

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 Issue 12

FREE

Tsiothóhrha/December 2024

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CELEBRATING THE SEASON TOGETHER: MCA HOSTS 2024 COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNERS



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne spread holiday cheer with three Community Holiday Dinners held across the districts. Community members enjoyed festive meals along with warm company, holiday fun, and a visit from Santa Claus! Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

AMPS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

January 6 · 5-7 p.m.
Tsi Snaihne Recreation

January 8 · 5-7 p.m.
Kana:takon Recreation

January 9 · 5-7 p.m.
Kawehno:ke Recreation

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District
Chief Fallon David
Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell
Chief Theresa Jacobs
Chief Teresa Oakes

Kawehno:ke District
Chief Vanessa Adams
Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict
Chief Lacey Pierce
Chief Vince Thompson

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

Administration
Shannon Roundpoint
A/Executive Director

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure,
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Valerie Cree-Cook
A/Director
Dept. of Community
& Social Services

Amber Montour
Director
Department of Health

Donna Lahache
Director
Ahkwasasne Mohawk
Board of Education

Ranatiostha Swamp
A/Chief of Police/Director
Dept. of Public Safety

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic
Development

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 1 Families are invited to join the Ahkwasasne Mohawk Board of Educations text alert system to receive important updates straight to your phone! Stay connected and sign up today by visiting <https://eztxt.net/xQG6Kz> or scan the QR code on page 17.
- 2 MCA's Department of Health is notifying the community on the rollout of the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. More information is listed on page 19.
- 3 MCA's Department of Health Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB) is seeking dedicated medical transport drivers to join our team. More information on requirements and how to apply can be found on page 22.
- 4 The MCA Environment Program and the Raisin Regions Conservation Authority (RRCA) invite you to join us for a World Wetlands Day Celebration on Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cooper Marsh Conservation Area. Drop by for a day filled with fun, learning, and connection to nature. View flyer on page 24.
- 5 The MCA Emergency Measures Program encourages community members to take small but meaningful steps toward emergency preparedness. Check out the Hazard Help Sheet on page 25 for a monthly guide to getting started and staying prepared.

NEWS

CELEBRATING THE SEASON TOGETHER: MCA HOSTS 2024 COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNERS

The holiday spirit is alive and well in Akwesasne! The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne brought the community together for three incredible Community Holiday Dinners, held across the three districts. During the week of December 9th, families and friends gathered at the local recreation centers to share delicious meals, laughter, and festive cheer.

Each evening featured a delicious meal catered by TNT Deli (Kana:takon), TLC Catering (LaToya Rourke) (Kawehno:ke), and Mona's Catering (Tsi Snaihne), filling every plate with holiday favorites and every heart with warmth. Guests of all ages enjoyed the cozy atmosphere, friendly faces, and the chance to take photos with the one and only Santa Claus!

We hope everyone enjoyed their meals and felt the holiday cheer, whether dining in or picking up, the spirit of the season was shared far and wide.

It was a beautiful way to celebrate the season, reconnect as a community, and create cherished memories with loved ones. The halls were filled with joy, and the evenings reminded us of the true spirit of the holidays: togetherness, kindness, and gratitude.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Thank you for making these dinners such a special part of our community's celebrations—we can't wait to gather again next year!



NEWS

MCA EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY & FRIENDS OF TIMOTHY "DOOLEY" THOMPSON



It is with heavy hearts that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne announces the passing of Timothy "Dooley" Thompson, a beloved member of our community and a dedicated leader who served with wisdom, strength, and compassion.

Timothy "Dooley" Thompson was a guiding force in Akwesasne, serving seven terms as a District Chief and one term as Grand Chief. Throughout his years of public service, his leadership left an indelible mark on our community. Dooley's commitment to Akwesasne was evident in his numerous achievements, including the 2008 final settlement agreement with Ontario Power Generation and his unwavering leadership during the 42-day bridge closure in 2009. As Chair of the Independent First Nations Executive Committee, he ensured Akwesasne's voice was heard among the 12 First Nations he represented.

"The role of Chief, and especially Grand Chief, carries great responsibility and duty. Dooley held both of these titles proudly throughout his life. When he wasn't on Council, he served as an MCA employee, truly dedicating his career to the Akwesasne community," reflected Grand Chief Leonard Lazore.

Dooley's dedication extended beyond the Council Chambers. Whether advocating for elders, empowering youth through the Racing Against Drugs campaign, or contributing to community development in areas such as Human Resources, Finance, and more, he embodied the values of service and care. His love for sharing meals and laughter, combined with his passion for reading and learning, touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. And, of course, Dooley was never seen without his signature hat, a symbol of his

personal style and confidence. His distinctive fashion became as iconic as his leadership, making him even more memorable to all who met him.

Dooley retired from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in July 2024, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and positive change. His years of service, marked by leadership and care, have made a lasting impact on the community he loved so deeply.

"I have known Tim 'Dooley' Thompson for a very long time, in many different capacities. I was fortunate to work with him both as District Chief and Grand Chief for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne," shared Ontario Regional Chief and former MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict. "Dooley was a leader who possessed deep knowledge and respect for his position and for the community. I often reached out to him for guidance on important matters facing Akwesasne. Dooley never shied away from a challenge; he faced every task head-on. This was especially true during his battle with cancer. He told the council that cancer would be no different from any other challenge he had faced. He would confront it directly and give it his best effort. Akwesasne has lost a strong leader, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and the entire community of Akwesasne."

As Dooley begins his journey back to the spirit world, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, loved ones, and all who mourn his passing. His profound dedication, humor, and generous spirit will continue to resonate in our community.

Grand Chief Lazore added, "Dooley's impact on Akwesasne was profound; his impact immeasurable. Council members, both past and present, share in the sadness of this loss and express our utmost gratitude for his honorable life of service. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, MCA staff, and the Akwesasne community."

NEWS

MCA ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESIGNATION & APPOINTMENT

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne notified the community of the resignation of Executive Director Mose Herne, which became effective November 29, 2024. We would like to thank Mr. Herne for the time committed to the MCA organization and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The MCA Executive Committee lead the recruitment and hiring process for a new Executive Director. In

the interim, Council appointed Associate Director Shannon Roundpoint to a 6-month minimum term as Executive Director, effective December 2, 2024.

Services and programs to the community remain a priority and we are confident that the MCA team will continue to provide exemplary service throughout this transition.

