



COUNCIL MONTHLY REPORT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS **MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2025**

Kawehno:ke District Chief Vanessa Adams has been attending numerous meetings and presentations, engaging in important discussions to help shape the future of the community. This report summarizes key meetings, discussions, and initiatives undertaken by Chief Vanessa Adams in March 2025.

March 3-7, 2025

WEEKLY COUNCIL MEETING:

Presentations from Canada Post representatives Breanna Peters and Michaela Brunet.

- **Discussion Topics:** Portfolio Re-selections, Boardroom setup, AFNQL Update, CIRNAC Duty to Consult, IFN Update, COO FNCFS Reform, Trilateral Update, Petitions Update.

MAJOR REPORTS & MEETINGS:

- **Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) Technical Tables Meeting (March 7, 2025)**
 - Right of Entry (complete).
 - Identification and Travel Documents.
 - Entry of Goods and Border Crossing Experience.
 - Safety and Security for May 1, 2025, Governance Table Meeting in Toronto.
- **Emergency Roles & Responsibilities for Chiefs & MG Staff (March 6, 2025)**
 - IFN Quarterly Meeting prep.
 - As an EAC Member, Chief Vanessa participated with EAC Update for:
 - *Leadership*
 - *Audit*
 - *Trilateral*
 - *FNCFS Child Welfare Agreement*
- **Emergency Roles & Responsibilities for Chiefs & MG Staff (March 6, 2025)**
 - Presented by Emergency Measures Team Regina Jacobs.
 - Covered natural and human-made disasters, emergency planning, and preparedness.



- **ARRO**
 - CBSA Cultural Awareness Training at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre Chiefs Panel Discussion.
- **FAL Budget Presentation (March 3, 2025)**
 - With DFA Director Heather Phillips.
- **Border Partners (March 4, 2025)**
 - Meeting to discuss Border Crossing Matters affecting Akwesasne. MCA, SRMT, MNCC, CBSA, USB.
- **Executive Committee (March 7, 2025)**
 - Pathways ED Job Description, Complaints Process Review.
- **AFN National Caucus of Women Leaders (March 8th, 2025)**
- **FNCFS Information Sessions**
 - Mohawk Council District Chiefs Vanessa Adams, Teresa Oakes, and Tesha Rourke, along with the Mohawk Government Staff, conducted a series of informational sessions on March 3rd, 4th, and 7th.
 - These sessions took place from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Iohahi:io, Kawehno:ke Recreation, and Kanatakon Recreation, providing community members with key updates on governance and policy matters.
 - The agreement focuses on implementation strategies, dispute resolution mechanisms, and a long-term funding commitment of \$8.5 billion over nine years.
 - For more information, please visit: FNCFS Reform Executive Summary
 - Additionally, the approval of the Ontario Final Agreement remains contingent on the Tribunal's decision, with a targeted implementation date of March 31, 2026. Should Tribunal approval not be secured by this deadline, there will be significant funding implications for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Future Additional Agreements:

- Trilateral Agreement on the Reform of the 1965 Agreement (Five-Year Term) Mohawk Council's exemption from the 1965 Agreement.
- Agreement on First Nations Representative Services for Off-Reserve Funding (Two-Year Term).

Funding Commitment:

- A total of \$8 billion will be allocated over nine fiscal years, from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2034. Additional funding will be provided to support administrative functions, cultural humility training, program evaluations, and legal expenses.



Funding Outlook for 2025-26:

- Both Agencies (ACFS) and First Nations (MCA) will have access to multiple funding streams, including allocations for prevention, emergency response, and capital expenditures.
- Funding adjustments will be made as necessary to account for remoteness and regional needs.

First Nation (MCA) and Agency (ACFS) Funding:

- First Nations (MCA) will receive direct funding for essential services, including prevention initiatives and post-majority support programs. Agencies (ACFS) will continue to receive funding from both Ontario and the FNCFS Program (ISC) to support prevention, operations, maintenance, and emergency services.

March 10-14, 2025

WEEKLY COUNCIL MEETING:

Presentation on Fishing Regulations by William Clute.

- **Discussion Topics:** General Meeting, MCRS on Call Policy, Justice Funding Agreements, Oversight Committee Resignation, OVS Land Allotment.

MAJOR REPORTS & MEETINGS:

- **Finance (March 10, 2025) Operating Budget DFA Heather Phillips:**
 - Presentation to Council of the entire operating budget incorporating additional allocations for Special needs, utilization of the FNCFS funds to build capacity and provide children and youth services.
- **JTBA Meeting with CBSA (March 12, 2025)**
 - Discussion on border crossing experiences, prioritization of work in case of an election, remission orders, and tariff minimization.
 - Planning for April 30-May 1 Main Table Meeting in Toronto.
- **Government Secretariat Meeting (March 11, 2025)**
 - Included Chiefs Updates, Quebec Liaison Updates, Mohawk Government Manager Update, and ARRO Update.
- **MCA CBSA President Erin O’Gorman Visit (March 13, 2025)**
 - Topics: Akwesasne Residents Remission Order, tariffs, and counter tariffs affecting economic challenges in Akwesasne.
- **MCRs**
 - DIHE On Call Policy, Ministry of Transportation OC, 3 DOH Provider Contracts, 1 Oversight Committee Resignation, 2 Justice funding agreements, 5 OVS Land Allotment MCRS.



