















**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE** 

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024







# MOHAWIK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

#### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

# 2023-2024 Annual Report

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

"With a good mind it is our responsibility to protect and exercise our inherent rights while creating sustainable partnerships and building a strong community for future generations."

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the MCA is to provide consistent quality services that will enhance the quality of life for all Akwesasró:non today, while protecting our rights and preserving our resources for the next seven generations.

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MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE — Annual Report 2023/2024
THANKSGIVING ADDRESS

### **Thanksgiving Address**

(English Version)

As is customary among our people, we begin each meeting or gathering with the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen, or Thanksgiving Address. In this greeting, we acknowledge the contributions of all elements of creation and say thank you. At the end of each meeting we close with similar words. The following version of the Thanksgiving Address was sent by the Mohawk Nation and the Haudenosaunee Grand Council via Chief Jake Swamp to the Fourth Russell Tribunal, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, November, 1980.

#### THE PEOPLE

We who have gathered together are responsible that our cycle continues. We have been given the duty to live in harmony with one another and other living things. We give greetings that our people still share the knowledge of our culture and ceremonies and are able to pass it on. We have our elders here and also the new faces yet to be born, which is the cycle of our families - for this we give thanks and greetings. Now our minds are one.

#### THE EARTH

We give greetings and thanks to our Mother the Earth - she gives us that which makes us strong and healthy. We are grateful that she continues to perform her duties as she was instructed. The women and Mother Earth are our givers of life. We are her color, her flesh and her roots. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE PLANTS**

We greet and thank the medicine plants of the earth. They have been instructed by the Creator to cure our diseases and sicknesses. Our people will always know their native names. They come in many forms and have many duties. Through the ones who have been vested with knowledge of the medicine plants, we give thanks. Now our minds are one. We give greetings and thanks to the plant life. Within the plants is the force of substance that sustains many life forms. From the time of the creation we have seen the various forms of plant life work many wonders. We hope that we will continue to see plant life for the generations to come. Now our minds are one. We give a greetings and thanks to the strawberry plants. We see them when the wind becomes warm again on the earth; the strawberries are indeed hanging there. And it is also true that we use them, that we drink the (straw)berry water. Now our minds are one.

#### THE THREE SISTERS

We have been given three main foods from the plant world - they are the corn, beans, and squash - the Three Sisters. For this we give thanks and greetings in the hope that they too will continue to replenish Mother Earth with the necessities of the life cycle. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE WATERS**

We give thanks to the spirit of waters for our strength of well being. The waters of the world have provided many things - they quench our thirst, provide food for the plant life, and are the source of strength for the medicines we need. Now our minds are one.

#### THE ANIMALS

We give thanks and greetings to the animal life. They are still living in the forests and other places. They provide us with food and this gives us peace of mind knowing that they are still carrying out their instructions as given by the Creator. We therefore give greetings and thanks to our animal brothers. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE TREES**

We acknowledge and give greetings to the trees of the world. They too continue to perform the instructions which they were given. The maple trees are the symbols as the head of the trees. It is the maple trees that provide us with sap for our syrup and is the first sign of the rebirth of spring. The trees provide us with shelter, shade, and fruits. Long ago our people were given a way of peace and strength and this way is symbolized by the everlasting tree of peace. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE BIRDS**

We now turn our thoughts toward the winged creatures. They have songs which they sing to help us appreciate our own purpose in life. We are reminded to enjoy our life cycle. Some of the winged creatures are available to us as food and they too are carrying out their responsibilities. To us the eagle is the symbol of strength. It is said that they fly the highest and can see the creation. We show our gratitude for the fulfillment of his duties. Now our minds are one.

#### THE FOUR WINDS

We listen and hear the voices of the four winds. We are assured that they are following the instructions of the Creator. They bring us strength. They come from the four directions. For this we give greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.

#### THE THUNDERERS

To the Thunderers we call our Grandfathers we give greetings and thanks. You have also been given certain responsibilities by the Creator. We see you roaming the sky carrying with you water to renew life. Your loud voices are heard from time to time and for the protection and medicine you give, we offer our thanksgiving. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE SUN**

Our thoughts now turn to the sky. We see the sun, the source of life. We are instructed to call him our Eldest Brother. With the sun we can see the perfect gifts for which we are grateful. Our Brother sun nourishes Mother Earth and is the source of light and warmth. Our Brother is the source of all fires of life. With every new sunrise is a new miracle. Now our minds are one.

#### THE MOON

During the night time we see the moon. We have been instructed to address her as our Grandmother. In her cycle she makes her face new in harmony with other female life. Our Grandmother Moon still follows the instructions of the Creator. Within these are the natural cycles of women. She determines the arrival of children, causes the tides of the oceans and she also helps us measure time. Our Grandmother continues to lead us. We are grateful and express our thanksgiving. Now our minds are one.

#### **THE STARS**

The Stars are the helpers of Grandmother Moon. They have spread themselves all across the sky. Our people knew their names and their messages of future happenings even to helping to mold individual character of mankind. The Stars provide us with guidance and they bring the dew to the plant life. As we view the beauty of the Stars we know that they too are following the instructions of the Creator. Now our minds are one.

#### THE FOUR BEINGS

The four powerful spirit beings who have been assigned by the Creator to guide us both by day and night are called the Sky Dwellers. Our Creator directed these helpers to assist him in dealing with us during our journey on Mother Earth. They know our every act and they guide us with the teachings that the Creator established. For the power of direction, we give greetings and thanks to the Sky Dwellers. Now our minds are one.

#### THE CREATOR

We now turn our thoughts to the Creator himself. We choose our finest words to give thanks and greetings to him. He has prepared all things on earth for our peace of mind. Then he said, "I will now prepare a place for myself where no one will know my face, but I will be listening and keeping watch on the people moving about the earth." And indeed, we see that all things are faithful to their duties as he instructed them. We will therefore gather our minds into one and give thanks to the Creator. Now our minds are as one.

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#### **Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen**

(Mohawk Version)

Ta káti' wi' ó:nen sewatahonhsí:iohst tsi ó:nen entewarihwahnhotón:kon.

Akwé:kon énska tsi entitewahwe'nón:ni ne onkwa'nikòn:ra tsi akwé:kon skén:nen iakwanonhtónnion. Ta tho niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton iethni'nihsténha ohwéntsia tsi shé:kon iakotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra. Teiethinonhwerá:ton ohonte'shòn:a tsi shé:kon iotitirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' wáhe niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton áhsen na'tekontahnón:tere (áhsen nikontenò:se) tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton niiohontéhsha' tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton ononhkwa'shon:a tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton oien'kwa'ón:we tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton okwire'shòn:a tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton kontírio tsi shé:kon iethí:kens. Ta tho wi'wáhe niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton ohneka'shòn:a tsi shé:kon ionkwatston'hákie. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton otsti'ten'okòn:a tsi shé:kon iethí:kens. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton ne kaié:ri nikawerà:ke tsi shé:kon ioneterihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton ratiwé:rahs tsi shé:kon ronnaterihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton shonkwa'tsì:ah kiohkehnéhkha karáhkwa tsi shé:kon roterihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton ionkhihsótha wenhnì:tare tsi shé:kon iakotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton iotsistohk- warónnion tsi shé:kon iotirihwahtenkié:ton. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra.

Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon teiethinonhwerá:ton kaié:ri niionkwè:take tsi shé:kon ionkhi'nikòn:rare. Ta tho wi' eh niiohtónha'k onkwa'nikòn:ra. Akwé:kon énska tsi tewarò:rok onkwa'nikòn:ra tánon tetshitewanonhwerá:ton Shonkwaia'tíson tsi orihwakwé:kon roweienentà:on.















# Introduction

To the Akwesasne Community,

March 2024

We are proud to present the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's 2023–2024 Annual Report, highlighting the achievements and progress made from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Over the past year, MCA has remained committed to delivering responsive programs and services that meet the evolving needs of our community. This report showcases the incredible work of our departments, the strength of our partnerships, and the resilience and spirit of Akwesasró:non.

As we continued to move forward in a post-pandemic environment, community connection and cultural celebration were at the heart of many of this year's activities. One example was the AMBE Cultural Celebration, which brought students and staff together in honour of our Onkwehonwe identity. Across departments, programs have also focused on revitalizing and sharing our traditional ways by offering opportunities for community members to reconnect with our culture and values. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to preserving and passing down our heritage, while creating space for learning, growth, and pride in who we are as Akwesasró:non.

We also celebrated major milestones for to young Akwesasró:non. Kiawentiio Tarbell starred as "Katara" in the Netflix series Avatar: The Last Airbender, marked with two special community screenings of Episode 1 at the Port Theatre in Cornwall, hosted by MCA's Land-Based Healing Program and Akwesasne Child and Family Services. Later that spring, Carey Terrance Jr. was drafted into the NHL, celebrated with a community Draft Watch Party organized by CAA Management and MCA's Akwesasne Family Wellness Program. Both events were filled with pride, support and inspiration — shining examples of local talent making their mark in the world.

Speaking of youth, this year saw the return of more hands-on learning opportunities that encouraged healthy living and skill-building. Akwesasne youth participated in a football camp hosted by Ben Maracle, quarterback for the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees and a resident of Tyendinaga. With support from the Ottawa Redblacks and Gee-Gees players, the camp welcomed 40 youth for a day of teamwork, mentorship, and fun.

Our connection to the land and environment continues to thrive. The MCA Environment Program led efforts to care for local turtle populations, resulting in successful hatchings and an exciting Turtle Release Party. Families were invited to take part in returning baby turtles to their natural habitat — a wholesome and educational event that celebrated environmental stewardship and community togetherness.

Another major accomplishment this year was the opening of the Sahatihahará:ne Detox Center on Kawehno:ke, made possible through the tireless work of MCA's Department of Health. This vital new resource offers a safe, supportive space for individuals beginning their healing journey and marks a significant step forward in providing additional wholistic wellness services to Akwesasró:non.

These stories are just a glimpse of the dedication, innovation, and heart that define our work. We invite you to explore the full report to learn more about the accomplishments, initiatives, and statistics from each department. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more connected Akwesasne.

Niawenhkó:wa for your continued support. We look forward to serving you in the year ahead.





MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2021-2024

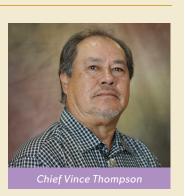
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#### **DISTRICT OF KAWEHNO:KE**







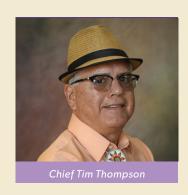


#### **DISTRICT OF KANA:TAKON**

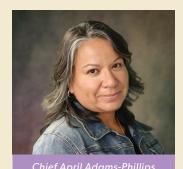








DISTRICT OF TSI SNAIHNE









# Department of Community & Social Services

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS:

- Akwesasne Child & Family Services
- Akwesasne Family Wellness Program
- » Community Support Program

The Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of individuals and families within the Akwesasne community. Our mission is to provide culturally relevant, holistic services that address the unique challenges faced by our First Nations community.

DCSS oversees three key programs:

**AKWESASNE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**, which emphasizes prevention and early intervention to strengthen families and ensure the well-being of children, focusing on support systems to prevent crisis situations.

**AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM**, which provides critical support to individuals and families affected by gender-based violence, offering resources for safety, healing, and empowerment.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM**, which not only provides financial assistance to those facing economic hardship but also focuses on employment, employability, and skill-building, offering pathways to education and workforce readiness.

The Department of Community and Social Services is committed to fostering resilience, healing, and self-sufficiency within the community through collaborative and supportive services.

#### **Department Highlights**

**Family Support Initiatives:** Developed a series of community workshops focused on parenting, mental health awareness, and crisis intervention techniques, reaching over 300 families.

**Gender-Based Violence Response:** Increased capacity for the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program, adding 10 new shelter spaces and enhancing trauma-informed counseling services to better serve survivors.

Collaborated with local community organizations to deliver culturally relevant services, including traditional healing workshops and support for community members.

**Challenges:** High demand for mental health services and financial assistance amidst economic uncertainties. Strain on resources due to increasing service requests.

**Opportunities:** Growth in employment programs, potential partnerships with educational institutions for skill development, and a focus on digital service delivery to widen reach.

**Future Goals:** Strengthen prevention-focused services in child and family support to further reduce crises.

Expand gender-based violence resources to include more long-term support options, such as transitional housing and vocational training for survivors.

Enhance the Community Support Program with more employment and employability opportunities and financial literacy workshops aimed at long-term financial independence.

#### **AKWESASNE CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES**

#### **Program Highlights & Accomplishments**

Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS) is responsible for conducting Child Prevention and Community Support related activities as well as being responsible for conducting the Child Protection mandate under the Children, Youth, and Family Services Act in Ontario and the protection mandate in Quebec (Quebec Youth Protection Act).



During this fiscal year, Akwesasne Child and Family Services continued to mitigate the rising costs of food, gas, and electric. ACFS distributed food and gas cards to families and assisted with electrical bills for homes heated by this service.



ACFS continued to work with MCA partners to offer cultural, prevention, and fitness related activities for children and youth using surplus funds, ACFS provided \$100,000 dollars to Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke, Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centers, and Generations Park. This initiative was approved by MCR 2021/2022 - # 358, dated; March 28, 2022.



ACFS continues to fully support the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club (ABGC) on the northern portion of the community to continue afterschool programming and summer camps in all three districts (Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke and Tsi Snaihne). Both initiatives were approved by MCR 2021/2022 - # 358, dated; March 28, 2022: This contribution will allow the ABGC to provide meals and increase children's spots at all three clubhouses within each district of Akwesasne.



The ACFS annual snowsuit drive began in September 2023. The agency collaborated with the International Border Company (IBC) located in Malone N.Y. ACFS was able to procure winter clothing for children and youth of Akwesasne. This initiative provided **338 new winter jackets, ski pants, winter boots, hats, and gloves**, totaling **\$101,400**.



The Ska'nikòn:ra (RedMane) case management core services design and development phase are nearing completion, with some development extending into the 2024/2025 fiscal year. ACFS staff have been actively involved throughout this fiscal year, participating in numerous in-person sessions. The team consists of ACFS staff, led by Joanne Fortier (Secondee) and Lisa Pelletier (Consultant), along with the RedMane Team (Manish, Julia, and Maria). The ACFS frontline staff and supervisor are excited to contribute to a culturally-based Mohawk case management system, including a new platform to ease navigation.

This new system will offer several benefits for ACFS frontline workers who will experience a culturally relevant case management system that incorporates the Mohawk language, a prevention-focused approach aligned with ACFS' vision, and a modern interface that keeps pace with fast-changing technology. It also features convenient tools designed to enhance information sharing for better understanding. In addition, the ability to record case notes during power outages, with notes saved in the cloud.



ACFS is actively collaborating with the Akwesasne Justice Department to continue the development of Akwesasne's Child Rights and Responsibilities Law, which enables First Nations communities to exercise jurisdiction over child welfare, allowing them to create culturally appropriate laws and systems that prioritize prevention, family preservation, and connection to culture. This legislation promotes self-determination, reduces the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in state care, and ensures federal support for implementation and funding.



#### **PHILOSOPHY/VISION STATEMENT**

As gifts from the creator and the future of our nation, it is essential that the children and youth receive the care and nurturing they need and deserve.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We care, trust, and believe in the strength of Akwesasne.

#### MANDATE

As a fully designated Child Protection Agency, we are committed to promoting the best interests, protection, and well-being of children.







#### **Statistical Information for ACFS:**

	QUÉBEC	ONTARIO
New Child Protection Investigations	23	11
Total Children in Care (During the Year)	6	18
Types of Care:		
<b>Extended Society Care</b>	-	2
<b>Customary Agreement</b>	-	16
Age of Majority	1	-
<b>Voluntary Measure Agreement</b>	5	-
Children in Care/Youth (at year end)	2	12
Closed Kinship Homes	4	2
Active Kinship Homes	2	9







#### **Community Support Unit**

**34** Programs with **5,627** participants



#### **Traditional Support Unit**

**63** Programs with **2,963** participants









#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

#### **Summary of Program Goals**

The Community Support Program provides financial assistance to individuals facing challenging circumstances, such as unemployment or a lack of educational training and experience that hinders their ability to secure employment. Beyond financial aid, our program offers a wide range of services to eligible clients and community members seeking income support.

In partnership with Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services (ACESS) and the Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute, CSP delivers educational and career counseling services tailored for adult learners receiving income assistance. These services are designed to help individuals overcome barriers to employment, education, and training opportunities. The program is committed to offering resources that empower recipients to succeed in their personal and professional goals.

The Community Support Program is here to support and guide you, providing access to opportunities that will help you re-enter the workforce or enhance your education and training. If you are receiving social assistance and are employable, there is an expectation to actively pursue opportunities that will increase your chances of achieving success in both your educational and career pursuits.

#### **Program Accomplishments**

The Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) 2023-2024, as approved by the Grand Chief and Council of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, provided a heating and fuel assistance subsidy to its members to benefit the community of Akwesasne and Akwesasró:non who are registered band members under the MCA Membership Code within the three districts of Kana:takon, Tsi Snaihne and Kawehno:ke, and members who reside in the city of Cornwall, ON.

Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) 2023-2024

**Total Approved Applicants 59 years of age and under:** 970 approved applicants x \$1,000 dollars = \$970,000

**Total Approved Elders 60 years of age and older:** 526 approved applicants x \$1,500 dollars = \$789,000

**Total Amount Distributed: \$1,759,000** 

#### **VISION, MISSION & VALUES**

To administer income support in providing competent professional services to meet the needs of Akwesasne, with special focus on individual responsibility, social inclusion and community growth and development.



#### Highlights & Accomplishments con't.

The Community Support Program continues to fund the St. Regis Catholic Mission's Food Pantry Program for clients and community members alike who are in need of food and supplies. The church is instrumental in providing food security and provisions in ensuring children and families are being fed proper nutritional meals.

The Community Support Program, Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services (ACESS) and Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute partnered the funding and construction of a new state-of-the-art Trades Lab at the Iohahi:io site, which will see community members being trained in certification of trades and technology programs to include a variety of skills in trades such as carpentry, plumbing, masonry, drywall, electrical, welding and other trade skills that are increasingly in demand.

The Community Support Program continues to have quarterly planning meetings with our Education Committee members at the lohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute for new community training projects geared toward a trained workforce, with the objective of realizing greater employment and educational opportunities will become available and sustainable.

In 2023, the Community Support Program partnered with Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute to provide micro-credentialing courses, which have continued into 2024. This training model will continue to be assessed as we move into 2025 and beyond. The Community Support Program was also a partner in training incentives for such programs as "Supply Teacher" and "Bus Driver Training" to meet the demand for these employment opportunities which are available in Akwesasne.

ACESS and the Community Support Program share a Community Support Program Case Manager, located at the ACESS office in Kana:takon. The Case Manager and program model targets 18-to 30-year-old social assistance clients to provide enhanced career counseling and workshop activity for this age

category. This partnership addresses increased counseling, career assessments and training activity to ensure client success while accessing social assistance services and monthly income supports. Additionally, the Community Support Program provides funding support to the Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute's High School Diploma and Upgrading programs. This partnership provides a direct benefit to adult learners enhancing their skills as they move into education, training and employment opportunities and advancements.

The Community Support Program continues to be an active member of the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA), which has a membership of 119 First Nations in Ontario. First Nations are welcoming a new program addition to the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association organization called Ishkoday Energy Research Program. This is important for Akwesasne and other communities, as Ishkoday will be researching and exploring new energy options with the objective of reducing home and energy costs.

ONWAA provides training and development in income assistance, income reform and policy analysis and interpretation for its membership. 2024 marks ONWAA's 54<sup>th</sup> year in operation as an income assistance training organization and as a policy analysis advisor.

Ontario First Nations, Chiefs of Ontario, the Assembly of First Nations (in consultation with Indigenous Services Canada and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) have begun planning discussions for First Nations on a pilot project moving disability income supports from provincial municipal income assistance offices to First Nations delivery sites on their territories. Notably, MCA's Community Support Program already administers its own Disability Support Program, separate from the Ontario Disability Support Program and the Province of Quebec.

All the above accomplishments continue to enhance service delivery, directly benefiting clients and community

members as they obtain employment, education and training that assists them in reaching their goals.



#### **IOHAHI:10 TRADES LAB**

The Community Support Program partnered with ACESS and Iohahi:io to fund the construction of a state-of-the-art trades lab, Kaheri:io, located in Tsi Snaihne.



CSP supports Iohahi:io's High School Diploma and Upgrading Program



# TRAINING FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CSP partnered with lohahi:io to provide training incentives for community members interested in Bus Driver Training or becoming a Supply Teacher.

#### **Client Statistics Yearly and Monthly Averages**

The 2023-2024 fiscal year realized a moderate increase of client numbers due to impacts of food security, increasing rent costs, lack of housing and transportation costs. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne continues to explore and expand programming to meet these concerns.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
APRIL	869	807	686	565	524	571	360	309	397
MAY	875	782	680	571	516	535	389	384	398
JUNE	911	804	659	577	550	500	382	384	394
JULY	836	784	644	605	566	491	328	384	315
AUGUST	935	796	640	582	558	659	392	409	416
SEPTEMBER	837	741	639	544	540	484	317	383	429
OCTOBER	842	730	628	526	514	476	375	402	426
NOVEMBER	812	706	611	519	527	453	388	393	418
DECEMBER	649	551	529	519	463	384	432	382	416
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
JANUARY	821	676	636	523	533	460	396	443	427
FEBRUARY	821	662	632	523	510	443	400	437	422
MARCH	802	651	561	532	527	439	400	497	418

#### Conclusion:

The activities, partnerships, programs, and service developments outlined are ongoing strategies that have evolved over time and will continue into the 2024/2025 fiscal year, as part of MCA's Strategic Planning initiative.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

#### **Community Support Program**

Kanonhkwat'sheri:io Health Facility 31 Hilltop Drive, St. Regis, QC H0M 1A0 Phone: 613-575-2341 Fax: 613-575-1983

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



#### **APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

You can apply for financial assistance by calling the Community Support Program office and asking for our Intake Case Manager who will assist you. Our office is located at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility in Kana:takon.





#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Provide emergency and long-term safe housing for victims of domestic violence, abusive situations, self-harm, and high-risk behaviors.

#### **AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM - IETHINISTEN:HA**

The mission of lethinisten:ha (Akwesasne Family Wellness Program) is to provide emergency and long-term safe housing for victims of domestic violence, abusive situations, self-harm, and high-risk behaviors. The mandate of the program is to provide educational healing services to women, men, and children.

The mandate of the program is to provide educational healing services to women, men, and children. The 24-hour information and support line is operational 365 days a year: 1-800-480-4208.

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program provides a comprehensive range of services, including:

- 6-week residential or non-residential program for women and men who have been victims of or exposed to abuse (domestic, physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and self-harm)
- 24-hour support line, on-site support, and information services
- Referrals and advocacy
- Education and tools on domestic violence in individual and group settings
- Access to cultural and traditional teachings
- An outreach program

#### Staffing

AFWP's services are made possible through a dedicated team of professionals, including counselors, outreach workers, cultural advisors, and administrative staff. The team is extensively trained in trauma-informed care, cultural competency, and intervention strategies to support individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence and exploitation. To ensure ongoing growth, AFWP prioritizes professional development and collaboration with external partners, including experts in mental health, addiction, and traditional medicine. AFWP experienced a major transition in staff this fiscal year, which presented significant challenges, but these were overcame with the hiring of a new program manager, outreach services supervisor, and reimplementing casual counselors.

#### Program Highlights & Accomplishments

This year has been marked by numerous accomplishments and expanded outreach efforts. The following key highlights reflect the program's continued commitment to holistic wellness and family support:

#### Holiday Celebrations and Family Skate Events

AFWP held community-wide events such as holiday celebrations and family skate days, fostering unity and connection within a safe, welcoming environment. These events encouraged families to come together, offering fun activities while reinforcing the importance of healthy relationships and mutual support in reducing family violence.

#### March Break Activities and Zumba Sessions

Physical well-being is an essential element of violence prevention. AFWP's March Break activities and regular Zumba sessions provided a space for community members to focus on their health and relieve stress. These events encouraged self-care and promoted active living as key strategies for managing stress and preventing violence.

#### Suicide Prevention Workshops

In response to the community's need for mental health education, AFWP organized a series of suicide prevention workshops. These sessions offered critical information on recognizing early signs of distress, with practical strategies for effective intervention. This initiative helped build capacity for addressing mental health challenges at the community level.

#### Trauma-Informed, Culturally Responsive Seminars

Several seminars and conferences were hosted to promote trauma-informed and culturally responsive care. These events educated community members and service providers on the importance of integrating traditional practices and teachings into wellness programs. This cultural grounding has proven to enhance the community's overall resilience.





