



Leonard Lazore

Grand Chief

January 2025 Monthly Report

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Monthly Notables:

January 6-10

- Council Weekly Meeting
- Children's Aid Society (CAS) Board Presidents Meeting
- Border Partners Initiatives Meeting
 - This is a working relationship with Akwesasne and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Governance Committee Meeting
 - Discussed future Council Meeting Structure
- Meeting at Native North American Travelling College (NNATC) with a developer
 - Food sovereignty initiative
- Meeting with Community Member
 - Discussed concerns with NYS Land Claims Settlement
- Finance Committee Meeting
 - Reviewed the Financial Audit of 2024
- Internal Planning Meetings
 - Organizing details of future meetings with CBSA President to discuss border crossing initiatives and strategies to improve border crossing.
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Agreement Discussion with Elders
 - Update on the OPG Agreement from the Elders perspective
- Meeting with Community Member
 - Discussed Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL), Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) and issues related to tolls

January 27-31

- Council Weekly Meeting
- Review and follow up on action items
- Response to Hydro Quebec power outage
- Meeting with CBSA Senior Management regarding border crossing

Works in Progress:

- Border Collaboration Initiatives, MCA & CBSA
 - Public Safety – meeting community priorities
 - Cornwall & Dundee Port of Entry – to address unique needs of community
 - Pre-Clearance – to address delays at the border
 - Community Relations – to address timely communications,
 - Support economic development, and emergency planning
- Food Sovereignty Opportunities
- Impact of Toll Increase
- Governance Review
- Community Communications Plans
- Sustainable Energy Research and Review
- Investment Opportunities – review existing agreements

VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief



MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting - Ny State Land Claim signing by the Grand Chief,

Discussions included passing of dignitaries, Lobbying report, Iroquois Caucus Agenda, January 30th general meeting agenda

MCRs: Decertification NY State Land Claim, CMM

PORTFOLIO

Public Safety

Attended AMPS Strategic Planning Community engagement Kawehno:ke session. Priority areas discussed with community input included - Community Focused, Enhanced Safety, Building Capacity, Sound Governance

MCA/CBSA BCI Internal Meeting

Border Collaboration Tables

- Leaders Circle
- Governance Circle - VA
- Cornwall POE Working Circle- VA
- Dundee POE Working Circle
- Preclearance Working Circle
- Community Relations Working Circle
 - Upcoming MCA Meeting with CBSA President Erin O’Gorman and RDG January 29, 2025 topics to include Border Security Community Safety.

DCSS LTR FNCFS Update Meeting

January 9, 2025 Via Zoom Updates provided by OKT Law, ORC Abram Benedict, Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler (NAN) Questions and answer period

WEEKLY REPORT

JANUARY 6TH - 10TH 2025

First Nations Child and Family Services Reform FNCFS

Information is available on the Chiefs of Ontario website at fncfsreform.ca. I encourage you to take the time to review the material. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to your District Chief or contact me directly at (613) 575-2250, extension 2174.



Inquiries
Special Needs Fund Applications Policy limitations?

Helping Homelessness?

Peacetree Mall Repairs and Maintenance Report?



Solutions
Advocating for policy updates to SPFP

DCSS provides. Temporary shelter options and supports.

DIHE Ec Dev & A/Executive Director contacted to determine next steps.

JANUARY
10th

LTR of the FNCFS Program – Final Agreement

JANUARY
28-30, 2025

COO Mental Wellness and Substance Use

SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY MEETING

The Special Needs Fund Committee discussed improving services for Akwesasronon, including proposed changes like an online application process and updated membership and address requirements. They reviewed current policies and made recommendations for inclusivity, which will need Council approval. Once approved, the updated policy will be accessible online for community members.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 13TH - 17TH 2025

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE



Government Secretariat Portfolio

- January 14, 2025
- Meeting: Introductory Meeting
- Updates Included: Quebec Liaison
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG)
- Akwesasne Rights and Research Office
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) (BCI)

*Next Meeting Scheduled For:** February 11, 2025

Weekly Council Highlights:

Council and Grand Chief provided updates on portfolios and internal and external committees, working task groups.

Presentation AMPS Policing Initiative - Organized crime unit
Melissa Haggerty, LeeAnn Obrien, Ranatiostha Swamp.

Discussions included Governance, 28 days of Positivity Campaign, Homelessness, AFNQL Elections

MCRS: Financial Statements Audit, Financial System Implementation, Signing Authorities, Funding Agreement Amendments, Court Intervener submission, CMM

PORTFOLIO

Public Safety - Attended AMPS Strategic Planning Community engagement Kawehno:ke session. Priority areas discussed with community input included - Community Focused, Enhanced Safety, Building Capacity, Sound Governance

Department of Health DOH

Portfolio met January 16, 2025

Key discussion topics - PSW Salary Compensation, Nursing salary compensation - MCR & Implementation, Quebec residents will now be able to access services at TOH for dialysis and renal transplants. Blood work available in all districts as of January 21, 2025, Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic opened January 22, 2025, Grow own NP program starts June 30, 2025, goal to have a NP in each district.

Special Needs Committee

Review of and discussion on strategic plan and needs for updating the current document, review of 2019 community consultations, need for updated Special Needs Fund Policy



Inquiries

Special Needs Fund Applications Policy limitations?

Helping Homelessness?

Peacetree Mall Repairs and Maintenance Report?



Solutions

*Advocating for policy updates to SPFP

*DCSS provides. Temporary shelter options and supports.

*DIHE Ec Dev & A/Executive Director contacted to determine next steps.

JANUARY

24, 2025

Unavailable - family weekend

FEBRUARY

3-5th

AFN National Forum on UNDRIP

FNCFS LONG TERM REFORM

The Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation are hosting Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program Committee Member- Final Agreement Update meetings for Chiefs in Ontario. These sessions provide confidential and settlement-privileged updates on the Final Agreement. Please FNCFS website for information.

The Chiefs of Ontario will host a Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) on February 26, 2025 in a hybrid format to discuss the Ontario Final Agreement.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 20TH - 24TH 2025

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting:

AMBE Organizational Chart, MCA DOH Elder Services, and SIBC.

- Key Points:
- Elder Services proposed a budget increase; a briefing note requested for lobbying on programming gaps for Elders. Internal Solutions discussed.
- SIBC proposed a \$1 toll increase, I raised concerns about negative economic impacts and detrimental financial barriers. Unacceptable increases cannot continue. SIBC Officials state a letter to waive tolls for community-serving entities, such as fuel deliveries will be accepted

MCRS - BMO Signing Authorities, YECL, CMM

PORTFOLIO

ARRO

Attended the Portfolio Meeting on January 21, 2025, where topics included repatriation of artifacts, a Parks Canada research request, New York State internal agreement, updates on the Nutfield Tract, Dundee ATR, OPG ATR, Seaway claim, CBSA cultural awareness training, and Indian Day Schools. The meeting also addressed Cultural Properties Protocol and Repatriation Policy. Attended Tsikaristisere/Dundee Trust Signing

Homelessness - DCSS

Unity Street raised awareness, leading to outreach to DCSS, CSP, and AFWP for short-term solutions. AFWP donated items, and CSP is preparing 50 backpacks. Connections were established with programs in Akwesasne to assist those needing housing. Thanks to DCSS, CSP, AFWP, and Unity Street for their prompt responses.

Executive Committee

The executive committee convened to discuss the terms of reference and the steps required for hiring a new Executive Director. An update will be presented to the council for their information and feedback.

JTBA Governance Meeting

On January 22, 2025, JTBA and CBSA representatives held a hybrid meeting via ZOOM to discuss coordination of technical table meetings and planning for an upcoming summit. The focus was on updating table representatives and filling positions from across Canada, a task managed by the JTBA Coordinator. As the co-convenor of the Border Experiences Table, I shared relevant updates with the high-level tables.



Inquiries

Request to connect to assistive Learning Devices?

Peacetree Mall Repairs and Maintenance Report?



Solutions

Connection made to DCSS A/director letter required and provided to supply supports.

DIHE Ec Dev & A/Executive Director contacted to determine next steps.

SIBC
Toll Increase

Announcement April 1, 2025
\$1 increase

FEBRUARY
24th, 2025

Unavailable - family weekend

MCA/SRMT LEADERSHIP MEETING

On January 21, 2025, leaders from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne met at the Kawehno:ke Recreation to review action items. Discussions included beaver reduction, Lateral Kindness for Leadership, Waterline emergencies, the Akwesasne Freedom School, the New York State Land Claim, and revitalizing language and culture. They also addressed the new space for the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance at the St. Regis Mohawk Health Services campus.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 25TH - 31ST 2025

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting

Political Protocol Presentation

- Debrief on MCA/SRMT meeting
- FNCFS info shared via email for community information.
- YECL youth representatives.
 - Updates on budget, charter, terms of reference, JTBA technical table, and Executive Committee. Proposed increase in SIBC tolls discussed.
- MCRS
 - Nursing Compensation
 - AMBE Organizational Chart
 - Communications Working Group
 - Housing Upgrades/New Construction
 - Elders Emergency Fund

Elder Services

Elder Services is a newly established program designed to support Akwesasne Elders aged 60 and above, enabling them to live independently and safely in their own homes. The program focuses on delivering a variety of services, including social activities, assistance with minor household chores, safety services, and coordination of additional services and activities. please contact Chelsea Swamp, Associate Director of the Continuing Care Department of Health.

Portfolio

Economic Development

Meeting with Public Services and Procurement Canada Key Programs and Initiatives
Procurement Modernization, Green Procurement, Canadian Collaborative Procurement Initiative (CCPI), Engagement with Indigenous Communities, Mandatory Minimum 5% Indigenous Procurement Target, Indigenous Benefits Plan, Strategies for Improvement, Verification Processes, Accountability Measures, Capacity Building and Support, Akwesasne has 400 registered businesses between MCA and SRMT jurisdiction, with approximately 400+ more unregistered; micro-businesses, artisans, etc. We have one of the largest Indigenous entrepreneurship in Canada. MCA and Akwesasne entrepreneurs should be engaged more regularly.
Economic Development to present FTTH updates to Community at General Meeting January 30, 2025

Inquiries	Solutions
<p><i>US Customs use of Tribal/Status Card that is expired? Change to border mobility concerns, being detained?</i></p> <p><i>SIBC Toll increase request for Meetings - local businesses and Council request to Board of Directors</i></p>	<p>US Customs accepts expired cards belonging to members US Customs will notify MCA/SRMT of changes</p> <p>Scheduling and updates will be communicated once dates are confirmed</p>

MCA/CBSA January 30, 2025	MCA & President of CBSA RDG introductory meeting
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JANUARY 31, 2025	Public Safety Portfolio Meeting
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MENTAL WELLNESS & ADDICTIONS

On January 28-30th, 2025 attended the COO Mental Wellness & Substance Use Conference

Portfolio Connections: Department of Health, Department of Community & Social Services.

Agenda Highlights - Two Eyed Seeing: Transforming Autism and Mental Health Services Through Collaboration, Crisis response, intervention, Supporting the Well-Being of the First Nations Mental Wellness Workforce, Understanding and Addressing First Nations Homelessness and Mental Wellness, Responding to the Toxic Drug Crisis in Communities: Community Framework for the Implementation of Wrap Around Safer Supply Initiatives, Confronting Anti Indigenous Racism and Building Safe and Comprehensive Mental Health Systems Dr. Carol Hopkins and Dr. Brenda Restoule

Monthly Chief Report: December 2024 – January 2025

Chief Vince Thompson

District of Kawehno:ke

chief.vince.thompson@akwesasne.ca

During this period, I attended all my required MCA Council and Portfolio meetings, remaining actively engaged in discussions and decision-making. I'd also like to extend my warmest wishes to the community and hope everyone had a relaxing and happy holiday season. I took two weeks off over the holidays to spend time with family and was recently out of the office on bereavement.

Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Group

- **Location:** Tyendinaga, ON

Day 1 (Prep for Meeting)

- **Hunting Rights:** Discussed hunting outside treaty areas and the establishment of acknowledgment letters for native hunters.
- **Butcher Protections:** Drafted letters to protect butchers from potential Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) charges.
- **Deer Population Management:** Addressed herd reductions around Akwesasne and Six Nations' traditional territories. Other areas within Parks Canada are being explored.
- **Treaty & Hunting Summit:** Brief discussion of the One Dish One Spoon 1701 Treaty and the upcoming hunting summit in Oneida.
- **Mi'kmaq Hunting Protocols:** Finalizing protocols, aiming for completion by next hunting season.
- **Tyendinaga's Fisheries:** Discussion on their ocean and fishery initiative (a hatchery to support the walleye population in the area).
- **Legislative Review:** Brief discussion on Bill C-53 and Métis assertions, with further consultations planned.

