



Kawehno:ke District Chief Report

Vanessa Adams

She:kon, I am pleased to share my report with you all and I encourage you to ask questions about anything you would like more information on. I have had the honor of representing our community in many forums to ensure that our priorities are known and that we are collectively working for the advancement of Akwesasne. I would also like to take this time to offer my sincere prayers to those experiencing loss, grief and having a tough time towards the end of this year. You are not alone. I also would like to wish you a very peaceful holiday season sprinkled with love, joy and happiness in moments spent with loved ones.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and we can schedule a time to discuss any of the items I have reported on.

Niawenhkó:wa for the opportunity to represent our community.

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| REPORT START DATE: | 10/28/2024 | REPORT END DATE: | 12/27/2024 |
| Portfolios/Attendance/Meeting | | Meeting Topic/Updates | |
| Independent First Nations (Quarterly Meeting) October 28-30, 2024 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Elder David Root, Elder Lori Kewaquom IFN Chiefs Chair, Steve Williams <p>Community Updates - Comprehensive updates from 12 IFN Member Communities intersectionality and common interests noted to determine how we can move forward to continue working on our priorities for our 12 IFN Communities.</p> <p>IFN EAC Update Executive Administrative Committee reports to the 12 IFN member Chiefs.</p> | |

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| <p>Indigenous Services Canada Joint Gathering November 4-7, 2024</p> | <p>IFN Leadership representation determination by Chiefs on who will represent and report back from various tables i.e. – Health, Social, Justice, and Ec Dev. For example, with Chiefs of Ontario I am the representative for Social for the IFN.</p> <p>Health Team Update - Calendar and upcoming events shared.</p> <p>Presentations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chiefs of Ontario Political Update provided by Regional Chief Abram Benedict - The 1965 Welfare Agreement - Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement Presentation (CORDA) - INSight Consulting IFN KPI Data Project Presentation update from a previous presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the rejection of the ‘Final Agreement’, ISC with the support of Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, are conducting a comprehensive analysis of available options • ISC remains committed to fulfilling the requirements set forth by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Orders. • ISC uses a distinctions-based approach to implementing an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families and continues to support First Nations’ self-determination and exercise of jurisdiction over child and family services. • Two trilateral coordination agreements in Ontario; Four active coordination agreement tables as a member of the Chiefs Committee on Social, I am committed to continuing this work. • Many First Nations in Ontario are exploring exercising jurisdiction over child and family services. They are developing Indigenous laws and models over 43 individual First Nations, and five groups representing an additional 28 First Nations have accessed capacity-building funding from ISC for this purpose. Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council – What Ontario First Nations Youth Need: 1. True Prevention Programs / Crisis Prevention Programs 2. Food Sovereignty and Environment (Land Back) 3. Language Revitalization to Support Community Connection 4. Adequate, Affordable Housing and Water Resource. 5. Peer led groups, active participation from youth in all sectors. 6. Appropriate Aftercare Treatment Programs for Health, Social, and Justice needs 7. First Nations Data Collection and Storage <p>We attended plenary sessions related to Health and Education. I did not attend on the final morning due to an opportunity to attend Leadership Council at Queen’s Park.</p> |

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| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council Meeting November 7, 2024 <i>Queen's Park, Toronto, ON</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council met with Premier Ford, Minister Rickford, and other cabinet members at Queen's Park to outline the goals and needs of the First Nations across Ontario. • We discussed heritage and burials, resource development and Additions to Reserve (ATR) reform. Chief Tesha and I were invited to attend, and it was an invaluable experience for the two of us. It was an opportunity to meet and speak to Premier Ford and Minister Rickford, which is vital to continue to develop our working relationships to benefit Akwesasne. |
| <p>AFN National Homelessness and Mental Wellness Forum November 11-14, 2024</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental wellness and homelessness, emphasizing the fluid nature of homelessness and its impact on First Nations people. There is a profound disconnection from land, culture, and family as forms of spiritual and relational homelessness. Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by homelessness, with rates 23 times higher than the Canadian population. • Key causes include colonization, intergenerational trauma, and systemic discrimination. Strategies proposed include indigenous-led solutions, cultural revitalization, and a continuum of housing services. The very real need for systemic changes to address these issues comprehensively. • Homelessness and underfunding challenges • Agreements and funding issues • Wellness center and wraparound services - Land-Based Healing • Challenges and partnerships • Agreements and funding issues, challenges and opportunities • The meeting featured welcoming remarks from knowledge keepers and chiefs, emphasizing the importance of cultural heritage and ancestral connections. Chief Jen Thomas highlighted the crisis of homelessness among youth without family connections. |
| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly November 18-21, 2024</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honored to be in attendance for the presentation of ORC Abram Benedict's Kastowa made by Two House Designs. Traditional songs were sung for the first Haudenosaunee Regional Chief with congratulatory words provided by Pat Oakes (Akwesasne Elder) and Adam Fiddler. Marking 18 years of service to the community of Akwesasne, we could not be prouder of your progression to Ontario Regional Chief. Niawenhko:wa for your dedication, hard work and advancements made for your home community of |

