

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 4

FREE

Onerahtókha/April 2026

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BRINGING AKWESASNE'S HISTORY HOME: CULTURAL ARTIFACTS RETURNED TO FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES



On March 10, 2026, a historic milestone was reached as Akwesasne and other First Nations leaders gathered to welcome home saved cultural belongings repatriated from the Vatican Museums archive. This return follows years of careful collaboration and planning, marking a deeply significant moment as these artifacts were placed back into the hands of their rightful relatives. Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

APRIL DISTRICT MEETINGS

April 13, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

Kawehno:ke, Tsi Snaihne & Kana:takon Recreation Centers

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

April 30, 2026 · 6 p.m.

Location TBA

The MCA General Meeting will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual).

To receive the Zoom link, please email meetings@akwesasne.ca

**MOHAWK
COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE
2024-2027**

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District
Chief Cody David
Chief Fallon David
Chief Theresa Jacobs
Chief Teresa Oakes

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

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

Administration
Shannon Roundpoint
Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Akwesasne Mohawk
Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell
A/Director
Dept. of Communications

Jaime Beechey
Director
Dept. of Community
& Social Services

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic
Development

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Tessa Jocko
Director
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure,
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiostha Swamp
A/Chief of Police

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIVE THINGS
OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 1** The annual spring burn ban is now in effect until May 14, 2026. Please refrain from burning brush, tree limbs, lawn trimmings/grass, etc. during this period to prevent uncontrolled wildfires. Read more on page 5.
- 2** The Working Task Group for the Akwesasne Fire Safety Law is currently accepting written comments from Akwesasró:non regarding the essential development needs of this important law. Read more on how to submit your comments or for more information on page 15.
- 3** MCA's Department of Health is committed to providing accessible, high-quality primary care across all three districts of Akwesasne. View page 19 to learn how to access same-day medical clinic services being offered at Akwesasne Medical Clinic, Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic and Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic!
- 4** Spring has sprung, making it the perfect time to get your home in order before the busy summer months. The MCA DIHE Housing Sector has put together a helpful Home Maintenance Checklist to keep you on track. Check it out on page 26.
- 5** Applications are now open for students ages 14-29 who are interested in the MCA Summer Student Employment Program! All interested students must complete a summer employment application through the MCA Career Centre (accessible via www.akwesasne.ca/careers) Deadlines to apply: April 17 for Post-Secondary; May 29 for High School students. More info available on the back page.

NEWS

BRINGING AKWESASNE'S HISTORY HOME: CULTURAL ARTIFACTS RETURNED TO FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

After years of anticipation and careful collaboration, a cultural artifact belonging to Akwesasne will be returning home. March 10, 2026, marked a historic milestone for First Nations communities, as leaders gathered under one roof to welcome home cultural belongings from the Vatican Museums archive. The return of these artifacts items has been years in the making, carefully planned from the early stages of discussion to the moment they could finally be placed back into the hands of their relatives.

Many Akwesasró:non gathered to witness the ceremony and celebrate as an artifact that rightfully belongs to Akwesasne was officially welcomed home. The return of the cultural items was made possible through the dedication and collaboration of leadership from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office, whose work helped ensure the artifact could be safely brought back to the community.

Representing Akwesasne at the ceremony were Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, along with District Chiefs Tesha Rourke, Scott Peters, Teresa Oakes, and Tom Thomas. They were joined by Cheyenne Lazore and Adam Jacobs of the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office, who also played an important role in supporting this historic moment.

The uncrating ceremony took place at the Canadian Museum of History and was hosted in partnership with

the Assembly of First Nations. The morning began with a welcoming reception and opening prayer, followed by remarks from First Nations leadership before the sacred bundle and artifacts were formally uncrated. A closing prayer and Haudenosaunee Round Dance performed by the Akwesasne Men's Singers helped mark the significance of the occasion and celebration.

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore reflected on the significance of the moment during his remarks, sharing, "These are not simply objects. They carry our stories, our teachings, and the voices of our ancestors. They connect us to who we are and where we come from." He added that when these belongings were taken from communities, important relationships and understandings were also lost, and that repatriation is an important step toward restoring those connections.

The return of these cultural artifacts represents an important step on the ongoing work between First Nations communities and museums across the world. Through continued collaboration, respect, and dialogue, institutions and Indigenous Nations are working together to bring pieces of their history back to their rightful homes.

For Akwesasne, this uncrating represents more than the return of an artifact – it marks the return of a piece of history. As it comes home, the community will continue working together to ensure it is honoured, protected, and carried forward for future generations.



NEWS

MCA REAFFIRMS MOBILITY RIGHTS

Enniska/February 26, 2026 – In response to the recent confusion caused by Canada’s travel advisory, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is clarifying that Akwesasronon are not required to hold a Canadian passport to cross the border. While Canada’s recent travel advisory recommends that First Nations people carry a Canadian Passport when crossing into the United States, in addition to a Secure Certificate of Indian Status, such guidance does not alter the legal standing of our inherent and treaty-recognized rights.

These rights predate the creation of the Canada and United States border and remain recognized under Article III of the Jay Treaty and federal law, including Section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1359). These protections have been upheld for generations and continue to carry legal effect today.

The MCA stands in solidarity with all leadership who protect our ability to move freely as Onkwehón:we . Our mobility across this territory does not depend on Canadian citizenship documentation but flows from who we are as a people and must be upheld.

Akwesasne is a community whose lands, families, and governance systems continue to function despite the imposed boundary that divides our territory.

Akwesasronon cross that imaginary line daily to work, to access services, and to be with family. For those born on the northern portion of our territory, the right to enter, live, and work in the southern portion is longstanding and legally recognized. It is not discretionary.

MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore noted, “Council will continue to stand behind our community and take every step necessary to ensure our people are supported, and our rights are respected.”

While documentation establishing indigenous status may be required when interacting with border agencies, no travel advisory can override the rights of Akwesasronon to move freely within our territory. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne remains committed to supporting Akwesasronon in exercising their lawful rights and encourages community members who require verification of Indigenous identity for Jay Treaty purposes or have questions regarding cross-border travel to contact the MCA Mohawk Government Program or Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO).

The MCA will continue to defend and assert these rights for Akwesasronon. We remain committed to our people and to this responsibility.

Connect With Us on Social Media!

- facebook.com/MCAkwesasne
- youtube.com/MCAkwesasne
- @MCAkwesasne
- @MCAkwesasne
- @MCAkwesasne
- @MCAkwesasne

NEWS

OFFICIAL RESULTS AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP BOARD KANA:TAKON BY-ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Enniska/February 27, 2026 – The Chief Electoral Officer is providing the community with the official results of the nominations held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, for the Akwesasne Membership Board for the two (2) open seats in the district of Kana:takon.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Cheryl Jacobs has released the following ‘OFFICIAL’ results for candidates for the District of Kana:takon.

