

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 6

FREE

Ohiarí:ha/June 2026

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AKWESASNE CELEBRATES BODDAM'S CONTINUED SUCCESS



Akwesasne proudly celebrated the official acquisition of Boddam to an Akwesasne business during their open house held on May 14, 2026. The event highlighted the deep cultural connection between lacrosse and Akwesasne, while also recognizing the importance of supporting local economic development and family-driven businesses rooted in a passion for sport. Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

JUNE DISTRICT MEETINGS

June 8, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

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

Akwesasne Child Rights & Responsibilities Law | Eniethihswanón:na

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSION

June 8, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

AMBE Building Blocks (191 Rita Lane, Kawehno:ke)

**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
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 Have you received a letter from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and/or Service Canada regarding travel outside of Canada? MCA and ACESS are here to assist community members! More information available on page 4.
- 2 Akwesasne FabLab is proud to announce their upcoming 24-week cohort beginning June 29, 2026 for Akwesasne Youth! Students learn 3D printing, silk screening, laser engraving and much more! Deadline to apply is June 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Learn more on page 13.
- 3 The Department of Health's Clinical Care Services kindly reminds community members to check in with clinic reception staff upon arrival for all scheduled appointments. To view the clinic calendars, please visit www.akwesasne.ca/medical-clinics.
- 4 MCA's Mental Health Services is committed to supporting the well-being of our first responders by offering priority access to group debriefing sessions following crisis incidents, as needed. In addition, confidential counselling and trauma-informed care is available through MCA's trusted community partners. Learn more on page 23.
- 5 Upgrade your recycling game and discover the new items you can toss into your recycling bin! From ice cream containers, empty toothpaste tubes to black plastic food containers, learn about all the eligible items on page 24.

NEWS

AKWESASNE CELEBRATES BODDAM'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

As the game of lacrosse continues to inspire and unite communities across Turtle Island and beyond, Akwesasne proudly celebrated the continued growth and success of Boddam, a company internationally recognized for its high-quality goalie equipment for both hockey and box lacrosse, including equipment used at the National Lacrosse League (NLL).

On May 14, 2026, Boddam welcomed community members to an open house where guests had the opportunity to learn more about the company's journey, products, and future vision. The event marked an important milestone as Akwesasne Businesses officially acquired Boddam, bringing together two businesses deeply rooted in family and a shared passion for sports.

During the celebration, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's (MCA) Grand Chief Leonard Lazore reflected on the significance of the occasion and the strong connection between lacrosse and Akwesasne's culture. Both Boddam and Akwesasne Sports began

as small family-run businesses operating out of basements, built through dedication, hard work, and a genuine love for the game. Lacrosse continues to play an important role within Akwesasne and beyond, making this achievement especially meaningful for the community and for generations of athletes who have proudly represented the Nation.

The open house also highlighted the importance of economic development within the community and the value of supporting local businesses and opportunities close to home. Recognition was shared for the support provided by current and previous MCA Council members and the MCA Department of Economic Development throughout the process, including special appreciation to Director of Economic Development Kylee Tarbell for her dedication and guidance. Congratulations to the Mitchell family, Jason Boddam, and everyone who played a role in making this exciting new chapter for Boddam possible.



NEWS

MCA REMINDS COMMUNITY OF RESPECTFUL CONDUCT TOWARD STAFF

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 12, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) reminds the community that all MCA employees have the right to work in a safe, respectful, and harassment-free environment.

The MCA Respect in the Workplace Policy was established to help ensure that employees are treated with dignity and respect while carrying out their duties. The policy applies to all interactions with MCA employees, whether in person, over the phone, online, via email, or during service delivery within the community.

MCA believes that just as community members deserve to be treated with respect by staff members, MCA employees also deserve respect while providing programs and services to the community.

While MCA recognizes that community members may experience frustrations from time to time, employees should not be subjected to abusive language, harassment, intimi-

dation, or threatening behaviour while performing their work. Community members who feel dissatisfied with services received from MCA are encouraged to submit a service complaint through the appropriate process, which is in place to help ensure that MCA employees uphold professional standards of service delivery and conduct.

MCA remains committed to maintaining a safe workplace for all employees. Community members are reminded that inappropriate conduct toward staff may result in action being taken to protect employee health and safety, including possible service restrictions or involvement of appropriate authorities when necessary.

We appreciate the community's cooperation in ensuring respectful interactions with staff across all departments and services.

Nia:wen for your cooperation.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR CERB AND EI LETTERS RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), in collaboration with Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services (ACCESS), is informing the community that we are aware of letters received by community members from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and/or Service Canada regarding travel outside of Canada.

Due to the unique geographic location of our community, residents of Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne must traverse through the United States when travelling within Akwesasne or when accessing nearby services. In some cases, this necessary travel may appear as "leaving Canada" to external agencies, even though individuals are remaining within or returning to Akwesasne.

MCA and ACCESS recognize that this situation does not reflect the lived reality of Akwesasronon and are actively working to address this matter.

Community members who receive correspondence related to this issue are encouraged not to disregard these

letters. Responding and seeking clarification is important, and support is available.

If you have received correspondence related to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and believe it may be connected to this issue, please contact the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. For matters related to Employment Insurance (EI), please contact ACCESS for assistance.

Providing this information will support ongoing efforts to ensure that the unique circumstances of Akwesasne are properly understood in ongoing discussions.

For CERB-related inquiries, please contact:
Montana Adams | 613-575-2250
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

For EI-related inquiries, please contact:
Dan Garrow | 613-575-2626
Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services

NEWS

MCA OPPOSES PROPOSED DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT AT FORMER ALCOA EAST SITE

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 22, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is expressing strong opposition and serious concern regarding the proposed development of a large-scale data center at the former Alcoa East industrial site in Massena, NY.

While MCA supports the responsible redevelopment of former industrial lands, Council does not believe the current proposal meets those expectations or adequately addresses the potential long-term impacts on Akwesasne lands, waters, environment, and community members.