Day 2 (Meeting with Deputy Minister of Natural Resources)

- **Key Topics:** Covered trespass/property law, shipment letters, inherent rights, and treaty relationships.

- **Cultural Sensitivity Training:** ARRO presented their cultural awareness training that is available to MNR.
- **Acknowledgment:** Chief Vince commends the newly elected MCA chiefs in attendance for their active participation and strong representation of Akwesasne throughout the discussions.

Iroquois Caucus (IC) General Assembly

- **Location:** Ottawa, ON (prior to AFN Special Chiefs Assembly)
- **Jay Treaty Rights:** Discussed with Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) Abram Benedict and AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak in attendance.
- **Grand Chief Introduction:** Introduced Grand Chief Leonard Lazore to IC communities.
- **Harvest Working Task Group:** Provided an update on the group's meeting with MNR.

Eel Knowledge Working Group

- **Location:** Virtual
- **Eel Release:** Working group established following up eel release event held by the MCA Environment Program in July 2024.
- **Data Sharing:** Canadian Wildlife Federation presented data on eel monitoring and the impact of Ontario's 953 dams.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Ongoing initiatives to support eel populations, which are critical to the ecosystem.

ARRO Portfolio Meeting

- **NYS Land Claim:** Discussed key points prior to settlement signing. Update on the letter presented to court regarding MCA's position on the land claim.
- **Referendum Planning:** Briefing on the referendum process and next steps.
- **Cairn Island:** Addressed media release request and response.

Entewetatha:wi Annual Updates

- **Year-End Review:** Summary of Nation Building's completed work.
- **Community Survey:** Discussed survey on Entewetatha:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA) and Nation Building's current initiatives.

Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Meeting

- **Location:** Virtual

- **Housing & Infrastructure Reform:** Discussed updates on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding allocations for 2025-2026.
- **Housing Programs:** Reviewed Housing Internship Initiative and Co-op Housing Development Program.
- **Construction Insurance:** Presentation by Guy Latouche, Housing and Infrastructure Advisor, on insurance for on-reserve housing.

Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Meeting

- **Location:** OPG Visitors Center (Cornwall, ON)
- **Trust Update:** Trustees, overseers, Council, and Deloitte representatives received an update on the current trust amount and proposal priorities.
- **New Council Briefing:** Provided new Council members with an overview of the Trust's "dos and don'ts."

Economic Development Portfolio Meeting (December)

- **Quebec Political Protocol:** Discussed potential impacts of the proposed French language bill.
- **Agreements Review:** Evaluated existing agreements with Quebec and the creation of a framework to assess impacts on commerce in Quebec districts.

Border Partners Meeting

- **Traffic Flow & Turkey Giveaway:** Reviewed logistics and allowances for the MCA turkey giveaway.
- **Port Hours:** Smaller ports reduced hours; no impact on Dundee port of entry (POE).
- **Safety Measures:** Speed bumps installed in the northbound lane for enhanced safety. MCA presented public safety concern; USCBP responded that it's designated for the safety of officers conducting routine traffic checks.
- **CBSA Updates:** Discussed the medical transport MOU initiative and I was introduced to the new representative of CBSA: Acting Chief of Operations Chantale Nicholls and Regional Director General Jag Johnston.
- **Wildlife Protocols:** Addressed measures to mitigate issues such as Chronic Wasting Disease in deer.

AMPS Policing Initiative Presentation

- **Organized Crime Unit:** Akwesasne Mohawk Police presented on updated agreements for border enforcement response and organized crime reduction.

- **Interagency Collaboration:** Ongoing partnerships with OPP, AMPS, RCMP, and CBSA to reduce organized crime presence in Akwesasne.

Kawehno:ke District Meeting

- **Community Issues:** Discussed homelessness, law-making priorities, communications, and mailers.
- **Jay Treaty Border Alliance:** Provided an update on ongoing advocacy efforts.
- **Elder Services:** Presentation requested on MCA Elder Services budget and funding.

Iroquois Caucus Strategic Planning Session

- **Location:** Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort (Hogansburg, NY)
- **Sovereignty & Nationhood:** Discussions on generational nationhood, sovereignty, and inherent rights.
- **Political Strategy:** Overview of relationships with IC, AFN, and local and federal governments.
- **Legislative Impacts:** Reviewed halted bills, including C-53 (Algonquin land claim bill) and the food security bill.

EcDev Portfolio Meeting (January)

- **Federal Procurement:** Follow-up on the procurement of federal contracts with large companies – companies need 5% indigenous representation/employment to be part of the initiative.
- **Procurement Canada:** Presentation on requirements and process for federal contracts.

Community Updates

- **Land Dispute:** Coordinating follow-up with OVS regarding a community member's land concern.
- **Medical Transport Drivers:** Addressing CBSA Cornwall POE concerns regarding on-duty vs. off-duty drivers.
- **Housing Issue:** Collaborated with Kana:takon chiefs to resolve a longstanding community housing issue.
- **Delayed Reporting:** Followed up with CBSA to confirm that a reporting delay would not impact a community member's travel.
- **Housing Needs:** Assisted a community member facing cold weather challenges in an unfinished home. Working to address further housing needs.

This is all I have to report at this time. If I forgot or left out any details, perhaps my chiefs can provide additional information.

Nia:wen.



Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict



Kawehno:ke District

Email: chief.lisa.fbenedict@akwesasne.ca **Cell:** 613-577-5593

PORTFOLIOS

Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE)
Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment (DIHE)
Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD)
Entewatathá:wi Nation Building (NB)

COMMITTEES

Internal: Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Governance, Iroquois Caucus (IC), Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)

External: Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council

MONTHLY REPORT

Tsiothóhrha/December 2024 – Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 2025

Ohserá:se/ Happy New Year! Sending warmest greetings for the new year 2025.

Attend the weekly Council Meeting; Meetings normally take place on Monday.

A meeting with District of Kawehno:ke community members regarding the **New York State Land Claim** was held on Tsiothóhrha/December 2, 2024 at the Anowarako:wa Arena. There were approximately fifteen (15) community members in attendance. Information on the land claim was distributed. Cheyenne Lazore, Manager and Adam Jacobs, Researcher of the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) were in attendance to answer questions that arose.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly held from Tsiothóhrha/December 3-4, 2024 in Ottawa, attended virtually and in-person. The agenda consisted of presentations and discussions on topics/issues ranging from:

- National Youth Council
- Presentation of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Flag
- National Inquiry into Systemic Racism in Policing and First Nations Peoples Deaths
- Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Lands, Rights and Justice
- Health, Healing and Justice
- Children and Families
- Plenary: First Nations Citizenship, Economic Reconciliation, Indigenous Justice Strategy and Policing Reform and Update on Jordan's Principle and Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services Program

Holiday Dinners were held in each of the three Districts during the week of Tsiothóhrha/December 9, 2024. All dinners were attended very well by community members.

A meeting with Deloitte took place on Tsiothóhrha/December 13, 2024 at the Ontario Power Generation building in Cornwall. They have resigned as the administrative trustee of the **Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust**. TD Canada Trust is replacing them as the Administrative Trustee.

Attended some days of the **Midwinter Ceremony** during the week of Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 5-12, 2025.

Participated in training entitled “**Circle of Leaders Event**” facilitated by Beatrice Johnson Tarbell, JT Business Services and held at the Akwesasne Housing Authority Training Room. The focus of the event was “*Honouring Tradition, Inspiring Change.*”

Participated in the monthly **Kawehno:ke District Meeting** held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 13, 2025 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre at 6pm.

Portfolio Updates

Donna Lahache, Director | Ahkwesasne Mohawk Board of Education

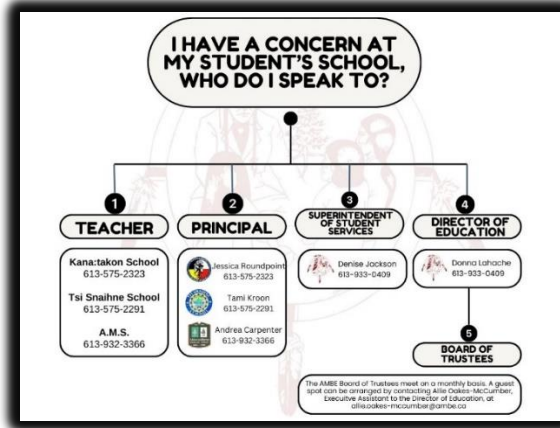
Mission: Ie thi ha hon:nien ~ We make the road for them.

AMBE consists of the three District Schools ~ Ahkwesasne Mohawk School, Tsi Snaihne School and Kana:takon School, Akwesasne Zero to Six, Akwesasne Child Care and Iohahi:io. Check out the FB page for more information on events and activities. A **Meet and Greet** which served as introduction of program staff to the Board of Trustees and Portfolio Chiefs took place on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 8, 2025. Staff provided information on programming that is offered. **AMBE holds monthly Public Meetings**. The first part of the meeting is reserved for parents, community members, Totas to participate. Board of Trustees include: Kawehno:ke District: Kathleen Papineau ~ Chair, Kuy Chaussi ~ Co-Chair, Kana:takon District: Cecelia King, Elizabeth Sawatis, Tsi Snaihne District: Josephine Herne, Mary Terrance. The monthly meeting was held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 21, 2025. The next monthly **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 7, 2025.

Do You Have a Concern at Your Student’s School?

Steps to following and who to contact to help resolve the concern:

- Speak to your student’s teacher. AMBE educators are the first step in assisting in any concerns regarding your student, they are in the classroom and see your student daily.
- Have further questions? No problem, reach out to your student’s school principal.
- Looking for a bit more? Reach out to Denise Jackson, Superintendent of Student Services. Mrs. Jackson has been an educator and principal within AMBE for many years prior to her position as Superintendent of Student Services.
- Donna Lahache, Director of Education, should be your last contact before reaching out to Allie Oakes-McCumber, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education.
- Allie can set up a meeting with the Board of Trustees. Your request should outline the situation of concern and the steps you have followed to reach this point.



Did You Know? AMBE has its own interactive **Mohawk Language Resource Website**? You and your child(ren) can play games, learn songs, read/listen to stories and so much more, all in Kanien'kéha! Check it out ~ <http://imohawk.ambe.ca/> Password: skah123.

Rachel Lazare, Project Manager | Nation Building ~ Entewatathá:wi “We Will Govern”

Mission: To negotiate a self-government agreement with Canada that recognizes expanded jurisdiction and authority and protect the Aboriginal rights and title for the Mohawk of Akwesasnes.

Vision: To implement the inherent right of self-government of the Mohawks of Akwesasne through the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement.

Annual Update was provided to the Portfolio Chiefs on Tsiothórrha/December 10, 2024. Information on the project was very beneficial, especially for new Portfolio Chiefs.

The next **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 5, 2025.

What is the purpose of the Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement (ESGA)?

The purpose of ESGA is to achieve legal recognition by the Government of Canada of the jurisdiction, authority, and institutions of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Once the ESGA is ratified, Parliament will adopt legislation that will give ESGA the force of law. The legislation will be binding on the Government of Canada and the provinces. The legislation will terminate the application of many of the provisions of the Indian Act which represents a colonialist vision of limited self-government that is inconsistent with the inherent jurisdiction of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.



CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE The Mohawks of Akwesasne and Canada acknowledge that the draft Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self Government Agreement is still under negotiation and therefore, is of a confidential nature. This information is shared

This monthly report is provided as part of the Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios and Monthly Activities.

by Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for the sole purpose of allowing Akwesasne members to participate meaningfully in community consultations and shall not be disclosed outside of the membership.

The community is invited to **get involved and spread the word about the process**. A contest for a chance to win gift cards valued at \$100 from Express Gas and \$150 from Farm Boy is happening. Refer to the MCA Facebook for details on how to enter.

The project is presently seeking one **youth community member to join the Entewatathá:wi Communications Working Group**. This group supports the development of the Akwesasne-Canada ESGA by advising on negotiations, communication plan, and publications. Check out the MCA Facebook page for further information or contact Rachel Lazare, Project Manager at 613-575-2250.

Cactus Cook Sunday, Director | Akwesasne Justice Department

Mission: *Equity, fairness and respectfulness.*

AJD employs the principle of natural justice to empower the community to safeguard collective rights, primarily, and individual rights for Akwesasró:non, while remaining respectful of the community's heritage and culture.

The **Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD)** is recognized as a first in Canada as a justice system that is based on customary laws which incorporate traditional restorative principles in the three (3) main responsibilities of government: Law Making, Adjudication and Enforcement.

Portfolio Meetings were held on Tsiothóhrha/December 17, 2024 and Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 9, 2025. The portfolio also includes participation in **Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC)**. The Committee meets with the Legislative Services Manager and its sole responsibility includes review of community laws. Each year the OSC comes together to identify which existing laws need amending, further progress of a law in draft and the need for a new law. There will be a community survey forthcoming that will gain input and ensure that Akwesasne Laws reflect the values, customs and aspirations of Akwesasronon, as well as keeping with the principles of the AJD. The next **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 13, 2025. The next **OSC Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 3, 2025.

