

Community Plebiscite Being Held on Kawehno:ke Corridor Buildings

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is conducting a plebiscite on April 26th to gauge the community's opinion regarding about the current buildings that are within the Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) corridor. The plabiscite will include online voting from April 14th to April 25th. The results will give MCA an accurate direction and course of action when dealing with the corridor. Community members are asked to please take the time to fully understand the issues and the questions that are being presented to the community. The ballot questions to be voted on in the plebiscite are as follows:



A community plebiscite will be held on April 26, 2014 to gather the community's opinion on the future of several buildings located within the Kawehno:ke corridor that once served as the former-Canada Customs and the Akwesasne Peoples Fire.

safely demolished by a qualified contractor. The May 31, 2009 abandonment of the former-Customs buildings on Kawehno:ke by the Canada Border Service Agency led to their deterioration over the past 5 years. Also, the structures are older and were

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First Plebiscite Question:

(1) Do you support the demolition of the abandoned Customs Buildings (Kawehno:ke) using labour and services procured in Akwesasne?

Yes

No

Second Plebiscite Question:

(2) Do you support the removal of the Akwesasne Peoples Fire buildings from the corridor, no later than the demolition of the Customs Buildings?

Yes

No

The first question is asking the community whether or not they would like the old Customs buildings

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MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

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Kana:takon District

Chief Larry King
Chief Florence Phillips
Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs
Chief Steve Thomas

Kawehno:ke District

Chief Abram Benedict
Chief Brian David
Chief JoAnne Jocko
Chief Louise Thompson

Tsi Snaihne District

Chief April Adams-Phillips
Chief Joe Lazore
Chief Karen Loran
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Onkwe'ta:ke (For the People) – Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's monthly community newsletter is published by the Communications Unit. For more information or to provide feedback, email staff at: communications@akwesasne.ca, call (613) 575-2348 Ext. 2210, or visit our Facebook page.

Wat'kwanonweraton/Greetings

It has been a long, cold, blustery winter, and as we begin to again feel the sun's warmth on our doorsteps, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this edition of Onkwetake. Reflecting back over the past several months, it's been quite busy for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Political work continued on a border identification card for our members. A key meeting took place in Ottawa in early January of this year, where various government agencies had the opportunity to discuss with us at length our proposal for this card. The proposal was received favourably and is currently being studied for its workability. This proposal was also discussed with US authorities in Washington.

Earlier this month, Chief Steve Thomas and myself had the opportunity to make a presentation at the Canada Institute on the topic of border security. During my time on Council, the MCA's political strategy includes meeting with policy developers to voice Akwesasne's concerns and provide input on pending legislation and policie..

The Aboriginal Rights & Research Office recently conducted a cultural awareness workshop for front-line personnel of the Canada Border Services Agency. This initiative is intended to foster a better understanding our people's customs and community practices, which contributes towards a better relationship with the border agency.

Last month, as part of the plan to address community concern over non-prescription drug use, the MCA hosted two public forums. Various MCA program staff made themselves available to discuss with the public, the kinds of activities they have introduced to deal with non-prescription drug use. Personally, I found the presentations quite interesting and informative. A job well done for all involved.

There was wide media coverage of the Trillium tanks at the Cornwall harbour. Seeing that the tanks are situated within our land claim area and in view of environmental concerns, the MCA took court action. This resulted in a negotiation process between Transport Canada, Cornwall and MCA currently in progress.

There is currently a "leakage study" underway, to examine how much money comes in to our community, how much leaves, and where. This is extremely important information for planning economic development and I encourage our members to participate in the survey.

It's budget time. The administrative leadership are reviewing budgets to ensure that dollars are spent wisely and effectively for the upcoming year, in the best interest of our community. This is very much a "team effort" and the entire MCA staff is to be commended for their attention and hard work in this planning process.

These are just highlights of the past few months. Further details are contained in the body of this edition.

It continues to give me great pleasure to serve our community, and I thank you for your continued support. ❖

Chief Brian David
Kawehno:ke District Chief



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Resolutions (MCRs) Enniskó:wa/March 2014

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 4, 2014

2013/2014 - #332 - Section 95 Mortgage Renewal
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #333 - To Approve the TPAR Report for the MCYS Generic Child Welfare Program
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #334 - Health and Safety One Time Grant and Travel Reimbursement One Time Grant in Amount of \$15,971 per Service Contract
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #335 - Acceptance of Prosecutor Agreement for Akwesasne Mohawk Court from April 2004 to March 2015
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #336 - Appointment of Akwesasne Appeal Tribunal Members from 2014-2017
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #337 - Tsi Snaihne School Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement Project Award Design Assignment to WSP Group Inc.
Voting: For - 7, Against - 1 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 5, 2014

2013/2014 - #338 - Aboriginal Recipient Funding Agreement (ARFA) Amendment or 2014/2015
Voting: For - 7, Against - 0 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 11, 2014

2013/2014 - #339 - Federal Bridge Corporation Proceedings against Akwesasne's People's Fire
Voting: For - 6, Against - 2 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #340 - Designate Inspector
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #341 - Charter of the Akwesasne Appeal Tribunal
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #342 - P&ID Additional Funding for Referendum Revisions
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #343 - AMC Justices MOA Extension to June 30, 2014
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #344 - Appointing MCA Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Committee Representative
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 18, 2014

2013/2014 - #345 - MCA Development in the First Nations Regional Early Childhood Development, Education, and Employment Survey
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #346 - John Saiowisakeron Fire Statue Repairs and Costing Approval
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #347 - Quadripartite Contribution Agreement for

Vehicle and Equipment Purchase
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #348 - Council Special Meeting Minutes Dated March 4, 2014
Voting: For - 8, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #349 - Three Month Extension to the Healthy Homes Initiative Program
Voting: For - 6, Against - 1 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 25, 2014

2013/2014 - #350 - Kawehnoke Corridor Plebiscite
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #351 - Kawehnoke Corridor Plebiscite Director Implement
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #352 - Request to Rescind MCR for Upgrade Program Loan
Voting: For - 8, Against - 1 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #353 - Special Meeting Minutes Dated October 15, 2013
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #354 - Special Meeting Minutes Dated October 21, 2013
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #355 - Special Meeting Minutes Dated October 29, 2013
Voting: For - 8, Against - 1 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #356 - Special Meeting Minutes Dated November 5, 2013
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #357 - Special Meeting Minutes Dated November 12, 2013
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #358 - Special General Meeting for the Akwesasne Mohawk Court Law
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 27, 2014

2013/2014 - #359 - Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement between LHIN and MCA
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

ENNISKO:WA/MARCH 28, 2014

2013/2014 - #360 - Agreement with the Minister of Health and Long Term Care for Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #361 - Approval of the Amendment No. 0014 to the ARFA Agreement between MCA and AANDC
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

2013/2014 - #362 - Acceptance of Amendment No. 0010, No. 0011, No. 0012 to the Financial Arrangement
Voting: For - 9, Against - 0 CARRIED

Council Meeting Roundtable Reports

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is committed to ensuring accountability, transparency and community engagement. This ongoing effort includes sharing a summary of the Mohawk Council's weekly Roundtable Reports for the purpose of informing and promoting dialogue on portfolio topics and other important community issues. The information provided within the individual reports are for educational purposes and are without prejudice to any and all past, current and future claims of the Mohawks of Akwesasne or official positions taken by the MCA. Chiefs not in attendance for a Council Meeting may be on travel or on sick leave, which is announced at the start of the meeting. Individual chiefs can also choose to submit a more detailed update for the newsletter.

ENNISKA/FEBRUARY 25, 2014

District Chief Abram Benedict

- Attended Housing Authority meeting, Discussed: BMO demand letters that were given to community members for arrears on accounts A Section 95 eviction was served to a community member. The Director makes the decision to evict which can be appealed to the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority's decision can be appealed to the Akwesasne Appeal Tribunal. An appeal has been made on the eviction. The Authority has been reviewing policies, going to review other First Nations Templates for housing. It is quite comprehensive and we are going to see if some of the programming template policies can be incorporate into ours.
- Attended Kawehno:ke district meeting. There were complaints from the members about lack of notice on the radio etc for the district meeting. We need to at least ensure that all of the receptionists know the times. I will have Communications follow up also. We had a request to have our General Meetings streamed on-line. I think that this is something that we should consider. I am going to follow up with computers to see what our options are. That way people could log into a system and at least see what we are saying. There was a request for Council to consider more fuel allotments. There was also a concern regarding the ambulance and the traffic configuration at CBSA. We did go over with them the protocol that we have explaining that some of the piers are going to make it challenging. They also questioned how council determines which CBSA cases we take on as far as suing CBSA. In their opinion, it seems we are picking and choosing the cases.
- Participated in conference call with OACAS on the Child Welfare Education System Redesign Strategy. This work has been ongoing and is also helps address the recent public inquiries such as the Jeffrey Baldwin Case which made a lot of recommendations. We will be meeting in March with the Deputy Minister and ADM.
- Attended meeting with Ec.Dev staff at the Peace Tree Trade Center.
- Attended meeting with Chief David, our Ec. Dev staff and a community member who is the owner of the Appletree Medical Clinic on Cornwall Island. He gave us a tour of the facility and explained how telemedicine works. He is awaiting and expecting to hear from Health Canada on a pharmacy license.

Once approved, they will be opening a pharmacy. We are going to be setting up a follow-up meeting with him and Health to discuss payments through non insured.

- Concern regarding article in the Standard Freeholder "Skidders Claims 600,000 Lawsuit" within the article our lawyer says we are actively looking for other potential cases, if we are looking it should be us saying that we are looking not our lawyer.

District Chief Larry King

- We have been communicating with Transport Canada and we have been communicating with Trillium through our lawyer regarding the storage tanks. We have meetings scheduled ahead.
- Attended Housing Authority Meeting
- Attended a meeting with RCMP. Grand Chief, Chief Thomas and I met the regional director general/superintendent to discuss the situation we have. I came across these documents that say that the RCMP hold the same credentials as CBSA officers and we wanted to pitch the idea of a possibility that they would consider manning the alternate reporting port on Cornwall Island.
- Attended a BMO luncheon yesterday and discussed long-standing issues that we have regarding businesses from the community that were no longer allowed to do business with BMO. They presented a half-hearted apology letter to the Grand Chief which he did not accept.
- US Claim Update - We have had some preparation meetings and discussion. Yesterday, we met with the Mohawk Nation in anticipation of the leadership meeting on Friday called by the Tribe. Hopefully we will get some updates.
- Attended Kana:takon district meeting. No big issues to present. A community member came to visit me regarding a gene of epilepsy. She wanted to get a membership list and I directed her to speak with the Health Director to go through that avenue.

District Chief Joe Lazore

- Had meeting with Environment staff regarding wetlands. We will give more updates to the community. What is happening right now is that there are people that are filling in parts of the marsh, and some people agree and some don't to doing that. We have our marinas getting filled in. But we need to develop something in stone so

that there are rules regarding what can or can not be developed on waterfront properties. We will be going to Kahnawake to see what they have in place there.

- Had a cultural restoration project but I am removing myself due to a conflict of interest.

District Chief Karen Loran

- Attended AFNQL Assembly with Grand Chief and Chief Thompson. The focus was on Health and there was also discussion on the First Nations Education Act.
- Attended a Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy Session that was called by DCSS and Health. Also in attendance were representatives from Education, AMPS and Justice. We had approximately eight community members in attendance. It was very well set up and informative presentations and information provided. There were lots of good updates on items they are renewing, updating and reviewing and their approach from each department. There was another session that following Saturday—no community members were in attendance, but a nice presentation was given by John Maracle, Native Inmate Liaison, to the Staff and Directors to what he sees in the correctional facilities when it pertains to prescription drugs and what the Native population goes through and what he has been working with for 20+ years. A huge acknowledgement and niawenkó:wa goes out to all five departments for their strong efforts and involvement with these sessions on prescription drugs. I heard great feedback and community members said that they wanted to see this again. Others wanted to see it done in their Districts. We are looking forward to the completion of a strategy that will deal with the details of a detox and aftercare.
- Attended Health Portfolio meeting. Discussed renovations, follow up to emergency transport, CBSA not following protocol. Accreditation is coming again on October 20th. They were pleased with the great turnout we had last term. They were happy to see majority of Council provide updates. We had a Pharmacy update. It is disappointing, because I hear of everything that is happening, but not in Snye. We have been trying for some time and it is very frustrating that we are not getting any type of clinical services in the District of Tsi Snaihne. There are issues, because we need someone that is Quebec licensed. It would be greatly appreciated if we had advocacy besides from the Snye Chiefs. We are trying to deal with that through the Quebec Protocol.
- We received a report from the Diabetes Program Manager. One recommendation from MEXA Health Group and Physical Park is to set up a meeting with Doctors to give a presentation of the Diabetes Program. Other issued discussed were contracts and the long process of reviewing them

that jeopardizes funding. They want to have a more streamlined approach.

- Participated in teleconference with Valerie Gideon and Marie Doyle on the Prescription Drug Symposium for a follow up to the meeting in January. Reviewed agenda for our meeting with Federal Minister of Health. We will be sending out a draft and it would be great for First Nations to look at what we have done with prescription drugs in the communities, i.e. the setbacks and successes.

District Chief William Sunday

- Attended the construction presentation on Cornwall Island.
- Attended a meeting with Nation Council on the US claim.
- Attended the prescription drug strategy presentation in Snye on Saturday and I found it very interesting and wished that more people would have turned out. We hope more will be presented in the other districts.
- Attended Quebec protocol meeting with Chief Lazore.

District Chief Brian David

- Attended Quebec Protocol negotiations and we had a good delegation from Council (full quorum with 7-8 chiefs) and the Pharmacy was discussed. When our Pharmacy closes, ¾ of the community will not be covered with pharmaceutical services. Discussed possibility of an interim pharmacist. Also discussed future funding status of the Quebec Liaison Officer position. It may be included in the Quebec Protocol agreement. However, it doesn't appear that it is going to be ready anytime soon. It is going to be a different kind of agreement as it will be a 10-15 year agreement not just five years.
- Attended the Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy presentations in Snye. It was an excellent presentation. My only concern was the lack of community participation. The staff was set up to accommodate 150 people with giveaways, information, etc. I was impressed at the degree of interest and activity they have undertaken to look at drug abuse and how to contribute to the overall initiative. I was very impressed at the dedicated group of individuals.
- Attended another meeting for the Quebec Protocol Agreement. Justice has been identified as a separate sector in the agreement, so it was an extended negotiation for that.
- Attended Appletree Clinic meeting. Received lots of information. The technology is amazing. They have plans to grow and expand.
- Attended Land Claim discussions. The only pertinent thing I want to state is that if we have any position on our part, we have already made the commitment that if there is anything different on the table from 2005 we need to bring this to

the community. We have made this known to the Tribe, but I just want to put that out on the table for the meeting on Friday.

- I have accepted a position as negotiator for Nation Building.

