ONKWE'TA:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 3 FREE Enniskó:wa/March 2025

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MCA WELCOMES NEW YOUTH COUNCIL







The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne proudly welcomed the newest members of the Akwesasne Youth Council during a special swearing-in ceremony. On February 21, these young leaders took their official oaths at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, marking the beginning of their journey in representing and empowering Akwesasne youth. Read more on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

March 27, 2025 · 6 p.m. Kana:takon Recreation Center

The MCA General Meeting will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual).

To receive the Zoom link, please email meetings@akwesasne.ca

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF **AKWESASNE** 2024-2027

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District

Chief Fallon David Chief Cindy Francis-Mitchell Chief Theresa Jacobs Chief Teresa Oakes

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Vanessa Adams Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict Chief Lacey Pierce Chief Vince Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief Scott Peters Chief Tesha Rourke Chief Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo Chief JoAnn Swamp

Administration

Shannon Roundpoint A/Executive Director

Heather Phillips Director Dept. of Finance & Administration

Leslie Papineau Director Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday Director Dept. of Justice

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

Amber Montour Director Department of Health

Donna Lahache Director Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

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

> Kvlee Tarbell Director Dept. of Economic Development

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

Contact: If you have any questions about Mobile/Cell Text Alerts: Receive urgent MCA departments and services, please or important messages right to your cell email info@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575- phone. Sign up by visiting www.akwe-

date! Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne. Council contact information. ca/signup.

Instagram and Snapchat!

sasne.ca/textalerts.

E-newsletter: Register for a weekly e- Website: News and general information newsletter delivered straight to your email can be found on our website at www.akinbox. It's a great way to quickly stay up to wesasne.ca. This includes job postings and

Local Media: Find our news and infor-Social Media: Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, mation in Akwesasne's long-serving local media, CKON 97.3 Radio.

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS. REMINDERS & **IMPORTANT MESSAGES**

- The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has scheduled its District and General Meetings for the upcoming months. Community members are encouraged to attend and stay informed on important discussions and updates. View schedule on page 7.
- Jordan's Principle staff will be available throughout the month of March at their satellite office in lakhihsohtha Lodge (Tsi Snaihne). They will be available by appointment every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. To schedule an appointment please contact 613-575-2341 ext. 2652. More information on
- Save on your Ontario hydro bill. MCA's Community Support Program has partnered with Ontario Electricity Support Program to help low-income families reduce their hydro bills - and you may qualify for assistance! More information on page 22.
- The latest MCA Community Health Newsletter is here, bringing you essential information on nutrition, meal planning, infection prevention, and more. Stay informed and take charge of your health - read or download the newsletter at: www.akwesasne.ca/chs-newsletter-march-2025/.
- MCA's Addictions Services is hosting Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL) meetings on Wednesday evenings in March at the Akwesasne Homemakers in Tsi Snaihne, providing a safe and supportive space for parents, grandparents, and spouses to connect and learn. Community members (18+) are welcome to attend. Please contact MCA Addiction Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115 for details.

NEWS

MCA WELCOMES NEW YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

On Friday, February 21, 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, liokonhahes King, and Taylor Day officially joined the council.

The new AYC representatives took their oaths before Justice of the Peace Alexandra David at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center, surrounded by family, friends, Council chiefs, and community members.

Congratulations to our newly sworn-in Youth Council members! The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne looks forward to seeing the positive impact these young leaders will have in our community.







The newest members of the Akwesasne Youth Council. Pictured L-R: Cayde Lazore, Starlyn Mason, liokonhahes King, and Taylor Day.









youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne @MCAkwesasne @MCAkwesasne

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NEWS

2025 AKWESASNE WINTER CARNIVAL: MCA VS SRMT BATTLE ROYALE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) faced off claim the title this time, the real prize was the against the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) in the laughter, camaraderie, and community spirit shared 2025 MCA vs. SRMT Battle Royale on Friday, February throughout the event! 28. This friendly competition put teamwork, strategy, and skills to the test, with both teams bringing their Congratulations to SRMT for showing up with great energy and enthusiasm to every challenge.

both teams brought their A-game in this friendly the challenge next year, SRMT! but fierce competition. Ultimately, SRMT came out victorious with a score of 5-1. While MCA didn't

sportsmanship and skill. A heartfelt niá:wen goes out to those who organized the activities, and to the staff From volleyball and kickball to trivia and tug-of-war, who participated in the events. We look forward to

















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NEWS

HONOURING AKWESASNE'S WOMEN LEADERS

On International Women's Day (March 8), we celebrate the of female First Nations chiefs increased from 18% to 24%, while strength, resilience, and leadership of women in Akwesasne. This day is a time to recognize the achievements of women around the 31%. Akwesasne has always had strong women leaders, and we world while continuing to advocate for equality and representa-

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne proudly acknowledges the We also take this opportunity to highlight our women Grand women who have stepped forward to lead, protect, and strengthen our community — past, present, and future. As Kanien'kehá:ka, we come from a matrilineal society where our women have long played vital roles in decision-making and community well-being. While historical policies reshaped traditional governance structures, Indigenous women continue to reclaim positions of influence and create meaningful change.

Across First Nations communities, the presence of women in Check out the full list of past and present MCA women chiefs as leadership has steadily grown. From 2012 to 2022, the number we honour their contributions to Akwesasne!