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| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Meeting November 18, 2024</p> | <p>Akwesasne. The Ontario region welcomes and congratulates you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks provided by Chief Solomon Fort William, FN • National Chief Cindy Woodhouse discussed the need for culturally safe, community-led solutions for mental health and housing, advocating for increased funding and prevention strategies. She also paid tribute to former BC Premier John Horgan and Justice Murray Sinclair, the forum aimed to find holistic, community-driven solutions to homelessness and mental wellness challenges. • A call to action to address community issues such as medical services, homelessness, and substance abuse. Recognition of the significant role of knowledge keepers in Indigenous communities, emphasizing their spiritual and cultural contributions and the increasing presence of women in leadership roles calling for federal government action to address these crises. • Presentations and updates on: Deputy Minister of Crown, Indigenous Relations, Northern Affairs ATR Policy and Reform and Specific Claims, and ATR Reform and Engagement. • Key next steps are: Announcing the short-term ATR policy changes by the end of 2024. Establishing the trilateral advisory table on ATR reform in Ontario. • Women’s Council Presentation, Transgender Day of Remembrance by Youth Council • Economic Development Prosperity Table Updates Grand Chief Joel Abram • Chief Shelly Moore Frappier Data Sovereignty • Ontario Housing Benefit for First Nations - The overall emphasis is on holistic, community-based approaches to healing that address the systemic issues driving intergenerational trauma, rather than just focusing on individual-level interventions. Providing wraparound support for families and investing in youth are key priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Leadership Council Meeting with Chiefs Proxy’s and technicians from across Ontario. This meeting is vital to receive valuable information relating to resolutions, presentations, and key information for leadership at the Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs assembly. • Dialogue opportunities and updates help provide not only information but clarity and direction for assembly. We heard from Finn Simard, Director of Social Services, and Maggie Wentz, OKT Law. The meeting covered discussions on various resolutions, presentations and process. As a member of the |

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| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Women in Leadership Meeting November 18, 2024</p> | <p>chiefs committee on social, the updates provided are appreciated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key resolutions included establishing a Two-Spirit, LGBTQ+ Council, clean energy development with Indigenous ownership, and Indigenous Health Equity Fund allocation for 2025-2029 A presentation on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) Reconciliation Action Plan was also discussed. Tobi Mitchell COO Health Director presented via Zoom on the Indigenous Health Equity Act • Pleased to have attended this meeting focusing on the efforts of the First Nations Women's Council to address community safety and well-being, particularly for women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. Key points included the need for better legislation, such as Bill 74 and Bill 173, to protect First Nations people. The discussion highlighted the challenges of dealing with issues like missing and murdered Indigenous women, drug overdoses, and human trafficking. This meeting was wonderfully empowering, and I do look forward to participating in future gatherings of Women Leaders and bringing our unique perspectives and community priorities. • Action Items • Continue technical discussions with the standing committee on the development of a "Red Dress Alert" system. • Advocate for a meeting between the Associate Minister and First Nations leadership council to discuss priorities around safety and violence. • Conduct regional, community-based engagement on the "Red Dress Alert" system within the next year. • Explore opportunities to strengthen community safety planning and implementation in First Nations. |
| <p>Planning Meeting NYS Land Claims Information Session November 22, 2024</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCA Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Senior Researcher Adam Jacobs hosted our informational session providing MCA Council with pertinent information and work on the session agenda. The goal of the information session was to prioritize the collective interests of the community and foster an environment of trust, respect, and open communication at this session with the council, community, and ARRO. Providing space for our community members to be heard. |

