

# ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 5

FREE

Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2026

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## EXPLORING FUTURES: STUDENTS CONNECT, LEARN, AND DISCOVER AT CAREER FAIR



On April 15, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe hosted the Indigenous Student Career Fair at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, welcoming students from across the region for a day of exploration and connection. Read more on page 3.

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS

May 11, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.

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

Akwesasne Child Rights & Responsibilities Law | Eniethihswanón:na

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS

May 21, 2026 · 5:30 p.m.

Kana:takon Recreation Center

June 8, 2026 · 5:30 p.m.

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

**MOHAWK  
COUNCIL OF  
AKWESASNE  
2024-2027**

**Grand Chief**  
Leonard Lazore

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

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

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

**Administration**  
Shannon Roundpoint  
Executive Director

Donna Lahache  
Director  
Akwesasne Mohawk  
Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell  
A/Director  
Dept. of Communications

Jaime Beechey  
Director  
Dept. of Community  
& Social Services

Kylee Tarbell  
Director  
Dept. of Economic  
Development

Heather Phillips  
Director  
Dept. of Finance &  
Administration

Tessa Jocko  
Director  
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau  
Director  
Dept. of Infrastructure,  
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday  
Director  
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiostha Swamp  
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](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.

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

- 1 All AMBE families are welcome to attend the upcoming AMBE Cultural Celebration at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena! Join us on May 21, 2026 (Childcare - Grade 3) and May 28, 2026 (Grade 4 - Grade 8) for a day of traditional songs, dance and tons of fun.
- 2 The MCA Human Resources Program is currently accepting applications from High School students for Summer Student Employment. Akwesasró:non students must be ages 14-29 and returning to school in the fall. Registration deadline for High School Students is Friday, May 29, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please visit page 13.
- 3 The Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law Working Task Group invites community members to participate in upcoming Community Consultations being held in each district. Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. More information available on page 15.
- 4 Need to renew or replace your status card? Contact the MCA Office of Vital Statistics office to make an appointment by calling 613-575-2250 ext. 1013 or email [ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca](mailto:ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca). Walk-ins will not be permitted. Check out page 17 for ID requirements and payment information.
- 5 Join the MCA Special Needs Program and Jordan's Principle Program for this years Bear Witness Day event on Friday, May 8. This family-friendly event will be taking place at the Snye Recreation Center from 4:00-7:00 p.m. with various activities from face painting, petting zoo and more! View the flyer on the back page for more information. We hope to see you there!

**NEWS**

**EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES: STUDENTS ATTEND MCA & SRMT CAREER FAIR**

On April 15, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe welcomed students from across the region to the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena for the Indigenous Student Career Fair, a day filled with exploration, connection, and opportunity.

With close to 90 exhibitor tables, students in Grades 7-12 and post-secondary from Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education, Cornwall, Massena, Salmon River, and homeschooling communities had the opportunity to connect directly with professionals from a wide range of fields, from health, human resources, and environment to communications, emergency response, radio broadcasting, and more. Through hands-on conversations and interactive experiences,

students explored career paths, discovered new interests, and learned about opportunities within and beyond the community.

Through the Career Passport activity, students engaged with exhibitors throughout the day for a chance to win prizes, including laptops, iPads, headphones, Cineplex certificates, Stanley gear, and more.

Nia:wen to all of the organizations, partners, and volunteers who helped make today a success, and a special thank you to Sip & Scoop Canada for providing refreshments to attendees and staff.

This event was a strong reminder of the bright futures ahead and the many paths available to get there.



# NEWS

## RECOGNIZING ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE ACROSS MCA & AMBE

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, we recognized and celebrated the many individuals across the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk Board of Education who keep our departments and programs running smoothly each day.

From welcoming community members and supporting staff, to coordinating schedules, managing communications, and keeping our offices organized — our administrative professionals are at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication, attention to detail,

and steady support help ensure our programs and services continue to serve the community effectively.

As a small token of appreciation, flowers were delivered throughout the day in recognition of the important role these individuals play across our departments.

Nia:wen to all administrative assistants, executive assistants, receptionists, and support staff for the work you do each day. Your contributions do not go unnoticed!



# NEWS

## OMBUDSMAN SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH SALMON RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Support is available for students and families through the Ombudsman at the Salmon River Central School District (SRCSD).

Families from Akwesasne with children attending Salmon River Central School (including St. Regis Mohawk School) may access the Ombudsman for support in addressing concerns and assisting with the resolution of student or family-related issues within the school system.

The Ombudsman serves as a community liaison within SRCSD and works collaboratively with students, families, and school staff to help resolve concerns. This role uses

conflict resolution practices and proactive approaches to support positive outcomes, with attention to cultural, social, and emotional considerations.

For families or individuals seeking support within the Salmon River Central School District, please contact:

Breanne Herne, Ombudsman  
Phone: 518-358-6686  
Email: [bherne@srk12.org](mailto:bherne@srk12.org)

For more information, please visit: [www.srk12.org/about-us/ombudsman/](http://www.srk12.org/about-us/ombudsman/)

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR CERB AND EI LETTERS RECEIVED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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

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

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

Community members who receive correspondence related to this issue are encouraged not to disre-

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

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

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

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

For EI-related inquiries, please contact:  
Dan Garrow | 613-575-2626  
Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services  
Nia:wen for your cooperation.

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## MCA WELCOMES RACHEL LAZARE INTO POLITICAL ADVISOR ROLE



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is pleased to share that Rachel Lazare has been hired to the role of Political Advisor, a newly established position within Mohawk Government that will support Council in advancing its priorities and strengthening intergovernmental relations.

Rachel brings many years of experience with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, having previously worked within the Department of Economic Development in various roles and within the Nation Building Program (Entewatathá:wi) as a Project Manager and Policy Analyst. In these roles, she supported key initiatives, coordinated complex projects, and contributed to the development of governance documents, policies, and strategic communications.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration & Governance from Toronto Metropolitan University

and has completed several additional certifications, including an Indigenous Public Policy and Administration Graduate Diploma from Carleton University and Business Executive Education through Harvard Business School, along with further training in public administration and community economic development.

Rachel also previously served as a District Chief for Kana:takon, where she contributed to governance priorities, policy development, and community decision-making. In addition, she has held leadership roles on several boards and committees.

Throughout her career, Rachel has built strong working relationships with federal and provincial partners and has played a key role in advancing Council priorities through collaboration and informed engagement.

Her experience, leadership, and strong understanding of Akwesasne make her well-suited for this role.