The number of candidates that returned their nomination packages to serve for the two open Kana:takon

seats did not exceed the number of open positions therefore there will be no need for a By-Election to take place on March 28, 2026.

The CEO hereby declares: Laura Francis and Crystal Oakes the eligible candidates acclaimed to the Akwesasne Membership Board Kana:takon seats, subject to any appeals.

For questions or inquiries, please contact the Chief Electoral Officer at 613-575-2250 ext. 2126 or chief.electoral.officer@akwesasne.ca.

AKWESASNE BURN BAN IN EFFECT MARCH 16 TO MAY 14

Enniskó:wa/March 9, 2026 – The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) are providing a reminder to the Akwesasne community of the annual Spring burn ban in effect from March 16 to May 14.

The months-long ban specifically prohibits what the New York State Department of Conservation calls “open burning,” which includes brush, tree limbs, lawn trimmings/grass, and building materials. An open burning could potentially start an uncontrolled wildfire, which can destroy personal property, place an individual’s safety at risk, and require an emergency response from the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer

Fire Department (HAVFD), limiting their capacity to respond to other emergency calls.

Recreational fires are allowed during this community-wide burn ban so long as they abide by the following provisions: fires that burn charcoal, dry, clean or untreated wood. Recreational fires include ceremonial bonfires, small cooking fires, and fires that are less than three feet tall and four feet in diameter.

Please be respectful of this burn ban and recognize that it is intended to keep our community safe. The burn ban will be enforced and violators may be subject to fines.

Protect Your Home

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives.

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms this spring to keep you and your family safe!

NEWS

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW REFERENDUM

Enniskó:wa/March 24, 2026 – The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is notifying the community that the results of the Akwesasne Election Law Referendum MCR 2024-2025 #101 Section 16.2(a) held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, are now confirmed as OFFICIAL.

Following the release of the unofficial results by the Chief Referendum Officer, an appeal was filed with the Akwesasne Mohawk Court (AMC) by the February 6, 2026 deadline.

The Court reached its decision on March 16, 2026, upholding the results of the January 31, 2026 referendum.

On March 23, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne passed a resolution accepting the referendum results and confirming the amendment to Section 16.2(a) of the Akwesasne Election Law.

As a result, the previously published results are now confirmed as official.

The referendum ballot question stated: As a Voter of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, do you approve of the proposed amendment to the Akwesasne Election Law Section 16.2(a), to read:

(a) A petition requesting the removal of a District Chief is signed by an equal number plus one of eligible voters from that District Chief's district, based on the official total number of votes he or she received on election or by-election day, and delivered to the Council at a duly convened General Meeting; or..."

The results are as follows:

- "Yes" votes in favor of the proposed amendment: 174
- "No" votes opposed to the proposed amendment: 89

Therefore, the amendment to Section 16.2(a) of the Akwesasne Election Law (AEL# 2024-01, MCR 2024/2025 #101) is confirmed to have passed.

The Department of Justice will update and republish the Akwesasne Election Law within seven (7) days following enactment of the resolution and add the updated law to the Akwesasne Law Registry.

For additional information, please contact MCA Executive Services at 613-575-2250.

MCA GREEN FOOD BAG PROGRAM: UPDATED PICK-UP LOCATIONS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Community Health Services is pleased to continue offering the Tetewatska:hon – Green Food Bag Program. Each month, Akwesasró:non can purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and pantry staples for just \$20 per bag (limit of 2 bags per person). Pick-up has expanded to multiple locations across the districts, making it easier for community members to access the program. Quantities are limited, so order early to secure your bag.

Pick up your bag at any of the three district locations:

- Kana:takon Recreation Center
- Akwesasne Homemakers
- A'nowara'ko:wa Arena or Kawehno:ke Recreation Center (schedule may vary)

Distribution is held from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Important: When ordering, you must specify your pick-up location. If none is indicated, it will default to Kana:takon.

Each bag may include a variety of fresh produce such as apples, potatoes, carrots, onions, bananas, cucumbers, lettuce, and more.

Payments can be made by cash at Community Health Services (Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility) or by e-transfer to etransfer@akwesasne.ca. When sending an e-transfer, please include "Green Food Bag," the month, your name, contact number, and pick-up location in the message.

Participants are asked to bring their own reusable bags, as bags will not be provided.

For the full schedule and additional details, visit www.akwesasne.ca/mca-green-food-bag-program. For questions, contact Community Health at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 or communityhealth@akwesasne.ca.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



Enniskó:wa/February 23, 2026

- Executive Director provided an administration update including the election law referendum appeal.
- Grand Chief provided political updates, including Iroquois Caucus updates, lobbying and the Grand Chiefs' work plan.
- Justice Portfolio gave an update.
- Department of Community and Social Services Portfolio gave an update.
- Office of Vital Statistics Portfolio gave an update.

Discussion Items:

- Attendance at Border Meetings
- Election Canada
- Iroquois Caucus Contribution
- Federal Workers' Pension Issue
- AMBE Unity Day Funding
- Iroquois Caucus

MCRs: Assignment of Lease; Allotment – Chenail Range; Allotment – Chenail Range; Permit – Thompson Island; Permit – Thompson Island; Indigenous Services Funding for Policy Paper; Paul Cree Memorial Road Waterline Connection; ISC Amendment No. 185 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; Council Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – November 24, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes – December 22, 2025; Focus Meeting

Enniskó:wa/March 2, 2026

- Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment Portfolio gave an update.
- Housing Authority Committee gave an update.

Discussion Items:

- Oversight Focus Meeting
- KixCare
- AFN Women's Leadership Meeting
- Terms of Reference for Executive Committee
- IFN 1965 Welfare Agreement
- Focus Meeting Debrief
- Texas Rangers

MCRs: MOU with OPSCA; First Nations Environmental Contaminants Grant; Finance Committee Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair; Council Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2026

Enniskó:wa/March 9, 2026

- Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Grand Chief gave an update.
- Property Acquisition Team gave an update.
- Governance Committee gave an update.
- Youth, Elders, Culture and Learning Committee gave an update.

Discussion Items:

- Community Member Letter
- Investigation Update on AMPS, ACFS and DCSS
- CRA & EI Issue
- Payroll Issue
- Vatican Artifact Update

MCRs: 2025 Ontario Petition for Subsidy ON Municipal Road Improvements; Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic Generator & HVAC Replacement; Block 97 Sewage Pumping Station Update; Focus Meeting – March 26, 2026

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF TERESA OAKES UPDATES



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) successfully obtained approval to support all Akwesasne families attending the annual Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) Tournament during March Break! This tournament is a highlight for many of our youth and families, and we are thrilled to help ensure our children can participate, compete, and represent our community with pride.

