ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 12 | FREE | Tsiothóhrha/December 2026

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A JOURNEY OF CULTURE, CONNECTION AND LEARNING IN NEW ZEALAND



Akwesasró:non youth and staff recently travelled to Waikato, Aotearoa (New Zealand), to attend the three-day World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference (WISPC), where Indigenous peoples from around the world gathered to share knowledge, traditions and approaches to suicide prevention. During the conference, our youth proudly shared Kanien'kehá culture through traditional songs and dances, participated in discussions and presentations, and connected with Indigenous nations through cultural exchanges and shared teachings. Learn more about the conference on page 3.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

MCA COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNERS

December 3, 2026	December 14, 2026	December 16, 2026
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center	Kana:takon Recreation Center	Kawehno:ke Recreation Center
5:00-7:00 p.m.	5:00-7:00 p.m.	5:00-7:00 p.m.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

December 25, 2026 - January 1, 2027

Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE 2024-2027

Grand Chief
Leonard Lazore

Kana:takon District
Chief Cody David
Chief Fallon David
Chief Theresa Jacobs
Chief Teresa Oakes

Kawehno:ke District
Chief Lisa Francis-Benedict
Chief Lacey Pierce
Chief Tom Thomas
Chief Vince Thompson

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

Administration
Shannon Roundpoint
Executive Director

Donna Lahache
Director
Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education

Ashley Tarbell
A/Director
Dept. of Communications

Jaime Beechey
Director
Dept. of Community & Social Services

Kylee Tarbell
Director
Dept. of Economic Development

Stéphane Bissonnette
Comptroller

Tessa Jocko
Director
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiiostha Swamp
Chief of Police

WAT'KWANONHWERA:TON/GREETINGS

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

Contact: If you have any questions about MCA departments and services, please email info@akwesasne.ca or call 613-575-2250.

E-newsletter: Register for a weekly e-newsletter delivered straight to your email inbox. It's a great way to quickly stay up to date! Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/signup.

Social Media: Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat!

Mobile/Cell Text Alerts: Receive urgent or important messages right to your cell phone. Sign up by visiting www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts.

Website: News and general information can be found on our website at www.akwesasne.ca. This includes job postings and Council contact information.

Local Media: Find our news and information in Akwesasne's long-serving local media, CKON 97.3 Radio.

FIVE THINGS

OUR MONTHLY LIST OF FACTS, REMINDERS & IMPORTANT MESSAGES

1. **MCA warmly invites community members to come together for our annual Community Holiday Dinners! Enjoy a complimentary holiday meal and festive gathering, plus your chance to win a prize! Check out the flyer on the back page for event dates and details!**

2. **Akwesasne community members are invited to participate in upcoming consultation sessions regarding the Tsikaritsisere Trust. These sessions are an opportunity to learn more about the trust and share your thoughts on what priorities you would like to see supported. Check out the December consultation schedule on page 5.**

3. **It's that time of year! Kawehno:ke Recreation will be hosting its annual Spirit of Christmas event from December 4-6, 2026, followed by A December to Remember hosted by the St. Regis Recreation from December 7-10, 2026. Check out their Facebook pages for more details on these festive community events!**

4. **The MCA Akwesasne Justice Department is seeking community representatives to join the Working Task Group for the development of the Open-Air Burning/Fire Safety Law. Interested in getting involved? Turn to page 15 to learn more about the role and how to apply. The deadline to apply is December 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

5. **Winter weather can be unpredictable! Check out the MCA Emergency Measures Program's Winter Weather Checklist on page 22 for tips on preparing yourself and your family for severe winter conditions.**

NEWS

REPRESENTING AKWESASNE AT THE 2026 WISPC

From November 1-12, 2026, Akwesasró:non youth and staff travelled to Aotearoa, New Zealand, ready to share their Kanien'kehá culture, traditions and teachings with Indigenous peoples from across the world at the three-day World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference (WISPC), held in Waikato.

Throughout this journey, members of Akwesasne Child & Family Services, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and the MCA Department of Health have gone above and beyond to ensure our youth feel safe, supported and cared for while preparing them to share their knowledge, traditions and experiences with other Indigenous nations.

During WISPC, our Akwesasró:non had the opportunity to share their culture in meaningful ways, both through conversations and on larger stages. Youth and staff proudly performed traditional songs and dances before Indigenous peoples from around the world, who also shared their own cultural practices, traditions and teachings. These moments created opportunities to celebrate one another and strengthen connections across nations.

Throughout the conference, youth and staff participated in panel sessions, presentations and discussions exploring how Indigenous traditions, cultural strengths and community connections can support suicide prevention. Meaningful conversations took place between our Akwesasró:non and Indigenous relatives, with traditional gifts exchanged as gestures of friendship, respect and appreciation. Our youth and staff returned from these experiences with new knowledge, perspectives and connections that they are excited to bring home and share with their families and community.

This gathering was a powerful reminder of the importance of coming together as Indigenous peoples, sharing our stories, celebrating our cultures and learning from one another. By creating space for our youth to share their experiences and carry the knowledge of our ancestors forward, we continue to strengthen the bonds that connect us across generations, communities and nations.

Nia:wen to everyone who contributed their time, care and support to make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible for our youth. Your efforts helped create an experience that will continue to inspire, teach and strengthen our community for years to come.

On page 23, check out the breathtaking destinations the youth explored during their time in New Zealand.













MCA RESPONDS TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE INDIAN ACT

Kentenhkó:wa/November 4, 2026 — During the First Nations and First Ministers' Meeting held in Ottawa on October 26, 2026, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew called for the abolition of the Indian Act, while Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed openness to considering its reform or repeal. In light of these discussions, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) emphasizes the importance of ensuring that First Nations have a voice in decisions that affect their communities. No one speaks for Akwesasne but Akwesasne. Any decisions that may impact our community must be guided by our people and reflect their best interests.

MCA recognizes that the 1876 Indian Act is outdated and has severely affected how First Nations govern themselves for many years. However, each community must consider its own needs, priorities, and governance when determining what options are available for change for the betterment of their people. These differences must be respected and considered when discussing their future under the Indian Act or not.

As for Akwesasne, in 2013 the Mohawks of Akwesasne and Canada signed Agreements in Principles (AIPs) to begin negotiating a self-government agreement that will define a new relationship between Akwesasne and Canada. This important step was to collectively review the Indian Act and its antiquated provisions for a better legislation for the betterment of Akwesasne and its people. MCA believes more information and careful consideration are needed before any major changes to the Indian Act move forward. Our priority is to ensure that the rights and protections of the Mohawks of Akwesasne are maintained, including those related to our lands, governance, and tax exemptions. Any proposed changes must clearly explain how these protections will continue and ensure that our community is not negatively affected.