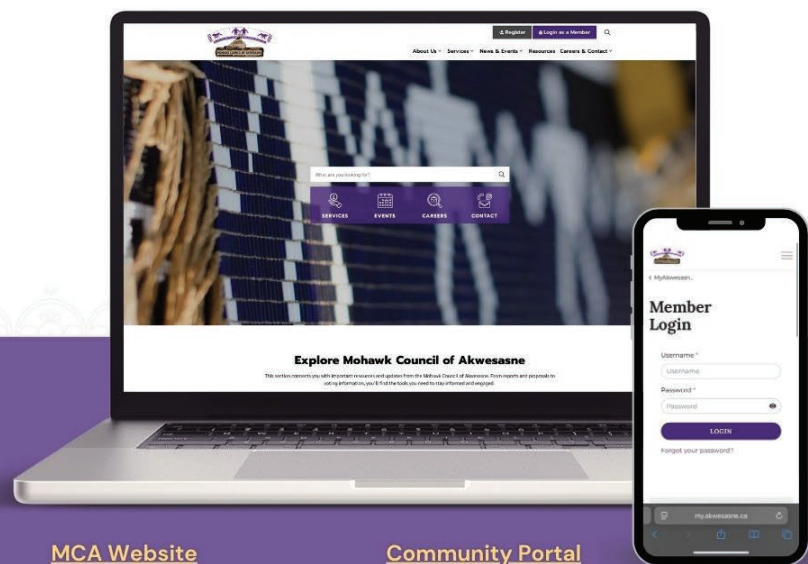
Please join us in congratulating Rachel on her new position!

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

# COMMUNITY PORTAL

*Sign up today!*

The MCA Negotiations with Canada for Nutfield Tract Survey Claim notice is now accessible on the MCA Community Portal!



MCA Website  
WWW.AKWESASNE.CA

Community Portal  
MY.AKWESASNE.CA

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



### Enniskó:wa/March 16, 2026

- Grand Chief gave an update.
- Government Secretariat Portfolio gave an update.
- Justice Portfolio gave an update.

#### Discussion Items:

- Nutfield Tract

**MCRs:** Permit – Lot 29-1-2 Cornwall Island; Department of Health Advisory Health Board 2026; Amendment to the First Nations Officer Fund Agreement; DFA Updating Akwesasne Settlement Trust – BMO Bank of Montreal Signing Authorities; DFA Updating Tsionkwanonso:te Resident Trust – BMO Bank of Montreal Signing Authorities; Approval of Trust Administration Services Agreement with Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and Appointment of First Administrator of the Tsikaristisere Trust; DFA Updating BMO Bank of Montreal Signing Authorities Canadian Bank Account

### Enniskó:wa/March 23, 2026

- Executive Director gave an update.
- Grand Chief gave an update.
- Finance Committee gave an update.

#### Discussion Items:

- HAVFD Tax Exemption Need for Canadian Purchases
- MCR Sponsors

**MCRs:** Designation of Researcher on Behalf of MCA; DCSS Coaches Sponsorship of LNHL 2026; DFA Updating Caisse Populaire Signing Authorities; Akwesasne Election Law January 31, 2026 Referendum Results; DFA – Updating BMO Signing Authorities US Bank Account; DFA Updating lakhihsotha Resident Trust – BMO Signing Authorities; 2026-2027 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Operating Budget

### Enniskó:wa/March 30, 2026

- Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Grand Chief gave an update.
- Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment gave an update.
- Economic Development Portfolio gave an update.

#### Discussion Items:

- Minor Lacrosse
- DCSS Death Benefits
- Fishbear Studios

- Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder
- Letter Received from Elders
- Hydro Pole at Whoville
- Timeline for Live Council Meeting
- Focus Meetings
- G. Thompson Letter
- MCR Process
- ID Requirement
- Homemakers Follow up
- Special General Meeting

#### Presentation:

- Telus Health AdjudiCare by Department of Health

**MCRs:** Entewatatha:wi (Nation Building) Revised Organization Chart; Contract Renewal 2026-2027; Courtworker and Gladue Writer Services for Quebec 2025-2026; From Our Roots to Our Responsibilities: Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Akwesasne; One Time Stabilization 2024-2025; Akwesasne Community Safety Officers Project 2025-2028; Amendment to AEDF/IIF Funding Cap; Indigenous Initiatives Fund (IIF IV); Indigenous Initiatives Fund (IIF IV); Multi Sector Service Accountability Agreement (MSAA); Relinquishment; Indigenous Support Capacity Program – St. Lawrence Regional Impact Assessment – Amendment; Purchase of Land, Home and Garage for AMBE Early Years; Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Grant; MCA Water and Wastewater Operators Salary Compensation Policy and Salary Grid Version 3

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) 🔍

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF SCOTT PETERS UPDATES



### Portfolios:

Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO), Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment, Nation Building, Dept. of Public Safety, Economic Development

### Committees & External Committees:

Akwesko:wa/Port Divesture, Hydro Quebec, CBSA, Iroquois Caucus

She:kon sewakekon, I hope all is well with you and your families today and that you are ready to put your gardens in soon with the Spring season upon us. It has been a long winter, and the warm weather is on its way. The past year has been quite the learning experience and has shown how much has been done to get Akwesasne where we are today and the work that is needed for Akwesasne to continue to improve and be a guiding light for other Onkwehonwe communities. It's an honor to learn and work with the portfolios that I have selected. Advocating for these portfolios I represent in any capacity has shown the hard work put in by the entire staff. It has also been a learning process for me when it comes to negotiating and speaking with federal officials. However, it has been a good transition, as I have had guidance from past chiefs, community members and coworkers. From the technicians to the directors, the planning and foresight to improve the community has always been number one.

The next year will have us busy with advocating for improvements to infrastructure such as new fire halls, schools, health services and other buildings. This year also has negotiations with Canada for the Seaway Claim, Nutfield Tract Survey Claim and Entewatathá:wi Self-

Government Agreement to name a few. Stay tuned for community updates and consultations on these issues. Public Safety and border issues continue to be on the forefront as well and discussions are ongoing to have the two Akwesasne Police forces be able to work collaboratively across the imaginary border to respond when required. The purchase of land of the reservation is also being investigated in the Cornwall area. This could make it possible for off reserve funding initiatives. MCA is also looking into potential economic generators such as shipping and trucking.

After my first year and a half experience, I look forward to the next year and a half and projects that will be started as well as assisting community members. There have been many issues that have come up and that we are continuing to work on and progress can be slow; just know we are doing our best to improve and change for the better when it's needed. We look forward to working with neighboring communities as well to build relationships that will benefit all. We look forward to using the trade agreements we have with Nations from all over once we get going. We look forward to protecting and enhancing the environment in and around the community, in addition to enhancing the health and safety of the community. It has been and continues to be a privilege and honor to work for Akwesasne. Your support and guidance as community members is always welcome and greatly appreciated. Now please bear with me as I go through my portfolios. Nia:wen.

