

# ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 Issue 3

FREE

Enniskó:wa/March 2024

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## AKWESASNE COMMUNITY ATTENDS SPECIAL SCREENING FOR EPISODE 1 OF AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER



On February 22-23, 2024, two special screenings for the Akwesasne community were held at the Port Theatre in Cornwall for Episode 1 of the new series, Avatar: The Last Airbender. Akwesasne actress Kiawentiio is a main cast member playing the role of "Katara" and made a special appearance at the screenings. Read more on page 17.

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: ADDITIONS TO RESERVE

March 19, 2024 – 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Kana:takon Recreation Center

March 21, 2024 – 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

March 25, 2024 – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

### MARCH GENERAL MEETING

March 28, 2024 – 6 p.m.  
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

April 11, 2024 – 6 p.m.  
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center



# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2021-2024

**Grand Chief**  
Abram Benedict

**Kana:takon District**  
Chief Fallon David  
Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell  
Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs  
Chief Tim Thompson

**Kawehno:ke District**  
Chief Vanessa Adams  
Chief Jackie Benedict  
Chief Edward Roundpoint  
Chief Vince Thompson

**Tsi Snaihne District**  
Chief April Adams-Phillips  
Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo  
Chief JoAnn Swamp  
Chief Dwayne Thomas

**Administration**  
Donna Roundpoint  
A/Executive Director

Heather Phillips  
Director  
Dept. of Finance & Administration

Leslie Papineau  
Director  
Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday  
Director  
Dept. of Justice

Joseph Morin-Lauzon  
Director  
Dept. of Community & Social Services

Amber Montour  
Director  
Department of Health

Donna Lahache  
Director  
Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education

Shawn Dulude  
Chief of Police/Director  
Dept. of Public Safety

Kylee Tarbell  
Director  
Dept. of Economic Development

## WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

She:kon and welcome to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's community newsletter, Onkwe'ta: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts).

**Website:** News and general information can be found on our website at [www.akwesasne.ca](http://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 and Indian Time Newspaper.

## FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 1 On Monday, April 8, 2024, Akwesasronon can witness a spectacular and rare celestial event – a total solar eclipse. The eclipse event will last approximately two hours from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., with totality (full eclipse, total darkness) lasting just a few minutes at 3:25 p.m. Please follow our website and social media for additional information, tips and general eclipse information.
- 2 Akwesasronon are invited to a community discussion regarding the current additions to reserve (ATR) process. Join us on Monday, March 25 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center from 6 pm - 8 pm. For more information, please see the flyer on page 8.
- 3 MCA's Department of Health is notifying the community that the mask mandate for the Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities (Tsiionkwanonhso:te and Iakhihsoththa Lodge) has ended, effective March 4, 2024. Visitors and residents will no longer be required to wear a mask when congregating or visiting throughout the facility, but will remain recommended.
- 4 Are you interested in making a will or would like assistance? Contact MCA's Office of Vital Statistics to get more information or setup a one-on-one appointment by calling 613-575-2250 ext. 1013.
- 5 The March 2024 MCA Medical Clinic Calendar is available on page 19. To contact the Akwesasne Medical Clinic, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3215, for the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic, please call 613-933-5808 or 613-575-2341 ext. 1110. Please be reminded that a valid health card (OHIP/QHIP) is needed for all appointments.

## NEWS

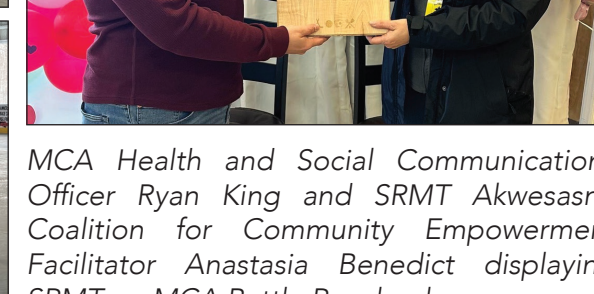
### 2024 AKWESASNE WINTER CARNIVAL: MCA VS. SRMT BATTLE ROYALE

On February 16, 2024, after a long hiatus, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne once again faced off against the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe for the 2024 MCA vs. SRMT Battle Royale. This epic showdown marked four years since the last Battle Royale was held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MCA and SRMT shared laughs and witty banter in this friendly competition that displayed participants physical prowess and mental competence. After exciting and very close competitions in volleyball,

cornhole, broomball, puzzles, kickball and tug-of-war, SRMT was deemed the winner with a score of 4-2. Although MCA came up short for the overall win, everyone in attendance enjoyed a fun day of Akwesasne team building and camaraderie.

MCA congratulates the Tribe in showing up with great enthusiasm and talent. Nia:wen to those who organized all the activities and thanks to all staff who participated in the events. We will be ready for you next year SRMT!



MCA Health and Social Communications Officer Ryan King and SRMT Akwesasne Coalition for Community Empowerment Facilitator Anastasia Benedict displaying SRMT vs. MCA Battle Royale plaque.





## MCA & CBSA BORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVE UPDATE

MCA would like to share an overview and updates with the community on the MCA & CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative (BCI).

### BACKGROUND

The MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative was officially launched in January of 2020, as a result of ground-breaking “design-thinking” sessions that were held to identify challenges and opportunities for collaboration between Akwesasne & CBSA. Design Thinking is a strategic method of designing or improving a service or product with the user in mind. It encourages an organization, for example, to consider who they are creating services for, which then naturally improves the user experience.

Through open and honest dialogue between Government of Canada and Akwesasne officials, a co-developed vision for potential solutions emerged from the two-day Design Thinking workshop with all parties supporting user-based improvements. With a commitment from CBSA leadership to work together toward solutions, our initiative has forged ahead.

The initiative included the first Work Plan with immediate improvements such as enhancing service capacity at the POE through an increase in staffing, along with medium- and long-term improvements, such as exploring options to improve processing for domestic travelers and to support economic development.



CBSA BORDER COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE MEMBERS

### PHASE 1 WORK PLAN

BCI (Border Collaboration Initiative) consists of several working circles. Our Phase 1 Work Plan which was implemented ongoing from 2020 until 2022 included the following circles:

- 1. The Leadership Circle** – The CBSA president at the start of the initiative John Ossowski, MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict, and delegated representatives from both organizations meet on a quarterly basis to discuss new and ongoing work in the initiative and to address high-level issues that require discussion. The other members of Council who sit on various circles of the initiative are Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs, Chief April Adams-Phillips, Chief Vanessa Adams, Chief Vince Thompson, Chief Sarah Sunday-Diabo, and Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell.

- 2. The Governance Circle** is the administrative hub of the initiative coordinating the work going on throughout the initiative. They also report the work of the working circles up to the Leaders Circle.

