

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 12

FREE

Tsiothóhrha/December 2025

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HOLIDAY CHEER SHARED ACROSS AKWESASNE WITH MCA COMMUNITY DINNERS



This December, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was delighted to welcome families from all three districts to its annual Community Holiday Dinners. From Kana:takon to Tsi Snaihne to Kawehno:ke, each event was filled with hearty meals, laughter, and festive celebrations, bringing the community together to share in the holiday spirit. Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

December 25, 2025 - January 1, 2026

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and healthy new year!

AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW AMENDMENT COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

All sessions held from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

January 5, 2026

Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

January 6, 2026

Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

January 7, 2026

Kana:takon School

AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW REFERENDUM

January 31, 2026 · Location and time to be announced

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2024-2027

Grand Chief

Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District

Chief Fallon David
Chief Theresa Jacobs

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict
Chief Lacey Pierce
Chief Vince Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

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

Administration

Shannon Roundpoint
Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Akwasahsne 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

Please be reminded that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne offices will be closed from December 25, 2025 to January 1, 2026. Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!

2

MCA is hosting a series of information sessions in each district, giving community members the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the proposed changes to the Akwesasne Election Law. See page 5 for the full schedule of sessions. The referendum will be held on January 31, 2026.

3

D&R Disposal will be closed on December 25, 2025 and January 1, 2026 to allow staff to be with their families for the holidays. Residents who receive curbside collection on Thursdays, please place garbage out on Wednesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 31. Nia:wen for your cooperation and understanding.

4

AMBE would like to remind families to dress their children appropriately for outdoor play. A suggested list of winter items to send with your child can be found on page 15. Let's keep our children cozy and comfortable as they enjoy winter activities!

5

ACFS is excited to spread holiday cheer with a free turkey or ham giveaway for community members on Monday, December 22 from 12 p.m. until supplies last. Locations in all districts: A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, Snye Recreation, and Akwesasne Career & Employment Services (ACESS). Giveaway will be on a first-come, first-served basis – must provide your Canadian status card.

NEWS

CELEBRATING THE SEASON TOGETHER: MCA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was pleased to host three annual Community Holiday Dinners this December, welcoming families from all three districts for an evening of food, fun, and festive cheer. From Kana:takon to Tsi Snaihne to Kawehno:ke, each gathering brought the community together to share a delicious meal, enjoy good company, and celebrate the season.

Guests were treated to hearty dinners prepared by local caterers (TLC Catering, Three Feathers Cafe, Island Girlz, and Kelly Back), joyful visits and photos with Santa, and plenty of laughter throughout the night. Many also enjoyed the holiday photo booth to capture memorable moments with friends and family. The warmth of community connection was felt at every table.



A special niawenhkó:wa to the DOH Mental Health & Wellness Sector for generously sponsoring a beautiful basket giveaway at each dinner, made by Ann Mitchell.

MCA extends its heartfelt thanks to all who joined us. Your smiles, stories, and spirits made this year's holiday dinners a true success. We look forward to celebrating together again next year!

NEWS

KANA:TAKON AND KAWEHNO:KE BY-ELECTION UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Chief Electoral Officer Cheryl Jacobs has released the "unofficial" results of the 2025 MCA By-Election held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, for the Districts of Kana:takon and Kawehno:ke.

The deadline to file an appeal with the Akwesasne Election Appeal Board and deliver any appeal to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police station is Thursday, December 18, 2025, no later than 5:00 pm. The "unofficial" results are as follows:

For the position of two (2) Kana:takon District Chiefs, the candidates who received the highest number of votes are:

1. Teresa Oakes
2. Cody David

KANA:TAKON CANDIDATES	VOTES
Cody David	61
Paul Francis	49
Kallen Martin	18
Leonard "Lenny" Oakes, Jr.	9
Teresa Oakes	74
TOTAL VOTES:	211
REJECTED BALLOTS:	3

For the position of one (1) Kawehno:ke District Chief, the candidate who received the highest number of votes is:

1. Tom "Gulla" Thomas

KAWEHNO:KE CANDIDATES	VOTES
Vanessa Adams	86
Bryan John Sharrow	5
Rosemary Square	35
Tom "Gulla" Thomas	93
TOTAL VOTES:	219
REJECTED BALLOTS:	4

If you have any questions, please contact the Chief Electoral Officer at 613-575-2250 ext. 2126.

NO ILLEGAL DUMPING IN AKWESASNE

MCA & SRMT JOINT NOTICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe remind all community members and our neighbors that the illegal dumping of solid waste, including garbage, construction materials, and other materials, is strictly prohibited. Anyone found illegally dumping may face fines and penalties under applicable laws and regulations.

Please note: Garbage pickup in the Districts of Tsi Snaihne, Kana:takon, and Kawehno:ke is for members within those jurisdictions only.

For those residing in the jurisdiction of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the following local facilities are available for recycling and proper waste disposal:

SRMT Recycling Depot

Corner of State Route 37 & Frogtown Road

We ask everyone to respect our community, our environment, and our waste management systems. Let's all do our part to keep Akwesasne clean and beautiful for everyone.

SRMT Solid Waste Transfer Station

179 County Route 43 | Fort Covington, NY
Open Monday–Wednesday | 7:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
Open Friday–Saturday | 7:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
Phone: (518) 358-4632

Email: transfer.station@srmt-nsn.gov

- Accepts garbage (for a fee or with pre-purchased bags)
- Accepts recyclables free of charge

NEWS

MCA ANNOUNCES AEL REFERENDUM AND INFO SESSIONS

On October 29, 2025, Council passed Mohawk Council Resolution 2025-2026 #240, confirming that the proposed amendment to the Akwesasne Election Law will proceed to a community referendum. This amendment addresses the petition requirements for the removal of a District Chief. As outlined in the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR), the referendum process will follow the established process and guidelines.

questions about the proposed change, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will be hosting a series of information sessions in each district. Community members are encouraged to attend, learn about the amendment, and share any questions or feedback.

INFORMATION SESSION DATES

(All sessions run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.)

- Monday, January 5, 2026 – Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre
- Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centre
- Wednesday, January 7, 2026 – Kana:takon School

For more information, please contact the Mohawk Government Offices at 613-575-2250.

To support community understanding and answer



**D&R DISPOSAL:
HOLIDAY COLLECTION DATES**

D & R will be closed on **December 25, 2025 & January 1, 2026** so staff may enjoy the holidays with their families.

Residents who normally receive curbside collection on **Thursdays** are kindly asked to place garbage out on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Regular collection will resume after the holidays.

Niawen for your cooperation and happy holidays!

NEWS

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY: MCA OPEN HOUSE 2025

Over the past few weeks, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne had the pleasure of meeting community members at our open houses in Kawehno:ke (Nov. 13), Kana:takon (Nov. 24), and Tsi Snaihne (Dec. 4).

Each event featured interactive displays, hands-on activities, and MCA staff from across all departments sharing information about the programs and services that support Akwesasne every day. Visitors also had the chance to enter prize draws, explore resources, and learn more about the work happening throughout our organization.

Nia:wén to everyone who stopped by, asked questions, connected with our team, and made this year's series such a success. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve and engage with our community — and we look forward to seeing you again soon!



COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE

Portfolio Updates:

- **DIHE** — The DIHE Portfolio provided Council with an update on recent initiatives.