RETURN OF CAIRN ISLAND TO AKWESASNE RESERVE

The Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO) is pleased to announce that after over 15 years of diligent efforts through the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process, Cairn Island has been formally returned to the Akwesasne Reserve through Ministerial Order. This significant milestone reflects the perseverance and dedication of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the collaboration with Parks Canada to restore land to its rightful owners.

Cairn Island, located within the traditional territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, holds immense cultural and historical importance to our community. Expropriated in 1922, the land was removed from Akwesasne's care and designated as a historic site under Parks Canada's supervision. The expropriation stemmed from use of the island in the mid-1800s, when the Glengarry Highlanders erected a monument, or "cairn," without consent from the community.

The successful return of Cairn Island through Ministerial Order is a testament to the resilience of the Mohawks of Akwesasne and our commitment to reclaiming our lands.

The island, deeply woven into the identity and traditions of the Mohawk people, will once again serve as a place of cultural and historical significance for Akwesasne.

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office extends its gratitude to past members of ARRO, former Portfolio Chiefs, and partners who contributed to this achievement.

For more information, please contact:
Akwesasne Rights and Research Office
Cheyenne Lazore
Acting Manager
613-575-2250 ext. 2134



COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



Director of Justice; Cannabis Regulations community concerns by Nathan Richards; NYS Land Claims Settlement Questions by Council to Legal Counsel, F. Holleman.

December 2, 2024

- No Council Meeting this week for Council to attend the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa.

December 9, 2024

- **Discussion Items:** Introduction of new Executive Director Shannon Roundpoint; Council retreat and team building; MCA Heating Assistance – closes on December 20, 2024; Youth and Elder Committee; Volunteer Community Recognition; Conduct and proper MCR Procedures; General Meeting debriefing; Akwesasne Fashion Show; Tree Planting – Access to Reserve; Land use partnerships with Cornwall; Equitable representation of Consultant hires; Land development updates and briefings for new committee members; Council authorized Grand Chief to sign the NYS Land Claim Settlement Agreement; follow up with community will occur on land claim information.
- The Holiday Dinners start this week for all Districts. Grand Chief and Council are confirmed to serve the dinners. The meals are catered by three separate local caterers. AMPS and other MCA staff will be assisting with each event.
- **Council Invitations:** (This is a new category for Chiefs Meetings) Entewatathá:wi Annual Update; Port Divestiture; POM Meeting; Finance Committee; Hydro Quebec Committee; Deloitte Akwesasne Community Trust; DCSS Portfolio; CBSA Commit-

tee.

- **MCR's:** Allotment-Lot B/65-3 Chenail Range CLSR 81810; Allotment Lot 9A-5-2 Sugarbush Island RSO 2896; DIHE Roads Tandem Plow Truck Purchase; Council Meeting Minutes November 25, 2024; DIHE On-Call Policy; Housing Upgrade rescind; Access to Territory Request (Akwesasne business); MCA Community Settlement Trust – Trust Overseers Policies & Procedures; Accept Review of ISC Revenues and Expenditures Schedules 2023-2024; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes November 28, 2024 (CMM May 2, 2024, Executive Director); Emergency Council Meeting Minutes December 5, 2024 (CMHC Section 95 – housing).
- **Presentations:** Parks Canada History, commemoration project; Lacrosse Request for Political Support for the Haudenosaunee Nationals Lacrosse Team preparation for entry to the Olympics 2028.

December 16, 2024

- **Discussion Items Tabled:** Discussion was tabled because of the passing of the late Grand Chief Tim Dooley Thompson.
- **MCRs:** 2024-2025 Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program-revised, 2024 Holiday Closure – December 27, 2024, ISC Amendment No. 150 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024, ISC Amendment No. 151 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024, Award Tender – Structural Readiness Contracts, DIHE Org. Chart, Ontario Police Technology Information Cooperative, REDMAIN.
- **Presentations:**
 - » **DIHE ORG Chart:** DIHE wants to add 13 new positions to the existing Org. Chart to improve overall

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

service delivery, response time and goals.

- » **AMPS Police Technology:** The software that is being used for criminal identification is becoming too slow compared to the industry standard. Chief of Police Ranatiio-stha Swamp wants to implement a new software called OPTIC to allow for better criminal identification.

December 23, 2024

- **Confidentiality Breach:** The discussion focused on addressing a leaked Mohawk Council Resolution (MCR) and its impact on trust and confidentiality. Concerns were raised about the recurring nature of leaks and their detrimental effect on the council's integrity and community trust. Proposed solutions included relocating meetings to more secure locations, introducing tighter security measures such as room sweeps, and increasing transparency by publicly sharing MCRs and meeting updates. The group emphasized the need for collaboration, strategic planning, and open communication to rebuild trust and prevent future leaks, with action items set to investigate the breach and improve governance practices.
- **NYS Land Claims:** The discussion addressed the need for better communication and public education in the future regarding ongoing issues, particularly land claims. Concerns were raised about insufficient efforts to educate the community and provide updates, with some expressing dissatisfaction about requests for information not yielding results. It was emphasized that any specific information needs should be formally brought to the council table for discussion. The group agreed that more proactive efforts are needed to inform and involve the com-

munity, particularly with upcoming topics like the Nutfield track.

- **Community Holiday Dinners:** The discussion focused on issues surrounding the quality and safety of catering services at the Holiday Dinner events, highlighting complaints about food preparation and delivery practices. Concerns included the use of non-food-grade containers, lack of proper hygiene protocols (e.g., no hairnets or gloves), and insufficient equipment for large-scale catering. It was suggested that future events involve stricter oversight, including inspections by environmental health officials and certification requirements for vendors, as used in other events like powwows. Proposals included having District Chiefs play a more active role in selecting caterers, revising the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to prioritize quality and certification over cost, and exploring alternatives like gift cards instead of meals. There were also discussions about ensuring appropriate facilities for events and addressing community perceptions of fairness and accountability. Action items included reviewing liability issues and improving the RFP process to prevent similar problems in the future.
- **Whoville Road Unauthorized Access:** The discussion centered on a resident's unauthorized actions, including connecting water and power to their property in the Whoville Road area. Concerns were raised about who, if anyone, granted permission for these activities, as the land in question is under MCA jurisdiction. The council agreed that the Executive Director (ED) should investigate the matter to determine if permissions were given and assess the legality of the connections. It was noted that the resident might have misunderstood the property boundaries.
- **ED Update:** The ED discussed various

updates, including resolving a community water heater issue through donation funds, progress on the fiber optic project with pending service package details, and positive feedback from the Christmas party. Meetings were planned for lobbying strategies and budget coordination. A new member was appointed to manage CBSA communications, while space requests for the Council were declined by the CEO. Staffing updates included the Chief of Police job posting and plans for an AMPS community survey. Concerns were raised about combining the Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police roles, with further discussions planned. A whistleblowing policy is in development, and water issues are being addressed with relevant managers.

