

ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 9

FREE

Seskehkó:wa/September 2026

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YOUTH ENJOY A WEEK OF CULTURE, LEARNING & ADVENTURE



The Akwesasne Child & Family Services Traditional Support Team hosted another memorable Culture Camp from August 11–13, where Akwesasró:non youth participated in cultural teachings, land-based learning, and outdoor activities at Thompson Island Cultural Camp. The week wrapped up with a visit to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake and a refreshing swim at Meacham Lake. Read more about the camp on page 21.

UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

AMBE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

SEPTEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS

September 17, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.
Kana:takon, Kawehno:ke
& Tsi Snaihne Recreation Centers

ORANGE SHIRT DAY EVENTS

September 30, 2026

Generations Park
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lamoureux Park
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



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
Akwesasne 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

Heather Phillips
Director
Dept. of Finance &
Administration

Tessa Jocko
Director
Department of Health

Leslie Papineau
Director
Dept. of Infrastructure,
Housing & Environment

Cactus Cook Sunday
Director
Dept. of Justice

Ranatiostha 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 Join us this Orange Shirt Day as we honor the courage, strength, and resilience of our residential school survivors. The event will be held on September 30, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Generations Park. This free community event is open to everyone!
- 2 Applications are now open for the Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program's (ARAP) Winter Clothing Initiative for the 2026-2027 season! This initiative supports Akwesasró:non youth ages 17 and under, as well as post-secondary students up to age 26 currently enrolled in part/full-time courses! More information on how to apply is available on page 15.
- 3 Feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, alone, or feel like things will never get better? Help is here, and you don't have to face these feelings alone. MCA's Mental Health Services is always here to help and has provided youth mental health and support resources on page 20.
- 4 If you missed out on the Environment Programs E-Waste Drive in August, they have compiled a list of local locations you can properly dispose of a variety of household items, including general e-waste, white goods, alkaline batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs and paint. Check out the list on page 23!
- 5 Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can affect mammals and is most commonly transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal by bites, scratches, or contact with Saliva. If you encounter an animal showing unusual or aggressive behaviour, do not approach it, and contact the MCA Environment Program's Conservation Officer. Contact information and more information on rabies can be found on page 24.

NEWS

POLITICAL PROTOCOL RENEWED BETWEEN THE MCA AND CANADA

Ohiarihkó:wa/July 12, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the Government of Canada have officially renewed the Political Protocol, reaffirming their long-standing government-to-government relationship and the ongoing framework to address matters of importance for the community of Akwesasne.

Originally signed in 1999 and renewed in 2005 and 2012 respectively, the Political Protocol is not a new agreement, but rather it continues a long-standing process that supports ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and work on priorities identified by Akwesasronon.

"This renewal reflects our continued commitment to strengthening our government-to-government relationship with Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations (Canada) while ensuring that Akwesasne's priorities remain at the forefront of our discussions," noted MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore.

The renewed Protocol continues with a 10-year term and provides a structured approach for advancing discussions on key priorities identified by the MCA, including: governance, infrastructure, health, economic development, and the unique jurisdictional and border-related circumstances of Akwesasne. While it is an independent process, it also coordinates with the ongoing Akwesasne-Canada Entewatathá:wi Self-Government Agreement negotiations to prevent duplication of efforts.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Indigenous Services Canada, and Crown-Indigenous Relations will oversee implementation of the Political Protocol. The committee will guide work plans, monitor progress, and facilitate discussions on the

priority areas identified within the Protocol.

The renewal reflects the ongoing commitment of both parties to respectful dialogue, collaboration, and practical solutions that support the long-term well-being of Akwesasne.

"With this renewal, the Protocol will continue to be an important source of dialogue and co-operation with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. It will help us achieve results on community priorities together, strengthen our relationship and build a more resilient future," added the Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

"Relationships are the foundation of the work that we do together. They are built over time through listening, trust and respect. The renewal of this protocol reflects those values and reinforces our commitment to working closely with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Together, we will continue advancing collaboration, shared stewardship, and meaningful dialogue to build a stronger future for the people of Akwesasne," added the Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada.



MCA ADVISES COMMUNITY OF DEVICE REMOVAL ON KAWEHNO:KE

Ohiarihkó:wa/July 27, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is informing the community that a sound monitoring device was recently located on Kawehno:ke.

The device was brought to the attention of MCA after a number of community members reported its presence. MCA's Environment and Conservation Programs responded by removing it from its location, stopping the device from recording and the device is currently in MCA's possession.

MCA has since been advised that the device had been placed by a consultant as part of an external project. However, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, including Leadership and the Environment & Conservation Program, did not receive prior notification or consultation regarding its placement within the Territory.

Any data captured by the device while it was installed will be deleted before the equipment is returned.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne expects that any external agency, organization, consultant, contractor, or other party wishing to undertake work or install equipment within Akwesasne engage with MCA Leadership and the appropriate departments in advance. Respectful communication and consultation are essential to ensuring that activities within the Territory are conducted appropriately and in recognition of Akwesasne's governance and jurisdiction.

MCA appreciates the community members who brought the device to our attention, allowing the matter to be addressed promptly. We value your keen eyes and attention to detail.

MCA PROUDLY SUPPORTS AKWESASNE JR. B THUNDER

On August 14, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was proud to present the Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder with a \$5,000 donation to support the team's participation in the 2026 Founders Cup in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne proudly congratulates the Thunder on an incredible season and undefeated tournament run, earning a championship victory and the title of 2026 Founders Cup Champions! Their determination, hard work, and success gave the community much to celebrate, and they proudly represented Akwesasne on the national stage.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is proud to have supported the Thunder throughout their journey and congratulates the players, coaches, staff, and

families on an outstanding season. Their accomplishments are something the entire community can be proud of.

Congratulations to the Thunder on an incredible season and well-deserved championship!



CBSA AND MCA REMIND PUBLIC OF PROPER DOMESTIC LANE USE AT CORNWALL PORT OF ENTRY

Ohiarihkó:wa/July 31, 2026 – The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) are reminding travellers that the Domestic Lane at the Cornwall Port of Entry is open for service daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to support smoother and more efficient travel for the community and the travelling public.

The Domestic Lane was made permanent in January 2024 following the success of a pilot project launched in late 2020 through the efforts of the Border Collaboration Initiative. This joint MCA-CBSA initiative was created in recognition of the unique geography and daily travel realities of Akwesasne and Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island).

Since its implementation, the Domestic Lane has helped improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and shorten wait times for travellers crossing through the Cornwall Port of Entry.

The CBSA has noticed an increase in travellers improperly using the Domestic Lane after returning from the United States. The CBSA and the MCA remind the public that the Domestic Lane is available to travellers who are travelling directly from Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island) and have not entered the United States. Both Akwesasne residents and non-residents may use the Domestic Lane when travelling domestically. Signage at the Cornwall Port of Entry clearly identifies the designated Domestic Lane with a purple overhead sign labelled "Arriving From Island."

Reminders for travellers:

- All travellers arriving from or transiting through the United States, even if coming from Tsi Snaihne (Snye) or Kana:takon (St. Regis), must report to an open international lane.

