

Leonard Lazore **Grand Chief** **MARCH 2025** **MONTHLY REPORT**

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March 3-7

- Weekly Council Meeting
- 2024 Financial Budget Meeting with Director of Finance
 - We discussed the budget for the next fiscal year with Finance Director outlining monetary needs for our community.
 - Discussed financial planning.
- Border Partners Meeting
 - We had a meeting with CBSA, The Mohawk Tribe, and the US Border regarding community concerns about the process for education and border crossing.
- Transport Canada Land Disposition Meeting
 - Transport Canada made a presentation to Council about 8 lots for sale on the shore of Cornwall and in Iroquois.
 - We are reviewing these lots for residential and business opportunities.
- Emergency Measures Plan – Roles & Responsibilities Meeting
 - The Emergency Measures team lead a training for Council to be prepared for a community emergency.
- Executive Committee Meeting
 - The Committee discussed and is addressing a grievance.
- Governance Committee Meeting
 - The Committee discussed the public Council Meeting preparations and the room layout.
 - Also discussed the need for policy review as it relates to privacy laws in



Grand Chief Lazore and David Quartermain – Director of Real Property Management Transport Canada

March 10-14

- Weekly Council Meeting
- Financial Budget Pt. 2 with Director of Finance Administration
 - Council continued the discussion on revisiting the budget for the next fiscal year.
- March Akw-Canada MT Negotiations Day 1
- CBSA President Visit to Akwesasne
 - The CBSA President Erin O’Gorman and her team visited Akwesasne to discuss the future relations of our organizations.
 - We discussed the border crossing as it relates to safety and security and the new measures that the Canada and US are going to be implementing and our need to participate in those discussions.
 - It is confirmed that our Remission Order for the Cornwall Port of Entry is still in effect.
- Governance Committee Meeting
 - This meeting was a continuation of the discussion on the public Council meetings and the room layout.
 - Also discussed the need for audio and visual equipment.
- Minister Lafreniere Prep Meeting
 - Council prepped for the Minister visit next week with some notable discussion topics.
 - Discussed border issues, health, economic development, French language (Bill 91), conservation.



March 17-21

- Weekly Council Meeting
- Meeting with the President of OPG Nicole Butcher in Toronto ON
 - I went to Toronto to visit Nicole to discuss the OPG Agreement and future relations between us.
 - Agreed to establish target outcomes for employment and contracting work for Akwesasronon.
 - This commitment will be shared at the upcoming steering and POM Committee meetings.
- ISC & COO Leadership Morning Session - Emergency Management
 - We discussed the development of a emergency management leadership table for First Nations in Ontario.
 - We discussed creating a terms of reference and the governance structure.
- Meeting with Ian Lafreniere Quebec Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit.
 - We provided updates on our community's advancements, needs, and priorities, highlighting key areas such as healthcare access, border safety, economic development, Language (Bill 91) and conservation efforts. Discussions reinforced the importance of strong partnerships to ensure Akwesasne's concerns are heard and addressed at the provincial level.
 - We agreed that we will work on creating a separate Quebec Language agreement for Akwesasne so that residents and employees will be exempt from the French language.



Grand Chief and Nicole Butcher - OPG President



Grand Chief Lazore and Minister Ian Lafreniere

March 24-28

- Weekly Council Meeting
- King Charles III Coronation Award Ceremony
 - Attended the award ceremony in St. Andrews to support our outstanding community member Feryn King receiving the King Charles III Award nominated by Member of Parliament Eric Duncan.
- Jay Treaty Border Alliance Meeting (Zoom)
 - Meeting with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse to discuss setting up an MOU between the Jay Treaty Border Alliance and AFN to reduce the duplication of work.
 - Akwesasne invited the National Chief Cindy Woodhouse to tour Akwesasne so she can see our unique border situation first hand.
 - I invited neighboring border communities to join the meeting between Akwesasne and the Assistant Deputy Minister Chris Moran.
 - We will be discussing the new security measures that will be coming that will affect Akwesasne.
- NYS Land Claim Amendment review
 - The agreement was amended to remove the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.
- DEV Centre Tour
 - Council went to the DEV Centre for a tour to discuss potential meeting and office space.
- AFNQL Special Chiefs Assembly
 - I attended AFNQL in Montreal to vote on a resolution: Negotiation and Development of a Transition Plan for a New Health and Wellness Governance Model by and for First Nations in Quebec.



Grand Chief Lazore and Chief Theresa Jacobs with Feryn King



The Grand Chief Lazore, District Chief Theresa Jacobs, Feryn King, and MP Eric Duncan



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

- 2024 Financial Budget Presentation March 3, 2025
- Meeting with Transport Canada on March 4, 2025, to discuss possible purchases of lands within Cornwall. These lands would be beneficial for the expansion of our community.
- Meeting with Blackbird Strategies for the Justice Strategic Plan on March 11, 2025
- Meeting with the Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)
- Attended Oversight Committee Meeting on March 12, 2025
- Attended Meeting with CBSA on March 13, 2025
- Attended Justice Portfolio on March 13, 2025
- Attended Health Portfolio on March 13, 2025
- Attended DCSS Portfolio Meeting on March 14, 2025
- Kana;takon District Meeting March 17, 2025
- Akwesasne Community Justice Program Presentation, March 18, 2025
- Meeting with Quebec Minister Lafreniere on March 21, 2025
- Akwesasne Election Law Presentation, March 24, 2025
- AFNQL

Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA): I met with Jennifer Bluhm, Vice President of Community Outreach Services, Stephanie Miller, Vice President of Development, and Rob Hunter, Development Officer. We spoke of a partnership between the Cornwall Branch and Akwesasne as we currently do not have any space to take in any dogs when needed. This has been an ongoing community concern. It would greatly benefit the community if they could accommodate us with the possibility of a couple of spaces for Dogs. I spoke about our three districts, and by forming a partnership, they would need to accommodate all three districts with no restrictions. The possibility is also there for them to take cats as well. This is an ongoing project, and they will be doing a presentation to the council very shortly.

Justice Portfolio: At our last Oversight committee meeting, we did a line-by-line of the Oversight Committee terms of reference and minor changes were made. Currently the Oversight Committee is down one member for the Snye district. This spot will need to be filled for any work to be done on the Election law as Chiefs cannot sit on that working group; therefore, by missing a member, they will not have a quorum. The Akwesasne Review Commission is also in need of members in all districts. These seats need to be filled. If interested, please contact Rosebud Cook at Akwesasne Court.

Justice Portfolio had a presentation on the importance of Gladue reports for Indigenous individuals going through the criminal justice system.

A Gladue report is a specialized type of pre-sentencing or parole report used in the Canadian criminal justice system. It is named after the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R v Gladue* (1999), which recognized that Indigenous offenders may face unique circumstances that affect their involvement in crime and their rehabilitation.

The report is designed to provide the court with context regarding an Indigenous offender's background, including factors like historical trauma, systemic discrimination, intergenerational impacts of colonialism, residential schools, substance abuse, and socio-economic hardships that may have contributed to their criminal behavior.

Gladue reports aim to ensure that Indigenous offenders are treated fairly and that their unique circumstances are considered in the sentencing process. The purpose is to promote restorative justice, healing, and rehabilitation rather than simply focusing on punitive measures.

The reports are usually written by a trained Gladue writer, often someone familiar with Indigenous cultures and issues. They can also recommend culturally appropriate alternatives to traditional sentencing, like community-based programs or restorative justice approaches, that may better support the offender's rehabilitation.

The Akwesasne Community Justice Employees are trained in Gladue writing. I am also a trained Gladue writer. Akwesasne Community Justice Program will present at an upcoming General Meeting

Department of Community and Social Services: Funding has been allocated to assist with the Children's Pow Wow. The Kana:takon Beach Project is ready to begin, there has been a Community Support increase for funeral assistance. Racing Against Drugs will be making a return to Akwesasne. Also, in the works is Fishing for Autism this summer.

The First Nations child and family services Jordan's Principal settlement is officially open for claims as of March 10, 2025. The Federal Court approved the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principal 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. There are ongoing community sessions for those needing assistance.

Health: Dr. Horn presented a very impactful presentation to the council on the Environmental contaminants within Akwesasne. These environmental risks are leading to many illnesses within the community. An upcoming community presentation will take place.

Amber Montour has resigned from her position as Health Director, I would like to thank Amber for all her hard work and dedication while she was in her role. Tessa Jocko is currently in the acting position. I would also like to welcome Mary Terrance as the new Associate Director for Mental Health and Wellness.

In regards, to Jordan's Principle, there were 126 applications with a decision given from our Jordan Principal office for this fiscal year. Currently they have 261 applications in 231 have and ISC number 30 do not as of now.

Public Safety: On going concerns with loose dogs have been a community concern. Currently, there is no place to keep animals. I hope that, with a partnership with the OSPCA, this could be a short-term solution. Community concerns regarding the helicopters are ongoing. Acting Chief of Police Swamp said this is happening all over Canada and is not just centered on Akwesasne.

CBSA: Council meet with President of CBSA Erin O’Gorman and other CBSA individuals. Introductions were done for new council members. Council addressed concerns regarding the possibility of border concerns due to the increased surveillance of the border. CBSA said that they have no plans to make it difficult for Akwesasne residents at the border. Border Collaborative Initiative (BCI) working groups will be resuming at the beginning of April. These groups are Dundee Port, Cornwall Port, Preclearance, and Communications. A new group will likely form regarding the Dundee port remission. It is our hope it will be like the remission order with the Cornwall port. These groups are very important so that Akwesasne’s voice is heard, and we are involved with CBSA.

Kana:takon District Meeting: We had seven community members in attendance at our district meeting. Main concerns were road issues and when the roads are going to be repaired. It was relayed that these roads are on the list to be redone. Also, there are concerns about support for the Kana:takon recreation as it is in need of repair as well as the parking lot. This is currently being looked into.



Chief Teresa Oakes ~ Kana:takon District

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Monthly Report for March 2025

Portfolios

Public Safety - DCSS - AMBE -
Government Secretariat - Nation Building

Committees & External Tables

Akweskowa - CBSA - Green
Team/Beautification/Waterways - OVS - Hydro
Quebec - Special Needs - JTBA - Iroquois Caucus

Meetings

- February 27th, General Meeting.
- March 3rd, Weekly Council Meeting.
- March 3rd, Budget Meeting with DFA Director.
- March 3rd, 4th, and 7th, FNCFS Community Information Sessions with Chief Vanessa and Chief Tesha.
- March 4th, Border Partners Meeting.
- March 4th, Transport Canada Land Disposition Meeting.
- March 5th, Entewathatha:wi Negotiation Prep Meeting.
- March 6th, Emergency Roles & Responsibilities with the Emergency Measures Program.
- March 7th, AMBE Portfolio Meeting.
- March 10th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- March 10th, Budget Meeting with DFA Director.
- March 11th, Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting.
- March 11th, OVS Meeting with Chief Vince.
- March 13th, CBSA Meet and Greet with the CBSA President.
- March 14th, DCSS Portfolio Meeting.
- March 14th, Prep Meeting with Council for upcoming visit with Minister Lafreniere.
- March 17th, Weekly Council Meeting.
- March 21st, Council Meeting with Minister Lafreniere.

Travel

March 17th - March 20th. Gathering of the AFNQL Elected Women's Council (EWC) with Chief Sarah and Chief Tesha.

Topics covered included a presentation from the Charter of Equality between First Nations Women and Men of Quebec Native Women. Decision points regarding Governance and Committees within EWC. A vote took place amongst the EWC for Spokesperson Nominations. Our very own Chief Tesha Rourke was nominated and chosen as one of three Spokespersons for the EWC, was a very proud moment to be part of. On the final day we had a meeting with the Regional Chief of the AFNQL. Mr. Francis Verreault-Paul was very open to hearing what the concerns are regarding having our voices heard.





Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell
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Monthly Report March 2025

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

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

Monthly Notables: All Council, District, and General Meetings

- Extend our heartfelt Condolence to the Family of Dorothy Lazore, I had the honor of working with her on my path to learning the Kanienkeha Language, she was a beautiful woman who gave her all to ensure that anyone who wants to learn our language and culture was encouraged We will miss her dearly. I also send condolences to all families that have suffered losses this month.
- Attending the ongoing Kanienkeha Lesson provided by AEDA, we are heading towards the end, and I can't thank Wentanoron Jacco, for her patience and AEDA for giving me the opportunity. Nia:wen. This is my second year and although I am not fluent yet, I continue to learn and am greatly appreciative.
- Met with Minister Ian Lafreniere at St. Regis Rec. A great opportunity to reinforce the ongoing issues that our community has been struggling with and continue work towards our partnership.
- Upcoming meetings for April are to include the Beautification/ Waterways/ Green Team as there have been several requests in the District of Kanatakon for improvements.

March 3/2025: All Council Meeting 9 am – 12:30 pm @ Admin 1

2025/2026 Draft Budget Presentation: H. Phillips, Director of Finance. @ 1:30 pm

Agenda: The director presented the proposed budget for the organization and an update will be provided to the community in early April at a Special Meeting.

March 4/2025: Border Meeting: CBSA, USBP, SRMT, MCA 10 am: Update on border activities at U.S. port of entry, discussion around Canadian/US creation of records, Real ID requirements coming May 31, Retirement of Superintendent,

Transport Canada Seaway Land Disposition Meeting: 11 am @ OPG Visitor Centre:

Agenda: Meeting the team involved with Land Dispositions in Cornwall & Iroquois area, environmental areas, and work phases have been discussed in terms of timelines. Review of areas that are in discussion.

March 5/2025: Entewatathawa: wi Negotiation Prep Meeting:

Agenda: Review Conflict of Laws, Akwesasne proposal, presentation on Canadian human rights act, Confidentiality clause, Transport Canada Representative attending Main Table negotiations for proposal on Environmental issues, upcoming meeting dates

Executive Committee Meeting at 1:30 pm: Discussion around letter received regarding Grievance.

March 6/2025- Emergency Roles & Responsibilities: Regina Jacobs, 9 am-1 pm @ Admin 1

Agenda: Review and presentation of roles and responsibilities of emergencies, mitigation of risk, 4 pillars, planning, prep, response, recovery, and leadership.

Executive Committee Meeting @ 1:30 pm: Met with team to discuss complaint received.

March 7/2025 - Governance Committee: 11 am @ Admin 1-

Agenda: Review of items from the action plan, work plan, purchasing of equipment for council/General Meetings, policy & procedures of meeting objectives, communication plan, update on the MCA Portal: Coming areas of concern are being addressed as they arise, timelines are still looking towards April 1, but we recognized that given equipment needs and set up process it may need to be extended by a month or two. The next meeting dates are discussed every Friday.

Kanaton District Chief Meeting: noon -2 pm, Ongoing collaboration with District Chiefs on strategic priorities for the district that have all have been hearing about, the work plan will be formulated to help keep us on track on actions items presented and community requests, a survey will be drafted to get input into areas they would like to see completed and this is in keeping with other Districts have been tasked to complete. Next meeting review plans and have them ready for the District Meeting on March 18/25.

First Nations Child & Family Service Agreement: 6 pm St. Regis Recreation: Community Info Session: St. Regis Rec 5 pm: Attended the session with community members to listen and understand the FNCFSA and what is next for the community in ensuring that their needs they have presented. **Great Job, Chiefs Vanessa, Teresa, & Tesha.**

March 8/2025 -AFN National Caucus of Women Leadership Virtual Presentation: Saturday 10 am – 2 pm

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Caucus of Women Leaders (NCWL) Virtual Meeting. This virtual meeting will include remarks from AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Minister Ien, and NCWL Co-Chairs Grand Chief Savanna McGregor and Chief Joanne Miles, followed by project overviews presented by the AFN Justice Sector and Regional Coordinators. The objective of this meeting is meant to empower and support aspiring women leaders by providing a report back on Regional Initiatives, an overview of First Nations Gender-Based Analysis Plus (FN GBA+) principles, and an update on the mentorship program for aspiring and newly elected First Nations women leaders.

March 10/2025 – All Council Meeting 9 am- noon @ Admin 1

1:30 pm: All Council Budget Review with the Director of Finance.

DFA- to review areas where allocations can be made to move some of the projects that are ready along the path of completion.

March 12/2025: Entewatatha:wi Self-Government Agreement Main Table Negotiations: 10 am-4 pm:

Agenda: Opening Address, Welcome, Review/Approval of Record of Decision from Nov./2024, Fiscal, upcoming Election Canada, Divestment of Real Property update from Feb/2024, Proposal on Environment, ESGA Confidentiality, New business, Main Table dates, next meeting schedule.

Oversight Committee Review Alyson Thompson/Coordinator 4 pm-6 pm @Justice Office

Agenda: Review of the Terms of Reference for the Oversight Committee. The committee reviewed the terms of reference in total and made some minor changes to be made to the next meeting date proposed.

March 13/2025: Justice Portfolio – Cactus Cook- Sunday, 9 am – 11:30 pm

Agenda: Akwesasne Justice Department Admin update on funding updates, strategic plans, services overview, Legislative Services: Work on committees update AEL, AELPR, Eniethishswanon:na, and Oversight Committees, Akwesasne Court: Review of Commission board members lack of response, commitment to collaborative work with AMPS, ACJP: Gladue requirements. ARAP: The lack of office space is an ongoing issue.

LTR-Application of Indian Act: Zoom Meeting: Rachel Lazare, PM Nation Building 1 pm via Zoom: Not available for meeting; update to be provided by Rachel as I was not available for the meeting.

Justice: Working Task Group on Residency Law: 4 pm: The meeting has been rescheduled to March 20, 2025.

March 14/2025: out of office

CBSA Update: Not available for meeting: The update provided no major change in the port of entry requirements, remission order is still being implemented, issues on questions being asked and to promote a positive experience for all our communities, and updates on concerns of drones, Blackhawk helicopters movement within. AMPS presented in our end that we do have the capacity to do the work as well.

March 17/2025; All Council Meeting: 9 am –12 pm- Action Items, Meeting Request, MCRs &

Presentation: Dr. O. Horn; Exploring the New Surroundings- Ongoing Environmental Issues within the Territory of Akwesasne. She has grave concerns about the ongoing

1:30 pm: Completion of FNCFS Budget Review with Director of Finance, H. Phillips.

District Meeting Kanatakon @ 6 pm – 8:30 pm: Updates provided from Portfolios

Community members requested a follow-up on our Roads, Rumble strip removal (what was the evaluation of this), and potholes in many areas within the district, especially Sweetgrass Lane, 3rd Street, Kateri Tekawitha, and St. Regis Recreation. The issue with roads and land is being addressed by GC. Information was provided on Budget Presentation to the community, Enbridge Contract renewal, Dundee Land Claim Trust Committee members and Environmental issues. Nia:wen was great to see so many community members attend.

March 18/25: Aboriginal Rights Research Office (ARRO) Cheyenne Lazore: 10 am

Agenda: CBSA Cultural Awareness Course Review; update from Team Gues Ray Oconnell on the presentation that is provided to CBSA mandatory training for any officer coming to the ports, excellent presentation. **MRN Cultural Training:** For conservation officers' work in progress.

Cairn Island: communication has been going out on the return of the Island, issues to be resolved where to have the dedication event, and specific claim recommendations provided by the team.

Archaeology: update provided by Adam J. Reburial & Repatriation at Fort Chambly. NY St. Claim, Nutfield Track Survey, ATR-Dundee, OPG OEB, & Glendale Consultation are yet to be discussed. The next meeting will be scheduled for next week to finish up the discussion.

Justice Program Rena Smoke Gladue Reporting @ Anowakowa Arena 1 pm: unable to attend – report provided to me by what a Gladue is and how it impacts First Nations people, Nia:wen Chief Fallon David for follow-up information.

Eniethihswanon: non-Working Task Group: A. Thompson Coordinator, Justice Building 4 pm-6 pm

Agenda: The team to review the Kanienkeha terminology that is in law with Wentanoron Jacco, so they may learn to understand the meaning of the words and the proper pronunciation. Awesome lessons provided; the next meeting is scheduled for 2 weeks.

March 19/2025: In office working on reports and follow-up items

March 20/2025: Review of the Executive Director Draft Profile as presented by Pathways Executive Search.

Residency Law Amendment Working Task Group: A. Thompson @Justice Bldg, 4 pm.

Agenda: Review the previous meeting minutes and do a line-by-line discussion on the areas that have been proposed for changes, realizing that this document has not been amended since its approval. Next meeting discussion.

March 21/25: Governance Committee: Chiefs and Support Staff: 11 am-1 pm

Agenda: Review of previous meeting minutes, ATTIP update, Admin 1 layout, communication update, Agenda Governance, Portfolio Terms of Reference, Procedural Regulations, Communication Ideas, MCR Reference Tool, and Quick review there is a lot of moving parts to the agenda, lots of areas that need to be amended and work needs to be concentrated on getting those tasks done for us to be able to do meetings in a public forum. Recommend to Council that we delay as many issues have been addressed including the space needs composition of all of Council and staff that cannot fit in one room, options addressed, including communications needs, delay the process until possibly June or July, we need to ensure that all bases are covered before going live, update on the MCA PORTAL provide, its coming along, working to get bugs out as well. Update the work plan to ensure that it gets updated so we can adequately track our goals, objectives, budget, and timelines.

Minster Ian Lafreniere Visit to Akwesasne: 2 pm @ St. Regis Recreation: All Council:

Agenda: Introduction The Council did a presentation on major areas of concern for the community such as Public Safety, Language & Culture, Health Requirements, Economic Development, Conservation, Fiber to the homes, and the Renewal of the Quebec Political Protocol. A good start to a working partnership, which we all agree needs to happen for the betterment of our community. Follow-up on issues in the next 2 weeks with Council.

March 24-29/2025 – out of the office.

Should any community member request any further information on the areas that are presented, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Chief Theresa Jacobs

March 2025 Monthly Report



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Portfolios: DIHE – (Capital Projects) Portfolio, Housing Portfolio, Environment Portfolio, Health Portfolio, and Economic Development Portfolio

Committees: Finance Committee, Lobbying, PAT, Governance Committee, alternate on the Executive Committee and any Committees/Working groups for the Portfolios that I would be working with

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:

- Attended the General meeting for the Month of February where a number of presentations took place. Law Enactment Process, Jordans principle update, Border issues, deer Chronic Waste Disease, DIHE Road Maintenance and Capital Plan, Beaver Reductions, Cairn Island, ED update, CEO update and Business from the floor.
- Participated in the Governance Committee meeting that took place in looking at layouts of the Boardroom in order to get it to accommodate Council for public viewing with room to have cameras and speakers for all Council.
- Attended the Monday Council meeting on Monday which was held at the admin 1 Boardroom. A number of MCRs were presented for approval by Council and all were passed. Council participated in a presentation from Canada Post. Canada post would like to improve the relationship between them and Akwesasne. They would like to post all the jobs with a QR code and would like to have the job position in Mohawk as well. They talked about the issues with mailing. 5 years ago, all the Community had one postal code. One postal code is for mail boxes and one postal code is for homes.
- Participated in the Finance presentation to Council on Budgets.
- Participated in Border partners meeting. Transition across the Border will remain Status quo for our Community members.
- Attended a prep session for a meeting with Transport Canada on lands.