- 3. Domestic Lane Working Circle** – this circle was created at the start of the initiative with a clear and specific purpose to create a domestic lane for those travelling through the port who haven't left Canada. With MCA & CBSA discussing all areas of the Domestic Lane from logistics to community concerns, to signage, the Domestic Lane Pilot Project launched at the end of 2020. Recently, the Domestic Lane Pilot Project has been deemed permanent and is no longer a pilot project. While minor issues exist with the Domestic Lane, it has significantly reduced the wait times for non-international traffic and has helped to alleviate wait times for both domestic and international traffic. We recognize that residents of Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne believe the lane should be for any Akwesasne traffic, but the current location of the port of entry does not allow for this to happen. Future plans for the border and pre-clearance may allow for new changes that accommodate the broader Akwesasne public.



- 4. Community Relations Working Circle** – The purpose of this circle is to build a more positive relationship between the community and CBSA. It includes exploring opportunities for CBSA to support the youth and Akwesasne community members and events. This past year CBSA attended and sponsored a meal for MCA's Missing & Murdered Indigenous People event. The Community Relations Working Circle also includes the development of a calendar so CBSA can be aware of any events that are upcoming which might require additional staff and lanes to open, as well as for CBSA to plan for their own participation and attendance in order to have a more positive/less intimidating presence in our community.



In this circle, MCA & CBSA worked together on Orange Shirt Day campaigns, which included the commissioned artwork of Joe King for the Orange Shirt Day hand logo that is used at CBSA ports across the country.

The Community Relations Working Circle also includes development of documents, signage and messaging to improve the flow of information. A driver's guide booklet was developed early on which provides those travelling through Akwesasne with information on what identification is needed at the border. This circle has plans next to develop an economic development-based brochure to outline border processes for those shopping in Akwesasne.

Recently, the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office has joined the Community Relations Working Circle to collaborate on the cultural sensitivity training that ARRO has been conducting with CBSA for many years. While they have worked independently on this prior to BCI, there are opportunities to tie in their work to the efforts for training and education we are working toward in this circle.

Through the Community Relations Working Circle we began smoothing out a process for communication that has been successful in ensuring the Akwesasne community is notified of changes at the port that may cause delays such as when they experience technical difficulties. Opening the lines of communication has allowed these urgent messages to flow regularly and quickly.

- 5. Economic Development Working Circle** – Due to multiple factors, the economic development priorities were merged into the Community Relations Working Circle.

### PHASE 1 SUMMARY

The major successes of the Phase 1 Work Plan included relationship building and coming together regularly with CBSA to openly discuss issues as they arise. Challenges have arisen with the changes in leadership, election seasons for both MCA and Canada that require a pause in our meetings, and, working through the pandemic.

### PHASE 2 WORK PLAN

In 2022, CBSA welcomed a new president, Erin O’Gorman, who shares the intentions of her predecessor to ensure the border crossing experience continues to improve at the Cornwall-Akwesasne port. The Leadership Circle met to explore revising and updating the official Work Plan and a Phase 2 Work Plan was created.

#### Phase 2 Working Circles

1. Leadership Circle – a continuation of Phase 1
2. Governance Circle – continuation of Phase 1
3. Community Relations Working Circle - a continuation of Phase 1
4. Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle - new
5. Dundee Port of Entry Working Circle - new
6. Pre-Clearance Working Circle - new

Note: With implementation of the Domestic Lane permanently, the Domestic Lane Working Circle has officially “closed.” The Economic Development Working Circle was merged with the Community Relations Working Circle.

### NEW CIRCLE UPDATES

#### 1. Dundee Port of Entry Working Circle

Historically, Akwesasne has not had regular and open communication with the Dundee port of entry. We do have land that is only acces-

sible by travelling through the Dundee border, and with the recent settlement of the Tsi Karistisere Dundee Land Claim, Akwesasne will be expanding its territory east, which will result in more regular use of the Dundee Port of Entry. Therefore, it is imperative that we begin building a relationship and working in collaboration. This circle has been meeting regularly and identifying their priorities which includes:

- Development of a remission order similar to the Cornwall Port of Entry’s for tax and duty purposes
- Ensuring use of English language (not only French) and incorporation of Mohawk greetings
- Developing point of contacts for community announcements or community issues that arise

#### 2. Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle

The Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle consists of CBSA staff from the port itself, Chiefs Vanessa Adams, and Julie Phillips-Jacobs. With the Domestic Lane Pilot Project now in place permanently and that circle no longer needed, the Cornwall Port of Entry Working was created to work together with CBSA on issues and improvements that arise specific to the Cornwall port.

As with all circles, relationship building is part of this circle’s purpose. As issues arise, we are able to discuss them quickly, often effectively, with mutual understanding and respect. When community members are having concerns, we are able to speak face to face with CBSA supervisors and staff who can help to improve the situation, and when issues arise that are at higher level of complexity, the leadership representatives will discuss that at their leaders meeting.

Some of the topics that we have had thorough and meaningful discussion on through the Cornwall Port of Entry circle include:

- Concerns of questioning domestic travelers
- Concerns of intrusive questioning of or about Akwesasne children
- Concerns of questioning or detaining of school buses
- Concerns of duty-free purchases made on Kawehno:ke
- The need for reporting exemptions for medical transportation/staff
- Concerns of the new speed bumps causing physical damage to vehicles from bottoming out

With CBSA willing to hear our concerns and complaints with an open mind to improve the border crossing experience, many of these issues can be easily addressed, and when they can't be, they are taken up to the higher level of leadership. We encourage our community members to continue sharing concerns with us, or by submitting them on CBSA comments and complaints website for follow up.

The circle also includes positive activities including a youth art call out we have conducted to showcase youth artwork and Mohawk culture at the port. An Akwesasne artist is also being commissioned to in-



Scan Here to Submit Feedback



## MCA & CBSA BORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVE UPDATE CON'T.



stall a more permanent display of Akwesasne culture.

Last spring, we were proud to coordinate school tours for the first time ever at CBSA. Students toured the facilities with their school and MCA staff chaperoning, and asked questions about the daily operations at the port and about working at CBSA. They also saw behind the scenes equipment and tools and met the CBSA drug detection dog named Blue. These visits are intended to take the mystery out of crossing through the port and to help our students feel more comfortable when crossing.

### 3. Pre-Clearance Working Circle

The purpose of this circle is to collaboratively explore the possibility of a future CBSA port of entry on U.S. soil adjacent to the U.S. Customs in Roosevelttown/Massena, New York.

The need or interest in this had been identified in our earlier BCI sessions as both parties, MCA and CBSA agree that the current location of the port in Cornwall is not ideal. Its location has created the "mixed-traffic corridor" designation which adds complexities and grievances for Akwesasne residents especially. Relocating CBSA to the U.S. land in Roosevelttown would alleviate the burden that is experienced by anyone traveling to or from Kawehno:ke.

The relocation would eliminate the time-consuming duty to report when we are travelling only to the island and not the rest of Canada. It would also allow anyone to visit or travel to Cornwall Island from the rest of Canada without the burden of reporting at Customs, paying duty, etc.

Following the relocation of CBSA from Cornwall Island to Cornwall, Preclearance was identified by CBSA as a potential long-term solution. However, there were insurmountable obstacles at that time, including a lack of domestic and international authorities. On August 15, 2019, the Agreement on Land, Rail, Marine and Air Transport Preclearance was brought into force. The Preclearance Act, 2016 also came into force on that date and implements the terms of the Agreement into Canadian domestic law.