- **Minister Ian Lafreniere OC Prep Meeting**

- Akwesasne/Quebec Protocol Agreement APQA.
- The following subjects covered by the AQPA are transportation Infrastructure, Administration of Justice, Health & Social Services, Public Security, Economic Development, Quebec Liaison Officer.
- Bill 96 Exemption: Bill 96 is a Quebec language bill that aims to reinforce French as the provincial government's exclusive language. This causes licensing barriers related to French language and our licensed professional in Akwesasne.

March 17-21, 2025

IFN Family Well-Being Conference & Reports:

- Attended the IFN Family Well-Being Conference and planning sessions.
 - Topics discussed:
 - Strengthening collaboration between leadership, staff, and community members.
 - Addressing staffing and funding constraints in Indigenous child welfare programs.

Portfolio & Committee Connections:

- Department of Community & Social Services
 - FNCFS – \$8.5 billion for children and families

MAJOR REPORTS & MEETINGS:

- **COO Emergency Management Governance Meeting**

- Importance of mutual support funding
- Leveraging existing infrastructure
- Disaster risk reduction
- Progress updates since March 2024 (roundtable discussions, technical working group meetings, leadership table establishment)
- Proposed governance model focusing on collaboration, adaptability, and respect for First Nations' self-determination
- Need for clear terms of reference, regular reviews, and maintaining operational continuity during caretaker periods.

- **IFN EAC Meetings**

- Meetings with DIA Community specific information sessions IF Family Well-Being IFN COS Information concerning next steps and implications for FNCFS due to the Federal Election as the Trilateral agreement has not yet been ratified.



- **Co-facilitators**
 - IF Family Well Being Program Advisor.
 - FN Child Welfare Systems Planning & Policy Advisor.
 - Family Well Being Program Challenges.
 - FWB Workplans, Networking and Expectations for 2025-26 Strengthen collaboration and communication between leadership, staff, and community members to improve service delivery.
- **Family Well-Being Program Ministry Update**
 - Hamna Syeda, Senior Policy Analyst Child Wellbeing Branch
 - Child Welfare and Protection Division Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services Ontario, Andrea Maldonado introduces herself as the manager of children's community social services.
 - Public Service the Family Well Being program, a \$35.4 million initiative launched in 2016 to support Indigenous communities.
 - The program serves 84,000 people across 198 communities, with 60% identifying as women or girls. Services include culture-based activities, wellness programming, and mental health support.
 - Challenges include staffing, funding constraints, and compensation. The program received a 2% budget increase, but it was insufficient for the need for more funding and better salary standards to retain staff and improve services.

March 24-28, 2025

WEEKLY COUNCIL MEETING (ON TRAVEL):

Council Meeting presentation from Associate Director of Health and Addictions, Tsiakwawennatonhe'ts Kawennahente Clute, Ian Clute, Kyrie and Ebic Trestary.

- **Discussion items included:** Dr. Horn Presentation, Letter received, Cairn Island Event, ACJP Gladue Unit Services, Letter from Deputy Minister of Public Safety, AHDC/CHDC, Governance Committee Update.

MAJOR REPORTS & MEETINGS:

- **JTBA Border Experiences Technical Table (March 27, 2025)**
 - Covered CBSA caretaker mode, remission orders, tariff minimizing impacts, and student ID document requirements.
- **Kawehno:ke District Meeting (March 24, 2025) District Chief Updates**
 - Discussions included:



- New Recreation building needs, FNCFS, Enbridge, Funding Opportunities, Tariffs, ID Requirements for students Oversight Committee, Fishing, CBSA alternate reporting.
- **Justice Department Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedure Regulations (ALEPR) (March 25, 2025)**
 - Presentation on the timeline following an MCR or petition that initiates amendment of a proposed law, AEL timeline, ALEPR phases. Timeline and Procedural Overview, Historical Context and Election Regulations, Community Consultation and Petition Process, Community Consultation and Petition Process, Legal and Administrative Challenges, Ensure an open, transparent, and accountable law development and ratification procedure for the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Establish standardized legislative enactment procedures for the development, ratification, enactment, amendment, and repeal of Akwesasne Laws.
 - Phase I – Development of Proposed Law.
 - Phase II – Acceptance of Proposed Akwesasne Law in Principle.
 - Phase III – Community Consultation.
 - Phase IV – Enactment of an Akwesasne Law.
 - Phase V – Procedures after the Enactment Phase of an Akwesasne Law.
- **Department of Health**
 - Announcement of new Community Paramedic Indigenous Patient Navigator CPIPN. This new pilot program expected to launch on April 2nd, 2025, for more information please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.
- **COO Important Update on the Ontario Final Agreement - Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (March 28, 2025)**
 - The Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation are hosting an important meeting to provide updates on the Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program in Ontario (Ontario Final Agreement), the Trilateral Agreement on Reforming the 1965 Agreement (Trilateral Agreement), and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) case status.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue advocating for the proper distribution of the \$8.5 billion child welfare funding and monitor the Ontario Final Agreement approval process.
- Prepare for the May 1, 2025, Governance Table Meeting in Toronto to address border crossing concerns, ID requirements, and safety/security measures.
- Follow up on the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedure Regulations (ALEPR) process to ensure clarity in law-making and governance.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together to build a strong and healthy future.



- Work with the Emergency Measures Team to refine disaster response strategies and preparedness plans for Akwesasne.
- Continue hosting informational sessions and district meetings to update the community on governance, funding, and policy changes.
- Address community concerns regarding tariffs, fishing regulations, and new recreation building needs.
- Track progress on the Trilateral Agreement on Reforming the 1965 Agreement and ensure First Nations' exemptions are honored.



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