- Participated in a Transport Canada Land disposition meeting. They have some shoreline lands that they don't have use for and would like to see if Akwesasne has use for the lands. We will be getting back to them soon.
- Participated in Emergency Roles and Responsibilities training with the EOC. There is a binder that needs to be updated to include all the issues that we need to address today during Climate change etc.
- Attended the Monday Council meeting on Monday which was held at the Admin 1 Boardroom. Many MCRs were presented for approval by Council. Council participated in a presentation from William Clute on fishing Regulations. William talked about the fish heading up river during certain times of the year. We have non residents coming into our waters to fish and it seems there is no limit on what they are taking out of the water. We currently have one Compliance officer in the Organization and there should be more Compliance officers to help patrol our waterways. Recommendations on placing Buoys out there on certain areas to protect the population of fish so they may replenish. A map of protected areas should be issued.
- Participated in a presentation on Budgets from Finance.
- Attended the Health Portfolio Meeting where we had a presentation from two Doctors. There is a language Barrier when doing licenses in school. We need to support this in order to obtain more Doctors in the future for our Community. The French Language barrier will be brought up in our meeting with the Minister next week.
- Participated in meeting with the President of CBSA along with a A/ Chief of Police Council. Akwesasne is looking at ways to improve our transitions through the Border.
- Attended the Governance meeting and the Admin 1 boardroom set up was on the list for moving around to accommodate Council meetings for Public camera. The layout was not a good layout due to the size of the Boardroom and equipment that would need to be set in place such as the camera. Also need to look at seating for Presentations to Council.
- Attended the Monday Council meeting on Monday which was held at the Admin 1 Boardroom. Many MCRs were presented for approval by Council. Council participated in a presentation from Dr Horn.

- Participated in the Kana:takon District meeting, Discussions on Portfolios, the parking lot at the Rec, fixing the Recreation Facility as it is aging. We discussed the Road projects as there are many pot holes in the Community and we talked about housing needs. This will be sent to the Director and the Roads Manager to remedy. There also needs to have new roads and this is currently being worked on by the Department of DIHE. A local business owner asked about funding for renovations. The answer: there is funding for renovations if you have children living in the home. Housing does offer housing renovation loans, but you must reside in the home in order to be approved for this. All renovations and upgrades to homes will go through Housing Program. There was a question if Community members can apply to CMHC directly. I checked into it and the Funding has to go to the First Nations Community Government and then it will be distributed from there to Community members that are looking to build a home. The information has been sent to the Community member so they are not waiting for an answer and can plan accordingly. Currently there are 3 homes a year being built. There was question for the Community that was raised at Council table due to the last General meeting: Do you want to see business from the floor first? This was raised at the Kana:takon District meeting and the answer was YES.
- Economic Development meeting was cancelled by the Director due to a passing member of her family.
- Participated in the Environment Portfolio. A fish study that needs to take place due to the last one being ten years ago.
- Participated in the planning meeting for the visit of Quebec Minister Ian Lafreniere for our Economic Development Challenges.
- Attended the Governance meeting and reviewed the action items to date on communication strategies, boardroom set up, and discussions on the Access to Information Policy. Training will need to be set up with Council. Will bring this to Councils table for an update.
- Participated in a meeting with the Minister of Quebec Ian LaFreniere. A number of issues were discussed on the Language barrier, Economic Development Challenges, Public Safety, Conservation and the fibre to the Home project. The meeting had good conversations, and some action items will be taken back for solutions.

- Attended an awards ceremony on Saturday for the King Charles III medal for Feryn King who received recognition for her hard work and dedication in working with dancing groups. Grand Chief, myself, and family members were in attendance from Akwesasne. Photo op took place with Eric Duncan for Stormont Dundas and Glengarry who was responsible for nominating Feryn for the award. For the Story on this check out the MCA page.
- Attended the Monday Council meeting on Monday which was held at the admin 1 Boardroom. Many MCRs were presented for approval by Council. MCA has a new Associate Director of Mental Health and Additions Mary Terrance who came in and met with all Council for introductions. We look forward to having her work within the Organization. Council participated a presentation from Tsikwawennatonhe'ts by Kawennahente Cook, Ian Cook Clute and Kyrie Tristary on Cultural Facility they are putting in.
- Participated in the Kana:takon District Elders gathering and helped prepare food for their gathering. It was a really nice turn out where the Elders gather and play games and enjoy a meal together.
- Participated in the DIHE Portfolio meeting where I gave a list of Roads that need to be reconstructed.
- We participated in a Special Council meeting where we passed two MCR's. One for AMBE to get a grant for 100K every year for Three years for cultural activities. The next MCR for was AMPS to get an Amphibian vehicle to help with rough areas of the Community in the event Emergency issues arise and they are required to attend the rough turf. They are also willing to work with the Fire Department with the machine.

DIHE Updates:

Sunday Warehouse is 100,000 square feet. Currently looking at the façade of the facility so it wont look like a warehouse.

Hamilton Island Healing Centre/ North Shore of Hamilton Island. The location needs to be identified in order to move forward with this project.

Kawehno:ke Clinic/MCA Records repository – (CIA#3 site) The environment assessment and geotechnical investigation is in progress. Project awarded to Consultants firm A49 and contract has been signed. There were questions on the wording of the contract and Legal has reviewed the Contract and has been approved. Project is still ongoing.

Tsi Snaihne Admin Building – St Lawrence Testing has completed the geotechnical investigation report regarding surcharging the site with enough capacity to allow slab on grade construction, but also recommends piling. Furr Architects are to update the proposal. This project will be a single story due to the location of the building in which the soil conditions determined.

AMS school addition – DIHE has sent out the RFP for design consultants services.

Building Conditions Reports have been done on a number of MCA Facilities. An RFP will be going out to initiate the ISC ACRS Report for all building assets.

Iakhihsohtha Kitchen Renovations – Design is complete and renovations will begin in the spring. The kitchen will be closed during the renovations. Discussions on management procedures during the renovations are taking place. Funding will be looked at for this project.

Capital Plan Update – Consultants have been meeting with Directors and Departments. This is 60% complete.

Iohahi:io Portable Classroom project is 99% complete. Work on the slab for the building will be next steps.

Kana:takon Beach project is tender ready.

New Snye School – Preliminary design is completed. A community consultation will be scheduled, once 3D elevations are finished by the design consultants. AMBE were informed that funding needs to be sought in order to move forward on design.

Roof Condition Reports – Snetsinger Consultants has been initiating roof assessments on the Health Facility, Admin 4, Central Police Station and found all are in need of repair. Additional buildings have been added to the list that include CIA#3, WWW plants, AMS School and Snye School. Proposals have been submitted by roofing consultant to DIHE for AMS and Kanonkwatsheriio health Facility to prepare design/tender ready package.

Road Projects- DIHE is working on RFPs to obtain a consulting firm for an Engineer of Record for detail design to achieve tender ready projects for road replacement/repairs for priority roads. There are numerous roads in need of repair in all three districts. DIHE are looking at bundling the project based on the Roads report that will be coming out in 2 days from the assessment that was done.

Community Water Connections – in collaboration with WWW, OS DIHE and Jp2g consultants. The first priority is waterline connections in Snye took some time to resolve. Drawings are being completed and other residents in Snye have been notified and data, paperwork has been collected. Project is ongoing.

HVAC for Schools will be tender ready in March. The need to reduce power consumption is being looked at in order to accommodate power for air conditioning. LED lighting will be installed in the facilities. Pending funding, construction can begin in and scheduled for next summer.

Kawehno:ke Rec Court - the lacrosse wall is too heavy and sinking into the court pavement. Need to remedy this or take it out completely.



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)
- Healing and Wellness Fund

Monthly Notables:

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne- Operating Budget Plan 2025-2026 by Heather Phillips

March 3rd, 2025 Admin 1 Boardroom

Changes were made to budget which reallocated some funding areas from OLG funds to FNCFS funding and reserves as OLG funds don't have tight restrictions and can be allocated towards Capital builds.

A community presentation will follow.

Border Partners Monthly Meeting- MCA, SRMT, CBSA, USCBP

March 3rd, 2025 Zoom

Discussion around creation of record increase of requests by community members born in Canada with dual citizenship have been on the rise due to Licenses, FAFSA education funding and employment. Council stated that the creation of record as known as green card is not a avenue Council supports community members to proceeding with as it violates our standing Jay Treaty Agreement. Further joint discussions will continue on this subject.

As of May 2025, a Real ID is needed for any domestic travel within US, forms of Real ID are enhanced drivers license and passport. It was noted that Red Card and Tribal ID will no longer be accepted for domestic flights and only honored as travel identification when traversing through land border crossing.

TRANSPORT CANADA SEAWAY LAND DISPOSITION IN CORNWALL AND IROQUOIS

March 4th, 2025 OPG Visitor Center Boardroom

Overview of Cornwall property profiles, focusing on parcels CW-001-05 and CW-001-06, previously identified as areas of interest.

Joint interest from past council and the City of Cornwall in acquiring parcel CW-001-01 for the Port of Cornwall joint venture.

Informal interest in two non-operational Iroquois parcels, which are not part of the strategic portfolio but remain relevant.

Request to confirm the new council's continued interest in these properties, discussion is still ongoing.

ENIENTHIHSWANON:NA CHILDS LAW WORKING TASK GROUP

March 4th, 2025 Justice Boardroom/Teams

The working task group was notified that Connie Lazore has withdrawn from Oversight Committee as district of Tsi Snaihne Community representative. A callout has been made to the community for interested Tsi Snaihne members to apply.

Child's Law is currently being reviewed by legal with a tentative review completion of 3 weeks turnaround time.

March 18th, 2025 Justice Boardroom

The working task group was joined by Wentanoron Jacco, a Mohawk language speaker from AEDA. A review of Mohawk language and terms incorporated within law was reviewed and proper pronunciation was provided to all members to ensure that the correct terminology is used within law. Wentanoron will continue to collaborate and work alongside the working task group for a multi session review and implementation.



Onkwe's 2nd Annual Nation to Nation Food Sustainability Conference and Swap

March 8th, 2025 Mohawk Nation Longhouse

Onkwe recently held its second annual Nation to Nation Food Sustainability Conference, a powerful step toward reclaiming our food systems and restoring the balance between land, culture, and community.

Over the weekend, Akwesasronon and visitors gathered at the Mohawk Nation Longhouse to share knowledge on seed saving, traditional planting, rainwater harvesting, restoring Onkwehonwehnéha ecosystems, and more. Hands-on activities like mushroom cultivation, elderberry propagation, and a community swap provided participants with the tools to support food sovereignty at home. The event also featured a screening of *Tentsitewahkwe*, a film by Katsitsionni Fox.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS: MCA MEETS WITH MINISTER LAFRENIÈRE

On Friday, March 21st, MCA welcomed Ian Lafrenière, Quebec's Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, to the Kana:takon Recreation Center. While he is no stranger to Akwesasne, this visit marked his first official meeting with the newly elected 2024–2027 Council. MCA's Grand Chief and District Chiefs provided updates on our community's advancements, needs, and priorities, highlighting key areas such as healthcare access, border safety, economic development, and conservation efforts. Discussions reinforced the importance of strong partnerships to ensure Akwesasne's concerns are heard and addressed at the provincial level.



YOUTH ELDERS CULTURE & LANGUAGE

On Friday, February 21st, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne held a swearing-in ceremony to welcome the newest members of the Akwesasne Youth Council (AYC). This event marked a significant moment for the community as Cayde Lazore, Starlyn Mason, Iiokonhahes King, and Taylor Day officially joined the council. YECL members will join the council at March 27th, 2025 General meeting for community introduction.

Kawehnoke District Meeting:

March 24th, 2025- Out sick

Portfolio Meetings

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE)

Donna Lahache- Director

THE AMBE BOARD OFFICE HAS A NEW FACE

Natalie Adams is covering Allie Oakes-McCumber for a 1-year term (maternity leave) as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Education. From now until April 11th, all communications meant for the Director of Education's Executive Assistant shall be sent to both Allie (allie.oakes-mccumber@ambe.ca) and Natalie (natalie.adams@ambe.ca). After that date, please send your communications to Natalie.

SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS

Cameras are being installed on AMBE school buses to ensure the safety of the students as they board and exit school buses as well as provide video and image evidence to prosecute violations of drivers who disobey the law. Bus cameras are being funded through DCSS.

AMBE REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk Board of Education is reminding families that student registration for the 2025–2026 school year will open on **March 31st, 2025**, and close on **May 30th, 2025**. Parents and guardians can enroll children in K4 through Grade 8 at any of the three district schools: Ahkwesáhsne Mohawk School (AMS), Kana:takon School, and Tsi Snaihne School. Registration packets will be available at each district school and the AMBE Board Office, located at 169 International Road, Akwesasne, ON. At this time, online registration is not available.

To enroll in K4, children must be four years old by September 30, 2025, and fully potty trained. When submitting a registration, families will need to provide:

- 2025–2026 Registration Form
- Child's immunization record or waiver
- Child's birth certificate
- Child's Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card)

- Child's health card

For more information, please contact AMBE at 613-933-0409.

AMBE INTERIM WEBSITE

AMBE has created an interim website while our old one is being phased out and our brand-new experience is being built. You can find it here; <https://ambeducation.my.canva.site/ambe-website>

AMBE TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

Stay connected with the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education. Families are invited to join our text alert system to receive important updates straight to your phone. Get real-time alerts about: Important events; Cancellations; Delays; Early Dismissals. Stay informed and never miss a critical update. Sign up today at <https://eztxt.net/xQG6Kz>

AMBE SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education on Facebook and Instagram for updates, pictures, videos and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/AhkwasahsneMohawkBoardofEducation>

https://www.instagram.com/ambe_iethihahonnien/

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

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

Job posting and interviews have started to fill the Superintendent Mohawk Language and Culture position when Alice King retires this year.

Department of Community and Social Services (DCSS)

Valerie/ Cook-Cree- Acting Director

REDMANE TRAINER

Staff training has begun for the transition of Matrix software to Ska'nikon:ra software within Akwesasne Child and Family Services Department. ACFS is in the final development phase of Ska'nikon:ra (One Mind), new case management system. To stay on schedule, the sole-sourcing of this trainer was from RedMane Technology. Their expertise is essential to meet project goals and to ensure staff are fully prepared to use the new system effectively.

NEW UPCOMING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

2025 Kids for fishing event will also include an event for Kids with Special Needs to promote equity and inclusion.

Planning to bring back Race Against Drugs community event is in works.

ACFS Canoe programming is being redeveloped and will return to the community.

SAVE ON YOUR HYDRO BILL: OESP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Looking for ways to lower your electricity costs? The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) helps low-income families reduce their hydro bills — and you may qualify for assistance!

In partnership with the MCA Community Support Program, OESP is hosting two information sessions where you can learn more and apply for support.

Dates: April 8–9, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

What to Bring:

A copy of your current electricity bill

Names, birthdates, and SINs for all household members

If you haven't filed income taxes in the last two years, bring proof of income (pay stubs, bank statements, etc.)

For more information, contact 1-844-885-3157 or the OESP Hotline at 1-855-831-8151. You can also reach MCA Community Support at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

Department of Health (DOH)

Amber Montour- Director

DEPARTURE OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is announcing the departure of the Director of Health Amber Montour, due to personal family reasons.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Amber Montour for the kindness and passion she demonstrated to the community and staff during her tenure, and we acknowledge the positive changes she led in the delivery of health services. Her dedication and commitment to improving healthcare in Akwesasne have left a lasting impact. We wish her and her family all the best.

Amber Montour's departure was effective as of March 17th, 2025. Tessa Jocko will serve as the acting Director of Health until the position is posted and filled.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REMINDER: DR. SAYLOR LAST DAY OF MEDICAL SERVICES MARCH 27

The MCA Department of Health would like to remind the community that Dr. Saylor's last day of medical services with the Akwesasne Medical Clinic will be on March 27, 2025.

Dr. Saylor's clients will be transferred to the Primary Health Care Team upon the conclusion of his clinical services.

To schedule an appointment with the Akwesasne Medical Clinic, call 613-575-2341 ext. 3215.

To schedule an appointment with the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic, call 613-932-5808.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CELEBRATES DR. HORN FOR 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Horn for her remarkable 10 years of dedicated service to our community. Over the past decade, Dr. Horn has exemplified unwavering commitment, compassion, and excellence in her work, making a profound impact on the lives of her patients.

Dr. Horn's tireless efforts and dedication have not only enhanced the well-being of our community members but have also fostered a spirit of compassionate care that resonates throughout the Primary Health Care Team. Her contributions have been invaluable, and her legacy of service continues to inspire us all within the Department of Health.

Through Dr. Horn's work with medical students and residents, the Department of Health now has two other Indigenous Physicians that work within the Primary Health Care Team.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we express our deepest appreciation to Dr. Horn for her unwavering dedication to the health and wellness of the community. Nia:wen (thank you), Dr. Horn, for your exceptional service and for being a beacon of hope and care in our community.

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 Iakhihsohtha 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
- jordansprinciple@akwesasne.ca

Public Safety

Ranatiosta Swamp- Acting Chief of Police

A2Z STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

Results were presented to Police Commission and Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs from Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) community consultations held in all three districts January 6th, 8th and 9th 2025. The community conversations on the AMPS Strategic Plan 2025-2030 had 137 community participants that provided positive feedback to align with AMPS planning and goals. Discussion was held regarding ongoing community concerns with compliance and loose pets in all districts. The solutions presented will be putting forth a call out for an additional position for compliance officer as well as constructing kennels for apprehended animals within the community. Chief David is also exploring a partnership with Cornwall OSPCA to house animals from Ontario portion of Akwesasne in the meantime.

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
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Iroquois Caucus (IC)
- CBSA Border Partners
- Tri-Council Initiatives with SRMT
- SIBC Toll Increase

Upcoming Travel/ Events:

- General Meeting- Kawehnoke Recreation Center April 14th 6-8pm
- Iroquois Caucus General Assembly- Location TBA April 23-24th, 2025
- Personal Vacation May 26th -June 4th, 2025

Community Announcements:

NOW AVAILABLE: MCA SERVICE DIRECTORY

Looking for information on programs and services available in Akwesasne? The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Programs & Services Directory is here to help!

This comprehensive guide provides an overview of MCA's departments, including health, education, public safety, social services, economic development, and more — all in one place. Find contact details, program descriptions, and resources to help you navigate available services.

View it online: www.akwasasne.ca/mca-service-directory

Physical copies are available at MCA offices across Akwasasne, the AMBE Administration Office, and the Native North American Travelling College. Copies will also be available at MCA District & General Meetings for distribution.

CALL OUT FOR AKWESASNE REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne is seeking to fill two (2) vacant seats on the Akwasasne Review Commission (ARC) for the District of Kana:takon. These positions are for a three (3) year term.

Deadline to apply: **March 31, 2025** at 4 p.m.

For inquiries or an application, please contact Akwasasne Court Administrator Rosebud Cook at rosebud.cook@akwasasne.ca or 613-575-2250 ext. 1025.

Click here to view the call out: <http://www.akwasasne.ca/call-out-for-akwasasne-review-commission-members-march-2025/>

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT: CALL OUT FOR TSI SNAIHNE REPRESENTATIVE

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne Justice Department is currently looking to fill one (1) vacant seat on the Legislative Development Oversight Committee to represent the district of Tsi Snáihne.

The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development, consisting of Council and appointed Community representatives, plays a crucial role in drafting legislation that protects and advances the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwasasne, guided by principles of peace, respect, and fairness.

The Committee will oversee and receive Council and community input; provide community guidance and direction in the development of Akwasasne Laws; and consider and balance the diversity of perspectives within the Akwasasne community.

Deadline to apply: **Friday, Enniskó:wa/March 28** | 4:30 p.m.

Potential candidates are required to submit a letter of interest outlining how the applicant meets the required qualifications. Appointed members will receive compensation based on Council's Honorarium Policy. For more information, please contact Alyson Thompson or Emily King at (613)-575-5000 or by email at alyson.thompson@akwasasne.ca or emily.king@akwasasne.ca.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL CEREMONY RECOGNIZES AKWESASRONON HONOREE

On Saturday, March 22, a ceremony was held to present the King Charles III Coronation Medal to individuals recognized for their leadership, perseverance, and contributions to their communities. Among the recipients was Akwesasronon Feryn King, who was nominated for the honor by Member of Parliament Eric Duncan.

King was recognized for her dedication to youth and the arts. A talented hoop dancer, she has shared her skills with many young Akwesasronon through classes and performances. Her passion for her craft also led her to perform with Cirque du Soleil.

Monthly Report

Chief Vince Thompson



Portfolio: Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment, ARRO, Economic Development, Nation Building

Selected Committees: Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Task Group (ICHWG), Property Acquisition Team (PAT), the Youth and Elders Cultural Committee, CBSA, Akwekskowa

During this period, I attended all the required MCA Council and Portfolio meetings, remaining actively engaged in discussions and decision-making. I would also like to extend my deepest condolences to the many families in our community who are grieving recent losses. My thoughts are with you, and I hope you find strength in the support of family, friends, and our community.

Coteau-du-Lac National Historic Site (Quebec)

I attended a meeting concerning the Historical site. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for April.

NYS Land Claim Update

I participated in a virtual meeting where updates were provided on which entities and organizations had signed agreements. Community updates will be shared soon.

Kawehno:ke District Meeting

Key topics of discussion included concerns regarding moose hunters whose game had been confiscated — this issue is being investigated with a follow-up to occur. The possibility of creating a community cultural center was also raised. Additionally, more information was requested regarding the First Nations Child & Family Services (FNCFS) settlement claim, with further details to be provided at the next district meeting. Community consultation sessions on this topic have already taken place by the time of this report.

Economic Development Portfolio Meeting

Discussions were held regarding taxation and transportation of goods and services through the community. Meetings are being scheduled to further explore these concerns, with Cornwall invited for collaborative discussions. A follow-up meeting with the SIBC Board is

also planned. Concerns were raised over U.S. border policies, specifically regarding tariffs and their potential effects on Akwesasronon pursuing post-secondary education in the United States.

Enbridge Natural Gas Update

Ongoing discussions are being held regarding the lack of consultation on natural gas expansion in the Glendale subdivision (Nutfield Tract). Updates continue to be provided.

Nation Building Portfolio Meeting

The Nation Building team continues work on the ESGA, with upcoming talk show sessions on CKON to provide updates. An upcoming community survey will also be shared.

DIHE Portfolio Meeting

The Space Needs Committee has been revitalized and requires the appointment of a portfolio chief. Discussions included the reconstruction of MCA's Admin. #2 Building in Kana:takon, a review of capital project priorities, and the road maintenance schedule for Summer 2025, which was also presented at the February General Meeting. Concerns regarding Wade Lafrance Road were raised due to culverts being impacted by the beaver population — alternative solutions are being explored.

Entewatathawi Negotiation Prep Meeting

Discussions focused on administrative issues with Canada, legal responses concerning conflicting laws within the ESGA, and the need for further talks on human rights protections. The divestment of real property (land released by the federal government that Akwesasne has the right of first refusal on) was also reviewed.

Canada Post Update

Canada Post presented the potential expansion plans to the Grand Chief and Council. Further follow-up is needed.

Business & SIBC Meetings

I attended a local business meeting regarding SIBC's proposed toll fee increases, providing updates and discussing possible solutions. Additionally, Chief Scott Peters and I attended an SIBC meeting to request delaying the toll booth increase from April 1, 2025, to the summer. MCA submitted an official letter to SIBC for consideration.

Fish Population Concerns

Community members raised concerns at a weekly Council meeting about overfishing in our territory by non-community members. MCA is working with the Environment Department on new conservation measures.

