



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Court Legal Services – Independent Prosecutor

Issue Date: April 9, 2026

Closing Location:

Akwesasne Court
CIA #3
101 Tewesateni Road
Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5

OR

Email: Micaelee Horn, Akwesasne Court Administrator
micaelee.horn@akwesasne.ca

Closing Date and Time:

Proposals must be received at the Akwesasne Court office prior to:
12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on April 24, 2026

Contact:

<p>Micaelee Horn, Administrator Akwesasne Court Telephone: (613)-575-2250 ext. 1025 Email: micaelee.horn@akwesasne.ca</p>	<p>Cactus Cook Sunday, Director Akwesasne Justice Department Telephone: (613) 575 2250 ext. 2404 Email: cactus.sunday@akwesasne.ca</p>
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Background	2
3. SCOPE OF WORK.....	4
4. Term and Compensation.....	5
6. Communication after issuance of RFP AND TIMELINES.....	6
7. Mandatory Submission Requirements	6
8. Instructions to Proponents	7
9. Negotiation of contract and award.....	8
10. Disclaimer.....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

The Akwesasne Court is a foundational element of the Akwesasne Justice Department, representing the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's commitment to self-determination and culturally grounded justice. Established in 2001, the Court is one of the few Indigenous-run courts in Canada that operates with inherent jurisdiction rather than delegated authority from provincial or federal governments. The distinction makes the court a vital symbol of sovereignty and community governance.

Operating within the complex landscape of Akwesasne's multi-jurisdictional reality, which spans Ontario, Quebec and New York State, the Court adjudicates matters primarily related to Akwesasne laws and bylaws. These include traffic violations, civil disputes, matrimonial property issues, residency complaints and community law infractions. While limited in enforcement powers and criminal jurisdiction, the Court remains a critical venue for resolving disputes and promoting community harmony.

2. BACKGROUND

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is a recognized Band Council under the Indian Act.¹ under the section 2. of the *Indian Act* (R.S., 1985, c. 1-5) "band" means a body of Indians (a) for whose use and benefit in common, lands, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, have been set apart before, on or after September 4, 1951.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is the elected government of the three Akwesasne districts in Canada. The three districts are Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island, Ontario); Kana:takon (St. Regis, Quebec); and Tsi Snaihne (Snye, Quebec). The current Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is comprised of one Grand Chief and twelve Chiefs. The twelve chiefs represent three districts on the northern portion of Akwesasne, four chiefs from each district.

Akwesasne is the second largest First Nation in Canada and constitutes one-third of the national on-reserve population. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne membership is approximately 12,000. Some Akwesasne people are listed on both Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council lists. The population growth is estimated to be around 3.6% per year. Approximately 1,800 of Akwesasnon² live off reserve due to lack of housing, land constraints as well as economic and employment limitations.

¹ INDIAN ACT (R.S. 1985, c. 1-5)

² Akwesasnon: Persons of Akwesasne

Unique Location

Akwesasne is a very intriguing community, historically, geographically, politically and culturally and is located near Cornwall Ontario.

In 1783, the Treaty of Paris, signed between the newly formed United States and Great Britain, established the international boundary between the U.S. and what is now Canada. Ignoring the claims of the Akwesasne Mohawks, the boundary cut directly through their Indigenous sovereign territory, physically dividing their lands and people.³

The Canada- U.S. international boundary bi-sects Akwesasne at the 45th parallel and the Canadian portion is further divided by the boundary between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. These provincial boundaries meet the New York State boundary of Akwesasne.

Interestingly, this ancient community predates the existence of Canada and the United States. Akwesasne Mohawk people believe that their ancestors and predecessors have been part of this landscape since people first inhabited this region of North America.

Akwesasne Justice Department

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

Providing justice and maintaining order are fundamental aspects of governance. All human societies face the tasks of resolving internal disputes, reconciling conflict, maintaining peaceful relationships within the community, and regulating community member behaviour.

A First Nation governance system is not quite the opposite of western systems: as centers of healing, harmony, and restorative justice, these systems are reconciliatory processes against western centers of adversarial process and punitive outcomes. While some First Nation governance systems are punitive in nature, much emphasis is on the restoration of peace and comity; on the obligations of individuals; and interpersonal and interfamilial relations.

