

# ONKWE'TÀ:KE

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Issue 10

FREE

Kenténha/October 2026

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## FUTURE GENERATIONS TAKE THE RUNWAY



On September 19, Akwesasró:non gathered at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center to celebrate and support local youth at the Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show. The event gave young models an opportunity to build confidence, showcase their creativity, and incorporate elements of Kanien'keha culture while taking the runway. Nia:wen to MCA's Department of Community & Social Services, the families, designers, artists, organizers, and community members who helped make the event a meaningful celebration of our youth. Read more on page 23. (Front page photo credit: Laurie Gardner)

## UPCOMING MCA MEETINGS & SPECIAL DATES:

### MCA FALL FEST 2026

October 10, 2026 · 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

### AMBE IETHIAHON:NIEN RUN

October 15, 2026 · 9:00-11:30 a.m.  
A'nowara'ko:wa Arena

### OCTOBER DISTRICT MEETINGS

October 14, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.  
Kawehno:ke Recreation Center

October 19, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.  
Kana:takon & Tsi Snaihne  
Recreation Centers

### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

October 29, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.  
Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center

The MCA General Meeting will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual).

To receive the Zoom link, please email  
meetings@akwesasne.ca.

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

Stéphane Bissonnette  
Comptroller

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.akwesasne.ca/textalerts).

**Website:** News and general information can be found on our website at [www.akwesasne.ca](http://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 for MCA's Fall Festival, happening on October 10, 2026, at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for this free event and enjoy a day packed with carriage rides, inflatables, a petting zoo and much more! Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- 2 Don't miss out on the upcoming community meetings, such as District Meetings, October General Meeting, and Kawehno:ke District Chiefs Constituency Hours. Check out page 7 for more information!
- 3 Wondering the difference between Indian Status versus Akwesasne Membership? The Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) has provided an information sheet to compare the differences on page 12. For more information or to verify your Membership, contact the OVS office at 613-575-2250 ext. 1013.
- 4 Is your community organization, office, school, or classroom interested in learning about the proposed Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law? The Eniethihswanón:na Working Task Group is arranging group information sessions for those that would like to learn more about the law and participate in the consultation process. Please view page 13 for more information.
- 5 MCA's Community Support Program is pleased to announce they are now accepting applications for the Akwesasne Heating Assistance Program for Akwesasró:nnon who reside in the northern portion of Akwesasne. Please go to page 24 for additional information.

NEWS

MCA SERVICE DAY BRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICES TOGETHER

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne extends a heartfelt nia:wen to everyone who joined us for MCA Service Day on August 20 at A'nowara'kó:wa Arena!

The event provided community members with an opportunity to connect with a variety of MCA departments, programs, and services in one convenient location, with extended hours to make accessing services easier. Throughout the afternoon, community members were able to complete applications, make payments, register for programs, update information, ask questions, and connect directly with MCA staff.

The MCA Service Day brought a wide range of supports together under one roof, including: registration and membership services; health and wellness; housing and finance; education and employment; justice and legal services; environmental programs; senior services; community resources; and more!

The event also provided an opportunity for community members to learn more about available programs and resources, including the Green Food Bag Program, community communication resources, employment opportunities, housing services, and other initiatives.

We are grateful to the many MCA departments, programs, staff, and community partners who contributed their time and expertise to make the event possible. Their efforts helped create a welcoming and accessible space for community members to get the information and assistance they needed.

Most importantly, nia:wen to everyone who attended and made MCA Service Day a success. Your participation and feedback help us continue finding ways to make MCA services more accessible and responsive to the needs of our community.

We look forward to building on the success of Service Day and creating more opportunities to connect with Akwesasró:nnon in the future.



NEWS

COURT DECISION MARKS IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR JAY TREATY STUDENTS

Seskehkó:wa/September 3, 2026 — On September 1, 2026, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York struck down a U.S. Department of Education policy requiring eligible American Indians born in Canada to obtain additional immigration documentation, such as a Green Card, to access federal student financial aid. The decision marks an important outcome for Akwesasró:non and carries broader significance for the treatment of American Indians born in Canada under United States federal law.

Mohawk student plaintiffs Rourke-Rodriguez et al., known as the “Jay Treaty students,” filed the legal challenge after the U.S. Department of Education changed its longstanding process for determining eligibility for federal student aid. The students were notified of the Court's decision on September 2, 2026.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), through its Legal Department and team, played a central role in bringing the challenge forward and advocating on behalf of the students throughout the case.

At its core, the case raised concerns about imposing immigration requirements on Akwesasró:non born in Canada despite protections recognized under United States federal law. For our community, these issues carry particular importance as Akwe-

sasne and our people existed long before the international border divided our territory.

Recognizing the broader implications for Akwesasró:non, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) filed an amicus curiae brief in support of the student plaintiffs. Through the work of the Akwesasne Rights and Research Office (ARRO) and MCA's legal team, the brief provided the Court with the historical and legal context surrounding the cross-border rights of Akwesasró:non born in Canada.

The outcome of this case extends beyond the individual student plaintiffs and will benefit other Jay Treaty students who may have otherwise faced the same barrier to accessing federal student financial aid.

“We commend the students who had the courage to challenge a barrier to their education, as well as the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and its legal team for bringing this matter forward. We also recognize the work of our Akwesasne Rights and Research Office and all those who contributed to this effort. This decision is an important victory for the students and carries broader significance for Akwesasró:non,” said Grand Chief Leonard Lazore.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne congratulates the student plaintiffs and recognizes the collective efforts that contributed to this important decision.

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Pop-Up Locations for Status Card Renewals

FULL DAY, OCTOBER 10

Admin. 1 in Kana:takon  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Admin. 1 in Kana:takon  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Iohahi:io in Tsi Snaihne  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

OVS Office on Kawehno:ke  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

OVS Office on Kawehno:ke  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT, CONTACT OVS:

613-575-2250 ext. 1013

ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca

NEWS

AKWESASNE RESIDENTS REMAIN EXEMPT FROM NEW CANADIAN SURTAXES ON U.S. GOODS

Seskehkó:wa/September 10, 2026 — The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would like to advise Akwesasró:non that the *Akwesasne Residents Remission Order (SOR/91-412)* continues to protect eligible residents from paying customs duties, GST/HST, federal import taxes, and the new surtaxes imposed on certain goods imported from the United States through the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Cornwall Port of Entry.

Effective September 8, 2026, the Government of Canada implemented the United States Surtax Order (2026), which applies additional surtaxes to a wide range of goods imported into Canada from the United States.

Under the *Akwesasne Residents Remission Order*,

eligible Akwesasne residents remain exempt from applicable surtaxes on qualifying goods imported from the United States for personal use. The Remission Order also provides remission for certain qualifying goods imported by duly authorized community stores for sale to Akwesasne residents for personal use, as well as for certain goods imported by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Residents should continue to declare all goods when crossing the border and follow normal customs procedures.

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne remains committed to keeping residents informed on matters that affect cross-border travel and access to goods for our community members.

RESPECTING AKWESASNE LAWS WHILE ON THE TERRITORY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) reminds all individuals, organizations, media representatives, contractors and visitors that while conducting activities within the territory, they are expected to respect and comply with all applicable Akwesasne laws, regulations and requirements.

Individuals are responsible for ensuring they have any required permissions or authorizations before conducting activities in Akwesasne and must respect any restrictions that may apply to specific lo-

cations, facilities or activities. This includes activities involving the use of drones or other equipment.

Akwesasne is our home and community. MCA asks all those entering or conducting activities within the territory to respect our laws, our people, and the safety and privacy of community members.

MCA appreciates the cooperation of community members and visitors in ensuring activities within Akwesasne are carried out respectfully and responsibly.

Explore what's available!

Community Call Outs

▶ AKWESASNE YOUTH COUNCIL REP.