Budget Review & Membership Board Updates

I attended the budget review meeting provided by the Department of Finance & Administration. I also participated in the OVS Chief's Committee meeting regarding the Akwesasne Membership Board, where a community concern was raised about the membership code. OVS administration is following up.

ESGA Negotiations

Nation Building negotiations between Canada and MCA continued, with fiscal updates provided. Mark Carney was announced as the new Prime Minister of Canada. Discussions covered land divestment, confidentiality clauses, and ESGA's recognition of Akwesasne's jurisdiction over land and environmental protection. Transport Canada's commercial traffic on the Seaway was also reviewed.

Minister Ian Lafrenière's Visit to Akwesasne

I participated in an in-person meeting at the Kana:takon Recreation Center with Quebec's Minister Responsible for Relations with First Nations and the Inuit, Ian Lafrenière. MCA leadership provided updates on healthcare access, border safety, economic development, and conservation efforts. I presented on language concerns and conservation priorities, emphasizing Kanien'keha language revitalization over French language requirements. I requested that Minister Lafrenière reach out to Heritage Canada to support our language programs. We also discussed the need for partnerships to fund a conservation program, reinforcing Akwesasne's right to govern its lands and waters. Follow-up discussions will take place at the next meeting.

ARRO Portfolio Meeting

Updates were provided on cultural awareness training for CBSA and the Ministry of Natural Resources, with the Iroquois Caucus leading the initiative. Cairn Island's return was also discussed, with the Township of South Glengarry inquiring about a potential ceremony. Further details are being determined by Council.

This concludes my report at this time. If I have missed any details, my fellow chiefs may provide additional information and clarification as needed.

Nia:wen.



Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict



Kawehno:ke District

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

PORTFOLIOS

Akwesasne 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
(FNWC)

Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs & Technical Committee on
Languages and Learning (CTCLL)

COO Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table
(OBELT)

MY FIRST SIX MONTHS AS DISTRICT CHIEF ...

As I have been stating, I am still “learning the ropes” of a District Chief. Attendance at my Portfolio Meetings fills up the calendar. As an example, for the DIHE Portfolio there are three (3) separate meetings that includes



Infrastructure, Housing and Environment. There are several different meetings of Entewatathá:wi Portfolio as well. While in attendance at the committee meetings of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), I find there is information that is beneficial for myself and the departments. I am also trying to schedule some one-on-one meetings with the Directors of my portfolios to discuss and gather additional information on their programming. So yes, there is a lot of learning to be had, and work to be done. I believe Council should have had a strategic planning session at the beginning of the term. A date is presently proposed to possibly take place at the end of the Onerahtókha/April. I look forward to this and will assist me in what my goals and tasks will be over the course of my term. Of course, there are also other challenges faced, on top of time and stress management. It is also important to take care of my mental health, as there are challenging decisions to be made at the Council table. There will be discussion on portfolios within the next few weeks, I

would like to continue with the Portfolios and Committees that I presently sit on. I am still learning and may consider a change up for the next review of portfolio selection. Other areas that I want to make a different is in “language and culture”. I look forward to continue to learn and hoping that I can continue to be efficient in my work and make that change that everyone wants to happen.

Are your satisfied with how Council is working and reporting to the community?

If you want change, what would that be?

MONTHLY REPORT

- Attended the **General Meeting** held on Enníska/February 27, 2025 at the Snye Recreation Center. Petition to amend the Akwesasne Election Law was a main focus. The Director, Akwesasne Justice Department provided a presentation on the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedure Regulation (ALEPR). A copy of the ALEPR is available at www.akwesasne.ca for complete viewing.

- Attended the weekly **Council Meetings** on Enniskó:wa/March 3rd, 10th and 17th, 2025. I was not feeling with and was out of the office for the meeting on Enniskó:wa/March 24th, 2025. Meetings are normally held in the Admin. #1 Boardroom. Agendas includes review and approval of Mohawk Council Resolutions (MCR), presentations as requested, other topics of discussion that arise. Council Meetings will be going live for community members, the projected date is Ohiari:ha/June 2025.
- **Kawehno:ke District Meeting** was held on Enniskó:wa/March 24th, 2025 at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre starting at 6 pm. I was not feeling well, therefore was not in attendance.
- **I will be away from the office from Onerahtókha/April 19-26, 2025.**

Portfolio Updates

Donna Lahache, Director | Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

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

AMBE consists of the three District Schools ~ Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School, Tsi Snaihne School and Kana:takon School, Akwesasne Zero to Six, Akwesasne Child Care and Iohahi:io. Check out the Facebook page for more information on events and activities.

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.

- **AMBE holds monthly Public Meetings.** The first part of the meeting is reserved for parents, community members, Totas to participate. **Next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 15th, 2025 on Kawehno:ke (Building Blocks Office) starting at 5:30 pm.** Get out and meet members of the Board of Trustees to discuss concerns, receive updates, etc.
- **Portfolio Meeting** was held on Enniskó:wa/March 7th, 2025. Updates were provided by the Director of Education and Portfolio Chiefs. The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 4, 2025. Discussion will focus on Regional Education Agreements (REA). *REA are tailored agreements that outline the design, implementation, and management of education systems, particularly for First Nations. They ensure that base education funding is comparable to provincial systems while considering factors like remoteness and socio-economic conditions. As of April 2024, 10 REAs have been signed, with discussions ongoing for more agreements to advance education goals. These agreements are administrative in nature and do not confer law-making powers or remove First Nations from the provisions of the Indian Act.*
- **Have you seen or used iMohawk yet?** iMohawk is AMBE's interactive website where you can learn Kanien'kéha anywhere and at anytime. Click the link <http://imohawk.ambe.ca/> and use password: skah123 to log in.



Enniskó:wa/March 31st is National Indigenous Languages Day and an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada to recognize and celebrate the very rich and diverse heritage of Indigenous languages. Indigenous languages embody Indigenous cultures and histories.

- AMBE is presently doing a **Call for Service of Caterer** for the AMBE Cultural Celebration Student Lunches. Delivery dates are Onerahtokó:wa/May 22nd and 29th, 2025 at the Anowarako:wa Arena. Submit a letter of interest and quote to Alice King alice.king@akwesasne.ca
- **Be sure to check out the FB page Ahkwesashne Mohawk Board of Education for additional information on events, activities, etc.**

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.

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.

- All working tables are on hold until the election is completed due to the upcoming federal election. The federal government is in “**caretaker**” mode during the election campaign. It will remain in this mode for weeks following. This means public servants must act in a mutual way and all government activities related to policies are on hold until the caretaker mode is lifted.
- The team will focus on the **community survey**. There will be in-person survey sessions, meetings with groups. The survey will be launched at this month’s General Meeting up to Onerahtóhkó:wa/May 8th, 2025. There will be weekly prize drawings. *Your input is valued, be sure to participate in the survey.*



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 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.

- Members of the **Elders Advisory Council** include: Bernie Lazore, Laura Francis, Nadine Jacobs and Lucy Papineau.
- The next portfolio meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 2nd, 2025.

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 Meeting** took place on Enniskó:wa/March 13th, 2025. Updates were provided on department funding, strategic planning, service overview, legislative services. The department will be conducting surveys to gain input on what type of services the community would like to see. More information will be announced. The Department is presently reviewing and developing a strategic plan. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 10th, 2025.*
- Attended the monthly meeting of the **Oversight Committee on Legislative Development (OSC)** on Onerahtókha/March 12th, 2025. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 3rd, 2025.*

- As part of the OSC, I sit on the Eniethihswanon:na Child's Rights Law and Fire Law Working Task Groups (WTG). The working task groups review and discuss the development of community laws and meet every two weeks.
- *The next meeting of the Eniethihswanon:na WTG is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 1, 2025.* The WTG will be reviewing and making the effort to learn the Kanienké'ha words that are included in the law.
- The Fire Law WTG will require the participation and input from a local Fireman. Individual to be confirmed then a meeting will be scheduled.
- **OSC Community members** include: Gary Cole | Kawehno:ke District, Doris Cook | Kana:takon District. Tsi Snaihne district presently has a vacancy.

Leslie Papineau, Director | Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment
Charmaine Caldwell, Associate Director | Housing Sector
Claire McFaul, A/Manager | Environment Sector

Portfolio Meeting ~ Environment Sector took place on Enniskó:wa/March 20th, 2025. Claire McFaul A/Manager provided updates on the following: flood mitigation, aquatics, waste management, environmental assessments, staff training, terrestrial, outreach, remedial action plan, funding. *The next portfolio meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 17, 2025.*

Portfolio Meeting ~ Infrastructure was held on Enniskó:wa/March 25th, 2025. Updates were provided on status of capital projects. There are many projects in different phases of construction. Information was provided on the common building stages which include: development and planning / project completion and planning, pre-design / programming, schematic, design and development, development approvals / permitting, pre-construction / procurement of materials and resources, contractor selection, construction administration, post-construction / inspections, deficiencies and final touches, project completion and handover. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 22, 2025.*

Have You Noticed A Road Issue?

- Help keep the community safe by reporting potholes or road concerns to the Roads Program.
- Main roads are cleared first during winter storms, followed by secondary roads.
- Services Include: Road Maintenance & Repairs, Snow & Ice Removal, Pothole Patching, Signage & Road Markings, Drainage Improvements.
- 🕒 Regular Work Hours: 8 AM – 5 PM | 📞 Contact: Roads Program Manager at 613-938-5476
- 🚒 After-Hours Emergency? Call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2340

The mission at the DIHE Roads Program is dedicated to maintaining safe roads for our community. Through ongoing maintenance, repairs, and improvements, we work to ensure smooth and secure travel for all.

Portfolio Meeting ~ Housing was held on Enniskó:wa/March 26, 2025. Monthly report of the Associate Director was reviewed and discussed. The monthly meeting also includes the Housing Authority members. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 23, 2025.*

- **Do you require an MCA housing loan?** | Do you know the process to apply for a housing loan? Are you building a new home, buying a home, please contact 613-575-2250, ext. 1052 to get started.

Committee's Updates

- **Governance Committee** (consists of myself, Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell, Chief Theresa Jacobs, Chief Scott Peters)

The Committee has been meeting weekly and continues to examine the requirements to hold public meetings for the weekly Council Meetings. *The proposed implementation for public meetings is Ohiari:ha/June 2025. More details are forthcoming and will be announced.*

- **Youth, Elders, Culture and Language** (consists of myself, Chief Fallon David, Chief Lacey Pierce, Chief Tesha Rourke, Chief JoAnn Swamp, Chief Vince Thompson)

Meeting to be scheduled. 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 (FNWC)** (consists of myself and Chief Tesha Rourke) Attended a meeting on Enniskó:wa 21st, 2025. Meetings are held monthly. Topics for updates and discussion were as follows: MMIWG2S+ (missing and murdered Indigenous women), anti-racism campaign, request for a youth & knowledge keeps tri-council meeting. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 25, 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.

- **Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs and Technicians Committee on Language and Learning (CTCLL)**
Attended my first meeting on Enniskó:wa/March 6th, 2025. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 3rd, 2025.*

The CTCLL is also mandated to provide technical and political advice, recommendations and strategies to the Ontario Regional Chief, the COO Leadership Council and the Chiefs-in-Assembly on all matters related to First Nations languages and learning.

- **Chiefs of Ontario Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning (OBELT)**
I participated on my first meeting of the OBELT held on Enniskó:wa/March 26th, 2025. *The next meeting is scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 30, 2025*

In November 2020, COO withdrew participation from the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education and the AFN National Indian Education Council. Since then, OBELT (Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table) was established as a bilateral partnership on Lifelong Learning between First Nations in Ontario and Indigenous Services Canada.

Key priorities of OBELT: Governance and Advocacy, Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education (Ontario Technical Table Interim Funding Approach), Post-Secondary Education, Adult Education, Education Partnerships Program, Education Infrastructure

OBELT is a monthly meeting that is separate from the CTCLL meetings.