Akwesasne Justice Department

The Akwesasne Justice Department employs the principle of natural justice to empower the community to safeguard collective rights, primarily, and individuals' rights for Akwesasronon,

³ Brimely, et al "Resurgent Justice: Rebuilding the Mohawk Justice System" Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy The University of Arizona, August 2007.

while remaining respectful of the community's heritage and culture. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne designed a First Nation Justice System based on customary laws which incorporate traditional restorative principles in the three main responsibilities of government: Law-Making, Adjudication, and Enforcement. The department consists of Legislative Services developing community laws and regulations, the Community Justice Program providing assistance for court proceedings thru a Indigenous court worker, Gladue reports, Gladue aftercare, victim services, restorative justice, inmate services, and early parole, the Akwesasne Court, an inherent right court, that provides adjudication of community laws, mediation services, and court services, and the Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy Program providing services to families/children living on other First Nations and anywhere across Canada, all dedicated to preserving the Akwesasne Culture.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Independent Prosecutor services are under the direction of the Akwesasne Court Administrator within the Akwesasne Justice Department and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

The Independent Prosecutor is contracted to provide legal representation of the interests of the Akwesasne community in the Akwesasne Court. The Independent Prosecutor will investigate complaints of alleged ethical misconduct of Mohawk Council Chiefs based on information provided by community members.

The Independent Prosecutor will make decisions based on sound legal advice according to legal rights and obligations; general community culture; protection of Indigenous rights and the assertion of jurisdiction and legal authorities of the operations of the Akwesasne Court.

The successful candidate will provide Independent Prosecutor services to the Akwesasne Court and work with Duty Counsel to negotiate fair judgements that satisfy the need for safety within the community.

The Independent Prosecutor will be selected based on the ability to provide prosecutor services. Independent Prosecutor services include, but are not limited to: negotiation with Duty Counsel, understanding of Akwesasne Ethical Conduct Law, commitment to community culture and the needs of the individual.

Consideration for Independent Prosecutor services will be chosen based on the understanding and knowledge of the Akwesasne community, historical and cultural values. Work experience with other First Nation(s) is a desirable asset.

The Independent Prosecutor must also be able to prioritize work; demonstrate analytical and problem-solving skills; demonstrate commitment and ability to work as a team member; and must possess excellent oral and written communication skills.

STANDARDS AND WORK SUMMARY

The Lawyer, in performing their duties, pursuant to the Independent Prosecutor Agreement, is acting as an independent contractor and not as an employee of Council. As such, the Lawyer is personally responsible for their own liability, errors, and omissions insurance coverage, and for maintaining their professional status as a member of the Law Society of Ontario and the Barreau of Quebec.

Without limiting the generality of the Lawyer's duties and responsibilities as Prosecutor for the Akwesasne Court, duties shall include:

- Provide legal representation of the Akwesasne people as a whole against those accused of violating Akwesasne Ethical Conduct Law.
- Document all legal issues, processes, and case activities in accordance with established procedures in a timely fashion;

4. TERM AND COMPENSATION

The Legal Counsel Services consultant will be responsible for providing Prosecutor services for a term of two (2) years.

Compensation for the contracted legal services is set at \$200/hr. Payment will be issued upon receipt of an invoice and satisfactory completion of deliverables

5. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

LETTER OF INTEREST:

A Letter of Interest must be provided to the Akwesasne Justice Department, Attention: Micaelee Horn, Akwesasne Court Administrator.

The prospective Independent Prosecutor must declare any conflict of interest in relation to any litigation or legal subject matters or issues, whether it be in the past, present or future; or, with any potential legal challenge or litigation that would involve the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

6. COMMUNICATION AFTER ISSUANCE OF RFP AND TIMELINES

Please direct questions by email to the primary contacts for this RFP:

- Micaelee Horn (micaelee.horn@akwesasne.ca)
- CC: Cactus Cook Sunday (cactus.sunday@akwesasne.ca)

MCA will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Activity	Date
RFP issue date	April 9, 2026
Deadline for questions for clarification via email	April 20, 2026
Answers to potential consultants' questions for clarification	April 22, 2026
Deadline to submit RFP	April 24, 2026
Selection Process	April 27-May 4, 2026
Notification of Selection	May 6, 2026
Legal Services Agreement, internal vetting process and approval	May 13, 2026
Contract signed with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne	May 20, 2026

When MCA selects a successful consultant for Prosecutor Services for the Akwesasne Court, the selection committee will negotiate and attempt to enter into an agreement with the consultant. If contract terms and conditions cannot be negotiated with the selected consultant, a contract may be offered to another bidder or the RFP will be revised for further clarification and be retendered.