District Chief Steve Thomas

- Attended planning meeting for Akwesasne-Quebec Protocol Agreement (AQPA) negotiations. Identified a working task group, consisting of Chief David, Chief Loran and I.
- Attended AQPA meeting with Quebec in Montreal. We are scheduling a meeting with Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke to discuss their Protocol Agreements with Quebec.
- Attended meeting with RCMP Superintendent Guy Rook to discuss alternative reporting.
- Attended AQPA meeting with Justice and conference call with lawyer.
- Attended Kana:takon District Meeting.
- Followed up with MCA investigator.
- Attended meeting regarding a new business on Kawehnó:ke.
- Contacted SIBC for a new traffic warning light at the Kawehnó:ke crossroads.
- Handled a property issue in Kana:takon along with Chief King. Followed up with Tehotiiennawakon and OVS Program was notified.

Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

- Attended the Assembly of First Nations Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) meeting February 18th and 20th in Montreal. The major issue discussed was in regard to AFNQL filing (on February 19, 2014) an application for judicial review against Prime Minister Harper and the Government of Canada for the consultation process (lack thereof) regarding First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act (FNEA). There is a follow up meeting tomorrow in Ottawa in regard to this. Also at the AFNQL meeting, there was concern regarding the Health Contribution, which is essentially a tax that is being deducted from First Nations families. We concurred that we need to bring up the importance on this matter with the Quebec government. We will have a two day session within a month's time.
- Will be attending infrastructure meeting in Niagara Falls. I picked up this portfolio recently through Chiefs of Ontario – Ontario First Nations Technical Services Committee. We need to protect our community's interest (Source Water Protection) and protect the integrity of the programs we already operate (Water and Wastewater Asset & Risk Management), and find new monies for completion of our water distribution.
- Attended a meeting invitation by the Bank of Montreal (BMO) Aboriginal Banking regarding the previous decision by BMO to cut off our business people from the local branch. They offered a letter

of apology. They said they had no idea that the decision had been coming and that it had been a corporate decision from Toronto - but the letter didn't say that. I told them that they should put what they told me in a letter and present it to the legitimate businesses affected and to the community (because it was they who were most affected). Once that occurs, then we will look at this letter of apology. We want them to be sincere. It was a positive meeting. They also reported that they now have extra hours on Thursday (until 6 pm) and Saturday hours. Many people are happy for the extra accommodation.

- Internally to the MCA, there was a monthly meeting with the Executive Director. We covered a lot of ground and we want to meet more often and have more communication. I have asked for a presentation from Economic Development on what our target is for employment and to identify what areas require concentration and support. We have many fast-moving developments.
- Need to look at possibilities of purchasing land and identify what type of strategy we have for young people who want to buy land.
- In reflection of all the work going on, it's a good time to compliment (Council Chiefs) on the hard work being done. You've taken on many projects and I commend you.

ENNISKÓ:WA/MARCH 4, 2014

District Chief Larry King

- Divestiture discussions have continued with Transport Canada. We have strongly expressed our opposition to the storage tanks as there was no consultation or accommodation.
- Attended leadership meeting regarding US claim. We had dialogue and will be traveling to Albany regarding the claim. We are seeking meetings with the surrounding towns regarding the two islands.
- Attended OPG Joint Implementation Team meeting. Received good news regarding employment. There will be a presentation from OPG's Employment and Procurement Department that Chiefs are welcome to attend.
- We will be hosting training sessions on accreditation regarding procuring. This will be done in conjunction with the Akwesasne Area Management Board.
- Attended Nation Building meeting

District Chief Joe Lazore

- Attended OPG meeting with Chiefs King and Sunday
- Attended Leadership meeting. Grand Chief suggested something is written up about the two islands so we can carry that claim further.
- Attended the Nation Building meeting. We are trying to put a draft together for negotiations.

District Chief April Adams-Phillips

- Attended the Standing Committee meeting about the Great Lakes Basin. I brought up the issues of the hazardous materials in the water, the last 25 years, and the clean up with the plants. I also brought up the issue of water and plant quality.
- Ec dev is putting together a leakage study in the next few weeks. LP consulting will be completing this and will be going on CKON to discuss this study. The information that will be studied is used to develop new business, strengthen the local economy, etc.

District Chief William Sunday

- Attended OPG meeting. It looks like they may be going ahead making revisions to the plants. Hopefully they will and that the tradesmen will be able to work.
- Attended the Nation Building meeting
- Attended DCSS meeting
- Attended Nation Building meeting

District Chief Karen Loran

- Attended Financial Administration Law meeting. Reviewed comments and will be following up and continuing to review.
- Attended presentation by Native Connections with Grand Chief and Human Resources for training sessions to provide in our areas. This could be very productive and we will follow up.
- Attended the Strategic Planning session, which I thought went very well. It was a relaxed atmosphere and good input and I was happy to move forward with the tasks on hand.
- Attended the Nation Building meeting. It was nice to review where we are. The negotiations with Canada have been postponed, so it is nice to have Council refreshed and reviewed so we fully grasp what Nation Building is doing and what our next steps are going to be.
- Attended/chaired Health Portfolio meeting. Heard presentation on Appletree Clinic. It was a good presentation and we received a lot of information, but it is still sad that Snye is once again left out. Everything is on hold and hasn't been moving forward. Until then, community members are still being put at an inconvenience. Until the last day I am in the office, I am going to work on that for my District to get the same conveniences as the other Districts.

District Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

- Attended Nation Building meeting
- Attended the education summit meeting at AAMB. They want to hold a summit in May or June that we can invite people like INAC to, to see we are interested in the education of our children.
- Attended the DCSS meeting.
- Attended the NCB meeting to review the proposals and discuss the 20% holdback. There were 4

proposals discussed that were denied the 20% on the lack of reports. The leftover could go to AMBE's hot lunch program.

- Attended the Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy meeting in Snye. It was good information and good turnout.
- I judged the Science on the Wall fair at the Snye school. Very interesting and great projects. It's very hard to judge.
- In January, the AMBE board promoted the mascot contest at each of the schools. They received lots of entries and have been reviewing them. By next month they should be revealing the mascot which is new for AMBE.

District Chief Louise Thompson

- Attended the Leadership meeting. It was a good representation from each of the Councils. We had a healthy discussion on Land Claims.
- Assisted elders with issues with Service Canada.
- Attended Strategic Planning meeting in Kana:takon.
- Attended a meeting with Correction Service Canada on MOU which will be signed as soon as we are finished so there would be a ceremony with Correction Service Canada on Canada's Service Act. The MOU, I believe, is because of Bill C-10 which puts a mandatory sentence on crimes, not taking first time offenses into consideration. Convicted offenders could serve a minimum sentence on the crime. They will not look into first time offenses, etc. and consideration of background. This will target Native people, so we are developing an MOU and Protocol on this. The Protocol will help, but I am not sure what weight it will carry yet. The next meeting is April 10th, 2014.
- Working with lawyer this week on different laws and the stages they are at, and the strategies needed.
- Negotiations with Nation Building have been postponed. They say due to cutbacks and because they are limited on legal advisors to discuss our contentious issues.

District Chief Abram Benedict

- Attended the committee meeting on the development of the Akwesasne Education Law. We will be meeting again.
- Attended DCSS meeting. It was reported that the prescription drug abuse info session will be held in spring to piggyback off another community event.
- Attended meeting with Appletree Medical and the Assistant Director of Health. We will follow up with DOH on issue of accepting the QHIP cards. QHIP does not pay for Telehealth. This is a challenge in the forefront. This is a problem with the discrepancy between Ontario and Quebec health cards.

- Attended meeting with OACAS along with Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish from AIAI to discuss what can be worked on together between the OACAS and COO – Social Service Coordination Unit.
- Attended meeting with Enbridge to discuss events that will occur this summer and past events.
- Attended Nation Building presentation update. I believe we should have these more regularly.
- Responded to a few calls regarding Band 59. As Chief Thompson mentioned, there are requirements and Council consent is needed in order to succeed in creation of a new band. There is a process which they did not follow or complete.

ENNISKÓ:WA/MARCH 11, 2014

District Chief Florence Phillips

- Out sick for a few days
- Attended Chiefs of Ontario health forum in Toronto. Heard very good speaker, Dr. Reg Crowshoe,, who presented on the different types of thinking historically for non Natives and Natives and in modern day. We are very oral people, we talk, sing. Our history isn't written as much. It was very interesting and good for anyone to listen to if you have the chance.
- Attended executive committee for Independent First Nations. Discussed policies and staffing procedures. Discussed regions that have been hit hard by cancer. Discussed diabetes...Thunder Bay has the highest rate of amputations in Canada.
- Attended OVS portfolio meeting
- Attended Waterline meeting
- Attended DTS meeting. Made decision on a project being awarded.

District Chief Abram Benedict

- Attended 2-day symposium on First Nations Service Design & Delivery in Governance, hosted by the Ministry of Children & Youth. Many presentations on models used across Canada for Ontario to consider.
- Attended all Ontario First Nation caucus. Discussed options, issues and concerns. Common theme is jurisdictional issues and challenges. Lengthy discussion on establishing a commission to follow the existing resolutions in place from the COO as far as Social goes.
- Participated in conference call with OACAS to discuss follow with meeting with COO.
- A resolution is coming next week requesting the extension of funding for the Healthy Homes Initiative.

District Chief Larry King

- Attended Nation Building presentations.
- Attended several preparatory meetings for trip to Albany regarding the NYS land claim. Leadership meeting is coming up.
- Attended Strategic Planning Meeting

District Chief Joe Lazore

- Chief Thompson and I attended presentation of the First Nations Food Study.

District Chief April Adams Phillips

- Personal/sick time used
- Attended Financial Law Review
- Attended meeting in Kahnawake with pharmacist interesting in coming to Akwesasne.
- Attended Strategic Planning Meeting
- Attended meeting with Chief-of-Police regarding tri-agreement.

District Chief Karen Loran

- Attended Financial Administration Law working task group meeting. Had overview of draft. Hoping to finish in two weeks.
- Participating in AFNQL teleconference on changes in funding and difficult decisions they have to make. We're taking a look at recommendations for staffing, new structure, core budget trends and renegotiations, looking at links with other communities. We support any decisions AFNQL has to make.
- Discussed Collectiva Fuel Tax Settlement issue at AFNQL. Majority of community members received their checks, but we are still helping a few who didn't. Some had misspelled names.
- Attended meeting with Kahnawà:ke Pharmacist.
- Attended Canadian Center on Substance Abuse reception and dinner in Ottawa. Very good linkage and connections. They're an arm's length from government so I will be passing on information to the Department of Health.
- Attended Mohawk Government budget review.

District Chief Brian David

- Attended panel discussion in Washington with Chief Steve Thomas. It was sponsored by the Canada Institute. It was a senior level meeting with reps from Department of Homeland Security, State Department, the policy making sector. We were on the Panel to discuss contraband and we attacked the criminalization of our Community by the media and government. We stressed our pursuit of economic development and making the river safe to promote tourism. A former head of the U.S. Coast Guard spoke in support of Akwesasne. We found a lot of support for what we're doing. It was an eye opener for those in attendance. We brought them the Cultural Portrait, and they thought that was excellent. We brought maps. We were approached by a Homeland Security staff member who wanted to discuss the possibility of MCA putting together a proposal on programming, which they would fund for keeping river system clear of criminal activity, so we can promote tourism. We would want to work with the tribe and have it be a community initiative.
- Received call from community member concerned

with blisters children received possibly from river water. We are asking for a health report from our nurses with recommendations. We will also sit down with DTS to further discuss a filtration system we previously recommended.

District Chief Steve Thomas

- Attended panel discussion in Washington with Chief Brian David. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol reported on the ongoing surveillance on the northern borders, the use of illegal dollars which fund terrorism worldwide. We reported on the current and past situation in Akwesasne. The Canada Institute is willing to advocate on our behalf, in arranging meetings with federal ministers and U.S. government officials. There was also interest in having our police services financed by the U.S. to combat contraband, crime and terrorism through the Tribe, in partnership with government agencies. Michael Parks, of Shiprider Program, is interested in continuing the renegotiations with our respective governments. Next steps for discussion will be e-mailed to Mohawk Government by the Canada Institute. All travel expenses will be reimbursed by Canada Institute.
- Attended Tobacco Technical Table held at A'nonwara'kó:wa Arena. Discussed Ontario allocation system, tobacco law update, sharing of pilot projects, budget reallocation, Bill C-10, and Traditional Trading update.
- Attended Meeting with the AMPS Chief of Police to discuss the effect of the Quebec election on the most recent funding equipment funding from the Akwesasne Quadripartite Agreement and the use of these funds before the March 31st deadline. Discussed report on the takeover of the old port of entry by community member Stacey Boots.
- Attended review of Mohawk Government budget
- Participated in conference call with lawyers to discuss SIBC case.
- Attended meeting with Allen Yapp to discuss investment opportunities.
- Attended Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission meeting.

District Chief Louise Thompson

- Attended First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES) meeting. This was a global wide study. It looked at things like local household food consumption, diabetes and obesity rates, food insecurity. Certain foods are more expensive in certain areas...We should consider trading to address this.
- Attended Nation Building session. The program doesn't receive enough support from Council and they have concerns that the community never committed to support the process. Discussed options such as a referendum to determine if there is support.

Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

- Education discussion is taking place across the country. The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) are having issues. The AFN Chief has received a commitment from Prime Minister Harper for education but there is confusion as to what the money is specifically for. There is a lot of misinformation and we will know more in the near future.
- The Quebec election is taking place next month and a strong candidate is a Quebec Separatist. We'll have to follow this election. If Quebec separated from Canada, where would we fit? It will be a big topic, because we have no French (language) speakers amongst our community members.
- Regarding Dundee land claim, although there have been funding cuts in land claims, we've been advised that our claim is so far in the process and so close to conclusion that we will not be affected by the cuts. We are expecting the counter offer from Canada soon. (Chief King commented: The staffing cuts and staff changes have had an impact on the administration part of the claim on Canada's end.)
- The Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL) formerly told MCA that if we supported the new lower level bridge construction we could be sole sourced as a First Nation bid for the old bridge demolition. Now FBCL has decided to put the demolition job out for competitive bid process. Their aboriginal employment is down to 6. Everything the FBCL had previously agreed to in our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not being adhered to.

ENNISKÓ:WA/MARCH 18, 2014

District Chief Julie Phillips-Jacobs

- Attended the Little NHL in Mississauga, Ontario that had Akwesasne teams competing, with our local Novice hockey team winning the gold.
- Attended Independent First Nations meeting in Toronto, Ontario with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

District Chief Abram Benedict

- Attended meeting with Housing Director to review operating budget.
- Received phone call from vendor wanting to provide delivery service in Akwesasne. Individual was denied "friendship pass" from SIBC. Following up with Economic Development.
- Attended meeting with Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Director to review operating budget and request for additional teacher at Kana:takon from increased enrolment.