Monthly Notables

- It is in my monthly plan to stop by and **visit with the Tri-District Elders**. I will strive to include at the very least one visit monthly.

Works in Progress

- **Kawehno:ke District Chiefs Office** ~ Office hours will be held every Friday from 9 am - 4pm at the CIA#3 Building on Kawehno:ke. Feel free to stop in.

Events Attended / Upcoming Events, Travel

- **Emergency Roles and Responsibilities** overview provided on Enniskó:wa/March 6th, 2025.
- **Assembly of First Nations Caucus of Women's Leadership** held on Enniskó:wa/March 8th, 2025. Updates were provided from other regions in Canada on women's leadership councils. Participate via zoom.
- **Assembly of First Nations National Virtual Forum on Advancing the MMIWG2S+** held on Enniskó:wa/March 20th, 2025. Participated via zoom.
- **Assembly of First Nations National Forum on Justice: Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Order** scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 2-3, 2025. Event is taking place in Vancouver, BC. I will be participating virtually.
- **Assembly of First Nations National Forum on Justice: Reform of Justice Systems** scheduled for Onerahtókha/April 28-29, 2025 in Montreal, Quebec. I will be attending in person.

Nia:wen for reading my monthly report for Enniskó:wa/March 2025.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or would just like to have a chat.

~ Lisa

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.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

International Women's Day
On 8th March 2025

join us to celebrate International Women's Day
"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

WEEKLY REPORT MARCH 3-7, 2025

**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE**



Weekly Council Meeting

March 3, 2025, Council Meeting presentations from Canada Post Breanna Peters and Michaela Brunet

Discussion items included; Portfolio Re-selections, Boardroom set up, AFNQL Update, CIRNAC Duty to consult, IFN Update, COO FNCFS Reform and Trilateral Update, Petitions Update

MCRS:

ISC Funding Ammendment, Audit Tsiionkwanonhso:te, CSP, OPSEU, Temporary Care Assisitance, CMM January 27, 2025, CMM February 18, 2025

ARRO

March 2025, CBSA Cultural Awareness Training at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre Chiefs Panel Discussion.

FAL Budget Presentation

March 3, 2025 with DFA Heather Phillips

Border Partners

March 4, 2025 Meeting to discuss Border Crossing Matters affecting Akwesasne. MCA SRMT MNCC CBSA USBP

Executive Committee

March 7, 2025 Pathways ED Job Description, Complaints Process Review

AFN National Caucus of Women Leaders March 8th, 2025

FNCFS Information Sessions

Mohawk Council District Chiefs Vanessa Adams, Teresa Oakes and Tesha Rourke along with the Mohawk Government Staff provided Information Sessions this week on March 3rd, 4th and 7th from 5pm-7pm at Iohahiiio, Kawehnoke Recreation, and Kanatakon Recreation.

This agreement focuses on implementation, dispute resolution, and a long-term \$8.5 billion funding commitment over nine years.

For more information, please visit

<https://fncfsreform.ca/executivesummary/> Tribunal motion seeking approval of the Ontario Final Agreement.

Implementation of reforms conditional on Tribunal approval, targeted for March 31, 2026. If Tribunal approval is not obtained by then, there are funding implications for the fiscal year 2025-26.

Future Additional Agreements:

Trilateral Agreement on Reform of the 1965 Agreement for five years.

Mohawk Council is not part of the 1965 Agreement

Agreement on First Nation Representative Services Off-Reserve Funding for two years.

Jay Treaty Border Alliance JTBA All Technical Tables Meeting

March 7, 2025 @ 2pm

Recap of what has been covered at the technical tables to date

- Right of Entry (complete)
- Identification and Travel Documents
- Entry of Goods
- Border Crossing Experience
- Safety and Security (new)

Prioritization of work in the event of an election

Information sharing between tables

Scheduling of meetings

Planning for the May 1 Governance Table meeting in Toronto

IFN EAC Meeting

March 5, 2025.

IFN Quarterly Meeting

prep

As an EAC Member I participate with EAC Update for leadership, Audit, Trilateral FNCFS Child Welfare Agreement IFN Quarterly Meeting Scheduled for

Emergency Roles & Responsibilities for Chiefs & MG Staff

March 6, 2025 @ 9am

Presented By Emergency Measures Team - Regina Jacobs
Natural, man-made and Technological Disasters, Leadership roles, Emergency Planning, Preparedness CEMC and Mission.

DISTRICT MTG

Kawehno:ke

March 17, 2025 @ 6pm

GENERAL MEETING

March 27th, 2025 @ 6pm Kanatakon

UNDERSTANDING FNCFS FUNDING AGREEMENT

Funding Commitment

A total of \$8.5 billion will be allocated over nine fiscal years, from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2034.

Additional funding will be provided for administrative support, cultural humility training, program evaluations, and legal expenses.

Funding Outlook for 2025-26:

Agencies (ACFS) and First Nations (MCA) will have access to a variety of funding sources, including prevention, emergency, and capital funding, with adjustments made for remoteness where necessary.

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

First Nations (MCA) will receive direct funding for various services, including prevention and post-majority support services.

Agencies (ACFS) will continue to obtain funding from Ontario and the FNCFS Program (ISC) for prevention, operations, maintenance, and emergency needs.



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

WEEKLY REPORT MARCH 17TH-21ST, 2025

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE



Weekly Council Meeting

March 3, 2025, Council Meeting presentation from Fishing Regulations William Clute

Discussion items included: General Meeting, General Meeting Agenda

MCRS:

DIHE On Call Policy, Ministry of Transportation QC, 3 DOH Provider Contracts, 1 Oversight Committee Resignation, 2 Justice funding agreements, 5 OVS Land Allotment MCRS

Finance

March 10, 2025, @025-2026 Operating Budget DFA H Phillips Presentation to Council of entire operating budget incorporating additional allocations for Special needs, Utilization of the FNCFS funds to build capacity and provide children and youth services.

Dept. of Health Portfolio

March 13, 2025, Monthly Portfolio Update Meeting Agenda items included: Language Licensing, Quebec Health Authority, Contract Renewals, Community Outreach, Political Support, Lobbying Strategies, National representation, Sector Updates, Jordan's Principle, Monthly Updates from Dr Horn and Dr Robinson, Ontario Regional Health Survey not complete yet & Akwesasne specific data has not been extracted yet.

MCA CBSA President Erin O'Gorman Visit to Akwesasne

March 13, 2025, MCA met with President O'Gorman, Kelly Acton, Cynthia Pye, Lance Markell, Jag Johnston NOR, Eric Lapierre QC Region, Importance of the Akwesasne Residents Remission Order- Concern over Tariffs and counter tariffs as these measures will immediately increase the financial hardship for Akwesasne. We already face significant economic challenges, including the high cost of living and limited access to essential goods and service and forced cross-border shopping due to our location. Border Security. CBSA Indigenous Secretariat engagement, coordination and policy work.

Dept. of Community and Social Services DCSS Portfolio

March 14, 2025 MCR Updates, AMBE - ABGC Updates, Prevention, Land based activities partnerships, Community Watch partnerships with AMBE, ACFS and AMPS, Canoe Program, Purchasing new canoes, Special needs Org chart questions, Homelessness Backpack Project, Community initiatives, AFWP survey, Redmane software training update.

JTBA Meeting with Cynthia Pye Indigenous Affairs Liaison.

CBSA

March 12, 2025, 11am

Border Crossing Experience Co-Conveners Meeting

Prioritization of work in the event of an election caretaker mode, Remission Order, Tariffs minimizing impacts

Information sharing between tables

Scheduling of meetings Border Experiences Table Members

March 27th, 2025, 1pm

Planning for the April 30-May 1st, 2025, JTBA Main Table meeting in Toronto

Government

Secretariat

March 11, 2025

Portfolio Meeting

Agenda included

Chiefs Updates, Quebec

Liaison Update, Ontario

Power Generation

(OPG), Mohawk

Government Manager

Update, ARRO Update

ARRO Meeting

March 11, 2025 @ 2pm

Cairn Island (.78 acres)

Review of ARRO briefing

note discussion on

analysis of Cairn Island, 15

year ATR Process length

of time, loss of use from

1840-1921 due to burial

site, cairn unsafe condition

and no trespassing

signage and cost of

enforcement, next steps

portfolio discussion with

council.

DISTRICT MTG

Kawehno:ke

March 17, 2025 @ 6pm

on work travel

IFN EAC- FAMILY WELLBEING CONFERENCE

March 17th-20th, 2025

Niagara Falls, ON

MINISTER IAN LAFRENIERE QC PREP MEETING

Akwesasne/Quebec Political Protocol Agreement AQPPA

The following subjects covered by the by the AQPPA are: **Transportation Infrastructure, Administration of Justice, Health & Social Services, Public Security, Economic Development, Quebec Liaison Officer.**

Discussion to include renewing the AQPPA and the following items.

- 1. Public Security:** Border Insecurity increase of illegal immigrants crossing through Akwesasne. The minister had previously committed to continuing to work to find solutions for Akwesasne. Policing Resources we will look to get updates and priorities met.
- 2. Bill 96 Language Exemption:** Bill 96 is a Quebec language bill that aims to reinforce French as the provincial government's exclusive language. This causes licensing barriers related to French language and our licensed professionals in Akwesasne
- 3. Economic Development-Taxation Business Ec dev Opportunities**
- 4. Conservation and Environment-Commitments needed from QC**



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

TRAVEL REPORT MARCH 17TH-21ST , 2025

**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE**



COO Emergency Management Governance Meeting discussed work on a multilateral emergency management agreement for Ontario.

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

IFN Family Wellbeing

On March 17th-21st, 2025 attended the IFN Family Well-Being Conference and IFN planning sessions

Portfolio & Committee Connections:

Department of Community & Social Services

AFWP

FNCFS - \$8.5 billion for children and families

Self-Care concurrent Sessions offered for participants the "I Am Board" activity, encouraging participants to think about themselves without labels.

the "Truth Cards" activity, which involves creating small cards with positive affirmations.

IFN EAC

Meetings with DIA

Community specific information sessions
IFN Family Well-Being

IFN COS

Information concerning next steps and implications for FNCFS due to the Federal Election as the Tri-lateral agreement has not yet been ratified

Co-facilitators

IFN Family Well Being Program Advisor

IFN Child Welfare Systems Planning & Policy Advisor

- Family Well Being Program Challenges
- FWB Workplans, Networking and Expectations for 2025-26 - Strengthen collaboration and communication between leadership, staff, and community members to improve service delivery.

Family Well-Being Program Ministry Update

Hamna Syeda, Senior Policy Analyst

Child Wellbeing Branch | Child Welfare and Protection Division

Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services Ontario,

Andrea Maldonado introduces herself as the manager of children's community social services. Public Service the Family Well Being program, a \$35.4 million initiative launched in 2016 to support Indigenous communities. The program serves 84,000 people across 198 communities, with 60% identifying as women or girls.

Services include culture-based activities, wellness programming, and mental health support. Challenges include staffing, funding constraints, and compensation. The program received a 2% budget increase, but it was insufficient the need for more funding and better salary standards to retain staff and improve services.

AFN Justice
April 2nd-3rd, 2025

Revitalization of First Nations
Laws and Legal Orders

**IFN
QUARTERLY**

April 14th-16th, 2025

Family-Wellbeing Needing Leadership Support

- Create dedicated programs that address:
- Employment opportunities
- Housing support, Mental health resources
- Addiction recovery services
- Systemic challenges, Higher incarceration rates
- Develop land-based programs which have proven effective in community engagement
- Provide mentorship opportunities focusing on cultural teachings and healing from intergenerational trauma
- Involve community members in program design
- Create spaces to discuss challenges, share experiences, and support each other without judgment, Integrate traditional cultural practices and teachings and community responsibility



VANESSA ADAMS

Kawehno:ke District Chief

WEEKLY REPORT
MARCH 24TH-28TH, 2025

**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF
AKWESASNE**



Weekly Council Meeting (on travel)

March 24, 2025, Council Meeting presentation from Introduction to the Associate Director of Health and Addictions M. Terrance, Tsiakwawennatonhe'ts Kawennahente Clute, Ian Clute, Kyrie and Ebic Trestary.