Given that the framework is now in place to implement Canadian pre-clearance, and the US has re-affirmed their on-going support, there is a desire to explore this as an option in the Cornwall POE context.

CBSA and MCA have now met regularly to explore the preclearance

option with a commitment to continue sharing information and updates and to develop a work plan for this project. CBSA has presented their work to date to Council, with an optimistic but realistic outlook. While they are committed to pursuing this pre-clearance option, there is a great amount of work to be done before it may be deemed possible, and the reality is that 1) this would take up to ten years to become a reality, and 2) there are many obstacles both within and outside of CBSA's control that could prevent such a project from moving forward. Some of these potential obstacles include the possibility that the US could choose to stop supporting such a project for any reason in the future. Financial considerations, legislative impacts and other government departments in Canada also need to be considered.

However, CBSA is committed to moving ahead with conducting the required research to determine how this project can move forward. They recently shared with MCA that they are creating a pilot pre-clearance project at a small border crossing to research and explore some of the logistical and technical aspects of a pre-clearance port of entry. A feasibility study is also underway to explore the land around the Roosevelttown area port of entry to determine where a CBSA port could be located exactly and what environmental factors exist.

We (MCA) are optimistic that with the interest and support of CBSA to pursue the Pre-Clearance port of entry, the possibility exists, and we will continue working together with good intentions. This working circle is not a guarantee that the pre-clearance port will come to fruition, and we want to be clear of this reality, but at this time we are satisfied and optimistic about the work that is underway.

### CONCLUSION

We have a long history with CBSA and while issues arise, we will continue meeting and working together to find solutions that make the border crossing experience better, for all of us.

This year, CBSA has also filled its regional Indigenous Affairs Advisor position who can provide assistance to indigenous travelers. John Bay can be reached at 613-330-3692.

We continue to encourage the community to share the concerns or feedback they have, directly with Council or through the CBSA feedback website: [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/contact/com-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/contact/com-eng.html).

## UPCOMING POWER INTERRUPTIONS FOR CUSTOMERS WITH OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

Hydro-Québec is informing the community that they will start issuing notices of interruption of power for customers who have overdue accounts during the week of March 18, 2024.

Customers can contact Hydro-Québec's customer services at 1-866-268-9484 in order to settle their situation and avoid having their power disconnected.



Interruptions of power will then follow starting on April 15, 2024, for customers who have not settled their situation, either by making a payment arrangement or by paying off their overdue amount.

## ARRO LAND NEEDS SURVEY

The Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO) is conducting a survey to find out what the needs and wishes of Akwesasne members are for housing, land, and infrastructure.

The survey is now open and will conclude on **March 31, 2024**. All participants of the survey will be entered to win prizes.

To complete the survey, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/Uuuq8iWFMD>



Scan QR Code to complete survey.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ARRO at 613-575-2250 or at [arro@akwesasne.ca](mailto:arro@akwesasne.ca).



## CALL OUT FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to appoint six (6) youth council representatives to represent the community of Akwesasne.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letter of interest and resume to Kuyra Chaussi at [kuyra.chaussi@akwesasne.ca](mailto:kuyra.chaussi@akwesasne.ca) or by mail/in person to the Mohawk Government Offices located at Admin. 1 (12 Akwesasne Street, Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0) by Monday, March 18 at 4 p.m.

For further information or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Mohawk Government offices at 613-575-2250 ext. 2162.

**Deadline to apply: March 18, 2024 at 4 p.m.**

Scan QR Code to view full description on eligibility and responsibilities.





# Community Discussion: ADDITIONS TO RESERVE

Akwesasronon are invited to a community discussion regarding the current additions to reserve (ATR) process. An addition to reserve adds land to an existing reserve of a First Nation or creates a new reserve for First Nations.

Join us to learn more, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

OPEN TO COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS AGES 18+

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS  
TO BE PROVIDED

DRAWINGS FOR  
DOOR PRIZES

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

TUESDAY,  
MARCH 19

Kana:takon  
Recreation

12 PM – 2 PM

THURSDAY,  
MARCH 21

Tsi Snaihne  
Recreation

12 PM – 2 PM

MONDAY,  
MARCH 25

Kawehno:ke  
Recreation

6 PM – 8 PM



613-575-2250

arro@akwesasne.ca



## COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY GRAND CHIEF ABRAM BENEDICT



### February 5, 2024

- Council reviewed a letter from the Akwesasne Winter Carnival and

agreed to release the annual allocation to the Winter Carnival.

- A request for fiber-to-the-home to map out the locations of the lines was discussed. Portfolio explained process and will follow up.
- Council discussed an MCR passed allocating resources for waterline connections, Council reiterated its original intent to connect homes.
- A briefing was provided on a recent Akwesasne Court application.

- Council was briefed on the decision to cease the continued research and planning of a new police station.

- **MCRs passed:** Approval of new equipment for Akwesasne Mohawk Police; Approval to proceed with the creating of tender-ready documents for the Sunday Warehouse; Approval to proceed with Capital Planning update, traffic study and roads study; Approval of (4) Council Meeting Minutes.

### February 12, 2024

- Representatives of the Akwesasne International Powwow provided Council with an overview and update of the planning taking place for the 2024 powwow. Council will continue to receive updates and work with the committee.
- Council set the agenda for the General Meeting set for February 29, 2024 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center.

- A request was made for an exemption letter from the Grand Chiefs office regarding French language requirements for the Department of Health. A draft will be provided for consideration.
- Council agreed that no Council meeting will occur next Monday due to Family Day holiday.
- A briefing was provided on the Montour White tobacco court

- case decision.
- Council identified Chief Cindy Francis-Mithcell as the meeting chair for February 26, 2024 in Grand Chiefs absence.
- **MCRs passed:** Acceptance of National Housing Co-Investment application; Approval of (2) Council Meeting minutes; Approval of Emergency Council Meeting minutes.

Contact Us!



## 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](http://akwesasne.ca/meet-the-chiefs) 🔍



# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



## FACEBOOK STATS

### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in February

1. Akwesasne Community Attends Special Screening for Episode 1 of Avatar: The Last Airbender
2. Iakhihsohtha In-House Winter Carnival King & Queen Crowning and Spa Day
3. Akwesasne Community Invited to Attend Screening of Avatar: The Last Airbender at Port Theatre (Graphic)
4. Iakhihsohtha Lodge In-House Winter Carnival (Video)
5. Iakhihsohtha Lodge Sadie Hawkins Dance

### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in February

1. Akwesasne Community Attends Special Screening for Episode 1 of Avatar: The Last Airbender — 23,866 Reached
2. Iakhihsohtha Lodge In-House Winter Carnival (Video) — 19,098 Reached
3. Akwesasne Community Invited to Attend Screening of Avatar: The Last Airbender at Port Theatre (Graphic) — 16,857 Reached
4. Iakhihsohtha Lodge Sadie Hawkins Dance — 11,103 Reached
5. Iakhihsohtha In-House Winter Carnival King & Queen Crowning and Spa Day — 9,393 Reached



## TWITTER STATS

### Top Post in February



## YOUTUBE STATS

### Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for February

MCA General Meeting – February 1, 2024

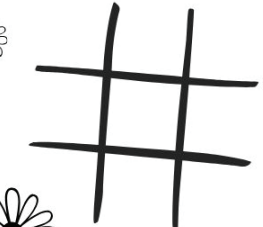
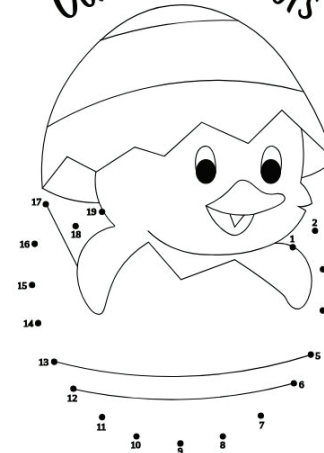


Scan QR Code to view video!