▶ AKWESASNE JUSTICE TRAINING

▶ BLACK ASH LOG HARVESTERS

▶ FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

▶ CLAIMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

▶ COMMUNITY TRUSTEES  
for Mohawks of Akwesasne Community Trust

LEARN MORE AT: [WWW.AKWESASNE.CA/CALLS-FOR-SERVICE](http://WWW.AKWESASNE.CA/CALLS-FOR-SERVICE)



# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE



### Seskéha/August 24, 2026

Updates were provided by the MCA Executive Director and DCSS, DOH, Environment Portfolios.

#### Discussion Items:

- Jake Fire Monument Location
- Emergency Funding for Elders
- Drone on Kawehno:ke
- Sunshine List
- Seaway Claim Update
- MOU Update
- Strategic Planning (August 28th)
- Finance
- Funding Proposal
- Ombra Project Genesis
- Data Center Update
- Focus Meeting

**MCRs:** Finance Organizational Chart; CSP Client Revision Under Income Assistance; Ministry of Health – ON Health at Home Amending Agreement; MCA Heating Assistance Program Policy – August 26 Revisions; Addition of FNCFS Program and Mohawk Program; Emergency Council Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2026; Emergen-

cy Council Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2026

### Seskéha/August 31, 2026

- MCA Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Department of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment gave an update.
- Public Safety Portfolio gave an update.

#### Discussion Items:

- Letter to the Prime Minister from Iroquois Caucus
- Housing Report
- Abandoned Homes

#### Presentation:

- Fish and Wildlife Presentation by B. Bourdages and C. McFaul

**MCRs:** Traditional Medicine – Contract Renewal 2026-2029; ON Health East Level of Care Funding Increase 2% For Tsiionkwanonhso:te Long Term Care for 2026-27; Acceptance of Loan Agreement and Authorization to Execute Documents for the Nutfield Tract Survey Costs Claim; 2025-26 ARR-MOHLTC Community Service Support Program Audit; 2025-26 Child & Mental Health Audit; 2025-26 ARR-MOHLTC Home Care Audit; Designate Nutfield Negotiation Team; Assignment of Lease; Council Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2026; Council Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2026

### Seskehkó:wa/September 14, 2026

- The MCA Executive Director provided an Administrative Update.
- Updates were provided on Government Secretariat, Nation Building and Justice Portfolios; as well as updates on the Youth, Elders, Culture and Language and Finance Committees.

#### Discussion Items:

- Creating Harvesting Working Group

- Schedule Presentation from CBSA Cornwall POE Feasibility Study & Field Investigation
- CBSA Travelling to Canada Through Akwesasne Bulletin
- Crooked Arrows Part 2 Request
- General Meeting
- Court Ruling
- Strategic Planning Next Steps
- Council Offices

#### Presentation:

- MCA Island Leases

**MCRs:** MCA 2026 Holiday Closure; Indigenous Initiatives Fund; Contract Renewal 2026-2028; Contract Renewal 2026-2027; Contract Renewal 2026-2029; Better You Counselling; Contract Renewal 2026-2028; Contract Renewal 2026-2027; Contract Renewal 2026-2027; Contract Renewal; Contract Renewal for 3 years; Central Healing Counselling Services Inc.; Contract Renewal; Contract Renewal 2026-2029; Alaei Medicine Professional Corporation; Contract Renewal Physiotherapist 2026-2029; Contract Renewal Physiotherapist 2026-2029; Contract Renewal; Contract Renewal 2026-2029; Courtworker and Gladue Writer Services for Quebec; G&L Service Center Co-Owners 5-Year Lease with AMBE; Acceptance of Funds from the Indigenous Institutes Campus Safety Grant 2026-2028; ISC Amendment No. 200 to Funding Agreement No. 1920-ON-000024; Upgrade Application; Upgrade Application; Sporting Lead Free – Partnership; Compass Community Health Agreement; Amendment to MCA's Corporate Card Facility Limit; Establishment of the Akwesasne Border Security Working Group; The St. Lawrence College PDA Needs Grand Chief Signature; Award Tender – Structural Readiness Contracts; Food Sustainability – Seaway Valley Meat Cutting School

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## COUNCIL WEEKLY MEETING REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAND CHIEF LEONARD LAZORE

### Seskehkó:wa/September 21, 2026

- MCA Executive Director gave an administration update.
- Akwesasne Rights and Research Office Portfolio gave an update.
- Department of Health (DOH) Portfolio gave an update.
- Department of Community and Social Services Portfolio gave an update.
- Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education Portfolio gave an update.

#### Presentation:

- Funding Proposal by Chelsea Swamp and Tessa Jocko of the Department of Health

#### Discussion Items:

- Old Action Item
- Kawehno:ke District Meeting Requests
- Social Media Policy
- CBSA Focus Meeting
- Council Meeting
- Housing Increase

- Community Letter
- Court Ruling
- Sustainability Checks
- MOU on Data Centers

**MCRs:** Accept TELUS Friendly Future Foundation Grant; Assignment of Lease; Amendment of OVS Organizational Chart; 2025-26 OFNLP Audited Report of Receipts and Disbursement; Building 5 Year Lease with DOJ; Read Program 26-27 Salt Purchase; 2026-2027 Akwesasne Heating Assistance Project

## MCA COMMUNITY MEETINGS

# OCTOBER 2026

OCT.  
14

### KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT MEETING

KAWEHNO:KE RECREATION • 6:00 PM

OCT.  
19

### TSI SNAIHNE DISTRICT MEETING

TSI SNAIHNE RECREATION • 6:00 PM

OCT.  
19

### KANA:TAKON DISTRICT MEETING

KANA:TAKON RECREATION • 6:00 PM

OCT.  
29

### MCA GENERAL MEETING

TSI SNAIHNE RECREATION • 6:00 PM



## KAWEHNO:KE DISTRICT CHIEFS CONSTITUENCY HOURS

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Kawehno:ke District Chiefs will hold bi-weekly constituency hours to connect directly with community members.

These sessions are held **every other Friday** from **1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the **CIA #3 Boardroom**. See the dates below.

OCTOBER

2, 16, 30

DECEMBER

11, 18

NOVEMBER

13, 27

Community members are asked to dial the boardroom extension 1037 upon arrival at CIA #3 to be let into the building.

#### Disclaimer:

Constituency hours will be scheduled according to the District Chiefs' availability to ensure consistent leadership presence. We recognize the importance of community access and remain committed to balancing this with operational responsibilities. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANÁ:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CODY DAVID UPDATES



### Portfolios:

Akwesasne Justice Department, Department of Community & Social Services, Department of Health, Economic Development

### Selected Committees:

Beautification; Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA); Dundee Port of Entry; Hydro Quebec

### MONTHLY NOTABLES

- July 22, 2026 - Cornwall Community Hospital Meeting
- July 22, 2026- Oversight
- July 23, 2026 - BCI/Cornwall Port of Entry Prep Meeting
- July 23, 2026 - Meeting at OPG/Public Safety of Canada Meeting
- July 23, 2026 - BCI/CPE Meeting at the Best Western
- July 24, 2026 - Student Bursary Event at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Center