MCA has identified several significant concerns related to the proposed project, including:

- The site's close proximity to Akwesasne, raising concerns about potential impacts on health, safety, and well-being of nearby community members
- The substantial energy and water demands required to operate the data center
- Potential strain on local power systems and resources
- Noise, emissions, and other environmental impacts associated with continuous industrial operations
- Limited information provided regarding the full scope

and long-term impact of the project

In addition to these concerns, MCA also notes that there has not been adequate transparency and meaningful consultation throughout the process to date. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne maintains that any development within or near our territory must respect the rights, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, including the protection of our environment and future generations.

MCA recognizes the importance of economic development and regional investment; however, it must not come at the expense of environmental integrity, community well-being, or the health and safety of Mohawk people. Projects of this scale require a transparent process, thorough environmental review, and meaningful consultation with impacted Indigenous communities before any decisions move forward.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne remains committed to advocating for responsible and sustainable development that protects our lands, waters, people, and the well-being of future generations.

CORNWALL ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 — OESP SUPPORT AVAILABLE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is informing the community that Cornwall Electric has announced a 2.13% rate increase effective July 1, 2026. According to Cornwall Electric, this will result in an approximate increase of \$3.20 per month for a residential customer using 1000 kWh monthly.

Cornwall Electric stated that the increase is intended to support continued system maintenance, operating expenses, and equipment replacements while maintaining safe and reliable electrical service. The utility also noted that the increase is aligned with inflation and that rates continue to remain among the lowest in surrounding areas due to its long-term hydroelectric supply agreement with

Hydro-Québec.

Community members are reminded that the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) provides ongoing bill assistance to eligible households to help reduce monthly hydro costs.

For additional information regarding the Ontario Electricity Support Program, community members can contact the OESP Hotline at 1-855-831-8151.

To read the full release from Cornwall Electric regarding the July 1, 2026 rate increase, or to find out more information on OESP, please visit www.cornwallelectric.com/.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SERVICES WELCOMES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MANAGER



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) welcomes Taylor Armstrong as the new Government Support Manager.

In this role, Taylor will support the operations of Mohawk Government by assisting with coordination between Council and administration and will help oversee governance processes.

Taylor was born and raised in Akwesasne and first began working with MCA as a summer student at the

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena as an Administrative Assistant. She later worked within Human Resources from 2017–2018 before joining the Mohawk Government team in 2018 as Executive Assistant to Council.

Since January 2025, Taylor has been serving in the Acting Mohawk Government Support Manager role.

Taylor holds a two-year Business diploma and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Public Administration and Governance program at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she is expected to graduate in Spring 2027.

MCA congratulates Taylor on her new role and wishes her continued success as she supports the Mohawk Government team and the community of Akwesasne.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



Onerahtókha/April 13, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Akwesasne Animal Society
- Email received
- General Meeting Agenda – April 30, 2026
- Potential Sale of Post Office

MCRs: Housing – Upgrade Application; CMHC Rent to Own Buy Out; Approve Addendum to Lease for 2026; Nutfield Tract Survey; Amendment to ARRO Budget; Ontario Probation Agreement 2026-2027; CMHC Loan Renewal; Focus Meeting; Long Term Care Home Service Accountability Extension; Sponsorship for Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder

Onerahtókha/April 20, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Village Currency
- Recognition of Accomplishments

MCRs: Donation to Akwesasne Minor Lacrosse; Onkwehonwehneha Program Development – Section 84 Contract; St. Lawrence Regional Impact Assessment Public Partnership Request; Assignment of Lease; Assignment of Lease; Assignment of Lease; Special Needs Policy/Committee Changes; Kingston Inner Harbour Sediment Management Project; Success for All Service Agreement (SFA)

Onerahtókha/April 27, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Akwesasne Freedom School Request
- Hopkins Point Letter
- Village Currency
- Hydro QC Pole in Whoville
- Ministry of the Attorney General – Commissioner for Taking Affidavits
- Letter to the Ministry of Transportation Quebec

MCRs: MCA Water and Wastewater Operators Salary Compensation Policy and Salary Grid Version 4; Special Needs Neurodivergency Doctor Proposal; Allotment – Chanail Range; Parks Canada Contribution Agreement Renewal

Onerahtókha/May 4, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Large pick-up items
- Community member letter
- Donated Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder

tickets

MCRs: Akwesasne Youth Council Member; Approval of Child in Care Medical Bill; Ministry of Health LHIN's Under the ON Health At Home Amending Agreement 2023-2024; 2023-2026 Funding Support Agreement – Next Phase PSW Investments

Onerahtókha/May 11, 2026

Discussion Items:

- IC - Consultation Policy, Terms of Reference and Blackfoot Resolution
- Duty to Consult
- Portfolio Work Plan Session
- Tetewataren
- Akwesasne Achievements/Recognition
- Quorum
- Campaign
- The Point
- Abandoned Homes
- LNHL Meeting
- CBSA Documents

MCRs: Ministerial Loan Guarantee for 2025-2026 CMHC Section 95 Project; Trust Distribution – 2026 Projects; Assignment of Lease – Pilon Island; ACCESS Donation; Amendment to MCR 2025/2026 #303; Allotment – Cornwall Island; Onkwehonwehneha Program Development – Section 84 Contract; Appointment of External Auditor for March 31, 2026

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEFS WEEKLY CONSTITUENCY HOURS



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

These sessions are held **every other Friday** from **1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the **CIA #3 Boardroom**. See the dates below.

JUNE

5, 19

Community members are asked to dial the boardroom **extension 1037** upon arrival at CIA #3 to be let into the building.

Disclaimer:

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

MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

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

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

akwesasne.ca/meet-the-chiefs

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNÒ:KE DISTRICT CHIEF LACEY PIERCE UPDATES



Portfolios:

Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment, Dept. of Health, Public Safety

Committees & External Committees:

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA); Green Team; Beautification; Waterways; Iroquois Caucus; Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL); Healing and Wellness Fund; Special Needs Committee; Property Acquisition Team (PAT); Orange Shirt Day Committee; AMBE Tentewaiénáhsheke Student Leadership Team

MONTHLY NOTABLES

YECL COMMITTEE

Youth, Elder, Culture and Language (YECL) Committee continues to review terms of reference for changes and updates to be made to document.

A draft letter was developed requesting a meeting with the Culture and Heritage Minister of Canada; Current funding for language initiatives falls short of Akwesasne's needs, our community is seeing a steady growth of L2 speakers and language courses that needs financial support.