#### **Cultural Teachings**

AFWP consistently integrates cultural teachings into all programming. These teachings reinforce traditional values and practices, instilling a sense of pride, identity, and belonging within participants. Cultural activities have played a critical role in fostering resilience and emotional healing.

#### Successful Delivery of \$1.4 M for 11 Indigenous Shelters of Ontario

AFWP successfully oversaw and executed a \$1.4 million funding stream administered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support the enhancement of Ontario's network or Indigenous shelters. This included the provisioning of program supplies, programming support, educational resources, and cultural items. This was a large undertaking that required complex logistical planning to ensure the Northern Ontario communities were able to receive supplies utilizing the ice roads applicable to their area. This deliverable was significantly impacted by staff turnover but was salvaged by the new team. A major success for the program and Indigenous shelters across the province.











#### **Updates**

Collaboration with external partners has further strengthened AFWP's capacity to serve male survivors. These partnerships, including those with Traditional Medicine, Addiction Services, and Mental Health Services, enable us to provide holistic support that addresses the unique needs of male survivors. These collaborations ensure that all individuals regardless of gender can access services that respect cultural traditions while promoting healing and recovery.

AFWP has also deepened its partnership with ASOO (Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario) and ONWA (Ontario Native Women's Association) to support Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking initiatives. This partnership expands our reach, providing survivors of trafficking with access to critical services such as safe shelter, advocacy, safety planning, and education on how to escape exploitation and human trafficking.

#### **Problem Areas & Challenges**

While AFWP continues to make meaningful progress, certain challenges remain:

**CAPACITY LIMITATIONS:** As demand for our services increases, our shelter and support services are frequently operating at capacity. Expanding our infrastructure and staffing levels will be necessary to meet the growing needs of the community, particularly in housing and mental health services.

**MEN AND BOYS' PROGRAMMING:** Although AFWP has made strides in offering services for male survivors, further outreach is needed to overcome cultural stigma and ensure greater awareness. Many men and boys may be hesitant to seek support due to misconceptions about accessing wellness services, particularly those related to domestic violence. Overcoming these barriers will be a key focus in the next two years.

**SUSTAINED FUNDING:** Securing stable funding for program growth remains a concern. While AFWP has secured support for core programming, additional resources will be needed to expand capacity, reach under-served populations, and further develop men's programming.

**STAFF TURNOVER:** The Gender Based Violence sector faces high turnover rates in staff that are critical for maintaining safe operations and continuity of care. AFWP requires competitive salary levels to attract and retain skilled staff in this area.

#### Goals for the Upcoming Year

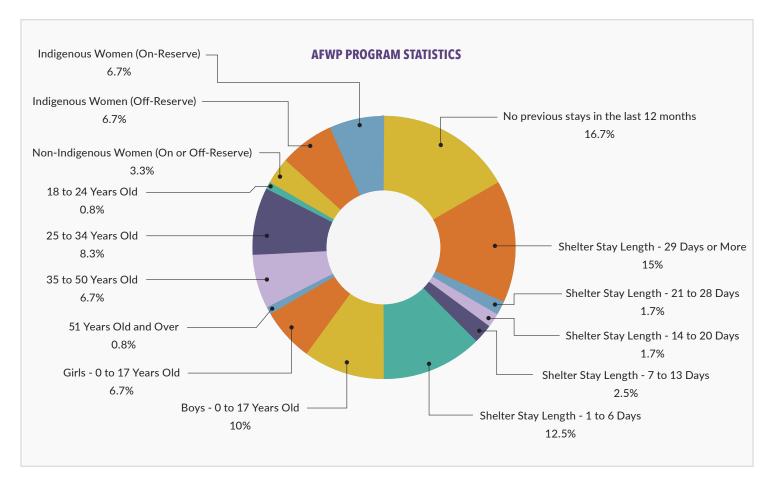
**EXPAND MALE-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING:** Over the next two years, AFWP will prioritize the expansion of programming tailored to the needs of men and boys. We aim to develop targeted initiatives that incorporate traditional teachings and provide safe spaces for men to access support without stigma.

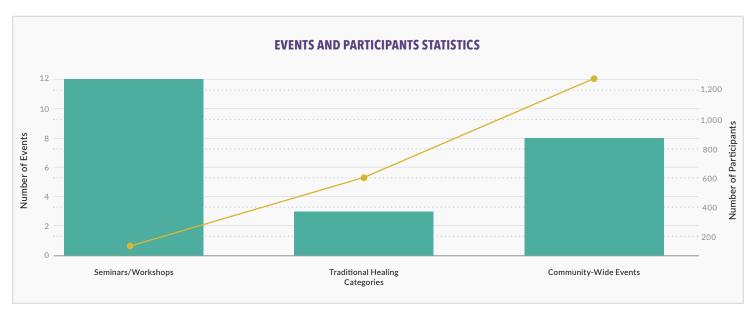
**STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFORTS:** Our collaboration with ASOO and ONWA will continue to grow, ensuring that survivors of trafficking receive comprehensive support. We will increase awareness efforts and prevention activities, while enhancing survivor access to shelter, advocacy, and educational resources.

**ENHANCE OUTREACH AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:** Building on the success of this year's initiatives, AFWP will further increase outreach efforts through expanded physical wellness activities, mental health workshops, and cultural events. Our goal is to engage a broader cross-section of the community, particularly at-risk populations, to prevent violence and promote wholistic wellness.

**INCREASE EDUCATION ON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION:** AFWP will focus on further educating the community about healthy relationships, mental health, and violence prevention through workshops and seminars. We aim to empower individuals with knowledge and tools to address these issues before they escalate.

#### **Statistical Information for AFWP:**





MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE — Annual Report 2023/2024 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Department of Economic Development

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

- A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- Peace Tree Trade Centre
- Thompson Island Cultural Camp

#### MCA Strategic Plan (22-26) & Akwesasne Comprehensive **Community Plan**

The Economic Development Department aligns its activities with both the MCA Strategic Plan and the Akwesasne Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). These guiding documents ensure that the department's programming reflects community values, promotes sustainability, and responds to the evolving needs and priorities of Akwesasró:non. Strategic alignment helps to ground project planning, partnership development, and long-term decision-making in community-identified goals.

#### Peace Tree Trade Centre (PTTC)

The PTTC remained fully leased throughout the year, housing a mix of financial, business, health, and community service providers. Current tenants include:

- Bank of Montreal (BMO)
- **lakwa'shatste Youth Fitness**
- MCA Information Services
- Indigenous Financial Network
- Hummingbird Gift Shop
- MCA Economic Development
- Root & Remedy
- Akwesasne Economic Development Agency (AEDA)



#### **Public Transit Collaboration**

The department began exploring a new partnership with the Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) to assess the feasibility of establishing a community-wide public transportation service. Early discussions focused on identifying service needs, potential models, and operational considerations.

#### Akwesasne-GROW Food Sustainability Program

A successful application to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) allowed the department to initiate the GROW initiative. Staff completed foundational training to support local food production in modular ag-tech units. Working with local retailers is a goal for the next project phase.

#### **EV Ambassador Initiative**

The department promoted the use of local EV charging stations at community events and through public education campaigns. Additional grant opportunities are being explored to expand EV infrastructure across Akwesasne.

#### **Entrepreneur Support Services**

**Business Services & Grant Programs** 

#### **BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS**

A total of **118 businesses registered** during the fiscal year:









ORGANIZATIONS

**SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM** 

The department processed 57 grant applications, assisting both new and existing entrepreneurs with costs related to startup, marketing, compliance, retrofitting, and consulting.

#### **INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SUPPORT**

Community members seeking to enhance their skills accessed individual training support, with 20 applications processed. The program continued to coordinate with Akwesasne Career and Employment Support Services (ACESS) to cost-share tuition where possible.

#### **ENTREPRENEUR CONSULTATIONS**

One-on-one support was provided for business planning, expansion strategies, referrals, and resource navigation. Follow-ups were scheduled to ensure continuity of service.

#### **Innovative Opportunities**

#### Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) Project

The FTTH initiative continued progressing despite significant external and logistical challenges. The department played a supportive role in coordination, strategic planning, and long-term sustainability modeling.

#### **PROJECT DELAYS AND FUNDING CHALLENGES:**

#### **COVID-19 Impacts:**

The pandemic caused delays across manufacturing sectors. Canadian suppliers were required to obtain essential service status, further complicating timelines for materials and components.

#### **Funding Gaps:**

Additional funding was requested to the Ministry of Infrastructure in the amount of \$1.9 million to complete the main feed connection and other fees associated with the construction of the last mile. Funding was contingently approved by the Province of Ontario prior to April 1, 2024.



#### **TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES:**

#### **Main Feed Connection:**

Delays in securing the fiber line connection between Kawehno:ke and Cornwall prevented activation of the network in any service area until resolved.

#### **Multi-District Integration:**

Final connections between districts required teams to juggle overlapping priorities and tasks to remain compliant with grant timelines.

#### **Driveway Installations:**

Equipment shortages and terrain complications (e.g., large rocks) resulted in some residential fiber lines being installed overhead rather than trenched.

#### **Utility Locates:**

Kawehno:ke presented unique challenges due to its high density of underground utilities. Coordination of locates was essential to avoid service disruption or damage during installation.

#### **Workshops and Education**

#### **WORKSHOPS DELIVERED:**

- Financial Literacy
- Tax Talk
- **Business Model Canvas**
- **Women Entrepreneur** Networking
- **Indigenous Procurement** Policy (Planning Phase)
  - Plans are underway to deliver workshops on how Akwesasne entrepreneurs can engage in procurement opportunities with government and institutional buyers.

#### **FTTH ONGOING WORK:**

- » Exploration of revenue opportunities through dark fiber leasing
- Planning for long-term network governance and open-access Internet Service Provider (ISP) participation
- Incorporating data sovereignty and smart infrastructure into spin-off strategies











#### Innovative Opportunities Con't.

Culture & Language - Organizational Capacity Building

- Staff attended two cultural workshops and two wellness/team-building events as part of ongoing professional development.
- Memberships to online platforms like Skillpath supported access to webinars and training in economic development best practices.
- Staff also attended select national conferences relevant to Indigenous economic development.

#### THOMPSON ISLAND CULTURAL CAMP

Thompson Island Cultural Camp (TICC) continues to serve as a vital land-based learning environment rooted in the cultural, spiritual, and historical knowledge of the Mohawk people. As a key initiative under the Department of Economic Development, TICC supports the revitalization of traditional practices while nurturing intergenerational connections and a deeper understanding of Akwesasne's natural environment.

TICC provides immersive cultural programming that engages youth, elders, educators, and community members in meaningful experiences that center traditional teachings, language preservation, and traditional ecological knowledge. The camp offers year-round learning opportunities, including school and family camps, seasonal agricultural teachings, and off-season workshops.

In 2023–2024, TICC focused on delivering high-quality programming that aligned with multiple branches of the MCA Strategic Plan — specifically supporting goals related to culture and language, health and well-being, social development, and economic development. Through strong partnerships, dedicated staff, and the guidance of community knowledge keepers, the camp continues to reinforce cultural identity, empower learning, and contribute to community wellness and sustainability.

Strategic Alignment with MCA Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

#### **Culture & Language**

Language and Culture Preservation

#### SEASONAL CAMP PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH, ELDERS, AND VISITORS

TICC successfully coordinated a full season of cultural immersion camps, with participation from local schools (UCDSB, CCVS, Holy Trinity, and Queens University), youth organizations, and community members. These camps included:

- Garden teachings, medicine walks, and basket-making workshops.
- Nightline and traditional fishing technique demonstrations.
- Presentations from Akwesasne cultural experts. Schedules were coordinated in partnership with schools and cultural presenters, ensuring efficient invoicing, transportation, and delivery of sessions.

#### **FUNDING DEVELOPMENT**

Staff identified and submitted applications to various culture, education, and tourism funding sources. The intent was to support operational costs and expand the scope of programming to reach more youth and vulnerable community members.

#### **PRESENTATION COORDINATION & DELIVERY**

In addition to managing logistical aspects of presentations (scheduling, payments, transport), TICC staff also delivered numerous cultural education sessions themselves. Topics included Onkwehón:we fishing practices, environmental stewardship, net making, and food harvesting protocols.

#### Facilitation of Camps on Thompson Island

#### **CAMP PREPARATION & MAINTENANCE**

The camp's opening phase included repairs to infrastructure, cleaning of cabins, lawn and trail maintenance, and inspection readiness. Vessel preparation and safety checks were carried out on all pontoons and workboats. Bathrooms and propane systems were operational throughout the season.

#### **MEAL PLANNING & FOOD SERVICES**

Meal plans were created for each camp, with food purchased and prepared on-site by staff and volunteers. Dietary needs of visitors were accommodated, and food services reflected both traditional and modern meal offerings.



#### **GROUNDS AND SEASONAL CLOSURE**

Post-camp maintenance included deep cleaning of cabins, waste disposal, storage of vessels and supplies, and documenting infrastructure needs for 2024. A significant infrastructure note included the planned relocation and foundation repair of the snipe cabin due to rotting from wet ground.

#### TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE WITH YOUTH

Youth were engaged in the planting, care, and harvesting of traditional gardens. Crops were cultivated and preserved for the preparation of Elder care packages distributed in partnership with community organizations.



# Off-Season Cultural Workshops

#### WINTER AND SPRING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the off-season, TICC hosted land-based knowledge workshops including:

- Net-making sessions
- Ice fishing and boat-building demos
- Cultural activities aligned with Winter Carnival events

#### SCHOOL OUTREACH

Presentations were also held at Akwesasne Freedom School, Cornwall Collegiate & Vocational School (CCVS), and schools under the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, further extending TICC's impact beyond the island.

#### PREPARATION FOR NEXT SEASON

Coordination with recurring partners (Catholic School Board, Akwesasne Freedom School, Actua) began in late fall to secure bookings and develop a draft camp schedule for the 2024 season.







Catholic District School Board of

Akwesasne Freed

Actua

#### Health & Well-Being

Staff Training & Safety

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY TRAINING**

All TICC staff were enrolled in or maintained valid certifications in First Aid, CPR, Boat Safety, and Emergency Preparedness. Staff readiness was a critical component for the safety of all visitors, particularly during multi-day youth and family camps.

#### **CULTURAL AND TOURISM TRAINING**

TICC invested in internal training sessions with elders and cultural knowledge holders, ensuring staff could accurately and respectfully teach Haudenosaunee traditions. Tourism-specific training also occurred, aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and building future revenue streams.

#### Safety Equipment & Operations

# PROCUREMENT OF SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES

Throughout the season, the team coordinated purchase and delivery of:

- Propane, fuel, and water
- Raw lumber for benches and cabin repairs
- Safety supplies including hazardous materials equipment and first aid kits



#### **Social Development**

Accessibility and Special Needs Inclusion

#### **HOSTING INCLUSIVE RETREATS**

Specialized camps are created based on client needs, with a focus on youth development.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Staff began identifying funding and support for infrastructure upgrades to improve accessibility, safety, and inclusion—laying the foundation for an even more accessible 2024 camp season.

#### **Economic Development**

Partnership Development

#### **SUSTAINING AND EXPANDING RELATIONSHIPS**

TICC maintained monthly and quarterly engagement with core partners, including ACESS, SRMT, ACFS, Traditional Medicines, and local schools. New collaborations were explored with additional stakeholders to leverage funding and share.



#### A'NOWARA'KO:WA ARENA

The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, constructed in 1995, is a multi-functional recreation facility designed to serve the Akwesasne community year-round. With a capacity of 1,200 seated and 300 standing, the Arena hosts ice sports from October to March and floor-based activities from April through August. In alignment with its mission, the Arena offers programming that inspires, educates, and promotes community health, wellness, and economic growth.

Strategic Alignment with MCA Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

#### Arena Operations & Local Economic Impact

#### **CONCESSION RFP & OPERATIONS**

A Request for Proposals (RFP) process was completed for the arena concession. The selected vendor now manages operations, enhancing visitor experience and supporting economic self-sufficiency.

#### **BUY LOCAL INITIATIVE**

As part of the MCA's "Buy Local" campaign, the Arena prioritized the use of community vendors and local contractors for events, catering, services, and materials. These efforts fostered economic sustainability and deeper ties with local entrepreneurs.



#### **PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Partnerships were maintained and expanded, including collaboration with DCSS, Own the Ice, local hockey and lacrosse teams, and regional schools, supporting long-term economic and recreational benefits for Akwesasne.

#### **Cultural Recognition & Heritage Preservation**

# DIGITIZING THE AKWESASNE HALL OF FAME AND WALL OF RECOGNITION

The Arena, in partnership with the Akwesasne Hall of Fame Committee, began converting inductee profiles into a digital format for permanent display. Media equipment for the Athletic Wall of Recognition is also being updated to showcase honorees more dynamically.

#### **PROMOTION OF CULTURAL EVENTS AND LEGACY**

Events held in the Arena or coordinated through partner organizations contributed to the cultural vibrancy of the community, aligning recreation with identity, language, and heritage.



#### Accessibility & Emergency Response

#### **ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS**

Assessments were conducted to identify areas for improvement related to elder use, wheelchair access, and inclusive programming. Recommendations included upgrades to entryways, elevators, and facility circulation.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY USE**

The Arena continued to operate as a public safety hub, with availability for vaccination clinics, emergency supplies, and coordination of health and wellness events in collaboration with MCA's Community Health Program and Akwesasne Family Wellness Program.

#### **ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PLANNING**

Discussions began to include mobility-friendly recreational tools such as adaptive skateboards or elder mobility devices, aiming to expand safe participation in arena programs.

#### **Recreational Programming & Inclusion**

#### **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING**

The Arena provided year-round programming for youth, adults, and elders. Clients included:

- Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse, Jr. B Thunder, Snake Island Muskies, Redmen, and Cornwall Minor Lacrosse
- Akwesasne Wolves Minor Hockey, Cornwall Typhoons, Own the Ice, Men's Senior Hockey
- Rock & Skate events sponsored by ACFS

#### **SKATEPARK PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The A'nowara'ko:wa Arena continued to serve as a hub for youth programming and cultural connection through the community's skatepark. In 2023–2024, the Economic Development Department supported and facilitated multiple events that elevated skateboarding as a tool for empowerment, inclusion, and cultural expression.

#### **KEY EVENTS INCLUDED:**

- » Community Day in partnership with La Vie Skateboards
- » Girls Skate Camp hosted with Tihanna and Jagui
- » Girls Skate Day with Aunty Skates and Girls Skate 613
- A collaborative Indigenous
  Peoples Day & Go Skate Day
  celebration featuring professional
  skateboarder
  Annie Guglia
- The second year of the Skateboard Art Project, blending Onkwehón:we art and skate culture across Indigenous communities
- Production of the short promotional film "Come Skate with Us", showcasing local engagement and the skatepark's role in youth development

















#### Recreational Programming & Inclusion Con't.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MARKETING**

Social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) were used to promote activities and seek community input on potential new programs, including fashion shows, Indigenous skateboarding competitions, and partnerships with professional teams.

#### PROGRAM INTEGRATION & SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUSION

The Arena worked closely with Tsiionkwanonhso:te and DCSS to explore how existing recreation programs could include elder services, special needs programming, and adult fitness activities.

#### **INTERGENERATIONAL FACILITY USE**

Walking path use, seasonal events, and flexible space rentals promoted consistent engagement across all age groups.

#### **Modernization & Facility Improvement**

#### **GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS**

Major enhancements included:

- New paved walking path
- Artificial turf installation
- Playground and splashpad (completion expected summer 2024)
- Outdoor bathrooms and concession area planning
- Proposed new programming including paintball, cornhole, and soccer

#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLANNING**

Staff initiated research on energy-efficient upgrades and cost reduction strategies for aging HVAC and electrical systems. Engineering assessments were considered to determine feasibility of major modernizations versus facility replacement.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF AGING FACILITY**

Arena staff completed regular maintenance on a 29-year-old facility, including upgrades to lighting, cleaning systems, and monitoring of critical infrastructure to ensure continued public safety and usability.

#### **Community-Guided Oversight**

#### **IMPROVED CLIENT SERVICES**

The Arena administration implemented staggered shifts (8 am-4 pm and 1 pm-9 pm) to better serve visitors and accommodate program needs, improving responsiveness and coverage during both low and peak usage periods.

















# **Executive Services**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To ensure core services are provided to all departments and programs for the continuity of operations through responsible and ethical management of community resources.

#### **VISION STATEMENT:**

We strive to honor our traditional values of language, culture, safety for all, protection and respect of our environment and each other.

#### **EXECUTIVE SERVICES PROGRAMS:**

- ) Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO)
- » Entewatathá:wi (Nation Building)
- )) Mohawk Government
- Office of Vital Statistics (OVS)

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 - MCA DONATIONS REPORT**

	1 <sup>ST</sup> QUARTER	2 <sup>ND</sup> QUARTER	3 <sup>RD</sup> QUARTER	4 <sup>TH</sup> QUARTER	GRAND TOTAL
APPLICATIONS	49	53	59	45	206
APPROVED	39	47	53	38	177
DENIED	10	6	6	7	29
INDIVIDUALS	35	32	45	34	146
GROUPS	6	3	1	2	12
DEATHS	8	18	13	9	48
REQUESTED	\$36,150	\$34,033	\$35,970	\$43,270	\$149,423
ALLOCATED	\$21,750	\$24,850	\$25,550	\$18,400	\$90,550
BUDGETED	\$28,750	\$28,750	\$28,750	\$28,750	\$115,000
VARIANCE	\$7,000	\$3,900	\$3,200	\$10,350	\$24,450

#### NOTES:

- Council passed MCR 2023/24 #038 on May 1, 2023 to increase the donation budget from \$85,000 to \$115,000 and to make the increased allocation for costs related to the death of a family member (from \$500 to \$1,000) a permanent change rather than just temporary throughout the Pandemic.
- The annual budget was \$115,000, which breaks down to \$28,750 per quarter and \$9,583 per month.
- For 2024/25, the MCA Donation Budget was increased to \$200,000. This breaks down to \$50,000 per quarter and \$16,666 per month.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) is dedicated to advancing the full recognition of the Inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty Rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Our mission is to influence political, legal, social, and economic environments to reflect and respect these rights.

ARRO initiates activities and projects to promote awareness and understanding of our Inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty rights within the Akwesasne community and the broader public. We are committed to settling land claims for the Mohawks of Akwesasne expeditiously, ensuring that settlements are favorable, commensurate, and acceptable to the community. Our efforts are focused on educating and informing the community to support this goal.



Akwesasne Cultural Awareness Training with CBSA officers



Droulers/Tsiionhiakwatha Archaeological Site Interpretation Center

#### **AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE**

#### **Program Accomplishments**

#### **ARRO Name Change**

During the 2023/24 fiscal year, ARRO went through a name change from the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office to Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (MCR#2023/2024 #251).

#### Successful CBSA Akwesasne Cultural Awareness Training

One of the significant accomplishments this fiscal year was the successful implementation of cultural awareness training for new Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers. This training is crucial for fostering understanding and respect for the Mohawks of Akwesasne among external agencies working within and around the community.

#### **Cultural Awareness Training**

ARRO has continued to provide cultural awareness training to various external agencies.

Key highlights include:

**COMMUNITY TOURS AND IN-PERSON SESSIONS:** CBSA personnel participated in two community tours jointly developed by ARRO and CBSA. These tours, along with two in-person training sessions, have significantly improved the cultural competence of 47 CBSA officers from the Cornwall and Dundee point of entries.

**ONGOING TRAINING REQUESTS:** ARRO has fulfilled numerous requests for cultural awareness training from various agencies including Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, Parks Canada, McGill University, and Droulers/Tsiionhiakwatha Interpretation Center, demonstrating our commitment to promoting understanding and respect for the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

#### Development of Online Course on the History of Akwesasne

In line with our mission to educate and inform, ARRO is developing an online course on the history of Akwesasne. This course will serve as a prerequisite for CBSA agents before they attend in-class sessions. The online course will also be available within the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) organization and to any external entities interested in learning more about the history of Akwesasne or needing sensitivity training.

Expected completion date of January 2025.

#### Archaeology/Cultural Properties

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office is mandated under Mohawk Council Resolutions 2001/2002 #264 and 2015/2016 #177 to ensure the protection and preservation of cultural properties within the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. In fulfilling this mandate, ARRO engages in several key activities:

**COORDINATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS:** ARRO coordinates archaeological assessments for various MCA departments and programs. This includes identifying areas with elevated potential for cultural properties and ensuring thorough assessments are conducted. ARRO completed three archaeological site assessments in Akwesasne, including registering Akwesasne's first underwater archaeological site.

**CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS:** In collaboration with the MCA Environment Program, ARRO consults with external organizations on projects within the traditional territory of Akwesasne. This consultation process is crucial for identifying and protecting cultural properties, ensuring that they are preserved for future generations. ARRO conducted eight off-reserve archaeological site assessments for various outside agencies, including: Parks Canada, McGill University, and Droulers/Tsiionhiakwatha Interpretation Center.



**ARRO Staff Members** 

#### Additions to Reserve (ATR) Process

The Additions to Reserve (ATR) process is a formal, administrative procedure between a First Nation and Canada that facilitates the addition of lands to Reserve status. This process involves several key steps, including surveying, title searches, and environmental and archaeological assessments.

Key ATR activities and updates for the 2023/2024 fiscal year include:

**OPG ISLANDS:** The islands of Presquille, Toussaint, Sheek, and Adams are estimated to have their ATR process completed by January 2025. These islands were included in the 2008 settlement with Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

• Environmental Site Assessment Stale dates in June 2024, working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to extend.

CAIRN ISLAND: Designated as a national historic site in 1921 and expropriated in 1922 by Canada without consultation with Akwesasne, Cairn Island is currently held by Parks Canada.

• We are presently awaiting a ministerial order for the official return of the island to Akwesasne.

DUNDEE LANDS: The Baikie Keddy, Bidfell, and McDonald Sisters properties have just begun the ATR process.

Surveys have been completed, and we are awaiting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to begin environmental site assessments.

ADDITIONS TO RESERVE (ATR) PROCESS COMMUNITY **DISCUSSION:** The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was granted funding to consult with the community on the ATR process. This initiative aims to address how the ATR process should be changed and why these changes are necessary.

• Final report to be completed by July 2024.

#### **Research Projects**

ARRO has several research projects that are potential Land and Loss of Use claims. In the past, these projects were funded in part by a department of Indigenous Services Canada, though funding has been reduced significantly.

NUTFIELD TRACT SURVEY CLAIM: This claim is specific to the expenses borne by the Chiefs at Akwesasne in 1807 to correct the original and erroneous 1784 survey completed by British



**Nutfield Tract** 

officials. This claim was submitted and accepted for review by Canada, ARRO awaits the three-year review period of the claim to determine if we enter negotiations with Canada.

- Canada has done their own review of the claim and has sent their evidence.
- Currently awaiting correspondence on next steps and decisions from ISC and legal.

NORTH SHORE CLAIM: This claim is based on the loss of Akwesasne traditional lands on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River during the period immediately following the Revolutionary War (1783) through pressure from British officials. The claim was not accepted for negotiation due to lack of documentary evidence in 2015.

More research is being conducted with assistance from Gowlings WLG and Research Consultant Joan Holmes to search for additional evidence for the re-submission of the claim under the Specific Claims Act.

CAIRN ISLAND: This claim is being prepared for submission to the Specific Claims Tribunal with Council approval.

• Additional research is required.

#### Community Education

ARRO staff are tasked with presenting historical and contemporary material to the community effectively, reaching all demographics that make up Akwesasne. To achieve this, various forms of media are used to inform community members about meetings, updates on claims and negotiations, history, archaeology, and culture.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS: ARRO provides sessions on the History of Akwesasne to staff upon request and to ACCESS college-bound students through the career services program. One Session was held at Iohahiio in July 2023.

ONKWE'TÀ:KE SUBMISSIONS: In January 2024 ARRO began monthly submissions to the MCA Onkwetake Newsletter on random historical events/ or current events that affect or have affected the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Three submissions were published for fiscal year 2023/2024.

BI-WEEKLY/MONTHLY SOCIAL MEDIA: Random Historical facts or information have been shared with the community.

The goal is to instill trust in the ARRO department by the community.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To support the Grand Chief and Council by applying best practices to assist with their daily responsibilities and to ensure effective communication with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Akwesasne community, MCA Departments, Akwesasne Leadership, other First Nations territories, and external governments.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

"Efficient. effective coordination. collaboration, and responsiveness for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the community."



MCA hosted festive Community Holiday Dinners in all three districts.



MCA Grand Chief and District Chiefs of the 2021-2024 term.

#### **MOHAWK GOVERNMENT**

Mohawk Government plays a pivotal role in supporting the daily operations of Council by providing essential administrative and operational services across various functions. The team is staffed by an Administrative Assistant, an OPG/Quebec Liaison Officer, two Executive Assistants to Council, an Executive Assistant to the Grand Chief, and a Government Support Manager.

Core responsibilities include organizing and coordinating meetings, managing schedules, and preparing key documents to ensure smooth and efficient workflows. As a central communication link between Council and the community, the program ensures that community concerns are directed to the appropriate channels and that timely follow-up occurs. Mohawk Government also facilitates engagement with external entities, including government ministries and partner organizations, to advocate for the needs of Akwesasne and support ongoing initiatives. Through continuous refinement of administrative processes and improved service delivery, the program remains focused on aligning operations with strategic goals and effectively meeting the needs of the community.

Progress continues in streamlining administrative tasks and strengthening external relations. Ongoing efforts to enhance communication channels are aimed at fostering more meaningful community engagement and ensuring administrative support is both effective and impactful. By addressing challenges and committing to continuous improvement, the program remains focused on better serving the community.

Looking ahead, Mohawk Government is focused on strengthening coordination between Council and its many stakeholders - including the Akwesasne community, MCA Departments and Administration, Akwesasne Leadership, other First Nations territories, and external governments. Mohawk Government is also working to expand support services to meet emerging needs and to invest in staff development to enhance overall effectiveness. Through these efforts, the aim is to provide strong administrative support to the Mohawk Council and better serve the community while adapting to the evolving demands of our work.

#### **Statistical Information for Mohawk Government:**



MCA conducted 6 General Meetings and 1 Special **General Meeting** during the 23/24 Fiscal Year.

There were no meetings in October, December/January, or March, indicating either a focus on specific issues during those months or a scheduled break. These meetings served as key forums for discussing and making decisions on political issues affecting the community.



**District Meetings** District Meetings

KAWEHNO:KE



District Meetings



Meetings held during Fiscal Year 2023/24

MOHAWK COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS (MCRs)

# FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

- 18 Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education
- 18 Dept. of Community & Social Services
- 12 Dept. of Economic Development
- **186** Executive Services
- 85 Dept. of Finance & Administration
- 82 Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment
- 29 Dept. of Justice
- 9 Dept. of Public Safety

**473 RESOLUTIONS CARRIED** 



#### **NATION BUILDING**

**MISSION STATEMENT** 

of Akwesasne.

Agreement.

**VISION STATEMENT** 

To negotiate a self-government agreement

with Canada that recognizes expanded

jurisdiction and authority; and protect the

Aboriginal rights and title for the Mohawks

To implement the inherent right of

self-government of the Mohawks of

Akwesasne through the Akwesasne

Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government

(Entewatathá:wi "We Will Govern")

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), Entewatathá:wi, also known as the Nation Building Program, is responsible to facilitate the Akwesasne-Canada negotiations, participate and support the Council, and act as community advisors in the negotiations of the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA). Nation Building's work plan reflects the parties' agreement to the activities pursued during this fiscal year in furtherance of the objectives set out in the Akwesasne-Canada Governance and Relationship Agreement-in-Principle.

This report provides a summary of the activities for the MCA's Entewatathá:wi project from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

#### **Main Table Negotiations**

The MCA and the Government of Canada (Canada) are currently negotiating the specific areas in which the Mohawks of Akwesasne will exercise governance, jurisdiction, and authority. The negotiation team has made significant progress on several topics, including International Border Matters, Review of Agreement, Akwesasne Lands and Lands Management, Application of the *Indian Act*, and *Early Childhood Education and Child Care*. These are a few of the subject areas.

Each negotiation session included updates from both Akwesasne and Canada representatives on topics related to the agenda. This fiscal year, Akwesasne and Canada held seven main table negotiation meetings to negotiate subject matters in the ESGA. The Akwesasne's team comprises representatives from Council, legal counsel, MCA departments representatives, community advisors, and Nation Building staff. Canada's team is represented by the Chief Federal Negotiator, Senior Negotiator, legal counsel, and other relevant department representatives.

As part of the negotiation process, Akwesasne holds preparation meetings. This fiscal year, thirteen were held. These meetings occur before each main table negotiation session to discuss the topics on the agenda. The Portfolio Chiefs, legal counsel, MCA department representatives, community advisors, and Nation Building staff all contribute to these discussions. This preparation is crucial for effective negotiations.

#### Legal Technical Review

The Legal Technical Review is an on-going technical sub-table that reviews the technical accuracy, language editing, and completeness of the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement. The Main Table will refer non-substantive subject matters to be reviewed and discussed at this sub-table and taken back to the Main Table for final review. This sub-table includes Entewatathá:wi staff, MCA technicians, and legal counsel. Canada's team includes legal counsel and federal negotiator. The reviewing of the ESGA has been a beneficial and productive process. Any substantive editing is brought back to main table for further discussion, clarification, direction, or decision.

#### Implementation Working Group

The Implementation Working Group is an on-going sub-table responsible for drafting the Implementation Plan and Activity Sheets related to the completed chapters of the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement. This involves detailing the implementation activities, defining the responsibilities of each party, and establishing timeframes for completing these activities. Any issues that require clarification are referred to the Main Table or the Legal Technical Review for further clarification or redrafting. The Implementation Working Group completed five activity sheets.

#### **Fiscal Working Group**

The Fiscal Working Group is a new sub-table that works on drafting the ESGA Fiscal Relations chapter and the Fiscal Relationship Agreement. The Fiscal chapter will set out the financial relationship and fiscal arrangements between Akwesasne and Canada. The Fiscal Relationship Agreement will address the funding of the Mohawk governance and administration to carry out the exercise of jurisdiction and administrative authority described in ESGA.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GOVERNANCE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.

#### **Nation Building Initiatives:**

#### Akwesasne Land Code

The progress on this table has been on hold due to the vacancy in the position responsible for managing this initiative. We anticipate filling the position in July, after which drafting will resume for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Akwesasronon Onkwenwhentsia'shon:a (Land Code) is currently fifty percent complete. The draft law sets out the principles, basic rules, and administrative structures for Akwesasne lands. The Land Code will address sections 18-41 of the *Indian Act*; these sections will no longer apply to the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

The Akwesasne Land Code, along with the ESGA must be finalized to ensure continuity of critical government functions.

#### Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group provides advice relating to the development of the ESGA rolling draft, other legal instruments as required, and guidance in the development of the communication plan and other publications distributed to the Mohawks of Akwesasne. The members participate in the Main Table Negotiations and Negotiations Preparation to ensure they are current with all subject matters.



Nation Building shared updates with the community through various publications and multimedia platforms, including community newsletters, Onkwe'ta:ke newsletter, open houses, the MCA website, and Entewatathá:wi - Nation Building Facebook page. The goal was to educate and engage community members, ensuring they are well-informed about the processes and developments related to self-government.

Nation Building established a publication titled "Entewatathá:wi News & Updates" to keep all Council members informed about the progress of the ESGA.

#### **COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS**

The Spring 2023 newsletter titled "Entewatathá:wi Process" published provides an overview on the Entewatathá:wi process, outline's the Entewatathá:wi project goal, highlighted a meeting with Minister Marc Miller, bid a farewell to legal counsel Micha Menczer, and welcomed Nathan Richards as our new legal counsel.

The Winter 2023 newsletter titled "Overview of the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement" covered the creation of the Nation Building project, the purpose of the ESGA, the development of laws, the relationship between the Indian Act and ESGA, how it relates to the delivery of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne programs and services, and the ESGA guiding principles.

An Informational Pamphlet was provided to the Nation Building Portfolio Chiefs, outlining the steps taken toward self government, the concept of inherent rights, background on the Indian Act and ESGA chapters, the key aspects of the ESGA, and answers to frequently asked questions.



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#### **OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS**

Our role within Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is to ensure the integrity of Vital Statistics in the areas of Membership, Indian Registration, Lands, Estates and Leasing.

#### **Program Highlights**

**MISSION STATEMENT** 

Advancement through change.

The Office of Vital Statistics contains five (5) components:



The staff in OVS are responsible for obtaining, recording, reporting and retaining correct information about the land and people under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Personnel maintain integrity of services by ensuring that all transactions are performed in accordance with any applicable MCA Policies and Procedures, MCA Laws and the Indian Act. OVS also provides administrative assistance to the Akwesasne Membership Board and assists with the issuance of SIBC bridge passes.

#### Accomplishments

#### Staffing

During Fiscal Year 2023/2024, OVS began to fill the three positions that were added to the organizational chart in FY 2022/23. The additional positions consist of a second Membership Officer, a second Lands and Estates Officer, and an Executive Assistant. Two positions, consisting of the Lands and Estates Officer and the Executive Assistant positions were filled. Postings for the Membership Officer have not yet produced a successful applicant as of the end of this fiscal year.

#### **Certified Document Integrity Officer Certification**

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) began offering Certified Document Integrity Officer (CDIO) training to train Indian Registry Administrators (IRA's) to authenticate and certify birth documents. Obtaining this certification would allow OVS staff to make certified true copies of identity documents needed for the purpose of Indian Registration. Obtaining the CDIO training would ensure that original birth certificates would no longer have to be sent to ISC as a support document for an application for registration and remain in their possession for 4-6 weeks before being returned. In July 2023, two OVS staff members received their CDIO certification. The remaining two staff will attend training at a later date. This is yet another way of a delegation of duties from ISC to front line staff.

#### Professional Lands Managers Certification Program (PLMCP)

For the past two years, two OVS staff members have attended this training offered by the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA) to become certified Lands Managers. Both staff members have successfully completed this training as of June 2023. There are now a total of three certified Lands Managers within the Office of Vital Statistics.

#### Accomplishments Con't.

#### **Land Surveys**

This year, the Office of Vital Statistics was able to identify funds to begin conducting outstanding land surveys. This year's project included 19 different areas in Akwesasne being surveyed by three different land surveyors which resulted in a total of **45 new lots created**. The overall cost for these surveys was \$124,500.

#### Secure Certificate of Indian Status Intake Sessions

In June 2023, OVS held Secure Certificate of Indian Status MRZ Intake Sessions at Iohahi:io. A total of **283 MRZ applications** were taken over the two days. Another session was tentatively scheduled for November 2023, but it did not happen because of a shortage of ISC staff. ISC requested that we do not schedule any other intake sessions until the spring of 2024.

#### **Updates**

#### Membership

The Akwesasne Membership review was completed in August 2018. The finalized report contained recommendations on several topics, which include addressing items such as automation of processing applications, defining the role of the Membership Clerk, and suggested revisions to various administrative procedures. The Membership review committee began meeting once a month to review and develop amendments in regard to the recommended changes determined by the review. During this fiscal year, the membership review continued. All recommendations are expected to be approved and implemented within the next fiscal year.

#### **Land Surveys**

Every year, the Office of Vital Statistics submits a list of priority surveys to ISC for completion. During fiscal year 2023/2024, a total of \$25,000 was given towards surveys. A total of 9 areas, consisting of Block 1 Lands, were surveyed which resulted in a total of **23 lots created**. The priority survey list was updated and sent to ISC in February 2023, and consisted of 301 lots requiring a survey.

#### Workshops

During February and March 2024, the Estates Facilitator conducted three Will Workshops and three Estates Workshops. The workshops were held in all three districts and were well attended. These workshops are ongoing.

#### Challenges

#### **Overall Service Delivery**

Many tasks that OVS staff perform daily, rely on ISC for registration of the documents in the areas of lands, estates, leasing, and Indian Registration. The challenges that OVS staff encountered this year is due to ISC policy changes and the high turnover rate and/or shortages of ISC staff. Positions have been filled but that has resulted in inexperienced personnel. OVS staff

are having difficulties obtaining answers to issues when turning to ISC staff. These issues have been reflected in longer lengths of time in registrations performed by ISC. The areas that reflect the largest wait time for registration are Indian Registration and Estates. OVS staff continues to provide effective and efficient service in their responsibilities.

#### Staffing

Two positions, the Estates Facilitator and the Leasing Officer position, became vacant for a period of time which resulted in delays in regular service in those areas. This provided some challenges for OVS staff until the positions were filled.

#### Block 1 Lands

This fiscal year there have been challenges in having community members returning their disclaimers in order to complete the allotment process for land. The Lands Officer position was also vacant for a period of time as well, which delayed follow-up on these files. This fiscal year, a total of five (5) allotments were completed. Out of 108 lots being returned, there have been a total of 12 allotments completed to date. With further follow-up, there are now **27 additional lots** in the process of being returned.

#### Akwesasne Membership

There is currently a backlog of 139 Membership applications. The Membership Board holds monthly meetings to process applications for Membership and Residency Permits. During this fiscal year, meetings were not held for four months due to an election and then a by-election taking place. All board meetings have reverted to in-person meetings. However, hybrid meetings are scheduled for those not able to attend in person. Since January 2024, the Membership Board has been meeting twice monthly to try to decrease the backlog of applications.

#### Certificate of Indian Status (CIS)

OVS has continued to issue status cards by appointment only. With scheduling of appointments being a requirement, we do not normally run out of cards. However, in August and October 2023, ISC recalled all non-issued cards due to printing errors, which resulted in us not having cards.

#### **Individual Member Files**

There are ongoing issues in keeping individual member files up to date. OVS records are dependent upon items submitted to this office by community members.

OVS requires copies of the following documents:

- Birth Certificates
- Name Changes
- Marriages
- Divorces

• Deaths
All deaths must be reported by providing

a copy of a Funeral Director's statement of death, or a death certificate issued by the Province or State, regardless of residence and whether the member owned land or not.



#### **OVS Administrative Statistics**



BIRTHS REPORTED THIS YEAR









(as of December 31, 2023)

#### LANDS

110

NEW CERTIFICATES OF POSSESSION ISSUED

30

LAND TRANSFERS PROCESSED

153

LAND CONFIRMATIONS WERE PROVIDED TO MCA DEPARTMENTS



#### **ESTATES**

19

ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS (Estates)

THIS YEAR

34

**OPENED ESTATES** 

12

**CLOSED ESTATES** 



#### **SURVEYS**

5

COMMUNITY MEMBER SURVEY PLANS COMPLETED

30

PRIORITY LIST SURVEYS, SURVEY PLANS COMPLETED

2

OTHER SURVEYS COMPLETED

#### **OVS Administrative Statistics Con't.**

#### LEASING REGISTRATIONS

- 27 ADDENDUMS TO LEASE
- 16 **LEASES**
- 17 ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE
- 16 AMENDMENTS TO LEASE
- 1 PERMITS
- 12 **OTHER**

#### OTHE

- 217 BRIDGE PASS APPLICATIONS PROCESSED
- 780 MEMBERSHIP AND STATUS CONFIRMATIONS PROVIDED TO MCA DEPARTMENTS
- **8 GOOD STANDING INQUIRIES WERE RECEIVED**

#### AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP BOARD STATISTICS

- 11 MEMBERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS HELD
- 62 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESSED
- 51 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP
- 4 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP
- 0 MEMBERSHIP APLICATIONS DENIED
- 1 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS CANCELLED DUE TO NO SHOW
- 14 RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS PROCESSED
- 7 RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS APPROVED
- 7 RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS RENEWED
- O RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS DENIED
- O RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS CANCELLED DUE TO NO SHOW





OVS issued **1,658** Status Cards during the 23/24 Fiscal Year.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE — Annual Report 2023/2024 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

# Department of Finance and Administration

#### DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND **ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS:**

- **Communications Unit**
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information Services

**MEET THE TEAM!** 

photos with Santa!

The Communications Unit assists with

the annual MCA Community Holiday

Dinners by providing families their

Our Communications team is now fully staffed, ensuring we can effectively support MCA with high-quality publications, engaging content, and professional communication efforts.

#### **CBSA Collaboration**

The Communications Unit continues to play an active role in MCA's **Border Collaboration Initiative** with CBSA, which has been ongoing since 2020. This initiative involves several working groups addressing specific CBSA-related issues.

The Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle focuses on daily challenges and improvements, while fostering stronger relationships between CBSA and MCA through tours, projects, and

strategic planning. The Communications Manager coordinates this initiative, ensuring vital information flows efficiently to the community.

The Communications Unit continues to publish a monthly newsletter, which is mailed to all households within MCA's jurisdiction. This serves as an effective way to stay informed, even when life gets busy. For those outside the jurisdiction, the newsletter is available

This newsletter remains a critical communication tool, particularly for elders and

#### **COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

The Communications Unit is committed to supporting the flow of information from MCA to the community while providing channels for incoming questions and feedback from community members. Additionally, we facilitate internal communication among staff and departments.

Our Communication Flow of Outgoing Information graphic illustrates the system developed over the past decade to ensure effective information dissemination to the community.

#### **OUTGOING FLOW OF INFORMATION SYSTEM Communications Staff**

#### Newsletter

online at www.akwesasne.ca/newsletter.

community members who prefer not to use social media.

#### Social Media Report

Our highest reaching social media posts for the 2023-2024

#### **APRIL 2023**

Kana:takon School has Plenty of Lasagna, Pizza and Sandwiches Free for Anyone Without Power

#### **MAY 2023**

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Cultural Celebration Grand Entry (Video)

#### **JUNE 2023**

MCA Congratulates Carey Terrance Jr. on the NHL Draft!

#### **JULY 2023**

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Identify Body Found in St. Lawrence River

#### **AUGUST 2023**

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Dunk Tank Challenge

#### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Brave Bero

#### **OCTOBER 2023**

Witches Walk at Black Pond (Video)

#### **NOVEMBER 2023**

Akwesasne Medical Clinic Welcomes New Part-Time **Family Physician** 

#### **DECEMBER 2023**

Celebrating the Season Together: Holiday Cheer Continues on Kawehno:ke

#### **JANUARY 2024**

Akwesasne: Land Where the Partridge Drums (Video)

#### FEBRUARY 2024

Akwesasne Community Attends Special Screening for Episode 1 of Avatar: The Last Airbender

#### **MARCH 2024**

Survival Skills Camp (Video)





#### Social Media

Community polls continue to show that social media — particularly Facebook—remains the most popular source of information. We continue to explore innovative ways to utilize social media to share news and updates from MCA, recognizing this as a rapidly evolving area of communication.

#### Website & E-newsletter

For those who do not use social media or receive mailers, MCA's website (www.akwesasne.ca) provides an up-to-date source for important announcements and releases.

Additionally, we offer a weekly e-newsletter, summarizing key announcements from the week and delivered directly to your



Sign up at www.akwesasne.ca/signup

#### Akwesasronon Accomplishments & Highlights

In June 2023, the Communications team released a special edition of Onkwe'ta:ke, celebrating the remarkable achievements of Akwesasró:non. This edition highlighted the incredible



contributions and accomplishments of community members who continue to make Akwesasne a vibrant and inspiring

Nia:wen to all Akwesasronon for your dedication and efforts in strengthening our community!

#### **Electronic Billboard**

To enhance our communication efforts, we've expanded the use of electronic billboards across our community. A new electronic billboard has been installed in Kana:takon, in front of the Angus Mitchell Building, providing timely updates and

important announcements. This billboard is managed and updated by the Communications team to ensure accurate and up-to-date information is shared with the community.

In addition to the Kana:takon billboard. we continue to utilize the billboards near Raquette Point for most services. More recently, we've begun using the Hogansburg billboard to highlight major events and General Meetings, ensuring information reaches as many community members as possible through multiple outlets.













#### **MCA TEXT ALERTS**

Stay informed by signing up for MCA mobile text alerts! Receive timely announcements about emergencies, delays, and closures directly to your cell phone.

To register your number, visit www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts and sign up today. Stay connected and up-to-date!



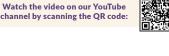
#### Akwesasne: Land Where the Partridge Drums



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne created a descriptive video providing an insightful overview of the Akwesasne community.

The video highlights Akwesasne's governance structure and the wide range of services offered by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, showcasing the community's strength, resilience, and beauty.

Visit the MCA YouTube channel to view all the videos that are consistently created by the Communications Unit.



#### **NHL Draft Celebration**

Akwesasne celebrated a proud moment as local community member Carey Terrance Jr. was drafted into the NHL! This incredible achievement brought immense pride to the community.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Communications team played a key role in coordinating the celebration, which included designing a commemorative t-shirt, creating a video and graphics, and assisting at the event. The team collaborated with CAA Management and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) to ensure the event was a success, showcasing the community's support for Carey's milestone.

#### **Contact Us**

If you have questions for MCA but are unsure whom to contact, email **info@akwesasne.ca**. Communications staff will promptly route your inquiry to the appropriate program or department.