2026 Student Bursary Award Recipients

- July 27, 2026 - Council Meeting
- July 28, 2026 - Residency Working Group Meeting
- July 30, 2026 - General Meeting
- August 3, 2026 - Council Meeting
- August 4, 2026 - Border Partners
- August 5, 2026 - Meeting with Community Member
- August 5, 2026 - Data Center Meeting in Massena
- August 6, 2026 - Internal Meeting regarding Hilltop Drive
- August 6, 2026 - Meeting with Community Member
- August 10, 2026 - Council Meeting
- August 10, 2026 – Kana:takon District Meeting
- August 11, 2026 - Meeting with Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS)
- August 11, 2026 - Oversight Meeting
- August 13, 2026 - Justice Portfolio
- August 14, 2026 - MCA Cheque Presentation to Akwesasne Jr. B Thunder Lacrosse Team
- August 17, 2026 - Council Meeting
- August 18, 2026 - Meeting with Akwesasne Membership Wellbeing Measurement Initiatives
- August 19, 2026 - DCSS Portfolio Meeting
- August 20, 2026 - Health Portfolio Meeting
- August 20, 2026- Attended New York Digital Investment Group (NYDIG) presentation of the proposed Data Center
- August 20, 2026 - MCA Service Day at A'nowara'ko:wa Arena
- August 24, 2026 - Council Meeting
- August 26, 2026 - Residency Law Meeting
- August 27, 2026 - Met Community Member
- August 31, 2026 - Council Meeting
- August 31, 2026 - Meeting with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) regarding border security issues
- September 1, 2026 - Border Partners meeting
- September 3, 2026 - Met with a community

member

- September 7, 2026 - MCA closed Labour Day
- September 8, 2026 – Visit/tour to Akwesasne Family Wellness Program
- September 9, 2026 - Housing Strategy Session with Council
- September 10, 2026 - Justice Portfolio was postponed
- September 10, 2026 - Cannabis Regulation Meeting
- September 11, 2026 - CBSA matter
- September 11, 2026 - Cannabis discussion with CAA Management at Seven Leaf
- September 14, 2026 - Council Meeting
- September 14, 2026 – Kana:takon District Meeting
- September 15, 2026 - BCI Cornwall Port of Entry Working Circle

### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Our Kana:takon District beautification project is almost complete! What started as a vision to create a more welcoming, beautiful, and proud entrance to our district is now coming together. The new landscaping, flowers, greenery, and updated district signage have made a tremendous difference, and created a space that respects the pride we have in our community.



### BORDER COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE/ CORNWALL PORT OF ENTRY MEETING

Topics that were discussed during this meeting were pedestrian reporting requirements, Domestic Lane and how

# COUNCIL AND MOHAWK GOVERNMENT

## KANÁ:TAKON DISTRICT CHIEF CODY DAVID UPDATES

CBSA is willing to come to the community to present on this topic. Chief Vince also did a presentation on One Bowl One spoon as well as discussed some of our treaties to the CBSA members. It was confirmed that the tariff situation will not affect Akwesasne District residents.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Continues to deliver a wide range of health and wellness programs and services that support the overall well-being of the community. Environmental Health programming remains ongoing, with public swimming area water samples returning negative results. Mosquito trapping activities continue, and testing results are currently pending. August wastewater surveillance indicates low levels of both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 indicators. The Healthy Families team continues to support prenatal and postpartum families through dedicated programming and services.

In collaboration with the Prevention team, the Department hosted a successful Celebration of Families event, providing Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) clients with opportunities to connect through a shared meal and family-oriented activities. Health Promotion and Prevention staff also participated in MCA Service Day on August 20 and delivered several engaging community initiatives throughout the month, including Back-to-School Immunization Clinics, International Youth Day activities, and Corn Husk Flower-Making workshops.

Mental Health, Addictions, Detox, Traditional Medicine, and Land-Based Healing services continue to be provided, with 116 Mental Health appointments, 30 Addictions outpatient sessions, and two Detox client stays recorded during the reporting period. Clinical services remain active across Diabetes Education, Advanced Foot Care, Social Work, Home and Community Care, Integrated Services, and Indigenous Patient Navigation. During the month, Diabetes Services completed 131 client visits, Advanced Foot Care provided 67 visits, and

the Indigenous Patient Navigator supported 20 clients through 64 interactions.

Emergency Medical Services continues to respond to community needs, receiving 142 calls during the month of August, including 60 Basic Life Support transports and 17 Advanced Life Support transports. From January 1 through August 31, 2026, Ambulance Services recorded a total of 1,355 calls, reflecting the ongoing demand for emergency response services within the community.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club Youth Summer Program was held at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena from July 6 to August 13, 2026. On October 10, the Akwesasne Fall Fest will be held at the A'nowarako:wa Arena, hosted by MCA's Human Resources Program. The arena ice is scheduled to be installed the last week of October.

### AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Recruitment efforts continue for the Legislative Drafter position to support development of the Fire Safety Law. Residency Law amendments remain under review, with the working group, Bonnie Cole, Office of Vital Statistics (OVS), and AMPS continuing a side-by-side analysis of proposed changes. The Child Rights Working Group resumes bi-weekly meetings and is conducting community outreach through presentations at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Monthly Meeting, the Akwesasne Powwow, and the Orange Shirt Day event at Generations Park. Still in the process of recruiting new justices. There is currently only one justice, the ideal amount would be five.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Celebration of Life Conference is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2026, focusing on domestic violence and trauma. Ontario Native Welfare Administrator's Association (ONWAA) and Ishkoday will be hosting a fall assembly in Toronto from October

20-22, 2026, which I will be in attendance. Akwesasne Child & Family Services (ACFS) held a teen adventure camp from July 21-24, 2026. This was a 4-day outdoor experience, featuring rappelling, hiking, river floating, ziplining and white-water rafting, while building teamwork, confidence and lasting memories. Akwesasne Family Wellness Program (AFWP) invites community members to join Gathering Our Strength, a monthly talking circle; offering a safe space to connect, heal and learn through discussions on human sex trafficking and Missing Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) with support available to those impacted. On September 19, 2026 I attended and presented at the Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show held at the Snye Recreation Center.

The Community Support Program successfully administered the Back-to-School Clothing Allowance Program, providing \$500 per child in collaboration with ACFS to ensure efficient and coordinated distribution of funding. Hosted the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) Truth and Reconciliation Tour with participation from MCA leadership, management, and community partners. Advanced recruitment efforts for the Residential Case Manager position and secured approvals for the five-year lease renewal of the PJ Burns Outreach Building and the RedMane expansion. Delivered a Back-to-School giveaway, distributing 300 school supply kits to community children and families. Ongoing family, youth, wellness, cultural, and educational programming, including support groups, Culture Camp, self-defense classes, and MCA Service Day initiatives. Provided emergency assistance through food and gas card distribution, strengthened emergency housing support resources, and obtained approval for program enhancements to expand food security, income assistance, and internet support services effective October 1, 2026. Preparatory work also continued for upcoming seasonal assistance programs to support efficient service delivery.

# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



## FACEBOOK STATS

### Facebook Posts with the Most Likes in September

- 1. Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show Recap (Video)
- 2. MCA Announces New Finance Manager
- 3. St. Hubert Supports our Totas at Tsiionkwanonhso:te
- 4. Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show: Future Generations Take the Runway
- 5. Akwesasne Residents Remain Exempt from New Canadian Surtaxes on U.S. Goods

### Facebook Posts with the Highest Reach in September

- 1. MCA Maintains Opposition to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Transiting Akwesasne Waters — Reached 13,423
- 2. Akwesasne Residents Remain Exempt from New Canadian Surtaxes on U.S. Goods — Reached 11,589
- 3. Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show Recap (Video) — Reached 10,510
- 4. St. Lawrence River – Iroquois Control Dam Navigational Gates Open — Reached 9,116
- 5. Respecting Akwesasne Laws While on the Territory — Reached 8,960

## X STATS

### Top Post in September

### ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Generations Park, Akwesasne • 9:30 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.

|          |                                 |          |                  |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 9:30 AM  | COMMUNITY BREAK                 | 11:00 AM | COMMUNITY SOCIAL |
| 10:00 AM | OPENING CEREMONY                | 12:00 PM | FREE LUNCH       |
| 10:15 AM | ACTIVITIES OPEN & SMOKE DANCING | 1:00 PM  | MEETING CASE     |

FREE ACTIVITIES:

SMOKE DANCE COMPETITION & SOCIAL • SWEETGRASS BOOKMARKS • RATTLE MAKING • KAKEN'YEN LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES • MARKET & BELL TRADING • TEA BLENDING • BREADWORK • DEMO • MEDICINE POUCHES • CRYSTAL HEALING • BASKETRY • AND SO MUCH MORE!