- **MCRs:** AMPS Salary Administrative Policy; Authorizing Signature NYS Land Claim; 3 Upgrade Applications; Upgrade Application – Rescind; Mental Health Contractor Contract Renewal 2024-2025; Addition of Lot 4 673 099 to the Tsikaristisere/Dundee ATR Process; ISC Housing Gap Funds – New Construction Application; Appointment of Council Members to the Akweks:kowa Corporation; Appointment of Council Members to the Akwesasne Harbor Development Corporation; Physician Contract Renewal 2024-2025; Approval of Child in Care Medical Bill; 2024/2025 Winter Heating Season Tender Award; Council Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2024; Council Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2024; New AMA Org Chart.
- **Presentations:**
 - » **AMA Org. Chart:** The discussion focused on updates to an organizational chart, which was resubmitted to include two missing job titles. Four individuals were added, but the changes were limited to job titles, with the total number of positions remaining at 29.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES



Monthly Report:
October 28, 2024 - December 27, 2024

Portfolios:
Akwasasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO), Dept. of Economic Development, Government Secretariat, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Community & Social Services, Public Safety

Selected Committees:
Executive, Green Team, Beautification, Waterways, CBSA

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 about. 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 Akwasasne. 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.

PORTFOLIO UPDATES:

Department of Health — Not available to attend November portfolio meeting.

December portfolio meeting will be Dec. 19, 2024, Update to be included in January 2025.

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.

***New Portfolio Update* Akwasasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO)** — Niawenhkó: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.

Update on N.Y. State Land Claim Settlement:

- **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.

Key Settlement Terms:

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.

TUITION BENEFITS — Up to eight semesters tuition waivers at SUNY schools for Akwasasne Mohawk students enrolled with one of the Councils.

Tuition reductions to instate SUNY rates for Cornell University and Alfred University.

LOW-COST POWER — NYPA will provide 9 megawatts of low-cost power for SRMT and MCA.

FINANCIAL PAYMENT — \$70 million over 35 years (\$2 million annually) distribution – SRMT 60% MCA 20% MNCC 20% .

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.

Key Considerations:

The agreement includes substantial benefits for all Akwasasnonon regardless of residency, promoting education, resources access,

community energy needs, and financial stability.

MCA has spent \$6,255,860.09 USD on legal fees alone for the New York State Land Claim to date.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Cheyenne Lazore or Adam Jacobs at ARRO or your District Chiefs.

Department of Community & Social Services — Portfolio meeting November 28, 2024, and December 13, 2024.

ACFS Policies, Youth Council, Men's Programming, Community Education RedMane Data Base and training.

Grand opening for CSP Multi-Trades Building at Iohahi:io will be held January 16, 2025. Welding Course – carpenters available for projects.

Iakhihsohtha Lodge Kitchen – Start date to be determined and scheduled around the holidays.

Iohahi:io Cultural Building – Closing tender December 2, 2024, DIHE will determine and award.

Traditional Support and ACFS at Whoville House have had to relocate due to mold issues from flooding and six inches of water in basement. Repairs are needed and emergency exit will also be added for safety. Kitching still being utilized for classes. Temporarily moved back to ACFS offices. Water Street office in Cornwall also being utilized for extra space at this time.

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.

Kana:takon Beach Project \$90k short from previous allotted funds DCSS to cover and project to begin in the Spring.

Rental building on Cornwall Island to house DCSS touchdown space on Kawehno:ke and storage for Community Support Program.

Community discussions on needs/wants for youth hubs and new Recreation Centers.

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 the community asked for and how we can implement those needs going forward.

Department of Public Safety — Received updates from Acting Chief of Police Ranatiiooshta Swamp. Currently have a large boat that grounded West of the Power Dam in our territory.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VANESSA ADAMS UPDATES

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.

Niawenhkó:wa to the many Officers who have participated in community and safety events, providing community education in Akwasasne and assisting with holiday events.

AMPS Supports Tree of Hope to Honour MMIWG2S – The Akwasasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) participated in the inaugural Tree of Hope event, organized by the Akwasasne Family Wellness Program, Cornwall Police, and the City of Cornwall, to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). The Tree of Hope symbolizes resilience, remembrance, and a collective commitment to justice and healing, with each light representing a life lost and a call for action. AMPS remains dedicated to community safety and encourages everyone to support this initiative and work together to prevent violence. To report criminal activity, contact Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.

Department of Economic Development — Regional Lobbying Strategy Re; SIBC and Customs Local Chambers of Commerce Cornwall Economic Development revive roundtable to work on certain initiatives and develop strategies to help Economic Development and local businesses roundtable meetings.

Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) – Ontario East utilizing website for sign-ups to make it easier. The website is live.

Any FTTH questions concerns updates please email: fth@akwasasne.ca, EV Ambassadors: evteam@akwasasne.ca, Business Inquiries/Economic Development: ecdev@akwasasne.ca or call 613-575-2250 ext. 1802.

OTHER:

Border Partners - MCA/SRMT/USCBP-CBSA — 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 Concerns – Are they ready for the potential increase of Immigration concerns with new Gov't in the U.S. and potential influx of people leaving or being forced to be deported from the U.S. and potentially more attempts to cross through our territory. This was addressed at AMPC Monthly meeting. I will work to attend these monthly meetings. All Public Safety Portfolio holders sit on the Border Partners calls.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Independent First Nations (Quarterly Meeting) October 28-30, 2024

Opening by Elder David Root, Elder Lori Kewaquom. IFN Chiefs Chair - Steve Williams.

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.

IFN EAC Update Executive Administrative Committee reports to the 12 IFN member Chiefs.

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 of Social for the IFN.

Health Team Update - Calendar and upcoming events shared.

Presentations included:

- 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.

Indigenous Services Canada Joint Gathering November 4-7, 2024

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. 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.

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.

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.