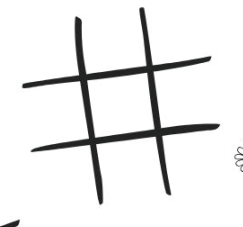


# CHILDREN'S PAGE

Connect the dots



Tic Tac Toe

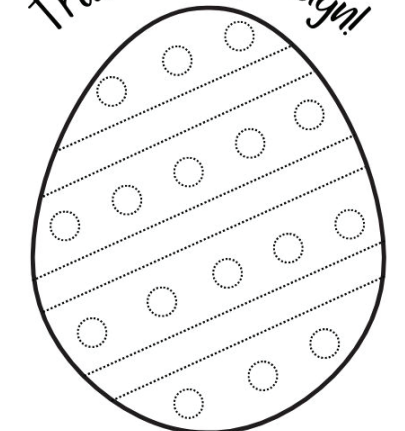


### Word Scramble

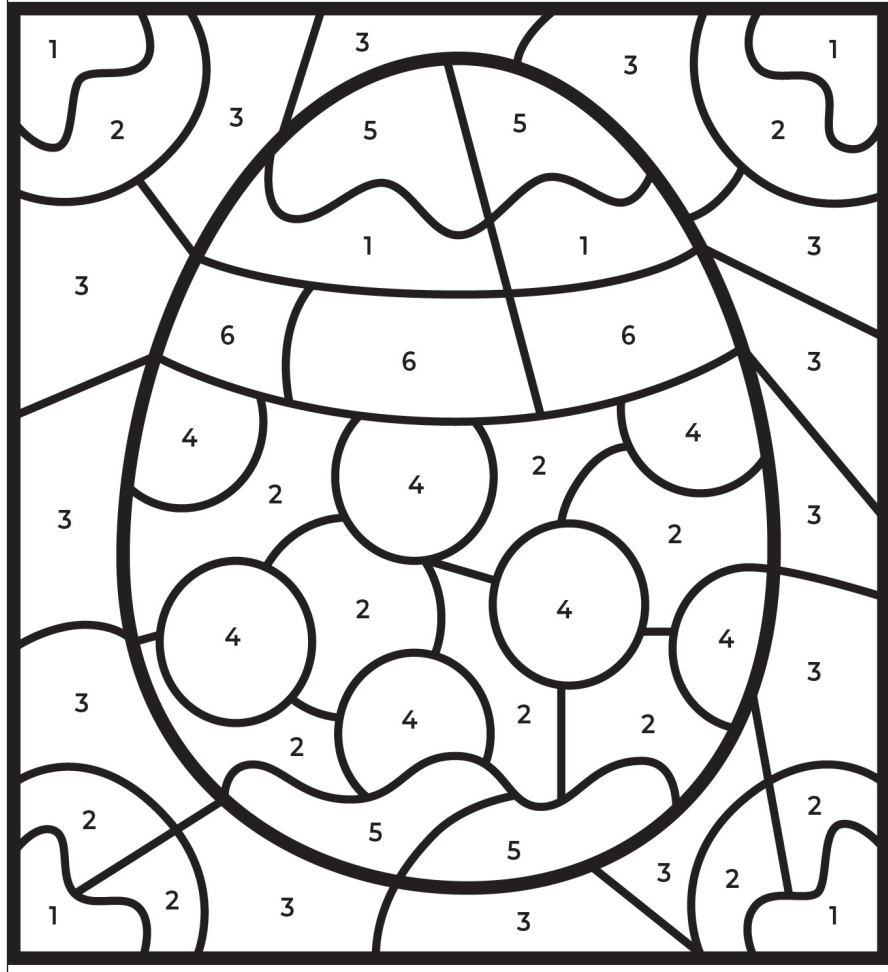
- erlowf \_\_\_\_\_
- unbny \_\_\_\_\_
- etbaks \_\_\_\_\_
- andcy \_\_\_\_\_
- sgeg \_\_\_\_\_
- grnisp \_\_\_\_\_

EGGS CANDY FLOWER SPRING BUNNY BASKET

Trace the egg design!



## Easter COLOR BY NUMBER



- 1 - Blue
- 2 - Yellow
- 3 - Pink
- 4 - Purple
- 5 - Green
- 6 - Orange

## COLOUR THE LUCKY GNOME



### YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What kind of spells do leprechauns use?  
Lucky Charms!

Why did the baby chick cross the road?  
To meet up with her peeps.

What's the Easter Bunny's favorite type of music?  
Hip-hop!



# AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

## LAND CLAIMS UPDATE

Please note that the following information is provided to the members of the community of Akwesasne, and is not to be provided to the public, media or any external entity. The information shared is without prejudice to any current and future land claims of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

### TSIKARISTISERE/DUNDEE SPECIFIC CLAIM

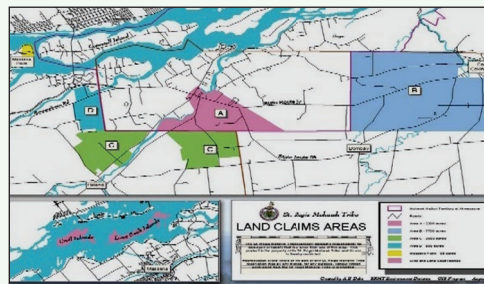
On April 29, 2015, the Government of Canada presented the Mohawks of Akwesasne with a global settlement offer in the amount of \$239,808,436.00 for the full and final settlement of the Dundee land claim.

- The Mohawks of Akwesasne will have the ability to purchase 18,282 additional acres of land returned to reserve status through the Additions to Reserve policy.
- Compensation from the Final Settlement Agreement in the amount of ~\$236M will be held in a new Trust
- Five Community education sessions on financial vehicle to hold the Dundee compensation were completed in June and July of 2023. Awaiting Council's directive to proceed.



### THE 1796 TREATY (US) CLAIM

The 1796 Treaty Claim is for land set aside for Akwesasne in what St. Lawrence & Franklin Counties is now. The MCA, the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe are litigants in a land claim filed in the U. S. Federal Court against the State of New York, the New York Power Authority, and others for lands, islands & resources belonging to the Mohawks of Akwesasne.



- March 14, 2022, Court ruled the Boundary of Akwesasne set in the 1796 Treaty are still Valid Boundaries.
- Negotiations are ongoing and the community will be updated.