7. MANDATORY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, the Proponent must provide the Proposal in MS Word or pdf format. It must include the following:

- Brief Cover Letter;
- Proponent Profile with full legal name, address, telephone and email contact information, description of company, evidence of proven track record;
- Narrative description of key personnel and qualifications of all individuals proposed for performing services, including the extent and nature of their roles for the services needed;

- Statement of relevant experience, description of proposed approach, including a history of the expertise in law and understanding of Prosecutorial role;
- Description of work experience with First Nation(s);
- Provisions for ensuring timelines for completion and contingencies for urgent and unexpected deadlines;
- Detailed costs for services utilized, including travel per diem, other direct costs and deliverables as well as any foreseen travel and other related costs;
- Proof of Professional Liability Insurance; and
- Proof of professional status as a licensed lawyer with the ability to practice law in Ontario with the Law Society of Ontario and in Quebec with the Le Barreau of Quebec.

8. INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPONENTS

To be eligible for consideration, the proposal must be received no later than:

12:00 p.m. (EST) on April 24, 2026:

Via Email to:

- Micaelee Horn (micaelee.horn@akwasasne.ca)
- CC: Cactus Cook Sunday (cactus.sunday@akwasasne.ca)

OR

Delivered by hand/courier to one of the following locations:

Akwesasne Court	Akwesasne Justice Department
101 Tewesateni Road	15 Akwasasne Street
Akwesasne, ON	Akwesasne, QC
K6H 0G5	H0M 1A0

Any consultant, whose proposal is determined to be in the most advantageous to the Mohawk Council of Akwasasne, as determined by the AJD selection committee, will be notified in writing of its selection.

MCA reserves the right to request additional information which is necessary to assure that the consultants' competence, number of qualified employees, business organization and financial resources are adequate to perform according to the contract. This may include website information, BBB, past reviews, newspaper search, Law Society of Ontario review, discussion with other MCA Departments

9. NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT AND AWARD

When the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Court selection committee selects a successful consultant for Prosecutor Services, the committee shall negotiate and attempt to enter into a Legal Counsel Services Agreement with the consultant. If the agreement terms cannot be negotiated with the selected consultant, a contract may be offered to another bidder or the RFP will be revised for further clarification and be retendered.

The selected consultant will be provided with a Legal Counsel Services Agreement that will outline the final contract for services amount. The successful consultant will be required to submit invoices to the Akwesasne Court Administrator on a monthly basis. For greater certainty, the cost of general management, non-technical supporting services and general overhead costs are deemed to be covered in the invoice and AJD will not be subjected to additional overhead or undisclosed costs.

In addition to a submission of an Electronic Fund Transfer information; all subsequent invoices must include the following information:

1. An invoice number;
2. The name of the consultant, address and telephone number; and,
3. Services rendered for the billing time frame that outlines the various activities completed.

10. DISCLAIMER

All information distributed in connection with this RFP is confidential and is to be used for the sole purpose of completing submissions and for no other purpose unless prior written consent has been provided by the MCA. All material and information distributed will remain the property of the MCA to be used at their discretion.

All Proponents electing not to submit a proposal will dispose of any and all confidential information in a responsible manner.

Proponents will not be compensated or reimbursed for costs incurred in preparing proposals.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Justice Department reserves the right to:

- Accept or reject any or all proposals submitted if such decision is deemed to be in the best interest of MCA.

- MCA assumes no obligation, no responsibility and no liability costs incurred by the responding consultants prior to the issuance of a Legal Services Agreement.
- MCA reserves the right to negotiate a lower or different fee structure, the selection/prioritization of deliverables in line with the contract price with any consultant that is selected.
- Waive any anomalies in proposals.
- Negotiate with any or all potential consultants.
- Modify or cancel the RFP.

Proponents may withdraw their Proposal at any time prior to the Proposal closing time by submitting a written withdrawal letter to the contact persons listed.

All Proposals are irrevocable for a period of (60) business days from the closing date.

Ownership of Proposals: All Proposals, including attachments and any documentation, submitted to and accepted by the MCA in response to this RFP become the property of the MCA.

Local Preference: Preference shall be given to local Proponents where quality, service, and price are equivalent.

Confidentiality: The Proponent covenants and agrees that neither it nor its employees shall divulge, publish, or otherwise reveal either directly or indirectly any knowledge, information or facts disclosed to the bidder by reason of this Request for Proposal. All information furnished to the bidder by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (the "MCA") is confidential and shall remain the sole property of the MCA and shall be held in confidence and safekeeping by the bidder for its sole use.