### PORTFOLIOS

**Economic Development** — In 2025, the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena celebrated their 30th Anniversary with an event held on August 30, 2025. There was a commemoration plaque placed at the arena for the Late Jay Benedict who was an instrumental part of the entire arena project when it began. The day also had a parade of athletes, speeches by Lacrosse Hall of Fame members, gaming trailer and carnival events, where I participated in the dunking booth, and everyone had fun dunking me. The Economic Development staff has also been working on establishing a corporation which would be used to generate income for MCA. I sit on the board, and the entire process is new to me. It has been fun learning about corporations and how to run them properly which has lead

to many nights of reading and watching videos. The Department of Economic Development has also been meeting with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission located in Long Sault, Ontario. We are now looking at potential projects for local Akwesasne contractors to bid on as some of the park infrastructure requires renovations. Economic Development has been involved with giving advice on the trade agreement signed within the Iroquois Caucus. This agreement strengthens trade between the Haudenosaunee communities in Ontario, Quebec and the Blackfoot Nation of Southern Alberta. Thompson Island Cultural Camp continues to grow, and the cultural programming offered is a highlight for all that visit. The camp has always been a great asset for the community from its beginnings to now.

**Public Safety** — Public Safety is a very interesting area to work in around Akwesasne as many of us can attest. Any first responder in the fields of fire, police, ambulance require three to give certifications. Nia:wen to those that service our communities in any of these fields. This past year Council has met with Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Sathiyasangaree "Gary" Anandasangaree to discuss local border issues. One of the big topics that has come up in our discussions has been allowing the United States Border Patrol to access the St. Regis River via the St. Lawrence River around St. Regis point. The MCA stance has always been no. The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services (AMPS) offered to patrol more and as required rather than to have an outside entity onto the reservation. We continue to talk with the Minister on this topic. AMPS continues to host their Community Skén:nen Meal Gathering sessions monthly, as a way for the community to meet the officers and staff. The sessions have been well attended, and feedback has been positive so be on the lookout for more dates to come. The Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) has been on our agenda with the big item of getting a new fire station for Tsi Snaihne. The HAVFD and AMPS were able to purchase equipment such as aerial drones and amphibious vehicles to help with search and rescue when required. The HAVFD was also able to put on a drone workshop for local youth that taught them the rules and regulations to flying drones. At the end of the workshop each youth was able to bring home their own drone, and the workshop was a success. HAVFD had

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF SCOTT PETERS UPDATES

such an overwhelming response from youth that wanted to take part that more workshops will be put on to include all youth that had applied.

**Nation Building** — Nation Building, Entewatathá:wi has been negotiating with Canada for the Self-Government Agreement for many years now. The agreement could be ready in the next year or two and would take MCA out of some parts of the Indian Act, but this would not be final until the community votes on it. Nation Building has conducted community surveys to gauge what the community knows about the Self-Government Agreement and found that more information sessions will be required and are being planned. The agreement would give more control to MCA over areas such as lands, laws, etc., and would continue to hold Canada to its financial obligations to the community. This is another one of the topics where I had an interest in and continue to learn more than expected. Look out for more information sessions on this topic. This is something that needs to be done carefully as it will impact generations to come.

**Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE)** — Infrastructure projects are moving along with roads being fixed. Along with that, new projects are being discussed which would include channel cleaning within marshes and swamps to remediate flooding and some invasive species removal. Many of the channels where streams and creeks flowed freely are now overrun by plants such as Phragmites. Of course, the beavers damming up some of the streams is also an issue. When it comes to the Environment Program at MCA, things are growing, staff wise. It is a big improvement to have the staff grow so fast. The work the team is doing on the waters has been improved with having more hands available. More work in the fields and forestry areas is also in the works and this would include the animals and plants as well. The Environmental Assessment program is keeping busy as well with looking at major projects on and off reserve. One of the bigger projects off reserve being worked on is the St. Lawrence River Regional Assessment, which is looking at impacts of economic, social, environment, etc. on the entire St. Lawrence River within Quebec. This is a new project, and we will update you as things progress. Housing assessments are also being completed with three rent-to-own units to be constructed along

with 15 rental units on Hawthorne Road. Housing is also in the process of funding more homes for upgrades over the next few years. Housing recently did a call out for community members to apply for the overcrowding program, and the home repair program will be continuing from the call out completed last year. A number of applicants will be selected with an end goal to help all those that apply.

**Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO)** — ARRO has been very busy this past year from various topics that will all impact the rights of Kanien'keha:ka. The program has been working on Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) issue that has been impacting all Canadian Born Onkwehonwe that want to apply to post-secondary education in the United States. Students are required to fill out a creation of record form a green card to apply for school funding which Akwesasne does not agree with. We are not immigrants to Canada or the United States; they are immigrants in our lands. ARRO has also been working with projects outside the community when projects within Akwesasne territory are impacted. ARRO works with outside agencies to inform them of our rights and their projects and ensures our concerns are heard and implemented. ARRO has been busy keeping up with land claims on both sides of the border and has ensured that the community concerns are being met. Currently the Nutfield Tract Survey Claim and Seaway damages negotiations are being worked. ARRO has also been involved with Parks Canada in Ontario and Quebec. The repatriation of artifacts and remains has taken place in Quebec and this has led to new contacts with other nations, which has led to meeting and discussions. Two things I was able to take part in the was the repatriation of artifacts from the Vatican the reburials of artifacts and remains at Fort Coteau-du-Lac, QC. This was impactful and humbling to be part of as the past had come home in the ways of being returned from across the ocean and the others were being returned to their final resting spot. ARRO is currently with the museum of Natural History in Ottawa, ON to repatriate items that were taken as well. ARRO has also been instrumental in hosting cultural awareness training for Canada Border Services Agency as well as other outside agencies that are interested. There will be community information sessions and consultations coming up regarding land claims, so keep your eyes and ears open

and attend.

### COMMITTEES

**Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Group** — I have been with this working group for the past year, and it has been interesting to learn how the Haudenosaunee communities work together and the issues we have which seem to be common. The main issue we are working on is harvesting rights within Canada and how Canada is enforcing their laws on Onkwehonwe without consultation from Onkwehonwe. We are in the process of setting meetings with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Quebec's Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks managers of Conservation Officers and Ministers.

**Housing Authority** — I am new to this committee, and it is exciting to see what goes on in this aspect of the work and how some decisions are made. I have attended several meetings, and we have been able to help community members with some issues. I look forward to a productive time on this Committee.

**Police Commission** — The police commission has been working on its Charter, and I have been learning about Council's role with the commission. So far, I have attended meetings and have been able to voice community concerns and issues as they arise.

To recap, it has been a demanding but productive year with new ways of learning and adapting; sort of the ying and yang if you will. I am learning and adapting. I understand that there are still issues within MCA, as an example staff and community issues, that will take longer to deal with and I would like to say again, we are working on it. Politically we are also working with government agencies to protect the rights and interests of Akwesasne. The political climate on both sides of the border has affected the community and poses new ways of dealing with issues locally and internationally. MCA leadership is doing their best to continue to guide the community in a way to progress, and the successes of MCA come from the people's guidance. I thank you again for your support and all the help the community has given so far in my work. The future is bright, the community is strong and I hope to see us grow and prosper together. Sken:nen akenhak.

# MCA KIND WORDS & KUDOS

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



**Jessica Shenandoah**

Department of Economic Development | Thompson Island Cultural Camp

"Jessica Shenandoah has been doing a wonderful job with her programming, as well as offering additional classes and sharing information on her own time. Her efforts to promote and share our culture, along with the unique classes she provides, are truly appreciated."