- All travellers, including passengers in a vehicle, cyclists and pedestrians, must provide a verbal declaration as to where they are coming from (s. 11.7 of the Customs Act).
- If darkness or window tint prevents officers from seeing how many occupants are in the vehicle, the driver may be asked to lower the window to allow officers to address the other occupants, if necessary.
- All goods and products going inward to Canada must meet Canadian legislative requirements and if originating from the United States and must be declared (s. 12(1) of the Customs Act).
- Controlled, prohibited or regulated goods, including personal use exemptions, can only be brought into Canada in compliance with applicable policies and procedures. This includes prescription and over the counter drugs, nicotine pouches, vaping products, natural health products, and more.

The CBSA and the MCA continue to work collaboratively to support practical and community-based solutions that address the unique challenges created by the international border through Akwesasne.



AKWESASNE-QUEBEC POLITICAL PROTOCOL RENEWED

Ohiarikhó:wa/July 30, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) is informing the community that it has officially renewed the Akwesasne-Quebec Political Protocol Agreement, continuing a collaborative relationship that has evolved over more than 25 years.

The signing ceremony was held at Iohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne and brought together MCA Grand Chief Leonard Lazore, members of Council, Deputy Premier of Quebec, Ian Lafrenière, and staff from both governments to mark the renewal of the agreement and continued commitment to working together for the benefit of Akwesasne.

Originally signed in 2000 and renewed in 2014, the Akwesasne-Quebec Political Protocol Agreement provides a framework on matters of mutual importance while recognizing the unique jurisdictional realities of Akwesasne. The 2026 agreement reflects the continued evolution of a relationship that has been built over more than two decades. It also modernizes the previous agreement by strengthening governance, establishing a Liaison Committee to guide implementation, and introducing new areas of collaboration that reflect the evolving priorities of both governments. These include English-language communications, licensing of health professionals,

hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation, enhanced dispute resolution, and stronger commitments to on-going collaboration.

"Today's signing represents much more than the renewal of an agreement. It reflects the relationships that have been built over many years and the shared commitment of Akwesasne and Quebec to continue working together in a respectful and meaningful way," said Grand Chief Leonard Lazore. "This agreement recognizes Akwesasne's unique realities and creates a stronger path forward for collaboration over the next ten years. The true success of this agreement will be measured by what we accomplish together for our community."

The renewed Political Protocol is the result of more than a year of dedicated work involving the Akwesasne-Quebec Coordination Team, MCA leadership, the Government Secretariat Portfolio Chiefs, Directors, and representatives from the Government of Quebec. Through regular coordination meetings as well as council and departmental engagement, the agreement was developed to reflect Akwesasne's priorities.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the renewal of the agreement.



COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



Ohiarikhó:wa/July 27, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Youth Council (Deferred from July 20, 2026 Council Meeting)
- City of Cornwall – Land Acknowledgement
- Quarterly General Meetings
- Kawehno:ke District Meeting Questions:
 - » Mic Stand – Where is the Communication around it?
 - » Tax Exempt Deliveries to Kawehno:ke
 - » MCA Employee Health Coverage Over 60
- Long-Term Care Facility
- Garbage
- General Meeting Agenda

Presentation:

- ATIPP Update

MCRs: *Permission to Park Temporary Travel Trailer; Resignation of Kawehno:ke representative from the OSC on Legislative Development; DCSS Sponsorship for Provincials – OLG Funding; Revised Executive Ser-*

vices Org. Chart; Updated Finance Org. Chart

Seskéha/August 10, 2026

Discussion Items:

- Service Complaints
- AMPS Complaint
- Social Media Policy
- Sponsoring Quebec
- Hilltop drive
- Iroquois Caucus financial policies
- Treaty 6 & 7 Powwow
- Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award

MCRs: *Tsikaristisere Trust Community Consultant; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; Purchase New Backhoe Loader from Brandt Tractor; 30 Frank Benedict Lane 5 year lease with AFWP; Peace Tree Mall Façade Renovation – Construction Contract Award; 2026 Organization Chart Revisions; Traditional Medicine – Contract Renewal 2026-29, MOHLTC – ASER (IPHCO) Audit; Assignment of Lease – Hamilton Island; RBC Systems Replacement Upgrades – Engineer Design Phase Award; Council Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2026; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2026; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2026; Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder Allocation from Chiefs Discretionary Fund; Team Quebec Allocation from*

OLG fund

Seskéha/August 17, 2026

- Executive Director gave an update.
- Grand Chief gave an update.
- Government Secretariat Portfolio gave an update.
- Justice Portfolio gave an update.
- YECL (Youth, Elders, Culture, Language) Committee gave an update.

Discussion Items:

- Border Security
- Housing Mortgage Increase In-Out Limit
- Assistance for Legal Fees
- MOU Update
- Seaway Claim Update
- Elder Gathering Request
- DJ POWWOW Name
- Jake Fire Request
- Alliance Agreement Between IC and Treaty 6
- Hydro Pole Update
- Breach of Information

MCRs: *Cornwall Island Salt Storage Facility Construction Contract Award; AMPS – Akwesasne Organized Crime Unit Audit; ISC Amendment No. 197 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; ISC Amendment No. 198 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; RedMane Expansion; ACJP – Diversion Review Engagement*

KAWEHNÒ:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES



Portfolios:

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

Selected Committees:

Chiefs of Ontario Committee on Housing and Infrastructure; Iroquois Caucus Harvest Working Task Group (ICHWG); Property Acquisition Team (PAT); Youth, Elders, Culture, Language (YECL); CBSA Working Tables (Dundee POE, Cornwall POE, Pre-Clearance Table); Akwekskowa

Attended mandatory meetings and this report is for the notable meetings and initiatives I am currently working on.

- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (JULY)**
- Reviewed Financial Audit Report Plan.
 - Council Finance Committee reviewed roles and responsibilities.
 - Requesting administration to begin maintenance recordings to safeguard MCA assets, so we can provide financial support when maintenance upkeeps are needed.
 - Discussed Auditors roles and responsibilities.
 - Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) 2025 Audit (random selection).
 - Provided front and back of driver’s license to Finance Committee for signing authority.

CHIEF & COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING

Updates provided by the MCA Executive Director.

Notable updates:

- Ethical misconduct law review.
- Jordin Tootoo event at the A’nowara’ko:wa Arena.
- AMPS boats are now insured and back on the water.

- Tree fallen on dock system on Thompson Island.
- Discussion items:
- Banishment Law and possible joint banishment to be created between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and MCA.
 - Law amendment process was discussed.
 - Chiefs of Ontario (COO) update on data sovereignty and a request was made by Council for a presentation.
 - COO Economic Development – First Nations Bank that’s being initiated by independent first nations funds.
 - Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance issue while the services were transiting through the Cornwall Port of Entry (POE). Issue was resolved and provided an update to Council.

CHIEF & COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING

Updates provided on border issues and situations that have occurred at both CBSA and U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP).

PAT TEAM MEETING

Various properties entertained and reviewed; follow-ups are being conducted.

- ENTEWATATHÁ:WI PORTFOLIO MEETING**
- Various people of interest to be meeting with Public Safety Ministry and Fire Safety, Deputy Minister and the possibility of a boat tour of Akwesasne’s geographic waterways to be scheduled.
 - Introduction of Chief Negotiator, Michael Ridout.

DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development meeting was held concerning Indigenous Infrastructure Fund (IIF) funding for Arrow Trucking, which is a local native company.

Funding approval delayed payment was a concern and addressed by Portfolio and Chiefs.

- BORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVE (PRECLEARANCE TABLE)**
- Updates were provided on the Covey Hill Quebec Preclearance Pilot Project. Estimated timeline of opening operations.
 - Presentation of the fieldwork and feasibility study on the Rooseveltown, NY, POE for a possibility of a preclearance facility to be established for Akwesasne’s border crossing

- situation.
- Updates will be provided to the community as things progress.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO MEETING

Discussion items:

- IIF update on Arrow Trucking funding approval.
- MCA is not responsible for transfer of funds.
- Chief administrator of the IIF funds was identified and had discussions on the application after MCA approves the file by Mohawk Council Resolution (MCR). Utilizing the MCA Political Advisor on these matters along with the Quebec Liaison Officer.

- Discussions on the Political Protocol Agreement signing delay was a possibility of impacting the funding.
- Updates were provided on the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club (ABGC) operating out of the A’nowara’ko:wa Arena, which restricted the public from accessing the playground and splashpad.
- Discussed the Jordin Tootoo event held at the A’nowara’ko:wa Arena on July 7, 2026.

- ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO MEETING**
- Biggest concern presented at the meeting was the large number of rabies cases popping up in the territory of Akwesasne and it was stated that Akwesasne is only one case away from being put into outbreak status. The Environmental Conservation Department is aggressively distributing oral rabies vaccine baits throughout Akwesasne. We also requested that a communique go out about rabies awareness and what actions to take if you come in contact with a suspected rabid animal.
 - Additional rabies notifications of prevention measures being taken at this time.

- CHIEF & COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING**
- Executive Director follow-up reports on the possibility of the PAT team looking into leasing or purchasing the Akwesasne Business Center located on Frogtown Road.
 - The language revitalization strategy with a bundled approach to be addressed with Heritage Minister Marc Miller.
 - Grand Chief provided reports on his activities.

KAWEHNÒ:KE DISTRICT CHIEF VINCE THOMPSON UPDATES

- Updated on the Assembly of First Nation’s (AFN) Jay Treaty Border Alliance and Mobility Rights.
- Nation Building Update – New negotiators appointment from Canada, which is a concern.
- Establishment of MCA’s Department of Community & Social Services (DCSS) Children’s Activity Fund.
- Addressing concerns with the ABGC organization operating out of the A’nowara’ko:wa Arena.

AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE (ARRO) PORTFOLIO MEETING

- Meeting updates provided by the ARRO technicians on various files they have been working on. One was request for support on research from Vietnam War when First Nations returned to their respective communities.

- Update on the Nutfield Land Claim. Canada is putting together their negotiating team for negotiation purposes with MCA’s ARRO portfolio.
- Appointment of ARRO’s Legal Team.
- Additions to Reserve (ATR) Dundee Hopkins Point - Boundary markers are being placed on MCA owned property to provide cottagers with boundaries for MCA owned lands.

- Received update on Indian Day School Settlement Claims
- Updates were provided on work alongside the Environmental Conservation Department on Island assessments. The group also travelled to Main Duck Island working alongside Parks Canada. Tyendinaga showed no interest in research, therefore Akwesasne is participating.
- Informed of archeological discoveries on Solomon Cook property boat launch
- Katie Tucker of JFK Law LLP, Seaway Claim Representative, is still reviewing the cold-water report to determine whether its information can be used for the Seaway Claim. Land erosion caused by shipping channels remains a concern.

EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING JULY

An emergency meeting was held to discuss insurance matters related to MCA fleets and vessels, including Transport Canada’s concerns about vessels not being registered in Ontario. Council resolved the issue, and all MCA vehicles are now properly insured.

RIVERDALE TERRACE WATERFRONT RETIREMENT RESIDENCE TOUR

Tour organized by myself to give elders a tour of the Riverdale Terrance Waterfront Retirement Residence in Cornwall for the possibility of development on the acquisition of lands in the North Shore. This is the results from a presentation I was asked to present to the Tri-District Elders on the files I was working on to brief them on my ongoing initiatives that will benefit Akwesasne.

LEGAL SERVICES REVIEW TEAM

Participated in the review and evaluation of applications received through RFP for Legal Services from a larger law firm.

- BORDER COLLABORATION INITIATIVE – CORNWALL POE WORKING CIRCLE**
- Discussion items:
- Akwesasne Residents Remission Order being extended to the Dundee Port of Entry.
 - Commercial travel vs. Domestic travel.
 - Personnel issues impacting community members due to the long wait times.
 - Proper notification when issues arise as the port pertaining to technology crashes and network outages.

- KAWEHNNO:KE DISTRICT MEETING**
- Discussion items:
- Peace Tree Mall (PTM) renovation project and the impacts to businesses located at PTM.
 - Border matters at the Cornwall Port of Entry.
 - Lacrosse Provincials.
 - Block 1 Lands returned.
 - \$10K Elder Non-Emergency Funding Initiative.
 - Septic System program to be established for individuals in need of septic system replacement.

- DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT (DIHE) PORTFOLIO MEETING**
- Water connections was a large topic of discussion.
 - Received updates on various ongoing DIHE projects.
 - Announcement of who will be awarded the contract for the PTM renovations.
 - Update provided on the Sugarbush Road reconstruction.

- Update on the Kana:takon Beach construction and estimated time of completion.
- MCA & SRMT QUARTERLY MEETING**
- Discussion items:
- Child Rights & Responsibilities Law presentation (5 years in the making)
 - Inherent Rights Jurisdictions – This law is designed for taking back the inherent right for the care and control of our children’s wellbeing.
 - Update provided on the waterways as U.S. border agents request to access from SRMT Police Department Chief of Police Matthew Rourke
 - Improve the government-to-government relations
 - RCMP presence in our waters, push for roundtable discussions with all stakeholders concerning access to the Territory.
 - Data Center recording device that was found on Kawehno:ke.
 - Presentation on the Akwesasne Mohawk Ambulance operations and concerns.

AKWESASNE STORM MINOR LACROSSE DONATION

On June 23, Council and representatives from the Bank of Montreal presented a \$150,000 donation, to be distributed over five years to support the Akwesasne Storm Minor Lacrosse Association.

POLITICAL PROTOCOL RENEWED BETWEEN MCA & CANADA

I was present when the Political Protocol between MCA and Canada was signed on July 12, 2026. The agreement helps Akwesasne and Canada work together on issues that matter to the community and supports ongoing communication and cooperation to advance Akwesasne’s priorities.

AKWESASNE-QUEBEC POLITICAL PROTOCOL SIGNING

Attended the signing of the Akwesasne-Quebec Political Protocol renewal on July 30, 2026 at Iohahi:io. This agreement helps Akwesasne and Quebec work together more effectively on issues that impact the community, ensuring Akwesasne’s unique needs and priorities are recognized.