#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **Highlights & Accomplishments**

Human Resources conducted two orientation sessions on July 6, 2023 and March 28, 2024. These sessions included health & safety awareness training, review of the General Personnel Policy (GPP), Social Media Policy, and Respect in the Workplace Policy.

On September 21, 2023, HR hosted a job fair at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. On-the-spot interviews were conducted for entry-level positions including Caretakers, Personal Support Workers, and Administrative Assistants.

Approval was received in December 2023 to undergo a salary review process for non-unionized members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The intent of the salary review was to align organization wage rates to market rates and assist with recruitment and retention of qualified employees. Meetings were held with the directors to help develop the new MCA departmental compensation policies. The implementation phase was scheduled for 2024/2025 fiscal year.

The Automated Data Processing (ADP) system upgrade project began in January 2024. This project was to help streamline internal processes and enhance efficiency. The go-live date was scheduled for May 2024.

#### **Problem Areas**

The MCA organization is dealing with issues such as employees on stress leave, conduct concerns, and unclear use of the chain of command. Internal policies are outdated, processes need streamlining, and there's some resistance to change among employees. Improving adherence to internal policies, boosting engagement, and enhancing overall satisfaction are also key areas to address.

#### Goals

The primary goals are to update and enhance internal policies, including the General Personnel Policy and the Respect in the Workplace Policy, ensuring they align with current standards and best practices. Efforts will focus on standardizing the orientation process to create a consistent and cohesive onboarding experience for new employees. Additionally, HR staff will receive training on updated policies, the Canada Labor Code, and mediation techniques to strengthen their expertise. Lastly, it's essential for HR staff to take moments to pause, reflect, and recognize the significant value they bring to the organization's success.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM CONSISTS OF:**

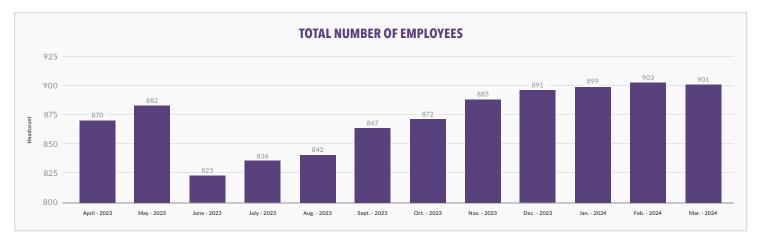
- » HR Co-Manager (2)
- » HR Generalist
- » HR Generalist/BenefitsAdministrator
- » Employee Advocate
- » Staffing Officer
- » Stailing Officer
- » HRIS Specialist (2)

Pavroll Officer (2)

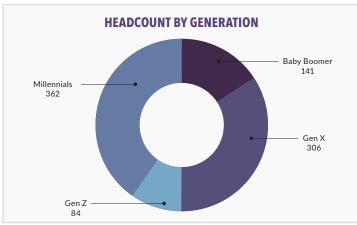
- » Health and Safety
- Officer
- » Administrative Assistant
- » Records Clerk
- » Receptionist

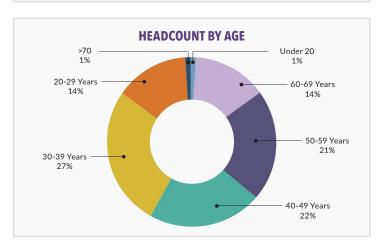
MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE — Annual Report 2023/2024

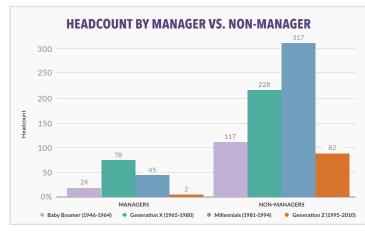
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



# AVERAGE TENURE 25 20 19 Years 16 Years 10 7 Years 1 Year 1 Year









#### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Advancement through change.

Information Services provides comprehensive hardware, software, and network support to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Key services include Helpdesk Assistance, Software Support, Network and Hardware Management, Microsoft 365 and Google Suite Administration, and Data Management. The department is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and upgrading over 1000 devices, including 900 computers, 25 local area networks with servers, and the copier fleet. It also manages a wide area network, a virtual private network, and approximately 680 phone extensions spanning one corporate and two small office phone systems, as well as 250 cellular phones. Additionally, Information Services oversees the development and maintenance of more than 75 organizational software systems and manages document classification and archival processes.



In 2023-24, the Information Services team continued to play a critical role in supporting the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne by providing robust technology solutions and infrastructure improvements. Key highlights include:

#### Network Infrastructure Upgrades

Upgraded network infrastructure with the deployment of advanced Cisco switches and access points, enhancing connectivity, security, and performance across all locations.

#### **Datacenter Enhancements**

Completed significant upgrades to datacenters in each district — Kana:takon, Kaweno:ke, and Tsi Snaihne — to ensure higher reliability, scalability, and improved data storage and processing capabilities.

#### Satellite Office Connectivity

Strengthened network connections to satellite offices, improving remote office integration, efficiency, and access to centralized systems and services.

#### **Enterprise Phone System Migration**

Initiated the transition to the Cisco Webex Enterprise Phone system. This multiphase project will modernize the Council's telecommunications, offering enhanced collaboration tools and improved call management capabilities.

#### **Budget Software Upgrade**

Successfully implemented an upgrade to the organization's budget software, streamlining financial planning, tracking, and reporting processes.

# Ongoing Device and System Management

Maintained, repaired, and **upgraded over 800 devices**, including 700 computers, 25 local area networks with servers, and the copier fleet.

Managed a wide area network, virtual private network, 680 phone extensions, and 250 cellular phones.

# Software Systems and Document Management

Oversaw the development and maintenance of over 75 organizational software systems.

Continued the classification and archival of essential documents, ensuring information integrity and accessibility.







These achievements demonstrate Information Services' commitment to providing reliable and innovative technology solutions, enabling the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to operate efficiently and effectively.



# Department of Health

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To foster healthy generations.

#### **VISION STATEMENT:**

To shape a healthier future through reciprocity with our community.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAMS:**

- » Accreditation
- Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits
- Community Health Program
- )) Jordan's Principle
- » Addiction Services
- » Land-Based Healing Program
- » Mental Health Services
- » Sahatihaha:rá:ne Detox Center
- ) Traditional Medicine Program
- ) Primary Care
- » Indigenous Patient Navigation
- » Diabetes Education Services
- ) Home & Community Care Program
- Community Support Services
- » lakhihsohtha Lodge
- Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility

#### **Sector One: Health Administration**

#### **ACCREDITATION**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) programs have been preparing for the on-site survey for the past four (4) years, while maintaining COVID-19 Pandemic standards. Employees were trained in areas of mental health, land-based healing, ethics, threat ready and workplace safety.

During the week of January 30 - February 2, 2023, Accreditation Canada surveyors visited Akwesasne to conduct an on-site survey. The surveyor team consisted of peer health professionals which included doctors, nurses, hospital administrators and other health or social experts that assessed our health and social services programs, ensuring that our patient safety and quality standards are met. Accreditation's focus is not to find wrongdoings; the focus is to be transparent and help find areas of need and show us focal points for quality improvement.



DOH is pleased to announce that on this years survey we **received a 95%** and continue to be Accredited through Accreditation Canada since 2004. This accreditation applies to all Health and Social programs and buildings. During the debriefing, the Accreditation Canada Survey Team highlighted:

- Patient/client and Community satisfaction, and being goal orientated.
- Best response to COVID-19 Pandemic throughout Canada.
- Land-based healing techniques.
- Communications and our Communications Unit for transparency.
- Overcoming barriers and jurisdictional issues.

#### **Accreditation Key Goals:**



To improve the health and well-being of the community.



Health indicators and data management.

3.

To achieve excellence in patient centered care and leadership.

#### **AKWESASNE NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS**

Management and staff of Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB) are pleased to share their accomplishments and reflections on continuing challenges to deliver quality services in a manner consistent with the Policies and Procedures of the Department of Health.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 – NON-INSURED CLAIMS**

DENTAL	
Dental Benefits Funding:	\$5,249,650
<b>Total Claims</b>	32,067
Total Claims Approved	29,810
Total Ortho Cases	1,859
<b>Total Exceptions Requested</b>	486
<b>Total Exceptions Approved</b>	380
Total Denials	1,597
Total Appeals	46
Total Appeals Approved	37

MEDICAL CO-PAYMENTS			
Co-Payment Funding:	\$372,800		
<b>Total Claims</b>	3,426		
<b>Total Claims Approved</b>	3,418		
<b>Total Exceptions Requested</b>	0		
Total Exceptions Approved	0		
Total Appeals	6		
Total Appeals Approved	5		

MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT			
Medical Supplies & Equipment Funding:	\$533,525		
Total Claims	2,389		
Total Claims Approved	2,346		
Total Exceptions Requested	554		
Total Exceptions Approved	520		
Total Appeals	19		
Total Appeals Approved	16		





As an essential service, our Medical Transportation Program provides service six (6) days a week. They are committed to ensuring community members reach their destinations on time in a safe, comfortable, and professional manner. The ANIHB is a team dedicated to providing our community with services year-round that foster confidentiality, compassion, respect and integrity.

MEDICAL TRANSPORT	ATION
Medical Transportation Funding:	\$1,693,461
Total Claims	2,960
Total Claims Approved	2,713
<b>Total Exceptions Requested</b>	110
<b>Total Exceptions Approved</b>	98
Total Denials	24
Total Appeals	1
Total Appeals Approved	1

PHARMACY				
Pharmacy Benefits Funding:	\$5,559,470			
Total Claims	196,879			
Total Claims Approved	174,161			
<b>Total Exceptions Requested</b>	456			
<b>Total Exceptions Approved</b>	456			
Total Appeals	56			
Total Appeals Approved	35			

VISION	
Vision Care Funding:	\$625,133
<b>Total Claims</b>	3,256
<b>Total Claims Approved</b>	3,216
<b>Total Exceptions Requested</b>	88
<b>Total Exceptions Approved</b>	57
Total Appeals	28
Total Appeals Approved	22



It is imperative that everyone maintain a valid OHIP/QHIP as any services covered by your provincial health card are not considered benefits of the ANIHB Program. It is expected that everyone maintains provincial coverage.

For a detailed listing of benefits, scan the following QR codes:













#### **Sector Two: Community Health Services**

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM**

The Community Health Program (CHP) provides services to the community for:

Services

Communicable Disease Diabetes Prevention & Education

Communicable Disease Diabetes Management

Maternal Child Health and Healthy Babies Healthy Children Programming

#### **Environmental Health**

**Emergencies** 

CHP provides numerous services to community members addressing overall personal and community health initiatives and issues. Services were maintained throughout the fiscal year.

Community Health offers many services and has provided for the immediate response to the global pandemic, while continuing to offer ongoing support for programs and community members. The testing site closed as the guidance changed to allow for rapid testing for various situations. The Green Food Bag initiative remains suspended this fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Health Program provides activities to reduce the incidence, spread, and human health effects of communicable diseases and infections, and to improve health through prevention and promotion activities. We provide advice, guidance, recommendations, and public education of health and safety for community members and to community organizations. We provide health promotion, prevention, and Diabetes Management Services. The Diabetes Prevention Services Team provides for health promotion activities through healthy eating and exercise programs. Our Maternal Child Health Services assist families to provide the best opportunities for healthy development for children and families through home visiting, service coordination and referrals to complementary services.

- 1. Existing programs and services be augmented to meet emerging health care trends
- 2. Strengthen and build on our network and partnerships to increase service delivery.
- Health promotion and prevention activities including advisement on public health measures.

The Community Health Program provides professional services which strive to meet the community's needs regarding their personal health. The CHP will collaborate to access services for clients to provide for health prevention, promotion, and education.

The Prevention Team facilitates workshops and activities to place an emphasis on the connection between youth and elders, encourage feelings of self-worth and self-esteem via a positive learning environment. The Prevention Supervisor, and three Prevention Specialists, worked to decrease stigma surrounding mental health, addiction, and problem gambling.

Elder Enrichment programming started in April 2022, providing services designed for our elder community members ages 55+. Sessions were held every Tuesday with a total of **58 events** and **610 elders participating**. The Too Good for Drugs Program curriculum was delivered to all AMBE school's grades 1-8 with **120 sessions facilitated**.

The Safe Zone initiative was renewed in September 2022, comprised of ten committee members. With 12 events, **145 participants**, 2 staff training sessions with 22 employee participants, the Prevention team created safe spaces, events, activities and educational opportunities to increase knowledge and end stigma for our 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members. The Student Enrichment After-School Program (CCVS) sessions are held every Wednesday at CCVS high school for grades 8-12. **35 sessions** were provided with **247 total students**.

#### **JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE**

Jordan's Principle ensures there is substantive equality for First Nations children. A Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order, Jordan's Principle ensures there are no gaps in public-funded health, social and educational programs, services, and support for Akwesasne children. Program services are offered to both on- and off-reserve Akwesasne children, under the age of 18, regardless of status. The service delivery program provides needed support(s) when needed in a timely fashion.

The community program launched in August of 2021 with an office located at the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility.

Our services begin with an intake meeting in which we discuss with our clients what they believe their biggest current need is. The intake process consists of a very organic discussion about daily living and familial needs. From these discussions we may be able to identify, and clarify, needs that the client may have, and what areas the program can aid. Each client is treated as an individual case whose needs may vary vastly from one Akwesasronon to another. Consent is requested for Jordan's Principle Akwesasne to act as a navigator for the client. With supporting letters from our navigators and/or social or health professionals, along with pricing quotes for the services and products, applications are submitted to Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) – Jordan's Principle. After submission, an approval, denial, pending (sent to national review) will be sent back. After an approval of an application, the work is far from over. We then procure actual goods and services, confirm receipts of goods and services, and submit to is reimbursements for Mohawk Council of Akwesasne or parents/caregivers.

We currently employ a Program Manager, three (3) Navigators, and an Administrative Assistant.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 (FY 2022-23), the Akwesasne Jordan's Principle office has submitted **110 applications** on behalf of Akwesasne families or First Nation children. Of the total application 82 of the children ordinary live on-reserve and 28 off-reserve. Jordan's Principle provided assistance totalling over **\$266,000**. Assistance included but was not limited to health, social, physical wellbeing, groceries, computer, and school uniform.

Jordan's Principle employees are very dedicated to ensuring every opportunity is explored for the overall benefit of each child. The staff of Jordan's Principle Akwesasne are positive that this delivery service will continue to grow and continue to identify and support Akwesasne and First Nations children, which will no doubt have a considerable, positive impact for the next seven generations and beyond. The program has had and will continue to have a significant impact for many Akwesasne families in need.







#### **Sector Three: Mental Health & Wellness**

The Wholistic Health and Wellness Program has been renamed Mental Health & Wellness Sector 3. This change reflects a growing trend in mental health care that focuses on wholistic wellness and integrated care.

Mental Health & Wellness Sector 3 provides a variety of services aimed at supporting mental health and addiction recovery:

#### **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES:**

- **Addiction Services**
- **Mental Health Services**
- Land-Based Healing

- Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center
- **Traditional Medicine**

This wholistic approach aims to promote emotional and spiritual well-being.

A/Associate Director Wennietanoron Oakes has expressed appreciation for the achievements made over the past year, highlighting the organization's commitment to improving mental health initiatives in the community.

The rebranding to Mental Health & Wellness Sector 3 and its diverse services demonstrate a commitment to fostering resilience and well-being in the community. By blending traditional knowledge with modern practices, the program seeks to provide effective support for those on their healing journey.

These services are designed to be culturally sensitive and combine traditional practices with modern therapies.

The program emphasizes:

- Cultural sensitivity
- Integration of traditional and modern methods
- Community support

2023-2024 Statistics:

Connection to nature through land-based healing

#### **ADDICTION SERVICES**

#### **Services:**

- Assessment
- Awareness
- Counseling
- Education
- Harm Reduction Information

#### **Programs:**

- 4-Week "Path to Wellness"
- 10-Week "Living Well"
- 12-Week "Maintaining Wellness"

#### **Team Members:**

Tara Garrow-Keysis, **Addiction Specialist** 

Mitchell Skidders.

Addiction Outpatient Supervisor

#### **Upcoming Positions:**

- Harm Reduction Specialist
- Aftercare Specialist **Outreach Workers**

55 unique clients.

210 client sessions.

#### LAND-BASED HEALING PROGRAM

#### Focus:

Reconnecting community with traditional culture and land.

#### **Activities:**

- Harvesting traditional foods
- Cultural practices
- Time with Elders and Knowledge Keepers



#### 2023-2024 Statistics:



508 client accessed the program.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

#### Highlights:

- Registered psychotherapists and social workers
- Access to licensed psychologist and psychiatrist
- Crisis debriefing for community and first responders
- Hybrid service delivery model
- Community outreach and antistigma campaigns

#### **Team Members:**

- Melissa Jacobs-Swamp, Program Manager (ON/QC Registered Social Worker)
- Kanietahawi Sharrow, Quebec Registered Psychotherapist

#### 2023-2024 Statistics:

- 543 Clients
- 2.785 Client Sessions

#### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:**

- » Individual Counseling
- **Debriefing Services**
- **Family Counseling**
- **Couples Therapy**

#### SAHATIHA'HARÁ: NE DETOX CENTER

#### Overview:

- Location: 44 James Lane, Cornwall Island, ON (Kawehno:ke)
- Capacity: 4-bed facility
- Opening Date: November 2023
- Funding: Ministry of Health (MOH) Pilot Project

#### **Team Members:**

- Bonnie Bradley, CFNHM Detox Program Manager
- Kellie Jacobs, RN
- Torilee Geary, RPN
- Carlee King, Withdrawal Management Specialist
- Dr. Cory Scott, Addictions Medicine Specialist

#### 2023-2024 Statistics:

• 38 Client Intakes

#### Partnerships:

- MOU with Onentokon Healing Lodge Facility (Kanesatake, Ouebec)
- Collaboration with Ontario Health Unit (EOHU)

#### **Community Outreach:**

- Participation in Akwesasne Wellness Week
- Overdose awareness events
- DOH Health Fair
- MCA program fair
- Addictions Fair

#### **DETOX CENTER SERVICES:**

- » Awareness and education on addiction and substance abuse
- Community-based interventions
- Safe, culturally tailored detoxification
- Wholistic response to substance use



#### **PROVIDER UNIQUE CLIENTS** DR. CORY SCOTT 38 31 KELLIE JACOBS, RN 38 **BONNIE BRADLEY, CFNHM CARLEE KING** 31 **WAYLON SQUARE** 31

#### TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

PROVIDER	UNIQUE CLIENTS	CLIENT APPOINTMENTS
ELIZABETH LAZORE	91	434
ALICIA COOK	232	478
ERNEST DAVID	9	10
NATALIE GIBSON	52	241
JASMINE JIMERSON	185	191
ANDRIA DOOLITTLE		
JOHNSON JIMERSON		

#### 2023-2024 Statistics:

- 569 Total Client Visitations
- 1,354 Total Client Appointments

#### **Sector Four: Clinical Care Services**

#### **PRIMARY CARE**

Primary Care is delivered through the Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing (MWHW), a framework grounded in a population needs-based approach to health care planning and delivery tailored for Akwesasne.

Our Primary Care team embraces an Indigenous-led, community-focused, and wholistic approach to enhance the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health and well-being of Akwesasronon.

#### In 2023-2024, our Primary Care team included:

Dr. Ojistoh Horn, Family Physician	Dawn King, RPN/LPN
Dr. Kent Saylor, Pediatrician	Loretta Smoke, RPN/LPN
Dr. Enrique Torres, Family Physician	Sandra Thompson, LPN
Dr. Marie-France Levac, Endocrinologist	Anna Thompson, RPN/LPN
Dr. Marsha Wysote, Family Physician	Asia Arquette, RPN/LPN
Dr. Robinson, Family Physician	Indigenous Patient Navigator April White, RN
Dr. Cookson, Family Physician	Indigenous Patient Navigator Joan Lazore, RN
Dr. Ghaly	Diabetes Educator Tasha Thompson, RN, CDE
Janet Brant, Nurse Practitioner	Diabetes Educator Sarah Thompson, RN
Patrick Labrooy, Physiotherapist	Yolanda David, Administrative Assistant
Martine Pierre-Louis, Physiotherapist	Courtni Day, Administrative Assistant
Grays Foot Care	Rachel Jacobs, Administrative Assistance

The Medical Clinics delivered a total of **6,594 primary health care visits**, encompassing appointments with Physicians and Nurse Practitioners, specialists and nurses.

PROVIDER	# OF UNIQUE CLIENTS	# OF UNIQUE CLIENT VISITS
DR. ROBINSON	159	209
DR. BAIER	380	772
DR. GHALY	58	62
DR. TORRES	201	465
DR. COOKSON	2	9
NP BRANT	625	1,308
DR. SAYLOR	414	876
DR. LEVAC	222	485
DR. WYSOTE	268	493
DR. HORN	818	1,915
TOTAL	3,147	6,594

PROVIDER	# OF UNIQUE CLIENTS	# OF UNIQUE CLIENT VISITS
FRANCE ALLARD, Occupational Therapist		4
GRAYS FOOT CARE		
PATRICK LABROY, Physiotherapist	60	440
MARTINE PIERRE-LOUIS, Physiotherapist		



Medical Clinics delivered 6,594 primary health care visits.



Primrary Care had a total of **3,147 Unique Clients** during FY 23-24.

#### **INDIGENOUS PATIENT NAVIGATION**

Primary Care has added a new service, Indigenous Patient Navigators (IPNs), which plays a vital role in providing comprehensive support to community members. Our Indigenous Patient Navigators advocate for community members, as well as help facilitate access to a wide range of services. Two Indigenous Navigators have been trained, and have begun the development of the program and service (April White, RN and Joan Lazore, RN).

Our Indigenous Patient Navigation program is new and is currently in the developmental stage. The goal of the Indigenous Patient Navigation Program is to:

- Collaborate with health care staff to develop patient-centered care plans;
- Provide resource information and referrals to Indigenous-specific services for health care teams;
- Offer coaching and consultation on culturally sensitive care for Indigenous patients;
- Facilitate traditional cultural support, including smudging and access to traditional medicines;
- Engage with patients and families to address health care needs/concerns; and
- Deliver Indigenous Cultural Safety education to health care professionals.

Through these services, IPNs help bridge cultural gaps in care, ensuring that Indigenous patients receive respectful, wholistic, and culturally appropriate support throughout their health care journey.

#### **DIABETES EDUCATION SERVICES**

PROVIDER	# O	F UNIQUE CLIENTS	# OF UNIQUE CLIENT VISITS
TASHA THOMPSON, RN		202	1,017
SARAH THOMPSON, RN		146	549
DR. MARIE-FRANCE		222	485
	TOTAL	570	2,051

#### **HOME & COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM**

The Home and Community Care Program is a multidisciplinary team comprising a Program Manager, Nursing Supervisor, PSW Supervisor, Personal Support Workers (PSWs), Nurses, Physiotherapist Assistants, a Medical Social Worker, Home Maintenance Representatives, and Administrative Staff. Together, this team provides comprehensive care to clients in their homes, emphasizing safety, wellness, and dignity.

#### **Continuous Education and Training**

The program prioritizes ongoing education and training to ensure that nurses and PSWs maintain and enhance their skill sets. This includes specialized training in:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage, screening protocols, and health and safety measures to address pandemic needs, including COVID-19 testing.
- Palliative and end-of-life care for clients wishing to spend their final days at home.

#### **Encouraging Family Involvement**

Family involvement is encouraged through development of the care plan and transitioning education and support provided by Nurses, and PSWs. This collaborative approach ensures a strong support network for clients.

#### Collaborative Care

In partnership with a Physiotherapist, Physiotherapist Assistants deliver treatment plans directly to clients in their homes, promoting recovery and independence.



April White, RN Indigenous Patient Navigator



Joan Lazore, RN
Indigenous Patient Navigator







#### **Comprehensive Services**

2023-2024 statistics for the Home & Community Care Program:

EMPLOYEE	# OF CLIENTS	# OF VISITS
PSWs - (20)	91	7,313
NURSING - (6)	92	2,725
HSR - (2)	137	1,781
MSW - (1) (No MSW from 7/23)	108	381

The Home & Community Care Program delivers medical and supportive services for clients who prefer to receive care at home rather than in a hospital setting. Services include:

- Nursing care, personal support services, social transport, and medical equipment delivery.
- Support for clients with acute or chronic conditions who can safely remain at home with assistance from their families.

#### **Nursing Services**

The Nursing Team brings a broad range of skills to meet clients' medical needs, including expertise in palliative and end-of-life care. Home Care services require a referral from a physician or nurse practitioner, along with an individualized care plan and accompanying prescriptions.