OPEN TO EVERYONE • RAIN OR SHINE

### Akwé:kon Ratiia'tanó:ron ne Ratiksa'okòn:'a Smoke Dance Competition

Celebrating Handsome culture, song, dance, and intergenerational strength. Happening at the Akwesasne Orange Shirt Day 2026 event. Ages 0-17 | Girls & Boys | Must have orange incorporated into attire.

Generations Park, 50 Margaret Terrace Memorial Way, Akwesasne NY

Start Time: 9:30 am

Registration: Online or On-Site 8-10 am

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Cash prizes, Gift cards for Fully Beaded Moccasins, Wooden Lacrosse Stick and MLC resource baskets.

Guest Judges:

MC's: Kevin Lazore & Buck Cook

Singer: Ranehshiotha Herne

Scan to Register

Honoring Resilience: Hosted by the AMBE Mohawk Language and Culture Team to honor Residential School Survivors, families, and children who never came home.



## YOUTUBE STATS

### Highest Viewed Video on the MCA YouTube Channel for September

2026 Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show



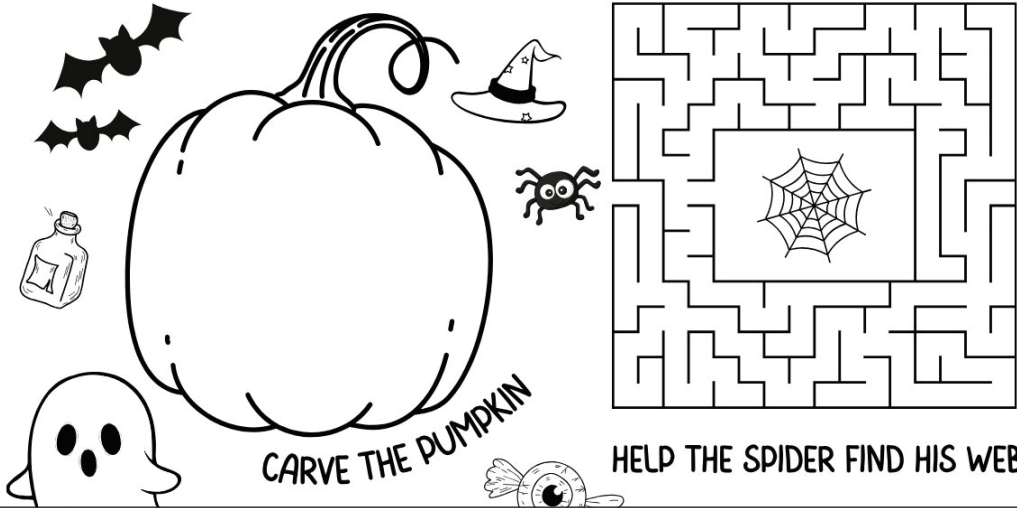
Scan QR Code to view video!

To view more videos, please visit:  
[www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne](https://www.youtube.com/MohawkCouncilofAkwesasne)

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

|         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| candy   | S | P | M | I | N | T | A | E | R | T | B |
| witch   | C | U | X | O | F | H | I | E | R | O | S |
| boo     | A | M | T | C | N | F | U | N | O | Y | U |
| spooky  | R | P | I | R | A | S | D | T | A | W | E |
| pumpkin | Y | K | E | N | S | N | T | L | S | I | M |
| haunted | B | I | C | U | K | H | D | E | O | T | U |
| treat   | T | N | T | N | C | E | R | Y | R | C | T |
| ghost   | S | E | O | D | I | R | S | A | I | H | S |
| trick   | O | B | N | F | R | M | I | L | Y | O | O |
| monster | H | A | U | N | T | E | D | T | O | R | C |
| scary   | G | C | H | I | L | Y | K | O | O | P | S |
| costume |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |



## COLOR THE TRICK OR TREAT DOODLE



## YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

What do ghosts serve for dessert?  
I-scream!

What do you call a monster who loves to dance? The boogiemani!

What is a ghost's favorite fruit?  
Boo-berries.

| INDIAN STATUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-Insured Health Benefits (<i>Pharmacy, Dental, Optometry</i>)</li><li>• Tax Exemption</li><li>• Civil and legal rights as a Canadian</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reside in Community</li><li>• Political Rights</li><li>• Own Land</li><li>• Housing</li><li>• Social Assistance</li><li>• Burial Rights</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Treaty and Aboriginal Rights</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Eligibility for Indian Status is determined by Canadian Federal Legislation known as the Indian Act.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Eligibility for Akwesasne Membership is determined by a Community Law known as the Akwesasne Membership Code.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Entitlement to registration under the Indian Act is based on the degree of descent from ancestors who are registered or entitled to be registered.</p> <p>To find out if you're eligible to be registered, ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are either or both of my parents registered or entitled to be registered?</li><li>• Are any of my grandparents registered or entitled to be registered?</li><li>• Is anyone in my immediate or extended family registered or entitled to be registered?</li></ul> <p>You may be eligible to be registered if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least one of your parents is registered or entitled to be registered under subsection 6(1) of the <i>Indian Act</i>.</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both of your parents is registered or entitled to be registered under subsection 6(1) or 6(2) of the <i>Indian Act</i>.</li></ul> | <p>Criteria to be an Akwesasne Member according to the Akwesasne Membership Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was on the Membership rolls on the date of enactment of this Code (prior to April 17, 1985) or were entitled to be on the rolls.</li><li>• Is a child born of two members of the Mohawk Nation in Akwesasne.</li><li>• Has been granted membership according to the provisions in Part II of this Code.</li></ul> <p>AKWESASNE MEMBERSHIP CODE</p>  |
| The Indian Registrar, who is appointed by Canada, makes decisions on whether you are eligible for Indian Registration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | The Akwesasne Membership Board, made up of elected representatives of our community, makes the decisions on who will become an Akwesasne Member.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| If you are eligible for Indian Registration, you will receive a Status (Registration) Number issued by the Indian Registrar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | If eligible for Akwesasne Membership, you will be added to our Membership Roll. No number will be issued.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| You can have Indian Status but not be an Akwesasne Member.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | You can be an Akwesasne Member but not have an Indian Status number.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| For information on how to apply for Akwesasne Membership or to verify your Membership, contact the Office of Vital Statistics:<br>📧 ovsclerk@akwesasne.ca    📞 613-575-2250 ext. 1013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



### HELP SHAPE AKWESASNE'S CHILD RIGHTS LAW: REQUEST AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR YOUR GROUP

The Eniethihswanón:na Working Task Group (WTG) is continuing to connect with Akwesasne offices, community organizations, schools, classrooms, and other groups interested in learning more about the proposed Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law and sharing their feedback.

Information sessions can be arranged for groups that would like to learn more about the draft law and participate in the consultation process. Community members who would like to share their own experiences or personal knowledge may also request a private session, and the WTG will do its best to accommodate their needs.

This outreach is part of Phase III of the Akwesasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation (ALEPR), during which community members are encouraged to share their comments, questions, and concerns regarding the current draft law.

To date, the WTG has completed the required Focus Meeting and three District Community Consultation Sessions. The group has also held six additional sessions with departments, schools, and committees, and attended ten community events, including the Akwesasne Art Market, to share information and answer

questions.

Niawenhkó:wa to everyone who has attended a consultation session, visited an information booth, submitted their comments, or taken the time to learn more about this initiative.

Community feedback remains an important part of the law development process. The WTG looks forward to continuing these discussions and invites organizations, offices, schools, committees, other groups, and individuals to reach out if they would like to schedule an information session.