November 3, 2025

Discussion Items:

- **Family Sustainability** — The Council discussed the delivery of the Family Sustainability Cheques for the community.
- **FASFA Legal Representative** — The Chiefs discussed the FASFA lawsuit in the USA and their legal representative.
- **December 1 Council Meeting** — Council discussed the December 1st council meeting since many of the Chiefs will be on travel.
- **General Meeting November** — Council discussed the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting.
- **Kix Care Membership** — The Council discussed a program called Kix Care.
- **Exemption French Language** — The Council discussed talking with the Minister regarding the French language exemptions for community members.
- **Quad Parpartite Agreement** — The Chiefs discussed the QuadPartite Agreement for AMPS.
- **CIRNAC Minister Meeting** — The Chiefs discussed logistics for the upcoming Minister of CIRNAC visit.

Presentations:

- **Federal Political Protocol Update by Nation Building** — Nation building provided the Council with an update on the Federal Political Protocol.

Discussion Items:

- A MAID Presentation was recently held for Council. Further follow up will be done.
- Council discussed the issues and concerns regarding Bill 2 in Quebec.
- Council discussed the concerns with Bill S2 and would like to have a plan in place.

Presentations:

- **DCSS Organizational Chart** — A presentation was provided by the Director of the Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) as well as the A/Program Manager of Special Needs. They provided an update on the proposed positions within the department as well as next steps with the Special Needs Program and the Jordans Principle moving under the Special Needs program.

Portfolio Updates:

- Portfolio Updates were provided on the Economic Development Portfolio, Environment Portfolio and the Health Portfolio.

- **MCRs:** Approve Updates to PSAP Guidelines; Akwesasne Housing Authority Charter; Review of Akwesasne Community Justice Program; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; ISC Amendment No 174 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 175 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 176 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; Review of Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures — Guardians Project; Jp2G Design Services, Johnson Road, Iohahio Road, Sweetgrass Lane Reconstruction; Approve the Indigenous LCP Agreement; Iakhihsottha Lodge Kitchen Renovations; MCA Donation Policy Revisions; ED to Initiate AEL Section 16.2 Referendum; Council Meeting Minutes — October 6, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes — October 20, 2025; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes — October 24, 2025; Council Meeting Minutes — October 27, 2025.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF JOANN SWAMP UPDATES



Additionally, our Family Wellness Program is expanding with new positions and initiatives to enhance existing services and better meet the needs of the community.

include road expenditures and financial support for critical infrastructure projects.

NATION BUILDING:

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Government of Canada have been negotiating the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA) since 2013. Main Table negotiations provide updates from both Akwesasne and Canada. This year, three Main Table sessions were held, with completed work on Early Childhood Education and Childcare, Administration of Justice, the Fiscal Statutes Application Agreement, and amendments and ratification processes. Negotiations were temporarily paused due to the MCA election and the Canadian federal election.

The Roads Report for the next three years has been released, covering areas including Sugarbush Road, Iohahi:io Road, and Fishermans Lane. With renovations happening at the Sunday Warehouse, work on Fishermans Lane may be delayed.

Infrastructure projects are underway across the community. Buildings are being assessed, and renovations are ongoing. A new Tsi Snaihne School is in development, and AMS is planning an addition. Housing developments for a subdivision on Hawthorne Road are nearing finalization. Iohahi:io projects, including two portable classrooms, an outdoor pavilion, and a cultural centre, are set to begin in the spring. The Kana:takon Beach project has been relocated to the front of the pavilion. Waterline hookups have started, with plans to connect all homes not currently on the system. The Block 97 Pump Station is being re-tendered after the original cost doubled, and HVAC systems are being installed in all three schools. A feasibility study is in progress for a new Fire Station in Tsi Snaihne, with conceptual drawings completed and upcoming meetings with the Executive of HAVFD and DIHE.

Before reaching the Main Table, discussions take place at working tables and sub-tables focused on specific topics requiring further negotiation with Canada. The legal technical review team examines these issues. This team includes Entewatathá:wi staff, MCA technicians, and legal counsel, while Canada's team consists of federal negotiators and legal counsel.

The Self-Government Agreement now spans 29 chapters, with just a few remaining to finalize. Self-government would allow MCA to move away from the colonial system imposed under the Indian Act. Should the federal government eliminate the Indian Act, MCA would have a Self-Government Agreement in place to govern the community of Akwesasne in a way that best meets local needs, without federal intervention. This agreement ensures the protection of our rights, the authority to make our own laws, and greater recognition of our jurisdiction over lands, resources, and governance.

Space needs remain a priority for MCA, prompting a call for office space and a review of homes for purchase by the Property Acquisition Team (PAT) team, with appraisers to be engaged. A feasibility study is also underway for a Community Hub and Youth Centre at the end of Wade Lafrance Memorial Road. Work on the Hamilton Island Bridge is ongoing, and discussions about leases at Hamilton Island have begun. Kitchen renovations at Iakhisho:tha Lodge are being finalized, and plans are in-progress for updates to the Sunday Warehouse and the corner of Iohahi:io site. The Sunday Warehouse will house Justice on the second floor, a walk-in clinic on the first floor, and touchdown spaces for OVS, Housing, and Finance. A TR Leger classroom and Fab Lab will also be included. Community consultations will take place once drawings are complete, and a new name for the building is being considered.

Community consultations and education will be conducted in all districts to ensure members fully understand the agreement. It is important for the community to ask questions and gain a clear understanding of what the agreement entails.

GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:

The Government Secretariat portfolio consists of the following programs/departments: ARRO, Quebec Liaison, Mohawk Government, Communications, Chiefs Update and Executive Update, and Nation Building.

ARRO: The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) provided an update on the Dundee Trust. Trustees have begun NATOA training, and contracts are currently under legal review.

Discussions are underway for an expansion of the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to include a new Recreation Centre, with plans to be finalized soon. Generators have been installed at Iakhisho:tha Lodge, Akwesasne (Snye) Homemakers, and Kawehno:ke Recreation Center. A water study and distribution system project at the Snye/St. Regis crossing has been proposed, following capacity assessments and risk evaluations. Renovations are also needed at Peacetree Mall, including brickwork and roof drainage. Finally, MTQ agreements for the Multi-Jurisdictional Table

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF JOANN SWAMP UPDATES

to proceed.

Team-building activities will be scheduled in the new year, and preparations for the upcoming AFN Assembly and staff training are underway.

Communications Update: The Communication Policy, last updated in 2010, is in the beginning stages of being revised. Discussions with various directors have highlighted the need for a Communications Officer, who would operate under the Communications umbrella. Two programs identified as needing this support are DCSS and AMPS.

Work has begun on developing a crisis communication plan, with AMPS being consulted for input. The Communications team is also addressing issues with text alerts and providing support to HR with on-boarding processes.

REPORT ON COMMITTEES:

OVS provides monthly updates, typically covering leases, Hamilton Island issues, and other matters related to MCA-owned islands.

Regarding Hydro-Québec, no recent meetings have taken place, though work on power lines and vegetation management continues.

Since the hiring of the new Executive Director, the Executive Committee is preparing for its next meeting.

The PAT Team has met to debrief on various property visits and is requesting appraisers to assess the buildings and properties. This work is ongoing.

Updates from OPG/MCA are provided by Ontario Power Generation employees and MCA Chiefs. Discussions continue regarding a biannual meeting, including timing and location, with finalization expected in the new year. The Power for Change initiative is in progress, with scholarships awarded to local schools. Updates on available funding levels and successful applications by different Akwesasne groups are also provided, including access to biodiversity funding through the Environment Program.

Other updates include ongoing work on the Power for Change initiative at the OPG level. The Droulers Site Board held their final meeting of the year, focusing on rebuilding relationships with the new Director in place. The POM meeting was productive, with planning underway for OPG events. Hydro-Québec continues to provide updates on power and vegetation control.

Discussions with YECL focus on the Youth Council and Elders Council, including the development of terms of reference. Amendments may be required once these are finalized. Community members also provide presentations on cultural projects.