Akwesasne has already made significant progress in advancing its own path toward self-government through the Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement (ESGA). This ongoing process seeks to strengthen Akwesasne's authority over its own affairs while ensuring that the rights and interests of our community remain protected. The agreement continues to be developed with community guidance and input and will ultimately require approval through a community vote before moving forward.

MCA believes that any broader discussions surrounding the Indian Act must take into consideration the work already underway in Akwesasne and the importance of allowing our community to determine its own path forward. Changes of this significance require time, meaningful engagement, and appropriate safeguards to ensure that the rights and protections of Akwesasró:non are not compromised.

MCA remains committed to advancing Akwesasne's self-government priorities and participating in discussions that support the future of First Nations. Above all, we believe that decisions affecting Akwesasne must be guided by our people.



COMMUNITY VOICES, COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: TSIKARISTISERE TRUST

What priorities would you like to see supported through the Tsikaristisere Trust? Indigenous Governance Consultants LLC is inviting Akwesasne community members to participate in a series of consultation sessions that will continue throughout the month of December.

These sessions are an opportunity to share your thoughts, identify community needs, and help shape priorities that support the future well-being and prosperity of Akwesasne. Community input may help inform initiatives in areas such as land management, education, culture and language, the environment, housing, economic development, health and wellness, public safety, recreation, and more.

Your voice matters! Community members are encouraged to attend a session and help shape the future priorities of the Tsikaristisere Trust.

For questions or additional information, please email: info@indigenousgovernanceconsultants.com.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SCHEDULE
All sessions will be held from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3	Akwesasne Homemakers
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9	Akwesasne Homemakers
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12	Kawehno:ke Recreation Center
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17	Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

MCA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MEETS WITH CHEO: EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS TO PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Department of Health recently welcomed representatives from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) to the Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility in Kana:takon for a collaborative meeting focused on strengthening partnerships and improving access to specialized health services for Akwesasne children, youth and families.

The meeting brought together members of the Council Health Portfolio, MCA Department of Health Administration and CHEO representatives to share community health priorities, discuss existing service gaps and explore ways to strengthen pediatric care in the community.

Discussions focused on the health needs of Akwesasne children and youth, including access to pediatric care, mental health supports, developmental services and help coordinating care. Participants also discussed ways to make specialized services more accessible, including virtual pediatric appointments, secure online health platforms and the possibility of bringing specialized services to the Cornwall area. These options could help reduce some of the travel and other challenges families face when seeking care for their children.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives and identify areas where continued collaboration could help create more accessible, coordinated and culturally responsive health services for Akwesasne families.



MCA looks forward to continuing these discussions with CHEO and building on this partnership to support the health and well-being of children and youth in our community.

2026/27 AKWESASNE COMMUNITY FUND REVIEW TEAM REPORT FOR ROUND 2 FALL CALLOUT

The Akwesasne Community Fund was established by Council and is intended to support community-based not-for-profit community groups, organizations, and agencies within the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA). Funding for the Akwesasne Community Fund is derived from our community's overall share of Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation revenue. Council has set aside a portion of the revenue received to be distributed to the community to support various initiatives that might not otherwise receive government funding.

The concept of an Akwesasne Community Fund Review Team was established by Council to include representation from each of the three districts under the jurisdiction of MCA with the responsibility to: establish and annually update the eligibility criteria, guidelines, and application form; conduct a community callout for applications; review applications; make decisions to approve or deny applications; and determine how much funding to allocate to approved applicants.

A callout for applications for the Akwesasne Community Fund was advertised on MCA's website and Facebook page, at the front door to MCA buildings, and at local businesses within the three districts during the period of September 1, 2026 to September 29, 2026. A total of $50,000.00 was available for distribution through the Round 2 - Fall Callout, representing the remaining balance of the 2026/27 Akwesasne Community Fund budget, following Round 1 that took place in April 2026. A second callout was conducted to distribute the unallocated funds and provided an additional opportunity for eligible community applicants to apply for funding.

The following community members served as Review Team members:

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
Kana:takon	Amanda Jacobs and Jerome Cook
Kawehno:ke	Ivan Thompson and Tommy Francis
Tsi Snaihne	Jason Lazore and Hilda King

The following applications were approved for funding:

APPLICANT	FUNDING AMOUNT
Akwesasne Freedom School	$12,500.00
Akwesasne Kids Events	$5,000.00
Akwesasne Stars Cheer	$7,500.00
Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department	$12,500.00
Ionkwahronkha'onhatie'	$5,000.00
Thompson Family Halloween Spooktacular	$7,500.00
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED	**$50,000.00**

COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



Kenténha/October 26, 2026

- MCA Executive Director provided an update

Discussion Items:

- APTN Request
- Jake Fire/John Fire Monument
- Legal RFP
- Working Group
- Council Meeting Agenda

MCRs: *Designation of the ED as Authorized Signatory for Permit and Related Land Instruments; Allotment – St. Regis Village; Allotment – Chenail Range; Amendment to MCR 2025-2026 #303 date December 15, 2025; Acceptance of Resignation of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Trustee; Acceptance of Resignation of Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust Overseers; ISC Amendment No. 201 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-00024; ISC Amendment No. 202 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-00024*

Kentenhkó:wa/November 2, 2026

- MCA Executive Director provided an update.
- Dept. of Community & Social Services portfolio provided update

Discussion Items:

- AFNQL
- First Nations Minister Meeting
- Letter to Transport Canada
- Enbridge
- Jay Treaty Case

Presentation:

- Seaway update

MCRs: *Proposal to Justice Quebec to Develop and Implement a Healing Court; Service Contract for BrainLab Psychology Group; Accept D2L Contract; AMBE School Bus Purchase; Allotment; Oversight Committee on Legislative Development Kawehno:ke Representative*

Kentenhkó:wa/November 9, 2026

- MCA Executive Director provided an update
- The Grand Chief provided an update
- Entewatatha:wi Portfolio and Finance Committee provided an update
- Updates were provided on the following working Groups – Border Framework, Seaway Claim, Quebec Protocol, Federal Protocol, FAFSA & Selective Service
- Council Members who have attended conferences or meetings externally provided updates to Council

Discussion Items:

- Property
- Elders Proposal
- City of Cornwall Invite to 2026 Council Inauguration
- Hawke Wampum Peace Letter
- Ottawa Regional Supervising Coroner
- FNBD Oversight Committee
- Ethical Conduct Law
- Council Meeting Regulations
- Legal RFP

Presentation:

- Jay Treaty Case
- Community Engagement – Fish & Wildlife Population

MCRs: *Proposal to Justice Quebec to Develop and Implement a Healing Court; Housing – New Construction; Housing – Upgrade Application; Housing – Upgrade Application; Housing – Upgrade Application; Allotment – Cornwall Island; A'nowarakowa Arena Elevator Replacement Contract Award; Mohawk Language Curriculum Development and Digitalization; Physician Contract Amendment for 2026-2028; AMA – Tahoe Replacement Project; Iakwa'shatste Youth Fitness – Land Based Healing Cultural Educator 2026-29; American Eel Data Repository*