#### Personal Support Services (PSW)

Home support services are available to assist clients with diminished capabilities. PSWs provide essential support for Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), such as:

- Personal care.
- Meal preparation and grocery shopping.
- Housekeeping.
- Assistance with medical transportation.

## Goals of the Program:



#### Promote Home-Based Care:

Enable clients to remain safely at home for as long as possible with the support of their families.



#### Empower Clients:

Foster self-responsibility through education and understanding of individual health conditions, treatments, and care plans.



#### **Advocate for Clients:**

Assist with financial support, safety, legal challenges, and ensuring a healthy home environment.



#### **Expand Access to Services:**

Provide referrals for further care, such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy, when required.

This holistic approach ensures that clients receive the support they need to maintain their independence, health, and quality of life in the comfort of their own homes.

## mowing and snow removal for the most vulnerable clients.

Referrals and Advanced Care

Medical Equipment and

Maintenance Program

Our Advanced Nursing Team focuses on client-centered care, offering:

Clients can access assistance for funding

prescribed medical equipment, which can

be delivered directly to their homes. Home

Maintenance Representatives provide

education on the safe use of equipment

and offer additional services such as lawn

- Education for clients and families about acute or chronic conditions and treatments.
- Referrals to additional supportive services, such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy, as needed.

#### **Sector Five: Continuing Care Services**

#### **IAKHIHSOHTHA LODGE**

The lakhihsohtha Lodge provides 16-hour nursing, medical, nutritional, housekeeping, laundry, restorative care, and social & leisure activities in a secure environment for adults and elders. The Lodge has 20 beds for long-term care and seven respite beds, one double room reserved for use by residents or community members and their families requiring palliative care support.

The Lodge remained 100% functional throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, but continues to be short-staffed in all departments. With the help of lakhihsohthas dedicated team, shifts remain covered, ensuring excellent care for all residents.

This fiscal year, the Lodge was fortunate not to experience a COVID-19 outbreak. lakhihsohtha continues to implement policies to ensure that the residents, staff, and family members are knowledgeable of public health measures and to keep the residents safe. With 97% of residents and all staff fully vaccinated, visitation resumed according to policy. The Lodge welcomed essential caregivers, families, friends, and entertainers back into the facility.

The Lodge provided **24,449 meals to community members** who utilize the Meals on Wheels Program. The Dietary Team provides meals to approximately 97 elders and adults within our community.

During the pandemic, the Lodge provided various activities for the residents. They were able to host their Annual Trivia Fundraiser and **raised \$7,500** for Christmas/Holiday Events and the Activity Department. It is with the help of programs, organizations, and donors that made this event possible. Nia:wen to the staff and providers for ensuring the best possible care for the residents at the lakhihsohtha Lodge.

#### **TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE LONG-TERM CARE**

2023-2024 has been a year of relief and reflection following very difficult two and a half years. The facility has re-kindled the Falls Committee, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Committee, Occupational Health & Safety Committee, Continuous Quality Improvement, Medical Advisory Committee, and several other Ministry mandated committees.

In March 2023, the Ministry of Health administered a directive to end the need for COVID-19 screening and rapid testing. In June 2023, the Ministry approved the use of masks on an as-needed basis. The use of masks is mandatory when the staff perform a risk assessment of high-risk residents. Visitors were encouraged to wear a mask if they felt the need.

#### **Program Highlights:**

- Implementation of Surge Learning Management System to schedule, track, and report on each staff member's progress, upload policies and procedures for staff to review as assigned.
- Three (3) new activity aides in the Recreation Department; enables the facility to offer additional recreational activities for residents.
- Updates to the roof, call-bell system, freezer, fire alarm and magnetic door safety system.
- Professional development efforts have resulted in certifications in the First Nations Health Manager's Association, Leading-Edge Green Belt, Long-Term Care Administration and Queen's University Infection Prevention and Control.

Tsiionkwanonhso:te celebrated their 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from August 13-17, 2023. They continue to provide restorative care, full physiotherapy and occupational therapy to meet the needs of residents. The Registered Dietician continues to come to the Tsiionkwanonhso:te once per week.



# Meals on Wheels Provided 24,449 Meals to the Community



lakhihsohthas Annual Trivia Fundraiser raised **\$7,500** for their holiday events and activities.



Three new Activity Aides for the Recreation Dept.



Tsiionkwanonhso:te LTC celebrated their 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with weeklong activities for residents and community members.

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (CSS):**

The Community Support Services Program served a total of **2,914 clients** which includes the elderly population in all three districts: Tsi Snaihne, Kana:takon and Kawehno:ke.

**PROJECT CENTERS:** Ontario Health, LHIN Community Support Services, Tri-District Elders Lodge, Congregate Dining, and Foot Care.

**RESPITE SERVICES:** Meals on Wheels, Home Maintenance, Respite Care, Foot Care, Congregate Dining, Tri-District Elders Lodge, Home Security Cheques, and Disabilities and Crisis Intervention.

The Community Support Services is funded by the Ontario Health LHINs, with services available to our elderly population in all three districts: Tsi Snaihne, Kana:takon and Kawehno:ke.

CSS Home Maintenance workers provide assistance with lawn care and snow plowing for the winter so that the ambulance or health care workers are able to enter their driveways safely.

They also continue to provide ramps for our physically handicap and ensure medical equipment is delivered for our palliative and end of life care. **174 clients** received home maintenance within the three districts of Akwesasne.

# Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Provide professional project delivery service to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of all community buildings and infrastructure. This service is delivered according to policies and directives of the organization.

# DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS:

- )) Infrastructure Sector
- ) Housing Sector
- » Environment Program

The Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE) is responsible for six core divisions: Capital Projects and Administration, Water & Wastewater (WWW) Infrastructure, Roads, Building Maintenance of MCA Assets, Housing, and Environment. DIHE delivers comprehensive project management services to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, guiding every phase of infrastructure development, from initial planning and design through to construction and ongoing maintenance of all community buildings, roads, and essential infrastructure. The building maintenance divisions ensure that Mohawk Council of Akwesasne assets remain in good condition.

The department also manages water and wastewater systems, ensuring sustainable and safe services. In addition to infrastructure, DIHE oversees housing services to address community housing needs. Environmental management is another key aspect of DIHE's mandate, focusing on sustainable development and the preservation of natural resources. Each of these responsibilities is executed in accordance with the organization's policies and strategic objectives, ensuring that projects meet both current and future community needs while aligning with established environmental and operational directives.

#### **Strategic Goals**

Provide safe drinking water to all residents within MCA three districts by using the most stringent guidelines and modernized systems/equipment.

To exercise jurisdiction over the implementation of Water & Wastewater Management standards and regulations.

To provide direction to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Community Building Maintenance Programs, Water & Wastewater Operations, Roads Program, Housing Programs, the Environment Program that includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

To effectively manage MCA's Capital Planning Process and provide Project Management services for all capital projects.

Continue lobbying efforts to secure funding for Community Infrastructure as outlined in the 20-year Capital Plan and MCA's 10-year grant, while ensuring proper maintenance of existing infrastructure.

#### Strategic Goals Con't.

Actively plan, account and manage future growth.

Implement/maintain productive and transparent capital project planning processes.

To continue to build the capacity of Akwesasne's workforce, foster self-reliance of our people in the construction Industry and professionals in the Architectural and Engineering Fields.

#### **DIHE Program Highlights & Accomplishments**

#### **Capital Projects Administration**

The Administration Section is responsible for the management and support services that enable the division to operate. This activity also includes the maintenance of records such as construction drawing archives, reports and legal plans. The Design and Construction Sections include all aspects of capital project implementation. These projects are typically related to linear infrastructure which includes roads, sewers and watermains. Activities include asset management, detailed design of new/replacement infrastructure, specifications to tender development, construction supervision, contract administration, progress payment preparation and as-built drawing records.

The DIHE Capital planning division continues to respond to the needs of the MCA organization and community for all MCA facilities and infrastructure service needs. The following are projects that have been completed this past year or under development:

#### MCA OFFICE SPACE NEEDS

The majority of MCA departments have reached maximum capacity for their staff operations and are now reaching out for rental space. An MCR was completed for the development of six building projects to help alleviate departmental office space needs concerns. DIHE has been working on these projects from conception, and developed with the intent to achieve tender shovel ready projects.

#### THE WADE LAFRANCE MEMORIAL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL PROJECT

The final site restoration work from Phase 2 was recently completed in July 2024.

#### PARK STREET AND HILLTOP ROAD AND WATERMAIN CAPITAL PROJECT

Phase 2 completed August 2024.

#### **NEW SNYE SCHOOL DESIGN**

DIHE and AMBE, in collaboration with Figurr Architects and HSP Engineering, is nearing completion of the preliminary design. The project will then move to full tender drawings and a Class A estimate. DIHE will submit funding applications to Indigenous Services Canada and other sources, with final drawings expected next fiscal year 2025.

#### **IAKHIHSOHTHA UPGRADES**

Updated drawings for lakhihsohtha kitchen renovations are near completion and tender ready to be issued in the fall of 2024.



# TSIIONKWANÓNHSO:TE UPGRADES

Tsiionkwanónhso:te fire alarm replacement, MAG secure locking system, nurses call station, and roof replacement projects were completed in July 2023. A building condition assessment has also been conducted to evaluate equipment operations and identify needed upgrades, with the goal of securing funds for facility replacements and retrofits.



# HAMILTON ISLAND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT

Jacobs Engineering was awarded the design contract in 2023. A preliminary design for a two-lane bridge was submitted and approved in late summer 2024 and has begun detail design. Anticipate drawings and specifications early 2025. DIHE will then submit funding applications to Indigenous Services Canada and other sources.



## NEW FIRE STATION #3 (SNYE) CAPITAL PROJECT

A community survey was conducted in the spring and summer of 2024, with results to be shared through MCA's Communications Unit. Based on the feedback, adjustments to the drawings may be required. The Project Approval Request application is expected to be finalized and submitted to Indigenous Services Canada and other funding sources by the end of 2024.

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# HAVFD RECEIVED NEW FREIGHTLINER CHASSIS TANKER

The HAVFD Station #3 received their new Freightliner Chassis Tanker fire truck in August 2023. Adorned with imagery supporting Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG), the project was funded by Indigenous Services Canada.

## KAWEHNO:KE BASKETBALL COURT LIGHTS AND WASHROOMS

Electrical lights were installed by Laurier Electric. The portable washroom design was completed in 2023/2024. The project is set for full completion and operation by October 2024.



## HAWTHORNE ROAD SUBDIVISION EXTENSION

Road and site servicing to accommodate for 4 to 6 housing units, construction was completed in early 2024.

#### **IOHAHI: IO MULTI-TRADES BUILDING**

A new Multi-Trades building located at lohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne, began in early 2023 and has reached completion in 2024. Facility will be open to teaching curriculum for trades. A grand opening ceremony was held January 2025.

# MCCUMBER ROAD NORTH AND SOUTH LED STREET LIGHTING

Project completed in late 2023/early 2024.

#### **KANA:TAKON BEACH PROJECT**

Detailed design, specifications, and estimate were completed in fall 2023 and is now tender-ready. DIHE is seeking funding for construction.

#### **IOHAHI:IO PROJECTS**

Several projects are planned for the Iohahi:io site, including two portable classrooms with a breezeway and a cultural building with a pavilion. Construction tender for the cultural building is being planned for fall 2024, and design for site servicing for the classrooms is expected to be completed late fall 2024.

## WATER AND WASTEWATER (WWW) DIVISION - RESIDENTIAL WATERMAIN CONNECTIONS PROJECT

Planning is actively underway to connect homes that were previously unable to join the main waterline due to various challenges and limitations, or infrastructure constraints. Homes will be connected based on a priority system, considering factors like health, need, location, and feasibility. DIHE has secured an engineering consultant to oversee the project, including the development of necessary drawings and specifications for tender.

#### FIRST NATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN (FNIIP)

Project description forms were submitted to Reports Ontario, Indigenous Services Canada for fiscal year 2023/2024. Progress reports for proposal driven projects to ISC is on-going.

The plans identify Akwesasne's priority Community Infrastructure Projects for the coming years that include, but were not limited to:

- Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants various retrofits and upgrades
- Community Service
   Buildings Replacement
   (Planning/Space Needs)
- District Schools Major Systems Upgrades Repair. Projects filed since 2019/2020
- River Road and Wade Lafrance Memorial Road Bridge(s) Design/Build Replacement
- Various upgrades, road replacements for the three districts

- Adult Education, AMS School, Snye School Roof Replacement, HVAC Replacement
- Tsi Snaihne School Road Housing Sub-Division Lot Servicing
- New Building for Station #3 (Snye)
- New Snye School
- New AMS School feasibility report and preliminary design
- New Sand/Salt Dome -Kawehno:ke

- New Medical Clinic Kawehno:ke
- Tsiionkwanónhso:te & lakhihsohtha Building upgrades, renovations and addition on the exterior and interior.
- Youth Centre
- Arena upgrades and Recreation Centre
- Elders Centre for Kana:takon

#### LOBBYING STRATEGIES

Efforts to secure additional funding for infrastructure projects are ongoing, with applications submitted to various Federal and Provincial departments. These focus on new infrastructure, as well as repairs and retrofits to water and wastewater plants, roads, street lighting, and community building renovations.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE**

Core Capital funds support the maintenance and operations of all MCA community buildings. These funds, along with program funds, have been used for health and safety repairs identified in the 2019 ACRS Inspection Report. A new ACRS Report with ISC is now underway for 2024.

#### WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Water/Wastewater Infrastructure sector ensures the delivery of safe, potable water and wastewater services to the community of Akwesasne. Ontario-certified Akwesasró:non operators are dedicated to continuously monitoring, maintaining, and improving the operations of Akwesasne's extensive water and wastewater infrastructure.

The Water and Wastewater Plant Operators, including the Manager, are required to renew their Ontario Ministry of Environment water and wastewater certification every three years. Certification renewal includes approximately 40 hours of water and wastewater training per year. All MCA Operators are members and participate in training with the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario. All operators are also trained regularly with Ontario First Nation Technical Services Circuit Rider Trainers.

DIHE is proud to announce that Mr. Patrick David, a MCA Water and Wastewater Program Operator, received the 2024 'Operator of the Year' award from the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario for his exceptional service to the community. This award is given to an Aboriginal Operator in Ontario who had gone beyond the normal duties for their Community in a Water and Wastewater situation.



Patrick David received the 2024 'Operator of the Year' award!

#### WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE

NAME	ТҮРЕ	SERVICE AREA	SIZE	HOMES/BUILDINGS
Kana:takon Water Treatment Plant	Class 3 WT	Kana:takon & Tsi Snaihne	27 km Waterline	938
Kawehno:ke Water Treatment Plant	Class 3 WT	Kawehno:ke	9 km Waterline	563
Kana:takon Wastewater Plant	Class 2 WWT	Kana:takon	5.5 km Sewer Line	530
Tsi Snaihne Wastewater Treatment Lagoon & Submerged Attached Growth Reactor Bed	Class 1 WWT	Iohahi:io, Daycare, lakhihsohtha, School & Homes	1 km Sewer Line	38
Kawehno:ke Apartments Wastewater Treatment Block 97 Rotating Biological Contractor	Class 1 WWT	Kawehno:ke (East) – Tsiionkwanonhso:te, Kawehno:ke Apartments, Homes	1 km Sewer Line	64
AMS Wastewater Treatment Rotating Biological Contactor	Class 1 WWT	Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School area and West Community Buildings	1 km Sewer Line	5
Arena Wastewater Treatment Rotating Biological Contractor	Class 1 WWT	Kawehno:ke (Central) – Arena, Phillip Hopps Memorial Road	50m Sewer Line	1
Chapman Rd. Subdivision Wastewater Treatment	Septic Bed	Chapman Road Housing Subdivision	100m Sewer Line	19
Kawehno:ke Daycare/Senior Center Wastewater Treatment	Septic Bed	Kawehno:ke (Central) – Daycare, Recreation & Tsi District Elders Lodge	50m Sewer Line	2

THE WATER/WASTEWATER PROGRAM REPAIRED, INSTALLED OR MONITORED INFRASTRUCTURE THIS YEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Emergency backup generator monitoring due to Hydro Quebec power outages.
- Six curb stop repairs in the three districts.
- Six water service installations to the curbstops.
- 2" Watermain connection for the Arena splashpad, Powwow grounds and Sustainability Project.
- One emergency hydrant repair.
- Emergency 1" service line repair.
- Seven watermain infrastructure repairs around Akwesasne.
- One major leak repair on Kawehno:ke.
- Monthly and quarterly sampling for compliance of Canadas, Wastewater Systems Effluent Standards for release back to the waters.
- Weekly, monthly and quarterly water quality sampling for Health Canada and Ontario Regulations (as best practice).
- Work with Community Health Nurses on water quality standards for people still on well systems.
- Quarterly and annual sewage desludging for Kana:takon/ Kawehno:ke sewage plant and RBC's.



#### **ROADS OPERATIONS**

The Roads Program continues to provide maintenance services through regular inspections of roadways within all three districts: Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne, servicing both gravel and asphalt surfaces, and maintains adequate surface water drainage from roads and streets; maintaining three bridge crossing structures; and participates in the completion of and provide oversight to roads related capital projects.

Tasks include annual patching of potholes, spot resurfacing, sweeping of curbsides and intersections, crack sealing, line painting and pavement markings of asphalt surfaces and grading/shaping of gravel road surfaces with installation of granular material and application of liquid and/or flake dust suppressant.

Winter roadways require regular plowing/sanding/salting of roadways, clearing of parking areas, snow removal from curbsides and sidewalks is completed.

Roadside/intersections grass and weeds are cut to maintain sight distances for motorists. Drainage ditches/catch basins are cleaned to ensure free flow of surface water runoff. Driveway culverts were installed for property owner access. Streetlights, road signs, and guard rails are inspected and repaired as required. This is scheduled maintenance per district.

Bridge crossings are swept and flushed with water to remove dirt, salt/sand accumulation as per regular maintenance. Bridge materials was ordered for repair work and scheduled on Sugarbush Bridge to begin in the summer 2023. Ditching of Iohahi:io Road was completed and funds were allocated by Iohahi:io AMBE to re-surface the gravel road to help assist with roads maintenance. Ditching in Sugarbush was completed to get the surface water flowing off the roadway surface. Repairing the guard rail and clearing debris around and under the guard rails in Snye. Roadside grass cutting for all three districts was completed. Annual line painting and crack sealing work was completed.

#### **Equipment Maintenance**

Roads Program staff completed regular, routine maintenance on vehicles and equipment utilized by the program. Tasks included cleaning and washing, performing pre-trip inspections, checking fluids, belts and hoses, lubricating chassis and moving parts, identifying problems or defects and reporting them, in order for repairs to be completed by a qualified repair facility. Safety inspections and emission tests were completed, in accordance with the Ministry of Transport Ontario guidelines. The Roads Program also assists with various community calls relating to road servicing. The roads crew also assists other programs/departments within the organization, by lending technical advice, assisting with the operation of equipment and addressing requests for assistance in a timely fashion, whenever possible.

# **Building and Maintenance Operations**Administration, Education, Health and Social Building Assets

#### Primary Goals & Objectives:

To develop and implement a strategy-based maintenance plan for 57 assets incorporating preventive and predictive activities that are subject to continual improvement and linked to the Department Vision, implement a means in which we can effectively operate and maintain the assets we have today, a process to ensure effective funding is in place to realize and maintain the infrastructure we have today and for in the future.

To effectively oversee the operation and maintenance of the approximately 520,000 square feet of floor space within MCA operations and to direct and affect effective repairs consistent to current standards that apply.

Ensure our Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) is fully operational in all areas of maintenance, and that the system is functioning as required. The purpose of the CMMS is to perform preventative maintenance, report repairs, and to track the efficiency of addressing the service provided. DIHE has been reviewing the replacement for a new CMMS system.

Actively developed the Operation and Maintenance plans and Budget projections for all assets in consultation with the Maintenance Managers and support Staff. This information is shared with Directors and Program Managers. The new BOARD Finance Accounting System facilitates budget lines being actively populated.

#### DCSS/DOH Sector Operation and Maintenance

(Responsible floor space, 16,525 sq. meters (177,873.62 sq. ft.) in 12 Assets)

# AFWP/Transitional Housing/Group Home/Whoville House:

- AFWP shelter bathroom renos Ongoing
- AFWP shelter kitchen, laundry room, office renos — Ongoing
- AFWP shelter security upgrades
   Ongoing

#### Akwesasne Homemakers:

- 150 kW generator installation shared with Sub-station
- HVAC furnace replacements

# Kanonhkwa'tsherí:io Health Facility:

- Landscaping upgrades North and South of building
- Building Automation System (BAS) upgrades ongoing
- Interior atrium painting project complete
- New hot water tank ground floor
- Water main backflow preventer installation
- Sidewalk upgrades
- LED lighting upgrades ongoing
- Guard rail replacement on west side parking area

#### lakhihsohtha Lodge:

- Direct replacement of water main line
- LED lighting upgrades ongoing
- Access control upgrades/building security
- Resident room baseboard heater upgrades
- Installation of new 200 kW generator
- New dumpster sanitation upgrades

#### Tsiionkwanónhso:te Long-Term Care Facility:

- Commercial humidifier replacements
- West Wing Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) unit replacement
- Direct replacement of outdoor walk-in freezer
- Exterior south exit door replacement
- Direct replacement of one commercial hot water tank
- Two new exterior exit man door replacements

#### Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:

- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) control board repairs
- Main door repairs

#### **District Recreation Centers:**

- Emergency lighting upgrades at Snye Recreation
- HVAC replacement at Kana:takon Recreation/Daycare
- HVAC replacement at Snye Recreation
- HVAC rooftop unit replacement
- New dumpster purchased for Kawehno:ke Recreation
- Ball field lighting upgrades at Snye Recreation
- Kitchen flooring replacement at Snye Recreation
- Gutters, downspouts and ice guard upgrades at Snye Recreation



Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io landscaping upgrades.



 $Generator\,in stallation\,at\,lak hih soh tha\,Lodge.$ 



Snye Recreation ballfield lighting upgrades.

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#### **Administration Building Maintenance Services:**

(Responsible Floor Space 13,769 sq. meters (148,154 sq. ft.))

Staff oversee operation and maintenance at 29 different facilities in Kana:takon (Administration facilities, DTS Maintenance Shop, Roads Garage, Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services), Kawehno:ke (CIA 1, 3, 4, CIA Roads buildings, Environment exterior building), and AMPS Sub-station in Tsi Snaihne.

#### CIA #1:

- New heat pumps installed: \$25k
- New HRV units, Life Breathe models installed: \$12k
- Basement had some minor mold, so the skilled crew removed sections of drywall and replaced
- New rain gutters: \$4k

#### CIA #3:

- New HVAC rooftop units installed: \$62k
- Solar powered parking lot light project started, will be completed before end of September: \$2k
- LED light installation 90% completed for the offices

#### **Environment Office:**

• New HRV unit installed: \$3k

#### Admin. 1:

- New heat pumps installed: \$45k
- New life breath HRV system: \$26k

#### Admin. 3:

- New siding to be completed October 2024: \$8k
- New interior door to be completed 2024: \$3k
- Installation of new basement windows 2024: \$3k

#### Admin. 4:

- New heat pump to replace 33-year-old unit: \$10k
- Heavy duty bracing for heat pump: \$1,200

#### Maintenance Shop:

• 2 New garage doors installed: \$9k

#### Angus Mitchell Memorial Building:

- New heat pumps for basement:
   \$7k
- New heat pumps for main floor: \$16k

#### **AMPS Station:**

2 new rooftop HVAC units: \$40k

#### **AMPS Sub-station:**

- New heat pump
- New generator for substation and Akwesasne Homemakers

Main tasks are to prevent deterioration of existing assets, to ensure buildings & systems are fully operational, and minor repairs are done for health and safety reasons.

# Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Maintenance:

(Responsible Floor Space of 12,563 sq. meters (135,178 sq. ft) in 10 Assets)

The Head Caretakers are the responsible maintenance person on site at their schools. They are tasked with taking control of the facilities and ensuring complete and consistent operation throughout the year.

During the summer months when the school operations are closed, the three schools were sanitized, cleaned and priority areas were painted. Additional duties include: stripping floors, cleaning to re-wax and resealing them. HVAC systems were cleaned and tested including boiler systems service and repairs.