**Mary Faye Roundpoint**

Department of Health | Sector 5: Continuing Care Services • lakhihsotha Lodge

"Mary Faye bring smiles to happiness for the Totas of Akwesasne by bringing the joy of music to them. She brings the biggest, brightest smiles out of the elders here by putting on her monthly karaoke for the Totas. As someone who has sang for these events before at lakhihsotha Lodge, seeing the smiles and nostalgia engulf their faces and glow like a fountain of youth encompassed in the form of music. By Mary Faye recognizing that music is the greatest time machine, as it takes the Totas back to a time, place and memory, regardless of their mental inhabitations or diagnoses. Mary truly is an asset and should be celebrated for the smiles she puts on our Totas faces without the recognition and love she deserves for it."



**FOLLOW US ON**  
**YOUTUBE**  
**@MCAKWESASNE**

**CHECK OUT THE LATEST VIDEO:  
 INDIGENOUS STUDENT CAREER FAIR**

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

NPATL \_\_\_\_\_

APTL \_\_\_\_\_

PIGSRN \_\_\_\_\_

DUALGYB \_\_\_\_\_

RTBFUYTEL \_\_\_\_\_

EEDS \_\_\_\_\_

LADYBUG PETAL      SEED PLANT      SPRING BUTTERFLY

**I Spy Spring!**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**TRACE THE BUTTERFLY**

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

Why did the banana go to the doctor?  
 Because it wasn't peeling well!

What do you call these that isn't yours?  
 Nacho cheese!

Why don't eggs tell jokes?  
 They'd crack each other up.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## PAST MCA SUMMER STUDENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Every summer job holds the potential for something more. In this series, we're highlighting Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) employees who began as summer students, showing Akwesasró:non youth how early opportunities can grow into meaningful careers. Students interested in joining a supportive and inspiring organization are encouraged to sign up for MCA's summer student applica-

tions that are now open! We spotlight Leah Mitchell, whose work at Tsiionkwanonhsote Long-Term Care Home supports the well-being of elders while helping guide the day-to-day operations of the Home.

Leah Mitchell is the Acting Assistant Administrator at Tsiionkwanonhsote Long-Term Care Home within the Department of Health. In her role, she assists with the overall management of the Home, working with departments across the organization to help meet long-term care standards and support daily operations. She also works closely with department heads to troubleshoot challenges and connect staff with the resources they need to succeed. One of the most rewarding parts of her role is getting to

know the residents, learning about their personalities, their likes and dislikes, and the stories and history they carry.

Leah's journey with MCA began as a summer student throughout high school and post-secondary, where she gained experience working in several departments, including Mohawk Government, Finance, Economic Development, Office of Vital Statistics, and Community Health. These experiences helped her develop important skills such as teamwork, communication, and time management, while giving her a better understanding of how different areas of the organization work together. She studied Advanced Business Administration with a focus on accounting and originally planned to work in finance but soon found herself drawn to the health field. She began her career as an administrative assistant before moving into supervisory and program management roles, eventually becoming the Acting Assistant Administrator. She has also completed the required 100 hours of Long-Term Care Administrator training in Ontario.

To youth interested in this field, Leah encourages building strong communication and teamwork skills and spending time with elders to learn from their experiences. She shares that it's okay not to have everything figured out right away. Trying new things, asking questions, and learning along the way are all part of the journey. For those considering a future with MCA, she says the organization offers opportunities to grow, gain valuable experience, and build a meaningful career while giving back to the community.



Our next spotlight features Andrew Francis, whose path from summer student to Associate Director reflects how curiosity, dedication, and a willingness to learn can lead to a meaningful career serving the community.

Andrew serves as the Associate Director for the Information Services program within the Department of Finance and Administration. His role focuses

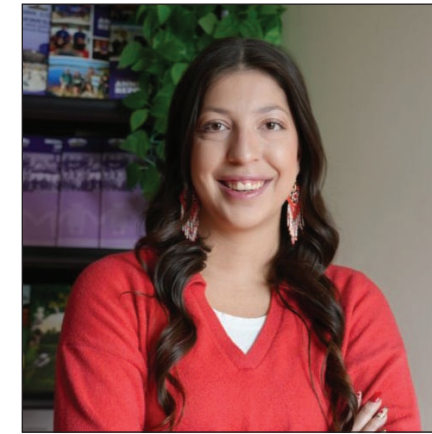
on overseeing the secure and reliable operation of technology systems and services across the organization. On a daily basis, he monitors IT operations, responds to urgent issues, safeguards organizational data and infrastructure, and works closely with senior management to ensure technology services align with organizational priorities. He also leads Information Services staff by assigning work, supporting performance, and ensuring team members have the resources and training needed to meet operational demands.

Andrew's connection to MCA began as a summer student in Information Services during the summers of 2006, 2007, and 2008, where he worked as a junior hardware technician trainee. Those early experiences exposed him to how the organization operates and how services are delivered to the community, helping him build confidence, technical skills, and a strong sense of responsibility. Although his bachelor's degree was not in the IT field, he developed his knowledge through hands-on experience, mentorship, and continuous learning. After graduating from university, he had an internship lined up with Information Services to continue building a career grounded in giving back to the community that supported him.

To Akwesasne youth, Andrew encourages staying curious, being willing to learn, and not being afraid to start at the beginning. He reminds youth that strong communication, teamwork, respect, and reliability are just as important as technical skills, and that almost everything is figure-out-able with patience and persistence. His journey highlights how summer student opportunities can shape long-term careers, offering youth the chance to grow professionally while contributing to the community. Andrew believes MCA provides a strong environment for youth to build skills, explore career paths, and develop into future leaders.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## PAST SUMMER STUDENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Waheson Lazore is a Communications Officer whose path shows how curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to learn can grow into a role that keeps the community informed and connected. Summer student applications are now open for those interested in being part of a supportive and inspiring workplace!

Waheson works in the Department of Communications, where no two days look the same. She manages incoming inquiries and works on a wide range of tasks, including writing and editing flyers, social media posts, press releases, and presentations, as well as updating the MCA website and supporting events with audio/visual setup. In an organization with nearly 1,000 employees, she stays busy sharing information, supporting projects, and helping ensure communication flows smoothly across departments and out into the community. What she enjoys most is being able to highlight the programs, services, and people that make a difference in Akwesasne, while continuing to learn more about the community along the way.

Her career journey with MCA began in 2015 as a summer stu-

dent in the Communications Unit, but her work experience started even earlier in roles like maintenance at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center and as a summer program counselor with Akwesasne Child & Family Services. These experiences helped build a strong work ethic and communication skills across different audiences. After returning as a summer student in 2016, Waheson gained hands-on experience in writing, website development, and event coverage, which laid the foundation for her career. She later became a full-time employee after completing her Bachelor of Science in Public Relations at SUNY Plattsburgh in 2017, where she also studied Journalism and Marketing and even took part in a study abroad program in London, England.