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

MCRS:

Ambulance purchase, 025-26 MCA Operating Budget w/ OLG & 2025-2030 Multi-Year

Justice Department Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedure Regulations (ALEPR)

March 25, 2025, Presentation on the timeline following an MCR or petition that initiates amendment of a proposed law, AEL timeline, ALEPR phases. Timeline and Procedural Overview, Historical Context and Election Regulations, Community Consultation and Petition Process, Community Consultation and Petition Process, Legal and Administrative Challenges, Ensure an open, transparent, and accountable law development and ratification procedure for the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Establish standardized legislative enactment procedures for the development, ratification, enactment, amendment, and repeal of Akwesasne Laws.

Phase I – Development of Proposed Law Phase II – Acceptance of Proposed Akwesasne Law In Principle Phase III – Community Consultation Phase IV – Enactment of an Akwesasne Law Phase V – Procedures after the Enactment Phase of an Akwesasne Law

Emergency Council Meeting

March 27th, 2025, Time sensitive resolutions Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services (AMPS), Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education (AMBE) bi-lateral agreement

Department of Health

Announcement of new Community Paramedic Indigenous Patient Navigator CIPIN. This new pilot program expected to launch on April 2nd, 2025 for more information please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3247

JTBA Border Experiences Technical Table

March 27, 2025,

Border Crossing Experience technical table with the calling of a federal election CBSA has entered caretaker mode, Remission Order, Tariffs minimizing impacts, ID Document Requirements (US/Canada) Impacts to students, and communities

Information sharing between tables

Planning for the April 30-May 1st, 2025, JTBA Main Table meeting in Toronto

Kawehno:ke District Meeting

March 24, 2025

District Chief Updates
Discussions included
New Recreation building needs, FNCFS, Enbridge, Funding Opportunities, Tariffs, ID Requirements for students Oversight Committee, Fishing, CBSA alternate reporting

ARRO Meeting

March 25, 2025

Portfolio discussion on NY State land claim update on next steps
Next meeting date
New Cairn Island Community Engagement and information session

AFN

April 2nd - 3rd, 2025

AFN National Forum on Justice: Revitalization of First Nations Laws and Legal Orders

UPCOMING

Tsiiokwanonsohthe DOH Portfolio Tour

COO Important Update on the Ontario Final Agreement - Canadian Human Rights Tribunal March 28th 2025

The Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation are hosting an important meeting to provide updates on the Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program in Ontario (Ontario Final Agreement), the Trilateral Agreement on Reforming the 1965 Agreement (Trilateral Agreement), and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) case status.



Ennisko:wa/March 2025 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:

- March 3rd- went line by line for the FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget with the Director of DIFA
- March 4th -Border Meeting key discussions were the overview of the Certificate of Record, hunting clarification, Real IDs and Prohibited food items, and the Road Shark for the North Bound Lane
- March 4th - Transport Canada Seaway Land disposition in Cornwall and Iroquois area. 46 properties in the land back in Ontario may be of interest to Council. Divestiture of Federal Real Property is with the CLC essential to the government real estate professionals to manage.
- March 7- Attend the Jay Treaty Border Alliance's initial technical meeting. Discussed the table leads and I will be on the Safety and Security table. The goal is to prioritize the work in the event of an election. Information sharing about the Right of Entry, Border Crossing Experience, Entry of Goods, and

Safety and Security are the tables to update the convenors. The focus was the tariffs and their impact on First Nation Territories.

- March 8th – Attend a virtual meeting on International Women’s Day topics to discuss fostering leadership and resilience to create an environment where indigenous women can feel respected and heard. The theme for this year's events is to reclaim our roots and Indigenous women and transformational leadership.
- March 21- Members of Council had a meeting with Minister Ian Lafreniere in Akwesasne to discuss key topics such as public safety, language bill, economic development, and conservation/environment.
- Attended the Women’s Leadership Council gathering in Quebec City from March 18th to 20th. Key discussed was the project to properly elect women; a vox pop was set for elected women to video record. Updated the Elected Women Council, roundtable discussions on expectations of women council.

Portfolio Meetings

Public Safety Portfolio

- March 6th- Had a role and responsibilities for Council of Chiefs in Emergencies. Identified the top 10 hazards in Akwesasne. The 3 priorities for any emergency are to save lives, protect the property and environment, and lastly restore social, economic, and government activities. There are various levels of emergencies, and there are 7 EOCs for Akwesasne. A summary of the incident command system.

Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education:

- Program Development and Partnership for the Post Secondary Curriculum is being reviewed by the Director and Superintendent; looking at hybrid and space needs is an issue

- The job posting for the Superintendent of Language and Culture was posted and has 8 applicants. An offer has been made and is waiting to see if they will accept.
- Regional Education Agreement: What are the next steps, and will there be new funding if Akwesasne does not have an REA?

Government Secretariat Portfolio Meeting:

- ARRO, new trustees training will be held in March; then, once training is complete, they will have a separate body.
- Quebec Protocol is being reviewed
- Carin Island was returned to Akwesasne, and plans to have a ceremony
- MCR training is being held for the staff on the new changes to get ready for live weekly meetings.

Department of Health

- Community Health: Celebrated 15 new births.
- March Swim Class: 7 families participated.
- Jordan's Principle: 261 applicants submitted to ISC, awaiting decision.
- EHO and IPAC Team: Conducting colon screening.
- Green Food Bags: 55 participants signed up; 5 bags donated to the food pantry.
- New Hire: Mary Terrance was hired as the Mental Health and Wellness Sector Manager.
- Presentation by Dr. Horn: Reviewed the new Quebec guidelines and their impact on Akwesasne. There is a need to establish an MOA with the 3 parties to work in finding the provincial health act.



Ennisko:wa/March 2025
Monthly Report
Chief JoAnn Swamp
District of TsiSnaihne



Email: chief.joann.swamp@akwesasne.ca

Phone: 613-575-2250

Cell: 613-577-5592

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, POM (Partnership with OPG and MCA), Executive Committee, PAT team, Green Team/Beautification/Waterways.

Monthly Notables:

District Meeting: March 24/25, 6 pm at Iohahiiio Bldg.

There were 11 people in attendance, along with the four Tsi Snaihne Chiefs.

The Chiefs started by answering some of the questions from the last District meeting.

Areas of Concern:

Health and Non-Insured: They would like a presentation from the Director and Manager, possibly in April.

Pharmacy is still charging Ontario rates for medicine.

Is the non-insured agreement outdated, and what changes have been made? Is there a salary grid when positions are posted? Are policies being updated? What are we doing about health insurance for our college students? Students don't apply for health insurance on their applications, thinking that MCA or Tribe will pay for their medical bills.

Roads:

People have been asking about the Iohahiiio and Fishermans lane roads, when are they going to be fixed. The Chiefs stated it is on the list for this Spring.

Education:

Record of Creation for Students. Chiefs stated they are working together with the Tribe; AMBE is going to attend the session being held at the Tribe on the 26th. The Chiefs are having a meeting with the Tribe on April 15. The US has dissolved the Federal Dept of Education and is now up to the State. This is affecting the College students now. We should have a list of free education on the Canadian Side that the students can apply to.

Question: Do students get a cost-of-living increase like the employees do? They sure could use this. The Chiefs will look into it.

FNCFS and Jordan's Principle:

Community members were in contact with the Southern district representative from Ottawa, and her name is Holly Johnston. She is willing to come down and give a presentation on the two programs. The Chiefs will follow up.

Question: ACFS - would like a breakdown on children in care for one year and how many went home the same year. Would like numbers for the past three years, a breakdown of each year.

Petition:

At the general meeting why did Grand Chief not accept the petition presented to the Chiefs that evening. They accepted the last petition that previous month. Chief's explained that they accepted the petition for removal because that's what it states to do in the election law. The petition brought in the last meeting was to change the election law for that specific area in question, and that is a conflict for the Chiefs to accept; that is why A/ED and CEO accepted the petition.

Finance Committee:

Have they announced who the community members are that sit on the finance committee? Chiefs stated they are still looking for reps from the three districts. There is a community member for the member at large.

Special Needs/Child Rights Law:

For special needs, what radius is being used to service children? Chiefs stated the same as what is used for the heating applications. Special needs is now from birth to grave. Child Rights Law will be doing focus groups within the community for their input. Are there any community members on the committee? The Chiefs will find out. The Child Rights Law is legal and there will be a line-by-line review with the community.

Membership/Residency:

Why do the Police not deal with residency issues? They bring up Human Rights issues right away. Chiefs stated that the residency law is being reviewed along with the membership. The issues being dealt with at the table are enforcement issues.

Fire Hall:

When are we getting a new fire hall? The Chiefs stated that a meeting needs to take place with the firemen to discuss where we are at in terms of the survey that was put out and the funding sources. The meeting was set for Monday, March 31/25, at 6 pm at the Fire Hall.

General Meeting: March 27/25

Executive Committee

Editing of Exec. The director's job description is finalized with Pathways.

Met on March 6/25 regarding a complaint. It was followed up and passed along.

Council Meeting:

The council meeting was held on March 3, 10, and 17 to go through MCRs and Presentations.

The presentations were as follows:

Financial Budget: The Finance Director presented the budget, and a second meeting took place to go through the OLG monies and determine what other projects need to be done.

Raised the funeral donation to \$1,500. Discussed having a Parks and Recreation sector.

Action Item: The Donation Policy needs updating, and a Corporate Policy needs to be worked on.

Fishing Regulations: William Clute

PCB4 Environmental Issue: Dr. Horn

Prep Meeting with Chiefs:

A prep meeting was held on March 14/25 to discuss and address issues for Minister Lafreniere's visit on March 21/25. The four issues will be Public Safety, Language and Health, Economic Development, and Conservation.

One of the key issues is the professional licensing challenges with Bill 96 (French language courses). Quebec provinces are receiving monies for all First Nations, and they don't give any funding to First Nations. Taxation Agreement not having to pay tax at Stores.

Kahnawake has an agreement with Quebec regarding tax exemption on sales of products.

Need to reach out to Cody Diabo for documentation.

Grand Chief will follow up on the Indigenous Language Act for Quebec and Illegal Immigrants.

Special Meeting:

A meeting was held on March 6/24 to take care of some issues.

Lobbying training strategies: There are three different companies we could reach out to.

Many Chiefs didn't want to go the RFP route but to get someone to come in for training.

Possibly a retreat with the Strat plan, cultural sensitivity training, etc.

Letter of support: Fallan Jacobs is requesting a letter of support to gather all the different factions in the community and try to work together. The council decided they needed to work on their government first.

Haudenosaunee Universe: Chief Cindy and Chief Sarah are responding with a letter as to where to apply for funding.

Other Meetings:

Border Partners consisting of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, MCA, CBSA, US Customs, Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. Discussions regarding the changes that are happening at the borders and the Creation of records for the FAFSA applications. The council has asked for a presentation by Tracy Casey for more information on the above issues, especially the FAFSA. Updates will be given regarding the border issues as they receive them. As of now, there are no changes for the people residing here.

Transport Canada Seaway Disposition:

A prep meeting was held with the Council regarding the meeting with the above-mentioned group taking place at the OPG. Transport Canada has a duty to consult with MCA with any lands that become available. The PAT Team should also be on top of this.

Transport Canada Meeting at OPG.