Several projects continued throughout the year at all three sites and includes the following:

- Iohahiio HVAC replacement of 12 new units complete
- Snye School New commercial Hot Water Tank
- AMS new dumpster purchased.
- LED lighting upgrades on going at all three schools
- Skylight repairs at Iohahiio
- Stage upgrades at AMS
- AMS School window replacement phase 2 complete

- Building and roof condition reports for all three schools
- Snye School new office retrofit
- Iohahiio new office retrofit
- Submission of grant application for Iohahiio finishes, upgrades
- Planning for new window replacements for AMS
- Planning for Snye Daycare front entrance overhang and column repair





#### **HOUSING SECTOR**

#### **Programs & Accomplishments**

#### CMHC - Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI2):

The Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE) Housing Sector received grant funding of \$2,439,000 to construct sixteen rental units on November 30, 2021. This initiative was approved to construct 16 single bedroom units for near homeless (Whoville Road, Tsi Snaihne). The project commenced September 2022, but due to protest of land on Kawehno:ke, the project moved to Tsi Snaihne. As of March 31, 2024, the project is 95% complete – expensed \$2,621,719 and 75% occupied.

#### ISC - Lot Servicing:

The DIHE Housing Sector received a Lot Servicing Allocation of \$400,000 of grant for lot servicing for Hawthorne Road Extension site (extend road, electrical and waterlines).

#### **ISC Housing Management:**

The DIHE Housing Sector received a Housing Management Allocation of \$32,500 of grant to purchase a housing management software system.

#### **Generators Chiefs Project:**

The DIHE Housing Sector administered the Generator project for 20 elders in Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne.

#### **Housing Services Updates**

#### **Housing Loans**

The DIHE Housing Sector recommended approval for three new construction projects for 2023/2024 fiscal year. Housing currently has approximately \$6.9 million dollars in housing loans and upgrade loans. Payments received for the new construction program were \$519,190 for fiscal year 2023/2024.

#### Upgrade Program

The Upgrade program is a Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Initiative that was started by using community dollars to create a revolving loan fund for repairs and renovations to homes. If this loan program does not get payback from the homeowners who borrowed money, it will cease to exist for future homeowners. Indigenous Services Canada does not provide any type of funding for these types of programs. The DIHE Housing Sector currently offers three types of Upgrade Loans.

#### **UPGRADE LOAN PROGRAM**

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT	SUBTOTAL	
MAINTENANCE	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	
REPAIR	5	\$8,000	\$40,000	
RENOVATION	15	\$12,000	\$180,000	
TOTAL	21		\$223,000	

Overall payments received for the Upgrade Program were approximately \$225,510 for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.



Construction project for 16 single bedroom units in Whoville is 95% complete



Administered generators for 20 elders residing in the Quebec districts of Akwesasne.



New Construction Program
Payments were \$519,190
for FY 23/24

#### Bank of Montreal – On-Reserve Housing Loan Program:

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne provides financial guarantees for community members who choose to use the Bank of Montreal (BMO) On-Reserve Housing Loan Program. These mortgages are for new home construction, purchase of existing homes, and major renovations. The maximum loan amount is currently set at \$150,000, as of March 31, 2024:

#### **BMO ON-RESERVE HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM**

	PRINCIPLE BAL.	ARREARS	NUMBER OF LOANS
REGULAR PAYMENTS	\$3,726,669	\$0.00	60
1 MONTH IN ARREARS			0
TOTAL	\$3,726,669	\$0.00	60
CAP	\$7,000,000		
AVAIL. FOR LOANS	\$3,273,331	\$150,000	21

#### Summary of Housing Loans Outstanding:

The following table shows the amounts and various housing loans the DIHE Housing Sector are responsible for in 2023-2024.

LOAN TYPE	AMOUNT	
СМНС	\$4,031,515	
ВМО	\$3,273,331	
HOUSING & UPGRADE LOANS	\$6,953,450	
TOTAL	\$14,258,296	

#### **CMHC - Administration Services**

#### Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC):

#### CMHC- HOUSING INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE FOR FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT YOUTH

- The DIHE Housing Sector applied for and received a grant of \$12,000 to continue with one youth internship for the Housing Maintenance Program.

**HOUSING CO-INVESTMENT FUND** - The DIHE Housing Sector applied for and received a grant of \$375,000 to complete building repairs on 25 apartments and rent to own units over 3 years.

**INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENT REPAIR** - The DIHE Housing Sector applied for and received a grant of \$730,585 to provide building repairs to our unsubsidized apartment units (Sweetgrass Manor and Kawehno:ke Riverview Apartments).

#### **Emergency Repair Program (ERP)**

The DIHE Housing Sector administers this Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) initiative, which provides a maximum of \$30,000 for emergency repairs to their home. The Department of Housing received approval for one Emergency Repair Program (a total of \$30,000.00) for fiscal year 2023-2024.

#### Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation – Rent-to-Own Housing

The DIHE Housing Sector applies for loans under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Section 95 program for the Rent-to-Own housing. The DIHE Housing Sector currently has the following Rent-to-Own units throughout Akwesasne:

#### **RENT-TO-OWN UNITS PER DISTRICT**

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF RENT-TO-OWN UNITS
KANA:TAKON	0
TSI SNAIHNE	50
KAWEHNO:KE	21
TOTAL	71

Each of the projects that Rent-to-Own Homes were constructed in were under a separate 25-year operating agreement. These agreements spell out the responsibilities of MCA and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The rent collected pays the mortgage, and subsidies received assist with the operating expenses, along with a replacement reserve fund, to help cover any major repairs needed for each unit. Total amount of payments made to CMHC from MCA were \$525,591.00 principle and \$114,989.00 interest payments for fiscal year 2023/2024.

#### Elders Emergency Fund

The DIHE Housing Sector receives annual funding of \$150,000 from Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to provide emergency repairs to elders homes. The fund provides a one-time amount of \$5,000 per home. The Housing Sector assisted **61 elders** with emergency repairs to their home, totaling \$149,800.

#### **Housing Rental Services**

#### **MCA Rental Units**

The DIHE Housing Sector has several apartment rentals within all three districts of Akwesasne. These include:

#### **DIHE HOUSING SECTOR RENTAL UNITS**

	LOCATION	NUMBER OF RENTALS
Z	Sweetgrass Manor	20
TAK	Bayview Apartments	5
KANA:TAKON	Third Street Circle Duplex	2
×	Hilltop Drive Duplex	2
	Chapman Road Duplexes	4
SNAIHNE	Whoville Road Duplexes	6
SNAI	Whoville Road Quads	8
TSI	Whoville Road Triplexes	6
	Whoville Road Quads	16
Ä	Kawehno:ke Riverview Apartments (KRA)	34
KAWEHNO:KE	Island Road Quad	4
AWEI	KRA Fiveplex	5
2	KRA Triplex	3
	TOTAL NUMBER OF RENTAL UNITS	115

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the apartment rentals were at 90% capacity, with over 150 families on waitlist for apartment rentals.

#### **Problem Areas**

The issues that are predominant within the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment Housing Sector are:

- Need Council to obtain more land for construction.
- Waitlists For apartment rentals, new construction.
- Increased cost of rehabilitation of apartment units.





#### **ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

#### **Programs & Accomplishments**

2023-2024 has been a year of many successes, from enhancing current research priorities (water quality data, fish populations and habitat monitoring, erosion control studies and so much more), to streamlining our timelines from community concern to grant funded research program. We have built a great team, taking on 8 summer students, 4 returning and 4 new to build capacity within our community and inspire a new generation of youth. Enhancing staff capabilities through participation of Ontario Wetlands Evaluators Systems, Ecological Land Classification and specific trainings related to the care of Species At Risk, and cultural activities, taught by masters in our own community.

Staff have been active in the community, sharing their skills and advocating on behalf of our community in the areas of: Rabies Baiting and Information dissemination; American Eel advocacy; healthy shorelines (erosion control); Iroquois Caucus; turtle and anuran species recovery; avian monitoring; contamination; safe harvesting; and cultural reconnection.

#### **Statistical Information**

**RESEARCH DIRECTIONS:** American Eel monitoring and habitat creation; Lake Sturgeon population sampling and Haudenosaunee conservation techniques; water quality monitoring (undesirable algae, contaminants, other parameters); shoreline, young of the year and minnow surveys (FINS); Invasive species monitoring; Black Ash/Ash species propagation; contaminants sampling of fish & water.

#### **Emerging Research for 2023-2024**

Soil and ground water contaminants sampling; establishment of erosion control strategies in various locations; regional composting and waste diversion techniques, flood mapping predictions to inform control strategies.

- Black Tern monitoring occurred over the 2024 field season to track essential
  habitat and provide input on population numbers. A total of 76 Black Terns were
  observed during the course of the surveys. The maximum amount reported
  during one survey was 13 individuals (Bittern Creek) with an average group size
  of 4 individuals.
- Canadian Wildlife Sampling Protocol indicates a minimum surface area of 5 hectares (ha) is required for nesting Black Terns with 20 ha or more preferred. The marsh complex of Tsi Snaihne in Akwesasne with the adjoining Lac Saint-Francois National Wildlife Area spans approximately 2,800 ha and combined with the marsh pads and islands of the St. Lawrence River, provides enough area to support a population of Black Terns.
- Sampling for contaminants in sturgeon has been conducted with 10 samples sent off to the laboratory in 2023, and an additional 10 will be sent in 2024. These samples will inform the fish consumption for Akwesasne, and other Lake St. Lawrence sturgeon populations. We are working to share data between Kahnawake Environmental Protection Office (KEPO). Estimations of information return from the lab are 1-year to 8 months from receipt of specimen. We anticipate the data from 2023 in the coming months.





- Sampling for contaminants were completed for American Eel in 2023 and the winter of 2024, this will inform the community on health parameters of using and consuming American Eel on our waterways. Many community members still utilize the eel medicinally to support symptom recovery of swelling, arthritis and other ailments. Some community members consume eel and have various strategies for consumption. The return on the data from these samples carry a similar timeline to the Lake Sturgeon data.
- FINS Survey Highlights: The 2024 field season sampled 24 sites (2 sites in Kahnawake, to build capacity within the KEPO team, 10 sites completed to support a community members Doctoral Research on decolonizing shorelines, 12 legacy sites which are sampled annually to monitor populations, spread of invasives and biodiversity).
- Conservation sold 91 permits and provided 79 permits to elders and First Nations individuals in our territory.

Nia:wen to the community for their support and engagement on social media, volunteering in clean ups, providing information on fish and sensitive populations and for allowing access to their lands for various studies (turtles, birds, fish). Staff are grateful for their support, and could not do the work they do without them. The Environment Program also thanks the community for engaging on their topics of interest, with respect and kindness. Together, the word is getting out there so the staff can answer your questions – it only takes time for our teams to write the grants which support the research directions. Services have been streamlined by utilizing the teams strengths to write grants and liaise with community partners to make all of these opportunities possible. The Environment Program previously took 1+ years to get from community concern to program/service, and they are now providing programs/services in around 1 year or less.

They could not do this without all of your help.

#### **Contact Information**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**

Infrastructure, Roads, Maintenance, Water & Waste Water, Housing & Environment

SECTOR/PROGRAM	CONTACT INFORMATION
MAIN BUILDING	Cornwall Island Administration Building #3 101 Tewesateni Road, Kawehno:ke, ON K6H 0G5 613-575-2250 ext. 1002 (Admin. Assistant) 613-575-2250 ext. 1003 (Executive Assistant)
ROADS PROGRAM	613-938-5476
WATER & WASTEWATER PROGRAM	613-933-4924 (Office)
WATER & WASTEWATER PROGRAM	Email: water@akwesasne.ca
HOUSING SECTOR	613-575-2250 ext. 1053
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM	613-936-1548



#### **TURTLE MONITORING PROGRAM**

The three districts were covered for turtle monitoring with a predation rate of 85% of identified nests. Highest nesting rates for snapping turtle were in the district of Tsi Snaihne, and Kawehno:ke was close in second. Three clutches were incubated (79% success rate), 1 roadkill turtle had salvaged eggs incubated (0% success rate).



#### **FINS SURVEY HIGHLIGHT**

The FINS Survey saw our teams hit the 200,000 fish sampled mark in its 10 years of sampling (between River Institute and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne teams); for 2024 we have sampled 4,232 fish independently and are waiting on updated numbers from partner sampling events.



# WASTE COORDINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Waste Coordination removed two (2) tons of e-waste from the community, **219 tires** from various dumping sites or to support elders, and removed **1.4 tons of waste** from roadsides and shorelines in the annual Roadside Clean Up.

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AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



# Akwesasne Justice Department

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Akwesasne Justice Department strives to provide a comprehensive Justice System for the people of Akwesasne, utilizing principles of natural justice to empower the community to safeguard collective rights, primarily, and individual rights for Akwesasronon, while remaining respectful of the community's heritage and culture.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS:**

- ) Justice Administration
- N Akwesasne Community Justice Program
- )) Akwesasne Court
- Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program
- Legislative Services

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD) Administration continued to grow in size and development, with a reorganization of some staff in programs and several additions.

The development of the Akwesasne Community Needs Survey continues, and this past year included more planning, discussion with other departments and directors, and finalization survey questions. The survey will proceed, with delivery to occur in the fiscal year.

The Family Support Court Worker Program funds an Indigenous Family Support Court Worker who serves as an advocate to speak on a person's behalf if the person is unable or unwilling to speak for themselves while involved in the Justice system. Funding was rolled over to allow the position of Akwesasne Family Support Court worker, now under the Akwesasne Community Justice Program, to develop protocol and procedures, a resource kit of services for families, self-help groups based on the overall needs of clients, and to assist in determining suitable situations where preventative measures can be utilized.

Akwesasne Justice Department also assists community members with obtaining Boat and All-Terrain Vehicle registrations. The AJD Administration maintains both organized electronic and hard copy files of issued Boat and ATV Registrations.

There have been continued efforts toward Federal and provincial recognition of the Akwesasne Court through presentations and meetings with various officials of both levels of government. These efforts will continue as more elevated meetings and relationships are established

The requirement of Professional Development for AJD leadership was implemented to ensure that the department is using best practices, as well as the most intuitive technology and information. This is to ensure that the services are not only current but also deeply attuned to the needs and well-being of our community.

The AJD, along with DIHE and DFA began developing a Compensation Policy to meet the needs of employees and to bring salaries to competitive, fair market ranges.

A Request for Proposals to assist the department of developing AJD-specific Policies and Procedures was being developed. The plan is to have internal policies and procedures finalized for each program, including succession planning. Upon acceptance of the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement, the Mohawks of Akwesasne will have

the legal capacity to enact, adjudicate and enforce Akwesasne laws. The need for a comprehensive departmental strategy will be forthcoming.

Meetings with the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and AJD programs have been occurring regularly to strategize on legislative development and enforcement. Some Community Laws require amending, modernization and new legislation. With additional funding, there are plans to hire a Legislative Drafter to assist in this project. Pursuant to the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation, community surveys on legislative priorities and all proposed amendments to any Community Law will be brought to the community for input and review, and ultimately, approval.

After a public call out for legal services, Bonnie Cole was contracted from October 2023 to March 31, 2024, to provide limited legal services and advice to the Akwesasne Justice Department. Legal counsel is also available to assist community members with Wills and Powers of Attorney and provide summary advice on civil matters.

Legal counsel is available to community members by appointment every Wednesday at the Akwesasne Justice Department Administration office at 45 Johnson Road in Kana:takon.



Bonnie Cole, Legal Services

#### **AKWESASNE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM**

Akwesasne Community Justice Program (ACJP) is comprised of 11 staff members. Our program serves community members and other Indigenous brothers and sisters who are facing issues within the criminal justice system in Cornwall, Ontario and Valleyfield, Quebec. ACJP envisions the community to be safe, and their goal is about rebuilding relationships with respect, responsibility, repair and reintegration.

During this fiscal year, Akwesasne Community Justice Program moved to 55 Water Street West in Cornwall. It was a large transition; however due to the health and safety of the staff being located at Angus Mitchell Memorial Building, this location is a great choice as they are close to the Courthouse in Cornwall, Ontario. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is working on a new building for the Akwesasne Justice Department.

Niawenhkó:wa to our program's partnerships with the Ontario Ministry of Attorney General, Justice Canada, Justice Quebec, Ministry of Correction Services Canada, Ministry of Solicitor General, Ministry of Children Community & Social Services. Niawenhkó:wa as well to community partnerships with Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services, Canada Border Services Agency, Akwesasne Family Wellness Program, Akwesasne Court and Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program.

Akwesasne Community Justice Program has Crown Protocols with both Crown Attorneys in Cornwall, ON and Valleyfield, QC Courts. Youth and adult community members who meet the criteria will be diverted from adjudication from Provincial Court to ACJP. Instead of attending court, youth and adults are screened by trained professional Youth Justice Worker and Indigenous Court Worker. Youth and adults who take responsibility for their actions are matched with resources to best meet their needs by the Community Neh Kanikonri:io Council. Charges against the individuals are stayed and then closed once all recommendations have been completed. This fiscal year Akwesasne Community Justice diverted 47 youth and adults from mainstream courts.

Gladue Reports are becoming essential for Indigenous people being sentenced. A Gladue Report is a pre-sentencing or bail hearing report prepared by skilled and trained Gladue Writers. The requests come to ACJP via Judge, Defense Counsel or Crown Attorney. The Gladue Aftercare Worker will assist with reintegration and referrals.

The Onkwehonweneha Development – Section 84 worker assists individuals who are sentenced to penitentiary time. Individuals prepare a letter to participate in Section 84 to the Community Neh Kanikonriio Council. Individuals must be members of Akwesasne and willing to work with ACJP for reintegration. The consultation with the individual, Section 84 worker, Community Neh Kanikonriio Council and Parole seeks to offer conditional or statutory release within the custody and care of the community. Individuals must complete <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> rds their sentence to be considered for Section 84.

letsiiatahonsatat Victim Support Workers assist with Diversions and victims of Crime. Workers are compassionate and trained in Victims Services, and will make themselves available to assist in both Ontario and Quebec portions of Akwesasne.



#### **TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS**

The Native Inmate Liaison Officer works out of Ottawa Carleton Detention Center and offers traditional teachings to the Indigenous population.



#### **CONTACT US:**

Please contact ACJP at <a href="mailto:communityjustice@akwesasne.ca">communityjustice@akwesasne.ca</a> for more information.



# AKWESASNE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM STATISTICS:

- ACJP receives court dockets daily to help and assist community members. During this time, Indigenous Court Worker assisted 67 community members with court related matters.
- 14 Gladue Reports were prepared and submitted prior to sentencing. These reports contain options available in the community to address what an appropriate sentence might be.
- Section 84: 1 community member released and **9 open** files
- letsiiatahonsatat Victim Support: 27 files are open and ongoing within these services.
- Native Inmate Liaison Officer: Last year assisted 1,344 Indigenous people at the Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre.

# AKWESASNE REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM STATISTICS:

- In 2023, the ARAP currently has a total of 56 Band Representative open files with various Children's Aid Societies across Ontario and the Quebec Youth Protection Court for this 2023-2024 year.
- In 2023, the ARAP has closed a total of 34 files in Ontario and Quebec.
- In 2023, the ARAP has offered 17 Customary Care Agreements for our families instead of going to Child Protection Court.

#### **LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

Legislative Services assists the Akwesasne Justice Department with the development and review of Akwesasne laws. Each year, the program aims to work on three laws: a new law, a law in draft, and the amendment of an existing law, as prioritized by the community.

A new manager joined the team in 2024, collaborating with the Legislative Researcher and AJD staff to revitalize the program and resume its full operations. Currently, the Manager and Drafter are working on re-establishing the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development to prioritize which laws need revision or ratification, and to engage community members for guidance. A community callout was conducted to fill the three seats, one for each district, and three successful candidates were chosen. The plan is to conduct community consultation to determine the priority laws for the next year. After identifying the community's areas of concern, Legislative Services staff will form Working Task Groups (WTG) for each law.

#### **ENIENTHIHSWANÓN:NA**

One WTG that has been active throughout this transition period is focused on the further development and hopeful ratification of the Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law (ACRRL), or Enienthihswanón:na (We will protect them, surround them). This WTG MCA Chiefs, employees from AJD and Akwesasne Child and Family Services, as well as knowledgeable community volunteers, elders and Kanienkéha speakers.



The ACCRL is a new community law still in development (Phase I), which will protect the interests of children who are involved in child welfare services.

#### **AKWESASNE COURT**

Akwesasne Court is establishing a Healing Circle for dealing with community members who have criminal charges and are dealing with addictions or have mental health issues. The Healing Circle is still in its infancy and is dedicated to our community members who choose to receive help and healing with their issues as opposed to having a criminal conviction.

The Akwesasne Court has recently appointed Peter (PJ) Herne as a justice for the Akwesasne Court. Peter graduated Cum Laude from SUNY Potsdam with a degree in Sociology. From there he attended law school at the University of Buffalo. PJ brings a wealth of experience as a former Assistant District Attorney for both Franklin and St. Lawrence County. PJ was elected as the first Chief Judge for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court and also served as Prosecutor for the Akwesasne Court. He played a key role in training other justices on the Akwesasne Mortgage Regulations.

#### **Ontario Probation Program**

Ontario Probation Program has been updated with a new title for staff. Previously known as the Native Community Corrections Worker, the position is now the Ontario Indigenous Probation Officer (OIPO). This program serves our community members residing in Ontario who are sentenced to probation through the Provincial Courts. This program currently has **37 client files actively open**. The OIPO has been involved in Domestic Violence training refresher, Cultural diversity training and also a keynote speaker for the Ministry approved Indigenous History Celebration Conference. The OIPO is part of the Diversity Indigenous Inclusion Action Committee (DIIAC) and participates in the Six Nations Native Corrections Officer Team monthly meetings to compare the similarities and differences of their work.

#### **Quebec Probation Supervising Officer**

The Quebec Probation Supervising Officer allows community members who reside in Kana:takon, Tsi Snaihne, including some who reside in the U.S., and have received a Quebec court order for Probation, Parole and/or Conditional Sentence to be supervised within Akwesasne. Many Court orders require clients to perform community service as part of their conditions. This program also administers community service orders from the Akwesasne Court.

In addition, the Quebec Probation Supervising Officer works in collaboration with the Valleyfield Probation Office, and in partnership with the Gladue Aftercare Worker to provide a more comprehensive correctional and community re-integration plan and service.

Opportunities available to the clients of this program include becoming heathier individuals by working with a variety of quality service providers in Akwesasne. The program strives to help clients to complete their order(s) successfully and to move on into the next phase of their lives.



#### **AKWESASNE REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

On February 1, 2018, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered the Government of Canada to fund Band Representative Services for Ontario Region First Nations, Tribal Councils, or First Nations Child and Family Service agencies. As a result, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was given the funding to develop and implement the Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program (ARAP).

The ARAP officially started on June 7, 2021. With a staff of three (3) Akwesasne (Band) Representatives and one (1) Program Manager, the ARAP originally worked out of the Angus Mitchell Memorial Building and CIA #3 offices. On December 15, 2021, the ARAP relocated to 55 Water Street West in Cornwall, Ontario to be more accessible to the families in need of ARAP's services. In present day, the ARAP has expanded to a total staff of seven (7) and is in the process of adding more staff to meet current demand to better serve their client families.

The Band Representatives act on behalf of MCA when one or more Akwesasne members are involved with all Children's Aid Societies/child protection agencies within Canada.

Initially, before the implementation of the ARAP, ACFS had assumed the duties of the Band Representative; however, it became apparent that conflicts of interest could arise when the Band Representative's recommendations/opinions differed from the ACFS worker. The implementation of the ARAP resolves this issue by allowing the Band Representative to work separately from ACFS. With this separation from ACFS, the ARAP has established their own fiduciary relationship with the families in need of ARAP's services.

Part of the ARAP's role is to ensure that all individuals who are eligible are given the

opportunity to apply for membership with the Mohawks of Akwesasne. The ARAP acts as a link for the families of Akwesasne who are not aware of all the services that MCA provides and to inform the families about the services they may be entitled to with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

Additionally, the ARAP are advocates for families when they become involved with an agency of the Canadian child welfare system. Once these agencies are made aware that an individual involved in an investigation is identified as a First Nations from the Mohawks of Akwesasne, the ARAP is notified for that individual's band representation and consultation. The ARAP will maintain their involvement with the family from the opening to the closing of the file.

The ARAP are strong believers that the extended family can be a source of support when it becomes necessary that a safety plan needs to be established or that a child made need to be placed in temporary care until the time that any child protection concerns are addressed. As Band Representatives, the ARAP has the option of offering an alternative in lieu of a court proceeding; the ARAP can utilize a Customary Care Agreement (CCA), which is an agreement between the child welfare agency, the parents, and caregiver for the child/children. The CCA outlines the expectations of the parties to ensure the safety of the child/children. There is no set timeline for the CCA in order to work with families and their needs on a case-by-case

The ARAP has offered workshops to help families understand their connection to Akwesasne and the Mohawk culture. The ARAP intends to continue to provide workshops to help connect client families with Akwesasne and traditional teachings.

