

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 3

FREE

Enniskó:wa/March 2026

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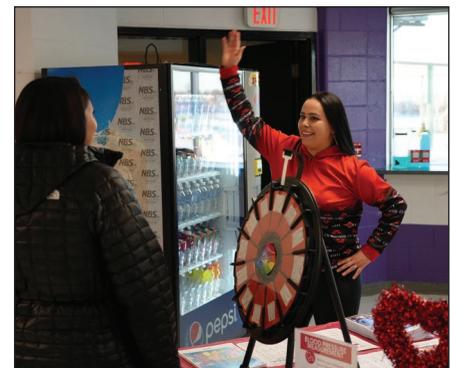
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WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2026



CELEBRATING LOVE & WELLNESS AT VALENTINE'S SKATE



On Valentine's Day, MCA's Department of Health's Community Health Services hosted an eventful Valentine's Skate. Akwesasronon laced their skates and hit the ice at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for a fun evening of skating with family and friends. The rink was filled with laughter, connection and plenty of movement — a perfect way to celebrate Heart Health Month together. Read more on page 20.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

MARCH DISTRICT MEETINGS

March 9, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

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

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEFS CONSTITUENCY HOURS

March 13 & 27, 2026 · 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CIA #3 Boardroom, Kawehno:ke

*Constituency hours will be scheduled according to the District Chiefs' availability to ensure consistent leadership presence.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2024-2027

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

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

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

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

Administration
Shannon Roundpoint
Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Akwesasne Mohawk
Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell
A/Director
Dept. of Communications

Jaime Beechey
Director
Dept. of Community
& Social Services

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic
Development

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Tessa Jocko
Director
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure,
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiostha Swamp
A/Chief of Police

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 Student registration for the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education's 2026-2027 school year is now open! Registration will close on April 24, 2026. More information available on page 13.
- 2 MCA's Department of Health provided an update on available dental clinics in Cornwall for community members who are seeking dental coverage. The list of dental offices are available on page 18 and more information on Non-Insured Health Benefit coverage.
- 3 Are you a local business or organization that is interested in distributing NARCAN? MCA's Mental Health & Wellness Addiction Services can provide training for you and your staff on how to use NARCAN. Learn more on page 18.
- 4 MCA's Environment Program is reminding community members that recycling placed in solid black or white garbage bags will not be accepted and residents will need to place recyclable items in their designated recycling bin, a clean dry cardboard box, or clear/translucent bag. To learn more on items not accepted can be found on page 24.
- 5 Did you know MCA's Department of Health Community Health Services proudly offers Senior Fitness for seniors ages 55+? Join us every Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Tri-District Elders Lodge on Kawehno:ke. See flyer on the back page for more details!

NEWS

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE CONGRATULATES CAN-AM WARRIORS ON 2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends congratulations to the 1980 Can-Am Warrior Lacrosse Team on their upcoming induction into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame. We are proud to recognize the Akwesasne players who were part of this historic team: Ernie Mitchell, Lewis Mitchell, Dave White, Larry King, Tom Thomas, and the late Steve Miller, along with Team Manager Peter Garrow.

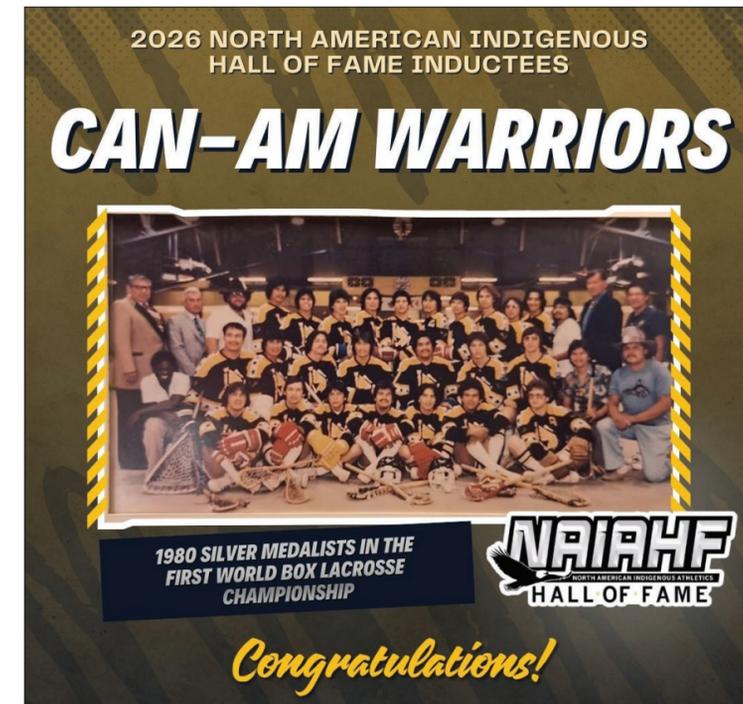
The Can-Am Warriors earned the silver medal at the first World Box Lacrosse Championship held in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, in July 1980. Their skill, speed, and determination helped showcase Indigenous excellence in lacrosse on the world stage.

The induction ceremony will be held on May 30, 2026, in Oneida, Wisconsin.

We honour this achievement and the legacy these players continue to carry forward for our community

and for the game of lacrosse.

Nia:wen and congratulations to all involved.



AKWESASRONON VOLUNTEERS AT 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is proud to share that Akwesasró:non Chip George represented Akwesasne as a volunteer at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy!



Photo credits: Chip George



We are incredibly proud of this exciting achievement and hope Chip had an amazing experience at the Winter Olympics!

NEWS

MCA ATTENDS MASSENA MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL ZONING AND DATA CENTERS

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Grand Chief, along with several members of Council, attended a Massena Town Hall Meeting regarding proposed industrial zoning changes related to potential data center development.

A key part of the discussion focused on possible zoning law changes that could allow for future data center projects in the area.

During the meeting, community members noted the lack of environmental impact studies, as well as limited consultation and public discussion prior to moving forward with zoning changes.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's position is

grounded in responsibility to protect our lands, waters, and people. The Council expects respectful engagement, full information sharing, and meaningful consultation before any development moves forward.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will not support development that proceeds without proper consultation, meaningful engagement, and community support.

Following the meeting, the Town of Massena committed to meeting with Akwesasne leadership and community members to continue discussions, share information, and hear concerns moving forward.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will provide updates as more information becomes available.

APPEAL FILED ON AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW REFERENDUM

AEL# 2024-01, MCR 2024/2025 #101 SEC. 16.2 (A)

Enniska/February 6, 2026 — The Chief Referendum Officer (CRO) is informing the community that as of Friday, February 6, 2026, an appeal has been filed with the Akwesasne Mohawk Court (AMC) regarding the Akwesasne Election Law Referendum, MCR 2024-2025 #101 Section 16.2(a) that was held on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

As a result of the appeal, the Chief Referendum Officer's results published will remain 'unofficial' pending the outcome of an Akwesasne Mohawk Court decision.