Chief Vanessa Adams

Tel.: 613-363-3891 or 613-575-2250 ext. 2174

Email: chief.vanessa.adams@akwasasne.ca

To view Chief Vanessa Adams' full report, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.akwasasne.ca/mohawk-council/council-chiefs-reports/



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in November

1. Totas Take Aim: Open Season at Tsiionkwanonhso:te
2. Tsiionkwanonhso:te Residents and Staff Thank Land-Based Healing for New Gazebo
3. Return of Cairn Island to Akwesasne Reserve
4. Rock Your Mocs at AFWP Annual Celebration of Life Conference (Video)
5. Tsiionkwanonhso:te Residents Make a Splash at Cornwall Aquatic Centre

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in November

1. Totas Take Aim: Open Season at Tsiionkwanonhso:te — 20,841 Reached
2. Community Welcome to National Child Day Carnival — 8,488 Reached
3. Grateful Gatherings at Iakhihsohtha Lodge — 7,949 Reached
4. Tsiionkwanonhso:te Residents and Staff Thank Land-Based Healing for New Gazebo — 7,522 Reached
5. Mental Health & Wellness Sector Welcomes New Mental Health Therapist — 6,570 Reached



X STATS

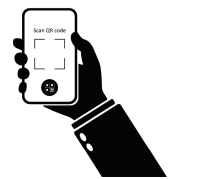
Top Post in November



YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for November

Green Food Bag Recipe: Chicken Stew



Scan QR Code to view video!

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

MOHAWK LANGUAGE LESSON

Provided by: Karihwenhawe

lowí:sare — It is icy

1. Akohserà:ke nikahá:wi niwakennhò:ten — Winter time season
2. lowí:sare — It is icy
3. Wa'kawisáhrho — It did get icy
4. Sakawisáhrho — It did get icy again
5. Enkawisáhrho — It will be icy
6. Enskawisáhrho — It will be icy again
7. Teiao'tsíkwa — It is slippery
8. Thetén:re teiao'tsikwahtòn:ne — Yesterday it was slippery
9. Thetén:re akenekota'kéhshon

teiao'tsikwahtòn:ne — Yesterday my steps were slippery

10. Thetén:re akwahskwen'nà:ke teiao'tsikwahtòn:ne — Yesterday my porch was slippery
11. Owisóskon — It is covered in ice
12. lowí:saien — There is ice on the ground
13. Teiowí:sonte — There is ice attached
14. lowisahní:ron — The ice is hard
15. Kawí:satens — The ice is thick
16. Kewisarónkwás — I am scraping ice
17. Tekewisahríhtha — I am breaking up ice

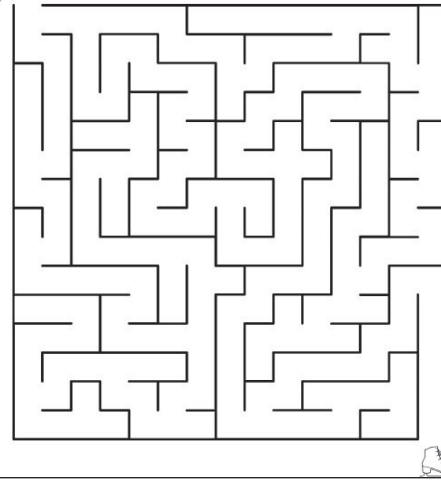
18. lowisónkion — It is freezing rain

19. Wa'owisón:ti — It was freezing rain
20. Wa'kiao'tsikwáhta'ne — It was slippery
21. Ne ohahà:ke — On the road
22. Wa'thontate'serehtoia'ákhon — They had a car accident
23. Wa'thotihsterihéhsere — They were in a hurry
24. Wahonatera'shwí:iohste — They were fortunate
25. Í:iah ónhka teiakokarawáhton — No one got hurt

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Help Frosty skate his way through the maze!



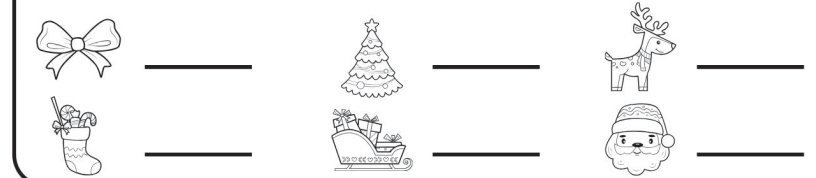
Design your own hot cocoa mug!



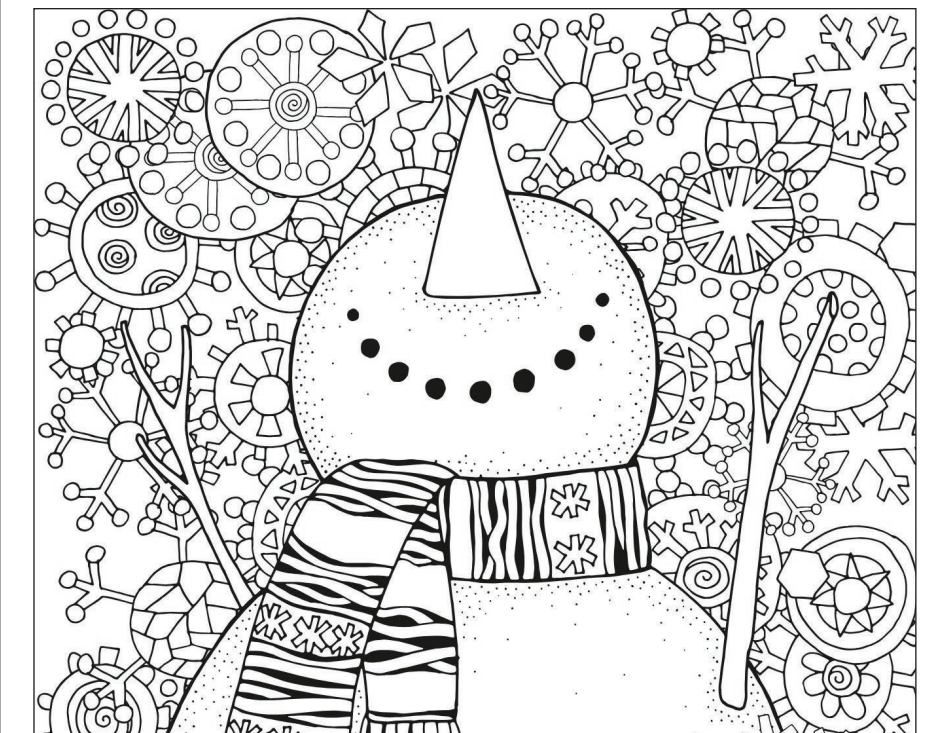
WORD SCRAMBLE

- YOLLJ _____
TROSYF _____
HCIYLL _____
LDGNISED _____
OGLIO _____
SFLEWAKNO _____
- IGLOO FROSTY JOLLY CHILLY SLEDDING SNOWFLAKE

I Spy the Holidays!



COLOR THE SNOWMAN!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Why don't mountains ever get cold in the winter?
They wear snowcaps!

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes!