District Chief Joanne Jocko

- Attended meeting with Housing Director to review operating budget.
- Attended meeting with Department of Technical

Services to discuss Phase II of the Kawehno:ke waterline project.

- Attended Department of Health's March Break Odyssey for Akwesasne youth.

District Chief Joe Lazore

- Attended meeting to discuss proposal for new administration building.
- Attending funeral in Kahnawa:ke with Chief William Sunday.

District Chief April Adams-Phillips

- Attended Government Secretariat Portfolio meeting.
- Participated in Economic Leakage Study meeting and talk show.
- Attended Tehontienawakon Portfolio meeting.
- Recommended hosting a workshop to assist community members in transferring their driver's license between provinces.
- Attended Public Safety Portfolio meeting to discuss and prepare for possible event at the Kawehno:ke crossroads this weekend.

District Chief William Sunday

- Attended meeting with Montreal consultant and Economic Development Committee Members to discuss proposal for Akwesasne Power Utility Company. Committee also discussed accessing Quebec Hydro for island residents.
- Attended Government Secretariat Portfolio meeting.
- Attended Public Safety Portfolio meeting to discuss and prepare for possible demonstration at the Kawehno:ke crossroads this weekend.

District Chief Karen Loran

- Participated in conference call with Assembly of First Nations for Quebec and Labrador on possibly restructuring the organization due to funding cuts.
- Received a phone call from individual that operates a pharmacy in Kahnawa:ke that is interested in taking over the pharmacy at Kanonkwa'tsheri:io. Individual wants to keep existing staff and will do follow-up in five business days.
- Received invitation from Aboriginal Access to Midwifery Team for Akwesasne input on drafting funding request letter for First Nation councils.
- Attended Public Safety Portfolio meeting to discuss and prepare for possible event at the Kawehno:ke crossroads this weekend.
- Attending Forum in Toronto on Non-Insured Health Benefits Strategy.

District Chief Louise Thompson

- Continuing to work on Collectiva file helping community members locate fuel tax reimbursement checks.
- Attended meeting with Old-Age Security

representatives and a community member that has been trying to collect since 2002. Issue has been resolved and a retroactive check will be issued to individual.

- Attended Justice Portfolio meeting to review Operating Plan and discuss continuation of alternative Justice Program funding for two years.
- Met with AFNQL representatives seeking Akwesasne participation on committee aimed at increasing access to government programs for First Nations

District Chief Steve Thomas

- Attended Tehotienawakon Portfolio meeting. Reviewed Operational Plan for new fiscal year.
- Attended meeting with Grand Chief regarding port of entry.
- Attended meeting with Mohawk Council of Kahnawa:ke. Reviewed their sector agreements with Quebec, the effects of the upcoming Quebec election, exchange of strategy options, tobacco issues and working together on mutual interests.
- Attended meeting with Traditional Trading. Discussed Ontario tobacco application, Ontario cigarette allocation system, surety options, partnership options, letter of credit.

Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell

- The Quebec Liaison Officer is continuing to monitor and update the Mohawk Council on the upcoming General Election in Quebec (April 7th). Assembly of First Nations Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) Regional Chief has commented on Quebec sovereignty talks by saying "First Nations members are not Quebecers and are able to decide their own future". Akwesasne issued a subsequent press release on possible scenarios of what it could mean for Akwesasne.
- Chiefs of Ontario reported it has experienced funding cuts and is looking at restructuring their organization, which may entail leaving the Assembly of First Nations.
- We are working with the MCA Government Support Manager on identifying funding opportunities to promote summer employment for Akwesasne youth. Need to develop a strategy that creates positions which will complement current education and future employment needs.
- I attended the Public Safety Portfolio meeting to discuss and prepare for the probable event (as posted on facebook by an individual) at the Kawehno:ke crossroads this weekend. We need to develop an agreement with U.S. Customs to keep the south span of Seaway International Bridge open for humanitarian purposes in the event of north span bridge crossing being closed.
- I will be attending an Independent First Nations Treaty Conference in Toronto March 19th and 20th.

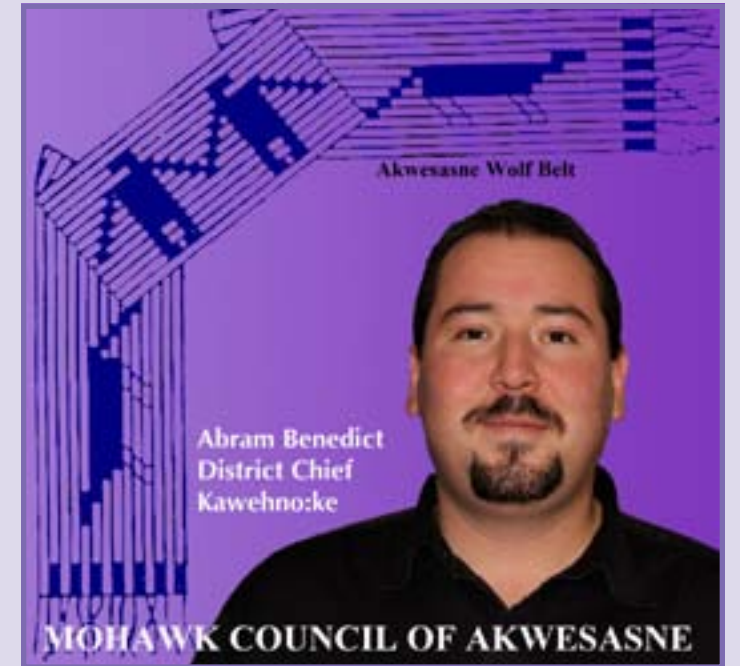
Update: Kawehno:ke District Chief Abram Benedict

GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting was held on February 6, 2014 at the Atrium of Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io. The meeting was attended by approximately 15 community members along with a number of members of Council and staff for the Mohawk Council. Personnel from Emergency Measures presented on how the community can individually prepare for an emergency situation and handed out emergency planning kits to those who attended. The Director of Tehotienawakon presented a conceptual proposal for the 3 Nations Bridge Demolition Project and reported that MCA proposed to the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL) that they consider sole sourcing the demolition project to us. (Subsequent to the General Meeting, the MCA was notified that we could bid on the project just like anyone else, but that FBCL would not be granting MCA a sole source contract.) Legal Counsel for the MCA provided a presentation on a potential legal challenge against the CBSA regarding their refusal to set up alternative reporting on Kawehno:ke. This challenge would be based on Aboriginal Rights and could potentially become a lengthy and costly legal battle in the Federal Courts. MCA's Human Resources Office provided a presentation on MCA's new 'Respect in the Workplace Policy' which has already been accepted by Council for implementation on April 1, 2014. Council announced that they would like to hold the next General Meeting in April and the community members present did not object.

EDUCATION

On February 10, 2014 I attended an adult education meeting at Iohahi:io, along with representative from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Education Department, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Human Resources Department, the Akwesasne Area Management Board, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Economic Development program and the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education. For several years now, the program manager of Iohahi:io has facilitated these adult education meetings with partners within the Akwesasne community in order to determine which program(s) should be offered at Iohahi:io, based on the needs of potential employers and the needs of the community. As a result of such meetings Iohahi:io now offers education in the following areas: Community Justice, Medical Legal Office Administration, Social



Services Worker, and Business. The Community Justice and the Medical Legal Office Administration programs will be completed at the end of this school year and new programming will become available next fall. The partners represented at this meeting offered insight into the current market trends and the numerous employment opportunities that may potentially become available.

SEAWAY INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CORPORATION (SIBC)

On February 14, 2014 I had lunch with Hendrik (Rik) Saaltink, General Manager for the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) and Wade Dorland, Manager of Operations. Rik informed me that he will be retiring from the Seaway International Bridge Corporation (SIBC) at the end of February and Wade Dorland will be the acting General Manager until a new General Manager has been appointed through the hiring process under the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL) and the SIBC.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES (OACAS)

On February 27, 2014 I met with the Executive Director of the OACAS and representatives from the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Social Service Coordination Unit. The Social Service Coordination Unit acts as a technical and advisory body to COO with regard to

social services issues. I participate as a Board Member for the OACAS and I feel that because of the work the OACAS perform to benefit the Aboriginal CAS agencies in Ontario, right now is the perfect opportunity for COO and OACAS to jointly work together to develop the policies and lobbying strategies required to be implemented by each organization in order to meet

the needs of Aboriginal CAS agencies, so that they can then best meet the needs of Aboriginal children. The meeting was basically an introductory meeting for the parties and future meetings are being scheduled to begin discussions on our common concerns and our common goals. ❖

Update: Kawehno:ke District Chief JoAnne Jocko

YOUTH ODYSSEY

During the week of March break, the Community Health Program, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and the Akwesasne Child and Family Services Program sponsored cultural activities for the youth all week long. The day I attended, the Akwesasne Freedom School classes were also invited to attend. It was refreshing to listen to children playing and making crafts while speaking their language amongst one another. The youth who were not speakers listened and asked the fluent speakers what they were saying and in no time the youth were teaching one another. This is just another way that our language will live on—by our youth supporting one another in the learning process.

Part of the weeklong activities included speaking about leadership with role models in our community. The true role models for the week were all the staff that helped out and in turn made these activities a huge success. Hopefully there will be many more events like this one in the future. I'd like to take this time to give a special a Niawen:kowa to cultural craft instructors Shirelle Tahy and Virginia Jacobs who both did a superb job teaching our youth how to make moccasins and tobacco pouches, to Bill Loran for teaching the youth about fan making, and to Tracy King who taught painting. Each instructor inspired the youth to create beautiful crafts while learning about their culture. The youth were so happy with their creations and proud of their accomplishments. They were eager to take their creations home to show their families.

Along with crafting youth were also taught the importance learning to prepare the meals that were fed to the group each day. The day I attended they were taught to make corn soup and fry bread by Joyce King. The meal turned out wonderful and the children who helped cook were also able to take some home to their families. Many enjoyed the weeklong event and I am grateful to have been invited. It was a day spent with caring staff who gave their time to our youth



who were off on March break. Parents were also welcome to join in on the activities, which I feel made for a chance to promote not only our programs but also the family unit that many are trying to preserve. Part of the day was also set aside for physical activities for the youth and for a mini social, which was followed by another social at the Mohawk Nation longhouse later on that night, which had a great turn out. Throughout the week the students earned tickets to be drawn at the end of the week for bikes. The staff should be congratulated for the huge success of this event as well as their caring support for the youth who attended.

AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK BOARD OF EDUCATION (AMBE) RECYCLING PROGRAM

One of the focuses of the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education is to promote a recycling program within all three schools this school year. Through the collaborated efforts of Joe Francis at the Department of Technical Services (DTS) and Margaret George of the Environment program, the AMBE Recycling



Kawehno:ke District Chief JoAnne Jocko with students who attended the March Break Odyssey at the Kana:takon Recreation Center.

program had a kick-off event which included a presentation by Mr. John Watson, Waste Diversion Education Coordinator from Ontario's Halton Region.

Students from all three schools attended the presentation on April 2, 2014. The children actively participated in the presentation by Mr. Watson. It was encouraging to see how much the youth already know about recycling. The program will host other events at the schools as well as a poster contest, which is being sponsored by DTS. The contest encourages each school to come up with a recycling poster for their school and each of the three winners will receive a movie package. The recycling program will be celebrated all year long with a presentation during Earth Week by the contest winners.

The presentation by John Watson was interactive and held the attention of all the students. I'd like to thank him for his efforts and for travelling to our community to teach our children of the importance of recycling. He was amazed at the knowledge that our students have about recycling. It was obvious that the youth of our community have an interest in preserving Mother Earth. The knowledge demonstrated by our students and their desire to protect Mother Earth and prevent waste in Akwesasne was certainly inspiring to those who attended the presentation. We should encourage and support our youth to carry on with this initiative as it is of great importance to them.

I'd also like to thank Joe Francis and Margaret George for the time they spent and the efforts they made to encourage our students. A lot of positive feedback was given to the group who initiated this project and they are optimistic about maintaining

this program for years to come. There will be more activities to come to help encourage the recycling efforts both at the schools as well as in the homes, which will help preserve our community.

HOUSING AS A BUSINESS WORKSHOP

I attended the Housing as a Business workshop which was held at the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation in January. This was a project that MCA explored in the past and as part of the discussion we shared the outcome of this endeavor. Some of the other First Nation communities present were just exploring the possibility and others like us had already participated in the program. The workshop also had a presenter from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and we were able to discuss some of the challenges we face with our housing programs. As part of the roundtable discussions we strategized on how to better educate our communities about the importance of home ownership and taking pride in our homes. It has been proven that it supports our people in the social context where children and families flourish from having a well built home that will protect them. There was also a presentation on Skilled Trades programs that are proving successful in the Six Nations community. Many resources and contacts were shared in an effort to help one another achieve proper housing for all of our members.

A suggestion was made to educate our people on the importance of not only striving to be homeowners but to also know the upkeep needed to preserve our homes for many years. A program is being developed to target the young people in our communities to

share with them the importance of home ownership and to keep our communities flourishing.

MEETINGS ATTENDED FOR MARCH

Week of March 3rd

Health Board Meeting, Council Meeting, Kawehnoke Waterline, First Nation Injury Prevention Project, AMBE Public/In-Camera Session, AMBE Board, Kawehnoke Waterline Technical Group, St. Regis Water Treatment Plant Optimization, Apple Tree Clinic on Kawehnoke with Chief Abram Benedict, Melanie Gibson (Manager of Non-Insured Health Benefits), and Cindy Francis Mitchell (Assistant Director of Health), and Akwesasne Membership Board Meeting.

Week of March 10th

Kawehnoke Waterline, Council Meeting, Block 1 Lands Meeting with Aboriginal Rights and Research Office/Department of Technical Services, Housing Portfolio/Housing Budgets Meeting

Week of March 17th

Housing Portfolio, Kawehnoke Waterline Technical Team, St. Regis Water Treatment Plant Optimization,

Phase 2 Kawehnoke Waterline Meeting on outstanding easement issues, Travel to Toronto March 20th for AANDC Meeting on funding for Kawehnoke Waterline Phase 2 project as well as Snye School Subdivision Detailed Design & Snye School Subdivision Sewage Treatment Plant Detailed Design

Week of March 24th

Out sick for March 24th & March 25th
March 26th attended the "Understanding Depression" workshop-presented by Anne Marie Churchill, Executive Committee, MCA/OPG Economic Development Presentation, and Economic Development Presentation on Local Food Market at Peace Tree Mall.

March 31st

DTS Portfolio Meeting-Agenda: Portfolio Holder Terms of Reference, Nation Building Investment Strategy, Snye Waterline Update, Snye School Development Area, MTQ Funding Agreement, Space Needs Accommodation Strategy, Three Nations Bridge Corridor Panning Update, Updates from Joe Francis on Maintenance Program and Kennedy Garrow on Road Maintenance.



AMS Principal Lynn McCarthy, Recycling Presenter John Watson (EPT), District Chief JoAnne Jocko, and Margaret George.