### SEAWAY CLAIM

The Seaway Claim was filed in federal court in 1976, for damages to the Reserve related to construction of the Seaway in the 1950s.

- The MCA, INAC and Transport Canada were granted an abeyance in the court proceedings in order to negotiate toward a possible settlement of the claim.
- In 2008 a Past Grievance Final Settlement Agreement was signed between the Mohawks of Akwesasne and Ontario Power Generation after a community referendum. \$46 Million have been placed in Akwesasne Settlement Trust, and four (4) islands entered into the Additions to Reserve (ATR) Process.
- Offer from Canada for final settlement agreement for \$45M (global) received Dec 2017 regards to the Seaway.
- Draft final settlement agreement and referendum regulations (MCRs #2018/2019 #80; 2020/2021 #56; 2020/2021 #196) evolved into community education & consultations in July 2023.
- Seaway Settlement referendum held in August 2023 did not pass. Awaiting Council's decision on how to proceed in 2024.

### NORTH SHORE CLAIM

Filed in 2012, regarding the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River including 30 miles along the river and 18 miles inland. Canada rejected the claim due to lack of evidence regarding use and occupation.

- Further evidence is being gathered and will be submitted in the form of deeds, leases, and timber transactions.
- When resubmitted, an expedited review of the claim can be requested.

### BAXTER AND BARNHART CLAIM

On April 6, 2016, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) informed the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne that the Baxter and Barnhart Specific Claim has not been accepted for negotiation by Canada. It was not accepted based on technicalities. ISC claims that the U.S/Canada Boundary Commission, established after the Treaty of Ghent operated within its reasonable scope by deciding that the islands are within American territory. The islands were clearly in British territory prior to the 1822 Boundary Commission Report.

- The claim will be resubmitted with pointed responses to ISC's reasons for not accepting it for negotiations.

# AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

## LAND CLAIMS UPDATE CON'T.

### NUTFIELD TRACT SURVEY

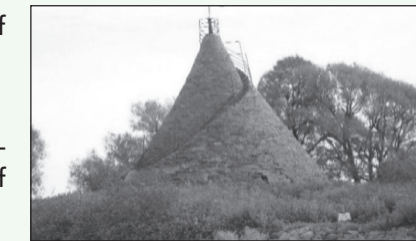
The Nutfield Tract Survey Cost Claim was received by Canada on September 2, 2022 and will undergo an early review to determine if it meets the Minimum Standard, as required under the Specific Claims Tribunal Act.

January 18, 2023, Letter from CIRNA that it has been determined that the Claim meets the Minimum Standard under the Specific Claims Tribunal Act. Three-year review window begins.

### CAIRN ISLAND CLAIM

Cairn Island is within the traditional territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. It was illegally expropriated in 1922.

- The MCA and Parks Canada negotiating the return of this island.
- The most recent Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement covers conservation, monitoring and patrol of the island from May 2022-2027.
- The final stages of ATR.



### CLAIMS IN RESEARCH

- Pointe au Beaudet
- Sheep (Mouton) Island
- Smith Falls
- St. Lawrence River
- Akwesasne Land Transaction
- Annual Presents from the Kings
- Sheek Island
- Loon Island
- Windmill Point

### ARCHEOLOGY/CULTURAL PROPERTIES

- Archeological Reports
- Kawehno:ke Bridge Collapse
- Consultation/Coteau du Lac Reburial
- Tsiionhiakwatha/Droulers Site
- Royal Vic/McGill University Hospital Project

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- CBSA Cultural Awareness Training
- ARRO Community Updates
- Community Tours

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Mohawk Government
- Akwesasne Justice Department

### SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS/ASSIGNMENTS

- Technical Committee on Metis Rights Assertions
- New Project McGill University Campus
- Akwesasro:non at Residential Schools
- Akwesasne Historical Land Loss

### NUTFIELD TRACT SURRENDER

Submission to Specific Claims Canada in 2023.

### ADDITIONS TO RESERVE (ATR)

- Tsikaristisere: To be determined
- Four OPG - PGFSA: Sheek Island, Tousisannt Island, Presquille Island and Adams Island
- Cairn Island
- Akweks:kowa Properties - Dundee

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ontario Power Generation Settlement Claim (PGFSA)
- Kawehno:ke/Easterbrook Claim
- Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust
- Tsikaristisere/Dundee Settlement Claim
- Block 1 ATR
- Successful CBSA Cultural Awareness Trainings



**AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE**

**CONTACT INFO:**  
 PO Box 90, Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0  
 Phone: 613-575-2250 Fax: 613-575-2884  
 cheyenne.lazore@akwesasne.ca  
 adam.jacobs@akwesasne.ca  
 renee.massaro.arro@akwesasne.ca  
 kimberly.confer@akwesasne.ca



# AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) has a long history of advocating for the rights and interests of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

ARRO was established in 1989 as the Land Claims Research Office, with the main goal of conducting research on land claims and other issues affecting the Akwesasne territory. In 1997, The Land Claims Research Office's name changed to the Aboriginal Rights and Research Office. In 2023, ARRO changed its name once more, to the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office, to emphasize ARRO's mandate on the specific needs, aspirations, and issues of the Akwesasne community.

ARRO's mission statement is to work to advance the full recognition of the Inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty Rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne within the political, legal, social, and economic environments in which they are affected. ARRO will initiate activities and projects that raise awareness and understanding of our Inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty rights within the community of Akwesasne and the public at large. ARRO will work toward settling the land claims of the Mohawks of Akwesasne in an expeditious manner and will educate and inform the community to the best of its ability to ensure that issues leading to settlement are favorable, commensurate, and acceptable.

## MEET THE ARRO TEAM

Meet the team behind the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office!

ARRO is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and culture of Akwesasne. Our team consists of four passionate and qualified individuals with a love for their community. who work together to provide high-quality research, education, and historical and cultural materials for the community at large.

Cheyenne Lazore, Acting Manager, has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam double major in history and psychology and a minor in Native American Studies. Cheyenne joined ARRO in 2015 and has since become an integral part of the organization.

Renee Massaro, Senior Researcher, holds a bachelor's degree in history from SUNY Oswego. She joined ARRO in 2023 after working at the Office of Vital Statistics as an estate facilitator.

Kim Confer, Acting Records Technician, has 30 years of experience in records management and information technology. She joined ARRO in 2023.

Adam Jacobs, Senior Researcher, holds a bachelor's degree in archaeological studies from SUNY Potsdam. Adam joined ARRO in 2022 after working as an archaeological field technician.



Pictured L-R: A/Manager Cheyenne Lazore, Renee Massaro, Kim Confer and Adam Jacobs.

# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## AMBE SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year! The deadline to register is **Thursday, March 28, 2024.**

### K3 & K4 Requirements:

- K3 - 3 Years Old by September 30, 2024
- K4 - 4 Years Old by September 30, 2024
- Children must be fully potty trained.