This is all I have to report at this time, if I have left anything out, perhaps my fellow chiefs can provide additional information in their reports. I will provide follow-ups as they progress. Nia:wen.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



FACEBOOK STATS

Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in August

- 1. A Community Message of Support
- 2. MCA Extends Condolences to the Family of John Tallon "Tate" Lazore
- 3. 24-Hour Mental Health & Wellness Support Hub
- 4. Fly High, Eagle: Remembering Larry Gauthier
- 5. MCA Proudly Supports Thunder's Founders Cup Run

Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in August

- 1. MCA Extends Condolences to the Family of John Tallon "Tate" Lazore — Reached 26,834
- 2. A Community Message of Support — Reached 24,776
- 3. 24-Hour Mental Health & Wellness Support Hub — Reached 23,592
- 4. Potential Delays at CBSA Cornwall Port of Entry — Reached 22,097
- 5. Clinical Care Services Announces the Departure of Rebecca Boyer, NP — 13,582

MCA KIND WORDS & KUDOS

The MCA Kind Words & Kudos initiative is a space dedicated to recognizing and celebrating individuals, teams, and organizations who are making a positive impact in our community. We invite you to take a moment to read this month's submissions, celebrating some of the many ways our staff continue to make a positive impact.

Gina Jones-Thompson
Department of Infrastructure, Housing & Environment | Housing Sector

"Gina's dedication to helping community members navigate the housing loan process deserved recognition. She goes above and beyond to guide applicants through their paperwork, answer questions, and advocate for them throughout the approval process. Her patience, professionalism, and willingness to walk people through each step can make a challenging process much easier to navigate. Even on difficult days, Gina continues to greet others with a smile and approaches her work with care and compassion. Her commitment to helping others and ensuring community members have the best opportunity to succeed is truly appreciated. Thank you Gina, for all that you do!"



CHILDREN'S PAGE

CONNECT THE DOTS!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Unscramble the words

Cholso

Ketobtox

Kackapbc

Begol

Pelap

HELP THE KIDS FIND THE SCHOOL BUS!

All About Me!

Name

My Birthday

Favorite Subject

Favorite Food

Favoriate Color

When I grow up I want to be...

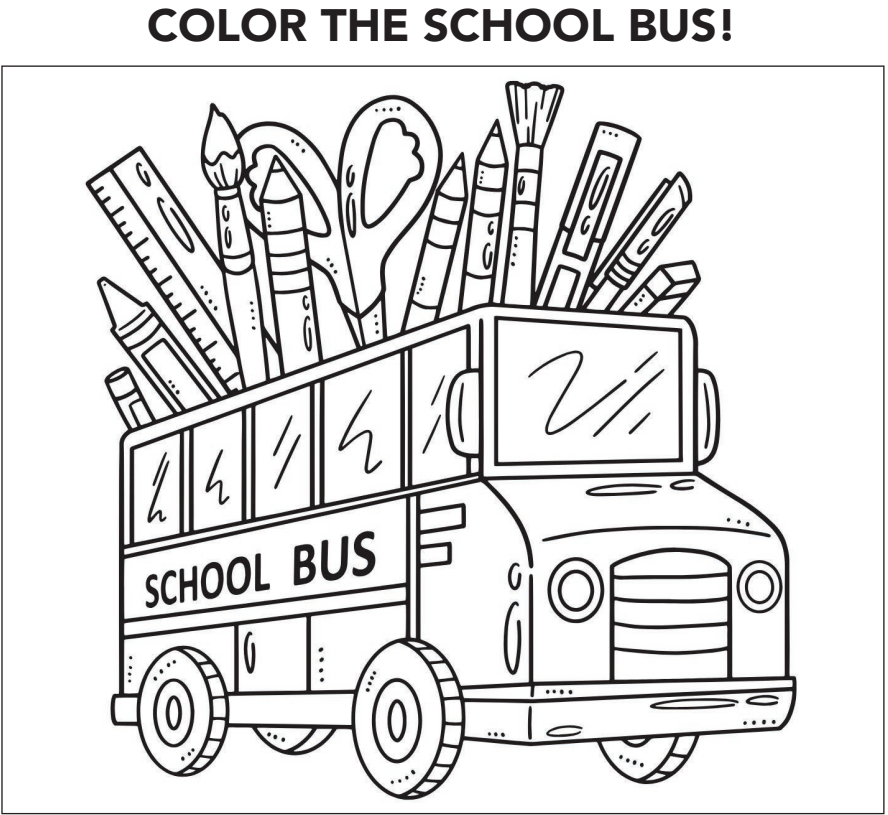
Favorite Book(s)

I love to...

About My Family

3 Words that describe me

Favorite Song(s)



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Why did the students eat their homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake!

What did the pencil say to the paper?
"I dot my i's on you!"

Why was the pencil confident on the first say of school? Because it knew it was sharp!

HUMAN RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES WELCOMES NEW HR SERVICE MANAGER



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's (MCA) Human Resources Program is pleased to announce the appointment of Katrina Armstrong as the new HR Service Manager.

Katrina brings more than 20 years of experience and a wealth of organizational knowledge to her new role. She has been a dedicated member of the MCA team since 2004, beginning her career as an Executive Assistant and Administrative Assistant before joining the Human Resources team in March 2020 as an Office Assistant.

Throughout her time with MCA, Katrina has continued to grow professionally, taking on roles as HRIS Specialist and most recently, HRIS Supervisor. Her commitment, attention to detail, and understanding of MCA's operations have supported her continued advancement within the organization.

Katrina holds an Associate's Degree in Office Technology and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Office and Human Resource Management. Her education, combined with her extensive experience and dedication to supporting employees and the organization, has prepared her well for this leadership position.

Please join us in congratulating Katrina on her new role and wishing her continued success as HR Service Manager.

HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTS CYNTHIA STEAD AS TALENT & WELLBEING MANAGER



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's (MCA) Human Resources Program is pleased to welcome Cynthia Stead back to the organization in her new role as Talent & Wellbeing Manager.

With 25 years of experience in Human Resources, Cynthia brings extensive knowledge and expertise gained from working in a variety of environments, including contact centres, manufacturing, retail, distribution, child care programs, and Statistics

Canada. Many staff members may also remember Cynthia from her previous one-year contract with MCA's Human Resources team, where she made a positive impact and developed strong connections with colleagues across the organization.

We are excited to welcome Cynthia back to MCA and look forward to the knowledge, experience, and support she will bring to this role as we continue to strengthen our employee experience and workplace wellbeing initiatives.

Please join us in welcoming Cynthia back to MCA and wishing her success in her new role.



CHECK OUT MCA'S LATEST JOB POSTINGS BY VISITING:
www.akwesasne.ca/careers

Scan QR code!



AKWESASNE RIGHTS & RESEARCH OFFICE

NUTFIELD TRACT SURVEY CLAIM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) remains committed to keeping the community informed as the Nutfield Tract Survey Claim moves through the negotiation process. Below are answers to some of the most common questions raised by community members at Lunch & Learn sessions held on June 10 and 18, 2026.

WHERE DOES THE CLAIM STAND?

MCA submitted the claim to the Specific Claims Branch of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on September 2, 2022. It was accepted for legal review on January 17, 2023, and accepted for negotiation by Canada on January 5, 2026. MCA formally accepted the offer to negotiate on April 13, 2026.

WHAT IS THIS CLAIM ABOUT?

The current claim is not the Nutfield Tract land claim. The Nutfield Tract Survey Claim seeks compensation for historical survey errors, including the costs associated with the 1809 McCarthy Survey and the missing acreage omitted from McNiff's 1786 township survey.