How do polar bears stay cool in the winter?
They just chill out!

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

AKWESASNE RIGHTS AND RESEARCH OFFICE — 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) had a dynamic and impactful year in 2024, with several significant initiatives that contributed to the advancement of our perspectives and inherent rights.

7 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

1. CAIRN ISLAND RETURNS TO RESERVE STATUS

ARRO successfully completed the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process for Cairn Island, officially returning the island to reserve status. This achievement strengthens Akwesasne's land base and reaffirms ARRO's ongoing commitment to supporting land rights and sovereignty within the community.



2. SEAWAY CLAIM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

A focus on environmental studies related to the Seaway Claim, focusing on Yellow Island and Kawehno:ke.

Yellow Island Erosion Study

In collaboration with Aqua Solutions 5 Inc., ARRO participated in a comprehensive erosion study of Yellow Island. The study involved drone footage and photographs of the entire shoreline, taken from both boat and land-based perspectives. Several profile surveys were conducted on the shoreline banks and bluffs, extending into the nearshore area. The gathered data will be critical for assess-

ing the environmental health of Yellow Island and informing future conservation efforts.

Kawehno:ke Agronomist Study

ARRO also assisted with an agronomist study on Kawehno:ke, involving the collection and testing of soil samples. The findings from this study will provide important data that will help with assessing the cost of remediation.

3. NEW YORK STATE CLAIM

ARRO supported the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's leadership in negotiations related to the New York State Claim. ARRO provided critical assistance, offering expertise and guidance to ensure that Akwesasne's interests were effectively represented. Additionally, ARRO hosted an information session for Akwesasne community members, keeping them informed about the progress of the claim and its potential impact on the community.

4. INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP POLICY WITH PARKS CANADA

ARRO, alongside District Chiefs Scott Peters and Vince Thompson and Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, attended the Indigenous Stewardship Policy event. After several years of collaboration with Indigenous partners, the policy was officially approved and enacted on October 15, 2024. This milestone was celebrated in a formal ceremony with Minister Steven Guilbeault and members of the Indigenous Stewardship Circle. The policy represents a significant step forward in fostering First Nations-led environmental stewardship practices in partnership with Canada.

Parks Canada's Indigenous Stewardship Policy will guide the implementation of the Indigenous Stewardship Framework, fostering ethical space, respect-

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

AKWESASNE RIGHTS AND RESEARCH OFFICE — 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

ing Indigenous rights, and supporting cultural continuity. The policy requires ongoing collaboration with local Indigenous partners at heritage sites to support stewardship, implement UNDRIP, and uphold commitments in the UN Declaration Act Action Plan. The policy will be executed through co-developed Indigenous Stewardship Plans at each site, outlining priorities for local stewardship. Additionally, Parks Canada's National Office Directorates will create strategies for implementing the framework, with input from the Indigenous Stewardship Circle.



5. REPATRIATION AND REBURIAL OF INDIGENOUS ARTIFACTS

ARRO made significant strides in the repatriation and reburial of culturally significant Indigenous artifacts. This work focused on returning sacred objects back to the Akwesasne community, or ancestral remains and funerary where they were respectfully reburied in accordance with traditional practices and legal frameworks. These efforts reflect ARRO's deep commitment to preserving and protecting Akwesasne's cultural heritage.

6. CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING WITH CBSA

ARRO conducted two cultural awareness training sessions for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) at the Cornwall and Dundee Points of Entry in 2024.

A total of 53 participants took part in these sessions, designed to foster understanding and respect for our unique geographic situation, Akwesasne history, community, and cultural awareness.

7. BELLEVUE HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE CONSULTATION

ARRO played a role in the consultation process for the reopening of the Bellevue House National Historic Site. Working closely with various First Nations and Parks Canada, ARRO ensured that the new exhibits and programming accurately reflected a diverse range of perspectives, particularly those of Indigenous communities. The exhibits now address the complex legacies of Confederation and Sir John A. MacDonald, offering a more inclusive narrative that acknowledges the historical significance and ongoing impacts on Indigenous peoples.



Looking Forward

As ARRO continues to advocate for the recognition of our rights, history, and culture, 2024 marked a year of significant milestones. From land reclamation to cultural preservation and policy development, ARRO remains committed to the advancement of Akwesasne's sovereignty and the protection of our inherent rights.

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS PRESENTS:

JOIN US! CHOOSE A SERIES:

SERIES 1

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an introduction to the basics of a Will and guidance on using a Will Kit.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Attend an overview of the Will format and learn how to draft your own Will, followed by a Q&A with a lawyer on site.

OR

SERIES 2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for an introduction to the basics of a Will and guidance on using a Will Kit.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Attend an overview of the Will format and learn how to draft your own Will, followed by a Q&A with a lawyer on site.

WILL WRITING WORKSHOPS

St. Regis Recreation Center

Meals will be provided at each session (while supplies last).

- ✓ WHAT IS A WILL?
- ✓ WHO SHOULD MAKE A WILL?
- ✓ WHAT MAKES A WILL VALID?
- ✓ CHOOSING YOUR EXECUTOR
- ✓ HOW THE INDIAN ACT MAY AFFECT YOUR ESTATE



SARA LAZORE
ESTATE FACILITATOR
613-575-2250 EXT. 1020

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI WELCOMES AKWESASNE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

Entewatathá:wi is pleased to welcome the Akwesasne Negotiations Team. We are honored to have Grand Chief Leonard Lazore as the Lead Negotiator for the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government negotiations. Alongside Grand Chief Lazore, Entewatathá:wi welcomes three newly elected and three returning Council Chiefs to support this important work.



Grand Chief Leonard Lazore



Lisa Francis-Benedict
Kawehno:ke District Chief



Cindy Francis-Mitchell
Kana:takon District Chief



Teresa Oakes
Kana:takon District Chief



Scott Peters
Tsi Snaihne District Chief



JoAnn Swamp
Tsi Snaihne District Chief



Vince Thompson
Kawehno:ke District Chief

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the Government of Canada have been actively negotiating the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA) since 2013. This agreement aims to solidify Akwesasne's autonomy in managing its own affairs while maintaining a government-to-government relationship with Canada.

Negotiations between Akwesasne and Canada occur during formal "Main Table Negotiations," where representatives from both parties engage in high-level discussions on specific subject matters. These meetings include negotiators, legal advisors, community advisors, and MCA technicians. The goal is to reach a mutual understanding and agreement that enhances the political and economic independence of the Mohawks of Akwesasne while re-

specting our legal and inherent rights.