The Grand Chief stated the meeting was not about duty to consult but for a meet and greeting and start conversations about the lands that become available. TC wanted to know if the Council was still interested in any of the land that had become available. There are two parcels in Cornwall and two parcels in Iroquois. These lands need to be transferred to Canada Lands Company and environmental assessments need to take place. MCA will think about this and meet again. Timelines: due diligence with appraisals and EAs.

Question: Why do we have to go to Canada Lands Company? Transport Canada stated that if we didn't, then we would have to go to the Treasury Board.

Chief Lisa and I met with Darlene Bennett of the Canadian Armed Forces. They are located at the Old Nav Can which is under DevCor now. They are planning an Armed Forces Day at Lamoureux Park in Cornwall from 12-4 pm on June 8. On June 7, with the help of organizers, they will have a lacrosse game with Akwesasne and the students attending the Canadian Armed Forces. They would like the Council to help with advertising, for example in Onkwetake, on the MCA website, etc. The game is free of charge, and any fundraising

group can set up and be a vendor. They also want the Grand Chief to drop the ball during the start of the lacrosse game. The game is at the Anowarakowa Arena.

Emergency Measures Presentation: Roles and Responsibilities of Chief and Council.

How to declare a state of emergency is by an MCR passed at a Council meeting. The Grand Chief or Deputy can declare a state of emergency. You do not have to declare a state of emergency to activate an EOC. EOC can also handle more than one incident. Some exercises were done, and a binder was passed around regarding the EOC.

Action Item: The binders need to be updated.

Nation Building:

A prep meeting was held regarding negotiations with Canada. There has been a conflict in laws, which Canada deems to be right for First Nations to decide. The government of Canada's inherent right came out in 1995, and it is a policy document that is a law. Canada has been using this as their blueprint. If it's going to be changed, then it has to be changed at the Cabinet Level. What was missing from the 1995 document is Human Rights. By 2003 all agreements with First Nations references Human Rights. We need to find out where it impacts Human Rights in the ESGA.

Dept Community Social Services (DCSS)

A meeting was held on March 14/25 with the Acting Director, Val Cook. She gave updates on the following: Redmane Training has started; AMBE overage, Update on Bazil Lazore building, no update on the Snye Youth Hub, Special Needs, according to Org Chart there is special needs project that needs staffing, job descriptions have been sent to HR. The CSP program has raised the funeral expenses and this MCR will be coming to the Table. Land-based healing is doing a lot of activities in the community. Children's powwow at the Arena, Family Wellness will donate to this event. The Beach Project is ongoing. The Whoville house is doing an alternate door for the basement. ABGC MCR will be going to the Council table asking for more funding.

Action Item: Val will send to the portfolio the three top priorities mentioned in the budget.

A question was also asked if there would be room for a subsidy program for the working poor. Val stated they would have to open a file with us, the A/Director will look into this.

Residency Law Amendments: Justice. The Committee met on March 20/25 to go through the residency law amendments.

ACE to KING Tournament at Iakisohta's. I was invited to attend the Tournament by the Activity Directors. It was a nice afternoon playing cards with the Tota's. I was fortunate enough to sit with an elder that spoke the language and we had a nice conversation all afternoon.

Works in Progress:

1. Quebec Protocol Agreement: Renegotiating agreement with Quebec.
Reviewing for finalization.
2. YECL (Youth Elders Culture Language): working on terms of reference and reviewing the Charter.
3. Executive Director position: ongoing.



Scott Peters

Tsi Snaihne District Chief

March 2025 Monthly Report

Email: chief.scott.peters@akwesasne.ca Phone: 613-575-2250 ext: 2177



Portfolios:

Economic Development

- Kylee Tarbell provided us with information on local business and issues that have been brought with local businesses, and we are working on steps to improve things
- 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 hosting a trade show at Anowarakowa arena for this summer to highlight local businesses and to help promote them beyond the area.

Justice

- Alyson Thompson updated portfolio on Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedures
- Reviewed Fire Safety Law and meetings with working group started with legislative oversight committee

Akwesasne Rights and Research Office

- The New York State Land Claim Settlement is ongoing, and the next steps are being discussed
- The topic of potentially setting up a museum was discussed

Public Safety

- Working with Compliance Officer Josh Mitchell to establish a kennel for nuisance animals. Locations, cost estimates and other needs are being looked into
- Attended Police Commission meeting

Nation Building

- Rachel Lazare invited me to help provide community information on CKON's Tetewatharen Radio Show
- Updated on the current plans for public education
- The program is also looking for a youth representative to sit on the working task group

Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

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

- Helped community members with harvesting issues

Committees:

Port Divestiture

- Planning next meeting and steps for the Port lands.

Oversight

- Began work on updating the Fire Safety Law.

Governance

- Meetings have been held to discuss making council meetings public on camera. Logistics are being worked on.

Monthly Notables:

- Met with Member Ian Lafreniere, Member of Parliament for Vachon, Minister responsible for First Nations and Inuit Relations in Quebec on March 14th.
- I was out sick for one week this month.
- Gave opening words for several community events.



TESHA ROURKE TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF MONTHLY REPORT

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH

PORTFOLIOS:

Department of Social Services
Department of Health
Department of Economic Development

COMMITTEES:

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

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES:

- Jay Treaty Boarder Alliance Entry of Goods Technical
- Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development Committee
- Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Council
- AFNQL Elected Women's Council



CONNECT WITH ME:

Chief.Tessa.Rourke@akwesasne.ca

613-551-3825

613-575-2250 ext. 2197

REQUEST FOR ALLICATIONS: ONTARIO FIRST NATION 2SLGBTQQA+ COUNCIL

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is looking for a passionate community member to represent Akwesasne on the 2SLGBTQQA+ Council.

Deadline: Thursday April 3, 2025
Email Application to: Kuyra.Chaussi@akwesasne.ca

Monthly Notables:

Tsi Snaihne District Meeting

Topics of Concern:

Cornwall Community Hospital- Working with Kuyra to find a suitable date to meet with Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH). As a newly elected Council, I believe this will be a valuable opportunity to establish a strong working relationship, introduce ourselves, and set the tone for open, respectful, and consistent communication moving forward.

First Nations Child & Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement- ACFS offered assistance to community members in submitting claims. *For more information on the settlement and claims please visit fnchildclaims.ca*

Questions from Community Members:

Question: What is the expansion project for the arena? Is the facility now at a break even point (revenue)? Will the expansion generate more revenue?

Answer: I don't sit on DIHE but I can answer from the Economic Development portfolio perspective. This has been a concept since 2018, the Kawehnoke recreation committee has been requesting additional space for many years. Joe Francis previously applied for a grant for a concept drawing we were approved but COVID happened, and the funding was never allocated (no funding agreement was issued) the conversation was picked back up between DIHE Ec Dev and Kawehnoke Recreation to also include education, business innovation center, culture and language revitalization space as well as additional another pad, gym, with a priority for special needs. This is a big picture however we are in concept face, we still have to apply for funding, and we will do community consultation once funding is identified and approved

Question: Chiefs of Ontario, reverse trade show; potential for business/crafters/artists to take part; is that just for Ontario residents?

Answer: Reverse Trade show is not integrated with Chiefs of Ontario, this is a MCA initiative and is open to everyone, Economic Development will also be extending the invitation to our sister communities to attend (it's a Business Expo, for entrepreneurs to access business services and network).

Answer: Chiefs of Ontario Business Directory: They have been to Akwesasne three times and have met with entrepreneurs, this director for specifically for businesses who want to do and able to do business off reserve (procurement specific businesses). Currently they do require an Ontario address, however they are allowing businesses outside of Kawehnoke to be added to the directory, they are just putting an Ontario address- that doesn't mean they have to be specifically in Ontario. They understand our unique community jurisdiction, but they also have to follow funding guidelines which are "Ontario only" they are helping us with all our entrepreneurs. .

Question: As mentioned at the last Snye district meeting there were items of concern expressed that there was a requirement for an Ontario address to take part in some training held at SLC (excludes members of Akwesasne who reside in Kanatakon / TsiSnaihne and the Sourthern portion of Akwesasne). Even though you may live in Quebec / Ontario you might have a driver's license from NYS. Other forms of ID is required as not just our status card is sufficient, they typically look for residency so Driver's License is the norm

Answer: . We are currently working on a solution plan that explores options for students impacted by the educational "green card". This includes looking into whether credits can be transferred if a student decides to switch schools due to these restrictions.

February 25- 27, 2025- 18th Annual Health Forum Toronto, Ontario (Travel Report attached)

February 27- General Meeting in Tsi Snaihne

February 28th- Attended the MCA vs. Tribe Battle Royal- was on the Kickball team and the Tug-A-War



March 3rd- Council Meeting

First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Community Engagement in Tsi Snaihne was held at Iohahi:io 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

- No community members showed

March 4th- Attended the Cultural Sensitivity Training that is hosted by ARRO to CBSA

FNCFS Community Engagement Kawehno:ke Recreation 6-8 p.m.

- Topics discussed by community members
 - Farming, fishing, food pantry in all three districts, allocate more money to the Special Needs fund, sponsoring Fishing for kids, arts, music, traditional food series, grocery shopping, weekend bags. (just to name a few)

March 6th- Attended the Food Sovereignty Forum with Kylee Tarbell Economic Development Director- I sat on the panel to answer questions about Food Sovereignty (attaching my travel report)



March 7th-I attended my first Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA) meeting virtually, where introductions and updates were shared among members. I now sit on the Entry of Goods Technical Table, which focuses on border-related trade matters. The group discussed meeting schedules, how to prioritize work in case of elections, and began planning for an in-person Governance Table meeting set for May 1st in Toronto.

First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Community Engagement Kana:takon Recreation

- Topics discussed by community
 - Special Needs, home and careers, IRA homes

March 11-13- Vacation

March 14th- DCSS Portfolio

- The Akwesasne Children's Powwow will be held on April 19th at the A'nowarako:wa Arena. Thanks to the support of Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP), funding has been provided to help offset event costs and ensure a successful celebration for the children and families of Akwesasne.
- Akwesasne Child and Family Services (ACFS) is once again funding the Kids for Fishing program.
- This year, there will also be a separate fishing event specifically designed for children with special needs, ensuring inclusivity and a fun experience for all participants.

Minister Lafreniere prep meeting

- Council collaborated to prepare and review key topics to discuss with Minister Lafreniere

March 17- Council Meeting

March 18–20 – Gathering of the AFNQL Elected Women's Council (EWC) – Quebec City Attended alongside Chief Sarah and Chief Teresa.

- We were introduced to the EWC Advisor and learned more about the project to promote elected women in leadership. Chief Sarah and I participated in a vox pop (video interview), which I will share once it's sent to me.
- We provided feedback and suggestions for improvements to the EWC.
- We discussed key points for reflection on governance and reviewed the Terms of Reference to consider possible changes.
- One major update was the decision to increase the number of representatives from one to three. This change was voted on and passed. I was honored to be selected as one of the three representatives for the AFNQL Elected Women's Council, alongside Nadia Robertson and Savanna McGregor.
- We also had the opportunity to meet with Quebec Regional Chief Frances Varreault-Paul. The three of us new representatives sat on a panel with him to discuss how we can best support and represent the interests of the Elected Women's Council.
- I will be meeting with the team soon to talk about next steps



March 21- Went to Iahkiisotha to visit the Totas while they had their Ace to King tournament

During the Minister's visit at the Kanatakon Recreation Center, several important topics were discussed, including:

- Public Safety
- Language and Culture, with connections to:
 - Health
 - Economic Development
 - Conservation

These discussions highlighted the interconnection between language preservation and broader community well-being. A follow-up meeting will take place in the coming weeks to continue these conversations and explore next steps.



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

March 28th- Attending Chiefs of Ontario Economic Development Prosperity Table-
Toronto, ON

April 22-24 – Emergency Management for Indigenous Communities (Virtual)

May 1st- Entry of Goods Technical Table- Toronto, ON