Kentenhkó:wa/November 16, 2026

- *The Grand Chief provided an update*
- *Property Acquisition Team (PAT), Government Secretariat and Justice Portfolios provided updates*
- *Updates were provided by the following working groups – Border Framework, Seaway Claim, Quebec Protocol, Federal Protocol, FAFSA & Selective Service*
- *Council Members who have attended conferences or meetings externally provided updates to Council*

Discussion Items:

- Meeting Request
- Treaty 6 Agreement
- Trust & Council Meeting

Presentations:

- Entewatatha:wi
- MCA Pension
- ALTO Project Update by Amal Jaddour, Louis Lesage, Nathan Wright and Kelly Leblanc

MCRs: *Appointment of External Auditor for March 31, 2027; Travel Expenditures Policy; Contract Amendment 2026-2029; Sector 5 Continuing Care Bus Purchase for Tsiiokwanonhso:te LTC; Ontario Health at Home – November 2024 SPO Services Agreement; Amending Agreement; Alaei Medicine Professional Corporation; Contract 2026-29; Relinquishment; AMBE Organizational Chart Update; Actions toward delisting the St. Lawrence River AOC and Strengthening community actions*

KAWEHNÒ:KE DISTRICT CHIEF TOM THOMAS UPDATES



Portfolios:

Akwesasne Rights & Research Office; Dept. of Economic Development; Dept. of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment

Selected Committees:

CBSA, Finance, Hydro Quebec, Iroquois Caucus, Lobbying

Good day, Akwesasne! My name is Chief Tom Thomas, representing the District of Kawehno:ke. I would like to take this opportunity to share a report on some of my activities, projects, and initiatives that I have been involved with on behalf of our community.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

River Road Rebuild Project — The River Road rebuild project was completed in mid-October, with only a remaining punch list of items to be addressed.

Peace Tree Mall Project — Work is underway at the Peace Tree Mall, including the removal of the old bricks on the building and repairs to the roof. This involves removing the old roof panels and installing new ones to improve the building.

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena – New Elevator — I recently sponsored an MCR for a new elevator at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena. This is an important project because it will allow our elders and residents with disabilities to access the second floor and enjoy watching lacrosse games and other major events. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy our community events.

New Salt Garages — We have new salt garages being built in both Kawehno:ke and Kana:takon to improve our winter road maintenance operations.

Hamilton Island Project — Construction of a new bridge located on Hamilton Island in Summerstown, ON is anticipated for this spring. Project is currently out to tender.

Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) Parking Lot Upgrades — Parking lot upgrades are currently underway at the AMPS station in Kana:takon.

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena Improvements — I am also looking into securing new seating for our arena. In addition, work will be taking place in the arena washrooms to improve the facilities for our residents and visitors.

New Firehall in the District of Tsi Snaihne — We have also been holding meetings regarding the possibility of a new firehall in the District of Tsi Snaihne. This is an important discussion as we continue looking at ways to improve emergency services and safety for our communities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Moving SIBC Toll Booth to the Crossroads — I am continuing to work on getting the Seaway International Bridge Crossing (SIBC) toll booth relocated to the crossroads on Kawehno:ke. This would help our people avoid sitting in traffic for hours at a time. Moving the toll booth to the other side of Crossroads would also provide an opportunity for our local businesses to flourish instead of simply struggling to get by. I believe relocating the toll booth is a much more practical and achievable option than waiting for CBSA to move, which could take another two to three years. This is about improving traffic flow, supporting our local businesses, and creating better economic opportunities for our people.

Natural Gas for Kawehno:ke Residents — I am also working on exploring a more affordable heating option for the residents of Kawehno:ke.

There has been a natural gas pipeline running through Kawehno:ke since 1956. Natural gas is currently one of the more affordable heating sources available, particularly with heating fuel prices continuing to increase around the world. There is no delivery charge associated with natural gas, and it is considered one of the safer heating options when properly installed and maintained.

I would like to make one thing clear: this would be an option for residents, not something anyone would be forced to participate in. If residents prefer to continue using their current heating source, that is entirely their choice.

My goal is to explore ways to help our people reduce their heating costs and provide more affordable options for their households.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Akwesasne Wolves U9 Hockey — On a more personal note, I have also been involved as an assistant coach with the Akwesasne Wolves U9 hockey team, working alongside head coach Storm Adams. Our boys and girls are having a great time playing together, learning the game, developing their skills, and getting better with every game. I have included some photos below of our young hockey players because it is wonderful to see these kids enjoying themselves and developing a love for the game.

These are our future hockey stars, and it is rewarding to be part of their journey. Supporting our youth and encouraging them to participate in sports is an important part of building a strong community.

CLOSING REMARKS

There is a lot of work taking place, and there are many projects and initiatives that I continue to be involved with on behalf of the District of Kawehno:ke and the greater Akwesasne community.

My commitment is to continue working toward better infrastructure, improved community services, economic development, affordable options for our residents, and opportunities for our future generations. I believe it is important to keep our community informed about what is happening and the work being done.

I would like to wish everyone in Akwesasne a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. May the New Year bring peace, good health, and prosperity to all our families and communities.

Niawenhkó:wa/Thank you very much!

Chief Tom Thomas
District of Kawehno:ke













SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

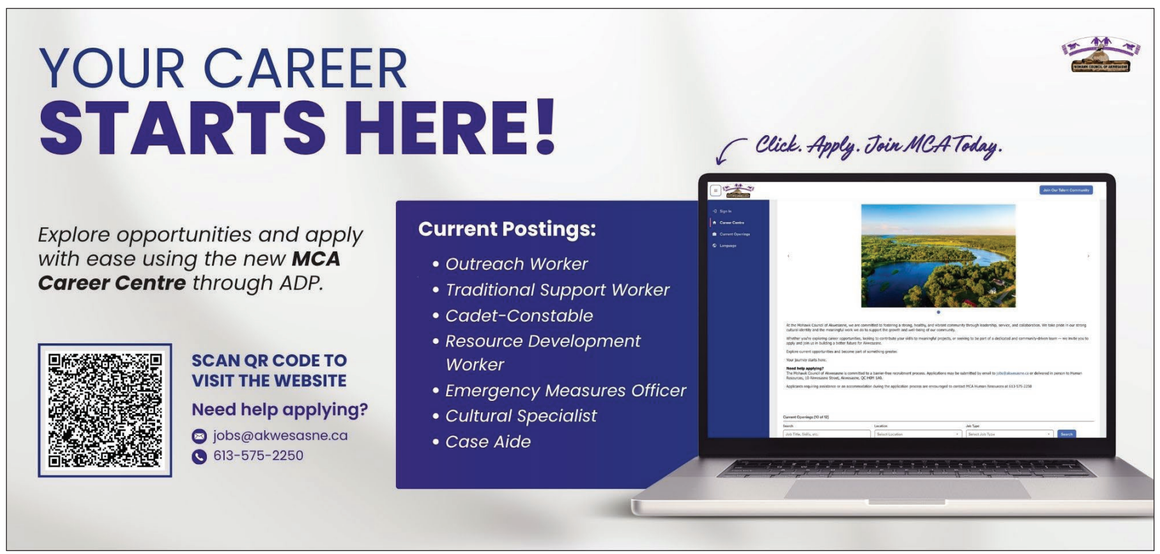
FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in November