IROQUOIS CAUCUS:

I attended the Iroquois Caucus (IC) on Sunday, November 30, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, ON. The Iroquois Caucus brings together Chiefs from Kanesatake, Kahnawake, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, Six Nations, and Oneida.

Key discussions of the day included financial updates and contributions. The Caucus bid farewell to Amy

Lickers, who has moved on to a new role.

An update was provided on the IC Coordinator Hiring Committee: 18 applications were received for the position, with five candidates advancing to the interview stage. The IC and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Protocol Agreement was also discussed, with Chief Cindy Woodhouse-Nepinak meeting with the IC group.

Leadership updates included the appointment of Kahnawake Chief Cody Diabo as Chair and Grand Chief Leonard Lazore as Co-Chair of the Iroquois Caucus. Updates to the IC Terms of Reference were also reviewed.

The next Iroquois Caucus meeting will be hosted by Tyendinaga in February 2026, focusing on Public Safety and Emergency Response Strategy. National Chief Woodhouse-Nepinak will review the Political Protocol, with voting scheduled for April 2026, followed by a public signing in Ottawa with all IC members.

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) – DECEMBER 2-4, 2025:

I attended the AFN Assembly in December, which coincided with the Iroquois Caucus so that all Chiefs could gather in one location. On December 1, full-day presentations were held. The MCA Grand Chief and Chiefs coordinated to attend as many sessions as possible.

I attended the presentation on Medically Assisted in Dying (MAID), one of the MCRs to be presented at the General Assembly, which was particularly informative. I also attended the session on On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing (Section 95), where CMHC and Canada Homes provided presentations on their collaborative approach to addressing housing challenges for First Nations. CMHC is the only federal program authorized to provide loans to First Nations, and both organizations are working together to resolve housing issues.

At the AFNOL Breakfast Meeting, Francis Verrault addressed Bill S-2, with a resolution expected to be presented at the Assembly. I also attended a presentation by Kahsennenhaweh Sky-Deer (Mohawk) and Meredith Brown (Algonquin) titled Our Shared Responsibility to the Great Lakes.

For the remainder of the week, I continued to participate in the Assembly sessions.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Council Community Holiday Dinners. We truly appreciate everyone's participation, seeing the community come together, and sharing in the holiday spirit. Wishing all a happy and joyful holiday season!

Ahiawens akwekon sehwatahkariteh tanon sewatehnikonrori ki Sakowis tareh tanon Oseraseh Sewak-weton.

Portfolios:
Dept. of Community & Social Services; Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment; Government Secretariat; Nation Building

Selected Committees:

Executive Committee; Iroquois Caucus; Hydro Quebec; Property Acquisition Team (PAT); Office of Vital Statistics (OVS); Youth, Elders, Culture & Language (YECL)

As 2025 comes to a close, it's important to take a moment to thank Shonkwia'tison for all the gifts he has given us and for the guidance he provides in times of need. This year has brought many events — some positive, some challenging. Governments around the world are facing difficulties, and Akwesasne is no exception.

As we enter the holiday season and look toward a new year, may we find hope and strength in unity. By keeping our heads up and focusing on the future, we can embrace the new and exciting opportunities that 2026 will bring.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES:

Exciting developments are happening in the program. A new director has been hired, bringing experience from a social program and extensive knowledge of social services, child and family services, and family and community support programs. She has updated the DCSS organizational chart and added positions where needed.

A Special Needs program has now been implemented after much planning. Thanks to Vanessa Adams, who led this program at the provincial/government level and supported its finalization, the program is now up and running. Staffing is being finalized to ensure its continued success.

The Community Support Program has been actively assisting families this winter, including heating applications and providing winter clothing for children. For families who missed the ARAP deadline, Community Support has stepped in to help.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in November

1. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Karatoten "Pray" Lazore
2. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Raun "Moon" Mitchell
3. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Mitchell Skidders
4. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Nick Lames
5. Awareness Week Spotlight: Wild Bill's One Stop (Video)

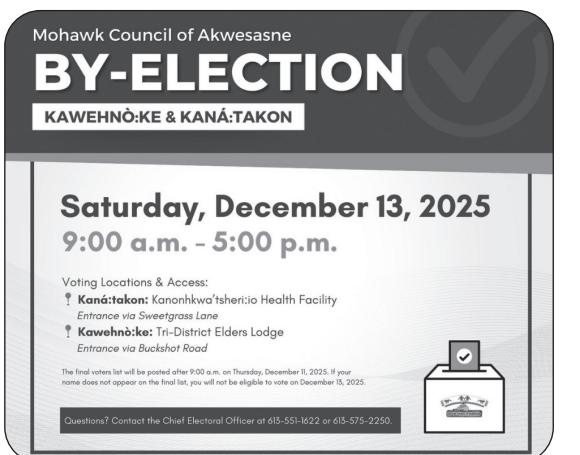
Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in November

1. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Karatoten "Pray" Lazore — 30,293 Reached
2. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Mitchell Skidders — 28,842 Reached
3. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Nick Lamesse — 26,934 Reached
4. Celebrating Strength & Sobriety: Raun "Moon" Mitchell — 25,936 Reached
5. Highlights of the 2025 Christmas Enchantment (Video) — 23,535 Reached



X STATS

Top Post in November



YOUTUBE STATS

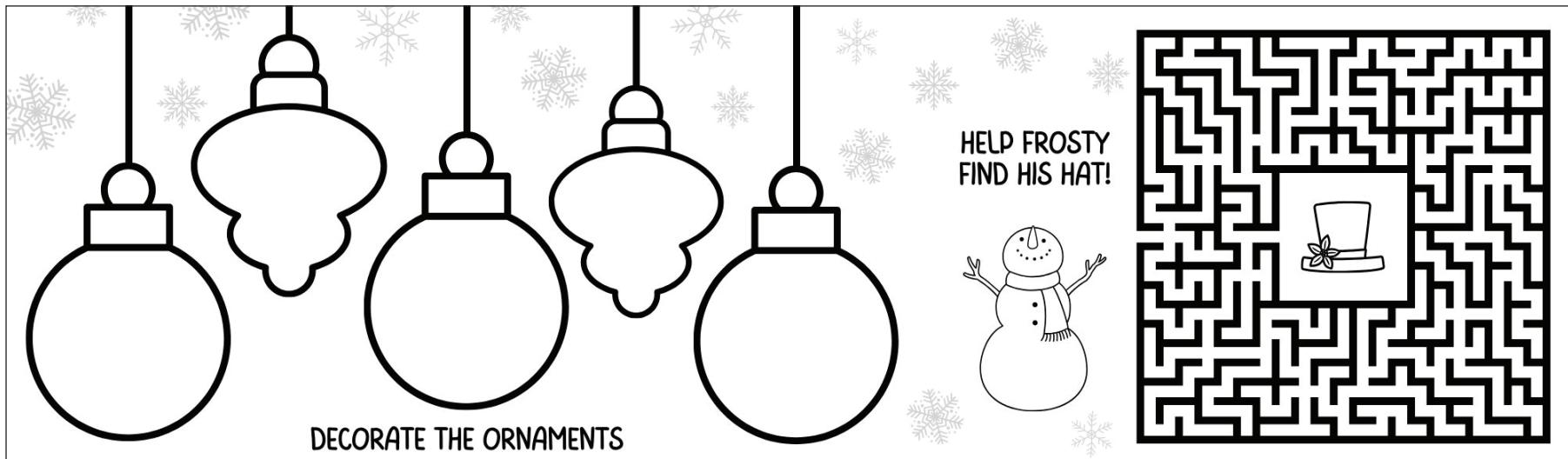
Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for November