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the Chief Referendum Officer at 613-575-2250 ext. 2126.

NEWS

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE OPPOSES QUEBEC BILL 1

Enniska/February 17, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) stands in strong and clear opposition to Quebec's proposed Bill 1 and the creation of a Quebec Constitution developed without the full and meaningful participation of First Nations.

The MCA participated in the recent Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) engagement regarding Bill 1, where leadership came together to collectively oppose the proposed legislation and raise serious concerns about its potential impacts on First Nations communities.

Bill 1, in its current form, represents a profound threat to First Nations rights, jurisdiction, languages and laws, undermining the very foundations of our identity, our right to govern ourselves, and our commitment to the lands and future generations. Any legislation that impacts our people and communities must be developed with us through true nation-to-nation engagement. We cannot and will not accept decisions being made about us without us.

During Bill 1 proceedings, First Nations leadership were met with actions that demonstrated a continued lack of respect for our cultures, governance and leadership. This was evident when an Atikamekw

Chief was denied entry while carrying an eagle staff, a sacred item representing his territory. Incidents like this reflect the broader systemic barriers First Nations continue to face when engaging with provincial processes that claim to include us, yet fail to respect who we are as a people.

These actions, combined with the fact that Bill 1 makes only minimal reference to First Nations and was drafted without meaningful consultation, reinforce the serious concerns being raised by First Nations leadership across Quebec and Labrador.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne stands with First Nations leadership in calling for the withdrawal of Bill 1 in its current form. Our inherent rights, treaty rights, and jurisdiction are not subject to provincial authority, and any attempt to legislate over First Nations without consent is unacceptable.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will continue to work alongside regional and national First Nations leadership to oppose Bill 1 and advocate for the protection of our rights, lands, languages, and future generations. We remain committed to keeping the community informed as this work continues.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



January 19, 2026

- The Executive Director provided an administrative update, debunking ICE reports and discussing NYS Real ID concerns.
- Grand Chief Provided an update on his meeting with the Ontario Ombudsman, his meeting with Regional Chief Francis, meeting with Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree, and Tete-watharen.
- Nation Building gave an update on the status of the Entetewatha:wi Self Governance Agreement negotiations.

Discussion Items:

- Hydro Quebec Hookups: Council discussed clarifying process for Hydro Quebec to get power to Community Members.
- There was a discussion from Public Safety Portfolio on collaborative approaches with SRMTPD for community safety.
- Council discussed Transport Canada lands.
- Council discussed the option to work with the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake regarding tax exemption issues with the Government of Quebec.

Presentation:

- FAFSA Issue overview was provided.

MCRs: Allotment – Cornwall Island; Allotment – St. Regis Village; Assignment of Lease – Stanley Island; Purchase of New Wheel Loader DIHE Roads; Peace Tree Mall Façade Renovations; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – November 25, 2025; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2025

January 26, 2026

- The Executive Director provided an administrative update for Council and touched on topics like finance strategy, the Election Law referendum, and the Section 95 Housing presentations.
- Grand Chief Lazore provided updates on attending the Akwesasne-Cornwall Port of Entry Border Collaborative Initiative Meeting, and further spoke about current border issues.

Discussion Items:

- Council discussed Internal and External Committees and how they should decide who sits on what.
- Council discussed the boundaries of the Algonquin settlement and the possibility of meeting with their Council and Akwesasne.
- Council received a request from the Akwesasne Homemakers and funding opportunities were discussed by Council.
- The Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP) was discussed.
- Council discussed the community feedback they've been receiving regarding the Quarterly Meetings.
- Governance Committee discussed with the rest of council about revising the portfolio terms of reference, and notified that an MCR to make changes will be forthcoming.

Portfolios:

- **DCSS:** Department of Community and Social Services portfolio gave updates

from the meeting which included snow-suit funds update, a Memorandum of Understanding for ACFS, fuel assistance issues, and policy changes. There was further discussion from the Council on funeral funds.

- **DOH:** Department of Health Portfolio gave updates from their portfolio meeting. Topics included orientation on sectors, new staff updates, addressing gaps in services and communication to the community.
- **Economic Development:** The Economic Development Portfolio met and gave their updates from their meeting, which included the topics of Akwesasne's Economic Development Corporation, Grow operations, food sovereignty, and an Iroquois Caucus Memorandum of Understanding.

MCRs: Permit – Banen Island; Permit – Banen Island; Indigenous Initiative Fund (IIF IV) Flint Excavation; ISC Amendment No. 181 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 182 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 183 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 184 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024

February 2, 2026

- Grand Chief Provided an update, covering the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council meeting, meeting with the Superintendent Bureau Commander of the Ontario Provincial Police, a meeting with Canada's Public Safety Minister, and the Portland's Meeting.
- Akwesasne Rights and Research Office Portfolio gave an update.
- Youth, Elders, Culture, and Language Committee gave an update.
- Justice Department representatives gave additional information to Council

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE

regarding the Akwesasne Childs Rights Law MCR.

Discussion Items:

- Bildfell House – Akweksko:wa Corporation
- Quarterly Meetings
- General Meetings
- DCSS
- Community Letter
- Canada Post

Presentations:

- FASFA/ARRO Update by Cheyenne Lazore and Frank Holleman
- AMPS Organizational Chart by Ranatiio:stha Swamp

MCRs: Revised Portfolio Listings; Akwe-

sasne Childs Rights Law – ALEPR Phase II Acceptance in Principle; Department of Community and Social Services – Organizational Chart; Designation of Dr. J. Armstrong as a Researcher on Behalf of MCA

February 9, 2026

- Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Grand Chief gave political updates, including AFNQL travel on Bill 1, correspondence with the City of Cornwall, border issues, and the NYS internal agreement.
- Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Portfolio gave an update.
- Property Acquisition Team gave an update.

Discussion Items:

- Kawehno:ke Alcohol Sales
- Unjust Arrest at Cornwall CBSA POE
- Executive Committee Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Special General Meetings

MCRs: Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; Evaluating Lake Sturgeon Ecology and Restoration Efforts in Akwesasne Habitat, Populations and Fisheries Monitoring; MCA to Submit Proposal for Preliminary Negotiations on Nutfield Tract; 2025-26 MOH CYMH Amending Agreement; 0159 MCA – Indigenous Health Equity Funding for 2025/26; Ministry of Health – Supporting Recruitment and Retention; Ontario Health East Branch 2025-2026 One-Time Funding – Infrastructure; Declaration of Intent to Purchase – Transport Canada Lands

COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT: AFNQL APPEARANCE ON BILL 1

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore joined AFNQL leadership at the Hôtel du Parlement in Québec City on February 5, 2026, to participate in a coordinated appearance and mobilization opposing Quebec's proposed Bill 1, which was developed without First Nations consultation and could impact territorial rights, governance, languages, and inherent laws. The gathering strengthened regional collaboration, advanced advocacy for sovereignty and consultation rights, and ensured Akwesasne's priorities were represented while preparing for continued action and community updates.