Waheson encourages youth to stay curious, be open-minded, and mindful of their well-being. She stresses that communication is more than just writing – it's about listening, understanding people, and sharing information in a clear and meaningful way. "Every conversation, post, or project is a chance to learn, connect, and make an impact," she shares. She also highlights the importance of self-care and maintaining balance, especially in high-energy or fast-paced work environments like communications. For Waheson, working at MCA is about giving back to the community while continuing to grow, and she hopes more youth will take that first step through summer student opportunities.

## APPLY TODAY! MCA SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Human Resources Program is currently accepting applications for Summer Student Employment! This is a great opportunity to gain valuable work experience, build your resume, and contribute to your community this summer.

### Who Can Apply:

- Students ages 14–29
- Open to all Akwesasró:non students returning to school in the fall
- Both full-time and part-time positions available

### How To Apply:

All interested students must complete a summer employment application through the MCA Career Centre, which can be accessed through

[www.akwesasne.ca/careers](http://www.akwesasne.ca/careers).

### Deadline:

High School Students: May 29, 2026  
(Placement: July–August)

*Deadline for Post-Secondary students has passed (April 17)*

### Additional Information:

- Interviews are required for all high school applicants

Explore summer opportunities with MCA and kickstart your summer with hands-on experience, new skills, and a chance to grow personally and professionally!

For questions, contact MCA Human Resources at [student@akwesasne.ca](mailto:student@akwesasne.ca) or 613-575-2250.

# AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR AMS AT BOSTON PIZZA FUNDRAISER

On Monday, April 13, 2026, staff and students from the Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk School (AMS) brought great energy and big smiles to their annual fundraiser at Boston Pizza. Serving up delicious meals, AMS helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who came out to support.

The evening was filled with community spirit, as stu-

dents, staff, families, and friends packed the dining room in support of AMS. It was truly heartwarming to see so familiar faces come together for a great cause.

Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who joined us and made the night so special! We are grateful for your support, and excited that a portion of the proceeds from all AMS service sections will go right back to supporting the school.



## CREATIVITY AND CULTURE SHINE FOR AMBE GRADE 8 GRADUATES

As graduation approaches, Grade 8 students from Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk School and Tsi Snaihne School have been preparing in a meaningful and creative way.

The Grade 8 girls dedicated time and care to sewing their own custom ribbon skirts from start to finish. Beautiful and colorful pieces they will proudly wear as they walk across the stage this June.

At the same time, the male students work alongside Two-House Designs, who guided them through the

process of creating their own rattles and kastowas. From carving rattles to crafting personalized kastowas, the experience provided a hands-on opportunity to strengthen cultural knowledge and carry forward important traditions.

Niawenhkó:wa to the AMBE Mohawk Language & Culture Program for facilitating these workshops and supporting the 2026 graduating class on this special journey.



# AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVITED TO CONSULTATION SESSIONS ON THE CHILD RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES LAW, ENIETHIHSWANÓN:NA

The Child Rights and Responsibilities Law, Eniethihswanón:na, Working Task Group (WTG) invites community members to participate in upcoming Community Consultation Sessions being held in each District.

These sessions are part of Phase III of the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR) and provide an opportunity for community members to share their comments, questions, and concerns regarding the current draft of the law.

### UPCOMING CONSULTATION SESSIONS:

**May 21 – Kaná:takon District**  
Kaná:takon Recreation Center | 5:30 p.m.

**June 8 – Kawehnò:ke District**  
AMBE Building Blocks (191 Rita Lane, Kawehno:ke) | 5:30 p.m.

In addition to these meetings, the WTG will continue outreach through local events, schools, Senior Centers, and other community spaces to ensure voices from all

age groups and all areas of Akwesasne are heard.

Once the final consultation session is scheduled, a deadline for submitting comments will be announced, with a minimum of four weeks' notice.

Copies of the draft Child Rights and Responsibilities Law (Eniethihswanón:na) are available:

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

For questions or additional information, please contact:  
Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager  
Email: [alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca)  
Phone: 613-575-5000

Emily King, Legislative Researcher  
Email: [emily.king@akwesasne.ca](mailto:emily.king@akwesasne.ca)  
Phone: 613-575-5000

Akwesasne Child Rights & Responsibilities Law | Eniethihswanón:na

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS**

Copies of the draft law are available upon request:

- In person
- By email
- By mail
- By delivery

**MONDAY, APRIL 27 • 5:30 PM**  
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

**THURSDAY, MAY 21 • 5:30 PM**  
Kana:takon Recreation Center

**MONDAY, JUNE 8 • 5:30 PM**  
AMBE Building Blocks  
(191 Rita Lane, Kawehno:ke)

For more information, contact the Akwesasne Justice Department at 613-575-5000.

# AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

## OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS AND UPDATES

The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC) plays a vital role in guiding the development of Akwesasne laws by overseeing the legislative process and incorporating input from both Council and the community. This work helps ensure that legislation reflects and balances the diverse perspectives within Akwesasne, while providing clear direction and support throughout each stage of law making. Currently, the OSC oversees the development of three laws that are either newly drafted or being amended and are at various phases of the Akwesasne Legislative Procedural Regulation (ALEPR).

### FIRE SAFETY LAW

The Fire Safety Law is still in the early stages of Phase I of the ALEPR. During this phase, the Working Task Group (WTG) is inviting community members to share their thoughts and written comments on what is needed to support the development of this important law. Community input is essential to helping ensure the safety and well being of everyone in Akwesasne. Written comments can be submitted by May 29, 2026, to [alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca) or [emily.king@akwesasne.ca](mailto:emily.king@akwesasne.ca).

### AKWESASNE RESIDENCY LAW

The Akwesasne Residency Law WTG has resumed bi weekly meetings and is focusing on amendments identified through community feedback. As the group incorporates new ideas and refines areas of concern, a consistent process has taken shape. With guidance from Legal Council and support from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) on enforcement matters, the WTG anticipates releasing a draft for community review in the near future.

### AKWESASNE CHILD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LAW (ACRRL)

The Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law (ACRRL), or Enienthihswanón:na, has been accepted in principle by Council, allowing the Working Task Group (WTG) to proceed to Phase III: Community Consulta-

tion. During this phase, community members will be informed about the law and invited to share their feedback and guidance. To begin community engagement efforts, the WTG has scheduled Community Consultation Sessions in each district of Akwesasne. Additional information sessions will continue into the fall, providing opportunities for community members to learn more about the law and share their views with the WTG responsible for its development.

### COMPLETE: AKWESASNE ELECTION LAW

On March 23, 2026, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne officially approved MCR 2025–2026 #394, confirming the results of the January 31, 2026, community referendum. In that vote, members approved changes to section 16.2(a) of the Akwesasne Election Law. Following Council's approval, the Registrar for the Kaiahnehronsehra lehiontakwa (Akwesasne Law Registry) finalized the process by officially recording the updated law in the registry.