1962-1964

Florence Thomas 1964-1966

Florence Thomas 1966-1968

Florence Thomas

1968-1970 **Esther Thompson**

1972-1974 **Beatrice Burns**

Bernice Seymour 1974-1976

Cecelia Buckshot Catherine Lena Day

1976-1978 Germaine Benedict Louise Benedict Claudia Sunday Florence Thomas

1979-1980 Mary David (GC) Germaine Benedict Mary Benedict Claudia Sunday

1980-1982 Isabelle Benedict

1982-1984 Joyce Sharrow

Clara Sharrow

1984-1986 A. Yvonne Leaf

1986-1988 Angela Barnes Mary David Hilda King A. Yvonne Leaf Vivian Smoke

1988-1991 Angela Barnes Mary David Johanne Jackson Hilda King Lynn Roundpoint Vivian Smoke

1991-1994 Angela Barnes Johanne Jackson Hilda King Lynn Roundpoint Rose Marie Sunday **Debbie Thomas**

1994-1997

Leona Benedict Vincenette Cook Johanne Jackson Dorothy Lazore Phyllis Lazore Lynn Roundpoint

1997-2000 Josephine Herne Phyllis Lazore Lynn Roundpoint Margie F. Thompson

2000-2003 Theresa Adams Angela Barnes Mamie David Sheila David Esther Jock Charlene Sunday Margie F. Thompson

2003-2006 Angela Barnes (GC) Esther Jock A. Florence Phillips Mona Thompson Sandra Thompson

the number of women serving in elected leadership roles rose to remain committed to ensuring their voices are heard and represented at every level.

Chiefs, who have held the highest elected office within MCA:

- 1979-1980: Grand Chief Mary David (by-election)
- 2003-2006: Grand Chief Angie Barnes

To all the women who have served and continue to serve our people — niawenhkó:wa for your dedication and leadership.

2006-2009

Nona Benedict Connie Hall Cheryl Jacobs A. Florence Benedict Julie Phillips-Jacobs

2009-2012

Karen Loran Louise Thompson A. Florence Phillips Julie Phillips-Jacobs Rachel Lazare (Roundpoint)

2012-2015

April Adams-Phillips Joanne Jocko Karen Loran A. Florence Phillips Julie Phillips-Jacobs Louise Thompson

2015-2018

April Adams-Phillips Connie Lazore Karen Loran Louise Thompson

2018-2021 April Adams-Phillips Vanessa Adams

Carolyn Francis Theresa Jacobs Connie Lazore Tobi Mitchell Julie Phillips-Jacobs

2021-2024

April Adams-Phillips Vanessa Adams Jacqueline Benedict Fallon David Cindy Francis-Mitchell Julie Phillips-Jacobs Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo JoAnn Swamp

2024-2027

Vanessa Adams Fallon David Lisa Francis-Benedict Cindy Francis-Mitchell Theresa Jacobs Teresa Oakes Lacev Pierce Sarah Lee Sunday-Diabo Tesha Sunday-Rourke JoAnn Swamp



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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



February 3, 2025 Council Meeting Update:

- Council provided updates on their recent travel and meetings they have attended including the recently held meeting with the SRMT Chiefs and staff, Iroquois Caucus Strategic Planning session, Tsi Snaihne Satellite Clinic ribbon-cutting ceremony and District Meetings.
- Council discussed the General Meeting and stressed the importance of working together as a team; debriefs will be held following the General Meetings.
- Updates were provided on the upcoming Powwow planning stages.
- An update was provided on the Chiefs of Ontario Directory and stressed the importance of including our own entrepreneurs.
- Council discussed the option of moving the Council Meetings to Tuesday but ultimately decided against it. When a holiday falls on

- a Monday, Council Meetings will be moved to Tuesdays if quorum is met.
- Council discussed the request from the Akwesasne Freedom School; Administration to follow
- Council reviewed the letter that was received from the Iroqouis Caucus Coordinator from the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake.
- Committee of Chiefs provided an update on the protocol for a passing of a former Chief, more updates will be provided as the work is progressing.
- Transport Canada Nautical Station information will be provided to ARRO.
- Public Safety Portfolio Chiefs will be a part of the working group for the Police Commission Charter.
- Presentation was held on the Department of Community and Social Services Privacy Training.
- Presentation was held from MCA's Environment Program on the Remedial Action Plan, another presentation will be scheduled in the near future.

MCRs passed: Special Needs Policy updated January 2025, Finance Committee Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair, Authorization for Letters of Patents.

February 10, 2025

Council Meeting Update:

- An update on the FNCFS was provided.
- A discussion was held regarding a request received on Emergency Management Curriculum Development.
- Council discussed the upcoming AFNQL Nominations for Quebec Regional Chief.
- Council received an update on the JTBA Technical Table and declared the tables they would like to be a part of; administration to follow up.
- Council discussed the toll increase and the lack of consultation held on SIBC's part.
- Council set the agenda items for the upcoming General Meeting for February.
- An update was provided on U.S. Customs & Border Protection checking cars in the fifth lane, including checking the ambulances going through. Council expressed concern regarding this; administration is following up.
- An update was provided on the recent meeting held with Premier Mark Carney.
- Council discussed a request for support letter for an Elder Knowledge Keeper nomination for Chiefs of Ontario.
- Council reviewed and approved a letter sent by the Iroquois Caucus.
- A follow-up presentation was provided by MCA Environment rep-

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

resentatives regarding the Reme- February 18, 2025 dial Action Plan.

- Akwesasne Career & Employment Support Services (ACESS) Executive Director provided Council with an overview of the services that they offer and ways to collaborate with MCA.
- MCRs passed: Upgrade Application; Council Meeting Minutes -January 20th, 2025; Dr. Daradich Contract Renewal 2025-2026; Dr. Levac Contract Renewal 2025-2026; DIHE Road Funding Program.

Emergency Council Meeting Update:

MCRs passed: Assignment of Lease - Lot 37 B and Road Allowance Between lot 33 Block C and Lot 37 Block B Hamilton Island: Long Term Reform of First Nation Child and Family Services in Ontario.