1. Representing Akwesasne at the 2026 WISPC
2. Exploring Aotearoa: New Places, New Perspectives
3. Ratinenhri:ne Visits Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand
4. From Bingo Calls to Christmas Cheer: Catching Up with the Totas at Tsiionkwanonhso:te
5. Community Collaboration Brings New Bus Stop Shelter to Whoville

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in November

1. Representing Akwesasne at the 2026 WISPC — Reached 23,027
2. Ratinenhri:ne Visits Hamilton Gardens, New Zealand — Reached 14,673
3. Save the Date: Healing Week 2026 — Reached 12,346
4. Hadlen Worked his Magic in Akwesasne — Reached 12,150
5. Exploring Aotearoa: New Places, New Perspectives — Reached 12,104



CHILDREN'S PAGE

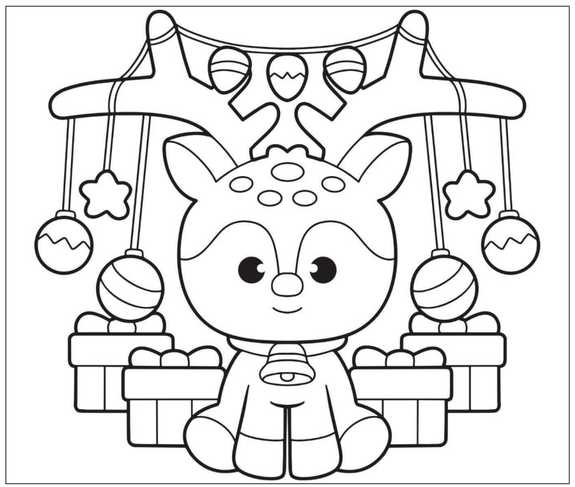


Build Your Own Gingerbread House

Design a fun and colorful gingerbread house!



COLOR THE REINDEEER!



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?
An abdominal snowman!

What does a snowman eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes

What do elves learn in school?
The elf-abet!

STUDENTS GO THE DISTANCE AT AMBE'S IETHIHAHON:NIEN RUN

A morning of movement, laughter, and friendly competition brought students from across Akwesasne to the A'nowara'kó:wa Arena grounds on Thursday, October 22, for AMBE's second annual Iethihahon:nien Run.

The event welcomed students from all three AMBE schools, Akwesasne Freedom School, and Tsiakwawennatonhe'ts, with participants from Head Start through Grade 8 joining in the fun. Families, educators, and supporters cheered from the sidelines as students challenged themselves and celebrated being active together.

The excitement extended beyond the youth races, as staff brought plenty of laughs to a teachers' race featuring inflatable costumes. Taking the top spot was Spongebob, who outpaced the competition to claim the Golden G.O.A.T. trophy!

More than a race, the Iethihahon:nien Run offered an opportunity to strengthen connections among schools and celebrate the importance of physical activity, friendship, and community involvement.

Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who helped bring this event to life, including the organizers, community partners, volunteers, and supporters who made the day such a memorable experience for students and families.










OFFICE OF
VITAL STATISTICS

Services provided by OVS:

- **Indian Status**
- **Lands**
- **Estates**
- **Membership/Residency**
- **Leasing**

CONTACT US

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101 Tewesateni Road (Kawehno:ke)
Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5

Tel: 613-575-2250 ext. 1013
Email: ovs.office@akwesasne.ca

MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

DONNA ARQUETTE, GLADUE AFTERCARE WORKER | AKWESASNE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM



Donna Arquette recently joined the "Justice League" as a Gladue Aftercare Worker, providing essential support to Akwesasne Community Justice Program (ACJP) clients through referrals, individualized healing plans, and the promotion of awareness and self-advocacy. Through her education and professional aspirations, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing accessible and community-focused justice initiatives.

She holds an Associate Degree in Teaching and a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice, as well as a Certificate in Restorative Justice from Vermont Law and Graduate School. She also completed graduate-level coursework toward a master's degree in counseling and was fortunate to take several courses with the late Dr. Peter Ladd of St. Lawrence University, who became both a friend and mentor. Dr. Ladd was well known and respected in Akwesasne for his many years of work with the community and for the support and training he provided to individuals and community programs.

Donna is also a graduate of the Tribal Probation Academy at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin, where she received specialized training in Tribal probation and justice practices.

On the home front, Donna is the proud mother of three adult children and grandmother of two beautiful grandsons. Her family means everything to her, and she especially cherishes the time she spends with her mother, children, and grandchildren, whom she considers her good medicine. When she is not working, she enjoys beading, making feather fans, creating wire-wrapped jewelry, and exploring many other crafts. She also enjoys kayaking, hiking, spending time outdoors, and, she admits, a little shopping!

Looking ahead, Donna hopes to continue growing in the field of community justice and to use the knowledge and experience she has gained throughout her career to help her people. She looks forward to continuing to learn, build relationships, and contribute to approaches that promote accountability while recognizing the importance of healing, support, and positive change.

Having worked for many years within the justice system on the U.S. side of Akwesasne, she is excited to broaden her knowledge of the Canadian justice system and the Gladue process. She especially hopes to learn more about the resources and culturally appropriate supports available to community members and how she can help individuals overcome barriers and move forward in a positive way.

Akwesasne is her home, and serving her community and helping others has always been an important part of her life. Her career includes nearly 20 years with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, including eight years as a Pretrial Services Officer with Tribal Court. Her professional background also includes more than 10 years in human resources and management, as well as several years with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission, where she progressed from Inspector to Lead Inspector and Senior Inspector.

Throughout her career, Donna has conducted background investigations, private investigations, and investigations involving employee complaints. These experiences strengthened her skills in interviewing, documentation, confidentiality, objectivity, and managing sensitive situations.

She has been a New York State Notary Public for more than 18 years and currently serves as a Deputy Electoral Officer with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Electoral Board.

Although her roles have been varied, there has always been a common thread: working with people and helping where she can. Her experiences have taught her the importance of listening, fairness, confidentiality, accountability, and treating others with dignity and respect. As a Mohawk woman from Akwesasne, she is grateful for the opportunity to bring these experiences into her new role and continue serving her community in a different capacity.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS WANTED FOR FIRE SAFETY LAW DEVELOPMENT

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Justice Department is seeking community representatives from Akwesasne to join the Working Task Group (WTG) for the development of the Fire Safety Law. Successful applicants will contribute their knowledge and perspectives on community safety, fire prevention, environmental stewardship, and related matters to help inform the legislative development process in Akwesasne.