Leslie Papineau, Director | Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment
Charmaine Caldwell, Associate Director | Housing Sector
Kayla Sunday, Manager | Environment Sector

Portfolio Meeting ~ Environment Sector took place on Tsiothóhrha/December 19, 2024. A World Wetlands Day event is scheduled on Enniska/February 1st, 2025 at Coopers Marsh from 10am to 2pm. Free admission and all are welcome. There will be educational displays, snowshoe tours, complimentary refreshments, prizes and more. The next **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 20, 2025.

Portfolio Meeting ~ Infrastructure was held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 21, 2025. An update was provided by the Water and Waste Water Manager. Further updates were provided on the Capital Project and Space Needs Study. The next **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 25, 2025.

Portfolio Meeting ~ Housing was held on Tsiothóhrha/January 22, 2025. A report was provided as an update of activities of the program. There are proposed plans for construction of apartment units at Hawthorne Road, Tsi Snaihne. The program allocates funding for home renovations/repairs annually. For

any further information on the program, contact the Housing Sector. The next **Portfolio Meeting** is scheduled for Enniska/February 26, 2025.

Committee's Updates

Governance Committee (consists of myself, Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Chief Theresa Jacobs, Chief Scott Peters). The Committee was tasked with the review of public meetings for Council Meetings. The Committee held two (2) meetings to date. Grand Chief Leonard Lazore also participated. The proposed implementation for public meetings is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 7, 2025. More details are forthcoming and will be announced.

Iroquois Caucus (consists of myself, Chief Sarah Diabo, Chief Lacey Pierce, Chief Teresa Oakes, Chief Scott Peters, Chief Vince Thompson). A strategic planning session was held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 15-17, 2025. The finalization of the strategic plan is forthcoming.

Youth, Elders, Culture and Language

(consists of myself, Chief Fallon David, Chief Lacey Pierce, Chief Tesha Rourke, Chief JoAnn Swamp, Chief Vince Thompson). The first meeting was held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 22, 2025. The Committee will be working on the Terms of Reference/Charter and will be reviewing and finalizing the budget. The Committee will also be working with the members of the Youth Council.

Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council (consists of myself, Chief Tesha Rourke)

A meeting was held on Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 24, 2025. The mandate of the Council is to ensure that a gender lens is applied to all the work and initiatives undertaken by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). Meetings are held on a consistent basis and coordinated by COO staff.

Monthly Notables

I continue to adjust to the role of **District Chief for Kawehno:ke**. I am learning something new all the time.

Works in Progress

Kawehno:ke District Chiefs Office ~ This continues to be finalized. As noted, I would like to be available for community members in the district. Once a location and dates are confirmed, this will be announced.

Upcoming Travel/Events

COO Mental Wellness and Substance Use Conference from Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 28-30, 2025 held at Blue Mountain Resort, Blue Mountains, Ontario.

Governance Orientation scheduled for Enniska/February 4-6, 2025.

Wo Inina 2025 hosted by the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food scheduled for Enniska/February 12, 2025 in Ottawa.

COO Education Forum scheduled for Enniska/February 19-20, 2025 in Toronto. Attendance to be confirmed.

AFN National Housing & Infrastructure Conference scheduled for Enniska/February 19-21, 2025 in Calgary, Alberta. Attendance to be confirmed.

Rematriation's First Haudenosaunee & Indigenous Matrilineality Symposium scheduled for Enniska/February 28-Enniskó:wa/March 2, 2025 in Syracuse, New York. Attendance to be confirmed.

I would like to hear from you.

Is the information being shared of relevance to you?

If not, then what information would you like to be updated on?

I look forward to your comments.



Chief Lacey Pierce

Kawehno:ke District



Email: Chief.lacey.pierce@akwesasne.ca Office: 613-575-2250 Ext 2173 Cell: 613-363-3498

This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Portfolios:

- Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE)
- Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Public Safety

Committees:

- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Finance
- Green Team
- Beautification
- Waterways
- Iroquois Caucus
- Youth, Elders, Culture and Language (YECL)

Monthly Notables:

- Council Communications Protocol Presentation- Shannon Roundpoint.
- Executive Director resignation and appointment.
- Effective November 29, 2024 Executive Director resignation of Mose Herne and appointment of Shannon Roundpoint for 6-month minimum term as Executive Director effective December 2, 2024.
- AFN Special Chiefs Assembly Ottawa- December 3rd – 5th Hybrid Attendance.
- Akwesasne Family Wellness Program- Holiday Gift Program
- Supporting survivors and families impacted by violence and financial hardship Deadline December 5, 2024.
- Kawehno:ke Recreation Spirit of Christmas December 6th – 8th

Community Holiday Dinners



- Kana:takon Recreation-
December 9th 5-8pm
- Kawehno:ke Recreation-
December 11th 5-8pm
- Tsi Snaihne Recreation-
December 12th 5-8pm

Department of Health Holiday Luncheon- Kanonhkwatseri:io Atrium

St. Regis Recreation- A December to Remember Annual Fundraiser December 13th -15th

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Staff Christmas Party- Akwesasne Mohawk Casino December 17th

Akwesasne Heating Assistance Allotment increased to \$1,500.00

- 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.

Condolence Fire- Tim “Dooley” Thompson- Home Care Building Kawehno:ke
Onkwe Singing Work Bee- Mohawk Nation Cookhouse

Prepare and package dehydrated foods for the upcoming Community giveaway on December 23rd
Akwesasne Child & Family Services Turkey and Ham Giveaway- December 23rd

Council assisted with distribution alongside DCSS & Volunteers in all 3 districts, due to the increase in cost of living it was unfortunate that not everyone received giveaway items. It was noted that the need to increase budget for distribution be allocated for 2025-2026 budget.

Holiday Closure December 25th – 26th

PILON ISLAND GUARD RAIL- Grand Chief has contacted Cornwall Mayor Justin Towndale to discuss providing changes to new guard rail to allow access to Pilon Island residents access from parking area on Montreal Road to river front. Engineer firm currently drafting revisions needed to be made for community access; additional items such as crosswalk and signage to be installed in spring months.

Holiday Closure January 1st, 2025

Mid-Winter Ceremony

January 10-15th- Out sick- COVID quarantine.

IROQUOIS CAUCUS- Akwesasne Mohawk Casino January 15th-17th

Strategic Planning Sessions with chiefs & council (Kahnawake, Kanasatake, Tyendinaga, Oneida, Six Nations)

UNVEILING OF THE KAHERI:IO TRADES TRAINING FACILITY



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is proud to celebrate the unveiling of the Iohahi:io Trades Building, Kaheri:io, which was held on January 16, 2025. This modern facility represents a transformative step in empowering Akwesasronon with practical, hands-on training opportunities, ensuring a skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.



Purpose-built to provide education in woodworking, welding, construction, and other trades, the Kaheri:io Trades Training Facility embodies innovation, collaboration, and the pursuit of excellence. Its creation was made possible through the partnership of Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services (ACCESS), the Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS), and the Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE). The building's creation also stands as a testament to the strength and potential of students, as many played an active role in its construction.

MOHAWK GOVERNMENT STAFFING UPDATE

Please be advised that Fallan Jacobs is no longer serving as Government Support Manager. In the interim, Taylor Armstrong will be acting in this role for the next three months while the position is posted. For any matters related to the Government Support Manager role, please contact Taylor at taylor.armstrong@akwesasne.ca or by phone at 613-575-2250 ext. 2163.

MCA APPOINTS INTERIM CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Acting Executive Director is pleased to announce that Cheryl Jacobs has been appointed interim Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) effective January 20, 2025. She will serve in this role until December 2026, completing the 3-year term of the former CEO who has recently resigned. We thank Ms. Jacobs for agreeing to fill this emergency need and ensure continuity of election services. The role was first offered to active Deputy Electoral Officers (DEOs). However, none were able to take on the role at this time.

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATES OPENING OF SATELLITE TSI SNAIHNE MEDICAL CLINIC

Despite the frigid temperatures, the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic (TMC) radiated warmth as years of hard work and dedication finally came to fruition. This milestone event, held on January 22, 2025, marked the official opening of the much-anticipated



satellite clinic, a significant step in bringing healthcare services closer to the residents of Tsi Snaihne.

MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore commended the perseverance and teamwork of everyone involved. "This clinic represents a major step forward in ensuring the

residents of Tsi Snaihne have access to vital healthcare services close to home. It is a testament to the hard work of the Department of Health, the Health Portfolio Chiefs, and all those who have worked tirelessly on this project."

It was only fitting that Karen Loran had the honor of cutting the ribbon. As a former Tsi Snaihne District Chief and Health Portfolio holder, Karen worked tirelessly over the years, advocating and lobbying for this initiative. Her participation in the ceremony symbolized the culmination of years of dedication and commitment to making this vision a reality.

The Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic will temporarily operate out of a dedicated space in Iakhihsohtha Lodge, with its entrance located at the far end of the building. To ensure the safety of Iakhihsohtha residents, the clinic has a separate, secure entrance, designated parking, and strict safety protocols.

This design ensures that patients and residents can benefit from this service without compromising health and safety.

The TMC will provide a variety of services, including primary care, blood work clinics, immunizations, diabetes prevention and care programs, Jordan's Principle services, and mental health appointments.

OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY FOR TSIKARISTISERE TRUST

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is proud to announce the successful signing ceremony of the Tsikaristisere Trust, which took place on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center. This event marked the formal establishment of the trust, with Trustees and Council members officially signing the documents in the presence of community members.

In 2015, Canada presented a Land Claim Settlement Offer to the Mohawks of Akwesasne, including the opportunity to reclaim 18,282 acres of land through Canada's Additions to Reserve Process and a monetary settlement of \$239,808,436.00. This settlement addressed claims related



to the historically leased lands known as Tsikaristisere, or 'Dundee.'

Following negotiations, the final agreement was put to a referendum vote, conducted online and by ballot from October 1 to December 8, 2018. The community approved the settlement, with the results validated on

January 7, 2020.

The creation of the Tsikaristisere Trust marks a major milestone in this journey, reflecting a commitment to responsibly manage the settlement's resources. The Trustees are tasked with holding, managing, and investing the Trust Property in accordance with the terms of the agreement for the benefit of the Beneficiaries. A primary priority of the Trust is the purchase of land to be set apart as reserve land for the Mohawks of Akwesasne under Article 3.2 and 5.0 of the Settlement Agreement and additionally, through community consultation, the following areas were identified as community needs and priorities:

- Land management activities and programs, including the Additions to Reserve process;
- Education or training;
- Advancement of culture, heritage, and/or language;
- Environment;

- Green energy initiatives;
- Economic development;
- Housing;
- Indigenous rights;
- Infrastructure;
- Public safety;
- Emergency;
- Social welfare, health, and/or wellness;
- Sports, recreation, and/or the arts; or
- Other essential public services.

Since the initial payment from Canada, the settlement fund has been in the RBC and as of December 31, 2024, is now valued at \$259,683,600.93. These funds are now able to be transferred to the Tsikaristisere Trust, where they will grow at a significantly quicker pace.

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore addressed the significance of the moment, stating: "Tonight marks a milestone in our journey to reclaim what rightfully belongs to our people. This trust represents more than just a financial step; it embodies our people's rights, our collective vision for the future, and the power of what we can achieve when we come together."

Acting Executive Director Shannon Roundpoint added: "When Akwesasne began discussions on the settlement of the Tsi Karistisere claim, the return of land and access to funds for important community needs were the driving hopes that are now becoming a reality. Thank you to the trustees for stepping up into a role that will pave the path for future generations; it will be rewarding for them as well as the community. We also extend our appreciation to the community members who have stayed engaged in this process, and to the technical team for their hard work." For more information about the trust, please contact the Internal Technical Team (ITT) at itt@akwesasne.ca or ARRO Program Manager Cheyenne Lazore at 613-575-2250 ext. 2134.

YOUTH ELDERS CULTURE & LANGUAGE

The committee is currently planning swearing in ceremony for 4 youth community members for the month of February.

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT LETTERS

Membership: 1

Proof of Residency: 1

Jordans Principle: 3



Newly sworn in trustees: L-R
James Lazore, Connie Lazore,
Ryan Jacobs and Lloyd Benedict
Jr.

Kawehno:ke District Meeting:

December 2024- Meeting cancelled due to multi community holiday events for council.

January 13, 2025- Regrets sent, Covid quarantine.