*\*K3 Enrollment is limited.*

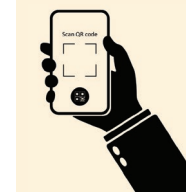
### Required Documents:

- 2024-2025 Registration Form.
- Copy of child's immunization record or immunization waiver.
- Copy of child's Birth Certificate.
- Copy of child's Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card).
- Copy of child's Health Card.

Registration packets are available at each district school and online at [www.ambe.ca/our\\_programs/school\\_registration](http://www.ambe.ca/our_programs/school_registration).

If you have any questions, please contact AMBE at 613-933-0409.

Please submit completed application to Student Registrar Elaine Thompson at AMBE Administration Building in Kawehno:ke (behind Peacetree Mall) or email to [elaine.thompson@ambe.ca](mailto:elaine.thompson@ambe.ca).



Scan QR Code to view registration packets online!



## AMBE SCHOOL BUS RULES

### BEFORE BOARDING THE BUS

- Arrive at the bus early.
- Wait in a safe place, away from the edge of the road.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop with the overhead red lights flashing or stop arm activated before approaching.
- Wait for bus monitor to come to you or give you the okay.

### WHEN RIDING

- Find your assigned seat and stay seated, facing forward at all times.
- Do not put anything in the aisle. Keep it clean and clear.
- No food or drink.
- Keep your arms and head inside the bus.
- Follow the bus drivers or monitors instructions and do not distract the driver.

### WHEN LEAVING

- Don't push or shove — Exit the bus in a single file.
- Always cross the road in front of the stopped bus, never behind.
- Look all ways and wait for the driver to signal before crossing in front of the bus.
- Stay out of the danger zone.
- Walk — Don't Run.
- If you drop something within the danger zone, ask the bus driver/monitor for help. Do not stop to pick it up.

**NEVER TRY TO BOARD THE BUS FROM A VEHICLE BEHIND THE BUS**



# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## IOHAHI:IO CELEBRATES AKWESASNE FABLAB GRADUATES

On March 1, 2024, the Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute held a graduation ceremony for students who completed the Akwesasne FabLab program. Iohahi:io proudly announces that this was their third cohort of the program and the students were instructed by former FabLab students, Andrew Cook, Sierra Delormier, and Tetewatesewen McDonald.

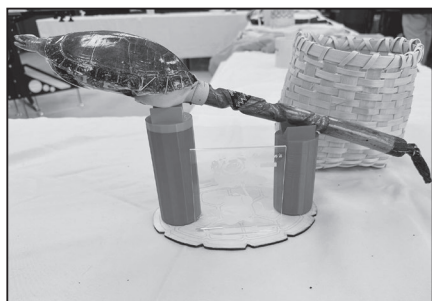
Graduates were celebrated by their teachers, family, and friends, while receiving encouraging words and well wishes by the Onaki FabLab team and their Executive Director Céline Auclair. Student projects were displayed at the ceremony, allowing attendee's

to see the talent and creativity students put into their work.

Congratulations to the Akwesasne FabLab Class of 2024, and best wishes in your future endeavours!

### Akwesasne FabLab 2024 Graduates:

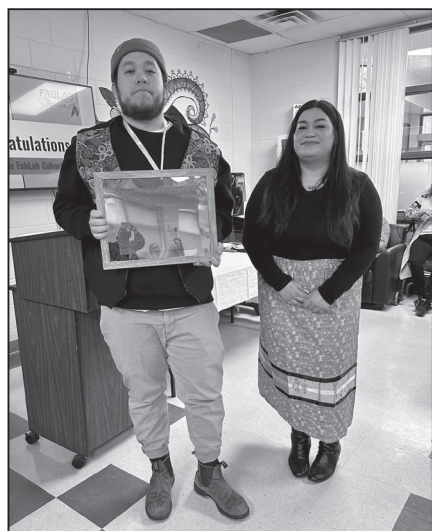
- Ray Rourke
- Trayen Ward-Terrance
- Klae Mitchell
- Colton General
- Avery Oakes
- Justin Lazore
- Ashton Arquette-Cross
- Edward Thomas
- Keyalee Billie
- Aaryn Lazore Day
- Kanerahtonkie Boots



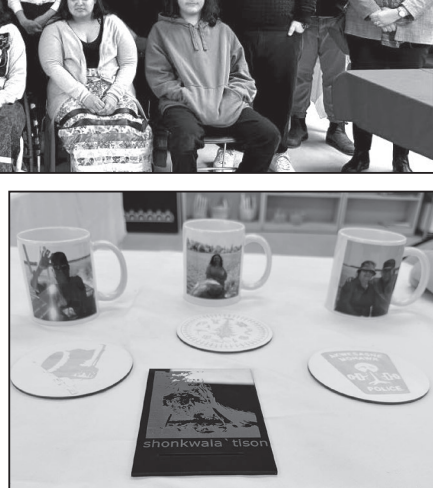
Project by: Klae Mitchell



Project by: Ashton Arquette-Cross



Project by: Avery Oakes



Project by: Colton General



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## AKWESASNE COMMUNITY ATTENDS SPECIAL SCREENING FOR EPISODE 1 OF AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER

On Thursday and Friday, February 22 and 23, 2024, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's (MCA) Land-Based Healing Program, in collaboration with Akwesasne Child & Family Services, and Netflix, planned two special screenings for the community Akwesasne for Episode 1 of the new series, Avatar: The Last Airbender at the Port Theatre. Akwesasne actress Kiawentiio, who is a main cast member and plays the role of "Katara," also made a special appearance at the screenings.

The first screening was held for Mohawk immersion students from the Akwesasne Freedom School, Kana:takon School, and Tsiakwawennatónhe'ts School. Kiawentiio was a Mohawk immersion school student herself, having attended the Freedom School, and wanted to give back to the Mohawk language programs through the special screening. The students all cheered for Kiawentiio as she came on stage to introduce the episode. Kiawentiio told the students she was just like them, and was raised just like them, immersed in Mohawk language, and she became teary-eyed while looking back at the young fans who listened intently at Akwesasne's newest star.

On the following night, over 200 community members were in attendance for the public screening. The evening was hosted by 97.3 CKON Radio's Reen Cook, who welcomed the crowd and led a brief Q&A with Kiawentiio prior to the screening. Kiawentiio's mother, Barbara Tarbell, also came on stage to thank the community for all their support.

Akwesasne is very excited to share in the celebration of Kiawentiio's success and we wish to thank her for inspiring our youth to follow their dreams. Also, thank you to her family for helping to bring the screening to our community. We encourage anyone who couldn't attend to catch Kiawentiio on Netflix. Avatar: The Last Airbender is now streaming.

We'd also like to thank the following programs, services, and individuals for their assistance in planning this special occasion for the community of Akwesasne:

- MCA Land-Based Healing Program
- MCA Department of Health
- MCA Communications Unit
- Akwesasne Child & Family Services
- Netflix: Lindsey Scully and Lauren DeRush
- The Port Theatre: Larry Sylvain and family
- Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS)
- Cornwall Police Service
- Reen Cook
- Security Team: Andrew Lazore, Cst. Norm King, Cst. RJ Swamp, Cst. Kahetonni Mitchell
- The family of Kiawentiio, Corey and Barbara Tarbell

Congratulations to Kiawentiio and we look forward to watching her on many more projects!