MEETING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY MINISTER

Council, Chief of Police and Political Service Advisor met with Minister Anandansangary to reaffirm Akwesasne's stance on international border crossing security of outside bodies in traditional waters. Request from United States for access to traverse Akwesasne North waters to access St. Regis River was denied as there multiple concerns - the top being community safety as members utilize area for recreational activities and leisure. Solution presented was to draft Akwesasne Joint Cross-Border Marine Unit Framework that would involve AMPS and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal PD to patrol our own waters by our own people to meet the concerns of government.

BORDER PARTNERS

CBSA shared growing trend of international travelers utilizing domestic lane when traversing through border, creating delays with lane. Individuals are

mixed of both community members and visitors.

- 2023: 3,826
- 2024: 7,698
- 2025: 10,025

Expected HVAC upgrades to booths to occur prior to summer - any delays will be communicated to Council for community announcements.

Port to receive additional staffing for upcoming summer months, this will help alleviate any increase in traffic through corridor.

AKWESASNE ANIMAL SOCIETY

Meeting with Jennifer Herne, operator of the not-for-profit Akwesasne Animal Society. Tour of new rental space located in Rocket Ronnies Plaza. A review was provided of services offered for both cat and dogs during 2025-2026 fiscal year; Program in need of steady funding streams to keep doors open.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AT KAWEHNO:KE CONSTITUENCY HOURS

- Assistance with OVS paperwork
- Elders Letter June 2025
- Council Mediation - Will suggestions be entertained?
- Peace Tree Mall - When will the building be repaired?
- Can signage be put up to not litter?
- Hospice - What are the plans?
- Can more light poles be installed since we don't have side walks? Community Trust was used to fund McCumber Road.
- AMPS Outreach - It would be nice for them to stop by basketball courts and interact with youth
- Island Road in front of Jocks is pooling water which is often a hazard
- "Shout out to roads crew who swept roads, they look very nice"

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AT KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT MEETING

- What is the Focus Meeting for May?
- Can we get an Enbridge Natural Gas Update?
- Request to not have meetings at AMS due to bad parking
- Upcoming City of Cornwall Truth & Reconciliation Consultation - April 20, 2026, Kawehno:ke Rec.
- Canada Census - What were the benefits from the 2016 Report?
- Request for Safety PSA prior to roadside cleanup - Needles/cloudy water bottles
- Iohahio Road needs to be paved – It's terrible

- Request for increase to housing loans - setting up a tiered system for members who are approved for higher loan amounts in City of Cornwall to build in Akwesasne
- What is going on with Data Centers popping up in the area?
- Request for Police Commission - Community Meet and Greet Session
- Are we having another Community Comprehensive Plan?
- AMPS workplace assessment - Will Police Commission get to review findings?
- How is the Chief of Police being hired without using the findings of assessment?
- Police commission is supposed to be the hiring body for Chief of Police - According to Charter
- Can we get a copy of the Police Commission Charter?
- At what stage is a psych assessment required during interview process?

2026 AKWESASNE CAREER FAIR

The event was well attended by local middle and high school students as well as community members. Booths varied from services and programs of MCA and SRMT, College and Universities, and non-profit organizations.

A special shout out to Derrick Comins and his EMS team for assisting with multiple medical emergencies that arose during event. The quality, care and expertise provided was much appreciated by individuals who all fully recovered.

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Sector 1: Administration Director/Administration Updates: Health Advisory Board officially sworn in (4 members confirmed); MCR completed and accepted for Advisory Board; TELUS Adjudication contract finalized & MCR complete; Health & Safety Committee participation and policy review initiated; Dreamcatchers renovation completed; security system under review; Fleet successfully relocated to Admin. 2 site to address parking and operational constraints; MAID community engagement planning underway (May sessions scheduled); Ongoing EMR training, policy development and contract planning for 2026-2027.

Sector 2: Community Health: Six after-hours clinics delivered for at-risk students; Transition planning from CoVax to Panorama underway; 115 staff completed N95 mask fitting community engagement initiatives; Youth bushcraft camp and cultural programming delivered; Tota apron-making sessions with Elders; On-going prenatal and postpartum Healthy Families programming; Weekly yoga program launched to support community wellness; Smoking cessation

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNÒ:KE DISTRICT CHIEF LACEY PIERCE UPDATES

program development initiated; New vaccine fridge secured to strengthen contingency planning.

Sector 3: Mental Health & Wellness: Continued delivery of counselling, intake, and referral services; Grief and suicide prevention training completed; New Mental Health Program Manager onboarded Addiction Services; Narcan training and overdose response education delivered; Participation in National First Nations Substance Use Summit Land-Based Healing & Cultural Programming; Snow snake teachings, sauna sessions, and workshops delivered; Cultural programming with Elders and community engagement activities Internal improvements; Intake processes updated and clinical forms revised; Mental Health RFP review completed.

Sector 4: Clinical Care: 110+ diabetes-related client visits completed; Cervical screening clinic successfully delivered with strong community engagement; Foot care services expanded; advanced training completed and new treatment options identified Saturday clinic launched at Tsi Snaihne to improve accessibility; 43 ERU Lifeline units maintained; waitlist ongoing; PSW training and recruitment ongoing; Independent caseload management established; Increased interdisciplinary collaboration and referrals; 2026-2027 workplan and budget submitted on time; Mobile Heart Valve Clinic planning completed; Fleet expanded with additional vehicle; Toronto site visit (Taddle Creek) for operational learning; EMR training implemented across staff.

Sector 5: Continuing Care & Elder Services: LTC operations maintained; COVID protocols successfully managed and lifted; OnShift scheduling system training completed and rollout initiated; 21 residents at lakhihsowtha Lodge; 47 residents at Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility; Temporary call bell system installed; \$88,800 in funding secured for equipment upgrades; Leadership and operational meetings completed across teams; Recruitment ongoing (multiple staff positions posted).

Sector 6: Ambulance Services: 118 emergency calls responded to (102 Basic Life Support, 16 Advanced Life Support); Participation in DOH Focus presentation; One staff member progressed in paramedic training (capstone pending).

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

Annual Clean Up was held April 20-22, 2026 in all three districts.