Portfolio Meetings

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) by Donna Lahache, Director

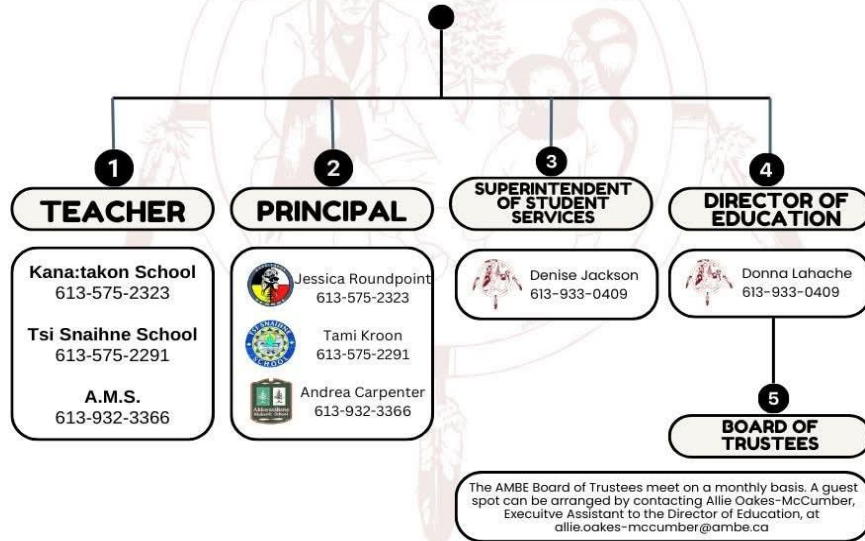
Presentation 2025-2026 Draft

-Core funding deficit with education needs of community due to increase in special education supports. Salary increases completed. Total vacancies posted: 36

April 2025- Install of new playground equipment at all 3 AMBE schools.

AMBE is currently working on draft of calendar 2025/2026 School year.

I HAVE A CONCERN AT MY STUDENT'S SCHOOL, WHO DO I SPEAK TO?



Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS) by Valerie Cook-Cree, Acting Director

MCR's

Redmane Trainer- *CARRIED*

ACFS is in the final development phase of Ska'nikò:n:ra (One Mind), our new case management system. To stay on schedule, we propose sole-sourcing this trainer from RedMane Technology. Their expertise is essential to meet our project goals and to ensure our staff are fully prepared to use the new system effectively.

Child-in-care Medical Billing- *CARRIED*

Council supported with medical payment for child in care medical services for infant whom is eligible for membership with Mohawks of Akwesasne.

AFWP- Ongoing renovations to main building being completed to address electricity and security concerns.

KAWEHNOKE SATELLITE OFFICE- Basil Lazore Building- Building is currently undergoing painting and installation of cabinets.

AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE: December 20, 2024
\$1,500 credit to local heating providers will take effect January 2025.

HOMELESS BACKPACK INITIATIVE: Coordinated and delivered to Street Help volunteers.

ACFS WINTER CLOTHING VOUCHER DEADLINE: January 29th, 2025

Akwesasne Child & Family Services would like to inform the community that the deadline to utilize the winter clothing voucher is fast approaching. The last day to use the voucher is Wednesday, January 29, 2025. After this date, winter clothing vouchers will no longer be accepted at IBC.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION SERIES WITH DCSS January 16th, from 5–7 p.m. at Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute- Sip, chat, and connect with the MCA Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) an evening of meaningful dialogue and community connection. Discover more about our programs — Akwesasne Child & Family Services, Community Support, and the Akwesasne Family Wellness Program — and let your voice be heard!

RFP: CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES CONSULTANT

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to support our Children's Aid Society with mentorship and quality services in the area of child welfare.

Key Dates:

- Deadline for questions: January 31st, 2025
- Deadline for proposal submissions: February 3rd, 2025

For questions or to submit proposals, please contact A/Director of DCSS Valerie Cree-Cook at valerie.cree-cook@akwesasne.ca.

Department of Health (DOH) by Amber Montour, Director

KITCHEN TABLE DISCUSSIONS: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The MCA Department of Health's Mental Health & Wellness Sector would like to invite Akwesasne community members to participate in casual kitchen table discussions on the Mental Health Program.

Sessions will take place:

Wednesday, January 8th Akwesasne Homemakers (Tsi Snaihne) 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 16th Kawehno:ke Recreation Center 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join us to hear more about the Mental Health Program updates, progress, and plans for the future, and share your own ideas. For more information, please email mentalhealth@akwesasne.ca

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SATELLITE OFFICE

Jordan's Principle is dedicated to ensuring First Nations children receive the support they need, when they need them. From January 23 to February 27, 2025, Jordan's Principle staff will be available every Thursday from 8 AM–4 PM at their satellite office in Iakhihsotha Lodge (Tsi Snaihne).

Services Available:

- Program information
- Intake appointments
- Support services

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome based on staff availability. Jordan's Principle funding supports health, social, and educational needs, including culturally relevant services and the unique needs of First Nations children, such as Two-Spirit, LGBTQQIA, and children with disabilities. Visit us to learn how Jordan's Principle can assist you and your family! For more information or to schedule an appointment: 613-575-2341 ext. 2652 and/or jordansprinciple@akwesasne.ca

MCA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HOW TO ENSURE THAT BLOODWORK COMPLETED IN ONTARIO IS SENT TO QUEBEC



Blood work completed in Ontario is not automatically sent to Quebec doctors

This issue affects residents attending Quebec doctor appointments without their results available.

TEMPORARY WORKAROUND

- Client brings their Quebec requisition to MCA clinic.
- Our Providers transfer it to an Ontario requisition, allowing Life Labs to pick it up and process it.
- Results can be faxed anywhere with client consent from the medical clinic.
- Clients can request a copy of their blood work from the medical clinic.
- Client should confirm with their Quebec Providers office that the results were received.
- MCA will also call the Quebec Provider to verify receipt.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION

- Clients can use their Quebec requisition directly at a Quebec lab.
- Medical transportation may assist in bringing clients to the nearest Quebec lab.
- Quebec labs are in: Ormston, Huntington, and Valleyfield



Public Safety

Ranatiiosta Swamp, Acting Chief of Police

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH AMPS

Join the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) for a community conversation on the AMPS Strategic Plan 2025-2030. There will be three events held in each of the districts:

- Monday, January 6th from 5-7 p.m. at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation
- Wednesday, January 8th from 5-7 p.m. at the Kana:takon Recreation
- Thursday, January 9 from 5-7 p.m. at the Kawehno:ke Recreation

BRINGING COMMUNITY VOICES TO THE AMPS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is creating its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, and your input is needed! The online survey is now open — share your feedback to help AMPS align

their services with the community's needs. Survey Closes: January 30, 2025. Weekly Prize Draws! Complete the survey for a chance to win. Surveys can be anonymous, but you'll need to provide a name and contact number to enter the draw. Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMPSSP>

ARTIST CALL OUT: AMPS JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY LOGO

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service is seeking talented artists to design the logo for the AMPS Junior Police Academy, a program inspiring youth ages 12–16 to explore careers in law enforcement. Winning Prize: Apple Air Pods Pro 2 Deadline: February 14, 2025 at 4 pm. Submit your design via email to marlee.dunn@akwesasne.ca or drop it off in person at the MCA Human Resource Office (10 Akwesasne Street, Akwesasne QC).

Works in Progress:

- Continuing to meet with Portfolio Departments and Committees to support in reaching goals set out in strategic plan.
- Continue to attend weekly Monday Council Meetings to review MCR's and Discussion Items

Collaborative Opportunities:

- Iroquois Caucus- Akwesasne Mohawk Casino January 15th – 17th
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Iroquois Caucus (IC)
- CBSA Border Partners Meeting January 29th, 2025
- Tri-Council Initiatives with Border
- SIBC Toll Increase

Upcoming Travel/ Events:

- General Meeting- Kawehno:ke Recreation Center January 30th from 6-8pm
- AMBE Cultural Enrichment- Mohawk Nation Longhouse January 31, 2025 8:30 am-3:30pm
- Education Forum- Toronto February 19th- 20th
- COO 17th Annual Health Forum- Toronto February 28th – March 2nd
- AFN National Natural Resources Forum- Vancouver March 12-13th
- Personal Vacation April 19th – 26th

Community Announcements:

- **CALLOUT FOR AKWESASNE REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is currently filling three (3) vacant seats on the Akwesasne Review Commission (ARC): two (2) vacant seats for the District of Kana:takon for a term of three (3) years and one (1) vacant seat for the District of Kawehno:ke, for a term of three (3) years. Deadline to apply: January 31, 2025 at 4 p.m. For inquiries or an application, please contact Akwesasne Court Administrator Rosebud Cook at rosebud.cook@akwesasne.ca or 613-575-2250 ext. 1025.

➤ **CALL OUT FOR BEAVER TRAPPING**

The MCA Environment Program is seeking local trappers in Akwesasne to provide beaver trapping services. Between January 13, 2025 to March 21, 2025, interested trappers can contact MCA Environment, and bring in whole, freshly-caught beavers. We will collect data to assist with our initiative to monitor and manage the local beaver population, and help us learn more about this traditional practice and land stewardship. Trappers will be provided with paid honoraria per beaver. Some of the beavers may be kept for future workshops on trapping, hide tanning, or meat preparation. We encourage our traditional practices, and aim to provide a space for sharing knowledge and experiences. For more information, please contact Jacey Hall at jacey.hall@akwesasne.ca.

➤ **WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2025**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Environment Program and the Raisin Region 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.

This free, family-friendly event offers a chance to explore the beauty and importance of wetlands through:

- Interactive displays and activities hosted by local environmental organizations
- Guided snowshoe tours around the Marsh
- A kids' nature photography exhibit
- Delicious traditional dishes
- Opportunities to win wetland-themed prizes

Drop by the Marsh's Visitors Centre and enjoy a day filled with fun, learning, and connection to nature. Please note: The Visitors Centre is a short two-minute walk from the parking lot. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather!

➤ **SAHATIHA'HARÁ:NE DETOX CENTER PRE-ADMISSION SCREENINGS CONDUCTED IN-PERSON ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 31st**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center is informing the community that Dr. Scott will be conducting pre-admission assessments in-person for the Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center on Friday, January 31 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for pre-admission screenings. Pre-admission screenings will be conducted with Dr. Scott at the Detox Center. Admission for detox services will be for February 3, 2025. For more information, or to schedule a pre-admission/intake screening, please contact the Sahatihahará:ne Detox Center at 613-932-5050.



Tsiothohrha/ December 2024 Monthly Report



Chief Sarah Lee Diabo

Email: chief.sarah.diabo@akwesasne.ca

Phone: 613.575.2250 ext. 2169

Cell: 613.577.3276

District of Tsi Snaihne

Portfolio: *Department of Health, Akwesashne Board of Education, Public Safety and Government Secretariat*

This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Here's a recap of notable events from **November 29th-December 31st, 2024**

- Attended all weekly council meetings, met with community members on various concerns and issues throughout the month of December.
- Attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Assembly in Ottawa as part of ongoing engagement with the Iroquois Caucus and broader First Nations leadership. Key topics and presentations addressed issues critical to Akwesasne and other First Nations communities, focusing on protocol agreements, legislation, and resolutions across several priority areas.
 - Key Highlights:
 1. Iroquois Caucus Presentation
 - Protocol Agreement:
 - Presented the importance of improving the Protocol Agreement between the Iroquois Caucus (IC) and AFN.
 - Stressed that AFN must recognize the unique issues and concerns of individual First Nations, emphasizing that “not every First Nation is the same.”
 - Addressed shortcomings in collaboration and encouraged AFN to co-develop solutions tailored to specific community needs.
 - UNDRIP Action Plan:
 - Highlighted language concerning border rights and challenges faced by border communities.

- Discussed incorporating actionable commitments into the UNDRIP framework.
 - Noted two resolutions slated for discussion at the General Assembly related to these issues.
- 2. Child Welfare Act and National Chief's Address
 - The National Chief attended the Iroquois Caucus session and provided insight on the Child Welfare Act, which was denied by vote.
 - Called for parliamentary reform, citing a lack of transparency and accountability in legislative processes impacting First Nations.
- 3. Assembly Resolutions
 - Infrastructure and Economic Development: 4 resolutions discussed.
 - Citizenship: 2 resolutions presented.
 - Land, Rights, and Justice: 7 resolutions deliberated.
 - Health, Healing, and Justice: 10 resolutions tabled, reflecting significant focus on addressing health disparities and justice reforms.
- 4. Key Updates and Discussions
 - Jordan's Principle:
 - Dr. Cindy Blackstock provided updates on the principle and emphasized the need for longer-term reforms for First Nations child welfare systems.
 - Guest Speakers:
 - Jagmeet Singh (New Democratic Party Leader), Patty Hajdu (Minister of Indigenous Services Canada), Dan Vandal (Minister of Northern Affairs), and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shared insights on policy directions, funding, and federal commitments.
- Next Steps:
 - Monitor progress on the resolutions discussed, particularly those related to border rights, health, and child welfare reform.
 - Continue advocacy to ensure AFN and federal leadership prioritize issues uniquely affecting border communities like Akwesasne.
 - Engage with stakeholders to advance actionable components of the UNDRIP Action Plan in alignment with community priorities.
- Participated in the annual Community Holiday Dinners hosted across the three districts of Akwesasne. These events brought together community members to celebrate the season and foster a sense of unity and gratitude. Districts: Kana:takon - December 9th, Kawehno:ke -December 11th, and TsiSnaihne- December 12th each hosted a holiday dinner.
 - Council Participation: Council members actively served meals, reinforcing our commitment to community engagement and support.
 - Catering: Meals were prepared and served by various local caterers such as TNT, LaToya Rourke and Ramona Shenandoah.
- I had a meeting with the Hydro Quebec working task group on December 12th.