If you are new to the initiative, copies of the draft Akwesasne Child Rights and Responsibilities Law (Eniethihswanón:na) are available:

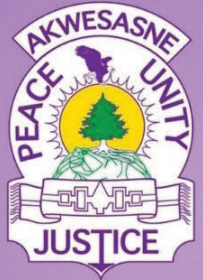
- In person at the Akwesasne Justice Department, 45 Johnson Road (Kana:takon)
- By email or postal mail
- By delivery upon request

For questions, to submit comments, or for more information, please contact:

Alyson Thompson, Legislative Services Manager  
alyson.thompson@akwesasne.ca

Emily King, Legislative Researcher  
emily.king@akwesasne.ca

Telephone: (613) 575-5000



## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Contact Us!

**JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
45 Johnson Rd., Akwesasne, QC H0M 1A0  
Phone: 613-575-5000 Fax: 613-575-1726

**AKWESASNE COURT**  
CIA #3. 101 Tewesateni Rd., Akwesasne, ON K6H 0G5  
Phone: 613-575-2250 ext. 1026

## AHKWESAHSNE MOHAWK SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL AND ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL



The Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School welcomes Jessica Roundpoint as the new school Principal!

For Jessica, returning to AMS is a true full-circle moment. A former AMS student and teacher, she

School for four years, where she gained valuable leadership experience that she looks forward to bringing to AMS.

Born and raised in Ahkwesahsne, Jessica is a proud mother of two. Outside of work, you can often find her cheering on her sons at the lacrosse box or visiting her daughter at Queen's University.

Jessica believes that hard work, dedication and determination are key to creating a strong foundation for future generations while honoring traditional values.

Contact information:

Email: [jessica.roundpoint@ambe.ca](mailto:jessica.roundpoint@ambe.ca)

Phone: 613-932-3366

is grateful for the opportunity to now serve the school community as Principal.

"I'm excited to return to the school that played such an important role in my own journey. It's a humbling and meaningful opportunity to give back and bring forward everything I've learned along the way."

Jessica previously served as Principal of Kana:takon



AMBE welcomes Sean Rudy as the new Associate Principal of AMS.

Sean brings a wealth of experience in education, leadership and Indigenous youth programming. Most recently, he

Program Facilitator with First Assist, an Indigenous charity that uses sports and positive mentorship to support Indigenous youth and promote school engagement and success. Through this work, he has connected with youth, educators, communities and partners across Canada.

Passionate about creating positive learning environments and building strong relationships, Sean is excited to bring his experience and energy to his new role at AMS. He looks forward to working alongside students, staff, families and the community to support student success while celebrating the language, culture, and strengths of Akwesasne.

Welcome to AMS, Sean!

Contact information:

Email: [sean.rudy@ambe.ca](mailto:sean.rudy@ambe.ca)

Phone: 613-932-3366

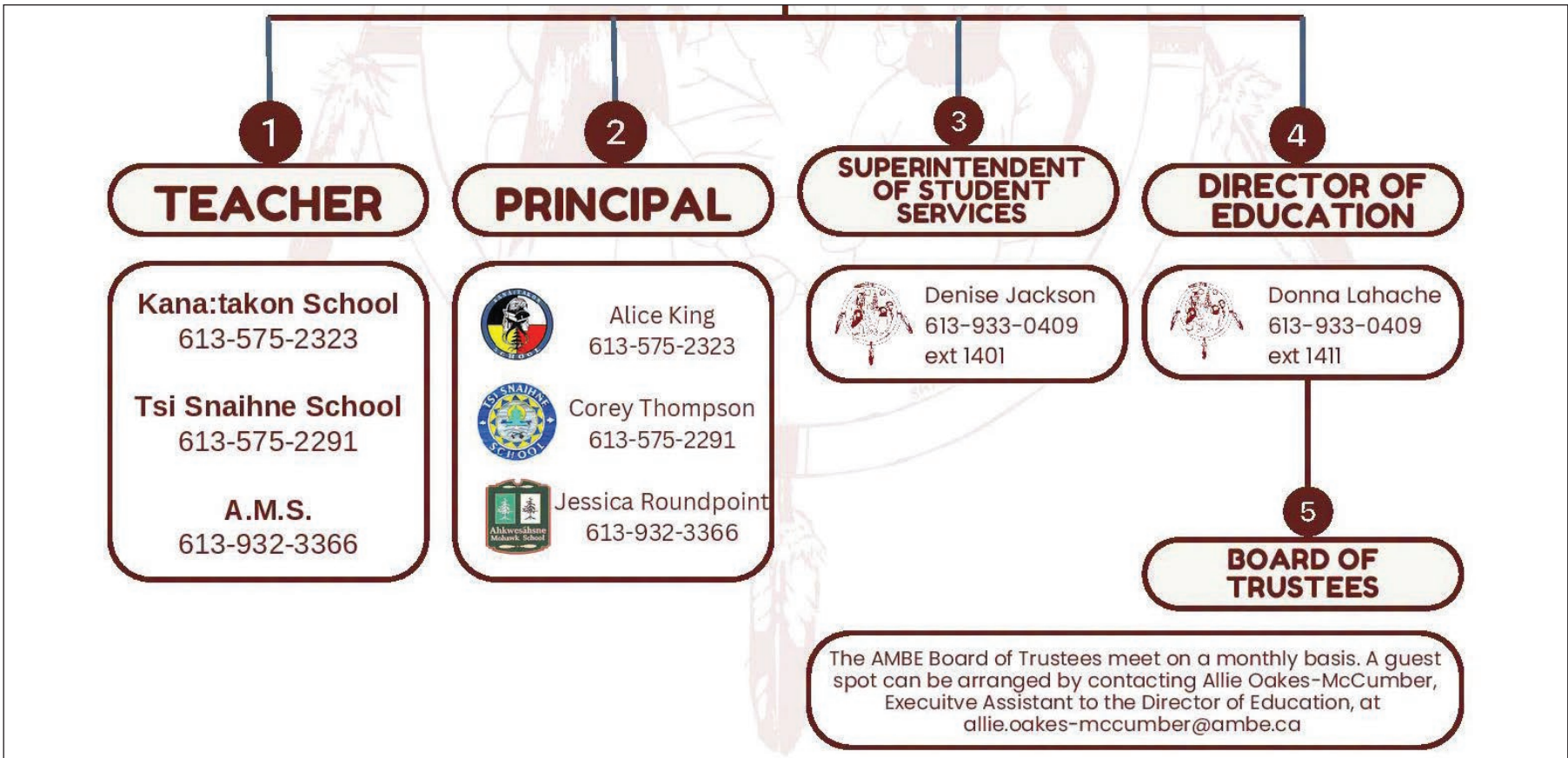
Prior to joining the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education, Sean spent seven years with the Cree School Board as a teacher, Head Teacher and Counsellor in Academic Training.

Sean also serves as the Education Director and Lead

## HAVE A CONCERN AT YOUR STUDENTS AMBE SCHOOL?

Here is a step-by-step guide on who to contact to help resolve a concern.

1. Speak to your students teacher. AMBE educators are the first step in assisting in any concerns regarding your student, they are in the classroom and see your student daily.
2. Have further questions? No problem, reach out to your students school principal.
3. Looking for a bit more? Reach out to Denise Jackson, Superintendent of Student Services. Mrs. Jackson has been an educator and principal with
4. Donna Lachache, Director of Education, should be your last contact before reaching out to Allie Oakes-McCumber, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education.
5. With Allie, you can set up a meeting with the AMBE Board Of Trustees. In your request, please outline the situation of concern, the steps you've followed to reach this point and your contact information.