This achievement would not be possible without the strong leadership of our DCSS Director Jaime Beechey and the unwavering dedication of her incredible staff. Their commitment and hard work continue to ensure that First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program funds are accessible to support the many activities, initiatives, and opportunities our Akwesasne children are part of. Their passion for serving our families truly makes a difference.

In an exciting step forward for collaboration and teamwork, the Director also hosted the first-ever department-wide DCSS staff meeting. Every program came together for a day focused on connection, learning, and strengthening how they work together. It was an energizing and meaningful gathering that reinforced the shared commitment to serving Akwesasne families with unity and purpose.

The DCSS Director, alongside myself and Chief Tesha, also attended the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) First Child Well-Being Planning Session in Mississauga, ON. There, we joined other First Nations communities in powerful discussions about the planning and implementation of the FNCFS Program. It was encouraging to share stories, and address challenges to see that we all have very similar issues. Representatives from Indigenous Services Canada were present to provide guidance and answer questions, further supporting our collective efforts.

I am excited about the continued growth, collaboration, and advocacy happening within DCSS. Together, they are building stronger supports and brighter futures for the children and families of Akwesasne.

Portfolio was invited to an Open House at the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program where we met the new Program Manager Karlee Bigtree who gave us a tour, shared the work she has done, and the work that is upcoming.



AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION (AMBE)

Portfolio Chiefs recently visited the "Sunshine Rooms" at Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School and Tsi Snaihne School. The purpose of the visit was to confirm that these spaces are not comparable to the confined boxes that were recently highlighted on social media in connection with the Salmon River Central School district. We are pleased to report that the Sunshine Rooms at AMBE are bright, open, and supportive environments where children are never placed in overly confined spaces.

To further support student well-being, sensory tools have also been distributed to classrooms.

Another positive development is the renewed collaboration between AMBE and the MCA Department of Health, which has brought a nurse back into the schools. The nurse will serve all AMBE schools and will also assist with dental screenings for students.

In addition, Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education

Portfolios:

Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), Dept. of Community & Social Services (DCSS), Government Secretariat, Nation Building

Committees & External Committees:

Akwesko:wa/Port Divesture, Finance, Governance, Executive Committee, Lobbying, Hydro Quebec, CBSA, Iroquois Caucus, Jay Treaty Border Alliance

She:kon Sewakwe:kon,

As we enter into the season of Spring, it is the time for new beginnings, characterized by blooming flowers, the awakening of animals from hibernation to nest and reproduce, the migration of birds towards warmer climates, and is the planting season.

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, spring brings a fresh sense of energy and renewal to our community. It's the perfect time to reconnect with neighbors, start new projects, and enjoy everything our community has to offer.

As the temperatures warm up, please pay attention to the roads as children will start riding their bikes and running from house to house.

Spring also brings the melting of snow, which can lead to flooding. It is crucial to be aware of weather updates, and to prepare homes for potential flooding.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KANA:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF TERESA OAKES UPDATES

and Training Institute is preparing to launch its 6th FabLab cohort and is currently seeking project ideas from the community.

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE (ARRO)

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has filed a brief as amicus curiae in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York in support of plaintiffs challenging federal actions that would require Akwesasronon born in Canada to obtain immigration documentation to access federal student financial aid.

This is a very important filing on behalf of "Canadian Born" students, to support the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in their lawsuit they filed on behalf of them.

The amicus brief traces the historical and legal foundations of the right of Akwesasronon born in Canada to move freely across the border, including:

- Recognition of free passage in Article III of the 1794 Jay Treaty;
- Judicial affirmation of that right in United States ex rel. Diabo v. McCandless (1927–1928);
- Congressional codification of the right in the Act of April 2, 1928; and
- Reenactment of that protection in Section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, now codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1359.

The brief further explains that federal regulations, including 8 C.F.R. § 289.2, recognize qualifying American Indians born in Canada as lawful permanent residents without requiring them to obtain immigration documentation such as a "green card."

In its filing, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne argues that:

• Congress expressly said nothing in federal immigration law may "affect" the right of Akwesasronon born in Canada to pass the borders of the United States.

• Requiring individuals protected under 8 U.S.C. § 1359 to register with federal immigration authorities or obtain green cards would unlawfully burden and affect that right.

• The U.S. Department of Education lacks authority to impose immigration registration requirements that Congress has limited or prohibited.

• Department of Education regulations must be interpreted consistently with federal immigration law and longstanding judicial precedent.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne filed the amicus brief to ensure that the court is fully informed of the historical context and legal framework surrounding the rights of Akwesasronon born in Canada.

As detailed in the filing, Council maintains that federal agencies may not impose documentation or registration requirements that would undermine or condition the exercise of rights expressly protected by Congress.

NATION BUILDING

Program has worked diligently on the Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement. There is only one section that remains to be worked out between Canada and Akwesasne. Once that is in place community consultations will begin.

The Political Protocol received final and official approval from all departments. The Political Protocol is a formal agreement between Akwesasne, the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. It establishes a framework for collaboration to

advance governance, social and economic development for our community.

Dates are being worked on for MCA and Canada to sign the agreement.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Within this Portfolio, Nation Building, ARRO, Administration, Mohawk Government, Communications, and our Quebec Liaison come together monthly to share updates and discuss matters that may require political attention or advocacy. These meetings provide an opportunity to coordinate efforts and ensure that the needs of our community members are being addressed.

Currently, we are working on helping community members who have received notices from any Canadian agencies stating that they're being denied certain benefits due to "being out of the country". Given our jurisdictional boundaries we know this is not right and are prepared to help rectify the situation.