February 24, 2025

Discussion Items:

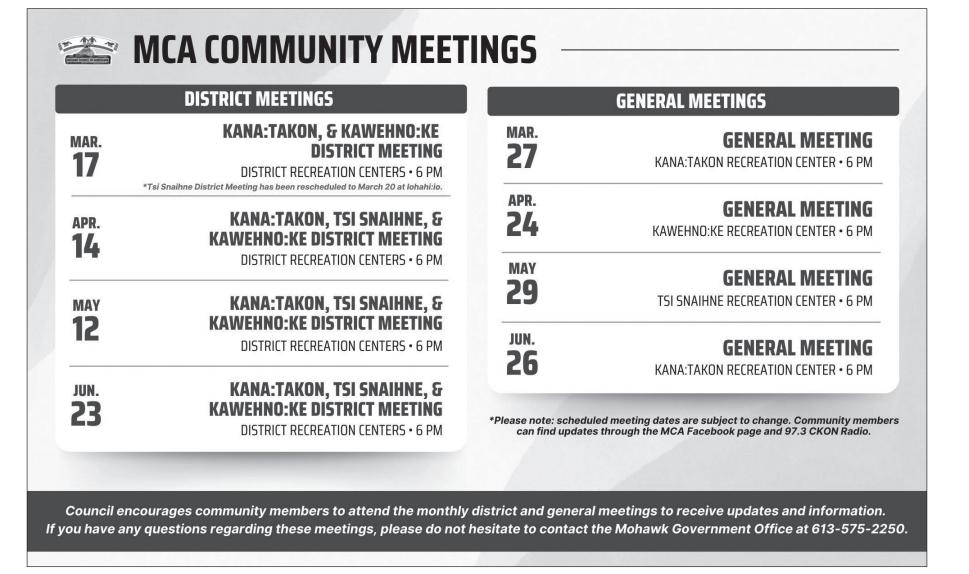
• Haudenosaunee Universe - Request for Financial Support, FNCFS - Final Agreement and Tri-

lateral Agreement, Hydro Quebec - Portable Batteries, Meeting with Kawehno:ke Businesses, Election Ontario Outreach, General Meeting Agenda Additions, Decision on Regional Chief of Québec Vote.

Presentations:

Constant Awashish, Francis Verreault-Paul, and Dr. Cathy Martin -Candidates for the Regional Chief of Québec

MCRs passed: Assignment of Lease - Lot 6-2 Clark Island; Acceptance of Flexible Contribution Agreement-GC-2847.



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COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF SCOTT PETERS UPDATES



Portfolios:

Akwesasne Justice Dept., Akwesasne Rights & Research Office (ARRO), Dept. of Economic Development, Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE), Nation Building, Dept. of Public Safety

Selected Committees:

Akweksko:wa Port Divestiture, Governance, Hydro Québec, **Iroquois Caucus**

Nia:wen to the community of Akwesasne for your trust and support in electing me as your District Chief for Tsi Snaihne. These first few months of my transition have been incredibly informative, and I feel like I have hit the ground running with Akwesasne Rights & Research all the information, meetings, and responsibilities that come with this ARRO on various projects before my role. I want to extend my gratitude election, I was already familiar with to the Mohawk Government staff for their initiatives. My focus has been their support during this transition. on assisting with repatriation efforts, They have been incredibly helpful, including returning cultural items always willing to answer any from museums. Additionally, there questions and provide assistance. will be important updates on Cairn Additionally, I want to acknowledge Island, and I encourage community all the Programs and Departments members to stay informed by

that contributed to the orientation attending upcoming sessions. process, ensuring a smooth transition into my role.

As I navigate my portfolios and committee assignments, I have been reflecting on the best way to allocate my time and energy. I am contemplating reducing the number of portfolios I hold so that I can dedicate more attention and effort to key areas. This will also strengthen my ability to lobby effectively for our community's needs. I will continue to update the community as these adjustments are made.

PORTFOLIO UPDATES:

Akwesasne Justice Dept. — I have been engaged in the development of laws through the Legislative involves identifying and working on beneficial to the community. three key laws, as well as amending existing laws to better serve the community. This effort is vital to ensuring that our governance structures reflect the needs of Akwesasronon.

Office (ARRO) — Having worked with

Dept. of Economic Development — Economic growth and sustainability remain a priority. I have been working with the Economic Development team to explore opportunities for business expansion and nation-tonation trade. We are also looking to reintroduce the Business Spotlight feature in Onkwe'ta:ke and on social media to highlight local businesses.

Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment (DIHE) — I have worked with DIHE on multiple projects in the past, but I am considering stepping away from this portfolio to focus more on my other responsibilities. Nonetheless, I remain supportive of their efforts and will continue to assist where needed. They have Oversight Committee. This process an amazing Portfolio and it is truly

> Nation Building — The Nation Building portfolio involves work on Entewatatha:wi and the Self-Government Agreement. I look forward to rolling out the next phase of community consultation and ensuring that Akwesasne's path to self-governance is clear and beneficial to all. I have also participated in one negotiation with Canada and we are hopeful that by the end of our term, we will have significant progress to present to the community.

Dept. of Public Safety — With over 15 years of experience in emergency management, I am committed to ensuring our community's safety.

COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT CHIEF SCOTT PETERS UPDATES

My past experience has included collaborating with AMPS and HAVFD, assisting with emergency response coordination, and addressing environmental concerns such as fuel and oil spills. One key initiative is the development of a new substation behind the Health Facility at SRMT to better support ambulance services.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

In addition to my portfolios, I serve on several committees, including Quebec, Iroquois Caucus, and Port Divestiture.

Governance Committee — We are exploring ways to improve transparency, including the streaming of Monday Council meetings.

discussions about updating power lines in Snye and Saint Regis. More updates will be provided as meetings progress.