WHY IS THE CLAIM SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS?

The claim has been divided so that each issue can be addressed separately.

- **Part I** will focus on the historical survey errors, their impacts, and whether the inaccurate survey affected the validity of the surrender.
- **Part II** will examine the broader Nutfield Tract land claim, including the alleged illegal surrender and whether Canada fulfilled its fiduciary obligations.

Addressing the survey issues first may also help strengthen the broader land claim.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are the omitted lands considered "unsurrendered"?

This remains a key issue. Canada's position is that the entire Nutfield Tract was surrendered under the McCarthy Survey, including the omitted lands.

How will legal fees be paid?

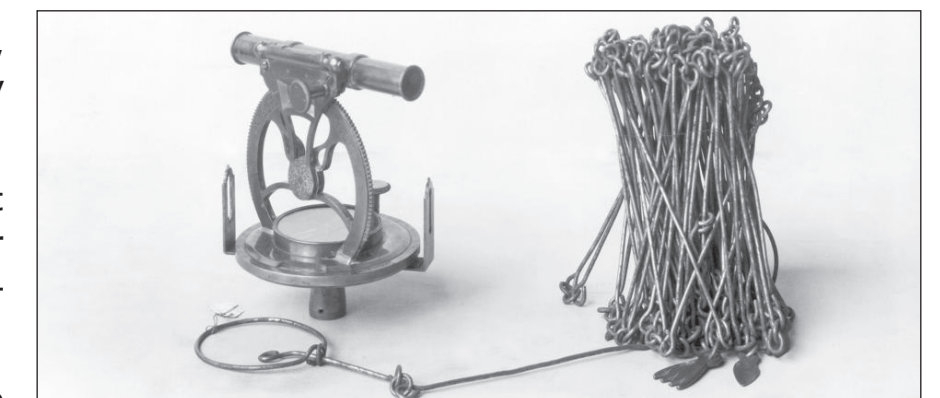
The claim is funded through a legal loan. If compensation is awarded, legal fees will be deducted from the settlement before any remaining funds are distributed.

How much could the claim be worth?

The value has not yet been determined. Compensation will be established through negotiations or, if necessary, by a tribunal based on the evidence presented.

STAY INFORMED

MCA will continue to provide updates as negotiations progress. Future information sessions, led by members of Council and technical staff from the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO), will provide opportunities for community members to ask questions and stay informed throughout the process.



Pictured are surveying instruments, including a theodolite, which was used to establish and maintain straight boundary lines, and a Gunther's chain, which was used to accurately map out plots of land.

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

LEARNING, GROWING, AND GIVING BACK: OUR SUMMER AT THE AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

KAYAH PAPINEAU — As an MCA Summer Student, I had the opportunity to work at both the Akwesasne Representative and Advocacy Program in Cornwall and the Akwesasne Justice Department in Kana:takon. Working in these two departments helped me gain valuable knowledge and experience while allowing me to get to know my colleagues and learn from their lived experiences on the job.

As a summer student, I was also able to participate in First Aid and CPR training, assist at community events, and take part in many other activities.

One of the key things I learned throughout the summer was the importance of the Akwesasne Child Rights & Re-

sponsibilities Law and its significance to Indigenous children and families. I also attended regular staff luncheons, which gave me additional opportunities to learn, ask questions, and become more aware of important issues affecting our communities. For example, we had a presentation on human trafficking and sex trafficking. This presentation helped me become more informed and aware of these serious and concerning situations that can occur around us.

Overall, my experience allowed me to gain valuable knowledge and develop new skills while gaining a better understanding of the important work being done to support our children, families, and community.

PATIENCE ARQUETTE — This summer, working as a summer student has been an amazing experience for me. I had the opportunity to learn new office skills such as scanning, printing, and organizing documents and archives. I also gained more experience and became more comfortable with my responsibilities as the summer progressed.

Throughout the summer, I learned how to communicate more effectively with others during social events and team-building activities. There were times when I became a little distracted, but I learned how to refocus and complete the tasks I was working on. This helped improve my attention

span and ability to stay on track.

My favorite part of the summer was being able to learn something new every day, which enhanced my understanding of working in an office environment. Considering a career in this field is now something I have added to my future plans, and I would recommend a summer student position to others as well.

Learning valuable office skills and responsibilities has been a great opportunity and a rewarding experience for someone just beginning their career journey.

ANTHONY (WAYNE) TILLMAN JR. — Since my original student profile, I've continued to grow through new experiences both in and outside of school. I've stayed involved in volleyball and have been preparing for my junior year of high school, including taking on more challenging coursework and becoming more involved in leadership opportunities.

This summer, I gained valuable work experience as an office assistant, where I've developed stronger communication, organizational, and professional skills. I've also had the opportunity to meet new people, learn from others, and gain a better understanding of what I may want to pursue in the future.



Pictured L-R: Akwesasne Justice Department Summer Students Anthony (Wayne) Tillman Jr., Patience Arquette and Kayah Papineau.

AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

ARAP WINTER CLOTHING INITIATIVE – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

On August 20, 2026, the Akwesasne Representative & Advocacy Program (ARAP) opened registration for its Winter Clothing Initiative for the 2027-2027 season.

This initiative is open to Akwesasró:non youth, regardless of residency:

- Youth ages 17 and under with a Mohawks of Akwesasne Status Card
- College and University students up to age 26 must have:
 - » A Mohawks of Akwesasne Status Card, and
 - » Proof of current enrollment in post-secondary program.



Applications will be available online by scanning the QR code or by visiting one of the following locations:

Akwesasne Farmer's Market

September 5, 19, 26

Generations Park · 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

AMBE Orientation

September 8

Ahkwasahsne Mohawk School (AMS), Kana:takon School, Tsi Snaihne School

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saint Regis Mohawk School Open House

September 8

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Akwesasne Powwow

September 12-13

Lamoureux Park · 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Every Child Matters Event

September 30

Lamoureux Park · 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Application deadline: Friday, October 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Please note: Applications are subject to approval. Eligibility will be reviewed, and only approved applicants will be contacted.

For questions or more information, please contact Sarah Durant at: arap-winterclothing@akwesasne.ca or 613-662-4513.



WHAT TO KNOW / FAQ'S:

- Registration opens August 20, 2026 and closes October 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- Open to all Akwesasró:non **regardless of residency.**
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Cards will **not** be accepted.
- Status cards from other Nations/Communities will **not** be accepted.
- Children under the age of 1 are covered under their parent/guardian.
- ARAP will check with OVS if you applied and have not received your child's status card yet.
- Proof of enrollment for college/university students is a letter from your school stating you are enrolled in part/full-time courses.
- **Contact information must be up to date.** If we are unable to contact you, we will have to remove you from the applicant list.
- This year, **acceptance letters must be picked up and signed for.**

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

APPLY FOR THE SCIS STATUS CARD FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

To apply for a Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card, call the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) office at 613-575-2250, ext. 1013, to book an appointment OR apply for the SCIS card yourself from the comfort of your own home. To apply for a SCIS status card, you must already be registered under the Indian Act. No fee is required. Your SCIS card will be mailed to you at the mailing address you provide within 8 to 12 weeks.