Highlights:

- Collective Advocacy & Sovereignty – Chiefs and leadership united to voice opposition and emphasize First Nations consultation rights and jurisdiction.
- Territorial Rights & Governance – Discussions focused on the potential impacts on land rights, Indigenous governance systems, languages, and inherent laws.
- Regional Collaboration – Strengthened partnerships and coordination among AFNQL leadership while increasing

visibility for Akwesasne's priorities.

Key Takeaways & Next Steps:

- Reinforce support for First Nations consultation and land rights.
- Continue regional advocacy and mobilization efforts opposing Bill 1.
- Strengthen strategic dialogue and collaboration among AFNQL leadership.
- Share gathered information and updates with the community.
- Maintain visibility of Akwesasne's concerns within regional discussions.

Read the full report on the MCA Members Portal: my.akwesasne.ca/governance/council-reports/

Not signed up for the MCA Members Portal? Please complete the portal member application form at the link below:

forms.akwesasne.ca/Member-Application-Form

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF LISA FRANCIS-BENEDICT UPDATES



Portfolios:

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE), Akwesasne Justice Dept., Nation Building

Selected Committees:

Internal — Canada Border Services Agency; Iroquois Caucus; Youth, Elders, Culture & Language; Beautification Committee

External — Chiefs of Ontario (COO) ~ First Nations Women's Council (FNWC); Chiefs & Technical Committee on Languages and Learning (CTCLL); Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table (OBELT); Regional First Nations Language Committee (RFNL Quebec); Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club (ABGC)

Shé:kon Sewakwe:kon:

First, Ohserá:se and hope everyone is having an awesome 2026 so far. I am looking forward to spring and longer days for sure. A few more weeks and our clocks will "spring ahead". I look forward to the next seasons coming.

With the new Council members (welcome to Tom Thomas and Cody David, and welcome back to Teresa Oakes) sworn-

in in this past Tsiothóhrha/December, Council has recently reviewed and updated Chief's portfolios. I have removed myself from the Governance Committee. I am also presently contemplating if I will remain active on the Iroquois Caucus. Further, I have also been made aware of a vacancy on the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) ~ Chiefs Committee on Justice. I am presently considering sitting on the Committee, which will involve a few meetings per year and can be attended virtually.

Although one of my portfolios is DIHE, which includes the Housing Sector, I do not attend the meetings of the Housing Authority. Council members sit at the table as ex-officio members. The Justice Portfolio also includes varying committees, working task groups as well. One of the tasks of the Child's Rights and Responsibilities Law | Eniethihswanón:na Working Task Group is to begin the community consultations. Council has accepted the law in principle which moves the draft law to seeking input from the community. More information will be announced on when these dates are confirmed.

Please refer to the information (list) as per above for further details on the portfolios, committees, that I hold and participate in.

QUARTERLY MCA GENERAL MEETINGS

At the General Meeting of Tsiothóhrhá:wa/January 29, 2026, there was lengthy discussion on the decision of moving the General Meeting to a quarterly schedule. Updates were also shared and discussed at previous district

meetings prior to the General Meeting. Council approved the update to the Council Meeting Procedure Regulations on Kentenhkó:wa/November 17, 2025 which included the change to quarterly General Meetings. The Governance Committee reviewed the regulations and provided updates to Council as they were going through the document.

As per the community announcement, "this change is intended to allow for more meaningful and comprehensive updates to be shared with the community, improve attendance and participation, while still maintaining transparency and accountability. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is also exploring hosting at least one General Meeting on a Saturday each year to better accommodate a variety of community schedules."

Please note: Additional Focus Meetings will be held throughout the year on specific topics or priorities, and District Meetings will continue to be held monthly in each district."

I sat on the Governance Committee during the review of the regulations, and I supported the change. At the Tsiothóhrhá:wa/January General Meeting I asked to allow a three (3) month trial period and then Council will evaluate how the new meeting schedule is working. It is time to change the format of the General Meeting and to move toward having more meaningful and respectful discussions.

MCA FILES AMICUS BRIEF FOR AKWESASRONON CROSS BORDER RIGHTS

The MCA has recently filed a brief in the

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF LISA FRANCIS-BENEDICT UPDATES

United States District Court in support of plaintiffs challenging federal actions that would require Akwesasronon born in Canada to obtain immigration documentation to access federal student financial aid. The amicus brief traces the historical and legal foundations of the right of Akwesasronon born in Canada to move freely across the border. This has been brought to the attention of Council back in the fall of 2024. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Cheyenne Lazore Manager, Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) at cheyenne.lazore@akwesasne.ca or 613-575-2250 ext. 2134.

KAWEHNO:KE CONSTITUENCY HOURS

Kawehno:ke Constituency Hours have resumed and will take place on a bi-weekly basis. Sessions are held every other Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the CIA #3 Boardroom. The next scheduled dates are March 13, 27, and April 10, 24.

Please note that time to time there may be the need to cancel, due to conflicts in our scheduling.

The goal is to have at least one Chief and we will strive to maintain the schedule as noted.

All Kawehno:ke residents are welcome to stop by, even if for a chat, or questions, etc. Feel free to stop by and visit your Kawehno:ke District Chiefs.

I included updates on my portfolios in my monthly report. All reports can be found on the the MCA Portal by visiting: my.akwesasne.ca/governance/council-reports/.

Please note: I will be out of town from Enniskó:wa/March 27 – Onerahtókha/April 6, 2026 (personal). I will have limited access to my email.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or would like to have a chat. Stop in during constituency hours.

Niawenhkó:wa,
Lisa Francis-Benedict
Email: chief.lisa.fbenedict@akwesasne.ca
Cell: 613-577-5593

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEFS WEEKLY CONSTITUENCY HOURS

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

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

FEBRUARY	13, 27	APRIL	10, 24	JUNE	5, 19
MARCH	13, 27	MAY	8, 22		

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

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in February

1. From Tree to Basket: Black Ash Workshop (Video)
2. Department of Community & Social Services Welcomes New Acting Executive Assistant
3. Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Staff Completes Autism Spectrum Disorder Emergency Kits Training
4. Elder Care Package Giveaway
5. Akwesasronon Volunteers at 2026 Winter Olympics

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in February

1. From Tree to Basket: Black Ash Workshop (Video) — 148,300 Reached
2. Elder Care Package Giveaway — 21,244 Reached
3. Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Staff Completes Autism Spectrum Disorder Emergency Kits Training — 16,742 Reached
4. MCA Files Amicus Brief for Akwesasronon Cross Border Rights — 16,742 Reached
5. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Opposes Quebec Bill 1 — 15,823 Reached