Iroquois Caucus — I have been involved in the Harvesting Working Group, focusing on plants, animals, and harvesting rights. This includes discussions on deer and moose harvesting with Chief Vince and government officials.

Port Divestiture — This committee has met once so far for an the Governance Committee, Hydro introduction, and further meetings will determine the next steps.

Additional **Update: Subcommittee** — Beyond my MCA assignments, I have been appointed to the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) Subcommittee under the Aboriginal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife Hydro Québec — We have been in in Canada. This is a national-level

role that I will hold for three years, aligning with my term on Council. The subcommittee consists of eight First Nations representatives from across Canada who assess species at risk and examine how Indigenous | communities continue harvesting while protecting traditional knowledge. This work is critical for both conservation and the protection of Indigenous harvesting rights, and I am honored to represent Akwesasne at this level.

My first few months as District Chief have been busy, insightful, and rewarding. I remain committed to working hard for the people of Akwesasne, ensuring that our community's voice is heard at all ATK levels.

> encourage community members to reach out with any questions, concerns, or input, as your feedback is essential to our collective success. You can reach me at chief.scott. peters@akwesasne.ca.







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SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in February

- 1. Executive Services Announces Program Manager of Akwesasne Rights & Research Office
- 2. Winter Royalty Crowned at lakhihsohtha
- 3. Snow Snake & Smiles (Video)
- 4. Social Songs Teachings (Flyer)
- 5. MCA Welcomes New Youth Council Representatives

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in February

- 1. Social Songs Teachings (Flyer) 18,189 Reached
- 2. Executive Services Announces Program Manager of Akwesasne Rights & Research Office 17,346 Reached
- 3. Winter Royalty Crowned at lakhihsohtha 16,842 Reached
- 4. Snow Snake & Smiles (Video) 10,465 Reached
- 5. MCA Welcomes New Youth Council Representatives 7,389 Reached



X STATS

Top Post in February





YOUTUBE STATS

Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for February

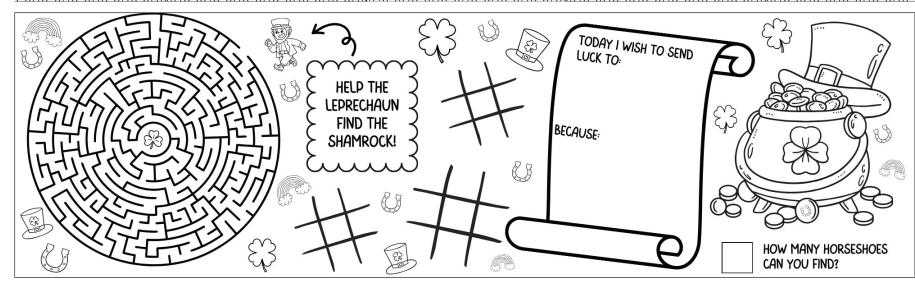
YouTube General Meeting — January 30, 2025

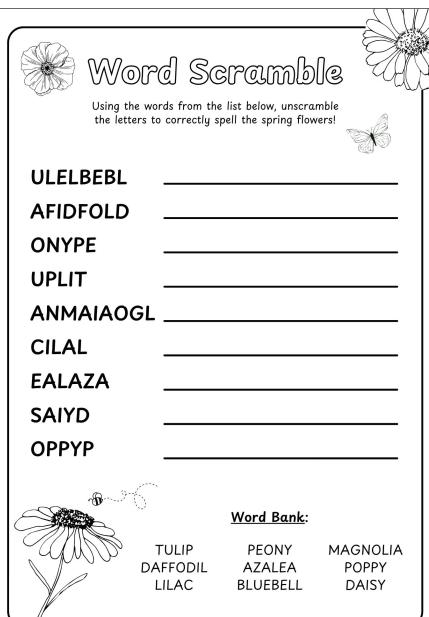




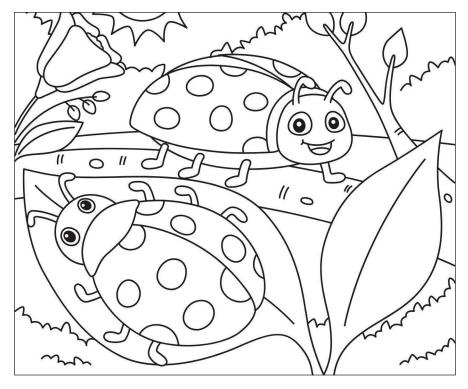
To view more videos, please visit: www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne

CHILDREN'S PAGE





COLOR THE LADY BUGS!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What's a leprechaun's favourite type of music? Sham-rock and roll!

Why did the rainbow go to school? To get a little brighter!

Why did the pencil cross the road? To draw attention.

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EXECUTIVE SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SERVICES ANNOUNCES PROGRAM MANAGER OF AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE



(ARRO).

Since in an acting capacity, role.

gaining valuable experience and deepening her understanding of ARRO's operations at a managerial level. She first joined ARRO in 2015 as a Researcher women who led ARRO before me," said Cheyenne. and previously worked as a substitute teacher with "Advancing and recognizing Aboriginal, inherent, the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education while and treaty rights, while expanding our knowledge completing a double major in History and Psychology, with a minor in Native Studies, at SUNY Potsdam.

In addition to her roles in governance and research, Cheyenne is also a committed mentor and coach Please join us in congratulating Cheyenne and in Akwesasne's lacrosse community, helping to supporting her as she continues this important work! inspire and develop the next generation of athletes.