Awareness Week Spotlight: Wild Bill's One Stop

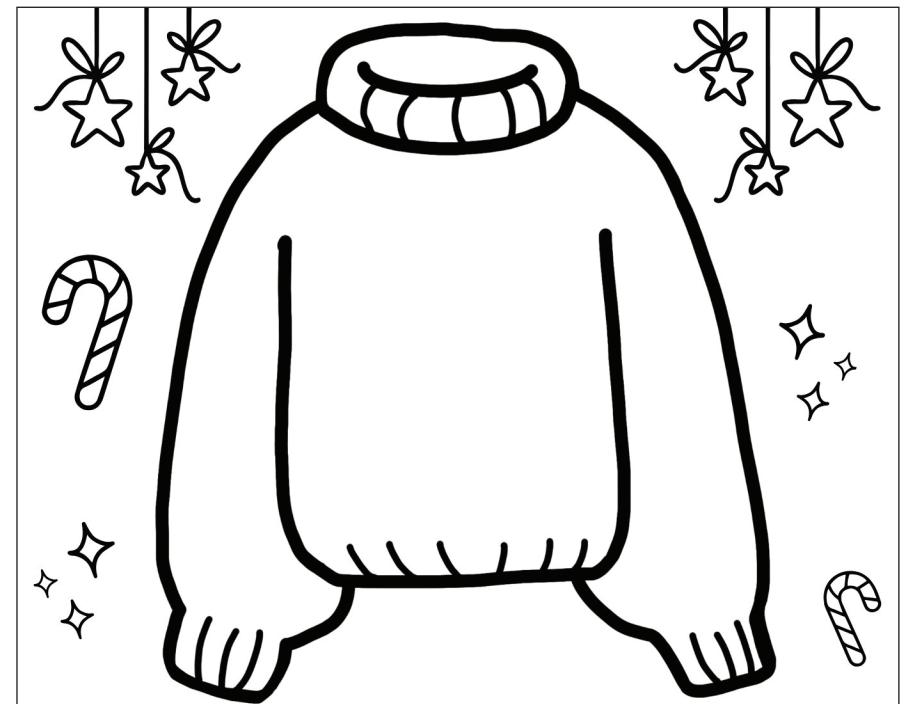
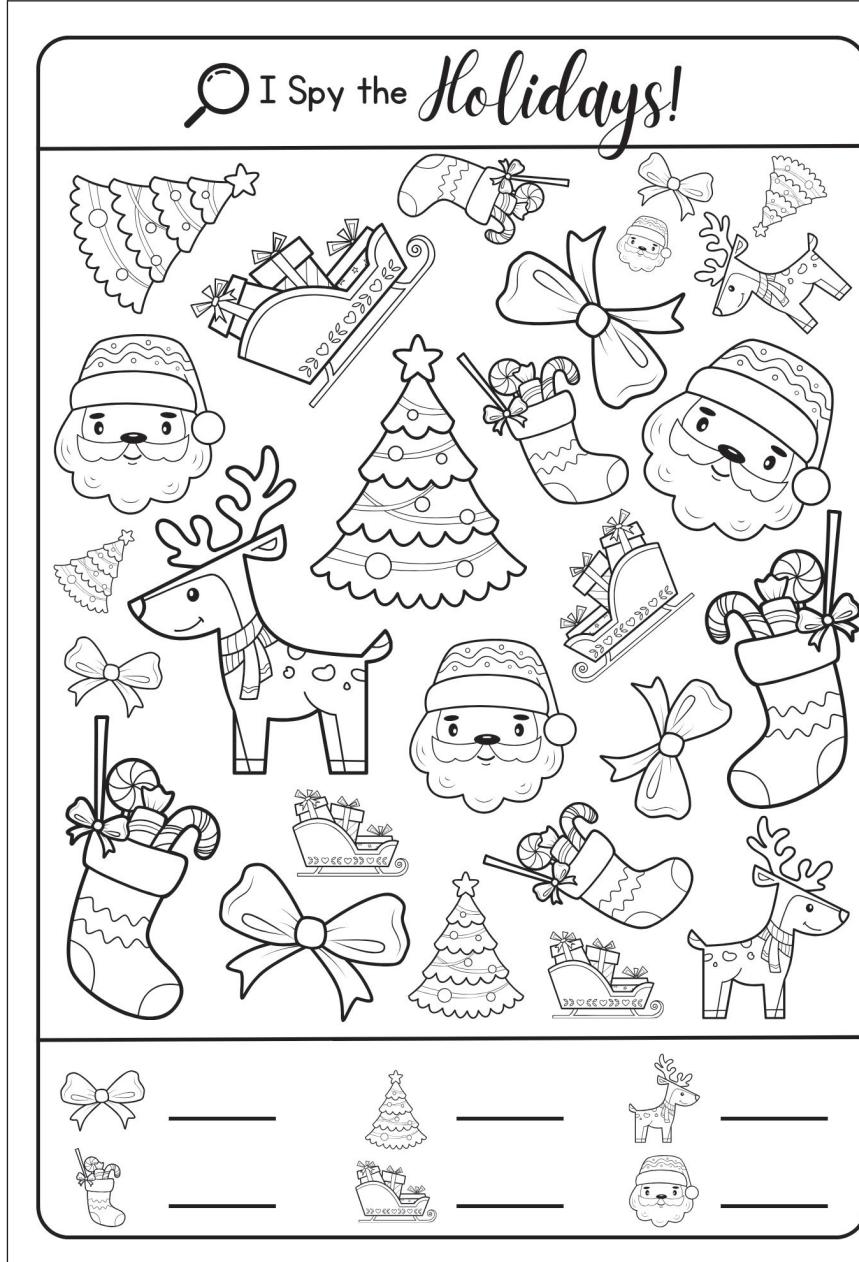


To view more videos, please visit:
www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

CHILDREN'S PAGE



DECORATE YOUR OWN UGLY SWEATER



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes!

What is a snowflake's favorite game?
Freeze tag.

Where do polar bears keep their money?
In a snow bank.



Hazard Help Sheet: DO ONE THING!

Do 1 Thing is a web-based 12-month preparedness program that focuses on a different area of emergency preparedness, and provides a range of preparedness options for each topic. Every month has a low or no cost option to become better prepared. You can jump in at anytime, so let's begin!

Small Steps Towards Being Prepared for an Emergency

Month	Do 1 Thing	What You Can Do
January	Make a Plan	Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.
February	Water	Have 72 hours (3 days) worth of water stored for your household.
March	Sheltering	Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.
April	Food	Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.
May	Work, School, Community	Make sure the people who count on you are prepared for a disaster.
June	Unique Family Needs	Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.
July	Family Communication Plan	Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.
August	Get Involved	Make your community stronger by getting trained and getting involved.
September	Be Informed	Make sure everyone in your household can receive, understand, and act on information received in an emergency.
October	Power	Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.
November	Emergency Supplies	Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.
December	First Aid	Be prepared to give first aid while waiting for an ambulance.

For more information, go to dolthing.com
Brought to you by MCA's Emergency Measures Program

THE BRIDGE, THE TOLL, THE BURDEN

The community of Akwesasne has long claimed the right to move freely throughout its homeland. This right is based on the Jay Treaty of 1794, which states that Indigenous peoples living on either side of the U.S.–Canadian border have the right to cross the border freely. However, many Akwesasronon view the international border, along with toll booths, customs checkpoints, and inspections, as ongoing violations of our rights and traditional ways of life rather than simple government procedures.