MONTHLY NOTABLES

An event that I volunteer at is the St. Regis Recreations Bingo. Laura and her crew put together a monthly Bingo where fun is had by all, March's theme was "Bring Your Luck". Chief Tesha Rourke impressed the crowd by calling the Bingo numbers in Mohawk, while myself, Chief Cody David and Chief Fallon David helped in the kitchen.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in March

1. Carey Terrance Wishes Akwesasne Athletes Good Luck at LNHL (Video)
2. Bringing Akwesasne's History Home: Cultural Artifacts Returned to First Nations Communities
3. Glam & Glow: Tota Spa Day at Iakhihsohtha
4. Honouring our Language and Culture with Traditional Medicines Program
5. Where Tradition Blooms: Corn Husk Flower Class with Land-Based Healing

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in March

1. Carey Terrance Wishes Akwesasne Athletes Good Luck at LNHL (Video) — 29,722 Reached
2. Bringing Akwesasne's History Home: Cultural Artifacts Returned to First Nations Communities — 27,104 Reached
3. Weather Alert: Severe Thunderstorm — 19,129 Reached
4. Glam & Glow: Tota Spa Day at Iakhihsohtha — 9,940 Reached
5. Weather Alert: Freezing Rain Warning — 9,489 Reached



X STATS

Top Post in March



YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for March

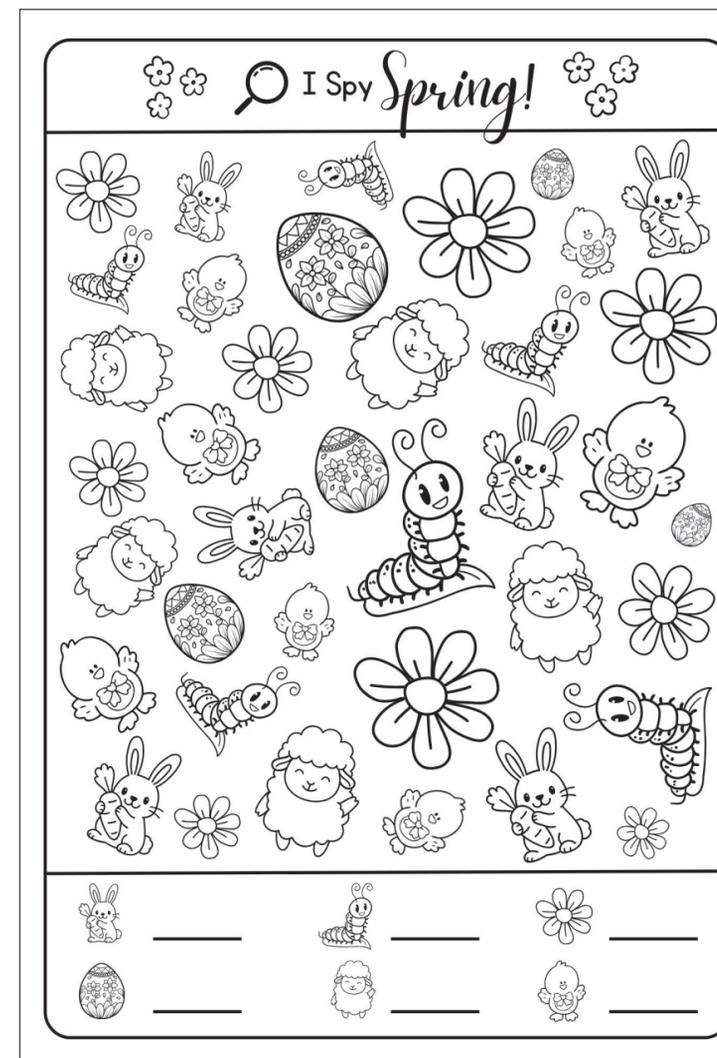
Explore MCA Careers: Robert Sawatis



Scan QR Code to view video!

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

CHILDREN'S PAGE



COLOR THE COZY BUNNY READING



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
 Bugs Bunny

Why don't eggs tell jokes?
 They'd crack each other up

How does the Easter bunny stay in shape?
 Egg-cercise!

HUMAN RESOURCES

PAST MCA SUMMER STUDENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



What begins as a summer job can become something more. For this series, we're highlighting employees of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) who once started as summer students, showing Akwesasne youth how early opportunities can grow into meaningful careers. In this spotlight we feature Carlee King, whose work in community wellness reflects compassion, strength,

and a commitment to helping others.

Carlee King serves as a Withdrawal Management Specialist at Sahatihahara'ne Detox Center. Her role is centered on client safety and support. When a client arrives, she follows careful intake procedures to ensure everyone's safety, secures personal belongings according to policy, and helps clients settle in comfortably. After medical assessment by the RN, Carlee reviews initial paperwork, confidentiality agreements, and program guidelines before giving a tour of the facility. Throughout the day, she checks in regularly, offering support, conversation, referrals, and



Theresa Benedict is a Senior Researcher with the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO). In her role, she works on ongoing Additions to Reserve files alongside Indigenous Services Representatives, completing the detailed research and documentation required to submit packages to the Minister for final approval. She also develops educational

materials for the community, including newsletter articles on historical events and claims, informational pamphlets and booklets, and background materials to support Council on a variety of topics. Theresa enjoys uncovering meaningful pieces of local history, whether it's discovering historical photographs of families, old territorial maps, or newspaper articles covering significant events, and sharing those findings with the community.

Reading and writing skills, public speaking, and an openness to new perspectives are essential in her field. Theresa's journey began as a 2012 MCA Summer Student with the Mohawk Govern-

ment Support Office, where she had the opportunity to meet Chiefs, learn about their roles, and assist staff with various files. That experience helped her recognize a career path that matched her strengths and ultimately reshaped her educational goals. With a lifelong love of history and culture, inspired by books like Magic Treehouse and films like Indiana Jones, she pursued an Associate's Degree in General Arts from Algonquin College and a Bachelor's Degree in Indigenous Studies from Trent University. She joined ARRO in 2018 after graduating and recently completed her Master of Arts in Canadian Studies at Carleton University in 2024. During her university years, she also worked with Statistics Canada on the 2016 Census, where she gained insight into the importance of data sovereignty.

assistance accessing treatment or additional programming. She works closely with her team to ensure each client's stay is safe, respectful, and supportive. Carlee began her journey with MCA as a summer student, working in the Finance Department in 2015 and at Iohahio in 2016. Those experiences gave her valuable insight into different work environments and helped her get her foot in the door. Inspired by the needs she saw within the community, she pursued a two-year diploma in General Arts & Science and a second diploma in Mental Health and Addictions, along with certifications such as CPR/First Aid, ASIST, Basic Mental Health First Aid, and Naloxone training. Though she didn't have a set career path, she always knew she wanted to help her community in her own way.

To youth interested in this field, Theresa encourages starting with your own family history and learning how it has shaped you. Through that, you'll better understand your community as well. She emphasizes that confidence grows over time with experience, and that volunteer work is the best teacher that will help you build skills you can apply throughout your life. For those considering a future with MCA, she shares that it's a great place to gain experience, apply your skills, and open doors to new career and educational opportunities.

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 MCA's summer student applications are now open! Visit the MCA website to apply: www.akwesasne.ca/careers

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINISTER QUINN VISITS AKWESASNE TO MEET WITH ITEP STUDENTS

On March 6, 2026, Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute welcomed Minister Nolan Quinn (Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security), Amy Burns (Dean Faculty of Education), Peter Chin (Associate Dean, Teacher Education), Gillian Shields (Government Relations Coordinator, Queen's University), and Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) Board of Trustee Chairperson, Kathleen Papineau, for a visit to the school.