The Mohawk Council of She served as the 2024 Assistant Coach for the Akwesasne is pleased to Haudenosaunee Nationals' inaugural Women's Box announce that Cheyenne Lacrosse team, helping them secure a historic bronze Lazore has been selected medal — the first for the women's program. She was as the Program Manager also named the 2024 Ontario Lacrosse Association the Akwesasne (OLA) Coach of the Year (Zone 5) for her contributions Rights & Research Office to the sport and league.

Cheyenne's expertise, dedication, and leadership 2023, have played a vital role in ARRO's success, and we Chevenne has served look forward to her continued contributions in this

> "I am honoured to continue the work of the brilliant of Akwesasne's history and contemporary issues, is incredibly important. I have a great team behind me, and I'm excited for what the future holds for ARRO."



AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

LACROSSE: A GIFT FROM THE CREATOR

For the Haudenosaunee people, lacrosse or gained global recognition as a competitive sport, unite communities. Also known as the "Medicine the sports growth on an international level. Game" or the "Creator's Game," lacrosse is deeply embedded in the Haudenosaunee creation story. and serves as a living tradition that has endured for generations, continuing to provide strength, healing, and guidance. More than a game, it is a way of life that continues to shape the identity and resilience of the Haudenosaunee people.

the role of a sport, historically, used to resolve disputes and restore peace among people and the community. As Peter Garrow, a respected figure in the lacrosse community, explains, "Lacrosse was always used as a game of healing and settling disputes for the Haudenosaunee people. It was never a substitute for war; rather, it was used to prevent it." This principle remains at the core of lacrosse's role today, offering non-violent means to resolve conflict as the Creator's original instructions.

The Medicine Game, a traditional form of lacrosse, remains a vital part of Haudenosaunee cultural and spiritual practices. Before the game begins, ceremonies and tobacco offerings are made, due to its sacred nature. It is believed that the creator watches with joy, much like a parent watching a child at play. "Every pass, every goal, every hit is not just part of a game; it is an offering to the Creator. Through playing we show gratitude and respect to honor the Creator."

For centuries, lacrosse has evolved alongside the Haudenosaunee people, adapting to the changing times while maintaining its original spiritual intent. While modern lacrosse is widely recognized and has

"Tewa'a:raton" (de-wa-ah-la-duhn) is more than just the traditional game remains central to the coma game; it is believed to be a gift from the Creator, munities. The Haudenosaunee people continue to intended to restore harmony, resolve conflicts, and honor the game given to them while contributing to

Today, lacrosse still reflects the Creator's original gift, fostering unity, strength, and cultural pride, playing a key role in the social, physical, and economic wellbeing of the communities. The ongoing efforts to include Haudenosaunee teams in the 2028 Olympics highlight the games lasting impact and global significance. As lacrosse continues to evolve, In the Akwesasne community, lacrosse transcends it serves as a powerful reminder of the Haudenosaunee people's contributions to the world.

> Lacrosse is more than just a game; it is a tradition that embodies healing, unity, and respect. From its origins as a means of playing for the creator's enjoyment, restoring peace and healing to its modern role as a global sport, lacrosse remains a testament to the Haudenosaunee people's resilience and cultural legacy. As we navigate between tradition and modernity, we always remember our ancestors' contributions to the game and ensure that the Creators' gift continues to inspire generations to come.

> Submission provided by the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office. Special thanks to Peter Garrow for his invaluable knowledge and contribution to this article.



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AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

DEVIN DE GRAY, IETSIIATAHONSATAT - VICTIM SUPPORT WORKER



Justice Program (ACJP) times. for the last nine months

Foundations program and Durham College's Social challenging times." Service Worker program.

provide confidential, personalized services that offer provide, please call 613-575-5000. emotional support, advocacy, and guidance to help

Devin has been a survivors navigate difficult situations. Devin and his team member of the fellow staff are dedicated to ensuring each person Akwesasne Community receives the assistance they need during challenging

as a Victim Support Devin graciously provides support to community Worker and is committed members who have experienced some of the most to helping individuals challenging circumstances, such as abduction, who have experienced assault, domestic violence, or elder abuse. In his a tragic event or crime. own words, Devin says what he enjoys most about As a registered Social Service Worker with the his work is, "the privilege and honor of standing by Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service someone during their toughest moments, providing Workers (OCSWSSW), Devin comes to the ACJP support, and witnessing their remarkable strength after graduating from Algonquin College's Police and resilience. I'm here to support you in your most

If you would like more information about the ACJP The ACJP Victim Services Program is available to Victim Support Program and the services they

UNDERSTANDING THE AKWESASNE ELECTION LAWS AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

process. As part of this public information series, and aspirations of Akwesashró:non. the AJD is reminding community members about the Akwesasne Law Registry, Kaiahnehronsehra Iehiontakwa: Place Where Laws Are Registered.

The Kaiahnehronsehra lehiontakwa is the official repository for all Akwesasne Laws and the established system for registering laws under the jurisdiction of

The Akwesasne Justice Department (AJD) recently the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. By making these launched an initiative to provide clarity about laws available to the community, we hope to ensure Akwesasne Laws and the legislative development that Akwesasne Laws reflect the values, customs,

> To view the registry, please visit. www.akwesasne.ca/legislation



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ENTEWATATHÁ:WI - "WE WILL GOVERN"

ENTEWATATHÁ:WI (NATION BUILDING) UPDATES



ONKWE'TA:KE **MARCH 2025**

MARCH 27-MAY 8, 2025

www.facebook.com/Entewatathawi

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER PROVIDES DISTRICT CHIEF PETITION RESULTS

At the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Gener- Chief Teresa Oakes Results: al Meeting on January 30, 2025, held in the District of Kawehno:ke, two (2) petitions were presented to remove two (2) sitting members of Council under • Illegible: 1 Section 16.(2)(a) of the Akwesasne Election Law.