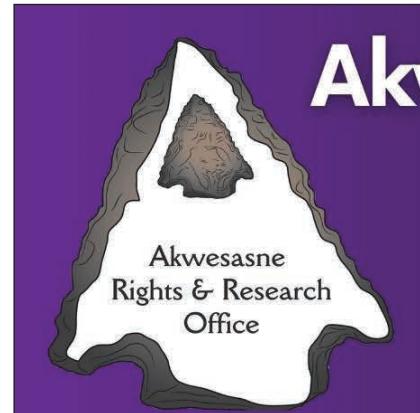
On December 18, 1968, Akwesasronon protested these restrictions by blocking the Seaway International Bridge. They opposed the tolls and customs fees placed on goods entering from the United States. Although several protesters were arrested, the charges were later dropped after they demanded court hearings. By 1969, the federal government recognized parts of the community's arguments, including limits on customs duties for certain goods. These events were recorded in the National Film Board documentary, *You Are on Indian Land* (1969), directed by Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell, which shows both the protest and the broader fight for Akwesasne's border rights.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the bridge and toll booth still had a major impact on daily life in Akwesasne. Sovereignty became something people practiced every day as they traveled and worked across

the border. This everyday assertion of rights brought increased attention from Canadian and U.S. authorities. While these actions created new economic opportunities, they also led to greater surveillance and criminalization as outside governments tried to control activity on Mohawk land. These pressures heightened internal and external tensions, the effects of which persist today. Border restrictions continue to limit mobility, complicate kinship and ceremonial practices, and challenge the sustainability of local businesses.

The struggle over border rights at Akwesasne highlights the ongoing challenges Indigenous communities have faced historically up to the present time in defending our sovereignty and traditional ways of life. What started as a protest tolls and customs has evolved into a broader struggle for recognition and respect of inherent rights, exemplified by cases such as *Mitchell v. MNR*. The toll booths and checkpoints are more than administrative barriers; they represent the tension between external government control and the community's self-determination. Despite these pressures, Akwesasronon have continued to assert our rights, showing that the fight for freedom of movement and cultural preservation remains a vital part of our identity and resilience.

Submission provided by the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office.



Akwesasne Rights & Research Office

Contact Us!

613-575-2250 ext. 2133

arro@akwesasne.ca

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE CARLEE OAKES, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION



As Executive Assistant for the Akwesasne Justice Department, Carlee Oakes plays a vital role in supporting the Director and team through diverse administrative responsibilities. Her days rarely look the same. One day she may be preparing purchase orders or coordinating travel. On another she may be assisting with Mohawk Council Resolution (MCR) submissions or handling boat registrations. She enjoys the variety and says it keeps her work interesting. Most of all, she appreciates the strong team at the Justice Department, which makes coming to work each day something she looks forward to.

Education and Early Career

Carlee earned both her General Arts & Science Certificate and her Office Administration (Medical/Legal) Diploma through St. Lawrence College programs offered at Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute. She graduated with Distinction from both and received the Elizabeth Lazore Memorial Award as well as the Academic Council Medal.

After high school, unsure of what she wanted to study, Carlee took time off before deciding to pursue college as a new mom. Attending Iohahi:io allowed her to stay close to home while her daughter attended daycare nearby. That support made it possible to balance school, family, and work.

Carlee built experience throughout her studies. She worked part time at Iohahi:io as a General Office Helper, held a summer position at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, and completed placements with

Iohahi:io, the former Akwesasne Community Dental Clinic, and the MCA Home Care and Home Support Program. These experiences laid the foundation for her career within the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Professional Journey

Since 2015, Carlee has held several roles within MCA. She began as a Referendum Officer and later worked as a Health Programs Clerk with the MCA Community Health Program. She joined the Akwesasne Justice Department as a Clerk/Receptionist, moved into the Administrative Assistant role, and eventually became Executive Assistant.

Looking back, Carlee reflects on the long days of being a full-time student, a young mom, and often working two part-time jobs. Every placement, every summer job, and every role helped build the experience that guided her to where she is today. She credits hard work, determination, and the opportunities available locally through Iohahi:io, ACESS, and MCA as key parts of her success.

Future Goals

Carlee is continuing to grow in her field. She recently earned her Administrative Professional Certification and plans to complete an Executive Assistant program and obtain her Canadian Certified Administrative Professional designation.

Her approach to professional development is simple: "You can never stop learning, and I learn something new each day."

A Final Note

Carlee is grateful for the path that brought her here and for the community supports that helped her along the way. She brings that same commitment into her work each day at the Akwesasne Justice Department.

AKWESAHNSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

WINTER CLOTHING REMINDER

As the temperatures continue to drop, we kindly remind families to ensure children are dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Our students go outside daily and being properly bundled up helps keep everyone safe, warm and ready to have fun!

Please send your child with:

- A warm winter coat
- Snow pants
- Hat & mittens
- Warm boots
- Neck warmer or scarf
- Extra layers for very cold days

Dressing in layers helps kids stay comfortable and enjoy all the benefits of outdoor play.

Nia:wén for helping keep our children cozy and prepared as they enjoy winter activities!



Holiday Closures

December 19th
11:31 AM Dismissal for K4-Gr. 8 students

December 22nd-January 2nd
K4-Gr. 8 students & staff on Holiday Break

December 22nd - 24th
AMBE Administration Office operating with limited staff

December 24th
K3, Childcare & Zero 2 Six closing at noon

December 25th-January 1st
AMBE Administration Office, Iohahi:io, Mohawk Language & Culture, Childcare and Zero 2 Six Closed

January 2nd
Childcare, K3 & Zero 2 Six closed to students | PD Day for staff

January 5th
K3-Gr. 8 & Childcare first day back

AKWESAHNSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ie thi ha hon:nien - We make the road for them



AMS STUDENTS LEARN DEER HIDE PREPARATION

In December, Akwesasne Mohawk School (AMS) students took part in a meaningful, hands-on deer hide preparation activity rooted in land-based healing practices. During Cultural Collaboration Day, all Grade 3-8 students came together to learn, share, and reconnect with traditional teachings, with a total of 49 students participating.

Working side by side, students learned each step of the process — fleshing the membrane, stretching and lacing the hide onto a frame, and beginning preparations for salting. These teachings offered students more than a skill; they provided an opportunity to understand the patience, respect, and responsibility involved in working with the land. By passing down this knowledge,



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS



OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Services provided by OVS:



Indian Status



Lands



Estates



Membership/Residency



Leasing

CONTACT US

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE GETS SPECIAL VISITOR — ARTIST MIA JACOBS

The totas at Tsiiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility were treated to a joyful holiday surprise — a special visit from local artist Mia Jacobs! Mia brightened our main entry-way with vibrant, festive colours and themes — just in time for the holidays!

Mia's connection to Tsiiionkwanonhso:te is close to the heart: her great-grandfather lives at the facility, and she wanted to give back for the loving care shown to her family. During her visit, the totas enjoyed sitting with her, watching her creativity flow, and sharing in the cheerful atmosphere.

A proud Kana:takon School student in the Kanien'kehà:ka (Mohawk) Immersion Program, Mia also spoke Mohawk with several residents — and they were delighted to converse in our traditional language.

Niawenhkó:wa/thank you, Mia Jacobs, for your time, kindness, and beautiful contribution to our totas' holiday festivities. Your artwork — and the love behind it — are truly beloved and appreciated by our totas.



HOLIDAY CHEER IS HERE: LET'S JINGLE & MINGLE WITH THE TOTAS AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE

Tsiiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care (LTC) welcomed the holidays with our beloved totas, their families, and LTC staff — coming together for a heartwarming evening of food, music, and community.

A Feast to Remember: A tree-mendous thank you to TNT Deli for the delicious holiday meal — "yule" love the flavors as much as we did!