Six Nations of the Grand River looking to shadow our team - 6 employees, 3 students Summer 2026.

Waste Management: Successful in securing the two intern positions with First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLDSI) for the internships.

Aquatics: Training 4 people, ROM certifications, Funky Fish Guide featured in the course; Consumption

study is moving forward.

Consultations: Development of DevCentre Property (formerly Nav Canada); Quebec Underground line to Dundee; Eastern and Midland painted turtles management plan draft; Charleston Lake Provincial Park Management Plan; Port of Valleyfield Dredging; Alto Train Corridor; Glendale Subdivision.

Terrestrial: Camera and audio traps have been put out seeking information on biodiversity; Planning for more trapping and educational opportunities for future contaminant testing; Species of interest: waterfowl, more furbearers, soil; 2 Salamander Surveys completed, limited results (Chapman Road, Dump Road) .

Remedial Action Plan: Working through fish and wildlife report, Fish Tumors and other Deformities: The community engagement period the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) has ended, and MCA must now provide a response on whether or not we support designating this BUI as "Not Impaired".

Conservation: Trapping agreements were created between community members and Conservation so that we can better track and make responsible community members who require trapping services.

Education: Working on collaborating with others to learn turtle telemetry so we can find out where the turtle brumation and nesting habitats are, so we don't eradicate more species. Working with Parks Canada.

APRIL 23-24, 2026 | MCGILL LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM

Attended Inaugural Tsiwetwatá:ti Let Us Speak Again! Language Symposium with District Chief Cody David and District Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict. The purpose of gathering is to share experiences and knowledge together to reach some level of Ska'nikón:ra, Ska'nikon:ra and renew our collective power and alliances as Indigenous Nations of the world through our shared efforts in language revitalization. By coming together, we aim to build new support structures and share ideas across our communities, ensuring the continued passing on of the knowledge, languages, and responsibilities of the generations that came before us.

Symposium hosted by Arihwisaks Colin Benedict of Akwesasne - 2026 Tsiwetwatá:ti Program Committee Member.

First ever Kanien'keha panel O'hara Oakes, Joe Lazore, Bill Sunday, Wari Takahawahákwén McDonald, Taiawentón:ti' Chelsea Sunday, Oheróhskon Ryan DeCaire, Maureen Benedict, Arihwisaks Colin Benedict and instant translation by Otsitsia Sunday.

Next Steps: Continue to advocate and collaborate in developing support for language initiatives and

programming that support our community members journey of bringing the language back.

AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LAW: ENIETHIHSWANÓN:NA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community members are encouraged to attend and share their views on the history, development, and implementation of this law. The purpose of developing this law is to say how we as Onkwehonwe care for our children, not how the government thinks we should.

June 8 - District of Kawehno:ke - Building Blocks @ 5:30 p.m.

The WTG is planning an extended period of community consultation through local events, schools, Senior Centers, and other community venues to ensure that input is gathered from all demographics within Akwesasne. As these outreach activities will occur on an ongoing basis, a deadline for community members to submit comments will be established once the date of the final consultation session has been confirmed.

The WTG will provide public notice regarding the details of the final meeting, and the deadline for submitting comments will be announced at least four weeks in advance. To view a full copy of the DRAFT Child Rights and Responsibility Law, Eniethihswanón:na, please contact Legislative Services Manager Alyson Thompson at alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575-5000.

FOCUS MEETING (MCA BUDGET)

Rescheduled due to death of a community member

APRIL 29-30, 2026 | OHEROKON RITES OF PASSAGE WEEK

Volunteer fire keeping and faster check ins.

Congratulations to the youth that completed years 1-4 fasting!! It was a joy to see how much you have grown since the start of teachings.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Continuing to meet with Portfolio Departments and Committees to support in reaching goals set out in strategic plan.
- Continue to attend weekly Monday Council Meetings to review MCR's and Discussion Items.

COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- Iroquois Caucus
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Iroquois Caucus (IC)
- CBSA Border Partners
- Tri-Council Initiatives with SRMT
- 1 Letter of Support- Residency

MCA KIND WORDS & KUDOS

The MCA Kind Words & Kudos initiative is a space dedicated to recognizing and celebrating individuals, teams, and organizations who are making a positive impact in our community. We invite you to take a moment to read this month's submissions, celebrating some of the many ways our staff continue to make a positive impact.

Fawn Cole
Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE)

"Fawn Cole is recognized by the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment for her dedication in coordinating the successful implementation of the DIHE PPE Safety Boot Program. Through her careful planning, clear communication, and attention to detail, Ms. Cole ensured that DIHE staff were properly fitted with Green Tag-approved safety footwear, directly supporting organizational safety standards and employee well-being.

Her efforts resulted in an impressive 80% staff participation rate, with a follow-up make-up day arranged to ensure inclusivity for remaining staff. This initiative significantly enhanced workplace safety across the department and demonstrated Ms. Cole's strong commitment to proactive risk management and operational excellence.

Ms. Cole's professionalism, organization, and commitment to service reflect positively on the Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne as a whole. Her contributions are commendable and sincerely appreciated."



Connect With Us on Social Media!