On Thursday, February 27, 2025, the Chief Electoral • Valid (Kana:takon): 27 Officer (CEO) presented the petition results at the General Meeting (duly convened meeting of the MCA) held in the District of Tsi Snaihne.

The petitions were examined using the General Elec- • Total # of Valid Signatures: 75 tions Voter's List from September 14, 2024, dated September 12, 2024. The results were as follows:

- The petition to remove District of Kana:takon Chief Teresa Oakes was deemed null and void.
- The petition to remove District of Kawehno:ke Chief Vanessa Adams was deemed null and void.

Chief Vanessa Adams Results:

- Total # on Petition: 163
- Band # Didn't Match (Void): 2
- Incorrect Band # (Void): 1
- No Signature (Void): 1
- Valid (Kana:takon): 30
- Valid (Tsi Snaihne): 60
- Valid (Kawehno:ke): 32
- Total # of Valid Signatures: 122
- Not on the Voters List: 37
- TOTAL SIGNATURES NEED TO BE VALID: 150

- Total # on Petition: 99
- No Band #: 2
- Valid (Tsi Snaihne): 42
- Valid (Kawehno:ke): 6
- Not on the Voters List: 21
- TOTAL SIGNATURES NEED TO BE VALID: 84

The CEO is also in receipt of another petition regarding proposed changes to the Akwesasne Election Law. This petition was received at the General Meeting on February 27, 2025; results will be provided once the verification process is complete.

The Chief Electoral Officer strongly encourages all community members to review the Voters List to ensure their name is included for any Election or By-Election. If your name is missing from a publicly posted Voters List, contact the CEO as soon as pos-

For questions or concerns, please contact Chief Electoral Officer Cheryl Jacobs at:

chief.electoral.officer@akwesasne.ca

613-575-2250 ext. 2126

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS LEARN THE ART OF SNOW SNAKE

On February 18, Grade 5-8 students had an the sharing and appreciation of the Kanien'kehá:ka unforgettable experience at the A'nowara'ko:wa culture. Arena, taking part in the traditional Haudenosaunee winter game of Snow Snake. This special event was made possible through a collaboration between the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education and lakwa'shatste Youth Fitness!

This exciting game challenges players to test their strength and skill by throwing a long wooden stick as far as possible down a snow-covered track. With guidance from Snow Snake experts, students learned the techniques and traditions behind this cultural sport, making for a fun and enriching day.

Niawenhkó:wa to all those who contributed to making this event a success and for helping to promote



View the video on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR Code or visiting:

www.youtube.com/@MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne



IOHAHI: IO CONGRATULATES CIBC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT TYANA BENEDICT

The Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute extend their congratulations to Tyana Benedict on being awarded the "Community Development Scholarship" through the partnership between Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC) and CIBC!

This scholarship, which is available to students across various programs including business, nursing, early childhood education, and trades, aims to support those who are dedicated to using their education to make a positive impact in their communities. Tyana's achievement highlights her commitment to community development and her potential to drive meaningful change.

Congratulations on your success and we look forward to seeing you the positive contributions you will make in the future!



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AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION

FLASHBACK FRIDAY AT AMBE

Flash Back Friday at AMBE! Whether you're a cur- capture unforgettable moments at AMBE. From rent or former AMBE student or staff member, we field trips and sports events to classroom projects want to celebrate the amazing memories that make and friendships, let's relive those special times up our AMBE community.

Get ready to take a walk down memory lane with Select Fridays we'll be featuring your photos that together!

How to participate:

- Dig through your photos - find those hidden gems from your time at AMBE!
- Submit your photo by sending it to our Facebook/Instagram Messenger or by emailing communications@ ambe.ca
- Tell us a bit about it include a short caption or story about the photo.
- Tag your friends, share the post, and don't miss out on these weekly blasts from the past!

Let's keep up the AMBE spirit by sharing the memories that matter!



FOURS, FOURS, FOURS, FOURS Leah Barnes Abram Benedict Stephanie Benedict Austin Boots Anamae David Charmaine David Ryan David Annie Lynn Francis David Martin Kora Mitchell Justin Point Ryan Sharrow Tracy Lynn Sharrow Ashley Thompson Bobbie Sue Thompson Brodie Thompson Charlene Thompson Jess Thompson

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SATELLITE OFFICE

Jordan's Principle is dedicated to ensuring First Na- Jordan's Principle funding supports health, social, tions children receive the support they need, when they need it.

Throughout March, Jordan's Principle staff will be available every Thursday from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at their satellite office in lakhihsohtha Lodge (Tsi Snaihne).

Services Available:

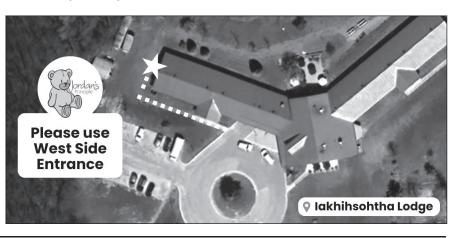
- Program information
- Intake appointments
- Support services

Important Information:

Appointments are required. Clients with appointments should use the door located on the west side of lakhihsohtha Lodge. Please note that the main entrance is reserved for Lodge staff, residents, and visitors.

and educational needs, including culturally relevant services and the unique needs of First Nations children, such as Two-Spirit, LGBTQQIA, and children with disabilities. Contact us to learn how Jordan's Principle can assist you and your family!

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact 613-575-2341 ext. 2652 or jordansprinciple@akwesasne.ca.