Sounds of the Season: Entertainment during dinner featured the cheerful vocal stylings of Roger and Romain Mitchell, sleigh-ing the songs and lifting spirits all night long.

Nia:wen/Thank You: Our management team, staff, and volunteers came together to make sure this celebration was memorable—serving meals for the totas and their families with care and holiday cheer. So grateful for this amazing team!

Staff & Volunteers:
David Johnson
Leah Mitchell
Vincent "Barry" Lazore
Melissa McGovern

Kayla Lazore
Diane Lazore
Tameka Thompson
Brenda Lafrance
Ryan Chaytor

From our totas and the staff of Tsiiionkwanonhso:te, we wish you a season full of peace, joy, and cozy moments. Happy Holidays!



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

LAND-BASED HEALING CELEBRATES AKWESASNE'S POSITIVE MALE ROLE MODELS

The Department of Health's Land-Based Healing Program (LBH) proudly celebrated the men who inspire our community through a "Movember Male Role Models" call-out. Community members were invited to nominate and share stories about the men in their lives who they look up to as positive male role models.

All nominated role models were entered into a random draw for a chance to win some great prizes. Congratulations to the following winners — Shatekaronhiotan Fox, Calvin Leaf, Ian Clute, and Glenn Treadwell.

The response from the call-out was overwhelming and heartfelt. Dozens of nominations poured in, accompanied by powerful stories that highlighted the positive influence these men have on families, friends, and loved ones across Akwesasne. Your words painted a moving picture of mentorship, compassion, and everyday leadership.

Below you can read a few of the names and stories of those put forth as positive male role models in Akwesasne — honoring the impact they make and example they set.

Nia:wén/Thank you to the men in our community who continue to embody manhood, fatherhood, uncle-hood, cousin-hood, friendship, and who show up, day after day, as an uplifting presence in Akwesasne. Your strength, kindness, and guidance enrich our community today and everyday.

Brandon Smoke

"He has been a great role model as a man who takes care of his family, responsibilities, and always shows up..Always sets a good example for me."

My dad, Tsiorasa Barreiro

"I am inspired and proud of my dad for his dedication to his profession and dedication to taking care of my family no matter the circumstances."

Derek Hopps

"Hard working, amazing father, always helps others, deserves so much in life."



Shatekaronhiotan Fox — "He is an amazing nephew, father, teacher, and Mohawk speaker."

Prize: 55" LG TV



Ian Clute — "He is a great father, being supportive, loving, and always being there when I need him."

Prize: Food Dehydrator



Calvin Leaf — "This man raised two children as his own and managed to overcome addiction. He has taught me so many things in life that have helped me survive and also to be strong when I need to be. I am proud to call him my bubba."

Prize: Air Compressor with Flood Light



Glenn Treadwell — "He is amazing. He is part of our skateboarding committee at the skate park and enjoys teaching children the simple skills it requires to skateboard. He is a father of 5 and is their #1 supporter!"

Prize: Hunting Cooler

My father, Michael Phillips

"He has taught me one of the best traits, which is to help others. He's displayed what helping others can do to make a difference in people's lives and our community. I will forever be grateful having him as a role model."

Angello Johnson

"Angello is an amazing person. He's a son, brother, uncle, husband, and father that his family can look up to and count on. He steps up in any situation where he can help and supports the community with his knowledge of traditions and our culture. He deserves to be recognized for all his accomplishments and the amazing role model he has become."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE – AKWESASNE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS AN APPLICATION?

Once all required documentation is received by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Jordan's Principle office, the Navigators will promptly forward the completed application to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) – Jordan's Principle for review and a decision.

Jordan's Principle Navigators play a key role in assisting community members with their applications. They ensure all relevant documentation is included, which helps avoid unnecessary delays during the review process.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Call the office to schedule an intake appointment
- Identify any additional documentation required
- Complete the application
- Sign consent forms
- Identify risks/needs

Note: Applications are not guaranteed approval.

HOW DO I APPEAL A DECISION?

At the request of the parent/guardian/child, the Akwesasne office can email ISC – Jordan's Principle with any new documentation to support the needs of the child(ren) and request an appeal. ISC will review the file and make a new determination.

Appeals must be submitted within 1 year of the date of denial. If the parent/guardian prefers to appeal the decision directly, they may email any new documentation to ISC – Jordan's Principle and request a second review.

Note: New documentation is not always required. You may request an appeal if you believe the original application was sufficient. You can request a second review for your appeal.

WHO CAN WRITE A SUPPORT LETTER?

Support letters must be provided by a licensed or registered health professional, educational professional, or an Elder or Knowledge Keeper who is part of the child's circle of care and has the appropriate expertise to identify the child's unmet needs.

DO THEY ACCEPT LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM CHIEFS?

Yes, as long as the Chief is a licensed or registered professional writing the letter in their area of expertise. Previously, ISC accepted all letters from Chiefs. However, as of February 10, 2025, support letters must come from licensed professionals (see previous question).

I am not a legal guardian. Can I still apply for my child?

If you are not the legal guardian, you may only apply with written consent from the legal guardian giving you permission to submit the application on the child's behalf.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICES CAN I APPLY FOR?

Jordan's Principle is a child-first initiative that ensures First Nations children receive the supports they need, when they need them. You can apply for a wide range of services, including but not limited to:

- Wheelchair ramps
- Assessments and screenings

- Medical supplies
- Personal support workers
- Land-based activities

- School supplies
- Tutoring services
- Assistive technology

ARE HOME RENOVATIONS APPROVED?

As per the ISC – Jordan's Principle operational bulletin dated February 10, 2025, general home renovations are no longer approved. However, Jordan's Principle may consider and fund minor renovations or modifications to an existing home on a case-by-case basis — specifically when required to meet the child(ren)'s mobility, health, or medical needs. Examples of minor renovations that may be considered include:

- Wheelchair ramps;
- Stair glides;
- Ergonomically comfortable bathroom renovations related to accessibility;
- Room modification to allow space for additional equipment;
- Safety yard enclosures e.g. fencing

Other items not approved include sporting events, non-medical supports, and international travel unless related to an exceptional medical need.

WHAT IS THE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR A CHILD?

A child must be a First Nations child under the age of majority in their province or territory. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne follows Ontario's age of majority, which is under 18 years old.

CAN I APPLY IF I DON'T LIVE IN AKWESASNE (ONTARIO OR QUÉBEC)?

Yes. Jordan's Principle is for all First Nations children living in Canada.

MY FRIEND GOT APPROVED IN 3 WEEKS. WHY IS MINE TAKING LONGER?

Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by ISC – Jordan's Principle. Your child's needs or application details may differ from other children's applications. There will be exceptions made to urgent application requests, such as life-threatening situations, palliative care, suicide risk, or safety concerns. These requests are prioritized.

CAN I RECEIVE APPROVED SERVICES/PRODUCTS/SUPPORTS IN THE U.S.?

Yes, as long as the cost does not exceed the approved amount in Canadian funds. U.S. support amounts will be converted to Canadian currency.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact our office:

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Department of Health / Community Health Services – Jordan's Principle

Kanonkwa'tsher:i:io Health Facility

31 Hilltop Drive

Akwesasne, Quebec H0M 1A0

613-515-2341 ext. 2652

jordans.principle@akwesasne.ca

Or visit the ISC – Jordan's Principle website:

Canada.ca/jordans-principle

1-833-442-2429



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SWEATERS & SMILES FOR OUR TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE TOTAS — NIA:WEN KAWEHNO:KE RECREATION

The totas at Tsionkwanonhsote were treated to a heart-warming holiday surprise from the awesome crew at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center — beautiful, cozy holiday sweaters! Their gifts arrived just in time for picture day with Santa and Mrs. Claus, making the celebration extra merry.