#### **Highlights & Achievements:**

February 2023: The ARAP sent letters of notification introducing our program to all Directors of Youth Protection Agencies in the province of Quebec. This letter introduced our program's function and the agencies' legal mandate and obligation to notify and collaborate with the ARAP regarding all Mohawks of Akwesasne child welfare matters.

May 2023: The ARAP hosted a First Nation Representative Conference at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. We invited over 80 First Nation band representatives from First Nations communities across Ontario and Quebec.

June 2023: Collaborated and helped sponsor the Native North American Travelling College's Indigenous Peoples' Day event held at the NNATC grounds.

September 30, 2023: ARAP collaborated with the City of Cornwall, Children's Aid Society of SD&G, ACFS, NNATC, and various other organizations to host a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30 at Lamoureux Park. This event was also fundraising for the Akwesasne Freedom School.

October 2023: ARAP presented a cheque donating \$10,308 to the Akwesasne Freedom School from the monies raised at the September 30<sup>th</sup> event.

October-November 2023: ARAP hosted its first Daughters of Tradition weekly sessions over the course of 7 weeks, where youth participated in talking circles, cultural activities, and prepared dinners to learn self-esteem, self-confidence, and their own identity within their cultural and themselves.

**November 2023:** ARAP purchased necessary winter items, such as hats, boots, coats, etc. for our client families.

**December 2023:** Purchased Christmas gifts for all ARAP's client children and families.

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## Department of Public Safety

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To serve the community members on a personal level in the utmost professional manner, and by enhancing the community's safety and well-being.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS:

- ) Akwesasne Mohawk Police
- Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance
- Emergency Measures Program
- » Compliance Program

#### **AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE**

The main policing agreement funds thirty (30) full-time sworn police officers, including the Chief of Police. The officers are responsible for delivering professional policing services to the community of Akwesasne as part of the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS). Due to the unique geographical area, AMPS officers are sworn in both provinces of Ontario and Quebec and possess special designations to allow officers to transit through New York State to other parts of their jurisdiction while carrying their service weapons. During the 2023/24 fiscal year, the AMPS had a current compliment of forty-three (43) police officers.

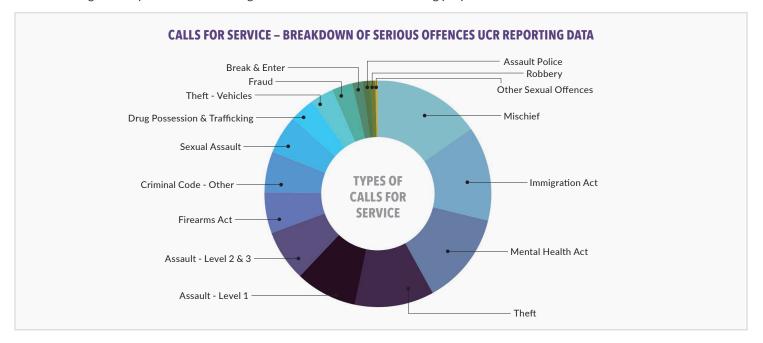
AMPS feature several specialized units, including:



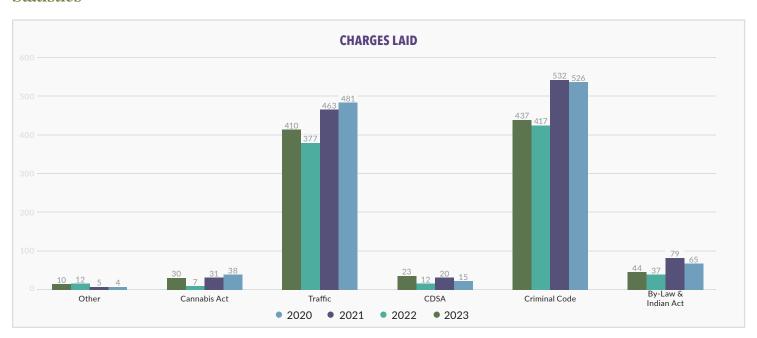
As a forward-thinking organization, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is dedicated to continually enhancing and adapting our community service delivery model. Our goal is to establish a sustainable and efficient strategy aimed at reducing crime and fostering a safer and healthier community.

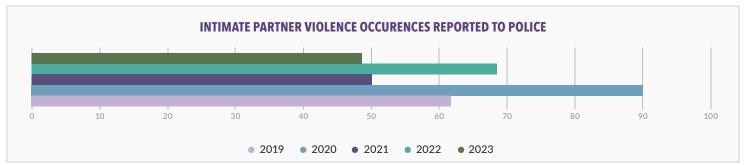
#### Calls for Service

Officers responded to **3,686 calls** for service in 2023-2024, which are recorded on our records management system and then categorized for statistical and recording purposes.



#### **Statistics**





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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **SAVE Unit**

Snowmobile, ATV, Vessel Enforcement Unit

The mandate of the SAVE Unit is to have a full-time police presence on the St. Lawrence River within the territory of Akwesasne to address organized criminal activity, border enforcement security and the interdiction of smuggling activities.

# Akwesasne, QC Akwesasne, NY Saint Lawrence River Ontario/Quebec Border International Border KAWEHNO:KE (CORNWALL ISLAND, ON) KANA:TAKON (ST. REGIS, QC) KANA:TAKON (ST. REGIS, QC) KANA:TAKON (ST. REGIS, QC) LUNITED STATES

The geographical makeup of the Territory of Akwesasne is notably intricate, stretching across the international divide between Canada and the United States, as well as encompassing regions of Ontario, Québec, and the State of New York. This complexity is further underscored by our proximity to 37 kilometers of waterway and 57 islands along the St. Lawrence River, along with the convergence of four additional rivers: the St. Regis River, Racquette River, Grass River, and Salmon River, all flowing from the United States into the St. Lawrence River. These geographical features provide ample opportunities for criminal organizations to conduct illicit activities, including the smuggling of tobacco, drugs, humans, and weapons across the Canadian and U.S. border.

The SAVE Unit works closely with other local law enforcement agencies including:



SAVE Unit members also assist in community emergency response support that has enhanced police service and response to remote locations regardless of the season or the location. This response includes retrieving lost boaters, deter/locate impaired snowmobilers/boaters, search and rescue and emergency response to areas that are inaccessible by other road patrol vehicles.







#### **AKWESASNE MOHAWK AMBULANCE**

#### **Program Accomplishments & Achievements**

The Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance (AMA) provides 24/7 service, providing Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) care and transport to local hospitals for approximately 20,000 Akwesasronon and people travelling through our territory. AMA has **responded to 1,889 calls** from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Our EMS Providers show great dedication, commitment and work tirelessly to serve our community.



With funding acquired from the Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust, AMA was able to purchase a new ambulance, retiring one of the older ones. This brings the fleet to 7 Ambulances and 2 Fly Cars.

Six new AutoPulse Devices were purchased this year as well. These devices can provide high quality CPR with better blood flow and higher survival rates, in trauma emergencies. With these updates to our fleet and medical equipment, it ensures that our crews can deliver excellent care emergencies. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Akwesasne Mohawk Community Settlement Trust Fund for making this possible.

AMA acquired funding from Akwesasne Community and Employment Support Services (ACESS) to help with staffing. The funds enabled us to hire individuals as drivers with the intent for them to take the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class. Thus, helping us to grow our own EMTs. Through this process AMA was able to grow 2 EMTs. We extend our gratitude to ACCESS for their commitment to support our agency and community.

Dr. Tiffany Bombard is the Medical Director for all of Franklin County, overseeing all AMA EMTs and to provide quality assurance and insurance to the Agency.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance consisted of 23 staff members; Program Manager, Administrative Assistant, and Logistics Officer. There are 8 Basic EMTs, 3 Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMTs, 2 Critical Care EMTs and 4 Paramedics. We have 2 casual EMTs and 1 Driver/EMT Trainee.

Training is an ongoing process to maintain and advance current knowledge and skills. Training is offered through the New York State Department of Health, Mountain Lakes Emergency Medical Services, St. Lawrence County EMS, HAVFD, FEMA, CDC, Homeland Security, monthly in-house and online training.

#### Learning, Growth & Transition

**Community Focus** 

AMA continues to move forward by growing our own EMTs, continuous training, provide excellent care and keep up to date with the evolving health care needs of the community. To continue to build stronger partnerships with medical experts, hospitals, and other agencies.

#### Challenges

AMA continues to struggle with acquiring new EMT staff. There are currently two casual EMTs (four EMTs took education leave for 9 months to attend the Paramedic Program offered at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY). This leaves us short, but in the long run, AMA will have 8 Paramedics on staff. We commend these individuals for wanting to advance their careers. This program is not easy. This shows their dedication and determination to acquire their Paramedic status for the betterment of our community.

AMA currently operates in a deficit of 1.2 million dollars and continues to seek funding to be able to support the growth and development of the agency. As, AMA's vision is to provide the highest quality, and professional advanced level emergency service to all of Akwesasne.



#### **VISION STATEMENT**

Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance's vision is to provide high quality, professional advanced level emergency service to all of Akwesasronon and traveling public, respectful of culture, tradition and uniqueness of individual.

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**



**AMBE Cultural Celebration** 



MCA Open House

- » Ohero:kon Ceremony
- » Parade of Lights
- » Summer Program Events (Generations Park)
- » Trick or Treat in Kana:takon
- » Trunk or Treat

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **COMPLIANCE PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Compliance Program is to enforce the regulations of the by-laws, which have been enacted by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

The ongoing issue facing Akwesasne due to a lack of local shelter availability and responsible ownership is loose and nuisance dogs. Another concern within the community is low number of owners getting their dogs properly vaccinated. Compliance held rabies and spay/neuter clinics last year which were at max capacity and will be working with local agencies such as the OSPCA to hold more clinics.

Additional responsibilities for the Compliance Program include:

Escort Hydro Quebec for meter checks and installations on the Quebec portions of Akwesasne

River patrol for fishing permits and boater safety checks

Patrol MCA owned properties

Attend monthly Akwesasne Mohawk Court sessions

Assist with bait drops for wildlife (to inoculate for rabies)

Assist OVS with lot inspections and evictions on MCA owned Islands/Lots:

Serving of Akwesasne Mohawk Court Documents

Compliance also often works with the Emergency Measures Program when local emergencies occur, such as winter power outages or storms. Compliance also oversees complaints involving the Akwesasne Residency Law, which involves visiting persons who are seeking permission to reside in Akwesasne or investigating alleged persons residing in Akwesasne without permission.

The Compliance Program no longer addresses voluntary dog surrenders. This is a dog owner responsibility; Compliance will assist with connecting a dog owner to local shelters to get on waiting lists. The Compliance Program has been working with the SD&G OSPCA to utilize their shelter space for abandoned/seized dogs. Due to local shelters often being full, dogs sometimes must be sent to Brockville or Ottawa OSPCA locations.

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM CALLS RECEIVED/ACTIVIT	IES (2023-202	4)
Community Calls		739
Dog Complaints		256
Lost Dogs		45
Dog Bites		23
Captured Dogs		27
Animal Traps		52
Dog Attack/Packs		28
Residency Complaints		15
Wildlife/Pests		87
Fishing/Hunting/Vendors		56
Boat Registration		32
Illegal Dumping		29
Patrol of MCA Assets (Hamilton Island/Hopkins/Other Islands)		67
School/Daycare Patrols		56
Regular Patrols		213
Other (Assist other agencies, Akw. Court, Emergency Measures, Escots, etc.)		243
	TOTAL	1,968



Received 256 calls regarding dog complaints in 2023-2024



The MCA Compliance Program hosted a successful Spay/Neuter wellness clinic for dogs and cat.

#### **EMERGENCY MEASURES PROGRAM**

MCA's Emergency Measure Program (EMP) was quite busy this past fiscal year. With the COVID-19 Global Pandemic coming to an official close for Akwesasne, the EMP was very busy working on the After Action Report and preparing the resolution to "cease all response efforts." However, that did not stop Mother Nature from sending additional challenges our way.

Since 2018, Akwesasne has been dealing with annual flooding, but heavy rains, wind storms and extreme weather have kept the EMP just as busy. With these types of natural occurrences come power outages and flooded basements. Emergency Measures has been very busy writing proposals to attain the equipment, materials and supplies needed to respond effectively and efficiently.



#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAILER**



The Emergency Measures Program is proud to announce the addition of a new Emergency Response Trailer, retrofitted and outfitted with equipment, materials and supplies. The EMP have yet to use it, but our staff is excited that we will be ready when we get the call.

The EMP has also completed the "Akwesasne Fire-Smart Plan" and has received funds to begin training for the community of Akwesasne. EMP hopes to re-establish of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) by providing training in the areas of First Aid, CPR, Damage Assessments, Utility Awareness, Traffic Control, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), etc. It's another exciting adventure that the EMP will plan and coordinate.

Here are a few more of Emergency Measures' special projects and funding received from Indigenous Service Canada (ISC):

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS & FUNDING:**

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING DESTII	NATION APPROVA	AL DATE
ISC Fire Wood Protection Strategy Fund	Removal of Fire Homes	Feb. 1, 2024
ISC Wildland Urban Fire Proposal	Equipment, Signage, Training	Feb. 4, 2024
ISC Fire-Smart Project Proposal	Equipment	Feb. 27, 2024
ISC Fire-Smart Project Proposal	Training	Feb. 27, 2024
ISC CEMC Conference 2025	Meals, Travel, Venue, etc.	Sept. 17, 2024
ISC EMO Salary Proposal	EMO Salary	July 12, 2023
<b>Enbridge Community Safety Grant</b>	Emergency Response Trailer	Dec. 2, 2023

#### Removal of Fire Homes

The EMP received only twenty-thousand dollars (\$20K) for this project. However, the EMP is currently unaware as to how many houses will be able to be removed with limited funds. When Emergency Measures establishes this, we can seek additional funding for the remaining fire homes. Please note that the EMP must ensure due diligence, while also consider the health & safety of the property owner(s) and workers. The EMP does not wish to leave a foundation unfilled, nor structure debris on the property. Therefore, debris removal and fill must be included in each structure removal. This project requires the written approval of the property owners.

#### ISC Wildland Urban Fire Proposal

The Wildland Urban Fire funds support the efforts of the Fire-Smart Project for equipment and training.

#### Fire-Smart Project

The Akwesasne Community Fire-Smart Plan was established and approved by MCA Council via MCR 2023 / 2024 #200. The Fire-Smart initiative financially supports projects for non-structural mitigation to prevent and prepare against fires and wildfires, including marsh fires.

MCA's EMP has received fund for equipment and training. Removal of fire homes within Akwesasne is a small part of the Akwesasne Community Fire-Smart Plan.

#### **EMO Salary Proposal**

These funds cover some of the salary for the Emergency Measures Officer within the EMP. ISC only covers the salary of one (1) EMO / CEMC / EMC per First Nation.

#### **Enbridge Community Safety Grant**

These funds are tied specifically to hazardous materials response. However, Enbridge supported and approved EMP's proposal for the purchase of an Emergency Response Trailer (ERT) and the retrofitting (i.e. shelving, etc.) required. This was absolutely amazing news. The EMP has been trying to attain and ERT for many years.

#### Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)

Continuity of Operations Plans or COOPs were due on April 1, 2024. The ability of organizations to remain operational during times of emergencies / crisis is vital for their success and longevity. That's why having an effective COOP in place is so important. A COOP involves:

- Identification of threats
- Creation of strategies to respond to potential disasters
- Assignment of roles and responsibilities
- Detailed instructions for personnel
- Establishment of backup systems
- Strategies for restoring services

#### **EMP Staff**

EMP has two (2) additional staff that have been with EMP since January 2022.



uan "Carlito" Alvarez Emergency Measures Officer Cell: 613-360-6608



Marvin MacDonald Emergency Measures Officer Cell: 613-577-6556

They have been a great editions. We enjoy their efforts, efficiency and effectiveness while performing their duties.



#### **EMP LOCATION**

EMP is now located in the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service station in the village of Kana:takon, which is also part of the Department of Public Safety.

















## Financial Overview 2023-2024

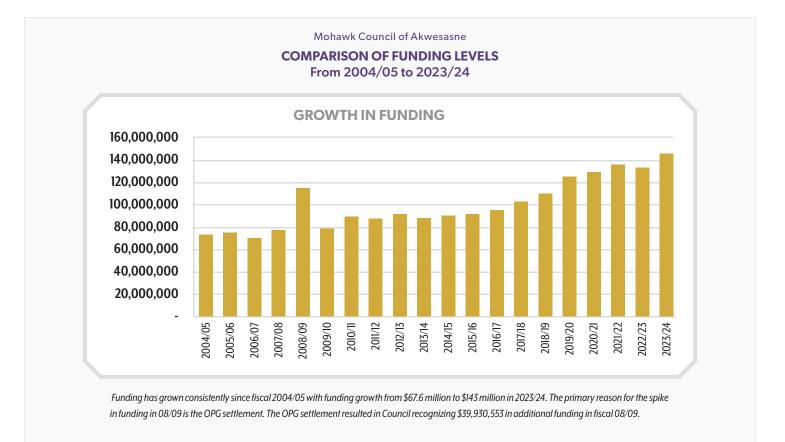
#### **OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION**

Council opened the 2023-2024 fiscal year with an unrestricted accumulated operating surplus of \$1,759,989. Council has continued to reduce its reliance on the OLG annual revenue to offset annual operating costs. Council was able to generate a surplus without allocating any OLG revenue to offset global Council operations. We have included a schedule summarizing the use of OLG funding in fiscal 2023-2024.

While the accumulated deficit has been eliminated, deficits that are program specific continue to be generated as Council, in response to community needs, continues its support of unfunded programs. It must be acknowledged that many vital programs and services remain unfunded or funded at levels that do not reflect community needs. Our goal of setting a break even budget each year when faced with the understanding that some programs will operate at a deficit is an ongoing challenge. Council and its management team continue to work with our funders to identify new funding sources.

We have included departmental summaries of actual costs incurred by program compared to the initial approved budget and have provided a brief description of the primary sources of funding for each department.

The following graph highlights our growth:



#### **MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE**

Application of OLG Funds For the year ended March 31, 2024

#### OLG revenue has been applied to the following:

	2023-2024	2022-202
Allocation for Thompson Island Youth Camp	\$85,000	\$85,000
Allocation for Iroquois Caucus	\$10,000	\$10,000
Allocation for MCA Discretionary		
Akwesasne Homemakers Furnace - Discretionary (MCR 2023/2024 #367)	\$42,800	
lakhihsohtha Kitchen Renos (MCR 2023/2024 #312)	\$10,820	
Basketball Equipment - Discretionary		\$7,252
Turkey Giveaway		\$63,386
EV Embassador (MCR 2021/2022 #274)	\$97,010	
Thunder Lacrosse	\$5,000	
Allocate to AMBE for Bus Purchase	\$230,000	\$230,000
Community Call Out	\$132,974	\$250,000
Allocation for Fuel Assistance Program	\$468,000	\$468,000
Increase to Fuel Assistance (MCR 2023/2024 #246)	\$296,250	
Allocate for Seaway Claim	\$341,777	\$341,777
Allocate for Church Insurance	\$7,000	\$7,000
Allocation for Youth/Elders	-	
Allocation for Mohawk Gov't Support Staff	\$150,000	\$150,000
Allocate to Communications Unit	\$95,000	\$95,000
Allocate Ex. Service Donations	\$70,000	\$70,000
Allocate for Funeral Donations	\$15,000	\$15,000
Housing Rent Assistance	\$150,000	\$150,000
Allocate for Elders Emergency Repairs	\$100,000	\$100,000
increase to Elder Repairs (MCR 2023/24 #284)	\$50,000	\$30,000
Allocation for Mohawk Language	\$100,000	\$100,000
Allocation for MCA Summer Students	ψ100,000 -	ψ100,000
Kawehno:ke Recreation	\$40,000	\$40,000
St. Regis Recreation	\$40,000	\$40,000
Snye Recreation	\$40,000	\$40,000
Tri-District Elders		
	\$15,000	\$15,000
Snye Homemakers	\$15,000	\$15,000
Powwow	\$5,000	\$5,000
Carnival	- 45.000	
Museum	\$5,000	
Admin. #I Renos (MCR 2023/2024 #052)	\$46,035	
Admin. #I Renos - Furniture (MCR 2023/2024 #I36)	\$34,636	
Friends of the Akwesasne Freedom School (MCR 2023/2024 #206)	\$500,000	
Generators for Elders (MCR 2023/2024 #313)	\$194,200	
O.D.S. Marine Construction - Watermain Repair (MCR 2023/2024 #343)	\$125,300	
Kawehno:ke Arena Bike/Walking Path (MCR 2023/2024 #094)	\$132,050	
Kana:takon Walking Path (MCR 2023/2024 #094)	\$142,700	
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center Walking Path (MCR 2023/2024 #094)	\$6,628	
Kawehno:ke & Kana:takon Rec. Center HVAC (MCR 2022/2023 #141)	\$84,380	
Akwesasne Community Healing Fund (MCR 2022/2023 #058 & #212)	\$40,000	
Total OLG Expenses	\$3,922,559	\$2,337,415

The Summary of Operations forms the basis of the "Statement of Financial Activities" which is an integral part of our 2024 audited financial statements. The Summary of Operations provides an overview of the revenues administered and expenses incurred by each department. The Statement of Operations (page 5 of the audit) discloses total revenue of \$179 million and total expenses of \$156 million.

#### **MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE**

Summary of Revenue by Source for the Year Ended March 31, 2024

	Budget (Note 21)	2024	2023
REVENUES			
Government Transfers (Schedule 2)	\$128,873,230	\$146,300,658	\$137,583,302
Ontario First Nations (2008) Limited Partnership (Note 23	3) 5,756,978	5,718,108	4,061,033
Earnings from Government Business Entities (Note 24)	-	181,617	123,402
Administration Fees and User Changes	2,586,360	2,176,004	462,385
Land Leases (Schedule 1)	745,976	719,133	773,739
Interest	900,000	19,992,884	11,036,052
Other Income and Realized Gains (Losses)	222,402	(438,208)	928,607
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	-	3,557,658	825,369
Rental	1,942,595	1,322,649	1,181,937
	141,027,541	179,530,503	156,975,826
Operating Expense (Note 20)			
Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education	32,636,302	34,254,442	24,895,138
Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service	13,550,628	14,427,657	12,227,482
Community & Social Services	14,951,333	19,483,964	20,169,252
Economic Development	18,825,283	2,161,372	1,862,737
Executive Services	8,604,670	5,381,567	5,672,023
Finance & Administration	2,074,151	1,291,468	780,865
Health	35,803,285	41,030,730	36,598,360
Infrastructure & Housing	8,781,719	12,034,648	10,527,714
Justice	4,200,978	3,337,647	2,947,130
Mohawk Government	1,800,485	5,053,524	3,202,654
	141,228,834	138,457,019	118,883,355
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(201,293)	41,073,484	38,092,471
Accumulated Surplus at Beginning of Year	432,692,567	495,608,763	457,516,292
Accumulated Surplus at End of Year	\$432,491,274	\$536,682,247	\$495,608,763

#### Sources of Income

#### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Summary of Revenue by Source for the Year Ended March 31, 2024

	FISCAL 2023/2024		FISCAL 20	022/2023
	Total Revenue	% of Total Revenue	Total Revenue	% of Total Revenue
GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$		\$	
Government of Canada				
Indigenous Services Canada	101,388,125	56.47	99,686,964	63.50
Human Resources Development Canada	363,535	0.20	420,916	0.27
Canada Mortgage & Housing	1,887,256	1.05	1,856,266	1.18
Canada Border Services Agency	78,939	0.04	-	-
Emergency Preparedness Canada	5,408,705	3.01	4,186,364	2.67
Other Federal	5,016,718	2.79	2,959,284	1.89
Total Government of Canada	114,143,278	64	109,109,794	69.51
Ontario Lottery & Gaming Commission	5,718,108	3.19	4,061,033	2.59
Province of Ontario	25,398,910	14.15	23,182,518	14.77
Province of Québec	4,410,633	2.46	3,014,189	1.92
Other	2,347,837	1.31	2,276,801	1.45
_	37,875,488	21.10	32,534,541	20.73
Total Grants and Contributions	152,018,766	84.68	141,644,335	90.23
COUNCIL EARNED INCOME				
Administration Fees and User Charges	2,176,004	1.21	462,385	0.29
Government Business Entities	181,617	0.10	123,402	0.08
Land Leases	719,133	0.40	773,739	0.49
Interest Income (Includes Dundee)	19,992,884	11.14	11,036,052	7.03
Other Income and Realized Gains (Losses)	(438,208)	(0.24)	928,607	0.59
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	3,557,658	1.98	825,369	0.53

1,322,649

27,511,737

179,530,503

0.74

15.32

100.00

1,181,937

15,331,491

156,975,826

0.75

9.77

100.00

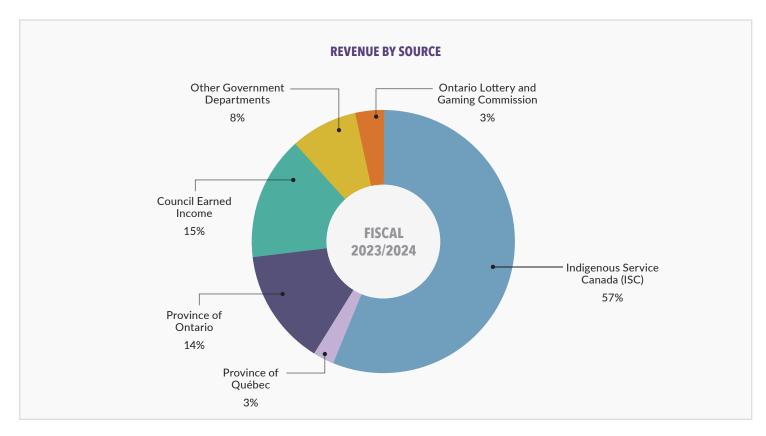
77

Rentals

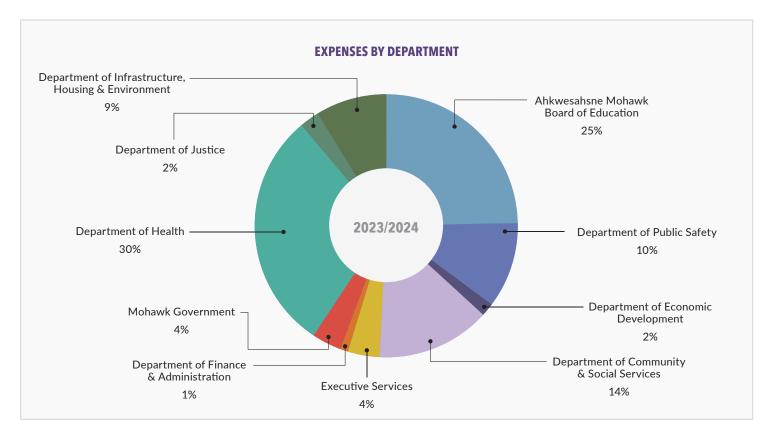
Total Earned Income

**Total Revenue** 

This graph indicates the percentage of revenues received by income source.