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@MCAkwasasne

youtube.com/MCAkwasasne

@MCAkwasasne

@MCAkwasasne

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Connect the Dots



Tic Tac Toe



SPRING



Word Scramble

drbi _____

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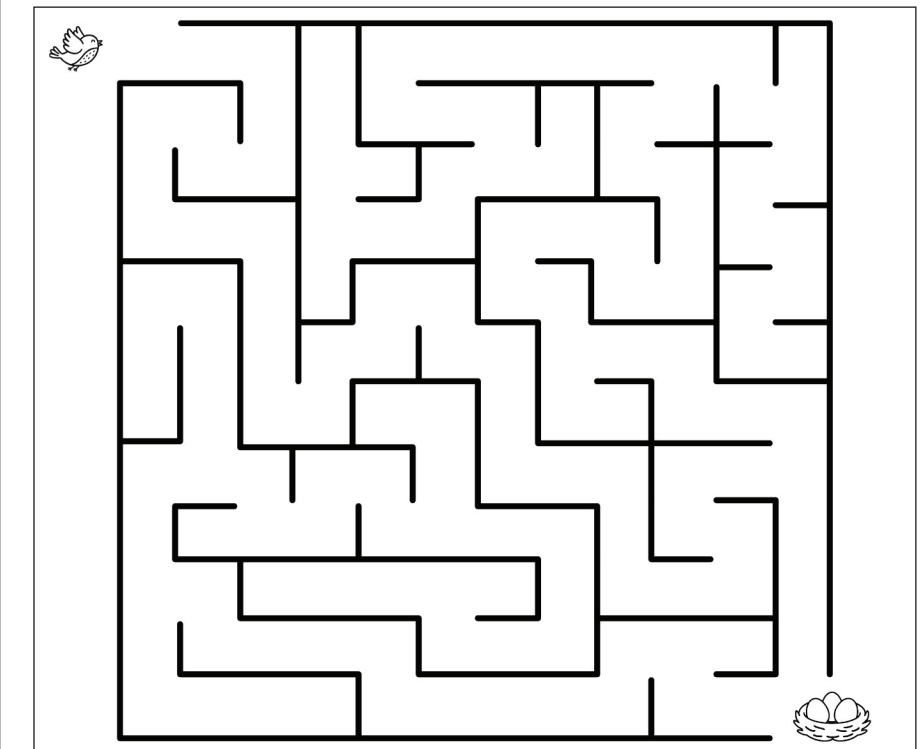
GNOME
ROSE
DAISY
BIRD
FROG
TULIP

COLORING PAGE

Create a color palette and use it ○ ○ ○ ○



HELP THE BIRD FIND THEIR NEST!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What season is best to go on a trampoline?
Spring-time!

Why are flowers so friendly?
Because they always have new buds!

What did the tree say when spring arrived?
What a re-leaf!

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY - 1986-1990

Between 1986 and 1990, the St. Lawrence Seaway experienced significant changes characterized by traffic fluctuations, pivotal United States (U.S.) policy shifts, and advancements in environmental regulations.

As global trade patterns evolved and competition from trucking and rail intensified, shipping traffic began to decline through the late 1970s. However, by the late 1980s, grain traffic began to stabilize, rising 13% during the 1986 season. During that same period, iron ore traffic in the Montreal-Lake Ontario corridor rose by 19%. 1988 would be a big year as the North American drought, which caused \$163 billion in damages and lowered the water levels in the Mississippi River, heavily increased the shipping traffic through the Seaway.

“Reaganomics” played a significant role in boosting the U.S. industrial sector by reducing corporate taxes and reducing government regulation. The enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) played a crucial role during this era. It altered the funding structure for the U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) by transforming it into an agency and establishing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This action eliminated the requirement for the U.S. portion of the Seaway to be self-sustaining through tolls alone. This allowed the U.S. portion to provide rebates back to shippers, which made the route more competitive.

While the concerns about the environmental damage had existed since the 1950s, relating to mercury exposure

and shoreline erosion, the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement amendment put pressure on the Seaway to investigate the “Areas of Concern”. This has ushered in an era of more strict regulations regarding invasive species, particularly zebra mussels, that were introduced via ballast water from transatlantic vessels.

The Seaway was also influenced by broader industry trends during the mid-to-late 1980s. The fleet profile changed significantly as older ships were scrapped in favor of more efficient vessels. Simultaneously, cargo patterns shifted as the demand for iron ore lessened; the Seaway saw an increased demand for more diversified cargo types. The Seaway would also begin moving more towards more advanced navigational aids. This would be the early implementation of computerized traffic management systems that looked to improve the precision of vessel transit through the tight channels of the St. Lawrence River.

Overall, the period between 1986 and 1990 marked a transition for the St. Lawrence Seaway, as shifting trade patterns, evolving government policy, and changes in the shipping industry reshaped its operations. While policy interventions, particularly in the United States, helped stabilize traffic in the short term, longer-term structural changes in transportation and global trade continued to influence the Seaway’s role within North American shipping networks.

Submission provided by the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office.



Akwesasne Rights & Research Office

Contact Us!

613-575-2250 ext. 2133

arro@akwesasne.ca

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

AMBE CHILDCARE IS OUT ENJOYING SPRING

As the weather warms up, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Educations (AMBE) childcare centers are spending more time outdoors — going for walks, exploring nature, spotting signs of new growth, and enjoying the fresh spring air.

As the little ones and educators become more visible throughout the community, we kindly remind drivers to slow down and stay alert, especially near childcare centers, and schools.

Frequently used walking areas include:

Kawehno:ke: Island Road and Buckshot Road

Tsi Snaihne: School Road and Iohahi:io Road

Kana:takon: As the smallest district, staff and students safely stroll throughout the village.

Please be mindful of your speed, stay attentive behind the wheel, and avoid using mobile devices while driving. A few extra moments of caution can help keep our

children, families, and educators safe while they enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you for helping create a safer community for everyone this spring and summer.



LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS: NEW AKWESASNE FABLAB COHORT STARTING THIS JUNE

The Akwesasne FabLab is proud to welcome application for their upcoming 24-week training program, beginning June 29, 2026.

To ensure students can focus fully on their success, all necessary supplies, materials, and laptops are provided, and participants will receive a student stipend throughout the program.

Program Highlights:

Comprehensive Technical Training (Weeks 1-16): Gain hands-on experience in digital fabrication, including Inkscape, laser engraving, vinyl design, silk screening, embroidery, 3D printing, sublimation, CNC machining, and Micro Bits & programming.

Real-World Experience (Weeks 17-24): Transition your skills into the workforce with an 8-week internship.

Program Requirements & Schedule:

The cohort runs Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (32.5 hours per week). This opportunity is open to youth ages 16 to 30 (individuals cannot be currently working or attending high school). Reliable transportation is required.

How to Apply:

The application deadline is June 12, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Take the first step toward an exciting new skill set by scanning the QR code to apply!



WELLNESS, KINDNESS & CONNECTION THROUGH AMS HEALTH CLUB

Mental health awareness cannot be confined to just one week or month each year.

Last spring, the MCA Mental Health & Wellness team made a commitment to help strengthen protective factors for youth by spending time each week exploring health and wellness topics through the AMS Health Club programming.