During the visit, Minister Quinn met with students in the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (ITEP) to learn about their experiences in the program and their journeys toward becoming educators within their communities.

The visit also included a tour of the trades facilities where Minister Quinn participated in a carpentry project with Trades Coordinator Ron Lazore, highlighting the hands-on learning opportunities available at Iohahi:io. The group also toured the Cultural Education and Trades portables located on campus.

ITEP is delivered through a partnership between Queen's University and Akwesasne, supporting future indigenous educators while allowing students to complete their training close to home.

To learn more about upcoming programs at Iohahi:io, visit their website (iohahioeducationtraininginstitute.org) or find them on Facebook!



AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

MICAELEE HORN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR



Micaelee Horn serves as the Akwesasne Court Administrator, a role that supports the day-to-day operations of the court while helping ensure the justice system meets the needs of the community. Her educational background and professional goals reflect a strong

commitment to accessible, community-focused, and meaningful justice.

Micaelee holds a Social Service Worker (SSW) diploma, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ). Together, these areas of study provide her with a well-rounded understanding of human behaviour, social systems, and restorative approaches to justice. Her education connects theory and practice, particularly in areas that focus on accountability, growth, and community well-being.

Looking ahead, Micaelee's future aspiration is to develop new processes that increase the community's ability to access justice in meaningful and effective ways. She recognizes that access to justice is not

only about having a court system in place, but also about ensuring that individuals can understand, navigate, and benefit from it. Her goal reflects a desire to strengthen systems so they are more responsive and supportive of the community.

Through her experience as Court Administrator, Micaelee hopes to gain practical knowledge that will enhance the Court's ability to better meet the needs of Akwesasne. She views this role as an opportunity to grow professionally while contributing to long-term improvements within the justice system.

A quote that resonates with Micaelee comes from George Bernard Shaw:

If you are to punish a man retributively, you must injure him. If you are to reform him, you must improve him. And men are not improved by injuries.

— George Bernard Shaw

This perspective aligns closely with restorative justice principles, which emphasize improvement and positive change rather than harm. Through her education, aspirations, and dedication to community-focused justice, Micaelee continues to support a system that values fairness, growth, and meaningful access to justice for Akwesasne.

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

CALLOUT FOR COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON THE AKWESASNE FIRE SAFETY LAW

The Working Task Group (WTG) for the Akwesasne Fire Safety Law is currently accepting written comments from Akwesasró:non regarding the essential development needs of this important law. Community input is vital to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in Akwesasne.

established, consisting of HAVFD Firemen serving as community experts, Justice Portfolio Chiefs, a District Representative from the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development, and Legislative Services staff. While we now meet the minimum membership needed to move forward with the law, we would still benefit greatly from additional support.

Here are some questions you may wish to consider, keeping in mind that you're not limited to these:



What should be considered a fire or burning offense?

(e.g., fireworks, unattended/abandoned campfires, excessive smoke)

What should the repercussions be for violating the law?

(e.g., Good Standing Policy actions, fines)

What additional measures could help ensure the safety of all community members?

(e.g., increased community outreach/events, educational materials, stricter penalties)

Who else should be involved in the development of this law?

(e.g., AMPS, EMTs)

We are seeking passionate community members to join the WTG and assist with the development of this law, as well as the community outreach that will be required. If you feel that you—or someone you know—could serve as a "community expert" on any part of the law's content, we would be happy to hear from you. Successful candidates who join the group will be compensated for their time at meetings and community events. We hope you'll consider joining us as we continue working toward this crucial law for the safety and well-being of all Akwesasne.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

Written comments may be submitted by email to:

- Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca
- Emily King, Legislative Researcher emily.king@akwesasne.ca

Comments may also be delivered in person at the Akwesasne Justice Department Administration Office, located at 45 Johnson Rd., Kaná:takon (formerly the old Tickets store).



The deadline to submit comments is Friday, May 29, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.

In the 2020 Akwesasne Law Priority Survey, fire safety was identified as a top concern among participating community members. Although the WTG made previous attempts to reconvene, progress was delayed due to major scheduling conflicts and a lack of quorum.

We are pleased to share that the WTG is now re-es-

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Contact Us!

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

45 Johnson Rd., Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0
Phone: 613-575-5000 Fax: 613-575-1726

AKWESASNE COURT

CIA #3, 101 Tewesateni Rd., Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5
Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1026

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

ENIETHISWANÓN:NA, AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LAW UPDATE

The Working Task Group (WTG) for *Eniethiswanón:na*, the Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law, is now entering Phase III: Community Consultation. To provide the community with an update, members of the WTG recorded a Tetewathá:ren on CKON 97.3 FM, which aired on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. During the broadcast, they introduced the draft law by discussing its background, including why the work began and how it has progressed over time. The session also helped clarify the legislative process and the steps that will follow.

In addition to the radio update, the WTG hosted an MCA Focus Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at the Tsi Snáihne Recreation Center. Community members were invited to attend, ask questions, and offer feedback on the draft law.

Looking ahead, the WTG remains committed to gathering

as much community input as possible from members both on and off territory. This will help ensure that, when feedback is incorporated, the final law genuinely reflects Akwesasne's voice. The consultation phase will take place over an extended period, with the intention of meeting with a wide range of community groups, including youth, parents, aunts, uncles, elders, and language speakers. Once community consultation sessions are confirmed, public notices will be shared through CKON, the MCA website, *Onkwe'ta:ke*, and MCA social media platforms.

Community members who wish to review the full draft of the Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law may request a copy by emailing alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca or emily.king@akwesasne.ca. Physical copies are also available at the Akwesasne Justice Department (45 Johnson Rd., Kaná:takon), or by calling (613) 575 5000.

CONNECTING YOUTH TO THE ROOTS OF LACROSSE

During the week of February 17-20, 2026, Mike Benedict, Youth Worker with the Akwesasne Community Justice Program, and Jessica Shenandoah, Camp Coordinator with Thompson Island Cultural Camp, hosted a youth camp for 15 participants aged 13-17 titled "The Roots of Lacrosse." The camp focused on teaching youth about the meaning of the game and the cultural significance of the wooden stick, while exploring how the game has evolved over time. Participants also heard inspiring stories about where the game can take them when they work hard both in the classroom and on the field—from high school and prep school to college and professional lacrosse.