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| <p>MCA/SRMT Meeting November 27, 2024</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCA/SRMT Leadership, Technical Support and SRMT Legal. • MCA Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO) A/Manager Cheyenne Lazore, and ARRO Senior Researcher, Adam Jacobs attended to assist the Council. • Topic of discussion NY State Land Claims. • Many questions concerning NY State Land Claims were asked by members of Council to SRMT Chiefs and Technicians. • This meeting will lead to more regularly scheduled meetings and the sharing of information vital to both governing bodies. Building and maintaining open lines of communication and working relationship and future partnership opportunities that benefit Akwesasne. |
| <p>NYS Land Claim Community Meeting (MCA Akwesasne Rights and Research Office & MCA Lawyer F. Holleman) November 23, 2024 (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.) <i>Kana:takon School</i></p> <p>*Further community discussion was held at the General Meeting on November 28, 2024 <i>Kana:takon School</i></p> <p>For any questions/concerns or you require additional information, please contact your District Chiefs, Grand Chief or the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office at 613-575-2250.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting discussed the historical and legal context of the Mohawk Land Claims, focusing on the 1796 Treaty and subsequent legal battles. Presentations by ARRO Senior Researcher, Adam Jacobs and Legal, Frank Holleman. Niawenhko:wa to the ARRO team for their vital role in this process both past and present. Your dedication and work on is appreciated. <p><u>Key points included:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The \$70 million settlement over 35 years. • Low-cost power benefits, and tuition. (eight semesters) waivers for SUNY schools. • The settlement also addresses access to islands and land reacquisition in Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties. • Questions about the adequacy of the settlement, particularly the long-term financial impact and the need for land rather than monetary compensation. • The discussion emphasized the importance of community involvement, community education and the need for transparent and factual communication. • Attendees from both Northern and Southern portions of Akwesasne express concerns about community engagement in the process, emphasizing the need for open communication and understanding among the people. • They discussed the historical context, including past treaties and resolutions, and the impact of these on the community's rights and future. • There is a call for more inclusive decision-making in future and education about the legal and historical aspects of all land claims. The importance of inherent rights and the need for community members to be involved in the processes. • The key is to prioritize transparency, open communication, and meaningful community participation throughout the process. |

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| | <p>Encouraging all members to attend all meetings and to actively participate in processes. This will help build trust and ensure the outcome reflects the collective interests of the Mohawk people.</p> |
| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Meeting December 12, 2024</p> | <p>Topics included off-reserve housing, carbon tax rebate, languages, leadership advocacy strategy, mental health services lobby commitment, Jordan’s Principle, child welfare reform, and economic development.</p> |
| <p>Information Webinar on Proposed Economic Development Strategy November 25, 2024</p> | <p>The meeting discussed the challenges and needs for rural economic development in Indigenous communities. Key points included the need for predictable funding timelines and multi-year funding to allow for proper planning and capacity building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific issues highlighted were the lack of time to develop proposals, the high cost of bandwidth, and the difficulty in accessing funding for start-up businesses. The importance of regional collaboration, diversifying capacity, and prioritizing community-based businesses for government contracts were emphasized. • Suggestions for addressing these issues included mobile training facilities, tourism development, and strategic planning for workforce and skills development. • The key is to take a collaborative, community-driven approach that addresses the unique capacity and accessibility challenges faced by Indigenous communities. • Challenges in Economic Development and Funding Timelines • Multi-Year Funding and Strategic Planning • Workforce Development and Capacity Building • Barriers to Training and Accessibility • Business Development and Agriculture • Community-Based Businesses and Government Contracts • Tourism and Cultural Development |
| <p>Chiefs of Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Conference Embracing Transformation November 27 & 28, 2024 <i>Virtual</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year’s theme, ‘Embracing Transformation,’ reflects the journey of discovering our inner strengths and acquiring new skills to lead with confidence and flexibility in the face of change. • The conference objectives are designed to empower and inspire. Leadership panels will offer invaluable insights from seasoned leaders who have overcome significant obstacles. Scenario simulations will provide hands-on experiences to strengthen decision-making in real-time challenges. |