This year, students learned about the difference between self-care and self-soothing strategies. Together, they explored the idea that self-soothing is not “wrong.” It is okay to enjoy simple things that bring comfort and joy, such as buying flowers, listening to music, or spending time with loved ones.

At the same time, discussions focused on the importance of balancing those comforting moments with the more consistent acts of self-care that help support long-term mental and physical wellness — things like movement, setting boundaries, asking

for help, getting proper rest, and eating well.

To celebrate these teachings, AMS Health Club students embraced the idea of “looking at pretty things” by creating beautiful flower bouquets to gift to their mothers and loved ones on Mother’s Day.

Niawenhkó:wa to Crazy Daisy Floral for helping make Akwesasne a little more beautiful while supporting local youth in learning about wellness, kindness, and connection.



AKWESASNE ANIMAL SOCIETY VISITS AMS

The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School (AMS) recently welcomed some very special furry guests to class! The Akwesasne Animal Society paid a visit to Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Hutchinson’s culture block classes, bringing along a litter of adorable, eight-week-old kittens.

While the kittens certainly brought endless smiles and joy to the classroom, they also served as wonderful little teachers. The visit provided students with a hands-on lesson on patience, gentle care, and the importance of animal socialization. It was a great opportunity for the children to connect and learn about responsibility firsthand.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Akwesasne Animal Society for taking the time to enrich our students’ learning and

for everything you do to care for the animals in our community!



PROGRESS UPDATE: ENIETHISWANÓN:NA, AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DRAFT LAW

The Eniethiswanón:na Working Task Group (WTG) for the Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law thanks community members who attended our first district consultation session at the Tsi Snáihne Recreation Center on April 27, 2026. In total, four community members and two Chiefs (who are not members of the WTG) participated, alongside 10 WTG members representing various sectors — including Social Services, Akwesasne Child and Family Services, and the Akwesasne Justice Department — as well as two Mental Health specialists who provided additional support.

We look forward to continuing to gather community feedback to help build a strong foundation for this law, grounded in the voices of Akwesasne. The WTG invites community members to attend the upcoming Kawehnó:ke District Community Consultation Session, which will take place at AMBE Building Blocks (191 Rita Lane, Kawehno:ke) at 5:30 p.m. on June 8, 2026.

To support meaningful discussion, community members are encouraged to review the draft law in its entirety and come prepared to share their thoughts. The session will provide an open and respectful space for dialogue between the WTG and community members. For those who prefer not to speak publicly, written questions or comments can be submitted anonymously and will be addressed by a WTG member during the session.

Community Consultation Sessions are not intended as a forum for filing grievances or discussing personnel or personal

matters. As part of Phase III of the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR), these sessions are designed to give community members the opportunity to share comments, questions, and concerns regarding the current draft of the law. While all feedback will be carefully considered, it is not possible to incorporate every suggestion into the final version. These thoughtful discussions will help guide the WTG in developing a law that best serves our children and families.

In addition to these sessions, the WTG will continue outreach through local events, schools, senior centers, and other community spaces to ensure that voices from all age groups and all areas of Akwesasne are heard.

If you are new to the law, copies of the draft Child Rights and Responsibilities Law (Eniethiswanón:na) are available:

- In person at the Akwesasne Justice Department, 45 Johnson Rd., Kaná:takon
- By email or postal mail
- By delivery upon request

For questions, to submit comments, or for more information, please contact:

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager
alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca

Emily King, Legislative Researcher
emily.king@akwesasne.ca or 613-575-2250 ext. 2410



AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES LAW | ENIETHISWANÓN:NA

Working Task Group Members



Alyson Thompson, *Legislative Services Manager*

Emily King, *Research Analyst*

Cactus Cook Sunday, *Director of Akwesasne Justice Department*

Ruth Ambros, *Legal Counsel and Legislative Drafter*

Theresa Benedict, *Oversight Committee (OSC) on Legislative Development Tsi Snaihne District Representative*

Kawehno:ke District Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict, *OSC and Justice Portfolio*

Kawehno:ke District Chief Lacey Pierce, *Public Safety Portfolio*

Kim Herne, *Manager of Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program (ARAP)*

Tahnaokata Elijah, *ARAP Cultural Advisor*

Ashley Tarbell, *A/Director of Department of Communications*

Jaime Beechey, *Director of Department of Community & Social Services*

Jon Mike Lazore, *A/Associate Director of Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS)*

Barb Thompson, *Community Expert and former ACFS Service Manager*

Glenn Lazore, *Community Elder Representative*



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Services provided by OVS:



Indian Status



Lands



Estates



Membership/Residency



Leasing

CONTACT US

CIA #3 Building
101 Tewesateni Road (Kawehno:ke)
Akwasasne, ON K6H 0G5

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

AKWESASNE RAISES AWARENESS FOR MMIWG

On May 5, community members came together in solidarity in recognition of Red Dress Day, held each year as a day of remembrance and action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls. The Akwasasne Family Wellness Program hosted a community event at the St. Regis Recreation, in collaboration with several community programs, to support awareness and ongoing healing.

Throughout the day, community members visited information booths and displays, received red long-sleeve shirts in recognition of the day, and shared a meal together. The event concluded with a walk along the trail, bringing participants together in a shared act of remembrance.

A sincere nia:wen to the Akwasasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP), Akwasasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department (SRMTPD), Three Sisters Program, Seven Dancers Coalition, and all participating organizations for their contributions. We also extend our appreciation to the presenters for sharing their knowledge and experiences, to those who prepared and served the

meal, and to the community members who took part and helped raise awareness.

This day serves as a reminder that the violence faced by Indigenous women, girls is ongoing and requires continued attention, accountability, and action. We honour those who have been lost and stand together in support of change.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

HONOURING OUR ISTAS MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

In celebration of Mother's Day, the Akwesasne Child & Family Services team hosted a special Honouring Our Istas event on Thursday, May 7 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. The evening brought together mothers, children, and families for a heartwarming night filled with laughter, creativity, relaxation, and quality time with loved ones.

Attendees were treated to relaxing chair massages provided by Mya Tarbell Buffham, while the ACFS Traditional Support team handed out all-natural healthy teas, hand salves, and lice repellent for attendees to take home and enjoy. Creativity flourished as participants learned the art of corn husk flower making with guidance from lawentas Nanticoke.