Update: Kana:takon District Chief Larry King

She:kon,

I hope everybody was able to endure a very long winter season...Mother Nature is surely flexing her "who's in charge" muscles!

As the snow will eventually leave and much of life awaits the late spring thaw, a personal regret during that timeframe is that we have yet to hear anything on the very much anticipated Tsikaristesere (Dundee) Land Claim. As I reported previous, in summer of last year the Federal Negotiator would inform us that an announcement, good or disappointing, was coming soon and we anticipated the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs would be bringing that message during his visit to Akwesasne on August 6th. I alluded to the fact then that I knew better than to get overly excited or do cartwheels because I've been around such matters for some time. Sure enough all we have heard to date is that it is being worked on and that the Federal negotiator may have jumped the gun and was maybe too enthusiastic himself. We remain concerned with all the cutbacks regarding First Nations where Specific Claims would also feel the pinch. Our managing budget (Loan Funding) was almost cut in half but we've been assured that our file was very well advanced and on the front burner so hopefully it will not be affected from the Settlement perspective. It's no secret that I've been around for some time and I get asked often enough how much longer I thought I'd consider hanging in there. My usual response is how badly I want to see the satisfactory conclusion of the Tsikaristesere Claim which will hopefully be cause for much celebration. I've logged so much time, energy and effort on this file, among others, that I'll be like a child on Christmas morning if and when our community finally sees the end to this historical grievance which represents the mismanagement and ultimate illegal taking of our land. We obviously put forth a compelling argument that convinced the Federal Government that they were in the wrong which ultimately resulted in going into negotiations. I feel our arguments during negotiations were equally compelling enough and widespread to warrant being compensated to the degree that our People would accept. There is still much work to do after receiving a Settlement Offer. There will be a solid community education campaign that will be followed by a Referendum. Unless the



Settlement Offer is absolutely unacceptable, I will go on a limb and feel content that we will conclude all such matters before we see snow again.

We were in Albany on March 6 along with representatives of the St Regis Mohawk Tribe and Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs regarding the NY Claim. We met with Rob Williams who is Special Counsel to the Governor who was given the mandate to bring these deliberations to conclusion. We have informed the community of the revised offer from the State which differs from the original from 2005 excluding some items. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne insisted on this meeting so we could first of all put a face to a name and to have the opportunity to strongly emphasize to NY State that we had every right to be involved in any matter pertaining to the NY Claim and/or 1796 Treaty talks. We began by distributing a photo with then Governor Pataki that was taken in the Governor's chambers and immediately after the Settlement Agreement was signed. We emphasized the good and hard work of so many Akwesasronon, some no longer with us, as well as State representatives. We emphasized the unified work of the three Councils on shaping the terms of the Settlement and the tireless work on educating our community culminating with the approval by each respective party's means. I took the opportunity to strongly impress that we are not and have no intention

on being “disruptive”. A catch phrase that we are painfully aware of as it is heard loud and clear in negative announcements regarding Land Claims especially in NY State. We proved this during original negotiations with those things we originally relinquished for the sake of a positive Settlement in 2005. There will hopefully be an opportunity to go into further and more detail in the near future but I trust folks would be understanding that there is still a very sensitive air around these renewed talks. We left content that Mr Williams’ marching orders includes attempting to preserve as much of the 2005 Settlement as possible.

The Port of Cornwall has become political fodder as there is a looming election in the city of Cornwall. These lands are located within the North Shore Claim. Transport Canada went into a lease with Trillium Distribution Cornwall Inc. where they have constructed holding tanks for calcium chloride... the type of product used for dust suppression during road construction, etc. Transport Canada failed in their fiduciary responsibility to consult and accommodate the Akwesasne community and failed to bring the city of Cornwall into the fray of this undertaking. Our initial and quickly acted upon option of disrupting construction was to launch a judicial review stating the obvious and previously mentioned. Ironically during a meeting with Transport Canada over this unwanted construction Transport Canada would present their desire and option to venture into and revisit divestiture talks with Akwesasne and Cornwall. We attempted same unsuccessfully in 2004/05 so both parties were familiar. The only way divestiture can be considered is if Akwesasne and Cornwall participate collectively and to develop a single and unified representative entity. The other significant element would be that Akwesasne retract our judicial review which we

agreed to do for the sake of divestiture negotiations. If these divestiture talks fail and construction continues we will simply refile the judicial review. Both MCA and Cornwall have signed a Letter of Intent to go into these divestiture negotiations and we await full disclosure of important documents inclusive of the Trillium Lease and Environmental Assessments, etc. Divestiture Negotiations will begin promptly with unilateral discussions with the City of Cornwall regarding all the particulars. This venture won't be a walk in the park as we could not come to an agreement from previous attempt.

The Community Trust process is winding down and after over a year of development and many drafts Council will receive and conduct a final review on March 31. The Trustees continue to be busy with developing their Policies, Procedures and Strategic Plan. After all is approved by MCR there is still the business of conducting interviews and appointing the Administrative Trustee and the Investment Manager. It is anticipated that the approved Community Trust Agreement will be presented at the next General Mtg where the Trustees will also be introduced. After ensuing community information sessions with the Trustees the Community Trust will be deemed operational.

**Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
February 2014 Donations:**

- Bereavement \$500
- Individual Donation Request \$3,750

Support a Drug Free Community!

SUBSTANCE ABUSE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

 <p>Wholistic Health & Wellness (Addictions & Counseling) (613) 575-2341 ext. 3100</p>	 <p>Mohawk Police & Ambulance (613) 575-2000</p>	<p>CRIMESTOPPERS (613)575-2255</p>	<p>ONEN'TO-KON TREATMENT SERVICES (450) 479-8353</p>
<p>Ionkwanonhsasetsi Adolescent Treatment Center (613) 932-5050</p>	<p>MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE 1-866-996-0991</p>	<p>Cornwall Hospital Withdrawal Management Services (613) 938-8506</p>	<p>Grandparent's Support Group (613) 575-2341 ext. 3100</p>
<p>IETHINISTEN:HA FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM (613) 937-4322</p>	<p>Akwesasne Eagle Watch Promoting a Safe and Drug free Akwesasne facebook</p>	<p>Akwesasne Child & Family Services (613) 575-2341 ext. 3139 (613) 575-2000 (After Hours)</p>	<p>ASEO-STE0 ADDICTION SERVICES OF EASTERN ONTARIO (613) 936-9238 (800) 272-1937</p>

An initiative of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Substance Abuse Strategy

Traditional Programs Host Wahta Workshop

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Ononhkwaon:we/Traditional Medicine Program and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Traditional Support Unit recently partnered in hosting a Wahta (Maple) Workshop on March 25, 2014. The workshop was held at the Tribe's Training Center and was free of charge for the Akwesasne community.



Wahta Workshop organizers: (from left) Dean George, Darrell Thompson, Della Adams, Ian Clute, Eddie Gray, Aronhiaies Herne, and Kawenniosta Jock.

The workshop provided an opportunity for community members to learn about the Wahta Ceremony held to signal the changing seasons and to discuss the important role that maple trees continue to serve. It was an educational platform that left those that attended with a feeling of being culturally enriched and with a better understanding of our natural world.

Topics discussed included traditional stories of the maple tree by Aronhiaies Herne, Wahta (Maple) Ceremony by Darrell Thompson, cultural aspects of collecting sap by Dean George, and medicinal purposes of the trees by Eddie George. Visual presentations and 'hands-on' examples were used, as well as educational packets distributed, to provide clarity on each topic.

The collaborative efforts of both traditional units is providing a balance of cultural teachings, healing workshops and sharing of medicinal knowledge.

The workshops provide an opportunity for both programs to share their experience and knowledge of cultural practices to help keep the community healthy and strong. They welcome feedback and input from community members in helping to determine future topics.

For more information, please contact the Traditional Medicine Program office at (613) 575-2341 ext. 3115 or the Traditional Support Unit at (518) 358-2728. ❖

Economic Leakage Study Underway

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Economic Development Program is pleased to announce that an economic leakage study is currently underway in the territory. Leakage studies examine how much money is circulated within a certain area, in this case the territory of Akwesasne, and how much leaves the area, to be spent outside Akwesasne.

The study will allow MCA and local businesses to understand and improve the local economy. The results will help identify what types of businesses are needed in Akwesasne, information that will be beneficial to anyone who is aspiring to be a business owner. It will also help MCA identify long-term economic strategies and opportunities, and the results will be used as a benchmark to compare today's economy with the economy in years to come.

MCA has hired the consulting firm MNP LLP to

conduct the economic leakage study. One component of the study is a survey, which all Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon and Tsi Snaihne district community members are asked to participate in. Survey responses will be kept anonymous. As an incentive for participation, all survey respondents will be able to enter their names into a weekly draw for CKON radio bingo packages. All completed surveys received by MNP between March 31, 2014 and April 30, 2014, will be entered. Drawings will take place throughout the month of April and the final draw will be held on May 2, 2014.

For more information about the survey, please visit MCA's Economic Development Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MCAECDEV> or contact Economic Development Officer Christopher Thompson at 613-575-2250 Ext 1050. ❖

constructed well before energy-efficient materials were used and current building codes were in place. Any future use would require a significant investment of both time and money to bring it up to safe and useable working environmental standards.

CBSA has no plans of returning to the Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) Port of Entry, and the agency that currently is responsible for the Customs buildings—Public Works and Government Services Canada—is in discussions with the MCA to procure a qualified team to safely dismantle the buildings.

A 'YES' answer will mean that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will pursue actions that will require the Customs buildings to be safely demolished and all materials removed by qualified contractors. These contractors will be required to use labour and services procured in Akwesasne.

A 'NO' answer will mean that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will allow the Customs buildings to stay in their current state.

The second question, "Do you support the removal of the Akwesasne Peoples Fire buildings from the corridor, no later than the demolition of the Customs Buildings?" is asking the community whether or not they want the two (2) 'Akwesasne Peoples Fire' buildings removed from the Kawehno:ke corridor where it is currently situated. The location, adjacent to the former Customs buildings, serves as a gathering place for community members prior to and immediately after the abandonment by CBSA in May 2009. It originally held a tent in which community briefings were held. Temporary wooden structures were later built by community members and the site became known as the "Akwesasne Peoples Fire." The buildings were originally constructed without consultation with the community-at-large on lands that had not yet been environmentally assessed by the MCA Department of Environment.

From meetings held throughout 2009 and 2010 between community members who gathered at the 'Akwesasne Peoples Fire' and the MCA, the group has maintained that the buildings would remain until they were assured that the CBSA officers would not return to Kawehno:ke while armed. The buildings are the subject of a court action against some of the individuals who were involved in their construction, and were filed by the Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd (FBCL). In August 2011, the MCA became a co-defendant in the suit in order to ensure that rights of

the Mohawks of Akwesasne within the corridor are addressed, and also due to the lands being a part of the Seaway Claim, in which the MCA asserts that the corridor lands belong to the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

A 'YES' answer will mean that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will pursue actions that will remove the 'Akwesasne Peoples Fire' buildings from their current location. The Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd (FBCL) has indicated its willingness to drop their lawsuit, if the buildings are removed from the corridor. This direction may also include relocating the structures to a new location upon further investigations of suitable sites and on the structural and habitable state of the buildings.

A 'NO' answer will mean that the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne will allow the buildings to remain and will continue court proceedings regarding the Federal Bridge Corporation Ltd (FBCL) lawsuit.

PLEBISCITE REGULATIONS

The Plebiscite will be open to all Members under the Akwesasne Membership Code who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, regardless of residency. Members must be on the Plebiscite Voters List in order to participate in the Plebiscite. The last day to be added to the Plebiscite Voters List is Monday, April 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Full copies of the Kawehno:ke Corridor Plebiscite Regulation can be obtained by Members at the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Administration Offices.

The Plebiscite Voters List will be posted at the following locations:

- Kawehno:ke:
- Bank of Montreal and Jock's Kwik Stop
- Tsi Sniahne:
- Iohahi:io Adult Education Centre and Hum's Convenience Store
- Kana:takon:
- Post Office and Kanonhkwatsheri:io Health Facility

The Plebiscite will utilize the following three (3) voting mechanisms:

1. Online Voting;
2. Plebiscite Polling Station Voting; and
3. In-Home Voting.

ONLINE VOTING PROCEDURES

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is working with Simply Voting, an independent consulting company

specializing in online voting. Simply Voting will setup the security features requiring three pieces of information as identification in order to access the online ballot, including:

- a personal identification number assigned by Simply Voting and issued by the Chief Plebiscite Officer;
- date of birth; and
- status number.

In order to obtain the personal identification number used for Online Voting contact the Chief Plebiscite Officer Leona Benedict at 613-551-1622 or 613-575-2250 Ext. 2406. Eligible Plebiscite Voters will be asked for their date of birth and status number in order to verify identity.

This three part authentication will enable Eligible Plebiscite Voters to access the online ballot on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. and will run 24 hours a day for 12 days. The Online Voting period will close on Friday, April 25, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

IN-HOME VOTING PROCEDURES

If Eligible Plebiscite Voters are unable to vote either Online or at a Plebiscite Polling Station, they can make an appointment for In-Home Voting. In-Home Voting will occur on April 26, 2014 during the hours that the Plebiscite Polling Stations are open. Appointments can be made by contacting the Chief Plebiscite Officer.

The Chief Plebiscite Officer Leona Benedict can be contacted by telephone at 613-575-2250 ext. 2406, by fax 613-575-1726 or by email leona.benedict@akwesasne.ca

CLOSING AND RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE

The Plebiscite will officially close on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the counting of the ballots taking place at the St. Regis Recreation Centre. Members shall be entitled to be present during the counting of the ballots and receipt of the Online Voting results report, providing there is compliance to the capacity of the building. Immediately after the completion of the counting of the ballots, the unofficial results will be publicly announced by local media.

Any appeals pertaining to the Plebiscite are to be made to the Akwesasne Mohawk Court Administrator and delivered to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Department no later than 1:00 p.m. on May 5, 2014.

The results are official if no appeals are received by the deadline.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Information Meetings will be held for the purpose of providing information concerning the Plebiscite. These meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

**Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
A'nowarako:wa Arena**

**Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
Kana:takon School**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Akwesasne Homemakers**

DATES OF THE PLEBISCITE

Online Voting Ballot start on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. and will be open 24 hours a day for 12 days. Online Voting Ballots will close on Friday, April 25, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

Plebiscite Polling Stations will be open on April 26, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m at the following locations:

Kana:takon
St. Regis Recreation Centre

Tsi Sniahne
Iohahi:io Adult Education Centre

Kawehno:ke
Tri-District Elders

CONTACT INFORMATION

For Plebiscite and Voting Questions:

Leona Benedict, Chief Plebiscite Officer, (613) 575-2250 ext. 2406, by fax 613-575-1726 or by email leona.benedict@akwesasne.ca to verify your name is on the Eligible Plebiscite Voters List. **For Questions about the Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) Corridor:**

Please Contact any Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Chief, (613) 575-2348.