Comprised of Council members and appointed community representatives, the WTG plays a vital role in developing legislation that protects and advances the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. Guided by the principles of peace, respect, and fairness, the WTG helps ensure that community perspectives are reflected throughout the legislative development process.

The WTG is currently seeking individuals with knowledge or experience in areas such as fire safety, conservation, environmental protection, or related fields. Members should be able to consider and balance diverse community perspectives while supporting the development of the Law. The WTG is committed to promoting environmental responsibility and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of Akwesasró:non.

Deadline to apply: December 22, 2026 at 4 p.m.

WTG members are compensated in accordance with the MCA Honorarium Policy. Meetings are generally held after regular working hours but may be scheduled at times agreed upon by the group. For more information or if you are interested in joining the team, please contact the Akwesasne Justice Department at 613-575-5000.

UNDERSTANDING THE ETHICAL CONDUCT COMPLAINT PROCESS

The Akwesasne Ethical Conduct Law outlines the standards of conduct expected of Members of Council, including their duties and responsibilities as described in Sections 6 and 7.

To help community members better understand how complaints under this law are handled, the Akwesasne Court is sharing an overview of the process.

HOW DOES THE COMPLAINT PROCESS WORK?
When an Ethical Conduct Complaint is received, it follows an established process:

1. **Complaint Received:** The Akwesasne Justice Director receives the complaint and forwards it to the Akwesasne Court Administrator.
2. **Independent Investigation:** The Court Administrator forwards the complaint to the Independent Prosecutor, who is responsible for investigating the allegations.
3. **Notification:** The Member of Council named in the complaint is notified that a complaint has been filed and that an investigation will take place.
4. **Investigation Outcome:** Once the Independent Prosecutor completes the investigation, one of two outcomes may follow:

- **Complaint <u>WITHOUT</u> Merit** — If the Independent Prosecutor determines that the complaint is without merit, both the Complainant and the Member of Council are notified, and the complaint is dismissed.
- **Complaint <u>WITH</u> Merit** — If the Independent Prosecutor determines that the complaint has merit, notices are issued to the Complainant and Respondent, and a hearing is scheduled. At this stage, the complaint becomes part of the Court record and is shared with the Respondent.

It is important to understand that filing a complaint does not automatically mean that a violation has occurred. Each complaint is subject to an investigation, and the next steps are determined based on the outcome of that investigation.

Community members can review the Akwesasne Ethical Conduct Law (#2015-14) through the Akwesasne Law Registry: <u>www.akwesasne.ca/law-registry</u>

For questions or additional information, please contact the Akwesasne Court at 613-575-2250 ext. 1025.

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

THE NUTFIELD TRACT AND AKWESASNE
PART TWO: NUTFIELD TRACT SURVEYS

Recap of Part One

After the American Revolutionary War, a large area which was approximately two miles wide (roughly 25 acres) by 20 miles long (roughly 505 acres) and covering roughly 30,000 acres between Charlottenburgh, ON and Cornwall, ON was reserved as a hunting ground and became known as the Nutfield Tract. From the late 1700s, settlers leased farmland there, providing rental income to Akwesasne, but survey errors, rent disputes, and unclear ownership undermined the system. These issues created difficulties for Akwesasne in administering the leases and collecting revenue. Between 1847 and 1859, the government sold the land to settlers, invested the proceeds, and paid Akwesasne an annuity.

Nutfield Tract Surveys — Part Two

Surveys were in process in the name of the Crown to mark boundaries of land patents that were distributed to Loyalist officers, soldiers and immigrant settlers. In 1784 a survey was attempted to help border the land patents and conflict arose when the survey reached the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River. It was stopped at the Raisin River by our Akwesasne Chiefs to claim landholdings over the Nutfield Tract hunting reserve near of the St. Lawrence.

A meeting at Coteau-du-Lac took place involving negotiations over the Nutfield Tract region, which Chiefs of Akwesasne met with the Department of Indian Affairs representative Colonel John Campell who was also Commander of the Loyalist regiments that were being settled in that area, giving him reason for agenda. The Royal Proclamation of 1763, along with several Treaties, were brought up at this Council claiming our landholdings over the Nutfield Tract. Nothing of these negotiations were resolved.

In 1786, the Crown employed five Deputy Surveyors to survey the Loyalist townships from Montreal to Kingston. Deputy Surveyor Patrick McNiff was responsible for the area around the Nutfield Tract. With substantial error, McNiff had placed the five (5) lots too far east, cutting thousands of acres from the Nutfield Tract hunting reserve; losing the benefits and loss of the land. It was stated that once Patrick McNiff hit swampy ground when surveying, he went around marking the huge error.

Jeremiah McCarthy was a senior deputy land surveyor and was hired by the St. Regis Chiefs to re-survey the boundaries of the Nutfield Tract. His survey was completed September 1809, and despite confirmation of the McCarthy survey, the St. Regis Chiefs still met problems created by McNiff's errors. The problems resulted from the Crowns' patents having been issued for the same land that the Chiefs were leasing as part of the Nutfield Tract. Lessees refused to pay rent for land claimed by patentees.

Under British law, a Crown patentee is generally assumed to hold superior form of title over a standard lessee. Settler's complaints about this conflict, were if settlers were granted a land patent from the Crown or a lease from the St. Regis Indians. Further conflicts between the Indian Department and the Chiefs with managing the leases and collecting rent money along with the people who held the title of these leases and titles.

Currently, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and its legal team is in pre-negotiations with Canada to compensate the cost of the McCarthy survey. Submissions to the Specific Claims Branch of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on the Survey Cost in September 2022. The submissions went under three-year legal review process and was accepted by the Minster for negotiations on January 5, 2026, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has agreed to negotiate the claim three months later April 13, 2026. Further updates will be continuous and spread to the community for awareness by the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office.

Looking Ahead

The history of the Nutfield Tract involves several important issues beyond its leasing and eventual sale. The final installment, Part Three will focus on the surrender of the Nutfield Tract and the historical records surrounding that process. Together, these three parts will provide a clearer understanding of the events that shaped the history of the Nutfield Tract and Akwesasne.

Article provided by the Akwesasne Rights & Research Office.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENT CRITERIA & BOOKING
AKWESASNE MEDICAL CLINIC & KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC

The MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector (CCS) provides same-day appointments for urgent or new health concerns. Please review the criteria and updated booking process before calling.

What is a Same-Day Clinic?

A same-day clinic is a block of time that is reserved for medical appointments that are made "that" day. Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC) does not schedule patients in these time slots any other time, other than the day the same-day clinic is scheduled.