Throughout the week, guest speakers shared their experiences and knowledge of the game, including Kiowere Rourke, Karatoten Lazore, Ky Tarbell, Thanaokatha Elijah, Kyren Lazore, Wayne Baker, and Johnson Jimerson. Speakers discussed their playing journeys, the life lessons lacrosse provides, and the opportunities the game can create. Youth also had the chance to participate in drills, learn about traditional teachings, string their sticks, and take part in a mock medicine game.

Each participant received a wooden lacrosse stick along

with plastic field heads and mesh kits from Evan Cree at Traditional Lacrosse. The camp also included meals generously provided by Three Feathers Internet Cafe, Cheyy's Place, and Papa's Cuisine, with the St. Regis Mohawk School offering their facility during the school break.

The week served as a reminder that lacrosse is more than a sport — it is a gift that connects generations. By learning about its roots, these youth are helping ensure the game continues to grow and thrive for years to come.



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR CHILD FOR INDIAN STATUS YET?



APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION CAN TAKE UP TO **10 MONTHS** TO PROCESS, OR UP TO TWO YEARS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

OVS IS NOT ABLE TO ISSUE A STATUS CARD TO YOUR CHILD UNTIL THEY ARE REGISTERED AND ASSIGNED A NUMBER BY INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA (ISC).

- 1 Make an appointment to apply for Indian Registration at the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS).
Phone 613-575-2250, Ext. 1013 or email ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca
- 2 Bring the child's long form birth document with both parents name.
- 3 The applying parent is to provide valid government issued ID.
- 4 Both parents must sign the application form.* OVS will submit the completed application to ISC.

- 5 ISC will mail you a letter to confirm your child is registered and will indicate your child's Indian Registry Number.
- 6 Make an appointment to get your child's status card at the OVS.
Phone 613-575-2250, Ext. 1013 or email ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca

**Ask OVS staff what can be done if one of the parent's signature can't be obtained.*

Apply ASAP



Parents can apply for the Secure Certificate of Indian Status when applying for Indian Registration. Ask Office of Vital Statistics for details.

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY - 1981 TO 1986: ACTIVISM AND SEAWAY MILESTONES

This segment examines the significant events, both local and national, related to the St. Lawrence Seaway through the first half of the 1980s. Last segment, we covered the 1970s, specifically how the environmental impacts began to arise throughout Akwesasne, and the submission of the Specific Claim against Canada regarding the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne advanced further arguments following the 1976 claim submission regarding the unlawful appropriation of land associated with the construction of the Seaway. A 1982 submission to the U.S. Federal Court sought the return of Barnhart, Long Sault, and Croil Islands, land directly affected by hydroelectric development in the 1950s. While the original claim was still active, issues with the claims department would hinder any meaningful progress for some time.

Meanwhile, community activism was on the rise. Akwesasne Notes, a local publication covering news from all nations of Turtle Island, frequently reported on the environmental issues that were plaguing the region. They highlighted the stories of health care workers' concerns about illegal dumping at the plants and the rapid decline in public health. By sharing the struggles of other Nations against mining and nuclear facilities, the publication helped strengthen local activism, forcing politicians and agencies to finally acknowledge and investigate these issues.

National politics within Canada would evolve between 1982 and 1983 as parliamentary hearings were held on Indigenous self-government. While Akwesasne did not directly participate, other Haudenosaunee groups and communities contributed to the hearings, expressing frustration with the existing bureaucracy and the burden of an inefficient claims policy. The resulting Special Committee report recommended prioritizing land entitlements and restructuring the Department of Indian Affairs to develop a fairer claims process.

During the 80s, business on the St. Lawrence Seaway was booming. In 1982, Canada and the U.S. had a memorandum of agreement to freeze the tariffs and toll rates for the next navigation season. By 1983, the Seaway had carried its one billionth ton of cargo through the channel. The Seaway celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1984 with President Reagan declaring June 27th as 'Seaway Day'.

Opposite of the economic celebrations, Indigenous demands for accountability were reaching a national audience. Activism, investigative journalism, and political pressure forced the governments responsible for the Seaway to investigate concerns regarding public health and the environment. They also acknowledged Indigenous sovereignty and restructured their departments to be more functional and address issues equally.

Submission provided by the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office.



AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

CONTACT INFO:
PO Box 90, Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0
Phone: 613-575-2250
Fax: 613-575-2884
Email: arro@akwesasne.ca

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAME-DAY MEDICAL CLINICS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health is committed to providing accessible, high-quality primary care across all three districts of Akwesasne. Medical services are offered at the Akwesasne Medical Clinic (AMC), the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC), and the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic (TMC) — a satellite site currently operating out of Iakhihsotha Lodge.

Each clinic provides booked telephone appointments, follow-ups, lab reviews, referrals, immunizations, blood work, and diabetes prevention and management programs. Care is delivered by Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Nurses using a holistic, team-based approach that reflects both professional standards and community wellness values.

The Clinical Care Services Primary Care team now offers same-day medical clinics in all three districts, as well as evening and Saturday clinics. The medical clinic calendars can be viewed on the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's website at www.akwesasne.ca/medical-clinics.

To access same-day clinic services, community members must call the AMC or KMC on the morning of the clinic to book a same-day appointment. Same-day clinic appointments are also being offered for some evening hours and on Saturdays. Community members wishing to schedule an appointment for same-day clinic services are to call the clinic reception at 8:00 a.m. to receive an appointment. Appointments are scheduled in 20-minute intervals and will be strictly adhered to — late arrivals will result in forfeited time slots. Please plan to arrive at least 10–15 minutes early. Medical clinic reception will notify callers when clinics are full.

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENT CRITERIA

- Arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment
- Only one issue addressed per appointment; a second issue presented will require to book another appointment

- Same-day appointments are not to be booked for prescription renewals, filling out of forms, or chronic issues (i.e. has been dealing with issue for longer than 3 months)
- Patients who are 15 minutes late or more (which include the 10-minute pre-appointment arrival time) will forfeit their appointment and will be offered the next available appointment time.
- Appointments for patients aged 16 and over must be booked by the patient themselves; appointments booked by someone other than the patient results in high no-show rates
- If you've booked a same-day appointment, and the appointment is no longer needed, please call the clinic to cancel as soon as possible.

ACUTE/SAME-DAY APPOINTMENT ISSUES

- UTI/bladder complaints
- Sore throat/strep throat
- Earache
- Eye infection (Pink Eye)
- New or worsening rash
- Fever of unknown cause
- Possible broken bone
- New severe joint pain
- Lacerations
- New cough, cold, respiratory infection symptoms
- New migraine/headache
- Acute back pain
- Possible concussion/TBI/head injury
- New dizziness/light headedness

Acute medical condition refers to a disease or symptom that develops suddenly and has a relatively short duration, typically requiring urgent or immediate medical attention.