For Questions regarding the information contained in this notice:

Please contact the Akwesasne Justice Department at 613-575-2250 ext. 2400. ❖

Employees Honored as First Responders

Since 2010, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has been hosting its annual SPIRIT awards to recognize the hard work and dedication of the organization's employees. It entailed a nomination process that engaged all MCA employees, including non-permanent, and recognized those that best exemplified one of six categories: "S"—Safety and Health, "P"—Professionalism, "I"—Integrity, "R"—Respect, "I"—Inspiration, and "T"—Tradition.

This year's award ceremony had a very special theme however, as there is a segment of the organization's workforce that embody all six characteristics—MCA employees that serve as Akwesasne Emergency First Responders. As a result, a special award ceremony was held on Friday, March 28, 2014 at the Snye Recreation Center to honour ambulance staff and firefighters, along with one exceptional police officer.

"This year, we thought it was appropriate to have an awards ceremony to honour those who deserve special recognition due to the important, selfless and often dangerous work that they do keeping the community safe," said MCA Executive Director Sheree Bonaparte.

Noting that this was the final Spirit awards ceremony following recommendations from an employee climate survey that was completed by 514 employees, Bonaparte added, "We are planning future events that will involve more employees, but



Executive Director Sheree Bonaparte, Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas, Akwesasne Mohawk Police Sargent Phillip Swamp, Terri Swamp, and Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell.

we wanted to first recognize the 24 ambulance staff and employees who are volunteer firefighters. We also wanted to bestow Akwesasne Mohawk Police Sargent Philip Swamp with an honourable award for his act of heroism during a tragic house fire that occurred in January 2014."

The event was facilitated by Kawehno:ke District Chief Brian David with the assistance of temporary-Employee Advocate Steve Lazore. Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell, AMBE Director Barry Montour, Health Director April White and Housing A/Director Heather Phillips were also on-hand to share words of appreciation.

When individuals were recognized, Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas and Executive Director Bonaparte adorned each employee with a handmade quilt as a symbol of the comfort, protection and security that they provide to the community.

The MCA recognized the following individuals who put their own lives and well being at risk for the safety and health of the community:

- Joan Phillips • Darryl Diabo • Isaac McDonald
- Edward Cook • RJ Jocko • Derek Comins
- Stacey Rourke • Clint Cole • Sherril Lazare
- Tom Herne • Ryan Jacobs • Randy Montour
- Joseph Bonaparte • Wayne Samphiere
- Brenda Francis • Pete LaFrance • Darren Cook
- Rebecca Bonaparte • Ben Benedict • Wes Benedict
- Sandra Boots • Stanley Cook • Jason Lazore
- Kevin M. Lazore • Cory Tarbell • Phillip Swamp



Kana:takon District Chief Steve Thomas and Executive Director Sheree Bonaparte present a quilt to Kevin M. Lazore.



Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance Unit: (from left) HAVFD Fire Chief Derek Comins, Joseph Bonaparte, Rebecca Bonaparte, Randy Montour, RJ Jocko, Joan Phillips, Edward Cook, Sherril Lazare and HAVFD Vice-President Isaac McDonald.



MCA Fire fighters: (front row, from left) Wes Benedict, Darren Cook, Sandra Boots, Stanley Cook, and Isaac McDonald. (back row, from left) Ben Benedict, Andrew Lazore (for Kevin Lazore), Fire Chief Derek Comins, Cory Tarbell and Jason Lazore.

Entewatathá:wi Process Begins Final Negotiations

Team Welcomes Three Temporary Staff



Peter Garrow and Brenda LaFrance (front row) are lending their experience to the Entewatathá:wi Process along with temporary-Policy Analyst Patty Francis, Policy Analyst Kelly Jean Thompson and Jr. Policy Analyst Shara Francis-Herne.

This long, cold, snowy winter is all but over. However, the arrival of Spring brings some changes and new challenges to the Entewatathá:wi Process. We are all excited to move ahead as we enter the final negotiation stage.

The Entewatathá:wi Team would like to send greetings to Akwesasronon and provide the community with an update on some exciting things that are taking place. As many of you may know, in November 2013, after many years of negotiations between The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Canada tremendous strides were made with the signing of Agreements-in-Principle in the areas of Lands and Estates, and Governance and Relationship. This signing initiated final negotiations with Canada and we want to keep the community up to date on all the progress in these areas.

The first round of final negotiations was held on January 15-16, 2014 that involved teams from both Akwesasne and Canada. Akwesasne's negotiation

team is made up of members from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Entewatathá:wi staff, staff from the Akwesasne Justice Department, staff from Executive Services, elder representatives from the districts of Akwesasne, legal counsel, and any other technicians as needed. The Agreements-in-Principle that were previously signed provide the backdrop for these negotiations, and we want the community to begin to understand these agreements and envision the positive impact they can have.

The Entewatathá:wi Team is now gearing up for the second round of negotiations to take place in May 2014. Various community information sessions are planned throughout this upcoming year. We want to encourage all community members to keep an ear out for these sessions and come and sit with us to learn what this process is all about, and what it will mean for Akwesasne. Reaching final negotiations is an accomplishment that many First Nations aim to have, and we want the community to be informed on

all the successes we are working toward.

There have been some temporary changes to the Entewatathá:wi Process and we want to welcome three new staff members. Peter Garrow and Brenda LaFrance will be lending their experience in negotiation and administration for the next three months. Patty Francis will be assuming a Policy Analyst role until the end of June at which time we hope to fill the position.

Peter Garrow is married to Harriet, is well known within Akwesasne and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for his work in Education and the promotion of athletics. Peter was the Director of Education for the Assembly of First Nations for six years and Director of Education for the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education for nine years. He is the Ahkwesahsne Native Trustee for the Upper Canada District School Board and a Board Member of the Ontario Public School Boards Association and chairs the Native Trustee Council for Ontario. He is also the Ethics Officer for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. He has held a number of senior management positions with the Federal Government of Canada, the last being the Federal Representative for the Relocation Committee for the Mushuau Innu of Labrador (Davis Inlet).

Patty Francis is the daughter of Julia and the late Benny Roundpoint and wife of Peter Francis and

lives on Kawehnoke. She brings much experience in administration and policy making through her tenure as a Federal Contracting Officer and her time spent in administrative positions over the last fifteen (15) years. Patty's background and experience in dealing at the Federal and State level serves as a nice backdrop for her work as a Policy Analyst. When Patty isn't at work she is home enjoying her family and her young grandson.

Brenda LaFrance is married to Jake and lives in their family home on Kawehnoke. She holds an MBA from Clarkson University, maintains her own management consulting company and has served the community in an administrative capacity for almost 30 years. Brenda has also worked for Health Canada as a systems analyst. Cultural preservation and maintenance of traditional cultural practices and environmental protection are areas that she has actively pursued. Brenda is sharing her years of experience in administration to ensure that the Entewatathá:wi Process remains on track as we enter final negotiations. When she is not working she enjoys spending time with her family, volunteering in the community, basketmaking, quilting and tending her garden of medicinal plants and Iroquoian heritage seed plants with her husband Jake. She is also an avid kayaker. ❖

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

Administration Building #1
Tel: (613) 575-2250 Fax: 575-2181

Administration Building #2
Tel: (613) 575-2348 Fax: 575-2884

CIA Building #3
Tel: (613) 936-1548 Fax: 938-6760

Adolescent Treatment Center	Ext. 1300	Home Care/Support	Ext. 1069	Office of Vital Statistics	Ext. 1013
Ambulance Unit	Ext. 3121	Housing	Ext. 2300	Pharmacy	Ext. 3250
Ahkwasahsne Mohawk School	Ext. 1700	Human Resources	Ext. 2146	Records Management	Ext. 1202
Animal Control/Compliance	Ext. 2415	Hydro Quebec	Ext. 2388	Snye Child Care	Ext. 4300
Aboriginal Rights & Research	Ext. 2205	Iakhihsohtha	Ext. 4201	Technical Services	Ext. 1003
Board of Education	Ext. 1400	Iethinisten:ha	Ext. 1500	Traditional Medicine	Ext. 3115
Child & Family Services	Ext. 3139	Iohah:io Adult Education	Ext. 4100	Tsi Snaihne School	Ext. 4400
Community Health Nurses	Ext. 3219	Justice	Ext. 2400	Tsi ionkwansote	Ext. 1600
Computers	Ext. 2323	Kana:takon Medical Clinic	Ext. 3215	Wholistic Health	Ext. 3100
Communications Unit	Ext. 2210	Kana:takon School	Ext. 2500		
Community Support Program	Ext. 3262	Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic	Ext. 1110		
Community & Social Services	Ext. 3305	Maintenance/Sanitation	Ext. 3400	OUTSIDE FACILITIES	
Dental Clinic	Ext. 3208	Mohawk Court	Ext. 1026	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	936-1583
Economic Development	Ext. 1053	Mohawk Government	Ext. 2200	Kawehnoke Water Plant	933-1971
Emergency Measures	Ext. 1030	Mohawk Police Reception	Ext. 3502	Child Care Administration	938-5067
Environment	Ext. 1039	Nation Building	Ext. 3194	Roads Garage	938-5476
Executive Services	Ext. 2120	Non-Insured Health Benefits	Ext. 3340	St. Regis Child Care	575-1915
Finance	Ext. 2168	Operational Support	Ext. 2100		
Health	Ext. 3300	Optometry	Ext. 3131		

OLYMPIC MEDALIST CLARA HUGHES BRINGS IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO AKWESASNE



Akwesasne youth were proud to hold one of Clara Hughes' Olympic medals after performing several dances. Pictured from left: Kaia Swamp, Faryn King, Lenni Terrance, Jadie Burns and Kania Swamp



On Tuesday, March 25, Akwesasne was host to a very special guest. Olympic medalist Clara Hughes visited the community to deliver important words and messages about mental illness, an often ignored or misunderstood field.

Clara's Big Ride for Bell Let's Talk is a 110-day voyage the athlete committed to, beginning on March 14, 2014 in Toronto and taking her to every Canadian

province before concluding on Canada Day, July 1, 2014 in Ottawa. She will cover 12,000 km in total. Akwesasne was honored to have been selected as one of the stopping points on Hughes' special bike ride.

Clara is an athlete for all seasons. She's one of the biggest stories to emerge in Canadian sports, and she's not finished yet. A six-time Olympic medalist on cycling and speed skating, she's the only athlete in history to win multiple medals in both Summer and Winter Olympic Games. She was the Canadian flag bearer for the 2010 Vancouver Games Opening Ceremony, proudly leading the home team to its historic medal winning performance and she also represented Canada with distinction in London in 2012. She is a true inspiration to athletes of all ages.

During a welcoming reception held at the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School, guests from Akwesasne and surrounding communities were delighted to meet the athlete. Her charisma and love for her sport and mission were palpable. Several individuals broke down in tears while meeting Hughes, as they shared their personal struggles with mental illness. They expressed being very grateful to Hughes for bringing attention to those issues and the stigmas and discrimination that will often accompany them.

Hughes was welcomed by MCA staff who coordinated the event with the Clara's Big Ride Team. Council chiefs also attended to welcome the athlete, and everyone was treated to several dance performances by local youth. Clara later shared her love for indigenous cultures and encouraged the children present to hang on to their beautiful traditions.

From all of Akwesasne, nia:wenko:wa to Ms. Clara Hughes for her visit and positive message. ❖



Dancers performed several dances including the hoop dance, a western style of dance that Mohawks have recently embraced.



Council members Chiefs Abram Benedict, Julie Phillips-Jacobs and Brian David (along with young Asher) helped greet the Olympian.



A young fan gave Hughes a gift at the welcoming reception.



MCA staff Wabi Tenasco and W. Jamie Bay coordinated the visit and were given a special gift as thanks.

Land Claims and Specific Claims Update

Please note that the following information is provided to Akwesasne community members and is not to be provided to the public, media or any external entity. The information shared is without prejudice to any current and future claims of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

NEGOTIATIONS

Tsikaristisere/Dundee Specific Claim

The Tsikaristisere/Dundee specific claim relates to the alleged 1888 surrender of lands on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River roughly opposite Cornwall. It consists of approximately 20,000 acres in the most westerly portion of the Province of Quebec, in the area now known as the Township of Dundee. Historically, it was part of the land recognized as set apart for the Mohawks of Akwesasne.

The negotiations continue, though the table has not met since 2012 while we await a proposal for settlement from Canada. This is expected in the near future, after which, a settlement agreement will be negotiated and brought to the community for ratification. Under the settlement agreement, lands equal to the acreage lost can be returned to Reserve status when purchased from willing sellers.

LITIGATION /POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The 1796 Treaty (US) Claim

Also known as the "U.S. Claim," the 1796 Treaty Claim is for land that was illegally surrendered by Mohawks. The MCA, the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe are litigants in a land claim filed in the U. S. Federal Court against the State of New York, the New York Power Authority and others for lands, islands and resources belonging to the Mohawks of Akwesasne. The original land claim was filed in 1982 by the MCA and the SRMT and MNCC filed together in 1989. The court enjoined the parties in 1992.

Since 1992, negotiations were implemented and court was put in abeyance. The parties reached a proposed final settlement agreement in 2005, which was ratified in a referendum by the community. The settlement has not yet been accepted by either the State of New York or the Federal Government. As such, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties have moved to dismiss the case.

All but one of the areas, the Hogansburg Triangle,

were dismissed by Judge Kahn in July 2013. We may still move forward with the Triangle claim in courts, though no land will be returned in the event that we are successful.

In recent months, the SRMT has met with the NYS Governor's office to resume negotiations toward a settlement of the claim. To date, the agreement has not been solidified, and neither the MCA or the MNCC have agreed to a settlement without all of the terms that were included in the original 2005 agreement.

Seaway Claim

The Seaway Claim was originally brought in 1976. The Discovery process of the Seaway Litigation began in February 2009, and continues to date.

Testimony of community witnesses continues to be collected, and expert reports have been supplied to the court. Trial is expected to commence in late-2015.

NORTH SHORE CLAIM

In November 2013, Transport Canada leased approximately 2.66 hectares located at the Cornwall Harbour on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River to Trillium Distribution Cornwall LTD for its construction of calcium, magnesium & sodium chloride storage tanks. The area leased falls within the North Shore Claim area, a claim which was accepted in principle by Canada in October 2012.

The MCA was not consulted or even notified of the lease by Transport Canada, which is an outright failure of Canada's obligation to consult & accommodate First Nations when lands adjacent or within their traditional territory are being transferred, leased or otherwise disturbed.

The MCA learned of the construction on the lands in December 2013, and subsequently notified Transport of its duties to consult & accommodate. Transport Canada, the City of Cornwall & the MCA held meetings in January to discuss the stoppage of work on the lands, and to potentially apply for a federal divestiture of the lands—a transfer of surplus lands from a Crown corporation to another party.