X STATS

Top Post in February



YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for February

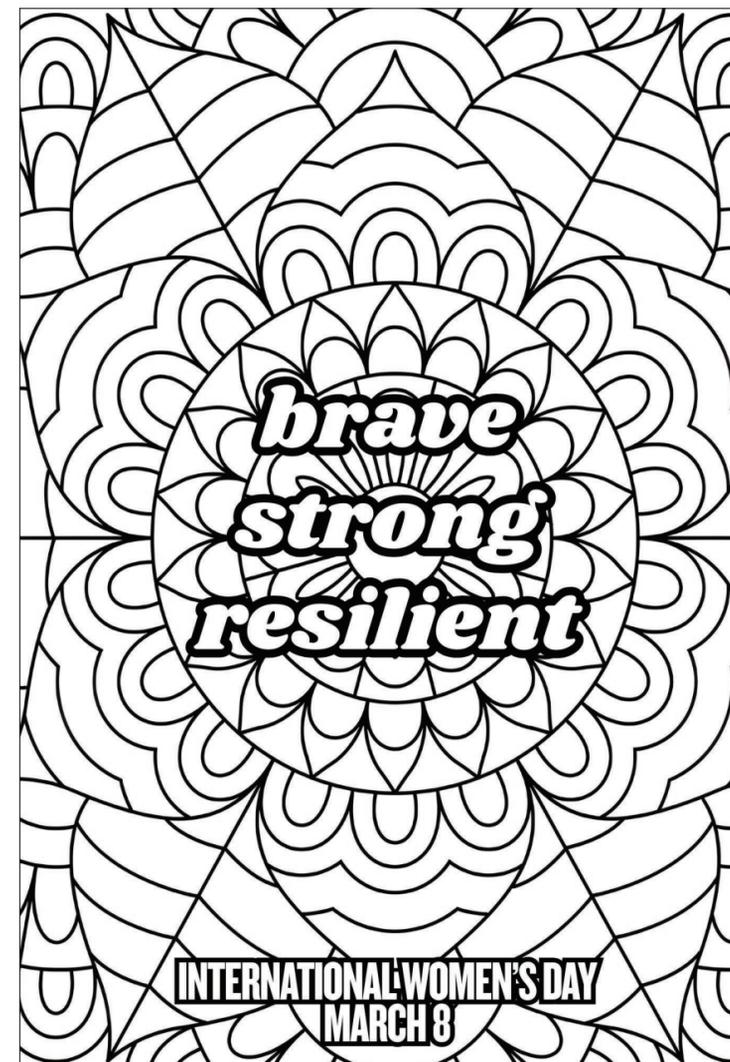
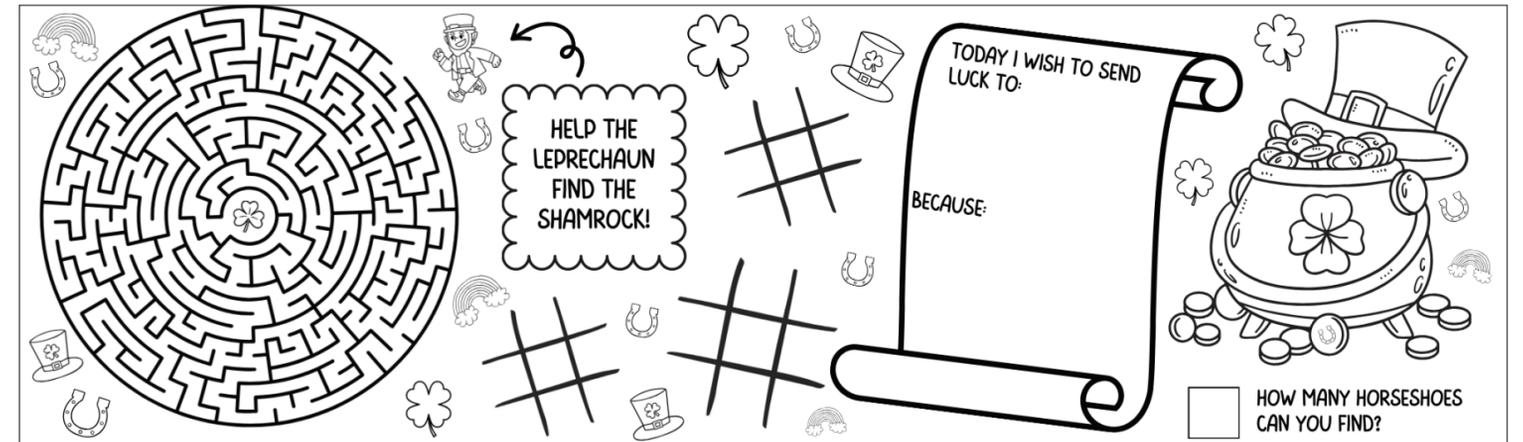
From Tree to Basket: Black Ash Workshop



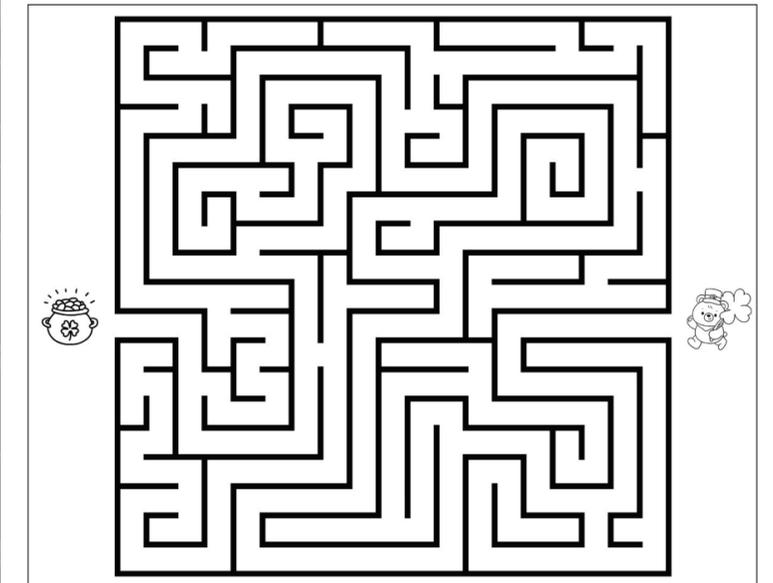
Scan QR Code to view video!

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

CHILDREN'S PAGE



GET THE LEPRECHAUN TO THE POT OF GOLD!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

- What do you call a fake Irish stone?
A sham-rock!
- What kind of spells do leprechauns use?
Lucky charms!
- Why did the rainbow go to school?
To get a little brighter.

HUMAN RESOURCES

PAST MCA SUMMER STUDENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



What begins as a summer job can become something more. For this series, we're highlighting employees of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) who once started as summer students, showing Akwesasronon youth how early opportunities can grow into lasting careers.

In this spotlight we feature Kora Mitchell, whose career in Human Resources demonstrates how curiosity, compassion, and a love of learning can shape a meaningful future.

Kora Mitchell serves as the Human Resources Training and Development Officer with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Her work includes conducting research, hosting training sessions, and collaborating with employees across the organization. She enjoys sharing knowledge and supporting staff growth, guided by her belief that "we are not defined

by our roles, we are all humans." Her role calls for strong communication skills, comfort with public speaking, and a genuine interest in people and collaboration.