CLINICAL CARE SERVICES REMINDS PATIENTS TO REVIEW NUMBER OF REMAINING REFILLS ON PRESCRIPTIONS

Services (CCS) is reminding patients to always check refills, contact the pharmacy and ask them to send the number of refills remaining on their prescription a refill authorization to your provider. This will give bottles when picking up prescriptions from the your provider time to take care of any prescription pharmacy. Don't delay in checking your refills. If you renewal before you run out of your medications. are at zero for refills, contact your pharmacy and provider right away. Waiting too long can result in a For any questions, please call the Akwesasne Medical delay in having your prescription refilled.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Clinical Care When picking up your prescription, and you are at zero

Clinic at 613-575-2341 ext. 3215.



Stay on top of your health - check out the medical clinic calendars for this month or view them online at www.akwesasne.ca/medical-clinics.

Akwesasne & Tsi Snaihne Medical Clinics: 613-575-2341 ext. 3215 Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic: 613-933-5808 or 613-575-2341 ext. 1110

Reminder: A valid health card (OHIP/QHIP) is required for all appointments



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WINTER ROYALTY CROWNED AT IAKHIHSOHTHA LODGE

nival! The day began with a chili and bread cook- this special event! off, where judges had the tough job of selecting the best homemade creations.

After much deliberation, the winners were announced:

Chili Cook-Off Champion: MaryFaye Roundpoint **Bread Cook-Off Winner:** Krystian Mitchell

Following the announcement, everyone gathered for a delicious spaghetti lunch before the highlight of the day — the crowning of lakhihsohtha's Winter Carnival King & Queen! A big congratulations to Jack Leaf & Esther Mitchell, who were honored with the titles.

lakhihsohtha Lodge was filled with excitement on The celebration continued with live music from February 14th, as residents, families, and staff came Crosswinds, bringing joy and laughter to all in attogether to celebrate the Akwesasne Winter Car- tendance. Nia:wen to everyone who joined us for

















DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SPREADING LOVE & SMILES: VALENTINE'S DAY AT TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE

Valentine's Day in style, filling the halls with joy, music, connection happen! and heartfelt moments! Residents enjoyed a festive photoshoot, live entertainment from local artist John A huge nia:wen to our dedicated LTC staff for making their generation.

A highlight of the celebration was the crowning of the Valentine's Sweetheart King & Queen congratulations to Jimmy Arquette and Monique **Chantigny!**

The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School's 8th-grade class made a special visit, helping totas with cookie decorating, a pizza party, and fun activities. Nia:wen to AMS staff member Kyann Day and AMS Counsellor

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care (LTC) celebrated Sandi Barnes for making this heartwarming

Francis, and even shared a little dating wisdom from every holiday special — our totas felt the love all weekend long!





















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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

SAVE ON YOUR ONTARIO HYDRO BILL: OESP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Looking for ways to lower your electricity costs? The What to Bring: 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

- 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.)

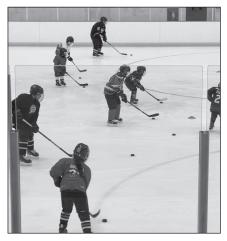
For more information, contact 1-844-885-3157 or the OESP Hotline at 1-855-831-8151. You can also reach MCA Community Support at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

YOUNG ATHLETES HIT THE ICE AT ACFS HOCKEY SKILLS CLINIC

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Child and Ahuge niawenhkó:wa to all the players, coaches, and Family Services (ACFS) hosted a hockey skills clinic organizers who made this event a great success. on February 28 at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, giving local youth the chance to lace up their skates, hit the ice, and level up their game! Whether beginners or seasoned players, participants had an unforgettable experience zipping across the rink, sharpening their skills, and soaking up expert coaching.

Leading the session was Brent Loney, Head Coach of the Ontario Hockey Academy, and Joseph Thompson, Assistant Coach for Clarkson University's Division II hockey team. With high-energy drills, hands-on guidance, and plenty of encouragement, the young athletes pushed themselves, fine-tuned their techniques, and had an absolute blast.

Since November 2024, ACFS has been hosting these exciting hockey clinics, including specialized goalie training to provide ongoing opportunities for youth to develop their abilities and grow their love for the game.







DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING



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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

FEDERAL FUNDS SUPPORT WATERSHEDS CANADA EFFORTS TO RESTORE **SHORELINES IN ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AOC**

a property from erosion and flood damage, while also found here. creating habitat for wildlife, and improving overall water quality.

Watersheds Canada, a national charity headquartered in Perth, ON, is delivering its flagship program The Natural Edge in the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwesasne) AOC in 2025. Eligible waterfront property landowners will receive a free site visit which provides advice and recommendations to improve shoreline health. If planting is recommended, a Shoreline ReNaturalization Starter Kit can be purchased, which includes the creation of a shoreline restoration plan for the prop- **Media contact:** erty, native plants and materials, and education guides on how to maintain shoreline health. Each customized Natural Edge Regional Coordinator restoration plan will provide detailed descriptions of Watersheds Canada native plants suitable for planting based on site condi- naturaledge@watersheds.ca tions and landowner preferences.

It has been thirty-eight years since the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall was first designated as an Area of Concern in 1987. Over the decades, immense pressure from industry, contamination, and population growth has strained the health of the river and the wildlife that live there.

To remedy this, Watersheds Canada is leading this collaborative effort to address factors of poor water quality and major shoreline habitat loss experienced within the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwesasne) AOC. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, River Institute, Great River Network, and the City of Cornwall. This project is generously funded by the Government of Canada's Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative.

An exciting opportunity is available for waterfront prop- If you are an interested waterfront property owner who erty owners in the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwe- wants to learn more about the project or book a consasne) Area of Concern (AOC) who want to naturalize fidential free site visit, please email ne.stlawrenceriver. their shoreline using native trees, shrubs, grasses, and aoc@watersheds.ca. An approximate map of the St. wildflowers. A healthy shoreline buffer can help protect Lawrence River (Cornwall/Akwesasne) AOC can be

About Watersheds Canada

Watersheds Canada is a registered Canadian charity committed to providing programs to communities across the country to engage and help individuals enhance and protect the health of their lakes and rivers. Since 2002, they have delivered freshwater stewardship programming, shoreline naturalizations and assessments, and in-water habitat restorations. To learn more, visit www.watersheds.ca.