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| <p>External Committees/Tables/Working Groups</p> | <p>Plan RAP Jonathan Chretien update, outreach and awareness, visitor center usage. 8 FT/PT/contract employees. Partnerships with Northern Landscapes to maintain the grounds and gardens. MCA Environment Manager Kayla Sunday, and St. Lawrence River Institute FINS Program part of direct OPG Contracts. Environmental work with MCA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This meeting was an introductory session for new members of the portfolio. This partnership stemming for the FSA has grown into an excellent relationship build on the respect of our community with the help of Natalie Jacobs being our liaison, and her work to ensure that the processes and procedures are in alignment with the agreement intention and coordinates adjustments to meet the changing needs of our community. If you'd like to learn more about this partnership and POM please reach out and we can discuss further. <p>Jay Treaty Border Alliance- Co-convenor CBSA Border Experience table with CBSA Cynthia Pye.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Settlement Agreement Chiefs Advisory-FSA Committee on Social – Working Group Member COO Chiefs Committee on Social IFN Representative Independent First Nations Executive Committee Chair IFN Social Representative MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Initiative Working Circles - Port of Cornwall, Leadership, Economic Development |
| <p>MCA-CBSA Border Collaboration Working Circles Port of Cornwall, Leadership, Economic Development</p> | <p>Discussions included Pre-Clearance, Domestic Lane, staffing increases in 2023-24 information on recruitment and Port specific orientation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Lane questioning Complaints about increased secondary examinations and declaration verifications are being reported. CBSA stated adjustments and certain themes are being responded to in relation to Akwesasne Resident Remission Order and declaration verifications these complaints have been brought to the Port specific table for practical solutions. CBSA has committed to providing officers with an ARRO information blitz, meaning providing education concerning the remission order, limited risks when it comes to declarations made under the remission order. For more information, please see the Akwesasne Remission order. *If you feel that the actions of the Customs Inspector are inappropriate, please make note of the <u>time and the lane and</u> |

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| <p>Department of Health (DOH) Amber Montour ext. 3101</p> | <p><u>make your way inside to speak to or call 613-930-7137 for the Superintendent on duty to make that supervisor aware of the situation.</u> So that it can be immediately taken care of. Also contact the CBSA Regional Indigenous Advisor John Bay at 613-330-3692. Go online to complete and submit complaints or seek help with the online complaints process with John Bay.</p> <p>Not available to attend November Portfolio Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December Portfolio will be Dec 19, 2024, update to be included in January. <p>Briefing notes requested for Health Sectors for AFN in December with detailed comprehensive discussions with Lisa Westaway, Michael O'Byrne, Michael Tibollo, and James Stewart.</p> |
| <p>*NEW PORTFOLIO UPDATE* Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) Cheyenne Lazore</p> | <p>Niawenhko:wa to the team at ARRO for providing not only print information but for taking the time to meet with me regularly this is a new portfolio for me this term and I appreciate the opportunities to meet and discuss important files with great political impact. I appreciate this partnership and look forward to learning and advancing files during this new term.</p> <p>Update on NY State Land Claim Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSUE: Following extensive negotiations and recent submissions to the Judge/Magistrate, key stakeholders in the New York Land Claim Settlement have indicated their positions regarding the agreements. Most parties are ready to approve the settlement, while MNCC Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs has requested more time to decide. Current Status – Franklin and St Lawrence Counties- ready to approve the settlement. New York State and Agencies – Ready to approve the settlement. SRMT – Ready to approve the settlement. MNCC – Requires more time to deliberate. |

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| <p data-bbox="77 1434 617 1503">Department of Community & Social Services A/Director Valerie Cree-Cook ext. 3307</p> | <p data-bbox="673 132 961 163">KEY Settlement TERMS:</p> <p data-bbox="673 191 1526 336">ISLAND ACCESS – Access to Croil, Long Sault, and parts of Barnhart Island for hunting, fishing gathering under Mohawk Council Standards Right of first refusal for the Mohawk Council if the state sells portions of these Islands.</p> <p data-bbox="673 367 1526 472">TUITION BENEFITS – Up to eight (8) semesters tuition waivers at SUNY schools for Akwesasne Mohawk students enrolled with one of the Councils.</p> <p data-bbox="673 504 1485 573">Tuition reductions to in-state SUNY rates for Cornell University and Alfred University.</p> <p data-bbox="673 604 1539 667">LOW-COST POWER – NYPA will provide 9 megawatts of low-cost power for SRMT and MCA.</p> <p data-bbox="673 699 1523 768">FINANCIAL PAYMENT – \$70 million over 35 years (\$2 million annually) distribution – SRMT 60% MCA 20% MNCC 20%.</p> <p data-bbox="673 800 1542 945">LAND REACQUISITION – SRMT may purchase land within designated settlement areas near 1796 Treaty Reservation Boundaries from willing sellers. Acquired lands will gain reservation status with MCA and MNCC notified acquisitions.</p> <p data-bbox="673 976 1510 1081">KEY CONSIDERATIONS – The agreement includes substantial benefits for all Akwesasne regardless of residency, promoting education, resources access, community energy needs, and financial stability.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1113 1539 1182">MCA has spent \$6,255,860.09 USD on legal fees alone for the New York State Land Claim to date.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1213 1539 1276">For questions or concerns please reach out directly to Cheyenne Lazore or Adam Jacobs at ARRO or your District Chiefs – Niawen.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1423 1421 1455">Portfolio meeting November 28, 2024, and December 13, 2024</p> <p data-bbox="673 1486 1539 1556">ACFS Policies, Youth Council, Men’s Programming, Community Education RedMane Data Base and Training</p> <p data-bbox="673 1587 1518 1656">CSP multi-trades building at Iohahi:io Grand Opening January 16, 2025. Welding Course – Carpenters available for projects.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1688 1518 1757">Iakhihsotha Lodge Kitchen – Start date TBT and scheduled around the holidays.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1789 1502 1858">Iohahi:io – Cultural Building – Closing tender December 2, 2024. DIHE will determine and award.</p> <p data-bbox="673 1890 1510 1959">Traditional Support and ACFS at Whoville House have had to move – mold issues due to flooding and 6 inches of water in basement repairs</p> |