Main Table Negotiations involve multiple rounds of proposals, counterproposals, and revisions, requiring collaboration and careful deliberation. The outcomes of these discussions will form the foundation of the ESGA, marking a significant step toward self-determination.

The Entewatathá:wi team holds a monthly Portfolio meeting with the Nation Building Portfolio Chiefs. The purpose of these meetings are to review and discuss progress and accomplishments related to the Nation Building portfolio, address any challenges or issues, and share important updates. These discussions often focus on key matters that could affect the self-government agreement, ensuring everyone is informed.

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

HONORING EXPERIENCE AND COMMITMENT: INTRODUCING AKWESASNE'S NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

In the pursuit of establishing fair and just laws for our community, the Akwesasne Justice Department (ADJ) conducted a callout for new members to serve on the Oversight Committee on Legislative Development. The Committee, consisting of Council and appointed community representatives, plays a crucial role in drafting legislation that protects and advances the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne, guided by principles of peace, respect, and fairness. We are pleased to announce that the successful candidates for each district were Dr. Doris Cook of Kana:takon, Gary Cole of Kawehno:ke, and Connie Lazore of Tsi Snaihne. Here is a little background on each of our new committee members:



Doris Cook, PhD, MPH, has a diverse background in the management of policy and legislative development as well as the requisite stakeholder consultations. Over the years she has volunteered

her time and expertise to many organizations such as the Hogansburg Housing Development Fund Inc., MCA Akwesasne Review Committee, and the Native American Cancer Research Inc. Board of Directors. From serving as a senior policy analyst at Health Canada to working closely with the Federal Department of Justice, Doris is bringing her vast experience working with many organizations during her impressive 40+ year career.

Gary Cole joins us from the Community Support Program where he has served over 25 years as a Case Management Supervisor. In the past he has sat on the

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education for 15 years and twice on the Akwesasne Police Commission for 14 years. Gary also served as a two term Kawehno:ke District Chief from 1994 to 1997 and then from 2003 to 2006. With his extensive knowledge gained by serving on these boards, commissions and Council, Gary will prove to be a great asset to this committee.



Former Mohawk Council of Akwesasne employee Connie Lazore has served 35 years in various positions of administration, leadership, and legislative development. She was also a member of the

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission (AMPC), Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE), and the Membership Board. Through her experience as MCA District Chief and as the ADJ Justice Coordinator/Legislative Services Manager, she has gained significant knowledge about the legislative development process over the past eight years. Connie's existing involvement within the organization will serve as a great asset to the Oversight Committee's success.

We are excited to welcome these new members to the Committee who will oversee and receive Council and community input; provide community guidance and direction in the development of Akwesasne Laws; and consider and balance the diversity of perspectives. Niawenhkó:wa for your commitment to the community of Akwesasne and congratulations Doris, Gary and Connie!

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

KANIEN'KÉHA FEATURED AT KAWEHNO:KE BANK OF MONTREAL

The AMBE Mohawk Language & Culture Program has partnered with the Bank of Montreal (BMO) on Cornwall Island to incorporate Kanien'kéha into public spaces, creating a more inclusive and culturally rich environment. This collaboration highlights the importance of weaving the Mohawk language into our everyday surroundings, fostering both awareness and accessibility for the community.

commitment to preserving and sharing the language is truly commendable and instrumental in making opportunities like this possible for our community.

Each poster displayed at BMO features Kanien'kéha words along with a QR code. By scanning the code with your cellphone, you can listen to the words being spoken—a simple yet impactful way to connect with and learn the language.

Stop by BMO on Cornwall Island to experience this wonderful project and celebrate the resilience and vibrancy of our language!

Niawenhkó:wa to the Bank of Montreal for welcoming this initiative and making space for Kanien'kéha within their establishment. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated staff of the AMBE Mohawk Language & Culture Program. Their



JOIN AMBE TEXT ALERTS

Stay connected with the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education!

Families are invited to join our text alert system to receive important updates straight to your phone.

Get real-time alerts about:

- Important Events
- Cancellations
- Delays
- Early Dismissals

...and much more!

Stay informed and never miss a critical update.

Sign up today by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below:

<https://eztxt.net/xQG6Kz>

JOIN AMBE TEXT ALERTS!
Get real-time alerts about:
 • Important Events
 • Cancellations
 • Delays
 • Early Dismissals
 ...and much more!

Message... OK
 Q W E R T Y U I O P
 A S D F G H J K L
 Z X C V B N M
 123 @ # space . Go

OHAWHIO LANGUAGES OF CANADA AMBE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IAKHIHSOHTHA HOSTS ANNUAL DOOR DECORATING CONTEST FOR THEIR RESIDENTS

The Iakhihsohta Lodge hosted their annual Door Decorating Contest. Decorating began in November, with judging taking place on December 10th.

Resident's families and Lodge staff joined in the fun and decorated throughout the building. Families of resident's helped their loved ones decorate their doors and get into the festive fun. Everyone got into the festivities and got creative with the themes and decorations.

Winners for the Door Decorating Contest are as follows:

- **Craftsmanship:** Jack Leaf
- **Creativity:** Harriet Peters
- **Visual Appeal:** Lucille
- **Funniest:** Felicia & Janice Tallet
- **Tota:** Elaine Cook

A special thank you goes out to our Door Decorating Contest judges:

- Derrick King, Tribal Sub-Chief
- Sarah Sunday-Diabo, Tsi Snaihne District Chief
- Tesha Rourke, Tsi Snaihne District Chief
- Diane Lazore, Tsiionkwanonhso:te Recreation & Leisure Supervisor
- Mylee Lazore, Community Member

Nia:wen/thank you to all the friends, family, and staff of our tota's who helped make our Door Decorating Contest another amazing event for our residents.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTIFIES COMMUNITY ON CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN ROLLOUT

NEW INITIATIVE TO ASSIST IN REDUCING FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR ELDERLY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health (DOH) is notifying the community on the rollout of the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) will assist in easing financial barriers when accessing oral healthcare for eligible Canadian residents. Applications for the new dental care plan will open in phases, starting with seniors/elders.

The application schedule rollout for the Canadian Dental Care Plan will be as follows:

- Seniors aged 87 and above: Started December 2023
- Seniors aged 77 to 86: Started January 2024
- Seniors aged 72 to 76: Started February 2024
- Seniors aged 70 to 71: Started March 2024
- Seniors aged 65 to 69: Starting May 2024

Adults with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate: Starting June 2024

Children under the age of 18: Starting June 2024

All remaining eligible Canadian residents: Starting 2025

To be eligible for the Canadian Dental Care Plan, you must meet the following:

- **Not** have access to dental insurance
- Have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000
- Be a Canadian resident for tax purposes
- Have filed your tax return in the previous year

If you have dental coverage through a provincial, territorial, or federal government social program, you can still qualify for the CDCP. If you meet all the eligibility criteria, your coverage will be coordinated between the plans to ensure there are no duplications or gaps in coverage. Providing false information on your application can cause you to be removed from the plan.