**AMBE** **PICTURE DAY**

**AMS**  
**October 19**

**TSI SNAIHNE**  
**SCHOOL**  
**October 20**

**KANA:TAKON**  
**SCHOOL**  
**October 21**

*\*All schools re-take day is scheduled for November 17, 2026\**

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## PARENTS PROVIDE, KIDS DECIDE. TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF FAMILY MEALS

By Emily Templeton, RD, CDE (Integrated Services, Clinical Care Sector 4, DOH)

Feeding kids can be challenging! One day they love a food, and the next day they won't touch it. Some days, they seem to eat all day, while on others, you wonder how they're surviving on just a few bites.

As parents and caregivers, it can be tempting to encourage "just a few more bites," ask them to finish their vegetables, or use dessert as a reward. While this usually comes from a good place, too much pressure can make mealtimes stressful and make it harder for children to listen to their own hunger and fullness cues.

### PARENTS PROVIDE, KIDS DECIDE

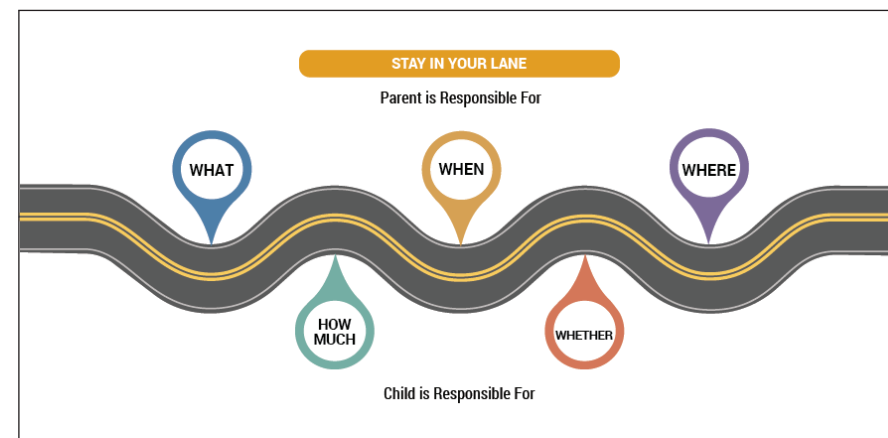
The Division of Responsibility in Feeding, developed by dietitian and family therapist Ellyn Satter, gives families a simple framework:

Parents and caregivers decide:

- What foods are offered
- When meals and snacks happen
- Where eating takes place

Children decide:

- Whether they eat
- How much they eat from the foods offered



In other words, our job is to provide the food and

structure. Their job is to decide what their body needs.

Children's appetites naturally vary from day to day depending on growth, activity, sleep and many other factors. Rather than focusing on how much they eat at one meal, look at the bigger picture over several days.

### TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF

Offer regular meals and snacks with a variety of foods and try to include at least one familiar food your child generally enjoys.

Kids may need to see a new food many times before they feel comfortable eating it. Seeing it on the table, smelling it, touching it or watching others enjoy it are all part of learning. There is no need to force a taste.

Instead of "three more bites and then you can be done," try "You don't have to finish it. You can have more if you're still hungry."

### TRY DECONSTRUCTED MEALS

Deconstructed meals are one of my favorite strategies for families with different food preferences. Simply serve the different parts of the meal separately and let everyone build their own plate.

For taco night, put out tortillas, meat and/or black beans, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and corn, salsa, guacamole, etc. One child may choose a tortilla with meat and cheese while another adds everything. Both are still eating the family meal.

Other easy deconstructed meal ideas include:

- Pasta with sauce, meatballs, cheese and vegetables served separately
- Rice/Grain or noodle bowls with protein, vegeta-

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

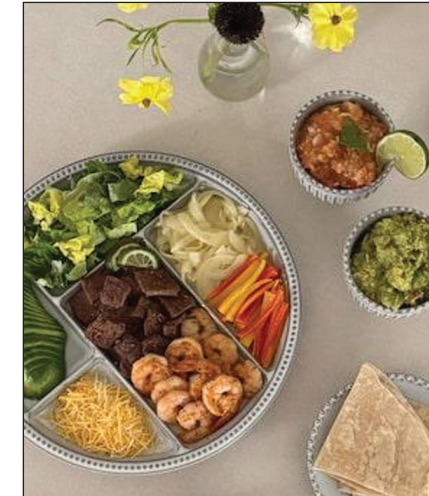
## PARENTS PROVIDE, KIDS DECIDE. TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF FAMILY MEALS

By Emily Templeton, RD, CDE (Integrated Services, Clinical Care Sector 4, DOH)

- bles, sauces and toppings
- Burgers or sandwiches with toppings on the side
- Fajitas, wraps or pita plates
- Build your own salad (with protein, grains/starchy vegetables, vegetables, fruit, cheese, nuts/seeds, dressings)
- Snack plates with cheese, eggs/chicken, crackers, vegetables, fruit and dip

Deconstructing meals doesn't mean becoming a short-order cook. You are still deciding what foods are available, you are simply giving your child some choice in what goes on their plate.

**Pro tip:** A divided serving tray (ex. Snackle Box, Tupperware style veggie



platter) is perfect for deconstructed meals! Keep toppings in separate sections, then place the whole tray on the table at mealtime. Repurpose the leftovers for their/your lunch the next day. Less prep, fewer dishes, and everyone can build their own plate.

### THINK LONG-TERM

The goal isn't to raise a child who always cleans their plate or always eats their vegetables. We want children to grow into adults who enjoy a variety of foods, feel comfortable around food, and trust their own hunger and fullness.

Providing structure without pressure can go a long way toward helping them build that healthy relationship with food.

If you have concerns about your child's growth, eating habits or nutrition, speak with your healthcare provider or Registered Dietitian.

Source: Ellyn Satter Institute. The Satter Division of Responsibility in Feeding (sDOR).

## "DAYTOX" PROGRAMMING AT SAHATIHA'HARÁ:NE DETOX CENTER

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center (SDC) is announcing the introduction of their new "Daytox" programming.

### What is Daytox?

Daytox is a community-based outpatient substance abuse recovery program for Akwesasne community members looking to gain skills and tools for recovery and relapse prevention.

Daytox will give you a safe space to explore your triggers, patterns and behaviours related to your addiction. Through our multifaceted approach, you

will learn and apply skills and tools to manage cravings and triggers. Daytox provides a supportive community of professionals and peers to help you remain on track with accountability and emotional support.

Follow the MCA Department of Health's Facebook page to view Daytox programming for the month!

For more information on daytox programming, please call the Sahatiha'hará:ne Detox Center at 613-932-5050.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### DOH CLINICAL CARE SERVICES • SECTOR 4: INTEGRATED SERVICES ADVANCED DIABETIC FOOT CARE

#### THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Corns & Calluses

Corns and calluses are areas of thick, hard, dead skin that form to protect your skin from injury. Corns usually form where toes rub together, while calluses often form on the hands or feet. They may develop whenever the skin rubs against something, such as shoes. In most cases, you can take steps at home to care for a corn or callus.

#### How can you care for your corn or callus at home?

- Wear shoes and other footwear that fit correctly. This will reduce rubbing and give corns or calluses time to heal.
- Use protective pads, such as moleskin to cushion the callus or corn.
- Soak your corn or callus in warm water and then use a pumice stone to rub dead skin away.
- Use an over-the-counter callus-removing product, such as one that contains salicylic acid or urea. These products come in creams, ointments, gels, and patches. But if you have a condition that causes problems with blood flow (such as peripheral vascular disease) or loss of feeling in your feet (such as diabetes), talk to your doctor before you try any home treatment.

- Wash your feet regularly and rub lotion into your feet while they are still moist. Dry skin can cause a callus to crack and bleed.
- Never cut the corn or callus yourself, especially if you have problems with blood flow to your legs or feet or a problem with numbness or feeling in your feet.