HOW TO APPLY

1. If already registered, download and fill out the SCIS Application for Already Registered Persons for adults, children and dependent adults, and the Guarantor Declaration form. Download the application (with complete instructions) from the OVS web page at: www.akwesasne.ca/services/executive-services/ovs/ or scan the QR code.
2. Provide a copy of your valid (not expired) identification with your Guarantor's signature and date.
3. Include two (2) passport-style photos or use the SCIS Photo App (see link below). If using the SCIS Photo App, your Guarantor will need to enter their information and signature to confirm your identity.
4. Mail the application to Indigenous Services Canada using the address listed in the application instructions or bring it in person to the Office of Vital Statistics to mail for you.

SCIS PHOTO APP

Take and send your photo for your secure status card for free.



Download the appropriate app for your mobile device online by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.canada.ca/en/mobile/scis-photo-app.html.

SIMPLIFIED RENEWAL APPLICATION

If you are renewing your SCIS status card before your current SCIS card expires, you may apply using the Simplified Renewal form if these 4 conditions are met:

1. You were 16 years of age or older when you last applied for your SCIS.
2. Your personal information has not changed.
3. Your last SCIS was not revoked or reported lost, stolen, or damaged.
4. You are applying no more than one year before and no later than the renewal date on your SCIS.

This application form can be found on the MCA website under OVS at: www.akwesasne.ca/services/executive-services/ovs/ OR by scanning the QR code:

If you qualify to use the Simplified Renewal form, you can use your current SCIS card as the required identification and will not require a Guarantor.



What is a SCIS card?

The Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) cards simplify border crossings by serving as secure, scannable identification at ports of entry between Canada and the U.S.

Visit the MCA website for the SCIS application:
www.akwesasne.ca/services/executive-services/ovs/

APPLY ONLINE!

OVS Services

Indian Registration

Status Cards & Bridge Passes

Status Cards

OVS issues Certificates of Indian Status (laminated cards) and provides assistance with Secure Certificate of Indian Status (scannable cards) applications.

Fees:

- \$5.00 per card (unless an expired or damaged card is turned in).
- \$5.00 additional for a photo (if one is not provided).

Requirements:

- Must be registered and have a status number.
- Original completed application.
- Valid ID (e.g., driver's license, health card, birth certificate)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE SHOW MUST GO ON: IAKHIHSOHTHA TOTAS ENJOY AFTERNOON OF MUSIC & FUN

On Friday, August 14, Iakhihsohta Lodge residents enjoyed an afternoon of music, laughter and good company at the Snye Recreation Center. The to-tas tapped their toes and sang along as talented Akwesasró:non performers shared their voices and filled the room with smiles. Family and friends also joined in the fun, while everyone enjoyed delicious snacks, including pie, along with coffee and tea served by the ladies at the Snye Recreation Center.

While the afternoon's plans took an unexpected turn and Elvis wasn't able to make an appearance, Akwesasró:non community members quickly

stepped up to help keep the music going. Their generosity and willingness to share their talents made for a memorable afternoon for the to-tas.

A special niawenhkó:wa goes out to the Iakhihsohta staff for organizing the event, Sharlan Anderson for providing the karaoke, all of the singers who participated, and the Snye Recreation Center for their warm hospitality. Thank you to everyone who helped make the afternoon so special!

It was an afternoon filled with music, laughter and connection — a special day made even better by the people who came together to share it.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES · SECTOR 4: INTEGRATED SERVICES ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Fungal Nail Infections

What is a fungal nail infection?

A fungal nail infection is an infection that occurs when a fungus attacks your fingernail, toenail, or nail bed. Fungi can attack your nails through small cuts in the skin around the nail or through the opening between the nail and nail bed. If you're healthy, the infection probably won't cause serious problems.

What causes it?

Fungal nail infections can be caused by yeasts, moulds, and other kinds of fungus.

Fungi grow best in warm, moist places. They can spread from person to person. You can get a fungal nail infection from walking barefoot in public showers or pools or by sharing personal items, such as towels and nail clippers. If you have athlete's foot, the fungus can spread from your skin to your nails.

You can have fungi on your skin without getting a nail infection. If you are susceptible to fungal infections, they tend to return. They can come back even after successful treatment and especially if you don't do something to prevent them.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms often develop slowly over time. A nail with a fungal infection may:

- Turn yellow, white, or brown.
- Get thicker.
- Crumble or split and may separate from the skin.

A fungal nail infection usually isn't painful. But over time, you may be uncomfortable or even have pain when you wear shoes, walk, or stand for a long time.

The fungus could also spread to other nails or your skin.

How is it diagnosed?

To diagnose a fungal nail infection, your doctor will:

- Look at the skin and nails on your hands and feet.
- Ask about your medical history. This includes any previous symptoms of nail damage or fungal nail infections. The doctor may take a sample of skin and nail fragments from under the infected nail or a sample of the nail itself. Tests to examine the samples include:
 - KOH preparation, to find out if the problem is caused by a fungus.
 - Other lab tests, such as a fungal culture or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, may be done to find which type of fungus you have.

If the tests don't show fungi but your doctor still thinks that you have a fungal infection, a nail biopsy may be needed.

How is a fungal nail infection treated?

It may take time to treat a nail infection. You may need to try several treatments to find one that helps. Even when a treatment works, the nail can get infected again.

Treatment often starts with antifungal medicine.

- Antifungal pills give the best chance of curing a severe nail infection.
- You can try an over-the-counter medicine that comes in a cream, lotion, or nail polish.
- Your doctor can also prescribe a stronger antifungal medicine that you apply to your nail.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES · SECTOR 4: INTEGRATED SERVICES ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

- If you have a severe nail infection or the infection keeps coming back, your doctor may remove the infected nail.
- Wear sandals or roomy shoes made of materials that allow moisture to escape. Let your shoes air out for at least 24 hours before you wear them again.

If you have diabetes or a weak immune system, your doctor may suggest treating the infection, even if it doesn't bother you.

How can you care for the infection?

For a mild fungal nail infection, try an antifungal cream, gel, or polish that you put on your nail. To stop the infection from coming back, keep your nails clean and dry. Change socks often. Don't go barefoot in public places. And try not to share personal things like towels and nail clippers.

How can you avoid fungal nail infections?

There are some things that might help prevent a nail infection or help keep it from coming back.

- Before bed, wash and dry your feet carefully. Applying a topical antifungal medicine may help prevent repeat infections.
- Keep your feet and hands dry. Dry skin and nails are less likely to get infected. Put powder on your dry feet or hands after you take a shower or bath.

- Wear socks. Change them if your feet get damp or sweaty.
- Wear shower sandals in wet public areas, such as locker rooms or showers. Let them dry between uses.
- Do not share nail files or clippers, socks, towels, or other personal items.
- Avoid injuring your nail. Cutting nails too short is a common cause of nail injury

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 contact MCA Integrated Services/Diabetes at 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.



Healthy feet are the foundation of good health.

Make an appointment with us today!

CLINICAL CARE SERVICES | INTEGRATED SERVICES
ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE 613-575-2341 ext. 3247

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

YOU MATTER: YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TIPS FOR YOUTH IN AKWESASNE & CORNWALL

Feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, alone, or like things will never get better? You are not alone. Help is available, and there are people who care about you.