Kora's connection to MCA began as a summer student, working twice with the Environment Program and once with Archives. These experiences helped her explore different roles and discover her interest in administrative, research, and policy-focused work. With a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, and hands-on experience, she found a career path that aligned with her skills, values, and passion for helping others.

To Akwesasne youth, Kora encourages patience and exploration; take your time, try new things, and don't feel pressured to have everything figured out right away. She reminds Akwesasronon youth that working with MCA offers opportunities to grow, contribute to the community, and bring forward new ideas. Her journey is a reminder that believing in yourself and staying open to learning can lead to a future full of possibility.



As we continue to shine a light on current Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) employees who were past summer students, we're featuring Christian Francis, an IT Technician with MCA, whose journey from a summer student to an Information Services team member highlights how curiosity, determination, and a commitment to the community can shape a meaningful career.

Christian Francis is an IT Technician with Information Services under the Department of Finance and Administration at MCA. His work focuses on Helpdesk support, including responding to calls and emails, providing remote technical assistance, and collaborating with his team to keep staff connected and productive. His role requires strong problem-solving skills, teamwork, and a commitment to providing respectful, reliable service across the organization.

Christian's journey with MCA began as a summer student in 2017, where he gained hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the organization. After years working in food service, shipping, receiving, and warehouse roles, he returned to school to complete the Computer Networking and Technical Support program at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall. He later joined Information Services full-time, working in Hardware and Helpdesk roles, serving as Acting Program Manager from January 2022 to September 2023, and completing additional technical training to strengthen his skills.

Christian encourages Akwesasne youth to be ambitious, resilient, and open to exploring careers that match their interests. He highlights how the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne offers a wide array of career choices and pathways for anyone seeking employment close to home with opportunities and advancement ahead. His journey shows that pursuing your passions, staying open to growth, and working close with the community can lead to a meaningful and balanced career.



Are you a current student? Interested in being part of a supportive and inspiring organization? Stay on the lookout as MCA's summer student applications will be opening March 2026!

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

AMBE REGISTRATION FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Student registration for the Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk Board of Education's 2026–2027 school year opened on February 17, 2026, and will close on **April 24, 2026**. Parents and guardians can enroll children in K4 through Grade 8 at any of the three district schools: Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk School (AMS), Kana:takon School, and Tsi Snaihne School.

Registration packets will be available at each district school and the AMBE Board Office, located at 169 International Road, Akwesasne, ON. At this time, online registration is not available.

To enroll in K4, children must be four years old by September 30, 2026, and fully potty trained.

When submitting a registration, families will need to provide:

- 2026–2027 Registration Form
- Copy of child's immunization record or waiver
- Copy of child's birth certificate
- Copy of child's Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card)
- Copy of child's health card

For more information, please contact AMBE at 613-933-0409.

CALL FOR IOHAHI:IO TESTIMONIALS

Have you participated in Post-Secondary, Micro-Credential, FabLab, PATHWAYS or Workshop Education through Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute? We would love to hear from you!

We are collecting testimonials from past and current students to share how Iohahi:io helped students on their educational journey and where they are today. Your story can inspire future students and highlight the impact of post-secondary support in your community.

Please include the following:

- A short story about how Iohahi:io has supported you
- Where your education has taken you (career, continued studies, achievements, etc.)
- A photo of yourself (optional but strongly encouraged)

Submit your testimonial by email to communications@ambe.ca or send a direct message to Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education's Facebook or Instagram page.

Nia:wen for sharing your journey and helping us celebrate post-secondary success!



AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Office: 613-933-0409 or 613-575-2250 ext. 1400

Akwesahsne Mohawk School
613-932-3366

Tsi Snaihne School
613-575-2291

Kana:takon School
613-575-2323

Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute 613-575-2754 or 613-575-2250 ext. 4100



Contact Us!

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP APPLICANTS FOR REVIEW AND UPDATES

In order for the Akwesasne Membership Board to determine if an application for Akwesasne Membership will be approved or denied, the Board must consider the following criteria:

- a) Whether the applicant was born in the community
- b) Commitment to Mohawk culture, traditions, life-style, and knowledge of language and customs
- c) Individual or family ties to Members of the community
- d) Member of a Clan
- e) Degree of involvement in the affairs of the community
- f) Reasons for wanting to be a member

This criteria is in Section 11 of the Akwesasne Membership Code. The following persons are applying for Akwesasne Membership.

Sheldon Logan Hannaburg (age 23) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. He is from Akwesasne and on the waiting list for membership.

Skylar Blaze David (age 25) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. He is from Akwesasne and was approved for a probationary membership in 2024. He wishes to reside with his partner Teya Mitchell in Kawehnó:ke.

Micheal James Russell (age 37) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. Mr. Russell is from Mississauga and was ap-

proved for probationary membership in 2022. He wishes to reside in Tsi Snaihne with his family.

Andrew Charles Wilson (age 59) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. Mr. Wilson wishes to reside in Tsi Snaihne with his wife.

April Burns (age 39) – Was granted Probationary Membership in March 2009, she is applying for full membership. Her mother is Doris Burns of Akwesasne.

Adam Garnet Douglas Brunet (age 27) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. He wishes to reside in Tsi Snaihne.

Kieler Patrick Joseph Lahache (age 34) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. He is a Mohawk of Kahnawake wishing to reside in Tsi Snaihne.

Jacy E. Jacobs (age 33) – Is applying for a Residency Permit under the Akwesasne Residency Law. She wishes to reside with her family in Kawehnó:ke, she is married to Trent Jacobs of Akwesasne. She is on the waiting list for membership.

Please be advised that applicants are responsible for updating their contact information with OVS.

 OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS:		SERVICES: Indian Status Membership/ Lands Residency Estates Leasing
CIA #3 Building 101 Tewesateni Road (Kawehno:ke) Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5	Tel: 613-575-2250 ext. 1013 Email: ovs.office@akwesasne.ca	

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

1976–1980 / 1980s ENVIRONMENTAL LOSSES

When the St. Lawrence Seaway was completed in 1959, it was viewed as a triumph of engineering and international partnership between the United States and Canada. By the late 1970s, the impacts that the St. Lawrence Seaway had upon the community of Akwesasne became much more evident and visible.

With the St. Lawrence Seaway being built to serve as a traffic corridor, the activity and effects of the waves upon the shoreline increased throughout the years. Massive cargo ships carried iron ore, coal, grain, and industrial goods were commonly seen from the shores of Akwesasne and Kawehno:ke as the ships traversed between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. This led to an increase in shoreline maintenance needs, which included constant dredging and modifications.