- On December 13th - Attended an information and transitional meeting facilitated by Deloitte and the new trust oversight body. The session served as an orientation for new members of Council and a refresher for returning members, ensuring continuity and understanding of trust operations and governance.

Some Key Details:

- Deloitte provided expertise on trust oversight processes, financial accountability, and governance frameworks.
- Orientation for newly elected Council members to familiarize them with trust management and oversight responsibilities.
- Refresher for returning Council members on operational updates and governance principles.
- Review of the trust's structure, purpose, and management.
- Emphasis on transparency, accountability, and community benefit.
- Discussion of roles and responsibilities for Council in trust oversight.
- Ensured all Council members are equipped with the knowledge to uphold trust, integrity and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Strengthened collaboration between Deloitte, trust oversight, and Council for improved governance practices.
- The Tsi Snaihne District Meeting was held on December 23, 2024, with approximately 15 community members in attendance. A Program Manager, who is also a community member, provided a presentation detailing the history and operations of the program. The presentation covered key topics, including the service complaint policy and procedures, Jordan's Principle, the Akwesasne Heating Assistance program, and the Special Needs Committee

Portfolio Meetings

Public Safety Portfolio

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission Meeting

- I attended The Akwesasne Police Commission portfolio meeting on December 10th. District reports of any issues/solutions.

Partnership between OPG and MCA (POM)

- OPG Updates
 - New CEO, Nicole Butcher, starting on January 1, 2025. Nicole has been with OPG for over 20 years. She is replacing Ken Hartwick.
 - Projects still in development – the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has released a fresh electrical demand forecast and it is closer to OPG

projections. It is a public document. By 2050 the report says that our energy demand will double. OPG will share the document.

- OPG Darlington refurbishment continues – 3 of 4 units are complete. This was done on budget and on schedule
- Pursuing a small modular reactor (300 MW) by 2030. Will be looking to hire operators and maintainers in 2025. Currently doing site prep, installation to start next year.
- Ontario announced 3 sites that they support for further development.
- Pickering nuclear A side reactors will be shut down and B side reactors will be studied for continued work.
- A lot of upcoming demand for electricians, iron workers, construction, and millwrights.
- Akwesasne and POM are invited to tour a nuclear site if there is interest.
- Head Office does corporate strategy and looks into energy projects, if there is interest or a need, OPG would be happy to connect us with this group.
- Pursuing hydro generating, greenfield sites, in the north of the province. Bruce Robertson is involved in these early discussions with First Nations communities near Timmins.
- OPG Board of Directors approved the rebuild of two hydroelectric sites.
- Will be developing Little Jackfish site, located north of Lake Nipigon, and communicating with neighboring First Nations communities to see if there is interest.
- There is a security project on site resulting from an incident last year. So far this has included fencing at the flags on the dam, and more security on site. Will be installing cameras.
- A variety of concrete projects are ongoing. Currently working to fix beams.
- The ice booms were installed near Johnstown/Prescott. Looking to redesign these booms. They were previously wood. Contracts will be posted in the next couple of years. If there are contractors in the community OPG can work to include them through a variety of methods. These booms help to maintain water flow.
- Amanda Greener in projects and construction can come to present the future projects. Since there is an interest Amanda Greener can join POM as a regular member. The POM agreed to add Amanda Greener as a regular POM member.
- Boating gates are closed until spring.
- Operations are currently at normal flow with 12 turbines operating

Department of Health:

- Discussed, the opening of the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic will be open January 22nd at Iakhihsohtha Elderly Lodge. There will be a ribbon cutting. The clinic will be a 15-minute appointment in rapid response, this is only a temporary location until the Sunday Warehouse renovations are complete.
- DOH Priorities Survey will be available in January, and 740 people responded to the survey.
- Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits have discussed the changes coming, more community engagement session and will have the Director, Assistant Director and Sectors Managers in attendance to address the concerns/issues the community has.



Tsithohrko:wa/ January 2025 Monthly Report



Chief Sarah Lee Diabo

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Phone: 613.575.2250 ext. 2169

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District of Tsi Snaihne

Portfolio: *Department of Health, Akwesashne Board of Education, Public Safety and Government Secretariat*

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Here's a recap of notable events:

- January 7th -Attend the Border Partners Meeting with CBSA, US Customs, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council and MCA Council of Chiefs topics discussed were the reduction of the hours at the other smaller ports, there will be no remote clearing and reduction of the staff. Assistance with the team from MCA DCSS on the ham/turkey giveaway. Discussed community events that will be occurring in Akwesasne that will be bring first nations from other territories for mid-winter ceremonies, Iroquois Caucus general assembly and other events.
- January 10: Participated in the Circle of Leaders event hosted by JT *Business Services*. This comprehensive leadership training included:
 - Exploring key characteristics of effective and adaptive leadership.
 - Understanding the distinctions between management and leadership approaches.
 - Completing a personality dimensions assessment to enhance self-awareness and team dynamics.
 - Analyzing generational differences (Gen Z, Millennials, Baby Boomers, etc.) and their influence on workplace culture, communication styles, and collaboration.

- Discussions and activities focused on fostering a cohesive and inclusive work environment across generational lines.
- January 15-17: Attended the Iroquois Caucus General Assembly held in Akwesasne. The meeting focused on the strategic plan, covering key topics such as each First Nation’s political overview, issues and priorities, key objectives, mandate letters, and next steps for implementation. Participating First Nations included Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Tyendinaga, Six Nations, and Oneida of the Thames.
- January 21: Attended the SRMT/MCA leadership meeting, where key discussions focused on fostering a lateral kindness initiative between both organizations, establishing a waterline interconnection for emergency situations, and addressing flooding issues caused by beaver damming in the Cook Road, Drum Street, and TsiSnaihne areas. Proposed solutions included coordinating ditch clearing efforts and installing "beaver deceivers" to mitigate future flooding risks. Updated on the new construction project for the Akwesasne Mohak Ambulance on State Route 37. This new renovation project will have 2 office rooms, kitchen area, garage and laundry area.
- January 23: attended the swearing ceremony for the Tsikaristisere Trust Signing of the newly appointed trustees at the TsiSnaihne Recreation Center.
- January 24: Attend the Aultsville Filmfest for the screening of “Beans”, starring Akwesasne’s Kiawentiio.

Portfolio Meetings

Public Safety Portfolio

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission Meeting

- Attended the AMPS community presentation on the Strategic Plan on January 6th from 5pm to 8pm in the TsiSnaihne District. Identified and discussed the 4 priority areas:
 - Priority 1: Community Focus
 - Priority 2: Enhanced Safety
 - Priority 3: Building Capacity
 - Priority 4: Sound Governance

- Attended the AMPS Portfolio meeting on January 13th discussed the Chief of Police Monthly report, portfolio addressed concerns that were brought forward by community members.

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education:

- Participated in the Meet and Greet event on January 8th, providing an opportunity for the Board of Trustees and the Education portfolio to connect with staff, principals, superintendents, and secondary services representatives from the organization.
- Attend the Board of Trustees monthly meeting on January 21st, a presentation was given by finance operations superintendent, director update, and portfolio chiefs updates/concerns.
- Attended the opening of the Iohahi:io Kaheri:io Trades Training Facility on January 16, 2025. The facility offers modern, hands-on training opportunities in woodworking, welding, construction, and other trades. Designed to empower Akwesasronon with practical skills to build a strong, skilled workforce for the future. The project was made possible through collaboration between ACCESS, DCSS, and DIHE. Students actively contributed to the construction of the facility, showcasing their skills and potential.

Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting:

- January 14th had our government secretariat portfolio meeting, updates and status reports were provide by Quebec and OPG Liaison Officer, Akwesasne Rights and Research office, CBSA Coordinator update and Government Support Manager.

Department of Health

- Due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to attend the monthly meeting. Have received updates from portfolio chiefs who were able to attend on January 16th.



Tsiothorhkowa/January 2025
Monthly Report
Chief JoAnn Swamp
District of TsiSnaihne



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Portfolio: DCSS (Dept. of Community & Social Services), DIHE (Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment), Government Secretariat, Nation Building (Entewatatawi)

Committees: OVS (Office of Vital Statistics), YECL (Youth, Elders, Culture, Language), Hydro QC COO Women Chiefs (Chiefs of Ontario), POM (Partnership with OPG and MCA), Executive Committee, Green Team/Beautification/Waterways, PAT team,

Monthly Notables:

TsiSnaihne Chiefs Meeting: Jan.3/25

Discussion centered around the district meeting we had in December.

Chiefs will continue to bring in Directors or Program Managers and explain their program to community members.

Discussion on MCR for the youth that have applied; Tesha will follow up on this at Monday's meeting.

Protocol on Past Chiefs passing. Need to address this with Council.

Discussed office hours at the Snye Recreation will start in February.

TsiSniahne District meeting: January 20/25.

The Chiefs gave updates to the questions that were asked of them. Notified the members that they will be at the Snye Recreation for the month of February, one day a week for community members.

- Is Housing Law still on the website?
- FNCFS: will there be consultations and the answer was yes.
- Is there a PAT team in place: is there a term of reference? Re: land for sale on the Island.
- Communication protocol was read to the members present. Feedback from community is they would like a formal report.
- They would like a non-insured presentation and possibly a presentation by Health regarding the five sectors that were put in place.
- The new CEO is in place: her name is Cheryl Jacobs.
- When is the COP and Director of Public Safety going to be posted?
- Discussions on Ottawa refusing patients with QHIP and the fact that the ambulance won't go to Montreal or even transport. Asking if Kahnawake ambulance would come to Akwesasne to take them to hospitals in Quebec?

Committees/Working Groups

This section will provide the community with other activities, projects and initiatives that are still under development or in progress. It will also serve as an informative update on where items are and what is being advanced for the community.

Executive Committee

The executive committee met and discussed the job posting for the executive director. A meeting will be set up next week on how we are to proceed.

Housing Authority Meeting

The monthly housing authority was presented by the Associate Director of Housing. She reported on the different funding that is coming in from ISC for renovations, Section 95 repair fund, Section 95 RAP, CMHC updates. At present there is no elder's emergency fund until fiscal year. DCSS has not given them any funding.

Report was given on Apartment Rentals, Repossession of properties.

Update on Sweetgrass Manor residents and renos.

OPG Meeting

DIHE Monthly Meetings

A report was given by the Manager of Waste, Water, department.

On call policy coming to the table for MCR. Discussion on this with portfolio.

Waterline connections.

Director gave her report on the different line items that is ongoing and some that will start.

MTO agreement & multi jurisdictional table: a meeting will be set for this area.

AMBE & DIHE Maintenance was discussed, along with the Arena and Peace tree Mall.

YECL Committee

This is the first meeting with the YECL committee. The committee is going to review the terms of reference and the charter.

There were several culture and language request for funding.

A youth council has been put in place and four members will be sworn in.

Next meeting is Feb.7 from 2-3 pm.

Nation Building – Entewatatawi

Department of Community and Social Service (DCSS)

Updates were given on the different programs within DCSS. A concern was the Privacy & Data that the Ministry wants to share; Manager would like a letter from Grand Chief on this issue as the department does not want to share its information to the Ministry. All information should stay in Akwesasne.

The FNCFS program is soon to be started, and we need someone to help with these applications.

Possibly talk to Jordans Principal manager and ask if they can assist.

Discussion was on the DCSS program and if there were any surplus monies left in some of the programs and the Manager stated she will know by next week.

A short meeting was held with CSP regarding fuel assistance. The other topic was travel for a community member to return to Canada or US. CSP manager trying to find other avenues to help.

Hydro Quebec Meeting
Government Secretariat

Government Secretariat meeting was chaired by the EA of MCA. Next meeting a chair will be chosen from the committee. QC/OPG Liaison, ARRO, CBSA Coordinator, Government Support Manager all presented their updates.

OVS Monthly Meeting
Council Meetings for the Month.

Council meetings were held on Monday mornings and run into the afternoon. MCRs are presented for approvals. Presentations are done currently.

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service presented the change of the JIT program to Akwesasne Organized Crime Unit.

Protocol on passing of dignitaries will be worked on by the Governance Committee.

CBSA circle members were discussed.

