



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Tsiothohrhkó:wa/January 29, 2025

### **SIBC TOLL INCREASE ADDS MORE BARRIERS FOR AKWESASNE**

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is once again expressing disappointment following the recent announcement from the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) of another toll increase on our main crossing. This decision, set to take effect on April 1, 2025, places an added burden on our people, impacting daily life, economic opportunities, and access to essential services. It is a step backward that disregards the challenges faced by our community and runs counter to the principles of reconciliation.

The Seaway International Bridge is more than just a crossing — it is an essential lifeline for Akwesasne. Families, businesses, service providers, and community members rely on this bridge daily for work, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. By increasing toll fees yet again — and without consulting Akwesasronon — SIBC has imposed yet another financial strain on our people and created further barriers to the community's growth and prosperity.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is deeply frustrated by this announcement, particularly given that tolls were already raised in April 2024. These continued increases have a direct and harmful impact on Akwesasne residents and businesses, affecting everything from service delivery and local commerce to participation in regional sports and access to transportation services such as taxis.

Grand Chief Leonard Lazore criticized the decision, stating:

*"This toll increase places yet another burden on Akwesasne and is a disappointing step away from reconciliation and community development. The bridge is vital to our economy and way of life, yet these repeated toll hikes make it harder for our businesses to succeed, for our families to stay connected, and for our community to thrive. We value strong partnerships with our neighbours and stakeholders, but decisions like this undermine those relationships. Consultation and collaboration must be a priority moving forward."*

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne urges the Seaway International Bridge Corporation and the Federal Bridge Corporation to reconsider this decision and engage in meaningful dialogue with Akwesasne. It is essential that the needs and voices of our community be acknowledged in decisions that impact us so profoundly.

MCA remains committed to advocating for Akwesasne's best interests and will pursue all available avenues to oppose this toll increase.

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