Chantal Lefevre



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

CHILLIN' & REELIN' AT HOOPLE BAY

Akwesasronon on an ice-fishing adventure at Hoople demonstrated by Norman and Randy Peters. Bay in Ingleside, ON. Despite the chilly weather, community members bundled up and braved the The event was a great success, not only for the elements for a fun-filled day on the ice.

One of the most exciting moments came when a young angler reeled in a pike. Environmental Assessment Niawenhkó:wa to the MCA Environment team for Officer Curtis Lazore then demonstrated the proper organizing this incredible experience and to everyone technique for filleting the catch, providing a hands- who joined in on the frosty fun—especially the young on learning opportunity. Attendees also had the anglers who made some memorable catches!

On February 20, the MCA Environment Program took chance to witness traditional spearfishing techniques,

impressive catches but also for the the incorporation of new generations learning from older generations.











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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



With warmer temperatures on the way, melting snow could lead to basement flooding, foundation damage, and moisture issues in your home. Take steps now to prevent costly damage and keep your home safe!



WHY IS SNOWMELT A RISK?

Melting snow behaves like heavy rainfall — it needs somewhere to go. If the ground around your home is frozen or oversaturated, water can seep into cracks, stress your foundation, or flood your basement.

On average, 13 inches of snow melts into 1 inch of water, so even small amounts of melting snow can cause big problems.

- REY AREAS AT RISK
- Cracks in your foundation, walls, or floors
- Where the floor meets the wall
- > Top of foundation walls
- Window and door frames

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME:

- Keep snow away from your home Avoid piling snow against your foundation, basement windows, or doors.
- Check and clear drains Ensure any exterior drains or ditches near your home are free of ice and debris.
- Maintain gutters & downspouts Clean them out so melting snow from your roof drains properly.
- Inspect your sump pump Make sure it's working, the pit is clean, and the power supply is connected.
- Fix cracks & leaks Address small foundation issues now before they become big problems.
- Act fast if flooding occurs Contact a professional for basement flooding or moisture issues.

Being prepared can help prevent costly damage! If you have concerns about flooding risks, take action today.



For more emergency preparedness tips, contact the MCA Emergency Measures Program.



For any emergencies, please contact Central Dispatch at **613-575-2000**.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In recognition of International Women's Day (March 8, 2025), the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service celebrate the strength, leadership, and determination of women in law enforcement. Their relentless pursuit of justice and equality continues to break barriers and pave the way for future generations. Niawenhkó:wa to the women at the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service for your unwavering commitment to keeping our community safe.



FEBRUARY 2025 STATISTICS

- 232 February
- 1 027 Theft Automobiles
- 1 040 Theft Under \$5000 Other
- 045 Frauds Other
- 3 061 Bail Violations
- 2 072 Mischief (Prop. Damage) Under \$5000
- 073 Criminal Code Other
- 2 100 Immigration Act
- 1000 Abandoned Vehicles
- 2 1001 Alarms
- 2 1002 Alerts
 - 1003 Assist Other Agencies Ambulance
- 4 1003 Assist Other Agencies Cornwall PS
- 1 1003 Assist Other Agencies OPP
- 9 1003 Assist Other Agencies Other
- 5 1003 Assist Other Agencies Tribal PD
- 37 1004 Assist Public
- 1 1006 Document Service
- 1 1007 Breach of Probation
- 6 1008 By-Law Dogs
- 1 101 Firearms Act

- 1 1011 By-Law Other
- 2 1012 Civil Disputes
- 32 1013 Community Services
- 5 1014 Crime Prevention
- 1 1016 Domestic Dispute (Non-violent)
- 4 1018 Escorts Prisoner
- 4 102 Other Federal Statute Offences
- 2 1023 MVC Non-Reportable
- 1 1024 Phone Calls
- 4 1029 Suspicious Persons
- 2 1030 Suspicious Vehicles
- 19 1031 Suspicious Circumstances
- 2 1032 Sudden Death
- 5 1035 Warrant Committal
- 9 1036 Warrant Bench/First
- 1 1037 Warrant Search
- 3 1040 Traffic Complaint
- 3 1041 Mental Health Act
- 1 1049 Medical Aid
- 1 1050 Youth Complaint
- 1 1052 Shooting Complaint

- 1 1056 Hazardous Conditions
- 4 106 Provincial Statutes Other
- 2 1063 Marine Patrol
- 3 1065 Snowmobile Patrol
- 2 205 Assault Level 1
- 1 206 Assault Weapon/CBH Level 2
- 1 705 Dangerous Operation MV
- 711 Impaired Operation MV715 Fail to Stop/Remain (CCC)
- 23 721 Traffic Provincial Statutes
- 2 726 PD MVC Over \$1000 (Prop. Damage)
- 1 Incident Type Not Listed



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WANT TO LOWER YOUR CORNWALL ELECTRIC BILL?

April 8-9, 2025 · 9 am - 5 pm A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

WHAT TO BRING?

- · Copy of your current electric bill
- Names, Birthdates & SINs for all household members
- If you have not filed your income taxes in the last two years, proof of income is required (i.e. pay stubs, bank statement)

For more information:

Call 1-844-885-3157, OESP Hotline 1-855-831-8151, or MCA's Community Support Program 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (OESP)

OESP is a government program that helps low-income families lower their hydro bill costs. Our ONWAA Energy Team will assist you with your application to the OESP and if approved, a monthly credit will be applied directly to your hydro bill.