WARNING SIGNS

If you or a friend is experiencing any of the following, it may be time to reach out for help:

- Talking about wanting to die or disappear
- Feeling hopeless or trapped
- Withdrawing from friends, family, sports, or activities
- Increased anger, sadness, anxiety, or mood changes
- Self-harm or talking about self-harm
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- Giving away belongings or saying goodbye
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns

These warning signs are identified in youth suicide prevention research and resources.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING

Talk to someone you trust. Reach out to:

- Parent, caregiver, or family member
- Friend
- Teacher or school staff
- Elder, aunties, uncles, traditional medicines counselor or Cultural Support Worker
- Coach or community leader
- Mental health professional

Remember:

- Your feelings are real.
- You do not have to handle this alone.
- Asking for help is a sign of strength.

Supportive relationships, open communication, and connection to culture and community are protective factors that help reduce suicide risk.

NEED HELP NOW?

Reach out to the:

Suicide Crisis Helpline (24/7): Call or Text: 988

Kids Help Phone (24/7)

Call: 1-800-668-6868 or Text: CONNECT to 686868

Visit: www.kidshelpphone.ca

These national crisis supports are recommended for youth experiencing suicidal thoughts or emotional distress.

LOCAL SUPPORTS

- **Akwesasne Family Wellness Program:**
613-575-2341
- **Akwesasne Child & Family Services:**
613-575-5020
- **MCA Mental Health Services:**
613-575-2341 ext. 3115
- **Cornwall Community Hospital Emergency Dept.:**
613-938-4240 | Call 911 if there is immediate danger
- **Cornwall & District Mental Health Services:**
613-933-5845
- **Mental Health Crisis Line (Eastern Ontario):**
1-866-996-0991
- **Ongoing Psychotherapy-Oakes Psychotherapy:**
1-343-321-7305

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND

Act quickly! Ask directly: "Are you thinking about suicide?"

Connect them with a trusted adult and tell someone immediately if they are at risk.

Talking openly about suicide does not increase risk and may help save a life.

THERE IS HOPE

Your story is not over. Your community, culture, family, and future matter.

Reach Out. Talk. Stay Connected.

If someone is in immediate danger, call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000, 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department immediately.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

A WEEK OF LEARNING ON THE LAND – ACFS CULTURE CAMP

The Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) Traditional Support Team hosted another exciting week filled with cultural teachings, land-based learning, and adventure!

From August 11-13, Akwesasró:non youth spent time at Thompson Island Cultural Camp, taking part in a variety of fun and meaningful activities, including water teachings, tobacco pouch making, plant identification, and much more. To wrap up the adventurous week, the youth took a day trip to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, followed by a refresh-

ing swim at Meacham Lake!

A heartfelt niawenhkó:wa to ACFS's Traditional Support Team and everyone who helped make this year's Culture Camp such an exciting, meaningful, and safe experience for our youth. From ACFS staff and presenters, to those who supported youth at Thompson Island, your time and contributions helped create lasting memories and meaningful opportunities for our youth to connect with culture, the land, and one another.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

ROOTED IN CARE: CONVERSATIONS ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS & NEURODIVERSITY

Join the MCA Special Needs Program as we welcome Dr. Grant Bruno for a special community screening of the documentary *SEWÂTSIWIN: They Are Sacred* following time for reflection, questions, and resource sharing.

Grant Bruno, a Plains Cree scholar and assistant professor at the University of Alberta, combines Indigenous knowledge with modern medicine to improve the health of First Nations children. Focused on neurodiversity and autism, he promotes culturally responsive, strengths-based approaches to address systemic inequities and support Indigenous families.

SESSION DETAILS:

September 26, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 pm. or 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: The Port Theatre (132 Montreal Rd, Cornwall, ON, K6H 1B3)

Scan QR code to register for a session or visit:
www.akwesasne.ca/news/posts/dcsc-conversations-on-indigenous-wellness-and-neurodiversity-september-2026/.

Scan QR code to register for a September 26 session at the Port Theatre in Cornwall.



September 27, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

Intended for Special Needs Parent Committee & Caregivers of Special Needs Individuals

For more information, please contact Kieler Lahache at 613-575-2341 ext. 2655.



ABOUT DR. GRANT BRUNO

Grant Bruno, a Plains Cree scholar and assistant professor at the University of Alberta, combines Indigenous knowledge with modern medicine to improve the health of First Nations children. Focused on neurodiversity and autism, he promotes culturally responsive, strengths-based approaches to address systemic inequities and support Indigenous families.

Through community programs and research, he emphasizes tradition, collaboration, and viewing neurodiversity as a gift, advocating for equitable, culturally safe pediatric healthcare that centers Indigenous voices.



DR. GRANT BRUNO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Akwesasne Family Wellness Program: 613-937-4322

DCSS Administration: 613-575-2341 ext. 3305

Community Support Program: 613-575-2341 ext. 3262

Akwesasne Child and Family Services: 613-575-2341 ext. 3139

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

TOGETHER, WE CAN RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

In August, Akwesasró:non came together to properly dispose of unwanted electronics during the MCA Environment Program's E-Waste Drive at the Snye Recreation and CIA #3. The dumpsters quickly filled with old TVs, Keurigs, irons, microwaves, automotive batteries, light fixtures, and much more!

By choosing to properly dispose of these items, community members helped keep unwanted electronics and other materials out of our landfills. Every item diverted from the landfill is a small step toward reducing waste and supporting a cleaner, healthier environment for our community.

Nia:wen to everyone who participated in the E-Waste Drive and did their part to keep these items out of the landfill. Your efforts make a difference.

Missed the E-Waste Drive?

No problem! The MCA Environment Program has put together a list of local locations where you can properly dispose of a variety of household items, including general e-waste, white goods, alkaline batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs and paint.

GENERAL E-WASTE

AIM Recycling
17703 Headline Road
South Stormont, ON K0C 1P0

Staples
7 Ninth Street East
Cornwall, ON K6K 6R3

City of Cornwall Landfill
2590 Cornwall Centre Road
Cornwall, ON K6K 1K6

WHITE GOODS*
City of Cornwall Landfill
2590 Cornwall Centre Road
Cornwall, ON K6K 1K6

ALKALINE (HOUSEHOLD) BATTERIES

Home Hardware
1299 Vincent Massey Drive
Cornwall, ON K6J 5N4

FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS
The Home Depot
1825 Brookdale Avenue
Cornwall, ON K6J 5X7

PAINT**

Dulux Paint
1307 Brookdale Avenue
Cornwall, ON K6J 5B3

CITY OF CORNWALL LANDFILL DEPOT DAYS

Wednesdays and Saturdays
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**White goods refers to appliances that contain coolant, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioning units.*

***Please ensure all paint is in its original container and clearly labeled.*

Together, we can keep reusable and recyclable materials out of our landfills and do our part for the environment.



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

 **613-575-2250 ext. 1038**

 **613-938-6760 (Fax)**

 **www.facebook.com/mca.environment**

Contact Us!



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

RABIES AWARENESS: KNOW THE SIGNS AND STAY SAFE

Rabies is a serious disease that can affect both animals and humans. The MCA Environment Program is sharing the following information to help community members better understand rabies. Below, you'll find information on how rabies is transmitted, the different forms of the disease, common symptoms, animals that carry the virus, and what to do if you encounter a suspected rabid animal.