The following graph provides an overview of the percentage of expenditure in comparison to the entire budget in each operating Department.



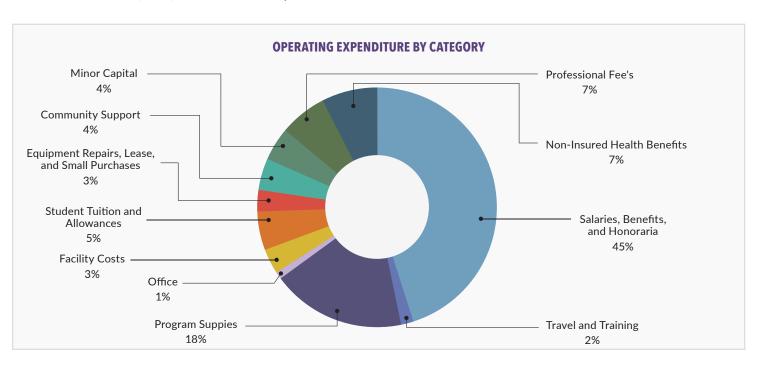
### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE Operating Expenditures by Category March 31, 2024

	FISCAL 20	FISCAL 2023/2024 FISCAL 2022/2023		
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Salaries, Benefits, and Honoraria	\$ 62,666,713	45.26%	\$ 54,932,089	46.21%
Travel and Training	2,193,993	1.58%	2,129,092	1.79%
Program Supplies	25,152,139	18.17%	16,404,843	13.80%
Office	1,106,399	0.80%	1,179,248	0.99%
Facility Costs	4,841,865	3.50%	4,421,778	3.72%
Student Tuition and Allowances	7,008,196	5.06%	6,003,619	5.05%
Equipment Repairs, Lease and Small Pure	chases 4,078,340	2.95%	3,512,573	2.95%
Community Support	6,103,602	4.41%	6,423,697	5.40%
Minor Capital	6,051,925	4.37%	4,686,226	3.94%
Professional Fees	9,026,984	6.52%	6,825,122	5.74%
Non-Insured Health Benefits	10,226,863	7.39%	12,365,068	10.40%
	\$ 138,457,019	100%	\$ 118,883,355	100%

Please refer to Note 20 on page 25 of the 23/24 Annual Consolidated Audited Financial Statements.

Our employees are our most valuable resource. Salary, benefit and honoraria account for 46% of our annual operating costs. Our basic staffing complement is 850 employees. Our annual total employee population is about 1,100 employees and includes full-time, part-time, term, casual, and seasonal employees.

Professional fees include: legal; audit; consulting and professional services; and Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) medical and dental professional services.



#### **Community Owned Assets**

Acquisitions of tangible capital assets are not expenses and as a result these amounts are not included in the expenses summarized on page 86.

#### MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Listing Community Assets and Equipment as at March 31, 2024

	Cost of Acquisition \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net \$	2023 Net \$
Land	1,032,645		1,032,645	834,554
Buildings & Major Infrastructures	170,488,854	65,639,015	104,849,839	102,476,977
Computer Hardware & Software	4,215,466	4,053,918	161,548	191,342
Equipment	11,545,421	8,493,021	3,052,400	2,541,877
Equipment Under Capital Lease	504,822	498,799	6,023	7,529
Furniture & Fixtures	2,184,732	1,764,659	420,073	294,294
Roads	13,058,017	5,902,459	7,155,558	2,505,715
Vehicles	17,177,350	11,232,911	5,944,439	5,271,636
	220,207,307	97,584,782	122,622,525	114,123,924
Property Plant & Equipment Under Construction	20,296,662		20,296,662	17,900,763
TOTAL COMMUNITY ASSETS	240,503,969	97,584,782	142,919,187	132,024,687

#### Notes:

These assets are insured at their replacement value not the amortized value. All community owned assets are insured.

For additional detail please refer to Note 1 (i) on page 11 and Note 6 on page 17 and Note 7 on page 18 of the 23-24 Annual Consolidated Audited Financial Statements.

For the most part, facility construction is fully funded via government contributions. On occasion, Council has to finance the unfunded portions of these projects through mortgages or long-term debt. The following schedule summarizes Councils debt position on March 31, 2024.

#### **MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE**

Long-Term Debt March 31, 2024

Council has mortgages on a number of community properties.

	Balance of Mortgage at March 31, 2024	Balance of Mortgage at March 31, 2023	
Total Mortgages Outstanding	\$ 4,490,098	\$ 4,934,251	

These mortgage loans are guaranteed by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provides subsidy funding for a portion of the interest and annual operating costs.

Please refer to note 13 on page 20 & 21 of the 23/24 Annual Consolidated Audited Financial Statements.

#### Salaries, Honoraria and Travel Expenses Paid to Chiefs

Canada has a requirement that salaries, honoraria and travel expenses be published for Council. Please see the schedule posted at www.akwesasne.ca. The schedule has been reviewed by our auditors and forwarded to Indigenous Services Canada. Please note that a review does not constitute an audit. The schedule has been prepared by finance staff and complies with Canada's reporting requirements.

#### Detailed Summary of Revenue and Expenses by Department

The information provided for each department will include:

- A summary of the sources of funding.
- A schedule that compares the approved budget and actual expenses incurred by each program.
- The information provided is department specific and reflects the organizatioal structure on March 31, 2023. We have also provided the 2022 comparative figures for both the budgets and actual expenses.

We had several goals in providing this level of detail in a community financial report.

- 1. To provide the reader with an overview of the types of programs and services provided by MCA, together with the sources of funding and total costs related to the delivery of individual programs and services.
- 2. To enable the reader to match the financial report with the written Annual Report provided on both the departmental and program level.
- 3. To increase accountability and transparency of financial reporting and to set a baseline for performance reporting that can be enhanced in future reports.

The departmental Summaries of Operations should be read in conjunction with the departmental and program service delivery reports.

#### AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

The Indigenous Services Canada 10-Year Grant New Relationship Fund is the primary revenue source for AMBE operations. AMBE has been very successful at securing additional federal funding in a number of program areas.

AMBE applied it's resources to the following programs & services:

#### FISCAL 2023-2024 FISCAL 2022-2023

Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
AMBE and School Support	\$ 4,527,850	\$ 3,477,632	\$ 5,072,695	\$ 3,032,669
School Instruction	School Instruction 6,579,407 6,572,823		4,913,074	5,550,926
High School Tuition	2,748,993	3,255,037	2,908,503	3,183,781
Post-Secondary Education	4,983,187	4,921,777	4,196,115	3,670,299
School Transportation	2,047,892	1,830,157	1,804,684	1,565,636
Headstart	449,712	1,152,828	502,134	521,598
After School Programs	358,607	357,954	186,924	65,093
High Costs Special Education	2,692,861	1,307,542	2,793,167	1,513,995
Structural Readiness (Projects)	707,849	769,208	723,446	796,125
Mohawk Language & Culture	1,483,428	1,188,135	1,215,933	237,344
Daycare	3,595,689	2,171,635	3,072,379	2,612,011
Hot Lunch Program	498,791	24,394	522,395	35,759
lohahi:io	1,962,036	3,138,847	1,936,426	2,679,139
Total Expenses	32,636,302	30,167,969	29,847,875	25,464,375
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(1,310,627)		(958,175)
Depreciation Expense		462,842		388,938
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 32,636,302	\$ 29,320,184	\$ 29,847,875	\$ 24,895,138

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

#### AMPS is funded by the following sources:

Funders	2023-2024	2022-2023
Federal Solicitor General	\$ 5,757,855	\$ 4,186,364
Ontario	3,718,170	4,442,627
Québec	2,560,344	1,856,984
Other	1,364,095	1,570,455
Appropriations	(1,651,291)	(411,326)
Total Revenue	\$ 11,749,173	\$ 11,645,104

AMPS applied its resources to the following programs & services:

#### FISCAL 2023-2024 FISCAL 2022-2023

Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Police Services	\$ 5,539,917	\$ 7,190,578	\$ 5,102,002	\$ 5,293,886
Joint Investigation Task Force	2,080,001	2,080,000	1,815,938	1,945,849
SAVE - Marine Unit	2,471,456	2,481,282	1,560,115	2,206,709
Compliance Office	282,003	115,629	94,527	80,037
IFJS Human Trafficking		152,590	114,900	200,325
MMIW	455,850	228,995	470,941	315,271
Ambulance	2,625,013	3,018,270	2,152,285	2,919,503
Emergency Measures	96,388	227,058		165,421
Building Safer Communities		139,040		
Total Expenses	13,550,628	15,633,442	11,310,708	13,127,001
Allocated to Fixed Assets	-	(1,781,161)	-	(1,310,846)
Depreciation Expense		575,376		411,326
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 13,550,628	\$ 14,427,657	\$ 11,310,708	\$ 12,227,481

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

The Department of Community & Social Services receives the bulk of its operating revenue from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Province of Ontario.

Community Service programs incurred the following total costs in delivering their services:

	<b>024</b>	-2	23	20	ΑL	C	FIS
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<b>FISCAL</b>	20	22	-20	23
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Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Social Administration	\$ 651,020	\$ 111,699	\$ 206,057	\$ 77,278
Community Support - Administration	on 772,808	1,061,919	624,976	765,831
Basic, Special Needs & Ontario Wor	ks 3,653,120	4,397,804	3,404,707	4,413,264
Child & Family Services	7,263,876	11,402,214	8,637,982	14,420,214
Treatment Centre				
Akwesasne Family Wellness Progra	ım 1,652,109	1,851,149	1,074,628	1,183,565
Family Well Being	388,080	538,190	537,066	370,084
Transitional House-Shelter	570,320	781,485	426,301	797,425
Total Expenses	\$ 14,951,333	20,144,460	\$ 14,911,717	22,027,661
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(826,234)		(2,010,051)
Depreciation Expense		220,137		151,641
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 14,951,333	\$ 19,538,363	\$ 14,911,717	\$ 20,169,251

#### **MOHAWK GOVERNMENT**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Mohawk Government and its programs are substantially unfunded. Special projects are not usually part of the initial budgeting process and are initiated on a needs basis. These projects are generally funded by an external government or by Own Source Revenue (OSR), such as Ontario Lotto and Gaming funds.

Mohawk Government incurred costs as follows in delivering its services:

#### FISCAL 2023-2024

#### FISCAL 2022-2023

Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Mohawk Government - Council Salari	es \$ 1,251,939	\$ 1,250,103	\$ 1,122,345	\$ 1,173,858
- Less Allocation of Costs to Programs	(774,500)	(686,000)	(731,500)	(798,000)
Council Chiefs Travel	217,046	213,685	204,392	189,648
North Shore & Cairn Island Claims		4,508		1,088
Legal - U.S. Claim	-	214,490	-	210,196
Church Insurance - OLG	7,000	12,777	7,000	10,904
Elders Home Repairs - OLG	100,000	150,000	100,000	130,000
Fuel Assistance Program - OLG	468,000	1,465,225	468,000	1,308,250
Bursaries BMO/Enbridge	9,000	10,300	9,000	10,000
MCA Discretionary Use of OLG @ Budg	get	1,118,432		70,638
Trust Funded Flow Through		1,044,250		806,067
Trust Related Costs	-	156,348	-	7,876
Other Projects	-	140,748	-	97,392
Total Expenses	\$ 1,278,485	\$ 5,094,866	\$ 1,179,237	\$ 3,217,917
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(42,800)		(17,042)
Depreciation Expense		1,457		1,761
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 1,278,485	\$ 5,053,541	\$ 1,179,237	\$ 3,202,654

#### **EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Revenue from a number of divergent sources is reported within the framework of Executive Services including: Indigenous Services Canada Band Support Funding, Indexing and Employee Benefits Funding; Ontario Lotto and Gaming revenue; Island revenue and interest earned on investments. Executive Services is also the resting point of all Indigenous Services Canada New Relationship Fund Grant funding.

Executive Services incurred the following costs in delivering its services:

#### FISCAL 2023-2024 FISCAL 2022-2023

Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Executive Director's Office	\$ 1,622,151	\$ 1,192,162	\$ 1,227,426	\$ 1,045,154
OLG and Various Funded Programs	3,094,777	576,724	2,941,000	698,805
OLG Special Needs				
Inflation Relief		743,451		1,417,745
Mohawk Gov't Admin. Offices	520,905	967,703	1,019,761	622,128
Nation Building	1,319,597	615,923	879,679	700,486
OVS	1,035,601	730,634	506,615	492,902
ARRO	500,970	136,315	187,233	160,908
Dundee		139,939		
Seaway Claim	60,669	341,777	241,295	347,558
Employment Programs	450,000		450,000	
Total Expenses	\$ 8,604,670	\$ 5,444,628	\$ 7,453,009	\$ 5,485,686
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(244,491)		(659)
Depreciation Expense		181,430		252,279
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 8,604,670	\$ 5,381,567	\$ 7,453,009	\$ 5,737,306

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

The Department of Health administered \$36 million in funding from Indigenous Services Canada 10-Year Grant and from the provinces of Ontario and Québec.

Health programs incurred costs as follows in delivering their services:

gram Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expense

FISCAL 2023-2024

FISCAL 2022-2023

Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Health Administration	\$ 5,358,744	\$ 2,094,140	\$ 3,851,727	\$ 5,002,466
Non-Insured Health Benefits	12,223,264	11,976,280	13,262,670	13,971,108
Home & Community Care	3,082,661	2,247,480	2,477,682	2,023,688
Community Health Nurses	2,775,107	2,393,704	2,656,954	2,315,755
Health Access Centre	2,630,803	2,558,655	2,387,466	2,546,477
Community Support Fund	1,197,111	1,417,177	1,158,647	1,297,746
Wholistic Health	2,010,600	2,486,822	1,585,599	1,481,841
Tsiionkwanonhso:te	4,659,336	5,690,194	5,113,192	5,738,149
lakhihsohtha	2,225,659	2,777,560	2,043,622	2,812,674
Other Health Projects	1,841,591	7,961,306		
Total Expenses	\$ 36,163,285	\$ 41,603,318	\$ 34,537,559	\$ 37,189,904
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(393,996)		(151,437)
Intersegment Elimination		(442,885)		(691,050)
Depreciation Expense		264,293		250,943
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 36,163,285	\$ 41,030,730	\$ 34,537,559	\$ 36,598,360

#### **AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Funding for the Akwesasne Justice Department comes from a number of sources including fines imposed by the Akwesasne Court. Canada, Ontario & Québec provide program specific funding rather than core funding to the department.

Justice programs incurred costs as follows in delivering their services:

	FISCAL 2023-2024		FISCAL 2	022-2023
Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Administration	\$ 811,337	\$ 652,190	\$ 482,860	\$ 595,377
Akwesasne Representative	2,115,089	\$ 1,491,920	1,990,733	\$ 1,196,479
Mohawk Court	362,318	325,661	374,552	342,097
Community Justice	912,234	927,908	741,942	896,615
Total Expenses	\$ 4,200,978	\$ 3,397,679	\$ 3,590,087	\$ 3,030,568
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(93,097)		(96,689)
Depreciation Expense		33,065		13,250
Net Operating Expenses		\$ 3,337,647		\$ 2,947,129

#### **DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

The Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment and its programs are underfunded. The primary funding sources are Indigenous Services Canada, and rental income charged to MCA programs that occupy Council owned offices.

	FISCAL 2	2023-2024	FISCAL 2	2022-2023
Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
I & H Administration	\$ 916,262	\$ 630,322	\$ 694,373	\$ 506,042
Major Capital Plan		3,096,538	1,533,748	5,274,266
Fire Protection	459,684	990,245	473,000	720,302
Roads	1,247,848	1,345,596	1,110,389	1,058,611
Building & Infrastructure Administration	653,947		783,220	
Garbage Collection & Dump Fees		1,096,028	645,378	905,842
Education Facilities	1,835,012	2,046,300	1,788,649	1,521,040
Administration Facilities	1,008,750	1,474,923	826,710	1,100,184
Social & Health Facilities	2,445,521	2,386,556	2,117,495	2,182,192
Conservation	167,648	135,135	74,666	104,062
Environment	1,138,907	1,168,821	653,817	757,436
Water & Wastewater Facilities	1,798,335	2,042,225	1,831,559	1,887,747
Total Expenses	11,671,914	\$ 16,412,689	\$ 12,533,004	\$ 16,017,724
Capital Project Appropriations		(5,591,937)		(5,828,478)
Inter-segment Eliminating Entries		(5,798,805)		(4,755,033)
Depreciation Expense		3,034,882		2,713,625
Net Operating Expenses - Infrastructure	11,671,914	\$ 8,056,829	\$ 12,533,004	\$ 8,147,838
Net Operating Expenses - Housing		\$ 2,423,642		\$ 2,333,650
Total Net Operating Expenses I&H	11,671,914	\$ 10,480,471	\$ 12,533,004	\$ 10,481,488

#### Notes

The capital plan budget reflects major & minor capital projects. All projects are funded and deficits were not incurred in completing these projects.

Intersegment eliminations were reported for the first time for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. Expenses generated to maintain MCA owned facilities for which rent has been charged to the programs occupying those facilities have been eliminated to avoid double counting the facility expenses.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Rental income, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) subsidies and loan repayments provide revenue for ongoing housing operations. The Housing Sector receives Indigenous Services Canada funding and CMHC loans for new home construction. This type of funding results in the aquisition of assets which are not operating expenses.

Housing programs incurred costs as follows in delivering their services:

	FISCAL 2	023-2024	FISCAL 2	022-2023
Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Administration	\$ 789,274	\$ 498,058	\$ 1,443,580	\$ 600,735
Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts				
Duplex, Triplex, Fourplex and 5-Plex Construction				
CMHC - RRAP Program				
Elders Renovation (Sweetgrass Project)		72,186		197,846
Operation of Rental Properties				
Council Owned Rental Units	93,800	63,021	66,370	21,712
Kawehno:ke Riverview Apartments	167,824	473,383	210,598	207,305
Sweetgrass Manor	58,143	261,559	110,551	267,936
CMHC Section 95 97/98 Project	52,485	154,750	62,001	90,319
CMHC Section 95 02/03 Project	67,795	71,150	70,983	72,066
CMHC Section 95 03/04 Project	51,949	53,569	56,820	46,159
CMHC Section 95 04/05 Project	49,755	63,528	54,334	70,203
CMHC Section 95 05/06 Project, 9 Units	64,365	94,138	61,697	82,914
CMHC Section 95 05/06 Project, 17 Units	113,488	117,933	97,996	129,784
CMHC Section 95 05/06 Project, 19 Units	103,594	108,504	110,010	105,276
CMHC Section 95 09/10 Project, 4 Units, Whoville	e 26,675	38,981	28,783	29,186
ISC Projects		1,259,437		1,393,895
CMHC Section 95, 4 Units, Oak Court	25,430	30,131	25,671	32,114
CMHC Section 95, Whoville, Quad Pl	31,374	55,208	27, 675	44,946
CMHC Section 95, Whoville, Quad P2	32,804	37,519	27,823	50,243
Adjustment to Allowance for Bad Debts				
Total Expenses \$	1,728,755	\$ 3,453,045	\$ 2,454,892	\$ 3,442,639
Allocation to Fixed Assets		\$ (1,510,554)		\$ (1,558,969)
Depreciation Expense		\$ 481,151		\$ 449,980
Net Operating Expenses		\$ 2,423,642		\$ 2,333,650

The above budgets do not include costs related to new house construction. Funding for construction of homes is provided by a combination of ISC and CMHC mortgage funding.

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Housing Loans Outstanding March 31, 2022	\$ 6,888,751	\$ 7,293,994
Upgrading Loans Outstanding at March 31, 2022	440,597	425,011
Total Housing Loans Outstanding at March 31, 2021	7,329,348	7,719,006
Less: Allowance for Bad Debts Housing Loans	2,788,247	2,788,247
	\$ 4,541,101	\$ 4,930,758

#### **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Summary of Operations For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Revenue from a number of divergent sources is reported within the framework of Finance and Administration including: service delivery fees and interest earned on Council investments.

The Department of Finance & Administration incurred the following costs in delivering its services:

	FISCAL 2023-2024		FISCAL 2	022-2023
Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Director of Finance Office	\$ 368,403	\$ 325,120	\$ 286,300	\$ 279,763
Human Resources	1,501,132	850,117	1,612,908	844,628
Finance	1,940,085	1,703,353	1,455,958	1,574,077
Information Services	1,960,434	2,657,908	1,729,418	2,131,833
Communications Unit	411,629	408,420	353,903	250,002
Total Expenses	\$ 6,181,683	\$ 5,944,918	\$ 5,438,487	\$ 5,080,303
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(172,855)		
Inter-Segment Eliminating Entries		(4,503,320)		(4,327,843)
Depreciation Expense		22,724		28,405
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 6,181,683	\$ 1,291,467	\$ 5,438,487	\$ 780,865

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Summary of Operations
For the Year Ending March 31, 2024

Economic Development incurred the following costs in delivering its services:

	FISCAL 2023-2024		FISCAL 2	022-2023
Program Areas	Budget	Expenses	Budget	Expenses
Economic Development - AIF	\$ 10,441,554	\$ 115,000	\$ 4,217,208	
Economic Development - Administrati	ion 767,357	1,660,665	581,215	1,384,432
Economic Development - Fiber-to-the-	Home 6,000,000	4,929,125	8,177,547	3,032,175
Economic Development Facilities	298,181	83,243	90,155	155,719
Arena	820,321	871,268	725,518	1,000,719
Thompson Island Cultural Camp	368,805	291,560	216,892	409,197
Tobacco/Cannabis	1,391,601	12,713	1,386,921	26,834
Total Expenses	\$ 20,087,819	\$ 7,963,574	\$ 15,395,456	\$ 6,009,076
Allocation to Fixed Assets		(5,940,033)		(4,102,040)
Depreciation		137,832		443
Net Operating Expenses	\$ 20,087,819	\$ 2,161,373	\$ 15,395,456	\$ 1,907,479



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