97.3 CKON Radio's Reen Cook did a brief Q&A with Kiawentiio prior to the screening.





# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## WHOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS ADDICTIONS SERVICES TO PROVIDE GYM ACCESS TO CLIENTS

The Wholistic Health & Wellness Addictions Services will be reserving the Community Fitness Center, located in the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility (KHF), on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. throughout the month of March. The first session will be on March 5, 2024. The Community Fitness Center is located on the bottom floor of the KHF.

Addictions Services is offering the gym as safe space to incorporate healthy coping mechanisms. Exercise and nutrition both play a critical role in mental health. This is especially true when considering the risks of mental health issues and substance use disorders. Stud-

ies show that regular exercise and a healthy diet can decrease the chances of mental illness and substance abuse, considering the advantages they provide.

There will be an Addictions Services staff person present in the gym to supervise the gym activities and to offer addictions services information and resources to anyone interested.

For more information on the Addictions Services gym schedule, or for information and resources regarding Addictions Services, please call Tara Garrow-Keysis at 613-575-2341 ext. 3112.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS FOR REGIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

The Department of Health (DOH) is announcing to the community that the Knowledge Keepers who will be working within the community to assist in the completion of the Regional Health Survey (RHS) have been identified.

The Regional Health Survey is a Canada-wide survey for First Nations people living in first nations territories and communities. The survey is planned and funded nationally by the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and the allocated funding is to be administered by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). Now in its fourth phase, the results from the RHS have been used to support policy, funding, decision making, and programming at the community, regional, provincial, and national level.

The Knowledge Keepers who will be conducting the survey are as follows:

- Connie Lazore
- Leona Francis
- Sherrill Lazare
- Kyler Powless
- Precious Boots

The Knowledge Gatherers will be going to the homes of the people identified on randomized selection received from the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS), based on eight age categories:

**Female:** 0-11, 12-17, 18-54, 55+      **Male:** 0-11, 12-17, 18-54, 55+

Knowledge Keepers will be wearing a name tag and will be conducting the survey via tablet. They will leave an informational pamphlets at houses they've visited and nobody is available. Surveys began on Monday, February 19, 2024.

If anyone visits your home claiming to be conducting the RHS, and they are not the above named individuals, please do not allow them into your residence. There will be no other individuals conducting the survey on DOH's behalf.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Regional Health Survey organizers, Shealene Gibson, or Theresa Adams, at 613-575-2341 ext. 3700.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## MARCH 2024



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment  KMC Blood Work - By Appointment	5 AMC Dr. Saylor - By Appointment Dr. Wysote - By Appointment Dr. Horn - LTC & By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appointment/Same Day	6 AMC Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt. Dr. Horn - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By appointment/Same Day	7 AMC Dr. Saylor - By Appointment Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt. Dr. Levac - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Torres - By Appointment	8 AMC Blood Work - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment
11 AMC NO DOCTOR  KMC Blood Work - By Appointment	12 AMC Dr. Saylor - By Appointment Dr. Wysote - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	13 AMC Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt.  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	14 AMC Dr. Saylor - By Appointment Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt. Dr. Levac - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment	15 AMC Blood Work - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment
18 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment  KMC Blood Work - By Appointment	19 AMC Dr. Saylor - By Appointment Dr. Wysote - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	20 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt.  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	21 AMC Dr. Levac - By Appointment Dr. Saylor - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Torres - By Appointment	22 AMC Blood Work - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment
25 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment  KMC Blood Work - By Appointment	26 AMC Dr. Horn - LTC & Home Visits, By Appointment Dr. Wysote - By Appointment Dr. Saylor - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	27 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt.  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Baier - By Appt./Same Day	28 AMC Dr. Horn - By Appointment Dr. Robinson - Same Day/By Appt. Dr. Levac - By Appointment Dr. Saylor - By Appointment  KMC Janet Brant, NP - By Appointment Dr. Torres - By Appointment	29 <b>CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY</b>

AKWESASNE MEDICAL CLINIC: 613-575-2341 EXT. 3215

KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC: 613-932-5808 OR 613-575-2341 EXT. 1110

March is  
**Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

Have the conversation.

**Recovery is possible & you don't have to do it alone.  
Let us help you on your journey.**

Contact the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Health Promotion & Prevention Program: 613-575-2341  
wholistichealth@akwesasne.ca

Your information will be kept confidential.

## VACCINATION STATUS CHECK PRIOR TO TRAVELING

Have upcoming travel plans? Check to ensure your measles vaccine is up-to-date before you go! Infants six months of age or older traveling to high-risk measles areas can receive their MMR early.

If you're interested in checking your own or your child's vaccination status, please contact the MCA Community Health Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## IAKHIHSOHTHA CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH IN-HOUSE WINTER CARNIVAL FESTIVITIES

Iakhihsohta Lodge hosted a series of fun activities and events from February 12-16, 2024 for their in-house Winter Carnival for residents, family and friends. The festivities kicked off with a crowning of the carnival royalty, as Robert Lazore and Marion Cook were announced King and Queen! The elders were treated to a relaxing spa day with the help of Tisha Thompson, Mya Tarbell Buffham of Nia:wen Massage, Katy Tarbell, and Babes Thompson.

The residents enjoyed the various events held, from a friendly match of Ace-to King, Valentine Luncheon, Sweetheart Bingo, and Staff Cook-Off to name a

few. The festivities concluded with an entertaining Sadie Hawkins dance for residents and their families. Roger Mitchell and Joe Herne rocked the Lodge with their throwback hits that had the Totas movin' and groovin'.

It was a great week of celebrations, full of fun, laughter, and good company. Niawenhkó:wa to the Iakhihsohta staff for a great lineup of family-friendly events. It was certainly enjoyed by all in attendance. Be sure to follow Friends of Iakhihsohta Lodge on Facebook to stay up to date with their upcoming events!



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH





# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## MCGILL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL STUDENTS VISIT MCA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

On Wednesday, February 21, 15 fourth-year medical students from McGill University visited the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) where they met the DOH Administration Team, the Associate Directors, and members of the medical team. They explored the intersection of contemporary healthcare and traditional methods, such as land-based healing, the importance of cultural competency when working and providing primary healthcare services in Indigenous communities, and the unique relationships amongst Indigenous community members and their healthcare providers.

In the fourth year of undergraduate medical education (UMGE) at McGill University, medical students are offered dedicated selectives in the Putting It All Together (PIAT) course from the Faculty of Social Studies of Medicine. The PIAT in Indigenous Health was created to give students the experiences needed to work with patients within communities, giving them real-life experiences. The goal of this program is to provide the students with tools to become culturally safe healthcare providers, and to increase medical providers interested in working in Indigenous communities.

Throughout the visit, the students engaged in comprehensive discussions covering mental health, community health, clinical care, continuous care, and the significance of integrating land-based healing into medical practice. The Associate Directors led discussion and information sessions on their respective sectors, highlighting the Department of Health's wholistic approach to health and wellness, which is deeply rooted in community and cultural traditions.