#### When should you call for help?

Contact your doctor, nurse, or seek immediate medical care if you have signs of infection such as:

- Increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness around the corn or callus.
- Red streaks leading from the corn or callus.
- Pus draining from the corn or callus.
- A fever.

#### 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

### DENTISTRY @ INGLESIDE NOW ACCEPTING AKWESASNE PATIENTS

The Akwesasne community is advised that Dentistry @ Ingleside is currently accepting new patients.

Located at 19 Thorold Lane, Ingleside, ON, the clinic is open:

- Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Friday: 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

#### Becoming a New Patient

To get started, simply contact the Dentistry @ Ingleside office and provide your:

- Band Number
- Health Card Number (OHIP or RAMQ)

Dentistry @ Ingleside will submit a pre-approval re-

quest to the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program to confirm coverage for your initial exam and x-rays. Once approval is received, appointments are typically scheduled within a few weeks.

#### Contact Information

Phone: 613-522-0828

Website: [www.dentistryatingleside.ca](http://www.dentistryatingleside.ca)

If you are looking for dental services, Dentistry @ Ingleside welcomes new patients from the Akwesasne community and looks forward to helping you maintain a healthy smile!

Please contact the clinic directly for more information or to begin the registration process.

### SUPPORTING BREAST HEALTH: MCA JOINS CCH MAMMOGRAM DAY

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Community Health Services (CHS) will be participating in Mammogram Day at the Cornwall Community Hospital (CCH) on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Mammogram Day is a partnership with Cornwall Community Hospital, Cancer Care Ontario, and MCA's Primary Care Services and Community Health Services.

The Ontario Breast Screening Program is a province-wide screening program that aims to reduce breast cancer deaths through regular screening. The program offers screening to two different groups of people who qualify for breast cancer screening:

- People ages 40 to 74 at average risk for breast cancer
- People ages 30 to 69 at high risk for breast cancer

Community members can contact the Akwesasne

Medical Clinic (AMC) to pre-register for their mammogram by calling 613-575-2341 ext. 3215. AMC staff will provide you with your appointment time at CCH when calling and pre-registering.

**Deadline to pre-register for Mammogram Day is Tuesday, October 13. Pre-registration is required.**

For more information, please call MCA Community Health Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220 or Primary Care Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3247.



IN MEMORY OF DIANE KING

**Bling the Bra**

As a Community Health Nurse, Diane was a huge advocate for breast cancer awareness. She established the "Bling the Bra" campaign in Community Health Services.

Community Health Services will be hosting a Bling the Bra contest to honor Diane's memory and for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

- Decorate or "bling" your bra!
- All entries must include a health message
- Deadline for submissions: October 15, 2026
- Submit entries to MCA's Community Health Services located at Kanonhkwa'tsheri:io Health Facility

For more information, please call MCA's Community Health Services at 613-575-2341 ext. 3220

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## CELEBRATING STRENGTH & SOBRIETY

MCA's Mental Health & Wellness Service honoured Akwesasne community members who have chosen sobriety by sharing their stories on social media during National Addictions Awareness Week (August 24-28, 2026). Their courage and commitment inspires us all! Read their inspiring stories below, as they remind us that recovery is possible and worth celebrating.



Charlene "Brown" Lazore

*"I chose sobriety to get control of my life. I was tired of letting addiction make all the decisions. To get my kids' trust back, they deserve a mother who shows up every single day. To build a safe, loving home for my family.*

*I wanted our home to be a place of peace, not chaos. To be healthy in my body, mind, and spirit. I want to live and not just survive. To get my power back. I gave my power away to addiction for way too long.*

*Today, I have my power back. Sobriety isn't always easy. Some days are hard and some days I miss the old me. But every day I choose this life for me and for my kids and for the future. I hope my story can give others hope. One day at a time, stronger everyday, unstoppable."*



Lisa Swamp

*"For most of my life, I grappled with addiction, a struggle that impacted not just me, but also my family. Their lives were intertwined with my battles, and I often felt the weight of my choices on their shoulders. However, on March 25, 2025, everything changed. One traumatic event forced me to confront the reality of my addiction — if I didn't stop, I would die. It was the wake-up call I desperately needed.*

*Now, 16 months sober, I have embarked on a healing journey that encompasses not only my physical well-being but also my mental, emotional, and spiritual health. Utilizing a holistic approach, I have found invaluable support through local agencies like Heal and MCA services, as well as through Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.*

*For the first time, I'm learning about myself and addressing the past. I can genuinely say I'm happy, sober, and growing. To anyone considering the path to sobriety, let my story be a beacon of hope — it's never too late. Our community offers a wealth of resources if you're willing to reach out and accept the help. If I can do it, so can you."*



Dawn Smoke

*"I didn't plan to be a girl who struggled. I wasn't trying to fit in or escape anything in particular. I just got lost somewhere along the way. I started using in high school. What began as curiosity turned into a habit and before I knew it was running my life.*

*I lied. I hid things and I pushed away the people who loved me most. I wasn't always a bad person I was just hurting in ways I didn't know how to fix. I was a good mom even in the middle of my addiction. My son has always been heart, my reason, my biggest motivation to keep going in when I felt like giving up.*

*There were consequences, pain mistakes, and years I can't get back. but there was also a turning point, the moment I got tired of hurting myself and everyone around me.*

*Getting sober wasn't easy. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done. But, every day I choose this life for me, for my son, and for the future I'm building. I'm not perfect, but I'm real. I'm in recovery and I'm proud of the woman I'm becoming. If my story can give someone else hope, then every part of my past was worth it. Sober is where I found me."*

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## CELEBRATING STRENGTH & SOBRIETY



Trish Garrow

*"Looking back, since I was 14 years old, I had a problem with alcohol. It would be years later that I would get help for my addiction to alcohol and drugs. I didn't receive help willingly; now I like to think of it as a divine intervention. This was my third attempt at recovery. I had gotten 3 DWI's in a 10yr period. It was either jail/prison time or enter Franklin County Drug Court with Judge Main and five (5) years felony probation. I will admit, I did think of choosing jail instead. Thankfully, I thought of my kids and how much they still needed Momma. I have been in recovery since July 8, 2009, for 17 years.*

*This was my early recovery; don't use, go to meetings, stay away from people, places, and things and find a Higher Power of my choosing. Over time, I wanted to learn more about the 12 Steps, so I started attending Big Book study meetings, meetings that discussed the 12&12, As Bob Sees It, and learning more about the 12 Step literature. I did step work with a sponsor and found a home group, and did service work. This is what worked for me. Daily gratitude is so important to me, even on the hard days. I remember an "old timer" in the room would say, "if you don't have gratitude, you're going to relapse".*

*I completed Drug Court successfully in May of 2012 and Franklin County probation in Jan of 2014. At that time my probation officer said, I was living proof of someone who turned a negative into a positive. I went back to school at Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education and Training Institute for Social Service Worker and received my two-year diploma. I completed an internship with ACDP-Outpatient and started working as an outpatient counselor in 2015 and since 2018 became the Outpatient Coordinator. My mentor, Connie Thompson, has taught me a lot about treatment, and, most importantly, how to be a good supervisor. She believed in me before I did, that I had what it takes to be a counselor.*

*I've had some major losses during my recovery. My Bubs in 2011, that was during my early recovery. Losing my first-born daughter Matayia in 2021 and two sisters/cousins in 2024. Losing my girl was my most devastating loss. For me, the loss of a child is the most heartbreaking. The grief was so tremendous to overcome. I couldn't do it alone. I'm very grateful for everything I have learned in recovery. To know when it was getting too dark, I had to reach out for help. My family, friends, and my AA/NA recovery family were all there for me. Those rooms are my safe place to talk about my true feelings and where I feel safe to be vulnerable.*