Akwesasne and the City of Cornwall have very recently begun the negotiations with Transport Canada for the divestiture of the Cornwall Port lands, with the common goal of co-managing the lands

and preserving the waterfront for environmentally-conscious projects.

COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT TRUST

The proceeds of the OPG and the Kawehnoke-Easterbrook Claim settlements have been awaiting the establishment of a legal Community Settlement Trust, which will be in place to ensure the transparent & accountable use of the settlement monies for the betterment of the entire community.

A callout for Community Trustees was held from September 9th to November 8th, 2013, after which interviews were conducted by Sakotiiatanonha (the Overseers), an independent community group who will serve as advisers to the Trustees. Of the ten interviews conducted, six successful candidates were recommended for appointment as Trustees. Council appointed the Trustees in principle (MCR #276 2013-14) on December 16, 2013, which became official appointments on Jan 16th 2014.

The Community Trustees are: Gail McDonald; Patricia Francis; Kenneth Chaussi; Dwight Bero Jr; Tobi Mitchell & Leah Mitchell

Development of the Trust Agreement is nearing completion, and the Trustees will begin holding community information sessions in the coming months. Once finalized, the Community Settlement Trustees will oversee the financial proceeds from past and future settlements with the assistance of an investment manager. Within the next several months, the Trustees will begin soliciting proposals from community members and organizations in helping to determine, independent of Council, how best to disperse only the interested earned from the settlement's principal amounts. ❖

MCA Youth Representative: Kyle Thompson

She:kon. My name is Kyle Thompson. I was born and raised here in Akwesasne and I am a member of the Wolf Clan. I attended Salmon River Central High School where I continued my education at Herkimer County Community College. I graduated with honors from Syracuse University in the Public Health program in 2012. I currently work for the Department of Health as the new Addictions Mental Health Worker in the Wholistic Health and Wellness program at the Kanonhkwa't'sheri:io Health Facility located in Kanatakon.

As the Addictions Mental Health Worker I am available to guide individuals through breaking unproductive habits and helping to create productive, positive behaviors and thinking to motivate individuals towards healthier and happier lives. I have many years of experience working with adolescents on stress-related issues, mood, behavior, relationship challenges, self-esteem issues, and confidence building. I guide my clients through the many services that the Wholistic Health and Wellness program has to offer to help overcome challenges, plan for the future, and maximize success. I approach each individual with respect, openness and personalized attention.

Together we can identify the obstacles that are keeping you from true happiness. I strive to provide a space for people to feel cared about and safe to talk



about even the hardest of topics. My job is to help my clients reach their goals. Additionally, I assist in the coordination of projects, program implementation, organization of workshops, and presentations within the community.

Are you looking for a safe place to discuss what matters most to you? I would like to join you in identifying the supports you have and with these I will assist you in mapping out a way to get you to a better place! I welcome you to contact the Wholistic Health and Wellness program today. I look forward to getting to know you and your hopes and goals. ❖

Mohawk Council Extends Thanks for Support During Quebec Fuel Tax Settlement Process

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is pleased to see the conclusion of the Quebec Fuel Tax Settlement claim, which was administered through the Collectiva Class Action Services company. All settlement checks (with the exception

of a minor few) have now been distributed.

We would like to thank the Akwesasne community for their participation in this process. First Nations people applied in overwhelmingly large numbers and this claim was the largest Collectiva ever administered. The sheer volume of participants meant lower settlement payments for each individual, but to have so many First Nations people be the recipients of something positive is a cause for celebration. For Akwesasne, we have even more to be appreciative of, as for the purpose of this settlement Akwesasne was considered one single community regardless of borders and jurisdictions.

At this time, we wish to thank all the technical people who were involved in the claim process in any capacity, ensuring that the application process was as smooth as possible. We also ask the community to join us in expressing appreciation for the hard work and dedicated services of our postal workers, bank personnel, and check-cashing businesses, who went above and beyond their routine duties to provide exemplary service to our community members.

Mohawk Council would also like to thank the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec & Labrador and Regional Chief Ghislain Picard for initiating the claim.

Last but not least, *nia:wen* to Chief Louise Thompson, who spearheaded the effort of educating our community members on the class action suit, ensuring that all Akwesasne would benefit. Chief Thompson worked countless hours to assist community members in understanding the settlement and application process and she welcomed many into her own home to assist them. The leadership she exhibited in looking out for her community's best interest was exceptional and should be applauded.

Nia:wen kowa to all. ❖



MCA Responds to Talks of Quebec Separation

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is closely following Quebec's upcoming provincial election and the direction in which provincial leaders are proposing to go if they get into power. The media has indicated a potential of a Quebec referendum to separate from Canada should the political power change in the province.

Akwesasne would have some very real concerns about any potential Quebec separation from Canada. Two thirds of Akwesasne's territory is situated within the province of Quebec. Many of Akwesasne's islands are also located in Quebec. With the potential threat of this region's culture and language becoming distinctly French, we must concern ourselves with the reality that there is not even 1 percent of the Akwesasne population that speaks the French language. The every day languages are still Mohawk and English. An additional concern we'd have is that much of our vast territory in Quebec would be subject to new, more stringent laws that are alien to our culture. Many areas of our organization and the services we provide would also be impacted by the formation of a new Quebec government.

"If Quebec ultimately chooses to separate, I would advise our Council and community to hold our own vote in order to determine whether we would stay within the borders of Quebec or separate ourselves," said MCA Grand Chief Mike Kanentakeron Mitchell.

Quebec's election will take place on Monday, April 7, 2014. ❖

Kanien'kéha (Mohawk Lesson)

—Submitted by Kaweienon:ni (Margaret) Peters

Oh niwenhni'tò:ten?
What month is it?

_____ niwenhni'tò:ten.
The month is...

Tsiothohrkó:wa/January
Enníska/February
Enniskó:wa/March
Onerahtókha/April
Onerahtókó:wa/May
Ohiariha/June
Ohiarihkó:wa/July
Seskéha/August
Seskehkó:wa/September
Kenténha/October
Kenténhkó:wa/November
Tsiothóhrha/December

Ka'nikahá:wi?
What season is it?

_____ nikahá:wi.
The season is...

Akohserà:ke/winter
Kakwitè:ne/spring
Kanenna'kè:ne/fall
Akenhnhà:ke/summer

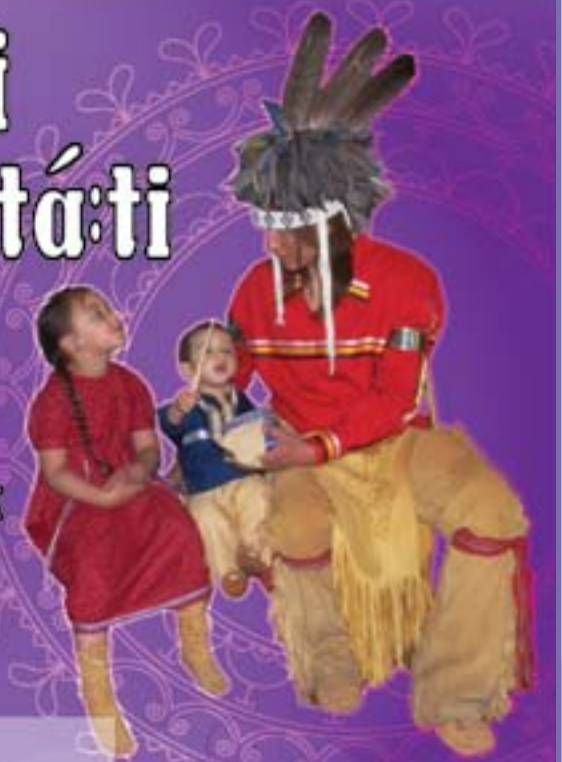
TSÍTHA KARÉN:NA (Bird Song)

Ónhte wenhniserí:io (*oh it's such a nice day*)
Ne tho aionkwathón:te'ne (*for us to hear*)
Tsítha en en enthaterennó:ten (*the little bird singing*)
Tsi iote'nèn:rate (*on the branch*)
Karenní:io o (*it's such a nice song*)
Karenní:io tsi rarén:note (*such a nice that he's singing*)
Tsi ttre, Tsi ttre
Tsi iote'nèn:rate (*on the branch*)

"Everyday Mohawk" brochures and CD's are available at the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education Office for \$20. These were created through collaboration between Taiaiake Alfred of the University of Victoria and Kaweienon:ni Peters, AMBE Kanien'kéha Specialist.

Tóhsa lonkwá:ti Kanien'kéha Tewatá:ti

Let's Not Lose It Let's Speak Mohawk



MESSAGE BY THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE
PROMOTING OUR MOHAWK LANGUAGE

Entsiakwakaèn:ion Tsi ni Kionkwè:non

"We will be looking back at where we came from"

First Contact: 1440's – 1648

North America and its many indigenous People's were not 'discovered' on October 12th, 1492 by the Spanish Crown sponsored expedition of Cristoforo Colombo. In fact the lands had already been inhabited since time immemorial. There were many others that have come in contact with the America's before 1492. The question is who made First Contact with the Americas?

There is both physical and oral evidence that the Norse landed and settled in parts of Newfoundland. The Norse crossed the ocean from modern day Greenland in the late 10th century. The environment proved too harsh for them and by the middle of the 15th century all settlements were abandoned in 'Vineland'.

Between the year 300 to 1200 CE, the Polynesian people explored and colonized many islands in the Pacific including Hawaii and there is a high chance they have encountered parts of the western shores of the Americas. There is strong evidence that these explorers brought the sweet potato from South America and propagated it across their Pacific settlements.

There are hundreds of stories and oral traditions, from Africa, Ireland, Scotland, China, Japan and other sea-exploring civilizations that border on myth who spoke of lands across the oceans that may have been the Americas. Until there is more evidence to support these claims most are regarded as only theories.

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY: RELIGIOUS DUTY

When Christianity spread all over Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire, many royal kingdoms raised crusades to create Christian control of the Holy Lands and to expel all non-believers from the region; especially the holy city of Jerusalem. It became a religious duty to convert or subjugate non-Christian people, and to take control of anything that was not owned by another Christian.

The Vatican issued decrees called, Papal Bulls that served to communicate the Roman Catholic Church legal view. In 1455 the Pope issued *Romanus Pontifex*, this papal bull allowed Christian kingdoms the right to legally claim and conquer lands belonging to non-Christians in Africa.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Born Cristoforo Colombo in the Republic of Genoa, which is modern day Italy. He became interested in exploration and heard stories of lands that reside on the other side of the Atlantic. Europe had already estimated the world to be a spherical shape since ancient Greece and Columbus had heard rumors of other sailors finding lands and riches in the west. After receiving Royal sponsorship from the Spanish Crown to find new trade routes to the West Indies, Columbus sailed west in 1492.

After landing on the Caribbean islands and meeting the indigenous people, Columbus remarked, "I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I pleased." When it was reported to the Spanish crown that the indigenous people had knowledge of gold, it sparked a gold rush. In 1493 the papal bull *Inter caetera* allowed the Spanish Crown to gain legal titles to all lands and resources they discovered by divine right. This is the same document that the U.S. Supreme Court in *Johnson v. M'Intosh* (1828) cited that justified colonial land claims in America over Indigenous land claims.

Soon every European nation wished to stake a land claim in the New World as the new lands promised more resources and new sources of slave labor. Explorers were sent to discovered more areas and staked Royal claim to these lands. When Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci founded that the coast of Brazil was actually a new continent and not the West Indies he named it America. Indigenous people throughout the Americas now began meeting and dealing with European explorers that seek gold and lands while carrying guns, disease and religion.

JACQUES CARTIER AND THE ST. LAWRENCE IROQUOIS

While the Haudenosaunee were based in modern day central New York, a similar but distinct group named the St. Lawrence Iroquois by the French lived along the great river valley that ran from the Great Lakes into a large gulf. The French Explorer Jacques Cartier found the large river entrance in 1535 on the Feast of St. Lawrence; he named the gulf and traveled up the river. He soon found the large



palisade villages of Stadacona (modern day Quebec City) and Hochelaga (modern day Montréal) and began trade relations with these indigenous people.

Archeological evidence suggests that the St. Lawrence River people had a life style and culture similar to the Haudenosaunee, but are still considered a separate and distinct people. It should be known that not much survives about the St. Lawrence Iroquois, not even their proper name has survived. What little records that survived about their language, suggest that the St. Lawrence Iroquois match very closely the Haudenosaunee linguistically. Shortly after they meet Cartier, disease spread quickly and by the time the French returned many of the settlements were abandoned. By 1580 the St. Lawrence Iroquois had disappeared and many were absorbed into the neighboring nations, most notably the Mohawk. It is debated by experts as to the exact cause for the end of the St. Lawrence Iroquois people as it could have been any combination of disease, warfare and/or migration.

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN: FIRST CONTACT

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain founded the French settlement of Quebec City on the ruins

of Stadacona and journeyed with local surviving indigenous people to explore the interior. In 1609, Champlain and his men accompanied a war party of Algonquin, Montagnais and Etchmin to attack the Haudenosaunee along Lake Champlain as part of an annual dispute over the lake resources.

Mohawk war parties took the offensive and after the first volley of gunfire from Champlain, the Mohawks loss three men and scattered. The following year the Mohawk war party ducked under the gunfire and was successful at driving Champlain and his allies away from the lake. This first contact made the Haudenosaunee and specially the Mohawk understand two things, do not trust the French as they allied themselves with old enemies, and seek new European allies that could supply these new weapons called guns.

TWO ROW WAMPUM: BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Also in 1609 the Englishman Henry Hudson, employed by the Dutch East India Company, explored the Atlantic coastland and found a natural deep river channel, which he named the Hudson River. After it was reported there were lands and potential indigenous trade partners in the newly found areas,

Dutch businesses funded expeditions to establish trade relations. Shortly after hearing that non-French Europeans were exploring the Albany area, the Mohawks sent representatives to establish trade and to secure allies.

An agreement was established between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch business men in the Albany area. They agreed to have a mutual trade agreement that would respect each other's autonomy, symbolized as the journey of two separate vessels traveling down a river. Each party was to stay in their respective vessel and not to interfere with the other's vessel while peacefully sharing resources. The 'separate but equal' thinking was adopted from the philosophy of the Great Law of Peace and started the basis for all Haudenosaunee international relations.

While the exact date and location of this agreement has been debated by scholars and many disregard the L.G. van Loon document and its exact date of 1613. Oral tradition of the agreement has been immortalized by the Haudenosaunee in a wampum belt, called the 'Two Row' or Kaswentha which depicts two parallel purple lines that begin on a white background. The parallel lines enforce the notion of 'separate but equal' philosophy and that the lines are to run into infinity affirming the Haudenosaunee commitment to eternal peaceful co-existent.

The Dutch established their colony of New Netherlands officially in 1614 and established an extensive trade partnership with the Haudenosaunee

15TH CENTURY TERMS

Indian is from the misnomer of a person being from the 'West Indies' or South Asia and Indian Ocean area. There is also the theory the name comes from the Spanish expression of En Dios meaning 'in God.'