The Kaiahnehronsehra lehiontakwa is the official law registry for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. It serves as the central repository for all laws enacted under MCA's jurisdiction and provides a formal process for the registration of Akwesasne laws. To access the registry, visit: [www.akwesasne.ca/about-us/law-registry/](http://www.akwesasne.ca/about-us/law-registry/).

If you have any questions, the OSC Community District Representatives may be contacted as follows:

#### District of Kaná:takon:

Dr. Doris Cook | [kanestenhawi@yahoo.com](mailto:kanestenhawi@yahoo.com)

#### District of Tsi Snaíhne:

Theresa Benedict | [theresa.benedict@akwesasne.ca](mailto:theresa.benedict@akwesasne.ca)

#### District of Kawehnò:ke:

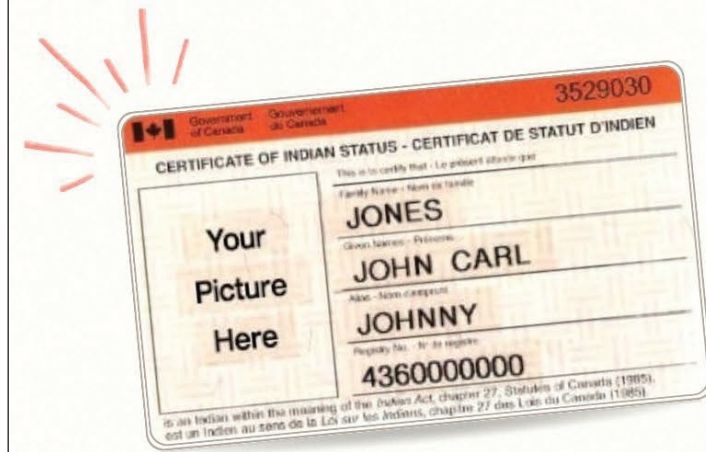
Gary Cole | [gary.cole@akwesasne.ca](mailto:gary.cole@akwesasne.ca)

For general inquiries, you may also contact the Legislative Services Manager Alyson Thompson by email at [alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca](mailto:alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca).

# OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

## OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

101 Tewesateni Road, Akwesasne, ON



# CONTACT OVS TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO RENEW OR REPLACE YOUR INDIAN STATUS CARD



Phone Number:  
**613-575-2250 EXT. 1013**



Email:  
**OVSCLERK@AKWESASNE.CA**

### PROVIDE VALID ID SUCH AS:

- Passport
- Driver's License
- Health Card
- Birth Certificate
- Student ID with Photo
- Employee ID with Photo
- Firearms License
- Guarantor Form



### Cost:

- \$10 – Replacement for lost card**
- \$5 – Renewal if previous card returned**
- No Fee – Individuals aged 60+**

### Payment Method:

**Cash and EFT accepted**



**APPLICATIONS FOR THE SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS (SCIS) ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. PHOTOS ARE TAKEN USING THE SCIS PHOTO APP FOR INDIVIDUALS ALREADY REGISTERED. PLEASE CALL THE OVS OFFICE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT 613-575-2250 EXT. 1013.**



## OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Services provided by OVS:



**Indian Status**



**Lands**



**Estates**



**Membership/Residency**



**Leasing**



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

Tel: 613-575-2250 ext. 1013  
Email: [ovs.office@akwasasne.ca](mailto:ovs.office@akwasasne.ca)



## Registration under the Indian Act and applying for a status card, what's the difference?

Registration under the Indian Act is not the same as applying for a status card. This infographic helps explain the differences.

### REGISTRATION

### STATUS CARD

REGISTRATION	STATUS CARD
<p><b>?</b></p> <p><b>What is it?</b></p> <p>Your legal status as a person registered under the Indian Act.</p>	<p><b>?</b></p> <p><b>What is it?</b></p> <p>A government-issued identity document that confirms you are registered under the Indian Act.</p>
<p><b>🕒</b></p> <p><b>How long does it take?</b></p> <p>It usually takes less than 6 months to process a complete application for registration under the Indian Act. However, in some cases, it may take up to 2 years or more.</p>	<p><b>🕒</b></p> <p><b>How long does it take?</b></p> <p>Once you are registered under the Indian Act, a laminated status card can be prepared the same day as your appointment at the OVS office.</p>
<p><b>?</b></p> <p><b>How do you register?</b></p> <p>You can apply for registration <b>by mail or in-person</b> at any <b>regional office</b>, or through a <b>trusted source</b>, or your <b>First Nations office</b> if they offer registration services.</p>	<p><b>?</b></p> <p><b>How do you apply?</b></p> <p>You can make an appointment at the Office of Vital Statistics to apply for a laminated Certificate of Indian Status.</p>
<p><b>❌</b></p> <p><b>Does it need to be renewed?</b></p> <p>No. Registration doesn't need to be renewed.</p>	<p><b>✅</b></p> <p><b>Does it need to be renewed?</b></p> <p>A laminated status card needs to be renewed every 5 years for adults and dependent adults and every 3 years for children.</p>
<p><b>💰</b></p> <p><b>Is there a fee?</b></p> <p>There's no fee to apply for registration, but there may be a fee for some required documents, for example, a proof of birth document.</p>	<p><b>💰</b></p> <p><b>Is there a fee?</b></p> <p>There's a fee of <b>\$5.00</b> for the status card which will be waived if you hand in your old status card, and a <b>\$5.00</b> fee for a photo unless you provide your own printed photo. There are no fees for elders aged 60 or above.</p>

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### DOH INTERGRATED SERVICES OFFERS ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

**Are your feet sore from flat arches, high arches, cracked heels, corns or ingrown nails?**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health's Intergrated Services is pleased to offer Advanced Diabetic Nursing Foot Care, provided by Registered Nurses Nathalie Canonne and Sarah Thompson.

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

Our services include advanced foot care for individuals living with diabetes or other high-risk medical conditions, as well as basic foot care for those considered low-risk. We provide treatment for corns, calluses, cracked heels, and ingrown toenails, and can also assist with prescriptions for orthotics.

We are proud to offer Onyfix, a non-surgical treatment for ingrown toenails that can be completed in



as little as 10 minutes.

Stay tuned for future articles featuring foot care topics that will be shared in upcoming issues of Onkwe'ta:ke.

**Let us help you get your feet healthy again.**

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

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES END-OF-LIFE CARE, SERVICES SURVEY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, will be seeking community input to guide the development of respectful, culturally appropriate, and accessible End-of-Life Care Services for community members and their families. DOH will be hosting a series of education sessions throughout the month of May as well as conducting a community survey gauging knowledge and acquiring feedback in regard to End-of-Life services.

The community education sessions will take place

from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the following dates:

**MAY 6:** Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

**MAY 12:** Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

**MAY 22:** Kana:takon Recreation Center

Mental Health Services staff will be on hand for any community who may need support during the education sessions.