When Can I Schedule an Appointment for the Same-Day Clinic?

You may call for a same-day appointment starting at 8:00 a.m. on the day of a scheduled same-day clinic.

What Should I Go to the Same-Day Clinic for?

Same-day clinics are for patients that need to be seen as soon as possible for minor problems. For example: cough, cold, earaches, sore throat, bladder infection, minor injuries, fevers, minor aches & pains, and return to work notes.

When Are the Same-Day Clinics Held?

All same-day clinics can change due to the availability of our providers. You can find out about the clinics through the clinic monthly calendars, which are available on the MCA Department of Health's Facebook page and MCA website at www.akwesasne.ca/medical-clinics.

Same-Day Appointment Criteria:

- Only one issue can be addressed per appointment; additional concerns will require a separate appointment.
- Not suitable for prescription renewals, form completion, or chronic issues (lasting more than three months).
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Patients 15 minutes late (including the 10-minute pre-appointment arrival) will forfeit their appointment and be offered the next available time.
- Patients ages 16 and over must book their own appointments. Appointments booked by someone else may result in no-shows.
- If you no longer need a booed appointment, please call the clinic as soon as possible to cancel.

Booking Process:

For all same-day appointments including weekdays and Saturdays, community members may call either clinic:

- **Akwesasne Medical Clinic**
  613-575-2341 ext. 3213
- **Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic**
  613-932-5808

A nurse will triage the call, review symptoms, and schedule an appointment if appropriate.



ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE MONTHLY TOPIC: TORN/DETACHED NAIL

SECTOR 4: CLINICAL CARE SERVICES · INTEGRATED SERVICES

It can be very painful to tear or rip your nail from the nail bed. A nail may separate from the nail bed (detach) for many reasons, including:

- Injuries.
  - » Separation caused by injury is common in people who have long fingernails. The nail may pry away from the nail bed when it is hit or jammed.
  - » Severe or repetitive toe stubbing may cause a toenail to detach. This is also common in athletes who wear shoes that aren't roomy enough.
- Fungal nail infection, which occurs when fungi invade a fingernail or toenail and the skin underneath the nail (nail bed). Toenails are more commonly affected than fingernails, and symptoms include cracked, yellow, discoloured, streaked, thickened, or spotted nails.
- Skin conditions, such as psoriasis.
- Chemicals, such as acrylic-based gel polishes.
- Medicinesm, such as chemotherapy or antibiotics.
- Severe illnesses.
- After a nail separates from the nail bed for whatever reason, it will not reattach. A new nail will have to grow back in its place. Nails grow back slowly. It takes about 6 months or longer for a fingernail and up to 18 months for a toenail to grow back.

How can you treat it at home?

Home treatment often helps relieve pain, promote healing, and prevent infection. Treatment may involve removing the nail, keeping the area dry to prevent infection, and waiting for a new nail to grow. The infection or skin condition that caused the separated nail will also need to be treated.

- File any sharp edges smooth or trim the nail. This will help prevent catching the nail and tearing it more.
- Trim off the detached part of a large tear or leave the nail alone.
  - » Cover the nail with tape or an adhesive bandage until the nail has grown out enough to protect the finger or toe.
  - » If you trim off the detached nail, you will have less worry about the nail catching and tearing.
  - » If you leave the detached nail in place, it will eventually fall off when the new nail grows in.
- Use scissors to remove the detached part of the nail if the nail is partly attached.
- Soak your finger or toe in cold water for 20 minutes after trimming the nail.
- Apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, and cover the area with a non-stick bandage.

To prevent infection:

- Soak your foot or hand in a solution of 5 mL (1 tsp) of salt dissolved in 1L (4 cups) warm water for 20 minutes, 2 or 3 times each day, for the next 3 days. Reapply petroleum jelly and cover with a fresh adhesive bandage.
- Keep the nail bed dry, clean, and covered with petroleum jelly and an adhesive bandage until the nail bed is firm or the nail has grown back. Apply a new adhesive bandage whenever the bandage gets wet.
- Watch for signs of infection such as increasing heat, redness, pain, tenderness, swelling, or pus.
- Remove an artificial nail if it separates from the nail bed. If you leave it on, the long, artificial nail can tear the nail bed.

Book an appointment with us:

Foot care services are available at two convenient locations: Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility in Kana:takon and Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care Facility on Kawehno:ke.

For questions or to book an appointment, please call 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.

MCA CLINICAL CARE SERVICES ANNOUNCES PILOT PROJECT WITH KIXCARE CANADA

The Department of Health's Clinical Care Services (CCS) is notifying the community on an upcoming pilot project with KixCare Canada. Clinical Care Services and KixCare Canada will be collaborating on this pilot project to provide Akwesasne families with comprehensive 24/7 physical and mental healthcare for children, anytime, anywhere.

WHAT IS KIXCARE?

- KixCare is Canadian digital and virtual healthcare subscriber platform dedicated to children's physical and mental health. KixCare offers the following features and services:
- 24/7 access, providing families with virtual access to paediatric registered nurses, nurse practitioners, paediatricians, and health specialists (such as psychologists, dieticians, and lactation consultants).
- Kix360° Platform, which is an on-demand care service allowing parents to message nurses, handle symptom triage, and receive guidance on growth, nutrition, and mental health.
- Kix360° Vitals, which is a program that pairs 24/7 paediatric Telehealth with diagnostic devices to let families perform clinical-grade exams at home.
- Coverage, which helps parents avoid long waits at walk-in clinics or emergency rooms, resolving a large majority of concerns virtually.

The KixCare Pilot Program allows for multiple children per family to be enrolled. All children signed up for KixCare need to have an MCA enrollment number/band card. Families signing up for KixCare must reside in one of the three MCA districts.

A current RAMQ/OHIP insurance card is required to participate in this pilot project. Prior to registering for this pilot program, please review your RAMQ/OHIP cards to ensure they are not expired, or close to the expiration date.

Should your RAMQ card be expired, or close to the expiration date, please contact Community Health Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 should you need assistance in renewing your RAMQ health insurance cards.

Should your OHIP card be expired, or close to the expiration date, please contact Service Ontario. Service Ontario has a site at the Cornwall Square, located on the corner of Water Street and Pitt Street in Cornwall, ON. Appointments can be booked online at services.ontario.ca/appointment-booking/home.

For more information on the KixCare Pilot Project, please call the MCA Department of Health Administration Office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3300.



DR. BAIER RETURNS TO KAWEHNO:KE MEDICAL CLINIC



The Department of Health's Clinical Care Services (CCS) welcomed Dr. Baier back to the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic (KMC). On November 25, 2026, Dr. Baier has resumed providing healthcare services to the Akwesasne community.

Dr. Baier will be providing same-day clinics and also seeing patients by appointment in the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic.