A presentation by AMBE Director regarding AMBE organization chart.

A presentation was given by Nation Building Manager regarding the Political Protocol agreement between MCA/ISC/Crown Indigenous Relations.

Other Meetings

Leadership Workshop was held on January 10, 2025, at the HUD building in Hogansburg. This was a very good workshop on how to deal with behaviours and how to address them. This involves working with colors. This workshop was put on by JT Business Service.

Iroquois Caucus was held on January 15,16 and 17, 2025 and was held at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. The meeting was sponsored by MCA. Amy Lickers was the Chair and presenter. She gave a Political Overview, and initiated group sessions talking about different areas of concern. Elder/Youth/Children was also discussed on how we could incorporate the language in traditional practices, elder's teachings, a bio dome for food security and sovereignty, incorporate medicines and healing. Two elders joined and asked for the Iroquois Caucus to continue the work of hunting and trapping on lands and hunting on personal farmers property without being hassled by Min of Resources or the Police.



Scott Peters

Tsi Snaihne District Chief

2025 January Monthly Report

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Portfolios:

Economic Development

- Reviewing Akwesasne-Quebec Protocol.
- Fiber Project: ongoing with Ontario East connecting homes and taking calls from people who have signed up and still require connections. Contact info is:
 - Email: info@oenetworks.ca
 - Phone call & text: 613-936-6173
 - Website: www.oenetworks.ca
- Working on more business signage in Kaniekeha language.
- Updated on the involvement the staff of Ec Dev had with the World Junior Hockey Championships held in Ottawa and how they are trying get more involved to potentially get games at the Anowara:kowa Arena the next time the games are held in Ottawa.

Justice

- Reviewed laws to be worked on: Child Rights & Fire Safety.
- Looking for funding to hire additional legislative and support staff.
- Updated on Justice forum the staff is working on.

Akwesasne Rights and Research Office

- Provided information and updates on current land claims files that MCA is currently researching.
- Cairn Island return is official. Signage on the mainland will explain the significance of the island to tourists.
- Shown some artifacts from the 1800's that have been repatriated.

Public Safety

- Updated on current and future expectations of local border issues.
- Attended Police Commission meeting.
- Attended AMPS Community Strategic Plan presentation.
- AMPS updated council on regional activities affecting the community.

Nation Building

- Updated and educated on the current work completed and what is expected in the next several years.
- Educated on the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathawi Self-Government Agreement.

Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

- Work on Black Ash (*Acer negundo*) and Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) recovery plans is being planned for local areas.

- Erosion on yellow island is being studied again with future work being planned.
- Worked with housing to help residents with home renovation needs.

Committees:

Port Divestiture

- Met as a group to learn and get information on work plans.

Oversight

- Met to learn what laws are being worked on
- Updated on legislative processes

Iroquois Caucus

- Attended the Iroquois Caucus Strategic Planning session held at Akwesasne.

Hydro Quebec

- Hydro Quebec began clearing vegetation along the border in the swamps.

Monthly Notables:

- Helped several community members with obtaining proper services from various MCA programs including radon removal from homes.
- Gave opening words for several community events.
- Working with community members on border crossing issues.
- Working with community member to harvest trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer.
- I was nominated in May 2024 to sit on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee. I was approved in December. This is an external committee that will impact my work as District Chief. It will not cost MCA any funding and is paid for by Environment & Climate Change Canada.



Chief Tesha Rourke

Tsiothóhrha/December - Tsiothohrkó:wa/January Monthly Report

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Portfolios: Department of Social Services, Department of Health, Department of Economic Development

Committees: CBSA, Youth, Elder, Culture and Language (YECL), Beautification, Finance

This monthly report is provided as part of Council's aim towards providing a transparent and efficient governing system, which will also provide information to members of the community on updates of Mohawk Government, Portfolios, and Monthly Activities.

Monthly Notables:

November 27th: Nation Building held an all-day Enforcement Symposium. This meeting brought together representatives from various MCA programs to discuss the challenges of enforcing Akwesasne laws, by-laws, and court orders, and to explore ways to improve enforcement processes. Enforcing laws and regulations in Akwesasne has been challenging due to a lack of effective tools and systems. This complex issue requires input and collaboration from multiple departments within the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. To address these challenges, departments must work together to find new approaches that meet the community's needs. A technical team has been formed to examine these issues and begin developing solutions. The ultimate goal is to create an Enforcement Action Plan. This plan will set out clear objectives and practical steps to tackle enforcement challenges, using a phased approach to ensure steady progress and long-term improvements.

November 28th: Department of Social Services Portfolio, discussed several key community projects and updates. Highlights included the start of a multi-trades program at Iohahi:io, plans for the Iakhihsohtha kitchen renovations, and ongoing work on the Saint Regis Beach project. Updates were provided on the shelter and transitional housing programs, including renovations to the teaching kitchen and plans for a mini home to support men at the shelter. Discussions also covered the development of a youth hub, ensuring inclusivity for special needs and providing transportation for youth aged 0-26. Progress continues on these initiatives to meet the community's needs and improve services.

November 28th: we held our General Meeting, where the main discussion focused on Land Claims. Lawyer Frank Holloman joined us via Zoom to provide a detailed presentation and answer questions from the community. This session allowed for valuable dialogue and clarification on this important issue.

December 2-5th: Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly held in Ottawa, ON Rogers Centre

December 2nd: Concurrent dialogue sessions throughout the day.

I attended the session on the economic impact of closing the infrastructure gap and it highlighted how investing in infrastructure can greatly improve the economy and quality of life. For example, the Assembly of First Nations estimates that closing the infrastructure gap for First Nations by 2030 could boost the economy by \$635 billion, create over 338,000 jobs per year, and generate \$87 billion in government revenue over seven years. On a global scale, the World Economic Forum notes that addressing the \$15 trillion infrastructure gap by 2040 is essential for improving competitiveness and raising living standards. These discussions emphasized the importance of making smart infrastructure investments to benefit communities and drive economic growth.

The second dialogue session I attended, Bridging Gaps: Aligning the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) with First Nations Experiences and Disability Inclusion, focused on improving health services for First Nations communities. The discussion emphasized the importance of tailoring programs to meet the unique needs of these communities, especially individuals with disabilities. Key topics included expanding NIHB coverage to include allied health services like physiotherapy, speech therapy, and audiology, promoting fair access and holistic wellness. The session also addressed barriers in the NIHB Medical Transportation Policy, calling for the removal of discriminatory rules impacting off-reserve members. Recommendations highlighted the need for systemic improvements, collaboration with healthcare providers and government authorities, and securing funding to support these changes, ensuring equitable access to health benefits and services.

The third dialogue session I attended was focused on Income Assistance and Poverty, titled 'From Surviving to Thriving'. It discussed reforms to the Income Assistance (IA) Program, with a key focus on aligning it with the unique realities and needs of First Nations communities. The conversation emphasized moving towards a needs-based funding model that accounts for factors like remoteness, inflation, and cost of living. The session also highlighted the importance of building a First Nations social safety net that provides holistic, wrap-around supports to reduce poverty and support thriving communities. Recommendations included strengthening data collection to inform evidence-based funding, improving infrastructure to deliver services, and ensuring inflation relief continues until IA rates match the cost of living. Additionally, work is ongoing to develop First Nation-specific indicators for poverty and wellness, shifting from financial-based measures to a culturally appropriate approach. The importance of collaboration between First Nations, government, and organizations was emphasized, with a focus on long-term investments and sustainable change.

In the evening, I attended a Chiefs Committee meeting. While I am not a member of the committees, I had the opportunity to sit in on the Women's Council meeting. It was insightful to observe the discussions and gain a deeper understanding of the priorities and initiatives being addressed by the Women's Council. During the Women's Council meeting, National Chief Cindy

Woodhouse was in attendance to listen and engage with the council on several urgent topics. Key discussions included addressing the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), the implementation and challenges of Jordan's Principle, and critical reforms related to child welfare. These discussions underscored the importance of advocacy and collaboration to address these pressing issues impacting First Nations communities.

The Special Chiefs Assembly, held December 3-5, 2024, focused on critical topics affecting First Nations communities, including infrastructure, child and family services, justice reform, health, and economic development. Discussions included resolutions on expanding health benefits, addressing systemic issues like human trafficking and anti-Indigenous hate speech, and ensuring equitable support for Jordan's Principle and child welfare reforms. Regional Caucuses were held each morning at 7:30 to provide an overview of the day's resolutions and address any questions. These sessions ensured that everyone was on the same page and fully prepared for the discussions ahead. I attended the Ontario Caucus as part of the Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development Table, while the Grand Chief represented us in the Quebec Caucus. These caucuses fostered collaboration and unity, setting the stage for productive discussions throughout the Assembly.

December 9th: All day Council Meeting.

Started off with our Holiday Meals in Kana:takon, the dinner was catered by TNT Deli, it was a great time seeing everyone and wishing everyone a happy holiday.

December 10th: I spent the morning in the office until 11:30, then headed down to Iakhihsohtha to participate in a door judging event. After enjoying lunch, we were tasked with selecting winners for different categories. All the doors were so creative and beautifully decorated, making it a tough decision to choose the best ones. A big congratulations to everyone involved; it was a fantastic event, and the effort put into it really showed!

December 11th: I spent the day in the office, and in the evening, I attended the Holiday Dinner in Kawehno:ke, catered by TLC Catering (LaToya Rourke). It was a wonderful event and such a joy to see everyone come together to celebrate.

December 12th: I spent the day in the office, and in the evening, we held our final Holiday Dinner for Tsi Snaihne, catered by Mona Shenandoah. Due to events happening in the area, we, as Council, decided to make the dinner takeout to prioritize the safety of the community, even though we would have loved to host a sit-down gathering. A heartfelt Nia:wen to our first responders for their efforts in keeping our community safe.

December 13th: I recorded a greeting video for the opening ceremonies of the World Juniors happening in Ottawa. I'm thrilled to be part of this exciting event, especially as our very own Carey Terrance Jr. is representing Team USA. It's an incredible moment for our community and I'm so proud of Carey's accomplishments. Wishing him and all the players the best of luck!

DCSS Portfolio Meeting focused on key community initiatives and updates. Discussions included resolving medical billing concerns for children in care, addressing shelter camera issues at the AFWP building, and ensuring long-term family accommodations. The meeting highlighted lobbying efforts for property to support men's programming, addiction services, family unification, 2SLGBTQ+ child services, increased low-income housing, and a proposed building for the arts. These efforts aim to strengthen community support systems and address critical needs.

In the afternoon, I spent the rest of the day at the Kana:takon Recreation Center for the kickoff of their "A December to Remember" event. It was heartwarming to see the community come together to celebrate the holiday season and enjoy the festivities. On Sunday afternoon, I returned to the recreation center to help out in the kitchen. It was a rewarding experience to support the event and contribute to such a joyful community gathering.

December 16th: we held our Council meeting, where we received the somber news of the passing of past Chief Tim Dooley Thompson. Despite the heavy hearts, we completed the scheduled presentation and MCRs before concluding the meeting for the day. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

December 18th: In the morning, I attended the Economic Development Portfolio meeting at the Anowarakowa Arena, where we discussed key community priorities, including the Quebec Protocol Agreement, Indigenous procurement, and the FTTH project. These discussions focused on strengthening our community businesses, strategies, and overall direction. I had to leave the meeting early to attend my daughter's Christmas concert at Kana:takon School, which was a wonderful event. After the concert, I returned to the office to continue working for the remainder of the afternoon.

December 19th: we held our Health Portfolio meeting, where we had meaningful discussions on several key topics, including nursing salary compensation, the upcoming opening of the Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinic on January 22nd, and updates on Akwesasne Non-Insured Health Benefits and additional community support. We also focused on enhancing elder services and fostering greater community engagement. There was a strong emphasis on including services for individuals with diverse abilities, expanding mental health supports, and scheduling table talks during evenings to accommodate more community members. Additionally, we discussed ways to improve communication about the various health sectors and the ongoing lobbying efforts needed from Portfolio Chiefs to support the department's initiatives.

December 23rd: All day Council Meeting and Tsi Snaihne District Meeting.

Dan Bruyere was invited to discuss the Community Support Program, which led to productive dialogue. Many questions were answered, and the community expressed enthusiasm for additional programs and for attending future district meetings. The meeting also addressed the critical issue of Aboriginal lateral violence, underscoring the importance of fostering open communication within the community. Concerns were raised about the land claims process and achieving

community consensus, highlighting the need for improved information sharing and increased engagement, particularly with the youth.

January 3rd: Tsi Snaihne District Chiefs had a meeting to discuss future office hours within the district, planning and review of how our district meetings are. Key actions were to review communication protocol, addressing community engagement through structure meetings, including youth sessions.