Applications for the new Canadian Dental Care Plan can be found at the following website: www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html.

Scan QR code to view the new Canadian Dental Care Plan:



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TOTAS TAKE AIM: OPEN SEASON AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE

On November 25th, our Tsiionkwanonhso:te residents went "hunting" for a wildly fun open season event — and they sure didn't miss the mark!

With Nerf guns in hand, the totas showcased their sharp shooting skills as our spirited staff suited up as various wildlife. It was heartwarming to see their impressive hand-eye coordination and the revival of old hunting skills.

After the thrill of the hunt, everyone gathered to enjoy a feast featuring elk and bison — a true treat for our seasoned hunters!

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and memorable!



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SECTOR WELCOMES NEW ADDICTIONS PROGRAM MANAGER



The MCA Department of Health's Mental Health & Wellness Sector would like to extend a warm welcome to their new Addictions Program Manager, Bonnie Bradley. Bonnie enters her new role with many years of experience in addictions and counseling.

Bonnie has held many roles within the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, with her passion being in Addictions Services. Bonnie was instrumental in establishing the Sahatihahará:ne Detox Center, where she served as Clinical Supervisor. Bonnie brings a wealth of knowledge, passion, and compassion into her new role.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ADDICTION SERVICES HOSTS RESOURCE FAIR

On Monday, November 25, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Addiction Services hosted an impactful Addictions Resource Fair at the Kana:takon Recreation Center. The event provided attendees with a wealth of information, support, and resources designed to help individuals and families affected by addiction.

Community members had the opportunity to connect with various treatment programs, counseling services, and support groups, all in a welcoming and supportive environment. The fair aimed to em-

power those seeking assistance, offering hope and guidance on the path to recovery.

In addition to valuable resources, attendees enjoyed door prizes, giveaways, and informative displays from local organizations. The fair successfully highlighted the community's commitment to wellness, ensuring that everyone felt supported and informed.

Niawenhkó:wa to all those that attended, and to the staff and programs that made this event possible.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

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

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

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

Land-Based Healing:
613-575-2341

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

Traditional Medicine:
613-575-2341 ext. 3100

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

Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic:
613-932-5808

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

Elder Services:
613-575-2341 ext. 1661

Iakhihsotha Lodge:
613-575-2507

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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MEDICAL TRANSPORT DRIVER OPPORTUNITIES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Health Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits (ANIHB) is seeking dedicated medical transport drivers to join our team. Our service provides essential transportation for eligible community members to access medically required health services.

ANIHB is currently looking for **casual drivers**, with the potential for these positions to become permanent. Applicants must be certified in CPR/First Aid or be willing to participate in training to obtain certification.

Job Description

- Provide safe and reliable transportation for clients to medical appointments
- Operate vehicles in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Maintain accurate records of trips and client information
- Ensure client comfort and safety during transport

Requirements

- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record
- Experience in patient transport or a similar role preferred
- Knowledge of the Akwesasne community and surrounding areas
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends
- CPR/First Aid certification (or willingness to obtain certification through provided training)

Benefits

- Competitive hourly rate
- Opportunity to serve the Akwesasne community
- Training and professional development opportunities

Qualified candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to the Department of Health:

Laura Benedict
lbenedict.nihb@akwesasne.ca
Program Support Officer
Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits

For more information, please contact our office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3349.

Join us in providing this crucial service to our community members, ensuring they have access to the medical care they need.



Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits

MEDICAL TRANSPORT DRIVER OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, please contact ANIHB:
613-575-2341 ext. 3349

The poster features a white van with the Akwesasne logo on its side, parked in a lot. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, with the title in large, bold letters. The background is a dark grey with a subtle pattern of small white dots.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

ACFS SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER WITH TURKEY AND HAM GIVEAWAY

Akwesasne Child & Family Services was delighted to bring some extra warmth and joy to the community this holiday season with a free turkey or ham giveaway. Held on December 23, 2024 in all three districts, this event ensured that families had the opportunity to enjoy a special meal together during the festive season.

The response from the community was truly heartwarming, with spirits bright and smiles aplenty as community members received their turkey or ham just in time for the holidays.

We extend a heartfelt *nia:wen* to everyone who supported this event, especially the dedicated volunteers and staff whose efforts made it all possible. Your generosity and teamwork helped make this season a little brighter for many families in Akwesasne.

From all of us at Akwesasne Child & Family Services, we wish you a safe, joyful, and happy holiday season!



AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE ALLOTMENT INCREASED TO \$1,500

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is pleased to announce that the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program amount has been increased to \$1,500 for all approved applications, regardless of age category.

Please note that the final application deadline is Friday, December 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be accepted, as fuel distribution will begin immediately. Please ensure your application is submitted on time to be

eligible for the heating assistance allotment.

This program is open to Akwesasnon who reside under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in one of the three northern districts or within the City of Cornwall boundary. Only one application is allowed per household.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne wishes you and your family a very happy holiday season!

WORLD WETLANDS DAY



NEW
KIDS' NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

View contest details at rrca.on.ca/Photo or scan the code.



Come celebrate and learn about our local wetlands!

- SNOWSHOE TOURS
- EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
- COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
- WETLAND PRIZES
- HOT CHOCOLATE AND MORE!

February 1, 2025

10 am - 2 pm

Cooper Marsh Conservation Area
20020 County Rd. 2, South Glengarry, ON

FREE ADMISSION! ❄️ ALL WELCOME!

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Hazard Help Sheet: DO ONE THING!

Do 1 Thing is a web-based 12-month preparedness program that focuses on a different area of emergency preparedness, and provides a range of preparedness options for each topic. Every month has a low or no cost option to become better prepared. You can jump in at anytime, so let's begin!

Small Steps Towards Being Prepared for an Emergency

Month	Do 1 Thing	What You Can Do
January	Make a Plan	Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.
February	Water	Have 72 hours (3 days) worth of water stored for your household.
March	Sheltering	Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.
April	Food	Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.
May	Work, School, Community	Make sure the people who count on you are prepared for a disaster.
June	Unique Family Needs	Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.
July	Family Communication Plan	Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.
August	Get Involved	Make your community stronger by getting trained and getting involved.
September	Be Informed	Make sure everyone in your household can receive, understand, and act on information received in an emergency.
October	Power	Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.
November	Emergency Supplies	Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.
December	First Aid	Be prepared to give first aid while waiting for an ambulance.