Canada is from the Huron-Iroquois word kanata for 'village'.

Iroquois is the French interpretation of the Algonquian-Basque word hirokoa for 'killer people.'

Mohawk is from the Narragansett word mohowawog meaning 'man-eaters.'

via the Mohawks. The Dutch establish New Amsterdam (modern day New York City) and Fort Orange (modern day Albany) as major trading posts. The Haudenosaunee acknowledged Albany as the location for all Dutch and international relations. Dutch metal work and guns begin being traded for Haudenosaunee prepared furs, thus sparking a very lucrative fur trade.

BLACK ROBES AND SICKNESS

The Society of Jesus was formed in 1540 and shortly after the Jesuits began spreading the message of the Catholic faith across the world, especially among the French settlements of North America. The Jesuit pursued education and learning, and were the first scholars to learn indigenous languages and culture in order to better relay the message of the Bible through local languages and beliefs.

In accompanying French traders who were seeking trade goods among First Nations people, the Jesuits would then spread the Catholic Church teachings, hoping to convert and educate the newly founded people. This also had the side effect of spreading European diseases among indigenous people. Each village would have different results from the presence of the black robed missionaries, from establishing good relations of trade or spreading of sickness and death. The 'Black Robes' soon began gaining a mixed reputation among indigenous people.

MOURNING WARS AND EPIDEMICS

The Haudenosaunee had a strong sense of family and when there was a loss, the family would find a way to fill that gap. Many times a Clanmother would sanction a raid on neighboring peoples in order to replace members of her clan that were lost to disease or conflict. These actions have been termed by scholars as 'mourning wars,' where in a state of grief a raid party would be dispatched to attack and capture people to replace the family they had lost. These new captives would then be assimilated into Haudenosaunee culture.

Between 1630 and 1660, large waves of disease spread throughout the Haudenosaunee and a vast majority of people died from disease, with some estimates ranging between 75%-98% causality rate. From one scholar's estimation there were less than 1000 Haudenosaunee people alive during the height of the disease causality rate. The diseases

were spread by a mixture of trade meetings and the missionary work of the Jesuits. Due to the large amount of losses, raid parties were dispatched in every direction to collect survivors so they could be adopted and assimilated into the Haudenosaunee.

The raid parties fiercely tried to replace the rapidly decreasing population, and many raid parties are said to have reached as far west as the Mississippi River, all along the Great Lakes region, and south to the Carolinas. Stories of Mohawk raid parties still are passed down in Anishinaabe oral traditions to scare little children. It is estimated that people from over thirty two different nations were captured and absorbed into the Haudenosaunee. These actions of assimilation would have both positive and negative consequences.

CONTINUATION

From the uncertainty of contact, scholars continue to debate the significance of each European explorer's discoveries. As more research and evidence is conducted the history of first contact will be more clearly defined. Further archeological evidence will shed light on many theories and stories about first contact.

The Haudenosaunee had mixed feelings with European explorers, as the French allied themselves with traditional enemies and the Dutch only sought fur trade partners. A vast collection of personal records have been preserved from those first meetings and should be noted that all of these early written records are from a European perspective. Of note is the 'Jesuit Relations' collection of the missionary journals and letters that document Jesuit interactions with indigenous people of North America. Also there are the journals of early Dutch explorers, who documented their first journeys into Haudenosaunee lands.

Oral tradition should not be left out, as there are many wampum belts and oral histories that have been preserved by the Haudenosaunee and neighboring First Nations. The Two-Row concept and other agreements are immortalized in wampum belts and each has their own unique history and context for their creation.

Contemporary scholars and writers have also submitted their work and perspectives. Many sort through the Eurocentric first perspective writings and combined both oral history and physical evidence to support or disproved long held beliefs on

the first contact between First Nation and European peoples. Further personal investigations should be conducted to gain a well-rounded understanding of the First Contact era and appreciation for differing perspectives.

The next article will expand on what each European power envisioned for North America and how the Haudenosaunee and other First Nation people coped with their new neighbors.

—Written by Phillip White-Cree ARRO, Researcher

FURTHER RESEARCH

1492: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann (2006)

The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents: Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791 (Originally in French, Latin and Italian; translated into English)

A Journey into Mohawk and Oneida Country, 1634-1635: The Journal of Marmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert translated and edited by Charles T. Gehring and William A. Starna (1988)

In Mohawk Country: Early Narratives about Native People by Dean R. Snow, Charles T. Gehring, and William A. Starna (1996)

Ordeal of the Longhouse: The Peoples of the Iroquois League in the Era of European Colonization by Daniel K. Richter (1992)

Journal of Early American History, Volume 3 Special Issue: *Early Iroquoian Contact: The Kaswentha Tradition, the Two Row Wampum Belt, and the Tawagonshi Document, 2013*

Haudenosaunee Decolonization Workshop

A three-day workshop was held from March 14th–16th that spoke to the current ‘colonized’ state of First Nation people and how they can ‘decolonize’ themselves by returning to their Indigenous roots. The workshop was led by Bob Atone, PhD and Chief Howard Elijah, and was hosted at the Mohawk Nation Longhouse. It looked at the multiple ways that colonization has affected people; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

The presentation touched on historical sources of trauma that the community has faced and continues to cope with—from first contact to foreign-concepts of law. Discussion topics ranged from the Doctrine of Discovery and aspects of the Creation Story to critical thinking skills and the sharing of stories. It revealed that everyone has been ‘colonized’ to varying degrees however, by supporting each other and using our traditional teachings we can help repair the damage.

Through talking circles organized by clan, the audience was able to participate in discussions of how to ‘indigenize’ and improve the community’s physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

The workshop was well-attended and stirred up needed discussions. The Aboriginal Rights and Research Office was honored to have participated.

It was also announced that further discussions will take place on the Onondaga Nation Territory this summer as the Onondaga will host the next reciting of the Great Law of Peace. ❖

—Phillip White-Cree ARRO, Researcher



The Mohawk Nation Longhouse.

Independent First Nation Treaty Focus Meeting

Grand Chief Mike Mitchell and a person from the Aboriginal Rights and Reach Office (ARRO) attended the IFN Treaty Focus Meeting hosted by the Six Nations community March 19th – 20th. Representatives of the different IFN communities such as the Bkejwanong Territory, Chippewas of Saugneen, Chippewas of Nawash, Six Nations and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug all met and discussed how treaties affect their communities. The discussions focused on how we can communicate the importance and indigenous understanding of these treaty agreements to the larger Canadian government and population.

ARRO presented a brief overview of Akwesasne and how treaty agreements affect Akwesasne historically and presently. Grand Chief Mike Mitchell also spoke briefly to the current state of Akwesasne and how further discussion would be beneficial to raise awareness and improve the understanding of treaty agreements for everyone. Future meetings were discussed and will be attended by MCA schedule permitting. ❖

—Phillip White-Cree ARRO, Researcher

New Fish Advisory for Akwesasne Families

Eat Fish!

The Akwesasne community was forced to deal with environmental degradation in many forms, including restrictions to eating locally caught fish. The good news is fish contaminant levels have improved for multiple species and there are now many options for Akwesasne:non to eat and we can once again enjoy the nutritional benefits of a traditional diet.

Advice for the ENTIRE Family

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Fish Advisory project began in 2012 with the award of grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in collaboration with the New York State (NYS) Department of Health and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The resulting ‘Akwesasne Family Guide to Eating Locally-Caught Fish’ contains information on contaminants of concern, better choice fish to eat, a pull out map, advice on catching, preparing, cooking and eating fish, and a frequently asked questions section. Most importantly, the advice on better choice fish to eat was designed for the entire family, including pregnant women and children.

Get Your Copy

Pick up your copy of the ‘Akwesasne Family Guide to Eating Locally-Caught Fish’ at the SRMT Environment Division (449 Frogtown Road), or at various locations throughout the community including. An electronic version is also available for download at www.srmtenv.org. The SRMT project staff appreciates the community’s help with this project and hope you will tell us what you think about the new guide. We will be asking you to complete a short survey about the guide in the coming months and everyone who completes the survey will receive a FREE gift.

Questions? Comments? Want more information?

Contact the SRMT Environment Division at (518) 358 – 5937. Niawenkó:wa!

Fish Are Good for You!
A healthy diet should include good sources of protein – such as fish or seafood. Fish and seafood are low in saturated fats and a good source of omega-3 fatty acids which may help to prevent heart disease. It is recommended adults eat at least 6-8 oz. of a variety of cooked fish or seafood a week; less for children. Pregnant and breastfeeding women should be extra cautious that their choices of fish are low in contaminants like mercury and PCBs because of the risk to developing fetuses and young children. For more information about fish and seafood consumption for pregnant and breastfeeding women and/or children, please contact the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program at 518-358-3141.

Catch

- Choose younger and smaller fish within a species because they contain fewer contaminants than older, larger fish.
- To prevent the growth of bacteria, keep freshly caught fish on ice and out of direct sunlight.

Prepare

- Wear gloves when cleaning fish.
- Remove the skin, fat and internal organs before cooking to reduce the amount of some contaminants.
- Refrigerate at 40 degrees or below until ready to cook.

Cook

- Grill, bake or broil fish so that the fat drips off while cooking to reduce the amount of PCBs (mercury is found throughout the fish and cannot be cooked off).
- Cook thoroughly (internal temperature at least 145 degrees).
- For even healthier meals try not to cook with additional fat or salts. For more information on healthy meal ideas or cooking tips, contact the Let's Get Healthy Program at 518-358-9667.

Eat

- A portion of cooked fish for an adult is 3-4 oz. or about the size of your palm without your fingers.
- A meal larger than 3-4 oz. may be considered more than one portion.
- Space out your portions over a month to further reduce contaminant exposure. For example, if you caught a brown bullhead, it would be healthier for you to eat two portions a week for four weeks.

Advice for the Entire Family

Best Choice for Everyone to Eat

- Brown Trout (from smaller streams)
- Brook Trout
- Yellow Perch
- Rock Bass
- Sturgeon
- Brown Bullhead
- Walleye smaller than 18"
- Rock Bass
- Pumpkinseed/Sunfish

Up to 8 portions a month

OR

Up to 4 portions a month

- Chinook Salmon
- Coho Salmon
- Rainbow Trout
- Brown Trout (from St. Lawrence River)
- Largemouth Bass smaller than 18"
- Smallmouth Bass smaller than 18"
- Walleye larger than 18"
- White Sucker

OR

Up to 1 portion a month

- Muskellunge
- Northern Pike
- Channel Catfish
- Largemouth Bass larger than 18"
- Smallmouth Bass larger than 18"
- Lake Sturgeon

Do Not Eat

- American eel
- Carp

Avoid

Preventive Steps to Avoid Household Floods

Shekon Akwesasne Homeowners,

This is a friendly reminder that spring is almost upon us. That means all homeowners should be checking the operation of their sump pumps. Here are a few recommendations for community members of Akwesasne for surface and ground water issues:

- Be sure to check your eaves, troughs, and down spouts.
- Make sure they are clear of debris and ice
- Make sure the down spouts are arranged to take water away from the house.
- Don't let any water pond around the house.
- Ice and snow build up from roof may cause the water to pond around house.
- When plowing drives make sure that snow is pushed away from building.
- May require removal of ice and snow around home to allow water to drain away. Keep decks and porches shoveled off.
- Make sure your sump pump is operational
- Make sure that the pit is free of debris and float is freely operational.
- Check the drain for any blockage or freezing at the discharge point.
- Drains should be hard piped and sloped away from the house to prevent freezing and plugging of pipes. Flexible pipes may hold water and freeze.
- Sump pumps should have back flow preventers (check valve) installed on the pipe to prevent short cycling of pump, this will allow longer life span of pump.
- Make sure your home insurance has flood coverage and is up to date.
- Always have a spare sump pump ready to go for emergencies.

Included is a diagram of an acceptable sump pump arrangement. Note; pumps may vary but arrangements are basically the same. If you are not a frequent visitor of your basement you may want to install an alarm system that is wired to the living space of your home.

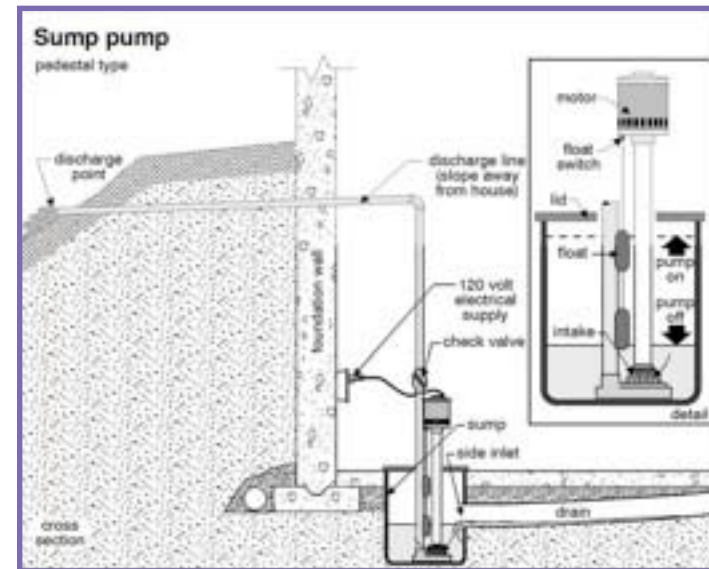
If you experience a high volume of power outages there are a lot of different type pumps on the market that have battery backup systems. Provided is a picture of pump with backup power supply system.

Please take the time to do these preventative measures in your homes. Basement floods can be costly and time consuming, not to mention damage to personal and sentimental items that cannot be replaced.

NOTE: Elders in our community may need assistance in these procedures for they may not be able to get up and down the stairs or shovel the snow. Please check on your neighboring elders in the community and assist them with the checking of their sump pump and draining issues.

Nia:wen

Housing Department



Update: Akwesasne Community Justice Program

The Akwesasne Community Justice Program would like to begin this update by introducing our “newest” team member—Cheryl Swamp. Cheryl will be working with any Aboriginal Youth that are involved in the Criminal Justice System.

April 6–12, 2014 is the National Victims of Crimes Awareness Week. We would like to encourage community members to participate in any of the following workshops and activities hosted by the Three Sisters Program:

- “Dangers of Technology”—Thursday, April 10th from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Seniors Center. This is a workshop with Tim Losito to help educate children and parents on the dangers of social media and cell phones.
- “Movie & Discussion”—Saturday, April 12th from 11 am to 2 pm at the Tsi Tetewatkins Seniors Center. The movie that will be shown is FEAR and will be followed by a short discussion.

We would also like to inform the community that

the Akwesasne Community Justice Program has an Aboriginal Courtwork Program to assist with any involvement in the Canadian Judicial System. To learn more about this service, please contact the Akwesasne Community Justice Program at 613-575-2250 ext. 2400. ❖

Legal Aid Phone Numbers

1-800-668-8258
Ontario Legal Aid

For any questions or if you need legal aid assistance.

1-450-370-3064
Valleyfield Legal Aid Office

Make an appointment for legal aid assistance.



Akwesasne Community Justice Program: (Back from left) Aboriginal Court Worker Michelle Smoke, Program Manager Rena Smoke, ACFS Case Manager Everett Lazore, Youth Liaison Worker Cheryl Swamp. (Front from left) Community Service Monitor Jennifer Boots, Youth Re-integration Worker Erin Seymour.

Rent-to-Own Home Available

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Housing will soon have a Section 95 Rent to Own Home available for occupation. The home is located in the district of Tsi Snaihne, in the former Skakarati subdivision. It is a single family, three bedrooms, one bath home on approximately 1/3 acre of property.

Community members are encouraged to apply and to update their existing applications on file. Application information is systematically scored and the house will be offered to the highest scoring applicant.

Section 95 Rent to Own Homes are specifically for community members who do not own land. Any individual with land in their name does not qualify and would be referred to the new construction program.

To be eligible for the Section 95 program, community members must:

- Complete all areas of the application. Information provided is entered into a database. An incomplete application will lessen the chances of successfully obtaining unit.
- Provide income verification (proving the ability to pay for 25 years)
- Be in good standing at MCA
- Be a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne.
- Successful applicant must provide a deposit of \$300.00. The monthly payment is \$451.00.

The deadline to submit an application is May 9, 2014 to allow time for processing. The expected availability date is June 1, 2014.

To apply or for more information on this and other housing programs and opportunities, please contact the Department of Housing at 613-575-2250 Ext. 2304 or Ext. 2312.



Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Logo Contest



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is seeking to replace its existing logos and unify the organization under one new image. This will improve our organization's efficiency and help the public in general better identify us as the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

One logo will be selected winner and the artist will be rewarded with a \$500 prize!

Requirements:

- Logo must feature a rendering of Akwesasne's Wolf Belt
- Logo must feature a rendering of a partridge
- Logo must feature the words "MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE"
- Logo must feature no more than 5 colours
- Logo must be reproducible in black and white without losing quality/purpose
- Submissions must include artist's name and contact information

Rules:

- Contest is open to all Akwesasronon of all ages
- Contestants may submit more than one entry.
- Winning artist will be required to release all rights and ownership to the logo
- Winner will receive a \$500 prize pending copyright release

Deadline:

Entries, hard copy or digital copy, must be submitted to the MCA Communications Unit no later than April 28, 2014 at 4 p.m. Entries may be dropped off to Admin II/Mohawk Government, 3rd Street, Akwesasne, Quebec

H0M1A1, Attention: Communications Unit, or emailed to:

Communications@akwesasne.ca



If you have any questions, please contact the Communications Unit at 613-575-2348 Ext. 2210.

**INFORMATION NOTICE FOR INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT –
PERSONAL CREDITS FOR EDUCATIONAL ENTITIES AND GROUPS**

Why have you been sent this Information Notice?

Common Experience Payment recipients and/or certain family members may be coming to you to use non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3000 for educational programs and services.

What is the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA)?

The IRSSA is the largest class action in Canadian history. Implementation began on September 19, 2007, following the agreement reached between legal counsel for former students and the Churches, the Assembly of First Nations, other Aboriginal organizations and the Government of Canada to achieve a fair and lasting resolution of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

One of the key components of the IRSSA is the Common Experience Payment (CEP), which was to be paid to all eligible former students who applied from a \$1.9 billion trust (referred to as the Designated Amount Fund – DAF).

What are Personal Credits?

Personal Credits are defined in the IRSSA as credits that have no cash value, and are redeemable for either personal or group educational programs and services, provided by approved educational entities and groups.

Personal Credits can be used by Common Experience Payment recipients or certain family members as defined in the Court-approved terms and conditions, which can be found at the website below or by calling the Personal Credits toll free line (also below).

How can Personal Credits be used?

Personal Credits are available for a wide range of programs and services including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services which relate to the preservation, reclamation, development or understanding of native history, culture or languages. Personal Credits can also be used for either approved individual or group training activities.

If your organization is included on the list of approved Educational Entities and Groups for Personal Credits, which can be found on the Official Court Website at www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca, it will have a key role to play in the delivery of eligible educational programs and services. Since Personal Credits are non-cash, students will not be able to make an up-front payment, so the Educational Entity or Group will have to submit the redemption form to receive payment directly from Crawford Class Action Services (the Court appointed administrator).

If an organization is not included on the list of approved Educational Entities and Groups, please consult the website for more information.

For Group Educational Services:

First Nations, Métis and all other non-Indian CEP Recipients may choose to pool their Personal Credits with other CEP Recipients for family members who have been transferred Personal Credits in a Group Educational Service. These Group Services are aimed at the preservation, reclamation, development or understanding of native identities, histories, cultures or languages.

Individual CEP Recipients may choose to pool their Personal Credits with other CEP recipients and/or family members who have been transferred Personal Credits towards Inuit culture and language programs or services to be designed and delivered in the Inuvialut Settlement Region, Nunavut or Nunavut. These Services will be delivered by educational entities and groups with assistance from the appropriate Inuit Land Claims organization (Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) for the Inuvialut Settlement Region, Makivik Corporation for Nunavut and Nunavut Tunguvik Inc. (NTI) for Nunavut).

What is the process to access Personal Credits?

There is a three-step process for Personal Credits: notification, acknowledgement and redemption.

Notification: Every CEP Recipient will be sent a direct mail notice that explains how they can access and use their Personal Credits. A national campaign using television, radio and print media will be used to further reach CEP recipients and their families to ensure they know how to access information on Personal Credits.

Acknowledgement: As part of the direct mail notice, each CEP recipient will receive a personalized Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form to complete and return to Crawford Class Action Services (the

Court-appointed Administrator). The CEP recipient will indicate who will be using the Personal Credits and for each individual how much of the \$3000 credit will be used at each Educational Entity or Group.

Redemption: Once the Administrator approves the Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form, an approval letter and personalized Personal Credits Redemption Form(s) will be sent to the CEP Recipient. There will be a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using a Personal Credit at each Educational Entity or Group. The individual will take their form to the Educational Entity or Group identified on it to register for the educational program or Group Educational Service. The Educational Entity or Group would then:

- verify the identity of the individual who is named on the Redemption Form;
- verify the name of the Educational Entity or Group listed on the Redemption Form (only the Educational Entity or Group on the form is eligible to submit the Redemption Form for reimbursement);
- register the individual;
- complete the expenses section of the Redemption Form including only eligible expenses;
- submit the Redemption Form, proof of registration and invoice to the Administrator for payment.

What is the deadline for Personal Credits?

Personal Credits Redemption Forms must be received by the Administrator, postmarked no later than December 1, 2014. Late Personal Credits Redemption Forms will not be accepted or honoured.

Where can I obtain more information on Personal Credits?

More information including Court-approved terms and conditions, a list of approved Educational Entities and Groups, instructions for Personal Credits Redemption Forms, a sample Personal Credits Redemption Form, a sample Personal Credits Group Redemption Form and eligible expenses can be found on the Official Court Website at:

www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca

or by calling the Personal Credits toll free number at 1-866-343-1058. This website will be updated on a regular basis.



April is Oral Health Month

Oral health is an important part of overall health. Good oral health contributes positively to your physical, mental and social well-being and to the enjoyment of life's possibilities, by allowing you to speak, eat and socialize unhindered by pain, discomfort or embarrassment. —*Canadian Dental Association*

Brushing and flossing, following a healthy diet, and visiting the dentist regularly are all part of ongoing oral care for healthy teeth and gums. Read on for great tips on oral health.

- 1. Visit Your Dentist On A Regular Basis**—your dentist will advise on how frequently you should see them. Depending on individual circumstances, regular checkups may be every 3, 6 or 9 months.
- 2. Keep Your Mouth Clean**—brush your teeth at least twice a day and use floss. Floss helps to remove food and plaque which gets lodged or forms between the teeth and gums. Flossing helps to reduce bad breath and gum disease. Using a mouthwash can help reduce plaque from forming, reduces infection and eliminates bad breath.
- 3. Eat, Drink But Be Wary**—healthy, unprocessed nutrient rich foods help the body fight any

infection. Reduce sugar intake. Sugar is a major cause of dental problems. Brush your teeth after consuming sugary drinks and food.

- 4. Check Your Mouth Regularly**—gum disease (periodontal disease) is the most common cause of tooth loss. Warning signs include bad breath, sensitive gums which are red, sore, shiny or swollen, and gums which bleed after brushing or flossing. Check also for the warning signs of oral cancer. Oral cancer normally occurs on the sides of the mouth, on the floor of the mouth and on the lower side of the tongue.

Oral Cancer Warning Signs Include:

- o small lumps or thickened areas in the mouth
- o red or white patches in the mouth
- o a feeling of tingling or numbness in the mouth
- o bleeding in the mouth with no obvious cause
- o sores in the mouth which do not heal

- 5. Avoid All Tobacco Products**—using tobacco (chewing or smoking) can cause minor and major oral health problems. Minor problems include bad breath and teeth staining. Major problems include heart disease, oral cancer and other cancers.

— *Information from Canadian Dental Association*

Join ACT NOW for the First Young Women's Luncheon & Open House

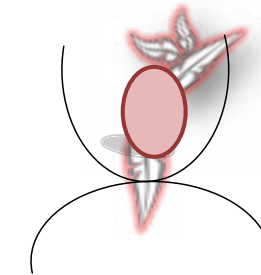


Open House at the new ACT NOW office
Suite 210 of the Akwesasne Business Center
Wednesday April 16, 2014
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm Informational Luncheon
3:30- 5:30 pm Young Women Open House

Open to all Young Women Ages 15-26 interested in Positive Sexual Health, Leadership Skills Development, HIV/AIDS & STD Prevention
For More Info, Email Sarah at sherne@aich.org or (518)651-9087



GET FIT



Community Health Group Fitness

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rise & Shine Exercise With Shane 6:00- 6:45 a.m. St. Regis Rec Center	Circuit Training With Lorrie 5:30-6:30 p.m. Snye Rec Center	Rise & Shine With Shane 6:00- 6:45 a.m. St. Regis Rec Center Yoga 7:00- 8:30 p.m. A'nowarakowa Arena Please pre-register with Rachel x3241	Circuit Training With Lorrie 5:30- 6:30 p.m. Snye Rec Center	Walking Club Sign-In sheet Able to walk from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Except during Pro Games A'nowarako:wa Arena

Sponsored by: Community Health

Classes are FREE and open to ALL Community members



Hazard Help Sheet

MCA's Annual Exercise 2014



A table top exercise was conducted at Snye Recreation Center on Tuesday, 25th, Ennisko:wa / March 2014. MCA's annual exercise allows us to test a single portion of the Akwesasne Joint Emergency Operation Plan (AJEOP). The exercise scenario was a chemical spill at the ALCOA Inc. East Plant that had its effects within the Territory of Akwesasne. This was a two (2) hour exercise.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the exercise were to:

1. To understand the importance of working as team during an emergency situation.
2. To understand the term, 'shelter-in-place' and know what to do when required.
3. To understand the concept of how to set up an Emergency Shelter.
4. How to access and utilize the resources in our community.

This year's exercise was a District Challenge. Participants were placed in teams based on their 'place of residence.'

Akwesasne's Team Challenge winners was Team Kawehnoke!



WINNERS TEAM KAWEHNOKE

BACK: Josh Mitchell, Brandon David, Bruce Robertson
FRONT: Diane King, Regina Jacobs (Instructor), Rhonda Adams, Joe Francis, & Cory Tarbell

See YOU next year!

Brought to you by MCA's Emergency Measures & DOH's Community Health Nurses (CHN's)

TEAM	POINTS
Kanatakon	150
Kawehnoke	159
Ostonron:nonkeh	114
Tsi Snaihne	148

REQUIREMENTS

The Ministry of Health (MOH) requires that a table top exercise be conducted annually. The last table top exercise completed for the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Community & Social Services was in Ennisko:wa / March 2013.



NIAWENKO:WA / THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

BACK: Barry Montour, Mike Francis Jr., Tracy Cook, Hilda King, Dawn Day, Amanda Garrow, Kyle Thompson, Melanie Gibson, Diane King
FRONT: Geraldine Jacobs, Joyce King, Allison Lamesse, Dana Skye, Agnes Jacobs
Not Pictured: Lynn Thompson



Hazard Help Sheet

Thunderstorm Safety

Thunderstorms can bring lightning, heavy rain, hail, strong winds and tornadoes. Lightning kills about nine (9) Canadians each year and seriously injures more than a hundred (100) people.



THUNDERSTORM SAFETY TIPS

If you are indoors:

- * Stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors — strong winds and large hailstones can shatter them.
- * Avoid running water in your house — lightning can enter through pipes and plumbing.
- * Don't take showers or baths during a thunderstorm.
- * Remain indoors during a thunderstorm and stay inside for at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.
- * Be prepared to seek shelter in a basement or interior room on the lowest level if conditions worsen.

If you are outdoors:

- * If you hear thunder, then lightning is close enough to be dangerous — take shelter in an enclosed building or metal-topped vehicle.
- * Avoid water, high ground, isolated trees, power lines and picnic shelters — small, open structures don't protect you from lightning.
- * If there's no shelter, go to a low-lying area away from tall, isolated objects — crouch down and put your feet together — do not lie down.

PREPARE YOUR HOME

Take the following steps so you're ready in the event of a thunderstorm:

- * Review safety tips with everyone in your house.
- * Have a safe room in your home where everyone gathers during a storm — away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- * If there's a tornado, gather in a basement, storm cellar or interior room on the lowest floor.
- * Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- * Bring inside or tie-down garbage cans and lawn furniture.
- * Use surge protectors — a safety electrical plug that will shut off the power if lightning strikes to prevent damage to your computer and other household items

POWER OUTAGES

If the power goes out, check with your local power provider for information and updates.

- * Turn off appliances and electronics to prevent damage in the event of a power surge when power comes back on.
- * Keep your fridge and freezer closed. Some food can keep for 24 to 48 hours.
- * Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- * Avoid water near electrical equipment.
- * Don't use outdoor grills or barbecues indoors.

For more information contact:

Emergency Management Ontario

www.emergencymanagementontario.ca

Brought to you by
MCA's Emergency Measures



Join the Traditional Medicine Program at the SRMT Training Center *every Thursday* afternoon from 1:30 - 3:30 for the

Creation Story

Aronhiaies Herne will be presenting Creation Story sessions every Thursday starting

Thursday, April 24 - Thursday, July 3

Sessions will be open to the first 50 to register. Open to all ages

To register please call the Traditional Medicine Program

at (613)575-2341 ext. 3115

or you can email

tinam.mitchell@akwesasne.ca

aronhiaies.herne@akwesasne.ca