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| <p>Department of Public Safety Portfolio</p> | <p>are needed – emergency exit will also be added for safety. Utilizing the kitchen still for classes. Moved temporarily back to ACFS offices – Water Street office also being utilized for extra space at this time.</p> <p>AFWP shelter and kitchen renovations nearing completion teaching kitchen/demonstration kitchen working on fixing epoxy flooring. Capacity of AFWP? Transitional units being utilized during construction.</p> <p>Kana:takon Beach Project \$90k short from previous allotted funds DCSS to cover and project to begin in the spring.</p> <p>Rental building on the Island to house DCSS touchdown space on Kawehno:ke and storage for CSP.</p> <p>Community discussions on needs/wants for youth hubs and new recreation centers.</p> <p>Special committee needs to meet and pick up the work that was started in 2019 with a revision of the strategic plan that was created along with a review of what community asked for and how we can implement those needs going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received updates from Acting Chief of Police Ranatiostha Swamp – Currently have a large boat that grounded west of the power dam in our territory. Kayla Sunday from the Environment Program is in direct contact and dealing with the matter. Participated in the enforcement symposium held at Kana:takon Recreation Center, raising awareness for the need to drastically update our community laws and by-laws. This work will require a collaborative effort to complete the tasks and actively participate in supporting inherent rights. • Niawen:kowa to the many Officers who have participated in community and safety events providing community education in Akwesasne and assisting with holiday events. Niawen. • AMPS SUPPORTS TREE OF HOPE TO HONOUR MMIWG2S The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is honored to participate in the inaugural Tree of Hope event, organized by the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program, Cornwall Police, and the City of Cornwall. This event aims to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) while bringing the community together to remember and reflect. <p>The Tree of Hope serves as a powerful symbol of resilience, remembrance, and the shared commitment to justice, healing, and change. Each light on the tree represents a life lost, a family’s strength, and a collective call for action.</p> |

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| <p>Department of Economic Development Portfolio</p> <p>Kylee Tarbell ext. 1800</p> | <p>AMPS remains deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. We encourage everyone to support this initiative and work together to prevent violence. If you have information related to any criminal activity, please contact Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Lobbying Strategy Re; SIBC and Customs Local Chambers of Commerce Cornwall Ec Dev revive round table to work on certain initiatives and develop strategies to help Economic Development and local businesses round table meetings. • Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) – Ontario East website for sign-ups to make it easier. The website is live. • FTTH questions concerns updates please email ffth@akwesasne.ca, EV Ambassadors evteam@akwesasne.ca, and business inquiries Economic Development ecdev@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575-2250 ext. 1802. |
| <p>Border Partners MCA SRMT USCBP-CBSA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meeting occurred while I attended AFN AGA, although I was not able to attend, I was in contact with SRMT Sub Chief Agnes Sweets Jacobs to address concerns with CBSA/USBP. These concerns included – new staffing at CBSA (15 new) and their change in their leadership Pierre Luc Bissonette has returned as Port Chief. We will also work to ensure Cultural Education occurs in a timely manner. • Immigration - Are they ready for the potential influx due to the U.S. election Immigration concerns with new gov't in the U.S. and potential for influx of people leaving or being forced to be deported from the U.S. and the potential for more attempts to cross through our territory, this was also addressed at AMPC Monthly meeting. • I will work to attend these monthly meetings; All Public Safety Portfolio sits on the Border partners calls. |