During this same time, industrial activity along the St. Lawrence River took a sharp upturn. Aluminum plants such as Reynolds and Alcoa, along with paper mills and other factories, led to an increase in discharged waste directly into the river and its tributaries. Despite environmental regulations existing at the time, they were not enforced and Indigenous communities had little political power to challenge industrial polluters. As a result of the increased industrial activity, toxic substances, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and other heavy metals, gathered in the water and sediment. This would lead to the severe depletion and destruction of fish spawning grounds and wildlife habitat. Fish populations severely dropped, and those species that did remain often carried dangerous levels of contamination.

The extent of the environmental impacts would not be understood until government testing revealed alarmingly high PCB levels in fish, wildlife, and even human residents of Akwesasne. Governments issued fishing bans, warning the community not to eat fish from the river. This would severely impact the culture of Akwesasne as fishing was not merely an economic activity; it was a cornerstone of identity, knowledge transmission, and spiritual connection to the land and water. The loss of fishing meant losing part of that cultural fabric as families now had to rely more on store-bought food, which brought new health and economic challenges to Akwesasne.

The introduction of zebra mussels, an invasive species, would further the environmental destruction of Akwesasne. Zebra mussels spread quickly as they attach to rocks, docks, boats, and water intake systems to form dense colonies that alter the river's natural balance. By filtering substantial amounts of water, zebra mussels increase water clarity, but reduce plankton needed to support native fish and shellfish, contributing to the

decline of native mussel species and disrupting the river's food web. In addition to ecological harm, zebra mussels clog water pipes and damage infrastructure, increasing maintenance costs for local communities. Their rapid spread during the 1980s underscored the vulnerability of the St. Lawrence River to outside influences.

The legacy of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Akwesasne is a complex one. What was once hailed as progress came at a significant cost to the land, water, and people who cared for it. Today, Akwesasne's ongoing work to protect the river reflects both resilience and resistance, a determination to reclaim environmental health, cultural practices, and sovereignty. The story serves as a reminder that development without respect for Indigenous communities and ecosystems will not bring forth the expected prosperity as success is not measured only on economic terms but the impacts it has on local communities.



These photos depict downtown Cornwall in the early 1970s. The Cornwall Square has yet to be built, and the Cornwallis Hotel and Capitol Theatre are still open. The Stormont Mill, had been destroyed by fire and Lamoureux Park is starting to take shape. Even St. Lawrence Brewery, now Gordon Refrigeration is still standing, to the right across from the park.

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

MCA FILES AMICUS BRIEF FOR AKWESASRONON CROSS BORDER RIGHTS

Ennis/February 18, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has filed a brief as amicus curiae in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York in support of plaintiffs challenging federal actions that would require Akwesasronon born in Canada to obtain immigration documentation to access federal student financial aid.

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

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

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

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

- Congress expressly said nothing in federal immi-

gration law may “affect” the right of Akwesasronon born in Canada to pass the borders of the United States.

- Requiring individuals protected under 8 U.S.C. § 1359 to register with federal immigration authorities or obtain green cards would unlawfully burden and affect that right.
- The U.S. Department of Education lacks authority to impose immigration registration requirements that Congress has limited or prohibited.
- Department of Education regulations must be interpreted consistently with federal immigration law and longstanding judicial precedent.

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

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

Any questions or concerns can be directed to:

Cheyenne Lazore
Manager, Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO)
cheyenne.lazore@akwesasne.ca
613-575-2250 ext. 2134

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
brayden.white@akwesasne.ca
theresa.benedict@akwesasne.ca

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

ENIETHISWANÓN:NA, AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES LAW ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE



February 6, 2026 — The Working Task Group (WTG) for the Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law, Eniethiswanón:na, is preparing to begin Phase III: Community Consultation. To meet Akwesasne Legislative

Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR) requirements, the WTG will first share a recorded summary of the law on CKON 97.3 FM.

Following the broadcast, the group plans to carry out extensive community outreach with members both on and off territory. As this law will impact all Akwesasró:non, it is important that it reflects the community’s collective voice.

These consultations are intended to hear the community’s comments, concerns, and suggestions on the current draft, helping the WTG identify what is working, where changes are needed, and how to revise the law so it truly represents the community. The WTG hopes to hear from a wide range of stakeholders—especially youth, elders, and language speakers—to help guide discussions and support the revitalization of our language within the law.

The development of Eniethiswanón:na began in 2019 after it was identified as a priority through Akwesasne’s annual law priority survey. This process, carried out by the Department of Justice and the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development, guides the creation of community-driven laws.

The initiative was also influenced by Canada’s federal Bill C-92, which affirms the right of First Nations to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services when supported by their own child protection law. While the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has long exercised this responsibility through Akwesasne Child & Family Services, this work represents the first formal legislation of its kind.

The law was developed under Phase I: Development, Amendment, or Repeal of Proposed Akwesasne Law of the ALEPR, with a focus on reflecting Akwesasne’s cultural values and inherent responsibility to protect its children. The drafting process was informed through engagement with community members, including social workers, educators, parents, youth, Elders, and language speakers.

Following a legal review completed in early 2025, revisions were incorporated and the draft was presented to Council for two line-by-line reviews. These reviews led to the law’s Phase II: Acceptance in Principle, allowing the process to move forward to community consultation.

Community feedback during Phase III will continue to play an important role in shaping the final version of the law as it progresses toward enactment.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH PROVIDES UPDATE ON CORNWALL DENTIST INFORMATION

The MCA Department of Health is providing the community with updates on available dental clinics in the Cornwall area. Community members who are seeking dental coverage can access one of the dental offices below to begin your services.

Cornwall Dental Arts
806 Pitt Street
613-932-2058

(Currently do not have wheelchair accessible ramp)

Dentistry@Cornwall
1232 Brookdale Avenue
613-933-0030

(Will be accepting new clients in Mid-February)

Dr. Paul Dentistry
110 Sydney Street
613-938-1010

Dr. Navaneelan
525 Ninth Street East
613-933-7528

Cornwall Dental Clinic
809 Second Street East
613-938-8483

Bosse Dental Clinic
111-705 Cotton Mill St.
613-938-7560

Dr. Ray Ghiassi
837 Pitt St.
613-938-8451

Most dental services are covered by Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) with a valid health card. No dental clinic will single out Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) as an eligibility to treat or not to treat. All offices take both RAMQ and Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

Some dental procedures require pre-determination or have limits on how often they can be done. Because of this, your dental care provider should contact NIHB before completing any dental work and submit a treatment plan using a standard dental claim form. NIHB aims to ensure clients are not burdened with upfront payments. If you are asked to pay in advance, please contact the NIHB office right away at 613-575-2341 ext. 3349.

If you were a patient of the former Akwesasne Dental Clinic, and looking to obtain a copy of your dental records, you can email info@cornwallspecialty-dental.com or call 613-935-5555.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS ADDICTIONS SERVICES OFFERS NARCAN, TRAINING TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Are you, your agency, or your business interested in distributing NARCAN? NARCAN is a fast-acting nasal spray used to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses from substances such as heroin, fentanyl, and prescription medications.

NARCAN works within minutes to restore breathing and block opioid receptors. It is safe for anyone to use.

