



JOINT RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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DUE TO INCREASING COVID-19 CASES, IN-HOME WAKES PAUSED IN AKWESASNE

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) have worked closely with local funeral service providers in both Ontario and New York State to ensure that family members can appropriately and safely celebrate the lives of loved ones who pass away during these unprecedented times. Both organizations and councils place the health and safety of all Akwesasronon as a top priority.

Due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in and around the community, in-home wakes in all jurisdictions of Akwesasne will not be allowed for 30 days, effective immediately. This decision was made with difficulty. After 30 days, MCA and the SRMT will reassess and provide the community with an update.

We must respect these rules and support grieving families in other ways such as through telephone calls or social media messages. Our local funeral homes are working hard to provide services and accommodate our community, while considering everyone's safety.

We send our heartfelt condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during this difficult time or who may be impacted by this decision.

Let's all do our part for the health and safety of Akwesasne. We are all in this together.