For more information, please contact the April Adams-Phillips, Special Projects Officer, at 613-575-2341 ext. 3303.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### CARE & GROWTH WITH DR. RAVEN: SCREEN TIME AND CHILD WELL-BEING

Welcome to our first edition of the MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services monthly segment with our Paediatrician, Dr. Raven! This month, we discuss something EVERY family deals with — screen time and child-well-being.

A recent report from Statistics Canada highlights that children who consistently follow screen time guidelines tend to experience several benefits, including:

- Improved overall health
- Better mental well-being
- Easier, more restful sleep
- Fewer learning and behavioural challenges
- Stronger academic performance

One great tip to managing children's screen times is to create a family media plan, which would set "tech-free" zones (bedrooms, kitchen, etc.) and times (a scheduled time when no screens are to be used). Children mimic adults, so try limiting your own screen usage and prioritize offline, face-to-face interaction.

To enhance sleep quality, try avoiding screens one hour before bed and prioritize high-quality interactive time amongst family.

But, we know it's not always easy — especially when screens are part of school, play, and social life.

Let's use this information as a reminder to balance screen time with active play, family, connection, and healthy routines.

### MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH TRADITIONAL MEDICINES PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Traditional Medicines Program is offering two hands-on mentorship opportunities designed to support learning, land-based knowledge, and connection with medicinal plants, while strengthening relationships with the land, our medicines, and one another.

#### Traditional Medicines Mentorship Program

This land-based mentorship focuses on identifying, harvesting, transplanting, and processing medicinal plants across various environments.

Participants will learn directly on the land, including travel throughout the community, swamps, fields, and forested areas.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS:

- No experience necessary
- Must be comfortable walking in natural environments (swamps, fields, forests)
- Must be willing to travel throughout the community and surrounding areas
- Commitment required: bi-weekly sessions from May–September
- Youth under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

#### Ceremonial Garden Mentorship Program

This mentorship offers participants the opportunity to learn how to grow, tend, and harvest medicinal plants in a ceremonial garden setting. The program supports reciprocity, self-sufficiency, and relationship-building among participants and with the natural world.

Participants will gain hands-on experience working with medicinal plants in a shared garden space.

#### PROGRAM DETAILS:

- No experience necessary
- Must be willing and able to help prepare and maintain the garden
- Commitment required: bi-weekly sessions from May–October
- Youth under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

To register, please submit a letter of intent to: Jasmine Jimerson  
jasmine.jimerson@akwesasne.ca  
613-575-2341 ext. 3116

**Registration Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.**

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT: IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Having up-to-date immunizations helps ensure that children have the best protection possible against certain diseases that can be very serious or even fatal. It also helps reduce the risk of disease outbreaks in schools. The Immunization of School Pupils Act requires parents to provide proof of immunization (or appropriate exemption documents) for certain diseases if their children attend school in Ontario.

Mandatory Immunizations Required to Attend School in Ontario:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (*whooping cough*)
- Polio
- Meningococcal disease (*Men-C-C for children under 12 years old*)
- MMR (*measles, mumps, rubella*)
- Meningococcal disease (*Men-C-ACWY for children 12 years and older*)
- Varicella (*chickenpox*) (*Required for children born in 2010 or later*)

The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) is also required by law to review immunization records and contact parents of children for whom they do not have complete records that are attending schools within their school districts. Students whose records are not complete may be suspended from school until their immunization records are complete. Students with missing immunizations may also be suspended during disease outbreaks.

### EXEMPTIONS

In certain cases, a child may be exempt from immunization

requirements. To obtain an exemption, an official exemption form has to be fully completed and kept on record. It is important to note that children who are exempt from immunization are at increased risk of disease, and may be removed from school during a disease outbreak.

In order to obtain an exemption, individuals need to contact the EOHU. EOHU immunization information can be obtained by scanning the QR code.



### MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

If a child is unable to be immunized for medical reasons, parents may request that a legally qualified health-care provider complete a medical exemption form for the child. Please scan the QR code to obtain a copy of the Statement of Medical Exemption.



Please note that immunization records are not updated immediately after submission by Community Health Services to the EOHU, as they require some administrative time to process and update their records. We appreciate your patience.

In order to be valid, Statements of Conscience or Religious Belief need to be notarized, and the original copy must be given to the EOHU to keep on file.

For any questions, more information, or to schedule an appointment for school-required immunizations, please contact the Community Health Services office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220.

*\*Information courtesy of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit*

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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

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

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

**Land-Based Healing:**  
613-575-2341

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

**Traditional Medicine:**  
613-575-2341 ext. 3100

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

**Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:**  
613-932-5808

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

**Elder Services:**  
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

**Iakhihsohtha Lodge:**  
613-575-2507

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



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## HANDS-ON SURVIVAL SKILLS WORKSHOP: LEARNING FROM THE LAND

From March 28-29, community members came together for a two-day, land-based Survival Skills Workshop led by Angello Johnson of Good Mind Design!

Made possible by the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program, Akwesasró:non learned practical skills to help in emergency situations and changing environmental conditions. From fire-making and shelter-building to plant identification, navigation, and water purification, each session focused on hands-on learning, giving participants the chance to practice and build their skills. Participants left the workshop with a better understanding of survival techniques and a stronger connection to the land.

Nia:wen to Angello Johnson and everyone who contributed to making this workshop possible.



# 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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FROM METAL TO MASTERPIECE JEWELRY MAKING WORKSHOP

In March, Thompson Island Cultural Camp hosted an Introduction to Jewelry Making Workshop, offering participants a hands-on, beginner-friendly experience. Led by instructor Margaret Jacobs, the workshop introduced the fundamentals of jewelry-making using copper and brass.

Participants had the opportunity to learn essential

techniques such as sawing, filing, hammering, forming, and soldering, creating their own unique, hand-made pieces to take home.

Niawenhkó:wa to Thompson Island Cultural Camp for providing Akwesasró:non with this meaningful opportunity to explore their creativity and learn the art of jewelry-making.



**GIRLS SKATE DAY**

**SATURDAY MAY 9 1-5PM**

**HOSTED BY: MELANI & ASHLYNN**

**JOIN US FOR:**  
 > LESSONS > GAMES  
 > PERFORMANCE BY FERYN  
 > PORTRAITS BY JADEN  
 > TIE DYE WORKSHOP BY TIHANNA > MINI RAMP CONTEST > MUSIC BY DJ CRYSTAL > PRIZES > MENTAL HEALTH BREAK > FUN

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

### SPEED INDICATOR SIGN INSTALLED ON KAWEHNO:KE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment – Roads Sector advises the community that a speed indicator sign has been installed on Island Road at Square's Corner in the district of Kawehno:ke. This device is designed to alert drivers to the posted 40 km/h advisory speed through the curve.

The installation comes in response to community concerns regarding vehicles leaving the roadway in this area due to excessive speed. This measure aims to in-

crease driver awareness and reduce the risk of incidents along the curve.

Please note that the speed indicator sign is not a photo radar device and does not issue infractions. Its purpose is to provide real-time feedback to motorists and encourage safer driving.