CONTACT THE CLINICS:

Akwesasne Medical Clinic: 613-575-2341 ext. 3215
Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic: 613-932-5808 or 613-575-2341 ext. 1110
Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic: 613-575-2341 ext. 3215

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WEAVING WELLNESS TOGETHER: LONG-TERM CARE STAFF ENJOY HANDS-ON BASKET-MAKING EXPERIENCE

The Department of Health's Land-Based Healing Program hosted a wellness session in February for staff from Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care (LTC) and Iakhihsohtha Lodge, featuring a hands-on basket-making workshop led by Jared Jock, Travis Goff, and Rahhesere Caldwell of Quills n' Baskets.

Throughout the day, participants worked side by side, learning traditional techniques and crafting their own baskets with guidance from the facilitators. The session was filled with laughter, storytelling, and meaningful connections, offering staff a chance to unwind, reconnect, and engage in a culturally grounded wellness activity.

Land-Based Healing would like to extend a heart-

felt nia:wen/thank you to the dedicated staff of Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care and Iakhihsohtha Lodge for taking the time to participate, and to Quills n' Baskets for generously sharing their knowledge and creativity with our amazing LTC teams.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WELCOMES NEW HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Newest members of MCA's Department of Health Advisory Board, pictured L-R: Mindy Thompson, Delia McDonald, Iakonikonriiosta, and Dwayne Thomas.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) welcomed its newest members to the Health Advisory Board. The board members will occupy their seats for a 3-year term.

The Health Advisory Board members will assist the Department of Health in guiding and shaping health services and programs via connection to the community and providing feedback to the DOH Administrative Team. The Health Advisory Board was sworn into their positions by Justice of the Peace, Alexandra David.

The Health Advisory Board consists of the following members, and the district they represent:

- Dwayne Thomas, *Tsi Snaihne*
- Delia McDonald, *Tsi Snaihne*
- Mindy Thompson, *Kana:takon*
- Iakonikonriiosta, *Kawehno:ke*

Please join us in welcoming our newest Health Advisory Board members!

KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC HOSTING RHEUMATOLOGY CLINICS



Dr. Natasha Gakhal



Dr. Dana Jerome

The MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector is notifying the community that the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic will be hosting quarterly rheumatology clinics with Dr. Natasha Gakhal and Dr. Dana Jerome. Dr. Jerome and Dr. Gakhal are both rheumatologists with the Women's College Hospital in Toronto, ON.

The rheumatology clinic will be held quarterly at the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic and will require a referral from

your primary care provider to receive an appointment.

Common issues that the rheumatology clinic will address are as follows:

- Arthritis
- Inflammatory disorders
- Swollen, painful joints

The rheumatology clinics will be available for both Ontario and Quebec residents and will require current OHIP or RAMQ health cards.

Please speak to your primary healthcare provider about a referral to the rheumatology clinics.

For more information, please contact the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED: ELDERS CLINICS WITH ISABELLE HUBERT, NP

Do you have questions about the Elders Clinics with Nurse Practitioner Isabelle Hubert? We've gathered some of the most frequently asked questions from the community and shared the answers below to help you better understand what to expect.

What is the Elders Clinic?

The Elders Clinic is a prevention-focused clinic. During your visit, Isabelle will complete a comprehensive assessment of your overall health and provide recommendations aimed at preventing future health complications.

Who can book an appointment at the Elders Clinic?

Community members 60 years of age and older are eligible to book an appointment at the Elders Clinic.

Appointments may include discussion and assessment related to:

- Fall risk and safety
- Cognitive health
- Medication management (polypharmacy)
- Chronic disease management

Where are the Elders Clinics held?

Elders Clinics rotate between the Akwesasne Medical Clinic and the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic. Home consultations are also available when needed.

What can I expect during my appointment?

During your visit, you can expect:

- A review of your current health conditions and management plan.
- A physical assessment (exam).
- A collaborative conversation about your health goals and overall well-being.

Do I need a referral to book an Elders Clinic appointment?

No referral is required. Community members can book directly for the Elders Clinic. Isabelle will also see patients who are referred by other healthcare professionals.

Are home visits available for Elders Clinics?

Yes. Home visits are available for Elders who experience mobility or transportation challenges. Transportation support may also be available through the NIHB Medical Transportation Program.

How do I book an appointment?

To book an appointment with Isabelle Hubert, NP, please call the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at 613-575-2341 ext. 3215.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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

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

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

Land-Based Healing:
613-575-2341

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

Traditional Medicine:
613-575-2341 ext. 3100

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

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:
613-932-5808

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

Elder Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

Iakhihsohtha Lodge:
613-575-2507

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



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

AKWESASRÓ:NON CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

To celebrate International Mother Language Day, Akwesasró:non language and culture programs came together on February 20, 2026, to host the Akwesasne Language Fair - a meaningful community event dedicated to sharing and strengthening the Kanien'kéha language.

International Mother Language Day recognizes the vital role languages play in preserving culture, traditional knowledge, and identity. Observed annually, it encourages the protection and revitalization of languages around the world.

The event has held at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center and welcomed Akwesasró:non of all ages to learn about local language programs, listen to Elders, connect with families, and take part in cultural activities.

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed meals and refreshments while engaging in conversations centered on language and community.

The Akwesasne Language Fair was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Akwesasne Child & Family Services, MCA Traditional Medicines, and the AMBE Mohawk Language & Culture Program, along with other supporting programs, all of whom spent the day sharing information and resources about the Kanien'kéha language.

Niawenhkó:wa to all the programs involved in making this event a success — one that not only spreads knowledge, but continues to keep our language alive and strong.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program: 613-937-4322

DCSS Administration: 613-575-2341 ext. 3305

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

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

**AKWESASNE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM
WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM MANAGER**



The Akwesasne Family Wellness Program is pleased to announce Karlee Bigtree as its Program Manager.

Karlee, a proud Akwesasró:non, was born and raised in Akwesasne and is the daughter of Norman Bigtree

and the late Bonnie Thompson. She graduated from Massena Central High School before beginning her post-secondary education at the University at Buffalo, where she studied Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. She later transferred to Syracuse University, where she completed her bachelor's degree.

Karlee first joined the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program in 2018 following the birth of her daughter. During this time, she developed a deep apprecia-

tion for the program and the dedicated work of its staff, who provide support to the community on a 24/7, 365-day basis.

After stepping away for a period, Karlee continued to build on her education, completing her Master's degree in Management with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from SUNY Potsdam. Throughout that time, she maintained a strong desire to return to the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program and continue contributing to its important work.

Karlee shared, "I am dedicated to strengthening our community as a whole by nurturing and promoting healthy relationships that create a supportive, thriving environment for our children, women, and men."