This cherished tradition was made even more special by Richard and Joann McFee, who join our holiday festivities each year, playing Santa and Mrs. Claus in honour and loving memory of their mother, Alice Cryderman — a former staff member and later a resident at Tsionkwanonhsote. Their generosity and spirit continue to brighten our community season after season.

Pictures with Santa is an event our elders look forward to every year — it rekindles childhood memories and fills both residents and staff with festive joy. One resident even sang Christmas carols while everyone took turns getting their photos, adding an extra dash of holiday magic to the day.

And the cheer didn't stop there — Santa arrived with a bag full of goodies, gifting each tota a cuddly stuffed animal and sweet treats. The smiles said it all!



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

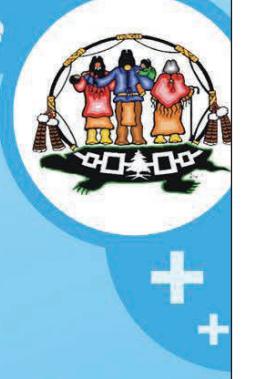
Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:
613-932-5808

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

Elder Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

Iakhihsohtha Lodge:
613-575-2507

Tsionkwanonhsote Long-Term Care:
613-932-1409



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IAKHIHSOHTHA LODGE CELEBRATES 35 AMAZING YEARS

On Friday, December 12, 2025, Iakhihsohtha Lodge proudly marked its 35th anniversary! Since opening in 1990, the Lodge has been a warm and welcoming place that fosters dignity, comfort, and a true sense of community — while supporting independence for our beloved totas.

The celebration was filled with entertainment, laughter, and delicious goodies for totas, their families, and guests. Joe Herne brought the house down with country classics that had everyone clapping, laughing, dancing, and reminiscing together. What a joyful afternoon!

A heartfelt nia:wen/thank you to everyone who joined us and made this milestone so special. An extra big nia:wen to our amazing staff: your hard work, dedication, and unwavering support made this day unforgettable. We appreciate you more than words can say!

Here's to 35 years of care, community, and love — and many more to come!



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

ACFS TRADITIONAL SUPPORT UNIT HOSTS HUNTING SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Akwesasne Child & Family Services Traditional Support Unit hosted a two-day Hunting Skills Workshop on November 29 and 30, 2025, offering participants a valuable opportunity to learn and strengthen essential hunting skills.

Throughout the workshop, participants learned a wide range of skills, including gun safety, bow hunting, identifying deer runways, tracking, understanding deer behaviours and characteristics, seasonal do's and don'ts, tree stands and hunting blinds, proper kill shots, field dressing, meat handling, and processing. Emphasis was placed on responsible, respectful hunting and the importance of passing down traditional knowledge.

A highlight of the weekend was the hands-on opportunity for participants to process their own venison under expert guidance, building confidence and practical skills in a supportive environment. The workshop also fostered connection and camaraderie, with shared stories, laughter, and meals featuring

venison rounding out a meaningful and memorable experience.

The workshop was led by Dillon Cole and Bradley Rickerl, with traditional teachings shared by Thomas Lazore and Lauralee Arquette, and deer processing and butchering instruction provided by Owen Francis. Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, and skills to make this workshop a success and to help ensure the continuation of traditional hunting practices within the community.



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

ENVIRONMENT

DEER HERD REDUCTION PROGRAM WITH MCA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS CANADA

Since 2007, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) has been partnering with Parks of Canada, in a Deer Herd Reduction Program in response to an overabundant deer population on Hill Island, located in the Thousand Islands, Ontario. Since then, the program has helped restore the local ecology while also providing opportunities for youth to engage in hunting and reconnecting members of Akwesasne back to Hill Island.

Every year around December, MCA's Environment Program and Parks Canada host the Deer Herd Reduction Program, where hunters have the opportunity to safely hunt on Hill Island to help reduce the deer population and reconnect with the land. This program is closely monitored by MCA's Environment team and Parks Canada staff to ensure all procedures are followed before and during the hunt, keeping hunters and staff safe at all times.

Resource Conservation Officer Sheldon Lambert explained his responsibilities during the Deer Herd Reduction Program, "We're very careful about how we design this. We've learned through time and have had almost no safety incidents because of these procedures. We shoot down at the deer, notify local residents, and prepare participant packages to help guide activities."

What made this year's Deer Herd Reduction Program unique was the mentorship offered to youth by MCA's Environment Program, especially those who showed interest and were willing to learn the behind-the-scenes aspects of the hunt, and the science behind it. Conservation Officer Craig Delormier Jr. shared his experience mentoring a young Akwesasronon, Travis Benedict, who worked with MCA's Environment Program as a summer student and showed strong dedication during his time with the program.

"I've been working with Travis throughout the summer. Before this, he had never gutted or hunted in his life, but I asked him if he wanted to come, and he's been a great help. Yesterday, I gave him his first chance at gutting, and I asked him, 'Do you remember everything you learned from last week?' He said he'd try – and he did very well," said Craig. "The guardianship of mentoring people to become confident in these skills is important, because once you shoot that deer, that's when the work starts."

Another important outcome of the Deer Herd Reduction Program is the significant amount of deer meat provided to the Akwesasne community. Parks Canada provided a rough estimate of 20,000 pounds of deer meat that has been harvested from Hill Island and brought to Akwesasne through the program. Each year, a large portion of the meat is donated to the Longhouse in Akwesasne, while the rest is shared among participating hunters. With the large volume of meat, ensuring the health and safety of the harvested deer is always a priority. Sheldon shared additional insight, "We also study the health of the deer through an epigenetics study with Trent University, and we work with the province to test samples for chronic wasting disease. If there's anything we're concerned or unsure about, we have several veterinarians across Parks Canada who specialize in wildlife health."

The Deer Herd Reduction Program has become not only an effective way to restore ecological balance and allow native plants to flourish again on Hill Island, but also a meaningful collaboration between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Parks Canada, and all participants. These partnerships create lasting learning experiences and will continue to benefit future generations of staff and hunters. Niawenhkó:wa to everyone involved in this year's Deer Herd Reduction Program on Hill Island – we look forward to next year!



COUNTING JELLYBEANS: WHERE CURIOSITY MEETS SCIENCE

At first glance, estimating the number of jellybeans in a mason jar may seem like a simple guessing game. In reality, individuals often rely on a blend of scientific principles or modern technology to arrive at a surprisingly accurate number.

At the MCA's Open House held in all three Districts in November and December, the Department of Infrastructure Housing and Environment (DIHE), held such a contest to engage community members with math and science information that the DIHE works with every day. The activity was practice of observation and measurement.

Community members used a variety of methods to discern the accurate number of jellybeans. Some would simply look at the mason jar noting the fluid ounces it could hold and think about the size of a jellybean (bean volume). Others would pick up the mason jar and count one side, then the bottom and estimate how many rows multiplied that there could be. Each person applied a method that would give a sense of structure to what would otherwise be a random guess – and one person did a random guess. What they may or may not be aware of is their methods were applying the scientific principle of spatial reasoning – understanding how three-dimensional space is filled.

Some people commented on the unused space in the jar, which was pleasing to hear because materials science and physics show that randomly packed objects typically occupy about 60-65% of a container's volume (which improves accuracy). Ultimately, for the community members (and some MCA staff) counting jellybeans in a mason jar was less about accuracy and more about engagement, playful challenge that encourages observation, discussion, and friendly competition.



By combining geometry, statistics, physics, and everyday calculation tools (finger or knuckle length), everyone was basically transforming this playful challenge into a small-scale scientific investigation – proving that even a jar of jellybeans can be counted with the power of science.