The visit concluded with a networking lunch, where students and healthcare professionals exchanged dialogues on innovative health strategies and the role of land-based healing in fostering well-being, and an open question and answer session for the students. This interaction further emphasized the Department's mission to build a culturally respectful healthcare system.

The Department of Health and McGill University are committed to nurturing this educational exchange as a step toward a culturally inclusive healthcare future.

For more information, please contact Health Communications Officer Ryan King at [ryan.king@akwesasne.ca](mailto:ryan.king@akwesasne.ca).



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## GLOW IN THE DARK FAMILY SKATE FUN

Winter Carnival events were underway the weekend of February 16, 2024 and Akwesasne Child and Family Services hosted a Glow in the Dark Family Skate to add to the fun! It was a great winter outing for families to enjoy together and lace up their skates for a fun-filled afternoon!

The staff did a great job creating a fun and safe atmosphere and an added bonus was the delicious food and boba tea they supplied to all attendees as well! Great job and niawenhkó:wa to the staff at Akwesasne Child & Family Services, Health Promotion and Prevention Program, Akwesasne Zero 2 Six and Akwesasne Family Wellness Program for hosting this great community event!





## Home Maintenance Checklist

### IMPROVEMENT ADVICE

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



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

### MONTHLY CHECKLIST

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



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

### RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS

**White Pines Construction**  
Contracting Services  
518-521-4763

**A. Thompson Electric**  
Residential Electrician  
613-551-8438

**Francis King Construction**  
Contracting Services  
518-980-3202

**Lazore Garbage**  
Garbage Bins  
613-575-2944

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

**BT Customs Homes**  
Contracting Services  
613-551-4465

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

**Shoreline Construction**  
Contracting Services  
613-330-0284

**Lamesse Electric**  
Residential Electrician  
613-577-0109

**Empire General Contracting**  
Contracting Services  
613-662-1016

**Barnes Trees**  
Tree Removal  
613-551-6903

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

**J Cole Construction**  
Contracting Services  
581-333-8271

## 2024 HALF-LOAD ROAD RESTRICTIONS FOR TRUCKERS & SHIPPERS

Please be advised that all roadways under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will have a posted weight limit of five (5) tonnes per axle (also known as "Half Loads"), effective March 4, 2024. This is to protect the road system during the spring thaw.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police will be monitoring vehicle traffic and enforcing the weight restrictions while they remain in place.

### For more information, please contact:

Stanley Jacobs, Roads Program Manager  
Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment  
14 Ford Lane  
Akwesasne, Ontario K6H-0G5  
Tel: 613-938-5476  
Alt. Telephone: 613-575-2250

**HALF-LOAD RESTRICTIONS**  
IN EFFECT - March 4, 2024

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
Stanley Jacobs  
Roads Program Manager, DIHE  
613-938-5476  
613-575-2250

5 tonnes per axle

## Need to get rid of tires?

Take your tires to the following locations for disposal:

**Cornwall Landfill**  
2590 Cornwall Centre Rd.  
Cornwall, ON

**Canadian Tire**  
201 Ninth St. East,  
Cornwall, ON

**\*SRMT Transfer Station**  
179 County Route 43  
Fort Covington, NY

Have any questions or concerns?  
Call: 613-575-2250 ext. 1048  
Email: jayden.smoke@akwesasne.ca



\*There is a \$7.50 USD cost per tire at this site.  
Please contact each site for quantity restrictions.



# ENVIRONMENT

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE

In honour of International Day of Women in Science on February 11, the MCA Environment Program proudly celebrates the incredible women on their team and partnering organizations! Their dedication, passion, and contributions are shaping the future of science. Keep up the great work as it will create a positive impact on our community and inspire future generations!



## ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

-  **613-575-2250 ext. 1038**
-  **613-938-6760 (Fax)**
-  [www.facebook.com/mca.environment](http://www.facebook.com/mca.environment)

Contact Us!



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



**IF YOU**

**SEE SOMETHING**

**SAY SOMETHING**

*Please report any suspicious activity or persons in the area to the police.*

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service: **613-575-2000**  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police: **518-358-9200**




## FEBRUARY STATISTICS

275 February	1 1009 By-Law - Noise	1 1049 Medical Aid
1 037 Theft Under \$5000 - Bicycles	1 101 Firearms Act	1 1052 Shooting Complaint
2 040 Theft Under \$5000 - Other	1 1010 By-Law - Parking Occurrences	3 1056 Hazardous Conditions
1 044 Frauds - Credit Cards	1 1012 Civil Disputes	6 106 Provincial Statutes - Other
1 045 Frauds - Other	33 1013 Community Services	7 1063 Marine Patrol
1 061 Bail Violations	3 1014 Crime Prevention	2 205 Assault - Level 1
1 063 Disturb the Peace	3 1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)	1 206 Assault Weapon/CBH - Level 2
2 073 Criminal Code - Other	2 1018 Escorts - Prisoner	1 3030 Admin - Assist Other Agency
1 079 Cocaine - Possession	4 1023 Judge's Order (Court)	2 711 Impaired Operation MV
4 100 Immigration Act	1 1023 MVC - Non-Reportable	7 715 Fail to Stop/Remain (CCC)
1 1000 Abandoned Vehicles	1 1026 Property - Lost	1 716 Drive MV Prohibited (CCC)
5 1001 Alarms	9 1029 Suspicious Persons	1 717 Fail to Stop/Remain (HTA)
3 1002 Alerts	4 1030 Suspicious Vehicles	1 719 Drive Disqualified/Licence Suspended
3 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Ambulance	21 1031 Suspicious Circumstances	1 720 Traffic - Federal Statutes
6 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Cornwall PS	1 1032 Sudden Death	33 721 Traffic - Provincial Statutes
3 1003 Assist Other Agencies - OPP	1 1035 Warrant - Committal	2 723 Traffic - Parking Violations
8 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Other	6 1036 Warrant - Bench/First	1 726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
3 1003 Assist Other Agencies - Tribal PD	2 1037 Warrant - Search	1 Incident Type Not Listed
54 1004 Assist Public	3 1041 Mental Health Act	
4 1008 By-Law - Dogs	1 1047 Firearms Permit/FAC	





# SOLAR ECLIPSE

APRIL 8, 2024

## SOLAR ECLIPSE AWARENESS AND SAFETY

For those in the community that choose to be outside and directly observe the coming Solar Eclipse, the SRMT and MCA urge everyone to consider the following precautions and best practices:

**Expect Traffic** - Prepare for congestion and delays in and around Akwesasne. The eclipse will start at approximately 2:15pm.

**Use Eye Protection** - Only Solar Eclipse glasses will protect your eyes from damage.

**Safe Viewing** - Avoid roadside parking; choose safe locations

**Consider rescheduling** any non-essential travel or appointments to avoid excessive traffic in the community

**Pack Essentials** - Food, water, and medical supplies. Acquiring these on the day of may prove challenging

**Plan** for possible early closures of K-12 schools and government offices

**Stay Connected** - Have a backup communication plan

**Enjoy the Moment** - Cherish this rare celestial event



A joint message from Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Office of Emergency Management and Safety and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Emergency Measures Program.