Mental Health & Wellness Addictions Services can also provide training for you or your staff members on how to use NARCAN.

Any Akwesasne area stores, dispensaries, or businesses can also request NARCAN kits to have on-site at their locations.

To request NARCAN training, or NARCAN kits, please contact Tara Garrow-Keysis, Addiction Specialist, at 613-575-2341 ext. 3112 or via email at tara.garrow-keysis@akwesasne.ca.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SECTOR WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM MANAGER



The MCA Department of Health's Mental Health & Wellness (MHW) Sector would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Mental Health Program Manager: Alison Benedict, MSW, RSW. Alison brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experience to her new role. Alison is Kanien'kehá:ka from Akwesasne, and a member of the Wolf Clan. The roots and inspiration of her life work come from the teachings of the Peacemaker.

As a Civitas scholar, the focus of her master's degree in social work was intervention with children and youth,

specifically abused and neglected children. Her professional experience has focused primarily on Indigenous communities throughout Turtle Island as a helper, educator, and advocate.

Alison has worked with mainstream institutions, helping them understand what happened to Indigenous peoples (through a trauma-informed approach), taught about the diversity between and within First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and trained professionals on evidence-based practices. Her clinical practice is wholistic and inclusive, incorporating traditional teachings from culturally diverse elders, alongside Western evidence-based practices.

Please join us in welcoming Alison to her new role within the Mental Health & Wellness Sector!

DOH Sector 2 | Community Health Services

PUBLIC FITNESS

FOR AKWESASNE COMMUNITY MEMBERS & MCA EMPLOYEES

Start Date:
February 4
End Date:
April 1

A welcoming space for community members and MCA employees to work out independently. Access a variety of fitness equipment and enjoy the freedom to exercise at your own pace in a supportive, healthy environment.

Who Can Attend:

All Community Members (18+)
MCA Employees.

Location:

Health Promotion & Prevention Fitness Room (Kanonkwat'sheri:io Health Facility)

Days & Times:

Monday | 12:00–1:00 p.m. & 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Wednesday | 12:00–1:00 p.m. & 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Friday | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Details:

- All fitness levels are welcome.
- Wear proper gym attire.
- Respect equipment & others.
- Space is limited to 10 max.

To register, please contact Prevention Specialist Krista Lee Oakes:

(613) 575-2341 ext. 3239

healthpromotionandprevention@akwesasne.ca

Kanonkwat'sheri:io Health Facility

Sector 2: Community Health Services - Health Promotion & Prevention Program



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONNECTING THROUGH MOVEMENT THIS HEART HEALTH MONTH

On Valentine's Day, Akwesasronon laced up their skates and hit the ice at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for a fun evening of skating with family and friends. The rink was filled with laughter, connection, and plenty of movement — a perfect way to celebrate Heart Health Month together.

In honour of Heart Health Month, the MCA Department of Health's Community Health Services team was on site sharing important information about cardiovascular health, conduct blood pressure screenings and provide influenza/COVID-19 vaccines. Each family received a complimentary green food bag filled with fresh vegetables and healthy snacks. (Fun fact: adding more fruits and vegeta-

bles to your meals can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease!) To refuel after skating, families enjoyed a delicious, heart-healthy meal catered by Three Feathers Cafe.

Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a movement session with Krista, where they learned easy, practical exercises to keep their bodies moving at home. Attendee's who joined the session were entered for a chance to win exciting prizes, including Heart to Heart Gym memberships and Family Passes to Countryside Adventures.

Niawenhkó:wa to Community Health Services and Akwesasne Child & Family Services for organizing such a meaningful and engaging event!



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AKWESASNE MOHAWK AMBULANCE STAFF COMPLETES AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER EMERGENCY KITS TRAINING

The Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance (AMA) personnel recently completed in-service training for their recently acquired Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) emergency kits. The kits consist of support bags containing tools designed to help Autistic individuals manage sensory overload, reduce anxiety, and safely navigate emergency situations.

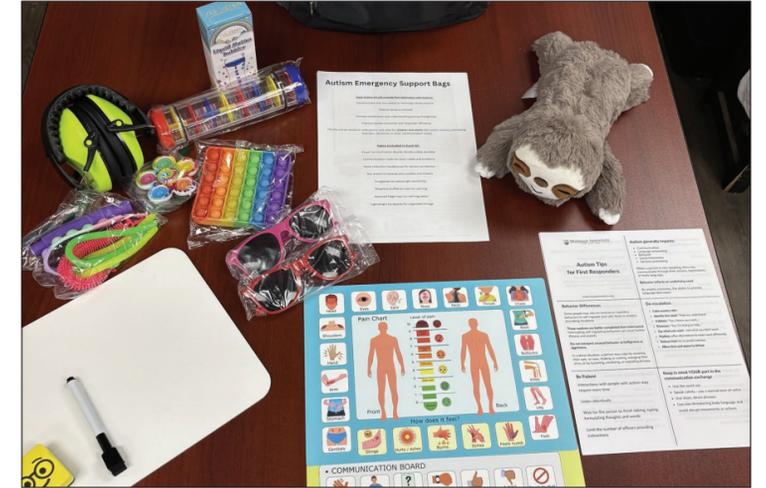
Key components of the ASD kits include the following:

Sensory Tools: fidget devices, noise-cancelling headphones, sunglasses, weighted blankets, and plush toys.

Communication Aids: laminated communication boards and a whiteboard with dry-erase markers to facilitate non-verbal interactions.

AMA Paramedic Brooklyn Johnson, provided staff with a comprehensive overview of the kits and led a training focused on best practices for interacting with ASD patients and their caregivers.

AMA would like to extend a niawenhkó:wa/thank you to Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) for supplying these vital kits to the AMA team, and to Paramedic Johnson for her exceptional work and leadership on this initiative.



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

Iakhihsotha Lodge:
613-575-2507

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



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

CONNECTING COMMUNITY THROUGH TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

On February 6, more than 35 Akwesasronon gathered at the St. Regis Recreation Center to take part in a meaningful, hands-on corn husk doll making workshop. The session was led by Angello Johnson of Good Mind Design, who guided participants step-by-step through the traditional process of creating their own corn husk dolls to take home.

The workshop offered more than just a crafting experience — it provided an opportunity for community members of all ages to come together, share stories, and strengthen their connection to culture and tradition in a welcoming environment.

Nia:wen to the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program to organizing the event and continuing to create

opportunities for Akwesasronon to engage with traditional teachings. Thank you as well to Angello Johnson for generously sharing his knowledge and skills with 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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

FROM TREE TO BASKET: BLACK ASH WORKSHOP

From log pounding to the final weave, Akwesasronon had the opportunity to learn the traditional art of black ash basket making through the Tree to Basket Workshop, made possible by the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program.

Led by Angello Johnson of Good Mind Design, the four-day workshop thoughtfully combined cultural knowledge with hands-on instruction rooted in respectful, land-based practices. Participants were guided through each step of the process — from identifying black ash trees to preparing splints and weaving baskets using traditional techniques passed down through generations.