January 6th: All day Council Meeting and AMPS Strategic Planning Session in Tsi Snaihne. The AMPS Strategic Planning Session focused on finalizing a comprehensive strategic plan with four key priorities: community focus, enhanced safety, building capacity, and sound governance. The session emphasized the importance of community consultation and collaborative policing strategies aimed at building trust, addressing visibility challenges, and enhancing youth and elder engagement. Discussions included adopting a prevention-based safety approach using technology and data, as well as tackling recruitment and retention challenges within the police force. The importance of transparency, accountability, and fostering a culture of integrity in governance was also highlighted. Community concerns were addressed, including human smuggling and drug trafficking, leading to specific action items aimed at innovative recruitment, improved response communications, and enhanced mental health response capabilities. A validation exercise welcomed community feedback on the strategic plan, culminating in several proposed initiatives to strengthen community partnerships and outreach efforts while addressing the needs of vulnerable populations.

January 7th: Attended via Zoom the Boarder Partners meeting that included meet and greet with Northern Ontario Region, newly appointed RDP Jag Johnston. Discussions included fostering collaboration among participants, new safety enhancements (new speed bump on US side). Community updates highlight upcoming cultural events and training including visibility improvements for road safety.

January 8th: Finance Committee Meeting- Attended the Finance Committee meeting, where we reviewed the budget that will be presented at a future General Meeting. It was also discussed that there will be postings for additional community members to join the Finance Committee; if you're interested in joining, please don't hesitate to reach out.

January 9th: Internal CBSA Meeting- The discussions focused on the various circles that past Chiefs were part of Chiefs that are on the committee members were encouraged to express interest in joining any of these circles. The meeting also addressed the creation of a Dundee Port working circle, which was prompted by a land claim settlement, and provided updates on the active Community Relations and Cornwall Port of Entry circles. The importance of strong leadership within these circles was emphasized.

January 10th: Attended an all-day training at the HUD- Circle of Leaders hosted by JTBS focused on building effective leadership skills and strengthening team dynamics. The workshop covered a variety of topics, including understanding how leadership styles impact teams, discovering individual communication styles, and exploring the concept of Color Motivators. We also learned techniques for giving meaningful appreciation and feedback, improving delegation skills, and navigating change as a leader. The day was filled with engaging discussions, practical tools, and opportunities for personal growth.

January 13th: All day Council meeting held at the Kana:takon Recreation

January 15th: I attended the First Nations Women's Council Orientation via Zoom, where Nancy Johnson, the Director, and her team provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the council. The session focused on key priorities such as community safety, well-being, and efforts to end violence against First Nations women and girls. Nancy also discussed the development of a Gender-Based Violence Action Plan and the establishment of a Two-Spirit Council to address these critical issues.

January 16th: During the Department of Health's January 2025 Monthly Portfolio Meeting, several important updates were shared. These included new access to dialysis for Quebec residents and the opening of a medical clinic in Tsi Snaihne. Infrastructure needs were also highlighted, such as the need for more nursing facilities and better support for young adults with special needs.

For your Information:

If you are looking to hook up with Ontario East, the contact information:

Email: info@oenetworks.ca

Phone: 613-936-6173 They are available for both calls and text messages

I will be attending the Mental Wellness and Substance Use Conference **January 28-30th** in Blue Mountains, ON. *The conference is to address mental health, substance use, and toxic drug challenges across the First Nations communities in Ontario.*

I will be attending the 18th Annual Health Forum February **25th-27th**. *Health forum theme is Intergenerational Health: Focusing and empowering the health of our children, youth and families.*

I would like to inform you that I will be away on vacation from **March 10th - March 14th**.



Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell

Kanatakon District Chief

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Monthly Report: December 2024

Portfolio(s): Justice, ARRO, Nation Bldg. & Govt Secretariate,

Committees: CBSA, Executive, Finance, Governance, Green Team, Beautification, Waterways & Hydro Quebec.

Meetings/Events: Attended Council, District, & General Meetings:

- My condolences extended to the family of Tim “Dooley Thompson, previous Grand Chief/District Chief. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity of working with him, his candor, laughter and willingness to share his knowledge will always be appreciated.
- Attended all the Christmas Community Dinners within the Districts of Kanatakon on Dec 9, Kawehnoke Dec 11, & TsiSnaihne Dec 12/24. The dinners were very well attended by the community, Nia:wen to the caterers, and most of all our support staff for setting up the event.
- Attended the St. Regis Recreation Fundraising event for the week of December 10-14/24. Assisted with decorating, and volunteering in the kitchen and helping wherever I was needed, Awesome job by the Laura and her team at the St. Regis Rec. The laughter, food, and company was a wonderful way to start the holiday season.
- Happy Holidays to the community of Akwesasne, I wish you happiness, health, and peace as we move into a New Year.

December 2/24: Council Meeting Rescheduled until next week due to majority of Chiefs attending AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa.

Finance Committee Intro 11am: Update meeting to introduced members to Finance. Discussion with Council members that are new to the file rescheduled till

Dec 3-5/24 AFN – Special Chiefs Assembly – Ottawa Rogers Centre

Opening Protocols: Grand Entry, Opening Prayer, Welcome by Host Official, Territorial Welcome Ontario Chief Abram Benedict, Opening Remarks – National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Neapanak, Moment of Silence to Honor the late Senator Murray Sinclair.

Attended the Assembly and had the opportunity to sit with other First Nations from across turtle island. The Sessions were all concurrent and included discussion on areas such as Economic Development & Infrastructure, Health and Healing, Healing and Justice, Children and Families, Environment, Water and Conservation, there was at least 40 Resolution that had been approved in the majority of these areas, however, there also were quite a few that didn't make the table or

had been pulled for various reasons. Attended the Circle of Trade: This event had trades persons from across the territories, from housing, environment, banking, leasing, trades, lots of great indigenous artist provided their products for sale. The event was set up in a huge conference room that pushed out freezing air all day long, it was extremely uncomfortable sitting in chairs all day long.

Dec 6/24 –Research Interview with S. Francis-Herne, regarding Covid 19. 9am -11am, Health Facility

ARRO – Cheyenne Lazore, PM @ 1pm - Updates on Kairen Island, NY State Land Claim report submitted, MCR Process reviewed, RFP consultation for project, & review of ATR process on Dundee lands.

December 9/24 – All Council Meeting -Council Chambers 9am

December 10/24: Entewatatha:wi Meeting: Rachel Lazare, PM 10am

Review of working tables: Akwesasne-Canada Main table, Legal Technical Review, Implementation Working Group, Fiscal Chapter, Community survey and review of flyer that going out, excellent job to the team and all the work they have committed throughout the year to get us where we are at now. Nia;wen

December 11/24: -Finance Meeting with Portfolio Chiefs LP, TR, CFM, TJ: First Portfolio meeting to review area of concern, AFAL, meeting schedules, expectations, set meeting up with Finance Committee in New Year.

ARRO -Cheyenne Lazore, PM: 3:30pm - Met with Portfolio, GC, Legal for an update on claim process ongoing once claim is signed, what are the next steps we will be taking once all parties sign.

December 12/24: Cactus Cook Sunday: Justice Portfolio rescheduled until Dec 17/24.

CBSA Committee Meeting: Rescheduled

Hydro Quebec Committee Meeting: Portfolio were to meet with the committee to review areas that had been worked on, meeting with be rescheduled for a later date.

December 16-20/24: – Out of Office

December 23/24- Attend All Council Meeting, Council Chambers 9am

MCA Closed for Xmas Break from December 25-27/24 –

December 30/24: Attend All Council Meeting, Council Chambers 9am – 12noon.



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Monthly Report – January 2025

Portfolio(s): Justice, ARRO, Nation Bldg. & Govt Secretariate,

Committees: CBSA, Executive, Finance, Governance, Green Team, Beautification, Waterways & Hydro Quebec.

Monthly Notables:

- Attend all Council, District Meeting, & General Meeting:
- Attended a planning meeting on January 13th for the Akwesasne Winter Carnival that will be held in the District of Kanatakon on February 14-16/25, great participation by all attending, looks to be an awesome event.
- Kanatakon District Meeting held on January 20/25, one community member attended the discussion around the Communication Plan.
- Met with community member regarding issues with housing, lack of electricity, water, sewer, & inadequate heat. Several Chiefs and I made a site visit, working to resolve these issues with programs within the organization.
- Attended the opening of New Medical Clinic on January 20/25 held at Iahiksohtha Home, 2 offices will be allocated for not only clinic but blood work, & much needed outreach services for community. Excellent job DOH in making this available to the community.
- Attended Aultsville Filmfest Cornwall's Independent Film on Friday, January 24/25.@6:30pm Opening film is "Beans", featuring Akwesasne's Kiawentiio. Nia:wen to the Aultsville Filmfest Organizing Committee, was a heartfelt night that brought back many emotions on our struggles to be heard and the partnerships that we must continue to encourage as we all navigate towards reconciliation.

January 2-3/25 – out of the office due to illness.

January 6/25: Attend All Council Meeting – Chambers 9am

January 7/25 - Governance Committee Meeting: 1:30pm – Admin 1:

Review of public/in camera sessions for weekly council meetings discussion around dates, to implement new meeting sessions, Council meeting restructure discussion around moving meeting area, change room set-up, confidentiality, & review of meeting procedure regulations discussion around the regulations. Review of MCR's that will need amendments. Set next meeting schedules to meet our implementation schedule every 2 weeks.

January 7/25: Enientihswanón:na Child Rights and Responsibilities Law Working Task Group (Justice) meeting via Teams.

Agenda: opening- introduction to the law, overview of elements of the law, discussion, questions, and comments to be provided, timelines and next steps, discussion around voting, legal review required, next meeting review January 21/25 to review any comments provided.

January 8/25 – Finance Committee Meeting 3pm-6:30pm – Admin 1

Agenda: Review of the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the MCA for the period ending March 31/24. Introductions, Management vs Auditor Responsibilities, Review of Finance Committees Role for Financial Statements, Presentation of MCA consolidated financial statement, Presentation of auditor's report, In Camera – Final questions and closing comments. The presenters included Welch LLP, Director of Finance & Stephan Bissonette, Finance. Motion to approve the Drafted Audit recommendation to Council for approval: next meeting preparation and the request to make meetings accessible to community members in an open forum.

January 9/25: Akwesasne Justice Portfolio: Cactus Cook-Sunday: 9am

Agenda: Legislative Services funding & progress on Enientihswanón:na Child rights law, ACJP: Canada /Quebec Justice Forum, ARAP: Caseloads, Akwesasne Court request for review and MCR support.

Internal CBSA Committee Review: Admin 1 -10-12noon:

Agenda: Review of status of CBSA personnel, current working tables/team that have been established in the past/current members. Political Protocol impacts/review and status of, Leaders Circle, Governance Circle, Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle, Dundee Port of Entry Working Circle, Pre-Clearance Working circle & Community Relations Working Circle.

Justice Oversight Committee: 4-pm Admin 1.:

Agenda: Review of previous meeting minutes, child rights law, residency law amendments, fire law, community survey discussion.

January 10/24- 2025 Circle of Leaders Event held at HUD Bldg.: 9am- 4pm –JT- Business Services:

Agenda: Introductions, maps, workforce, neurodivergent Akwesasne, famous leaders by colors, personality dimensions assessment, review of assessments, your color poster , management vs. leadership, gifts , attitudes, skill, leadership vignettes, perfect pie nation, conclusion, Nia: wen for a refreshing workshop held to expand upon knowledge of the past , present and future of our community, Bea and her team were awesome.

January 13/25: All Council Meeting – St. Regis Recreation- 9am-3:40pm

Government Secretariate Portfolio Meeting: Admin 1 - 1-pm

Agenda: Quebec liaison- N. Jacobs update, OPG liaison officer, Akwesasne rights & research office- C. Lazore update, Nation Bldg.-Rachel Lazare-np – CBSA coordinator update-K. Ransom, Mohawk Government -Armstrong, - ED-S. Roundpoint update, Next meeting date and monthly recurrence, meeting February 11/25.

St. Regis Recreation Meeting: Akwesasne Winter Carnival Host 2025. 6pm

Invited to attend the kickoff meeting of Akwesasne Winter Carnival - Awesome turnout of community members willing to help with the carnival and events that are scheduled through the community during the week of February 10-16 /25.

January 14/25- ARRO Portfolio: Cheyenne Lazore- PM –10am- Admin 1 - Review /update of NY State Land Claim/Internal Agreement – Portfolio/Legal.

Governance Committee Meeting- Admin 1: 2pm

Review of previous MCR, public session discussions included sensitive, private info, communications to be in our meetings for demos, privacy, and templates for MCR for accuracy, UNDRIP clause, IT issues, governance, info out to community, Onkwetake newsletter, next meeting dates.

January 15 & 16/ 25 – in office working on reports, catching up on reading, check signing at Finance. No Meetings scheduled

Discussion with community members regarding Finance/Auditors.