For more information, to go to do1thing.com
Brought to you by MCA's Emergency Measures Program

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CONSTABLE SPARKLES RETURN TO AKWESASNE: HOLIDAY ADVENTURES WITH AMPS

Constable Sparkles, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service's beloved Elf on the Shelf, has returned for another season of spreading holiday cheer and sharing important safety reminders. Sparkles has been keeping busy this month with adventures that showcase the festive spirit of the AMPS team and the community they serve.

This year, Sparkles has already made a big impression, starting with a reminder about winter road safety. From snowflakes to snow tires, Sparkles ensured everyone was prepared for the colder months, because "elf-cidents" are no joke! The little elf even joined AMPS' night shift, brewing up some holiday cheer (and coffee) to keep up with the team's busy schedule.

Sparkles also had a run-in with some holiday mischief-makers! From catching Barbie and friends driving with a little too much holiday "spirit" to reminding everyone about the dangers of impaired driving, Sparkles emphasized that whether it's alcohol, cannabis, or other substances, the message is clear: Stay safe, stay smart, and spread joy responsibly this season.

And speaking of catching mischief, Sparkles had a memorable moment with a famous holiday visitor. Snoop Dogg — or rather, "Snoop Claus" — was caught green-handed, proving that even celebrities need reminders about staying off the naughty list when it comes to driving safely. Sparkles' sharp eye for detail keeps everyone in line this season!

The holiday cheer didn't stop there. Sparkles was spotted serving up festive vibes at the MCA Community Holiday Dinners across Akwesasne's three districts. From Kana:takon to Kawehno:ke and Tsi Snaihne, Sparkles loved seeing the community come together to share delicious meals and holiday joy. Of course, no celebration would be complete without a visit from Santa, Sparkles' best pal!

As temperatures dropped, Sparkles took on an important winter safety mission. While patrolling rivers and ponds, Sparkles issued a crucial thin ice warning. From reminding residents to keep their distance from frozen waterways to ensuring pets stay safe, the AMPS team and their little helper emphasized the importance of caution during the icy season.

For a dose of holiday fun and important safety tips, community members can follow Constable Sparkles' adventures on the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service Facebook page or by searching #AMPSElfOnTheShelf and #ConstableSparkles. Whether it's cracking down on holiday hijinks or sharing a smile, Constable Sparkles is here to make this season merry, bright, and safe for all.

Welcome back, Constable Sparkles — and nia:wen for helping to make the holidays in Akwesasne so special!



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

HELP US NAME AMPS' NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is thrilled to launch an exciting one-week youth program aimed at sparking positive awareness and interest in law enforcement among high school students. This dynamic program will feature:

- Physical fitness challenges
- Defensive tactics training
- Inside look at AMPS' specialized units

It's an incredible chance for students to learn new skills, connect with our officers, and explore the world of law enforcement!

We need your help naming this amazing program! Submit your ideas now by taking the survey at: <https://forms.office.com/r/UbY3D63ZPv>

Let's work together to make this program unforgettable!

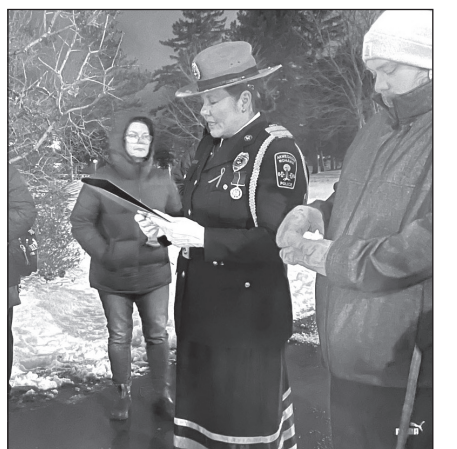
AMPS SUPPORT THE TREE OF HOPE TO HONOUR MMIWG2S

On December 5, 2024, Deputy Chief LeeAnn O'Brien and Acting Chief Ranatiostha Swamp were honoured to attend the inaugural Tree of Hope event at Lamoureux Park alongside the Cornwall Police Service.

This heartfelt gathering, organized by the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program, Cornwall Police Service, and the City of Cornwall, served as a powerful moment of reflection, resilience, and solidarity with families and communities impacted by violence.

The AMPS office proudly participated by decorating a tree with red lights and red dress ornaments to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). The Tree of Hope stands as a symbol of resilience, remembrance, and a collective call to action to end violence.

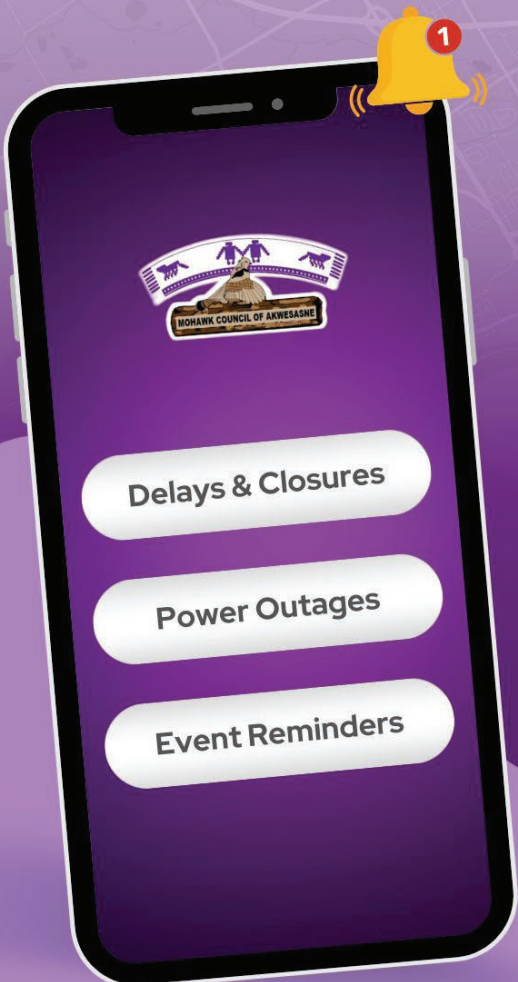
The evening featured traditional songs, prayers, and speeches, culminating in the symbolic lighting of the tree. Each light and ribbon adorning the tree represented a life, a family's strength, and our shared commitment to justice and healing. Together, we will continue to raise awareness and advocate for change.





Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and prosperous New Year!



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