By the way, the number of jellybeans in the mason jar was 358!

Congratulations to Reign Wigmore for your contribution to the collective wisdom of our community and being the closest "under" the actual number! We at DIHE look forward to your future career in engineering!

Below are the numbers that were submitted to DIHE as an estimate:

129	150	189	286	980	121	530	430	218	444	158	634	420	515
448	385	150	399	269	709	310	378	455	315	250	286	212	650
157	450	333	148	173	325	700	153	1037	300	420	200	512	274
85	260	265	600	121	400	500	250	363	288	293	81	1000	484
275	245	285	190	100	650	375	178	525	421	241	705	350	165
214	100	368	385	220	151	534	379	205	250	290	386	432	379
231	371	289	137	214									

Niawenhkó:wa to everyone to take the time to stop and speak with us and to take part in our little social experiment – and in our project report you are all winners!

If you didn't have the correct number for the Jellybean guess to win the "unknown prize", DIHE did offer an additional table prize – a basket of various hand tools – and selected a random winner using a video wheel draw. The winner was Mamie David!

But then again, we could probably calculate the "randomness" of the algorithm for the video wheel and... nah... that's for next year's open house. See you again soon!

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Raisin Region
Conservation Authority



KIDS' NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

View contest details at
rrca.on.ca/Photo
or scan the code.



January 31, 2026

10 am–2 pm

Cooper Marsh Conservation Area
20020 County Rd. 2, South Glengarry, ON

FREE ADMISSION! ❄ ALL WELCOME!

This project was undertaken with the financial support of
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de
Canada Water Agency Agence de l'eau du Canada



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

A SEASON OF SAFETY WITH CONSTABLE SPARKLES

If you've been keeping an eye on Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service's social media this holiday season, you may have noticed a familiar face back on duty — Constable Sparkles has officially returned from the North Pole for his third year of patrol.

Delivered straight to AMPS HQ as a special holiday package, Constable Sparkles wasted no time getting back to work. From community patrols to unit ride-alongs, this tiny officer has been busy spreading holiday cheer while sharing important safety reminders along the way.

Early in the season, Sparkles found himself in an unexpected situation during general patrol when he was "apprehended" by a very enthusiastic dog. While Sparkles recovered quickly, the moment served as a timely reminder for community members to keep dogs properly tied or secured — helping to keep everyone safe, including our smallest officers.

Not all calls were quite so serious. Sparkles also assisted with a disturbance involving two mischievous superheroes who were escorted to the "cells" to cool off and rethink their holiday behaviour. After all, staying off the Naughty List is serious business.

Out in Tsi Snaihne, Constable Sparkles stumbled upon some suspicious-looking "crocs" while patrolling the marsh. While he kept his cool, Sparkles reminds everyone to stay alert around waterways — you never know what you might spot during a winter patrol.

Language and culture were also part of Sparkles' patrol. He made a special stop at Kana:takon School, home of the Skahwatsi:ra Language Program, where he shared seasonal Kanien'keha phrases with the community and celebrated the importance of immersion education. Some of the phrases Sparkles shared included:

- Kwáh onthoráthon — It was freezing cold
- Tonsaio'tsiskwáhta'ne — It became icy again
- Son'wéskwani kénh ne akohserà:ke nikahá:wi? — Do you enjoy winter time?
- Enkatateweiennén:ta'ne ne Rotón:ni nikahá:wi — I will get ready for Christmas
- Rotón:ni nikahá:wi oká:ra tká:ras enkaterò:roke — I will watch Christmas shows on TV
- Enkenonotsherahní:non — I will buy presents
- Rotón:ni nikahá:wi aò:wén karenná:shòn:á enkaterennó:ten — I will sing Christmas songs

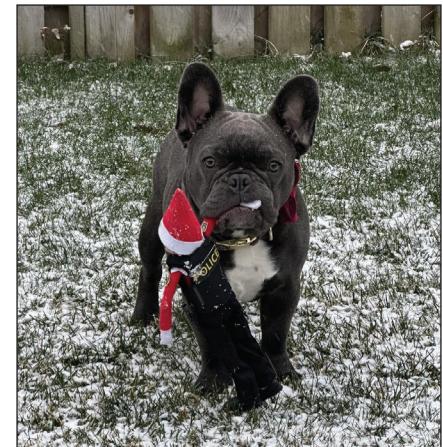
Sparkles was also on the lookout for his fellow elf, Teharihwaieronhá:tons (Há:tons) from the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education — but the two just missed each other this

time, with Há:tons visiting Tsi Snaihne School that day.

One of Sparkles' biggest adventures came while spending the day with the AMPS SAVE Team (Snowmobile, ATV, Vessel Enforcement). From the bow of the boat to a bird's-eye view from a drone, Sparkles got a firsthand look at how the SAVE Team works year-round to monitor Akwesasne's land and waterways and support broader community safety efforts. While he enjoyed "hanging out," Sparkles admits he's not quite ready to pilot the drone on his own just yet.

Of course, staying patrol-ready means staying active. Sparkles stopped by a local CrossFit gym to work on his fitness, tackling pull-up rings and weights to stay in top shape for the busy season ahead. And after all that hard work, even an elf needs balance — which Sparkles found in the form of a well-earned box of donuts back at the office.

As the holiday season continues, Constable Sparkles will remain on duty around Akwesasne, sharing smiles, safety messages, and a little bit of mischief along the way. Keep an eye out — you never know where he'll pop up next. From all of us at the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, we wish the community a safe, joyful, and peaceful holiday season.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE



NO ICE IS SAFE ICE

With temperatures dropping and ice beginning to form on the river, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service would like to remind the community that Akwesasne's frozen waterways are not safe. Ice that looks stable can be dangerously thin, so please avoid going onto the ice under any circumstances.

If you experience or witness an ice-related emergency, contact the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service immediately at 613-575-2000.



NOVEMBER 2025 STATISTICS

288	November	
1	030 Theft - Other Motor Vehicles	1 1007 Breach of Probation
3	040 Theft Under \$5000 - Other	3 1008 By-Law - Dogs
2	045 Frauds - Other	1 101 Firearms Act
1	060 Arson	1 1011 By-Law - Other
1	067 Public Morals	3 1012 Civil Disputes
1	072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5000	49 1013 Community Services
1	073 Criminal Code - Other	9 1014 Crime Prevention
1	100 Immigration Act	1 1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)
2	1000 Abandoned Vehicles	2 1018 Escorts - Prisoner
6	1001 Alarms	4 1023 Judge's Order (Court)
7	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Ambulance	1 1027 Property - Found
7	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Cornwall PS	10 1029 Suspicious Persons
12	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Other	7 1030 Suspicious Vehicles
10	1003 Assist Other Agencies - Tribal PD	10 1031 Suspicious Circumstances
43	1004 Assist Public	3 1036 Warrant - Bench/First
3	1006 Document Service	3 1041 Mental Health Act

- 2 1049 Medical Aid
- 3 1050 Youth Complaint
- 1 106 Provincial Statutes - Other
- 13 1063 Marine Patrol
- 1 204 Sexual Assault
- 1 205 Assault - Level 1
- 1 206 Assault Weapon/CBH - Level 2
- 1 711 Impaired Operation MV
- 1 713 Fail/ Refuse Breath Sample
- 1 719 Drive Disqualified/Licence Suspended
- 2 720 Traffic - Federal Statutes
- 47 721 Traffic - Provincial Statutes
- 1 726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
- 3 Incident Type Not Listed

An average of 9.6 occurrence reports were generated per day by officers.



Happy Holidays

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A BRIGHT,
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



WE ARE HIRING

Join our Team!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

www.akwesasne.ca/employment