Families also had the opportunity to visit a special photo station hosted by Babes Thompson, where mothers and their loved ones captured precious memories together. Children also enjoyed creating personalized photo frames with the Akwesasne Zero 2 Six team, while the MCA Community Health – Healthy Babies Program provided DIY flower planters for families to create and take home as a special gift for mom.

The evening was a beautiful reminder of the strength, love, and care that mothers and caregivers bring into the lives of their families every day. Nia:wen to the Akwesasne Child & Family Services team, along with all those who helped make this evening such a memorable success.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES WELCOMES NEW SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM MANAGER



The MCA Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Special Needs Program's Manager, Alicia Hill. Alicia has been serving as Acting Program Manager since September 2025.

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Public Administration. She is expected to complete her program in May 2027.

Alicia started with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in July 2021 as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Health. She moved into DCSS to serve as the Executive Assistant to the Director in 2022 where she served in that role until attaining her Acting Program Manager assignment in 2025, upon where she became the successful candidate to be the permanent Program Manager of the Special Needs Program.

Alicia is truly honoured to be chosen to fill the position of Program Manager and will continue to serve the community to the fullest capacity.

Please join us in welcoming Alicia to her new role!

Alicia was born and raised in Akwesasne. She graduated from Massena High School before beginning her post-secondary education endeavour with St. Lawrence College with a double major in Office Administration in the Medical and Legal Fields. She completed one year of Early Childhood Education certification, while also changing schools and education fields to focus on attaining her

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES WELCOMES NEW ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ACFS



The MCA Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) is pleased to announce Jon Michael Lazore as the Acting Associate Director of the Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) within the DCSS.

youth in their wellness journeys. In 2019, he joined Akwesasne Child & Family Services, where he has held several roles including Band Representative, Case Manager, Youth Delegate, Ongoing Services Supervisor, and most recently Service Manager of Protection.

He holds a diploma in Police Foundations and a Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work and is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work specializing in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency.

Please join us in welcoming Jon Michael to his new role as Acting Associate Director!

Jon Michael began his career with DCSS in 2015 at the Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center (IATC) as a Summer Student, Case Aide, and later as a Case Supervisor supporting Indigenous

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR BEAR WITNESS DAY

Jordan's Principle honours Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation. In 2005, Jordan's family gave the sacred gift of his name to ensure that all First Nations children can access the care and support they need, when they need it.

On Friday, May 8, Akwesasné:non families gathered at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center for Bear Witness Day, a fun and meaningful event honouring Jordan's legacy and standing up for the full implementation of Jordan's Principle. Attendees enjoyed a variety of exciting activities including a petting zoo with Lina the Lizard Lady, face painting, a gaming trailer, and much more. The evening focused on celebrating our children, raising awareness, and bringing the community together in a positive and supportive way.

This special occasion also marked the introduction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasné's new Special Needs Program, highlighting an important step forward in supporting children and families throughout Akwesasné.

Niawenhkó:wa to the program organizers, staff, partners, vendors, and most importantly, the attendees whose support and participation helped make this event so special and memorable.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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

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

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

Land-Based Healing:
613-575-2341

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

Traditional Medicine:
613-575-2341 ext. 3100

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

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:
613-932-5808

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

Elder Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

Iakhihsohtha Lodge:
613-575-2507

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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION FOR OUR TOTA'S

The tota's at Iakhihsohtha Lodge were surrounded by love, laughter, and family as they celebrated Mother's Day with a special brunch alongside their loved ones on Sunday, May 10. The gathering offered a meaningful opportunity to spend time together while honouring the mothers, grandmothers, and aunties who hold such an important place in the community.

Each mom received a beautiful floral corsage and charcuterie box to enjoy. Families shared a delicious meal while creating cherished memories in a warm

and welcoming setting. Members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance and Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service also stopped by to assist in serving brunch, bringing smiles to residents and their families throughout the morning.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Iakhihsohtha Lodge staff for organizing such a thoughtful celebration, and to the kitchen staff for preparing the wonderful meal. We also extend our appreciation to the first responders for taking part in the day and sharing in the celebration.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES · SECTOR 4: INTEGRATED SERVICES ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

CORNS AND CALLUSES

Corns and calluses are areas of thick, hard, dead skin. They form to protect your skin from injury. Corns usually form where toes rub together. Calluses often form on the hands or feet. They may form wherever the skin rubs against something, such as shoes.

How can you care for yourself at home?

- Wear shoes and other footwear that fit correctly. This will reduce rubbing and give corns or calluses time to heal.
- Use protective pads, such as moleskin to cushion the callus or corn.
- Soak your corn or callus in warm water, and then use a pumice stone to rub dead skin away.
- Wash your feet regularly, and rub lotion into your feet while they are still moist. Dry skin can cause a callus to crack and bleed.
- Never cut the corn or callus yourself, especially if you have problems with blood flow to your legs,

feet or a problem with numbness or feeling in your feet.

How to book an appointment:

Foot care services are available at two convenient locations: Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility in Kana:takon and Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility on Kawehno:ke.

For questions or to book an appointment, please contact MCA Integrated Services/Diabetes at 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.

When should you call for help?

Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have signs of infection, such as:

- Increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness around the corn or callus.
- Red streaks leading from the corn or callus.
- Pus draining from the corn or callus.
- A fever.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT CLINIC RECEPTION FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

The Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector kindly reminds community members to check in with clinic reception staff upon arrival for all scheduled appointments.

When you check in, reception staff will mark your arrival in the electronic medical record (EMR) system and add your name to the clinic's arrival list. This helps ensure a smooth and timely flow for your visit. If you do not check in with reception, your name

may not appear on the arrival list, which can result in a longer wait time.

To support timely care and allow staff to update any required records or personal information, community members are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes early for their appointments.

Nia:wen/Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to provide the best possible care for our community.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARAMEDIC – KRISTIN COOK



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Kristin Cook on her graduation from the University of Vermont Paramedic Program!

Kristin began her studies in January

2025 and completed the program on April 13, 2026. Throughout this time, she demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance by balancing full-time work while completing her clinical shifts on her days off.