Valid OHIP/RAMQ cards are required to book appointments with any of the medical providers with the Clinical Care Services Primary Care team. Please check to ensure your health cards are current and not expired.

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

TSIIONKWANONHSO:TE ANNOUNCES MONTHLY FAMILY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long-Term Care (LTC) is pleased to share that a Family Council has been established within the facility. The council is made up of family members of LTC residents and will operate independently, providing a space for families to connect, exchange information, support one another, and share ideas and suggestions to help enhance the experiences of their loved ones.

The Family Council serves as a collective voice for families, offering an opportunity to raise questions, discuss concerns, and provide input on matters affecting residents and their families. Tsiionkwanonhso:te staff will participate in meetings upon request from the Family Council.

Monthly meetings will be held from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., with virtual participation options available. Watch out for the Family Council bulletin board in the front foyer of Tsiionkwanonhso:te.

For more information about the Family Council or how to get involved, please contact Ann Seymour at 778-689-0948.

NEW WAYS TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Mental Health Services is making it easier to get support when you need it.

Need to talk to someone? Same-day appointments are now available for one-time sessions or sessions as needed. Reach out and we'll connect you with a mental health counselor as soon as we can. Individuals looking for same-day appointments do no need to be in crisis.

Looking for longer-term counselling support, a psychological assessment, or a psychiatric diagnosis? Mental Health Services currently has openings with our psychologists. The first step is filling out a request for services form. An intake appointment will be booked as soon as we receive the completed form. Once the intake is complete, your next appointment with a provider is scheduled.

Demand for services has increased, so we encourage you to reach out soon. Appointment times will vary depending on availability.

To request services contact us at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115 or stop by our main office at Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io. You can also email: mentalhealth@akwesasne.ca.

CLINICAL CARE SERVICES OFFERING NURSE-LED CLINICS

The MCA Department of Health's Clinical Care Services Sector (CCS) is notifying the community that there are now nurse-led clinics available for community members in all three districts: Kawehno:ke, Kana:takon, and Tsi Snaihne.

The nurse-led clinics are able to provide essential primary care services and coordinate patient care. Our nurses will be holding regular clinics in all three districts and providing our community members with vital care and services.

Our qualified nursing team is able to provide a vast array of point-of-care and clinical care services, such as:

- Injections
- Vitals and head-to-toe assessments
- Wound care
- Prenatal care and well-baby visits
- Point of care testing: blood glucose, pregnancy, strep, UTIs, STIs, and more
- Ear irrigation
- Diabetes education and care
- Palliative care
- Infant & child care
- Bloodwork (in clinic and some home visits)
- Ostomy/catheter/nephrostomy care
- ...and many, many more!

To book an appointment with our nurses, please contact the Akwesasne Medical Clinic at 613-575-2341 ext. 3215 or the Kawehno:ke Medical Clinic at 613-932-5808.



Dawn King, *RPN/LPN*

As an RPN/LPN, Dawn is able to perform the following medical care processes:

- Injections: B12, Prolea
- Point of care testing: UTI, STI, pregnancy, strep, glucose
- Ear irrigation
- Vitals assessments
- Suture removal
- Snellen chart (visual accuity) exam
- B/P TRU monitoring
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
- Pain medication management/assessment (MME)



Shelagh Huffman, *RN*

As an RN, Shelagh is able to perform the following medical care services:

- Point of care testing: blood glucose, STREP, pregnancy, UTIs
- B/P TRU monitoring
- Bloodwork (in clinic and home appointments)
- ECG Testing
- Minor injections
- Suture/staple removal
- Assist with prenatal and well-baby visits



Kary-Ann Brisson, *RN*

As an RN, Kary-Ann is able to perform the following medical care services:

- Vitals/head-to-toe assessments
- Bloodwork (in clinic and home appointments)
- Injections (subdermal, intramuscular, subcutaneous)
- Wound care
- ABPI Testing
- Medication administration
- Glucose testing
- Ear flushing
- Point of care testing: pregnancy, blood glucose, pregnancy, strep, UTI, COVID-19
- Serious illness conversations
- Snellen chart (visual acuity) exam

EMERGENCY MEASURES PROGRAM

GET WINTER-READY: KNOW THE RISKS, BE PREPARED

Winter Weather Checklists are extremely important to have during extreme weather conditions. The Emergency Measures Program encourages Akwesasró:non to stock up on your emergency supplies for communication, food, safety and vehicles in case severe weather arrives and any storm hits. See the lists below on how you can ensure you and your family are prepared.

COMMUNICATIONS

Make sure you have one of the following in case there is a power outage:

- Cell phone, portable charger and extra batteries.
- Landline phone
- Batter powered radio for listening to our local radio CKON 97.3 FM.
- Make a Family Emergency Plan. Know where everyone is when and if you are separated.
- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly and assist as necessary.

WINTER STORM WARNINGS

Winter Weather Advisory: Expect winter weather conditions (i.e. accumulation of snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.) that could cause severe inconvenience and life threatening hazards.

Frost/Freeze Warning: Expect below freezing temperatures.

Winter Storm Watch: Be alert; a storm is likely.

Winter Storm Warning: Take action; the storm is in or entering the area.

Blizzard Warning: Seek refuge immediately. Snow and strong winds, near zero visibility, deep snow drifts and life threatening wind chill.

WATER CHECKLIST

Keep a water supply. Extreme cold can cause water pipes in your home to freeze and sometimes break.

- Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
- Keep the indoor temperature warm.
- Allow more heated air near pipes. Open kitchen cabinet doors under the kitchen sink.
- If your pipes do freeze, do not thaw them with a torch. Thaw the pipes slowly with warm air from an electric hair dryer.
- If you cannot thaw your pipes, or if the pipes have broken open, use bottled water or get water from a neighbor's home.
- Fill the bathtub or have bottled water on hand.
- During an emergency, if no other water is available, snow can be melted for water. Bringing water to a rolling boil for one minute will kill most germs but won't get rid of chemicals sometimes found in snow.

COOKING & LIGHTING

- Use battery powered flashlights and lanterns.
- Avoid using candles as these can lead to house fires. Never leave candles unattended.
- Never use charcoal or portable gas grills indoors. The fumes are deadly.

HEATING CHECKLIST

Turning on the stove for heat is not safe. Have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out:

- Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats.
- Fireplace with plenty of dry seasoned firewood or a gas log fireplace.
- Portable space heaters or kerosene heaters. Use electric space heathers with automatic shut-off switches and non-glowing elements.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Keep heat sources at least three feet away from furniture, drapes and other flammable items.

FOOD & SAFETY CHECKLIST

Have a week's worth of food and safety supplies. If you live far from other people, make sure you have more supplies on hand. Ensure you have the following:

- Drinking water
- Non-perishable food items (bread, crackers, dried fruit, etc.)
- Non-electric can opener
- Baby food and formula (if a baby is present in household)
- Prescription drugs and other medication
- First-aid kit
- Rock-salt to melt ice on walkways. Sand or kitty litter may be used as a substitute.