January 20-24- All Council Meeting- Kahwenoke Recreation Centre – 9am – 3pm

Kanatakon District Meeting- St Regis Recreation 6pm – 7pm

One community member came to a meeting, discussion on communication procedures

January 21/25 –Village Currency Meeting with GC L. Lazore – Kanatakon District Chiefs: 10am-Admin 1

Presentation and information provided by owner specifically what they are requesting from Council to assist their business.

ARRO Portfolio: Cheyenne Lazore -PM @Akwesasne Cultural Centre – 11am-1pm

Agenda: Repatriation of items to Akwesasne, parks Canada research request main Duck Islands, NY State Internal Agreement, OEB Intervenor, Nutfield Tract Update, Dundee ATR Update, OPG ATR update, Seaway claim update, CBSA cultural awareness training, Indian day schools update.

MCA/SRMT Leadership Meeting: 2:30- 4pm – Kawehnoke Recreation

Agenda: Review of previous meeting agenda items: Mitigate beaver population and ditching issues, lateral kindness, waterline interconnection for planning and infrastructure, briefing on NYS DOT, Freedom School funding requests. New business: language & culture revitalization, AMA Relocation new space.

Eniethihswanonna Child Rights Law- 4pm – 6pm – Joined Teams meeting enroute back to Kanatakon

Agenda: Opening comments, concerns with current version of the law, decision if the version is ready to go to legal for review, next steps, closing of meetings

January: 22/25 = Nutfield Tract - OEB Hearing on Glendale Community Expansion Project 3pm Teams Meeting:

Agenda: Updates on what this entails and documents that are ongoing.

January 23/25 – Executive Committee Meeting: 9am-11am

Met to review the process of filing the Executive Director position. Review of job description, review of process for utilizing a firm to go ahead and start the process, a meeting will be coming up early in the first week of February.

Tsikaristisere Trust Signing: All Council & Tsikaristisere Trust - 5-8pm – Tsi Snaihne Recreation:

Welcoming works from Cheyenne, Shannon, Grand Chief and Signing from all Chiefs and new trust committee members. Enjoyed a delicious dinner provided for community members that attended.

Governance Committee: Admin 1 Board Room -1:30-400 – reschedule till next week

Aultsville Theatre Film Festival: Invite to Council to attend pre-opening activities at the Aultsville Theatre, walk the red carpet and attend the film “Beans.” Was a wonderful evening spent with a spectacular movie featuring our own Kiawentio,

January 27/25- All Council Meeting: 9am -Admin 1

Power outage in Quebec Portion a little after 2pm: offices closed and power restored at 9:20pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 29/25- CBSA President Meeting with Grand Chief & Council 10am-11:30am

A'nowarakowa Arena.

Agenda: Opening, meet and greet between CBSA President and Council, presentation of public safety in Akwesasne by MCA.

Oversight Committee Working Task Group-(Justice) Amendments to the residency law: 4pm:

Agenda: Introductory meeting to notice the work amending the residency law.

January 30/25- Quebec Protocol Negotiation- 1pm: Admin 1- Ongoing negotiations with team members and next steps of the Quebec Protocol.

General Meetings - All Council -Kawehnoke Recreation @ 6pm.

January 31/25 – Governance Committee Admin 1 @ 9am



Chief Teresa Oakes

Nov 26-Dec 25, 2024 Monthly Report

Kana:takon District

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Portfolios: Public Safety, DCSS, AMBE, Government Secretariat and Nation Building

Committees: Akweksko:wa/Port Divesture, Green Team/Beautification/Waterways, OVS, Hydro Quebec and CBSA

External Committees/Tables: Iroquois Caucus

Monthly Notables:

- **November 27th:**
 - I attended an Enforcement Symposium with various departments as an observer. They discussed barriers each department faces in day to day operations. Further discussions went on to share information and to develop plans.
- **December 9th, 11th, and 12th:**
 - I attended the District Holiday Dinners that were held. The first meal was held during a storm but was still greatly attending by people braving it to come and enjoy an evening out amongst other community members.
- **December 23rd:**
 - I helped the DCSS Program hand out turkeys and/or hams to community members at the Kana:takon School.

Meetings:

- **November 26th,** Nation Building Portfolio Meeting - Main Table Negotiations between Akwesasne and Canada.
- **November 28th,** Weekly Council Meeting.
- **November 28th,** DCSS Portfolio Meeting – Updates on projects.
- **November 28th,** Emergency Council Meeting.
- **November 28th,** Monthly General Meeting; focus was on the NYS Land Claim. *All agenda items were not discussed.*
- **December 5th,** Emergency Council Meeting.
- **December 6th,** Emergency Council Meeting.
- **December 9th,** Weekly Council Meeting.
- **December 10th,** Nation Building Portfolio Meeting – Entewatatha:wi Annual Update.
- **December 10th,** Port Divesture/Akweksko:wa Committee Meeting.
- **December 11th,** Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting – Partnership between OPG and MCA (POM).
- **December 11th,** NYS Land Claim Meeting with Lawyer.
- **December 12th,** Hydro Quebec Committee Meeting.

- **December 13th**, DCSS Portfolio Meeting.
- **December 13th**, CBSA Committee Meeting.
- **December 16th**, Weekly Council Meeting.
- **December 18th**, Meeting with Case Management Supervisor.
- **December 19th**, Meeting with AMBE.
- **December 23rd**, Weekly Council Meeting.

Travel:

- **December 2nd:**
 - Meeting in Ottawa with Iroquois Caucus where we discussed current issues and met with the Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, and the AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak who graciously came to our IC Meeting.
- **December 3rd – 5th:**
 - Attended Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly. Presentations and Panels were presented by various groups on topics such as 2SLGBTQQIA+, where the flag representing the 2SLGBTQQIA+ was presented to be part of the AFN. Justin Trudeau and many other people from parliament were also in attendance. When he rose to leave there was an outcry from the crowd that wanted him to stay and hear what they had to say. Justin sat back down and listened to Mother's who lost their children due to police brutality.



Chief Teresa Oakes

Kana:takon District

January 2025 Monthly Report

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Portfolios: Public Safety, DCSS, AMBE, Government Secretariat and Nation Building.

Committees: Akweksko:wa/Port Divesture, Green Team/Beautification/Waterways, OVS, Hydro Quebec, and CBSA

External Committees/Tables: Iroquois Caucus

Monthly Notables:

- **January 8th:** I visited the Tri-District Elders Facility on Kawehno:ke. Great facility where our elders can meet to socialize. I would love to see each district have their own special place like this. The concerns they shared was in regards to obtaining timely appointments at all our clinics.
- **January 8th:** I attended the AMPS Strategic Plan held in Kana:takon. Community had the chance to see the Strategic Plan, take part in an exercise, as well as express their opinions on the Plan.
- **January 10th:** I attended a Circle of Leaders Training at the Housing Authority Training Center. We learned personality dimensions that will further enhance our communication with each other.
- **January 15th – 17th:** Iroquois Caucus General Assembly, Akwesasne Hosted. It was held at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. The Strategic Plan was the topic of discussion. We also gave them a tour of Akwesasne.

Meetings:

- December 30th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- January 2nd, Internal Council Meeting.
- January 6th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- January 7th, Border Partners Meeting.
- January 9th, Internal CBSA Meeting.
- January 13th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- January 13th, Public Safety Portfolio AMPC Meeting.
- January 14th, Meeting with Superintendent Language & Culture
- January 14th, Government Secretariat Portfolio and Special Needs Committee Meetings.
- January 20th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- January 20th, Kana:takon District Meeting.
- January 21st, SRMT/MCA Leadership Meeting.

Travel:

- January 22nd – 29th I was out of the office for my annual family holiday.



Chief Report
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Portfolios: Justice, Department of Community and Social Services, Public Safety, Health, Economic Development.

Committees: Special Needs, Beautification, Hydro Quebec, Youth Education. Language and Culture, CBSA, PAT, Dundee Port of Entry

Monthly Notables

- Attended AFN Special Chiefs Assembly December 3-5. I attended via zoom for December 3 as well as 5. December 4th Lisa Francis Benedict and I travel to Ottawa for the day and attended in Person.
- Attended the Kana:takon District Christmas Dinner at the Kana:takon Recreation on December 9 December 11 at the Cornwall Island Recreation and December 12 at the Snye Recreation. All Holiday Dinners were very well attended by Community.
- Attended the Kanatakon Recreation Christmas to Remember fundraiser December 13,14,15 as Laura Thompson and her family as well as the Kanatakon Recreation crew did a fantastic job.
- Attended Akwesasne Strategic Planning Community Session at the Kanatakon Recreation.
- Attended the Circle of Leaders training, this was good training as it gave you some tools to help work with others in your workplace who may have differing personality types as you. It was interesting to see what approaches to take when dealing with others.
- Kanatakon District Meeting was held January 20, 2025, at the Kanatakon Recreation with only one community member in attendance.
- Attended a meeting with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on January 2, 2025, regarding us working together on some possible upcoming initiatives. These meetings will take place quarterly with the next meeting scheduled in April.
- Attended the Tsi Snaihne Clinic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The Clinic is now open to the community members. This is a great step forward for the health of our community with the ability to access clinical services in all three districts.

- The Dundee Trust signing took place on January 23, 2025. The trust officially has all its members. The community was able to partake in a meal as well to watch the event.
- Attended the Beans movie showing at the Aultsville Film Festival in Cornwall. This event had a great turnout. It was beautiful to see our very own Kiawentiio Tarbell as the star of the movie. She is an amazingly talented young lady.

Public Safety- Akwesasne Mohawk Police presented their Strategic Plan to the Community in all three districts. This took place January 6,8,9 at all three district recreation centers. A to Z was present to answer any questions about the strategic plan and to take all feedback into consideration. Currently there is an online survey so community members can share their feedback so that AMPS can understand the current needs of the community. The survey will end on January 30, 2025. I attended Police Commission meetings on behalf of my district and brought all community concerns to the meeting. We have an upcoming Portfolio meeting on January 31, 2025

Justice- Space needs continue to be a concern for our Justice Department, this is currently being assessed and hopefully a solution is in the very near future as they wait for the Sunday Warehouse building to be complete. The legislative oversight committee now has all members and has begun meeting. I have attended both of the scheduled meetings, and I will be sitting on the residency law as well as the Child Rights Law. The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC) is requesting feedback from community members to determine which three Akwesasne Laws should be prioritized for 2025. Each year, the OSC collaborates with the Akwesasne Justice Department Portfolio Chiefs to identify, this survey will be available to the community online and your input is very valuable.

Economic Development- We had our first portfolio meeting where the Economic Development Director did an impressive job of highlighting all areas of her program. Connections are still taking place with Ontario East, and they are aware of those houses who are signed up but have yet to have a line dug to their home. In most cases these homes were difficult to access but they will be connected as soon as they can.

Department of Community and Social Services- The first nations child and family services Jordans Principle settlement will officially open for claims on March 10, 2025. The

Federal Court approved the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement Agreement on October 24, 2023. This agreement aims to provide compensation to individuals harmed by the discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and those impacted by the federal government's restrictive interpretation of Jordan's Principle. The \$23.34 billion settlement follows compensation directives from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in 2019, which investigated systemic discrimination against First Nations children and families.

1465 households benefited from the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program. This funding has been dispersed to electric companies and fuel providers> Each household received 1500.00.

There has also been much concern about some of our homeless community members in the City of Cornwall. Community Support has reached out to them and provided backpacks with supplies as well as options were given on how community support can assist with shelter. There is also the Persian Manner in Cornwall where there are several rooms designated to Akwesasne residents.

Health- On January 22nd the temporary Snye Medical clinic opened its doors to the community. Blood Work Clinics are now available in all districts, locations are in Tsi Snaihne Medical clinic at Iakhihsotha lodge, Akwesasne Medical Clinic and Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic. Jordans Principles office will also have a Satellite office at the Snye Medical Clinic. Some changes have been made to the Special Need Policy Fund and now include members of Akwesasne who reside in the Cornwall area. Blood Work Clinics are now available in all three districts as well, this is also a huge step forward for our community's health needs.

Special Needs Committee: Chief Lacey, Chief Vanessa, Chief Teresa, and I have formed the Special needs committee, and we held our first meeting and discussed priorities in this area. We are lacking in this area, and I will not let special needs programming fall through the cracks. We need to make sure our community members' special needs are a priority and are well taken care of. I look forward to collaborating with the departments to help fill in the gaps that are present.

Youth Elders Language and Culture: We held our first official meeting on January 22, 2025, in which we discussed our plans moving forward with this committee. All youth council members have been accepted and an upcoming swearing-in ceremony will take place. Currently also looking at the process for an elders committee. We will be developing a charter and policies and procedures for this committee. We also spoke of some requests that have been brought

forward for language programs and a Request for Proposal will be going out to the community and the next couple of weeks.