Kristin is now preparing to write her National Registry exam in the coming month, where she will take the next step toward becoming a nationally registered paramedic with Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance.

We are proud to recognize this important milestone and wish Kristin continued success as she advances in her career.

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL WELL-BEING OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Mental Health Services recognizes the unique and often profound impact that critical incidents can have on first responders and their families. We understand that responding to emergencies and crisis situations can leave lasting effects, and that these experiences may impact each individual differently.

Whether you have been directly involved in a critical incident, or are simply carrying the emotional weight that can come from repeated exposure to challenging calls, please know that support is available—and reaching out is not only okay, it is encouraged.

Mental Health Services is committed to supporting the well-being of our first responders by offering priority access to group debriefing sessions following crisis incidents, as needed. In addition to our internal support services, confidential counselling and trauma-informed care are available through our trusted community partners:

Central Healing Counselling

- Individual counselling services
- Group debriefing support
- Trauma-informed supports

Contact: 613-294-8087 or contact@centralhealing.ca

Better You Counselling Services

- Individual counselling services
- Group debriefing support
- Self-referral available

Book online at: betteryoucounselling.ca/book

Your mental health matters. Support is available, confidential, and here to help you navigate the challenges that come with serving our community.

For more information or to access services for first responders, please contact the Mental Health Services office at 613-575-2341, extension 3115.

UPGRADE YOUR RECYCLING GAME: DISCOVER NEW ITEMS TO RECYCLE!

MCA's curbside recycling collection is accepting even more items! Make your recycling count by including the following items:

- Frozen juice & ice cream containers
- Black plastic food containers
- Empty toothpaste tubes
- Empty roll-on deodorant bottles
- Coffee cups

Just make sure all containers are empty and free of leftover residue before tossing them in your recycling bin. Check out the list of eligible items below!

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL LIST

PAPER	WHAT TO KNOW
Cardboard Boxes Pizza boxes, direct mail boxes, moving boxes, shoe boxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flatten. No larger than 60 x 60 cm.
Boxboard Cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, rolls from toilet paper and paper towel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flatten. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty.
Paper Any colour, including flour bags, prescription bags, paper produce bags. Notepads, white or coloured loose paper, file folders, other printed materials. Community newspapers, flyers, brochures and magazines. Greeting cards and envelopes, gift boxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flatten. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place shredded paper in a tied clear plastic bag. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate from plastic bags used to cover items, remove elastic bands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove rope handle from bags. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include soft or hard covered books/novels.
Paper Laminate Packaging Pet food bags, food service paper bags, and plates.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue.

CARTONS	WHAT TO KNOW
Paper Laminate Containers Spiral cans, cookie dough package, ice cream containers, and hot and cold beverage cups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove lids.
Cartons Beverage cartons, juice and milk cartons, coffee creamers, and sugar cartons, soup and sauce cartons.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

PLASTIC	WHAT TO KNOW
Plastic Containers Laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouth wash bottles, plastic beverage bottles. Food trays, salad, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, plastic cups, plastic tubs and lids. Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes. Small item packaging, hand sanitizer bottles, plant pots.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

Flexible Plastic Packagine Bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers. Overwrap (paper towel & toilet paper, beverage containers). Coffee bags or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue.
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To view the full list, please visit the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne website at: www.akwesasne.ca/news/posts/2026-recyclable-items-update/

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

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GIRLS SKATE DAY ROLLS INTO AKWESASNE

Akwesasró:non families enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the Akwesasne Skatepark during the 2026 Akwesasne Girls Skate Day on May 9, 2026, hosted by Melani Arquette alongside Kemptonville's Ashlynn Barrett Tucker!

The event celebrated girls in skateboarding while creating a welcoming space for participants of all ages and skill levels to come together, learn new skills, and enjoy an afternoon filled with fun activities.

Throughout the day, attendees took part in a variety

of activities including skate lessons, games, a mini ramp contest, prize giveaways, a special performance by Feryn King, photography portraits by Jaiden Mitchell, creative tie-dye activities with Tihanna Benedict, and music by DJ Crystal Stehlin.

Nia:wen/thank you to Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) for helping make this exciting day possible through their sponsorship, and to MCA Economic Development for their support in coordinating the event. Their contributions helped create a memorable and positive experience for everyone who attended.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF OF POLICE



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is informing the community that Ranatiiostha Swamp has been appointed as Chief of Police for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS).

Ranatiiostha Swamp has served with the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service since 2002. In 2018, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant of Operations, where he oversaw patrol operations, which included uniformed road patrol, marine patrol, community service, in-service training, and the emergency response team.

Chief Swamp has completed leadership training through the Police Leadership Program at the University of Toronto and was also awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his contributions to the community.

Since May 2024, he has served as Acting Chief of Police and will now continue in the permanent role. In this capacity, he oversees departmental operations and implements strategic priorities. His leadership reflects professionalism, transparency, collaboration, and proactive problem-solving.

Please join us in welcoming Ranatiiostha Swamp in his role as Chief of Police for the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service.

AMPS JOINS COMMUNITY VOICES FOR MMIWG2S+ AWARENESS

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service stands in solidarity with all those impacted by the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). We remain committed to raising awareness, supporting healing within our community, and working diligently alongside our partners to help bring closure to affected families. Together, we honour the lives lost and continue to advocate for justice, accountability, and lasting change.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our partners and community programs who collaborated in hosting an event in recognition of the National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S+. We recognize the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department (SRMTPD), Three Sisters Program, Seven Dancers Coalition, and all participating organizations for their contributions. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the presenters for sharing their knowledge, voices, and experiences. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service

was honoured to present during the event and support this important initiative.

In recognition and remembrance, our patrol officers are wearing red "POLICE" identifiers on their vests to show solidarity and to help raise further awareness of the MMIWG2S+ movement.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our community. We encourage continued support and involvement. Anyone with information that may assist an investigation is asked to contact Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.





WE ARE HIRING

Join our Team!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

www.akwesasne.ca/employment



MCA MOBILE ALERTS

Always stay in the loop with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne by registering to receive mobile/text alerts!

Learn more and register for free mobile/text alerts from MCA by visiting

www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts