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a deadly viral disease when not treated immediately and attacks the central nervous system. It is transmitted by the saliva of an infected mammal through bites or scratches.

WHAT CAN GET RABIES?

Many mammals such as dogs, cats, raccoons, bats, skunks, foxes, and even humans can get rabies.

FORMS OF RABIES

Furious or Aggressive Rabies

Symptoms may include excessive:

- Salivation (drooling)
- Hyperactivity or restlessness
- Hydrophobia (fear of water)
- Extreme agitation or aggression
- Acrophobia (extreme, irrational fear of heights)

This form of rabies is fast and aggressive. Death in the animal usually occurs within days due to respiratory or cardiac failure.

Paralytic or Dumb Rabies

Symptoms may include:

- Progressive paralysis (gradual, continuous loss of muscle function, sensation or control over time)
- Lethargy or drowsiness

- Subtle behavioural changes (e.g.increased shyness, anxiety, withdrawal)
- Infected animal slowly slips into a coma before death

This form of rabies is gradual compared to Furious Rabies but is equally fatal.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bats are one of the leading transmitters of rabies to humans. If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, please seek medical attention immediately. Especially with minor scratches and bites as these are often overlooked.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A SUSPECTED RABID ANIMAL?

- Do not approach or touch the animal.
- Keep children and pets away from the area.
- Contact your local Conservation Officer immediately.
- If you are bitten, scratched, or have come into contact with the saliva of an animal that may have rabies, seek medical attention at the nearest hospital or emergency department as soon as possible.

REPORT SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS

If you observe an animal displaying signs of rabies or behaving unusually, please contact the MCA Environment Program's Conservation Officer.

Craig Delormier
Conservation Officer

Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1047 or 613-551-1836

Email: craig.delormier@akwesasne.ca

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

After Hours: 613-551-1836

DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

ELDERS HOME REPAIR FUND – BACKGROUND

Ohiarikhó:wa/July 30, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is providing an update to the community on the background of the Elders Home Repair Fund. This is a new initiative based on one-time funding.

The MCA Housing Program has limited funding streams for home repairs. Housing is a highly underfunded area for First Nations. As an organization, we recognize that some of our community members need support to upkeep their home, especially elders. Therefore, our Housing Program regularly pursues new funding to address the needs of the community. Typically, the funding available is grant funding offered as one-time initiatives. Council and Administration share a commitment to prioritize efforts to increase programs and funding that will help elders.

This year, Housing applied to the Akwesasne Community Settlement Trust for funding to support elders who need help funding repairs to their home. The Trust is separate from MCA, and they offer a limited amount of funding to community projects every year, based on the criteria and budget they have set for the year. Housing applied to the Trust for a \$400,000 Elders Home Repair Program, and the Trust approved the application for \$300,000. Therefore, Housing is able to provide 30 elders with \$10,000 in housing repair funding. This is a pocket of funding that we did not previously have, and that we are very appreciate to the Trust for approving.

Next year, Housing will resubmit the request, and we hope that it will be approved to assist 30 or more additional elders. For the time being, we are limited to the funding already received. As we received over 100 applications from elders for home repairs,

we understand the disappointment for those not selected. The criteria for selection was based on those most in need due to age.

We recognize that there is a high demand for this support and we are actively pursuing additional funding to support our elders and help to ensure they have safe, healthy homes to continue living independently in.

Other streams of funds that Housing offers include:

Elders Emergency Fund – \$5,000 one-time grant from age 60-75, and \$5,000 one-time grant from age 75 & up. This funding is for emergencies such as no heat, no electricity, no water, broken windows or doors (safety risk).

Revolving Loan Program – Open to adults. Provides \$20,000 in loan funds, repayable in 5 years. Can re-apply every 5 years. The Revolving Loan Program also offers an \$8,000 repayable loan option. Under this program, appliances are not eligible, but generators are.

FNCFS Projects – Housing currently has several child/family based options in progress for housing renovations or repairs. The criteria is strictly for homes with children. It includes the Overcrowding Program, which we are seeking approval to offer annually, as well as the \$15,000 Home Repair grant for families with children, which over 100 families are receiving/have received. Additional projects are being developed under this stream to improve family homes.

Should you have any questions about these programs, please contact our Housing Program at 613-575-2250.

AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

AMPS VISIT OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS ON KAWEHNO:KE

On August 10, 2026, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) made a special visit at the Kawehno:ke Child Care Center to say shé:kon to our youngest learners.

Community Service Officer Nathan Thompson and Constable Dakota Thompson enjoyed spending time with the children, answering questions and giving them an inside look at AMPS vehicles and equip-

ment. To wrap up their visit, the officers surprised the children with AMPS duffle bags, with little gifts inside.

A niawenhkó:wa to our AMPS Officers for taking the time to connect with our youngest community members, share a few smiles and laughs, and help build positive relationships between our children and those who serve and protect Akwesasne.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

RIDE RESPONSIBLY: HELP PREVENT ATV ACCIDENTS

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) is reminding community members about the importance of safe and responsible ATV operation following a recent incident involving youth in the community.

Officers responded to the situation, and one youth was transported to a local hospital with injuries. Thankfully, the injuries were not life-threatening. During the investigation, police learned that four people were riding on a single ATV and none were wearing helmets. This serves as a reminder of how quickly an enjoyable ride can become a serious situation when important safety precautions are not followed.

ATVs are powerful motor vehicles and should always be operated with care. Wearing an approved helmet, riding within the manufacturer's recommended passenger capacity, and ensuring the driver is properly authorized and experienced are all important steps in reducing the risk of serious injury.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to talk with their children about ATV safety, actively supervise young riders, and lead by example by practicing safe riding habits. These conversations and precautions can make a significant difference in helping prevent injuries or even death.

AMPS also reminds community members that ATV operation is subject to the Akwesasne ATV By-law. When operating an ATV on a roadway, operators must be at least 16 years of age, hold a valid driver's licence (minimum G2 or M2), and the ATV must be properly registered and insured. All operators and passengers are required to wear an approved helmet. When operating an ATV on private property, riders must be at least 12 years of age and wear an approved helmet.

Owners, parents, and guardians are also reminded that they may be held responsible for permitting the unlawful operation of an ATV. Individuals who allow youth to operate an ATV contrary to the Akwesasne ATV By-law may be subject to enforcement action and issued tickets where applicable.

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service remains committed to promoting safe and responsible ATV use through education and enforcement when necessary. By working together, we can help keep riders, passengers, and our community safe.

For more information about ATV safety or the Akwesasne ATV By-law, please contact the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service at 613-575-2340.



AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

- Non-Emergency Phone: **613-575-2250**
- Emergency Phone: **613-575-2000**
- Email: info.amps@akwesasne.ca

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Generations Park, Akwesasne • 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Join us this Orange Shirt Day as we honor the **courage, strength, and resilience** of our residential school survivors.

Together, we will reflect, heal, and celebrate the strength of our culture through ceremony, song, food, and community.

COMMUNITY BASKET & BELT WEAVE • TEA BLENDING • RATTLE-MAKING • SWEETGRASS BOOKMARK HITS • DIY FLOWER ART • ...AND SO MUCH MORE!

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



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