### DRAINAGE MONITORING DURING SPRING THAW

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment – Roads Sector advises the community that standing water may be present in low-lying ditches due to wet spring weather, winter melt runoff, and a high groundwater table.

Residents are encouraged to remain attentive to changing drainage conditions during the spring thaw and to regularly monitor low-lying areas near roads, ditches, and culverts. While some standing water is typical for this time of year, residents are asked to report any unusual or worsening conditions, including but not limited to:

- Blocked, collapsed, or eroding ditches or culverts
- Flooding that persists beyond normal spring conditions

- Water undermining road shoulders, driveways, or nearby structures

Residents who observe any of the above conditions are requested to contact the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE) promptly. Early reporting allows for assessment and corrective action before potential safety concerns arise.

For More Information:  
 Mohawk Council of Akwesasne  
 Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment  
 DIHE Administration Office  
 Cornwall Island Admin. (CIA) #3 Building  
 101 Tewesateni Road, Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5  
 613-575-2250 ext. 1003

**DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**

**MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1022  
**HOUSING:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1056  
**ENVIRONMENT:** 613-575-2250 EXT. 1038  
**ROADS DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISPATCH:** 613-575-2340 OR 613-938-5476  
**WATER/WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE EMERGENCY:** 613-575-2000  
**AFTER HOURS PAGER:** 518-404-3352  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MONDAY – FRIDAY 8AM-4PM 613-933-4924  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (GARBAGE AND RECYCLING):** 613-575-2250 ext. 1048  
**ADMINISTRATION:** 613-575-2250 ext. 1003

# ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

## AKWESASNE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH COMMUNITY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Akwesasró:non and AMBE schools came together this April to celebrate Earth Day by showing care for the community through the annual Akwesasne Roadside Cleanup, hosted by the MCA Environment Program.

This year's cleanup took place over three days, with one day dedicated to each district. To add a fun and engaging element, a friendly competition was held to see which district could collect the most waste. Congratulations to the District of Tsi Snaihne for being named the 2026 winner!

Participants were equipped with pickers, gloves, and garbage bags as they ventured across their designated district. The roadside cleanup continues to be a meaningful way to give back, helping to keep our territory clean while bringing community members together for a shared purpose.

**Day 1 — Kawehno:ke:** Thirty community members signed up, along with several students from Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School (AMS), who came out to take part in the cleanup efforts.



**Day 2 — Kana:takon:** Seventeen community members participated, including one District Chief. In addition, Kana:takon School and St. Regis Daycare joined in supporting the cleanup efforts.

**Day 3 — Tsi Snaihne:** Thirty-seven community members participated, alongside students from Tsi Snaihne School and Head Start. Their efforts filled the dumpster, earning them the title of this year's winning district.

Niawenhkó:wa to Chippy Lippy, Athres Convenience, and Cheyy's Place for sponsoring a delicious lunch for participants, and to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service for helping monitor the roadways and ensure the safety of volunteers throughout the event.

The MCA Environment Program extends its sincere appreciation to every volunteer who took the time to participate. Your efforts made this one of the most successful roadside cleanups to date. This event would not be possible without the continued dedication and care shown by our community.

# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

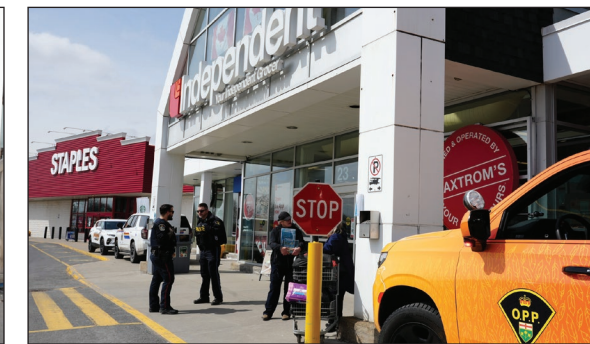
## COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER: AMPS FILL-A-CRUISER SUPPORTS SCHOOLS ACROSS AKWESASNE

To support the Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) Backpack Program, as well as schools across Akwesasne, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) collaborated with the Cornwall Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to host a Fill-a-Cruiser Food Drive.

The event took place at Baxtrom's Your Independent Grocer in Cornwall, Ontario, where community members showed their support through generous food and monetary donations. In total, close to 2,000 pounds of

food was collected, along with \$1,990.20 in monetary contributions. These funds were converted into gift cards, which will be distributed among six schools: all AMBE schools, St. Regis Mohawk School, Salmon River Central School, and the Akwesasne Freedom School.

Niawenhkó:wa to all who contributed and to the surrounding community members for their generosity and support. Your kindness helps ensure students have access to the resources they need, making a meaningful difference for families across the community.



## AKWE:KON ENSKA INITIATIVE



The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is proud to introduce a new initiative that reflects our shared commitment

to unity, respect, and community partnership. Our police vehicles will now display stickers bearing the message "Akwe:kon enska," meaning "to gather as one."

This message represents more than words, it is a reminder that a strong, safe community is built through connection, trust, and collaboration. While our role is to uphold and enforce the law, we recognize that we cannot do it alone. Community involvement, through reporting incidents, sharing information, and support-

ing one another is essential to keeping everyone safe.

These stickers symbolize our dedication to working together as one community, grounded in our language, culture, and shared values. They serve as an open invitation to strengthen relationships and enhance unity between the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service and the community we serve.

We are also pleased to share that these stickers will be available to community members. We encourage you to stop by and visit us whenever we have a table set up at local community events. Come connect with us, learn more about this initiative, and pick up your own sticker as a sign of unity.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we gather as one. Akwe:kon enska.

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program presents:

# MMIWG DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Akwesasne Family Wellness Program invites Akwesasró:non to come together in solidarity as we raise awareness for **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)**.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Speakers & Information Tables

- Share historical knowledge and current context on MMIWG in Akwesasne and across Turtle Island.

### Community Walk (Walking Trail)

- In remembrance of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Food will be provided. No registration required.



## EVENT DETAILS

 **Date:**  
May 5, 2026

 **Time:**  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

 **Location:**  
St. Regis Recreation



For more information, please contact the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program at: [afwpoutreach@akwesasne.ca](mailto:afwpoutreach@akwesasne.ca)

 **Special Needs PROGRAM**

# BEAR WITNESS DAY



Jordan's Principle honours Jordan River Anderson of Norway House Cree Nation. In 2005, his family gifted his sacred name to help ensure First Nations children receive the care they need, when they need it. **Bear Witness Day** is observed annually to honour Jordan and support the full implementation of Jordan's Principle.

This occasion also marks the introduction of MCA's new Special Needs Program.

Join us for a family-friendly celebration filled with games, laughter, and fun as we come together to support this important cause!

## ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Face Painting
- ✓ Petting Zoo
- ✓ Gaming Trailer
- ✓ Coloring
- ✓ ...and more!

## JOIN US!

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**  
**SNYE RECREATION**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

## CONTACT

Have any questions or need more info?

Reach out to the Special Needs Program at **613-575-2341** ext. **3308**.

