031 Suspicious Circumstances	1 724 Fatal MVC
7 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Cornwall PS	6 1036 Warrant - Bench/First	2 726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
4 1003 Assist Other Agencies - OPP	2 1037 Warrant - Search	5 Incident Type Not Listed



YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE!



Click. Apply. Join MCA Today.

Explore opportunities and apply with ease using the new **MCA Career Centre** through ADP.



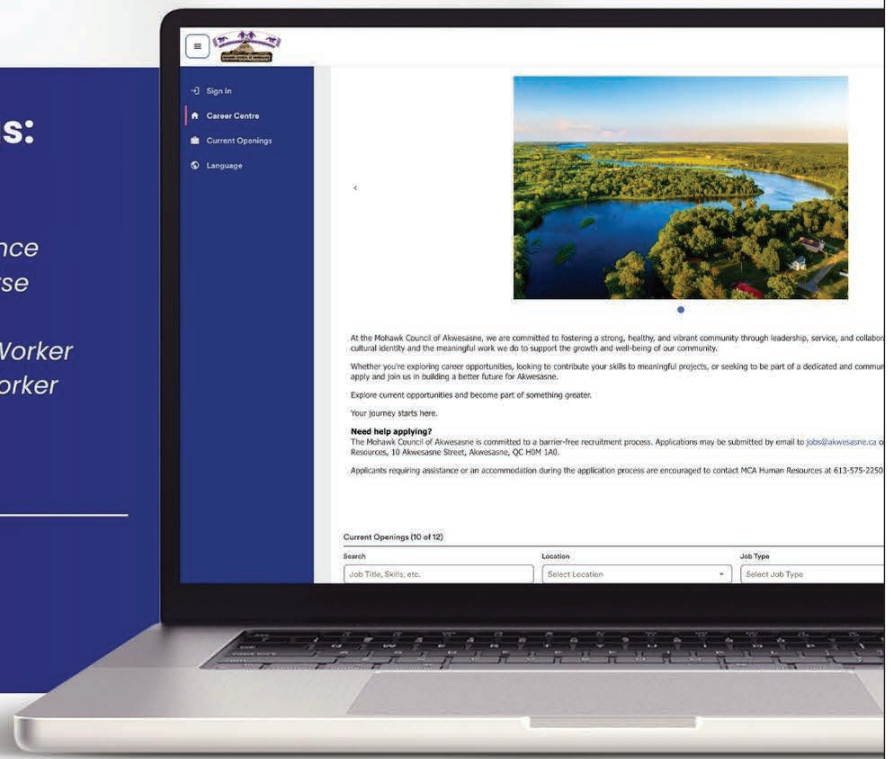
Scan QR code to visit the website!

Current Postings:

- Comptroller
- Office Supervisor
- Elder Home Maintenance
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Data Analyst
- Community Support Worker
- Traditional Support Worker
- Dietary Aide
- Financial Analyst

Need help applying?

✉ jobs@akwesasne.ca
☎ 613-575-2250



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Generations Park, Akwesasne • 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Join us this Orange Shirt Day as we honor the **courage, strength, and resilience** of our residential school survivors.

Together, we will reflect, heal, and celebrate the strength of our culture through ceremony, song, food, and community.

BOOK & SHIRT GIVEAWAY • SWEETGRASS BOOKMARKS • CORN HUSH DOLLS • LOG POUNDING DEMONSTRATION • HANIEH'NÉHA LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES ...AND SO MUCH MORE!

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



OPEN TO EVERYONE