In addition to learning the craft itself, participants explored the broader environmental context, including the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer and

the importance of protecting black ash trees as a vital cultural resource.

Through this immersive experience, participants connected with teachings carried by past and present knowledge holders, strengthening their role in continuing and preserving these important traditions for future generations.

Niawenhkó:wa to the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program and Angello Johnson for their support and collaboration, and for providing community members with the opportunity to learn, engage, and carry forward these traditional teachings.

Take a look at the workshop by scanning the QR code or go to MCA's YouTube channel!

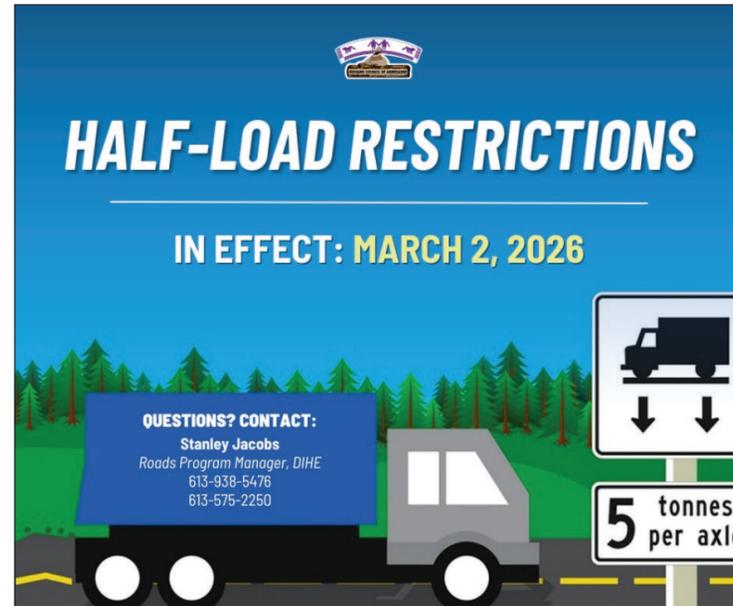


2026 HALF LOAD RESTRICTIONS FOR TRUCKERS & SHIPPERS

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 Monday, March 2, 2026.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service 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
 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
 14 Ford Lane
 Akwesasne, Ontario K6H 0G5
 Tel.: 613-938-5476
 Alt. Telephone: 613-575-2250



AKWESASNE RECYCLING REMINDERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne kindly reminds all residents in the three districts to follow proper curbside recycling guidelines. Your cooperation helps ensure a smooth and efficient pickup process for everyone in our community.

Recyclables must be set out in one of the following ways:

- In your designated recycling bin; or
- In a clean, dry cardboard box; or
- In a clear/translucent bag

Please note: Recycling placed in solid black or white garbage bags will **not** be accepted, as it cannot be inspected or properly sorted. Residents will receive a note on their bags specifying why their recyclables have not been picked up.

The following items do not belong in your recycling:

Garbage:

- Toilet paper
- Liquids / spittoons (empty contents first, then place in garbage)
- Soiled pizza boxes
- Grease
- Cat litter

Compost:

- Food
- Dirt
- Branches
- Coffee grounds

Important: Items from the above lists placed in recycling will not be picked up.

If you have any questions, please contact Waste Coordinator Tianna Back at 613-575-2250 ext. 1045 or tianna.back@akwesasne.ca.

D & R DISPOSAL	
PICK-UP SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY	RECYCLING
WEDNESDAY	MCA FACILITIES
THURSDAY	TSI SNAIHNE
FRIDAY	KAWEHNO:KE
SATURDAY	KANA:TAKON

CONTACT D&R DISPOSAL: 613-932-4588

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

MAINTENANCE PROGRAM: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1022
 HOUSING: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1056
 ENVIRONMENT: 613-575-2250 EXT. 1038
 ROADS DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISPATCH: 613-575-2340 OR 613-938-5476
 WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EMERGENCY: 613-575-2000
 AFTER HOURS PAGER: 518-404-3352
 OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM-4PM 613-933-4924
 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (GARBAGE AND RECYCLING): 613-575-2250 ext. 1045

ADMINISTRATION:
 613-575-2250 ext. 1003

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

ROOTED IN NATURE: WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2026

Families gathered with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environment Program and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority at the Cooper Marsh Conservation Area to celebrate World Wetlands Day!

The event offered opportunities for all ages to learn, explore, and connect with the wetlands through hands-on experiences. The event offered opportunities for all ages to learn, explore, and connect with the wetlands through hands-on experiences.

Despite the cold weather, the day was filled with meaningful outdoor activities, including guided snowshoe tours, interactive displays by local environmental organizations, log pounding demonstrations, wetland-themed prizes, and a children's nature photography contest.

Native North American Traveling College shared cultural teachings through atlatl spear-throwing demonstrations, adding an important element of traditional knowledge to the celebration. The day concluded with a warm and nourishing traditional meal of corn soup, fry bread, and strawberry drink, enjoyed together in community.

Nia:wen to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, and energy to make this World Wetlands Day celebration a success.



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

-  613-575-2250 ext. 1038
-  613-938-6760 (Fax)
-  www.facebook.com/mca.environment

Contact Us!



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

A SPECIAL VISIT FROM AMPS AT THE KANA:TAKON CHILD CARE CENTER

A couple of our Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) officers recently stopped in for a special visit at the Kana:takon Child Care Center! As part of the children's learning about our community first responders, AMPS was invited for a friendly and engaging visit.

The little ones gave a warm welcome to Community Service Officer Nathan Thompson, along with Constable Noah Ross and Constable Justin Boots. The visit was filled with smiles, laughter, and meaningful moments as the children had the opportunity to hang out with AMPS

for the morning and even experience the lights and sirens up close.

Nia:wen to the staff and little ones at the Kana:takon Child Care Center for welcoming our AMPS officers. AMPS remains committed to staying engaged with the community, especially with our youngest members. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service looks forward to continuing to build positive connections and taking part in meaningful community opportunities whenever possible.




**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.



**LEVEL UP
YOUR POLICE
CAREER
WITH
AMPS.**

WWW.JOINAMPS.CA





WE ARE HIRING

Join our Team!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

www.akwesasne.ca/employment



DOH Sector 2 | Community Health Services presents:



Senior Fitness

Stay active, strong, and social with our senior fitness class!

Join Ally for a fun, low-impact workout designed to improve balance, flexibility, and overall wellness. Whether you're new to exercise or looking to maintain your fitness, this class offers a supportive and encouraging environment for all ability levels.

Move at your own pace, connect with others, and feel great—body and mind!



Every Tuesday (11 am-12 pm)



Tri-District Elders Lodge

For more information about the class, please contact Certified Senior Fitness Instructor Allyson Lamesse:



(613) 575-2341 ext. 3223

Kanohkwat'sheri:io Health Facility

**OPEN TO
SENIORS
55+**