Karlee's commitment to community, leadership, and wellness will be a valuable asset to the program and the families it serves.

Attention Community of Akwesasne:

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

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

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



PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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

CONTACT D&R DISPOSAL: **613-932-4588**

**DEPARTMENT OF
INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSING &
ENVIRONMENT**

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1022

HOUSING: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1056

ENVIRONMENT: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1038

ROADS DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISPATCH: 613-575-2340 OR 613-938-5476

WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EMERGENCY: 613-575-2000

AFTER HOURS PAGER: 518-404-3352

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM-4PM 613-933-4924

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (GARBAGE AND RECYCLING):
613-575-2250 ext. 1048

ADMINISTRATION:
613-575-2250 ext. 1003



Home Maintenance Checklist



IMPROVEMENT ADVICE

- Have a home emergency plan
- Check and replace fire extinguishers
- Improve air quality with plants
- Clean washing machine filter every three months
- Re-caulk around sinks, tub and shower
- Clean and repair window and door screen
- Check on the sump pump
- Check and repair faucets
- Reorganize the pantry
- Deep clean the oven
- Clean hood range
- Invest in carbon monoxide detector
- Clean refrigerator coils
- Clean underneath the sofa and furniture
- Remove lint from inside dryer every three months



- Clean air conditioner and ventilation systems
- Check gutters and downspouts for leaks and repairs
- Check for missing shingles or soffits or flashing
- Dust the hard to reach areas
- Re-stock First-Aid Kit
- Reverse the ceiling fans to rotate counter clockwise
- Organize garage space

MONTHLY CHECKLIST

- Clean or replace the filter to the furnace and/or HRV
- Clean faucets and shower heads from mineral buildup
- Inspect all drains for debris; unclog if necessary
- Test smoke alarms
- Vacuum heat registers and heat vents
- Check indoor and outdoor air vents are not blocked

Please remember: The dark grime around the window pane is just dirt. It can be cleaned with vinegar and elbow grease.

RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS

A. Thompson Electric
Residential Electrician
613-551-8438

Francis King Construction
Contracting Services
518-980-3202

Lazore Garbage
Garbage Bins
613-575-2944

MS Mechanical
Heating Systems & Air Conditioners
with Plumbing
613-931-1887

BT Customs Homes
Contracting Services
613-551-4465

KIN Eavestrough & Metal Roofing
Roofing, Eaves & Downspouts
613-577-0170

Empire General Contracting
Contracting Services
613-662-1016

Barnes Trees
Tree Removal
613-551-6903

Walker Climate Care
HVAC Installation & Maintenance
613-703-4440

SHARE A TIP SAFELY & SECURELY

Have information about a crime or suspicious activity? There are safe ways to share it.

Remain Anonymous with Crime Stoppers

The Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers allows you to submit tips anonymously — no names, no tracing. Tips are received by trained staff, securely forwarded to police, and assessed by the appropriate police service.

Cash rewards of up to \$2,000 may be offered when information leads to an arrest, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs, or enforcement of an outstanding warrant.

Submit a Tip to Ontario Crime Stoppers:

Online: ontariocrimestoppers.ca

By Phone: 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

Callers receive a unique code for follow-up and never have to identify themselves.

Contact AMPS Directly:

Tips may be emailed anonymously to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service at tips@akwesasne.ca.

All tips are screened, and an investigator may follow up if more information is needed.

Nia:wen to everyone who helps keep our community safe. Public safety is a shared responsibility and together, we can make a difference.

SPRING CLEANING SAFETY TIPS

Spring cleaning is right around the corner and Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service would like to remind the community to be aware of some hidden dangers that you may encounter while cleaning in your neighborhood.

1. Hypodermic Needles and Syringes: If you locate a syringe or hypodermic needle please do not touch it and contact your local law enforcement agency. Officers are trained to deal with this type of biohazard.

2. Suspicious Powders or Pills: Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid. This drug is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, even a tiny bit can be fatal. Fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral exposure or ingestion, and skin contact. If you observed suspicious powders or pills contact your local law enforcement agency immediately and do not attempt to move or transport these substances.

3. Suspicious bottles containing fluids: Methamphetamine (Meth) is a central nervous system stimulant. It affects chemicals in the brain and nerves that contribute to hyperactivity and impulse control. Bottles and cans are now being used as makeshift drug labs to produce meth. These chemicals used to produce meth may cause toxic fumes or even explosions when mixed together.

If you observe something that you believe is suspicious contact your local police service immediately. If you come in contact with any of these dangerous substances, please seek medical attention immediately. For more information or training on how to detect suspicious substance please contact your local law enforcement agency or call the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service at 613-575-2340.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Summer Student EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Gain valuable work experience, build your resume,
and contribute to your community this summer!

AGES 14-29

**Full-Time &
Part-Time
Positions**

*Open to all Akwesasne non
students and must be
attending school in the fall.*

DEADLINE TO APPLY

Post-Secondary Students:

April 17, 2026 | 4:00 p.m.
(Placement duration: May-August)

High School Students:

May 29, 2026 | 4:00 p.m.
(Placement duration: July-August)



Scan QR code to apply or visit:

www.akwesasne.ca/careers

Questions? Please email student@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575-2250 ext. 2152

INDIGENOUS STUDENT

Career Fair

FOOD &
REFRESHMENTS!
★
PHOTO
AREA!

APRIL 15, 2026

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

INTERACTIVE
ACTIVITIES!

★
PRIZES
& MORE!

Join us for a dynamic
career exploration event
in partnership with the
Mohawk Council of
Akwesasne and the Saint
Regis Mohawk Tribe,
connecting Indigenous
youth with future
opportunities,
career pathways, and
community programs!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Career exploration for Grades 7-12 & Post-Secondary Students
- 50-90 Exhibitor Tables (Businesses, Programs & Services)
- Promotion of careers, summer jobs & internships
- Bus transportation provided for students attending American and Canadian schools

PRIZES INCLUDE:

LAPTOPS, IPADS, HEADPHONES, CINEPLEX[®]
CERTIFICATES, STANLEYS, AND MORE!

MCA MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANCER SUPPORT TALKING CIRCLE



WELCOME!
ALL ARE
OPEN TO

PROVIDED!
LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

Meetings held every other Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| April 8 | Tri-District Elders Lodge |
| April 22 | Snye Homemakers |
| May 6 | Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Turtle Room |
| May 20 | Tri-District Elders Lodge |
| June 3 | Snye Homemakers |
| June 17 | Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Turtle Room |

Questions? Contact the MCA Mental Health & Wellness office
at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115 or mentalhealth@akwesasne.ca.