View additional Emergency Preparedness Resources for Power Outages and Extreme Cold by visiting: www.akwesasne.ca/emergency-measures.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

EXPLORING AOTEAROA: NEW PLACES, NEW PERSPECTIVES

As part of their journey to Aotearoa, New Zealand, for the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference (WISPC), Ratinenhri:ne's youth and staff had the opportunity to step away from the conference activities and experience more of the country during a day of sightseeing and exploration. Alongside relatives from the Seneca Nation, the group was welcomed by a local resident who generously shared their knowledge of the Hamilton area and introduced them to several of its beautiful natural landmarks.

One of the highlights was a visit to Wairēinga/ Bridal Veil Falls, where the group took in incredible viewpoints overlooking the lush green countryside and witnessed the impressive beauty and power of the waterfalls. The adventure continued with visits to several black sand beaches, offering another glimpse into New Zealand's remarkable landscapes.

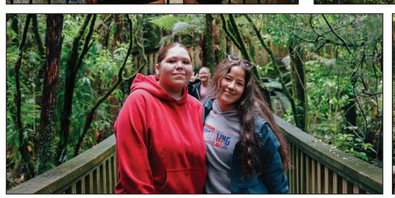
Despite strong thunderstorms throughout the day, the weather did little to dampen the excitement, as youth and staff embraced every opportunity to explore and take in their surroundings. From towering waterfalls to stunning coastlines, the experience provided a memorable opportunity to connect with the land, enjoy time together, and create lasting memories beyond the conference.

With the continued support of Akwesasne Child & Family Services and the team accompanying them throughout this journey, Ratinenhri:ne's youth are making the most of their time in New Zealand through opportunities to learn, connect, and experience something new.

Check out some of the incredible scenery and see our Akwesasró:non experiencing these breathtaking destinations for the very first time!









2026-2027 AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – FINAL CALL

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is currently accepting applications for the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program (AHAP). **The deadline to apply is Friday, December 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.** There will be no exceptions after the deadline, as the fuel distribution will commence.

The application process is open to Akwesasró:non who reside under the northern portion of Akwesasne, within 25 kilometers of Cornwall Island in Ontario, or within 25 kilometers of Tsi Snaihne in Quebec. One application per household.

The AHAP MCR has approved $2,000 per eligible household for the 2026-2027 winter heating season. This applies to both elders and non-elders.

Please be aware that the AHAP distribution every year is dependent on funding available and may be discontinued at any time.

All applicants will be required to provide documentation confirming their primary heating source that you would like paid. Documentation requirements may vary depending on the applicant's heating situation.

If you have any questions, please contact the MCA Community Support Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

DECEMBER 2026		
Monday - Friday	Community Support Program Office *(Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility)*	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesdays	Snye Recreation Center	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursdays	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5	A'nowara'ko:wa Arena	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2026 @ 4:00 P.M.		

HADLEN WORKED HIS MAGIC IN AKWESASNE

The Kawehno:ke Recreation Center was filled with laughter, excitement, and amazement today as Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) welcomed Hadlen for a special magic show in celebration of National Child Day!

Hadlen left the crowd spellbound with incredible illusions, mind-reading tricks, and plenty of surprises that had children and adults alike wondering, "How did he do that?!"

Two performances were held throughout the day, including a Special Needs Hour and a Community Hour. Both shows drew a great crowd, with children and families enjoying an afternoon full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable moments!

A big nia:wen to Hadlen, ACFS, and everyone who helped make this event possible. The real magic was seeing the joy and excitement on the children's faces!







COMMUNITY COLLABORATION BRINGS NEW BUS STOP SHELTER TO WHOVILLE



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is pleased to share that a new bus stop shelter was officially installed in the Whoville neighborhood of Tsi Snaihne on November 3, 2026, through a collaborative effort between MCA's Community Support Program (CSP), the Iohahi:io Pathways to Trades Program, and community members.

The idea for the project was first sparked when local resident Mike Mitchell built a small shelter to protect neighborhood children from the elements while waiting for their school buses. What began as a thoughtful gesture soon grew into a collaborative effort to provide a more permanent solution for local children.

Through a partnership between MCA's Community Support Program and the Iohahi:io Pathways to Trades Program, students had the opportunity to further develop their carpentry skills while bringing this project to life. With guidance from their instructors and support staff, they worked together to build a new bus stop shelter that will provide a safe and comfortable place for children to wait for their buses, especially during the colder months.

The project provided students with an opportunity to strengthen their skills in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving while putting their classroom learning into practice and making a positive contribution to their community.

MCA would like to recognize and thank everyone who helped bring this project to life:

- Mike Mitchell – Community Member
- Dan Bruyere – MCA Community Support
- Amanda Cook – Iohahi:io Pathways Manager
- Ron Lazore – Trades Coordinator
- Dan Pyke – Instructor
- Alison Henderson – Instructor Assistant
- Sabrina Sunday – Trades Helper
- Andrew Cook – Akwesasne FabLab, for creating the shelter's sign

A special congratulations and nia:wen goes out to the participating students in the Iohahi:io Pathway to Trades Program: Raiden Bush Garrow, Raroniahawi Lazore, Kysen Burns, Janie Johnson, Clayden Johnson, Kolby Smoke, and Charlie Sunday.

You should all be incredibly proud of what you have accomplished! Every time a child waits comfortably for their school bus in the shelter you created, your hard work will continue to make a difference.

Initiatives like this demonstrate the impact of hands-on learning and community collaboration, giving students the opportunity to develop important skills while using them to make positive contributions to Akwesasne. We look forward to seeing the great work these students will continue to accomplish and the difference they will make in our community.

MCA hopes to explore opportunities for similar projects in other areas of Akwesasne.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Shop local, spread cheer, and make this holiday season extra rewarding!

The holidays are the perfect time to show some love to the businesses that make our community special! The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Economic Development invites you to shop local this holiday season for a chance to win one of three gift baskets filled with goodies from Akwesasne businesses.

How to Enter

Every **$25** spent at a local Akwesasne business earns you **one entry** into the draw when you submit your receipt!

Prizes

$1,000 Buy Local Gift Basket
$500 Buy Local Gift Basket
$250 Buy Local Gift Basket

The more you shop local, the more chances you have to win!

Includes all Akwesasne businesses on either side of the border.

Have questions or ready to submit your receipts?
Contact Troy Thompson at troy.thompson@akwesasne.ca.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM





MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

COMMUNITY Holiday DINNERS

— 2026 —

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne welcomes community members to attend the annual Community Holiday Dinners!

Dinners held from 5 p.m to 7 p.m. each evening.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

MONDAY, DEC. 14
Kana:takon Recreation Center

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center







Photos with SANTA



























Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season and wonderful New Year!