*I remind myself I'm powerless over my addiction - acceptance is key. I stay grounded by being humble, and everything I have overcome gives me a sense of pride and resiliency. Recovery for me is taking it One Day at a Time, knowing life still happens. There will be hard times, sad times, and good times. The difference now is, I've learned how to deal with my feelings instead of stuffing them down. I've learned how to love myself, for me.*

*Recovery has given me a chance to live life instead of just existing. It all started with the love for my kids and entering Franklin County Drug Court."*



Teiohontsiakwenhte Skidders

*"I was always warned about drinking, but being young and knowing everything, I learned the hard way. I almost destroyed my liver permanently. I started noticing the right side of my abdomen was sore, but I paid no attention to it for months.*

*I finally decided to get help from my manager at work. I remember him saying, 'Asking for help to better yourself is a good thing.' He helped me leave my job on good terms and told me the ball is in my court now. I realized, it's getting real.*

*I am forever grateful to the people who helped and believed in me when I couldn't. I did not want to leave my two children behind without a father. I have 3 beautiful children and my youngest has not seen me drink alcohol yet. I say yet because the work never stops. Every day, sometimes every hour.*

*I choose to stay sober for me. I want to be a great father like mine was in the short time that we had him."*

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## BACK TO SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH TIPS AND INFORMATION

It's that time of year again: back to school! This time of year can be exciting, yet can also cause anxiety in some of our youth.

MCA Mental Health Services is issuing some helpful tips and information on how to navigate that back to school energy and tips on how to check in with your child/children about how they are coping.

### SIGNS YOUR CHILD/TEEN MAY BE STRUGGLING:

#### Children

- Increased clinginess
- Frequent crying or tantrums
- Complaints of stomach or headaches
- Trouble sleeping
- Increased irritability
- Refusal to attend school
- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty concentrating

#### Teens

- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Significant mood changes
- Increased anger or irritability
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Loss of interest in activities previously enjoyed
- Declining grades or school attendance
- Excessive worry, stress, or perfectionism
- Increased screen use or isolation

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL WELLNESS TIPS:

#### Build Healthy Routines

- Start adjusting sleep schedules before school begins
- Eat regular meals and snacks
- Create predictable morning and bedtime routines
- Plan for homework and relaxation time

#### Stay Connected

- Spend one-on-one time together daily
- Put away phones during family conversations
- Create opportunities for discussion without judgement
- Listen more than you speak

#### Monitor Online Wellbeing

- Check in about social media experiences
- Discuss cyberbullying and online safety
- Watch for signs of online stress or exclusion
- Encourage balance between online and real-world activities

#### Reduce Stress

- Avoid over scheduling activities
- Break tasks into manageable steps
- Practice deep breathing together
- Encourage healthy coping skills

For more information, please contact the Mental Health Services office at 613-575-2341 ext. 3115.

## CLINICAL CARE SERVICES: INDIGENOUS PATIENT NAVIGATOR INFORMATION

The Indigenous Patient Navigators are committed to supporting the Akwesasne community.

#### Our Services:

- Coordinate appointments and services
- Explain diagnosis and care plans
- Remove practical barriers to care
- Advocate for culturally respectful care

- Connect clients to community resources

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

April White, RN

Indigenous Patient Navigator

613-938-4240 ext. 4542 or 613-577-5445

Office Hours at Cornwall Community Hospital

Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## AKWESASNE YOUTH FASHION SHOW: FUTURE GENERATIONS TAKE THE RUNWAY

On September 19, 2026, Akwesasró:non came under one roof to celebrate and support our future leaders as they took the spotlight at the Akwesasne Youth Fashion Show.

Held at the Tsi Snaihne Recreation Center, the afternoon brought together families, community members, designers, artists, and supporters from across Akwesasne to cheer on our youth as they learn the art of modeling, build confidence, and experience what it is like to take the runway.

The event began with welcoming words from Mohawk Council of Akwesasne District Chiefs Teresa Oakes, Tesha Rourke, and Cody David, who helped set the tone for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating and encouraging our youth. The Department of Community & Social Services Director (DCSS) Jaime Beechey also shared welcoming remarks and spoke

about DCSS's passion for providing meaningful opportunities for Akwesasró:non youth.

Each young model brought their own creativity and personality to the runway, showcasing fashion while incorporating elements of Kanien'keha culture. The afternoon was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the talent of our youth while creating a space for them to feel supported and proud of who they are.

Nia:wen to DCSS for providing support for this event and helping create an opportunity for our youth to shine. Thank you to the families, community members, designers, artists, organizers, and everyone who came to support our youth. Your support helps create meaningful opportunities for the next generation to grow, express themselves, and carry our culture forward.



# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

## 2026-2027 AKWESASNE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is now 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 date, 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.

Any resident who carried more than a \$2,000 balance from last year to this year will not have to apply as their heating bill would be adequately covered.

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.**

Applicants whose primary heating source is provided through a landlord or another arrangement where they do not receive a heating bill directly will be provided with information on the appropriate documentation to submit with their application.

Once an application is approved, the approved heating assistance will be applied toward the applicant's eligible primary heating source. Payments will not be processed until after the application intake period has closed. Applicants should continue making any required heating payments until their AHAP assistance has been processed.

The MCA Community Support Program will be notifying the community of the 2026-2027 AHAP applications intake dates. Please note that intake dates may be subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact the MCA Community Support Program at 613-575-2341 ext. 3262.

Stay tuned to MCA's Facebook page and website to view additional application dates for November and December 2026.

| OCTOBER 5-10, 2026 |                                                                         |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday - Friday    | Community Support Program Office<br>(Kanonhkwa'tsherio Health Facility) | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 6    | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 7  | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 8   | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 9     | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 10  | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |

| OCTOBER 13-17, 2026                                        |                                                                         |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday - Friday<br><i>*MCA Offices Closed October 12*</i> | Community Support Program Office<br>(Kanonhkwa'tsherio Health Facility) | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 13                                           | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 14                                         | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 15                                          | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 16                                            | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 17                                          | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |

| OCTOBER 19-24, 2026 |                                                                         |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday - Friday     | Community Support Program Office<br>(Kanonhkwa'tsherio Health Facility) | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 19     | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 20    | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 21  | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 22   | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 23     | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 24   | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |

| OCTOBER 26-31, 2026 |                                                                         |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday - Friday     | Community Support Program Office<br>(Kanonhkwa'tsherio Health Facility) | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Monday, Oct. 26     | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Oct. 27    | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Oct. 28  | A'nowara'ko:wa Arena                                                    | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Oct. 29   | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Friday, Oct. 30     | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, Oct. 31   | Snye Recreation Center                                                  | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |

# DEPT. OF INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

## RECYCLE MORE, WASTE LESS WITH MCA

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's curbside recycling collection accepts a variety of everyday items, giving community members more ways to recycle, reduce waste and keep materials out of the landfill.

Some of the items you can include in your recycling bin are:

- Frozen juice & ice cream containers
- Black plastic food containers
- Empty toothpaste tubes
- Empty roll-on deodorant bottles
- Coffee cups

Please make sure all containers are empty and free of leftover food or residue before placing them in your recycling bin.

### Pick-Up Schedule:

- Tuesday — Recycling
- Wednesday — MCA Facilities
- Thursday — Tsi Snaihne
- Friday — Kawehno:ke
- Saturday — Kana:takon

Want the full list of eligible items? Scan the QR code or learn more at: [www.akwesasne.ca/environment/#recycling](http://www.akwesasne.ca/environment/#recycling)



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact D & R Disposal at 613-932-4588.



## PICK-UP SCHEDULE

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| TUESDAY   | RECYCLING      |
| WEDNESDAY | MCA FACILITIES |
| THURSDAY  | TSI SNAIHNE    |
| FRIDAY    | KAWEHNO:KE     |
| SATURDAY  | KANA:TAKON     |

CONTACT D&R DISPOSAL: 613-932-4588

# COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

## PAWSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS PET HEALTH

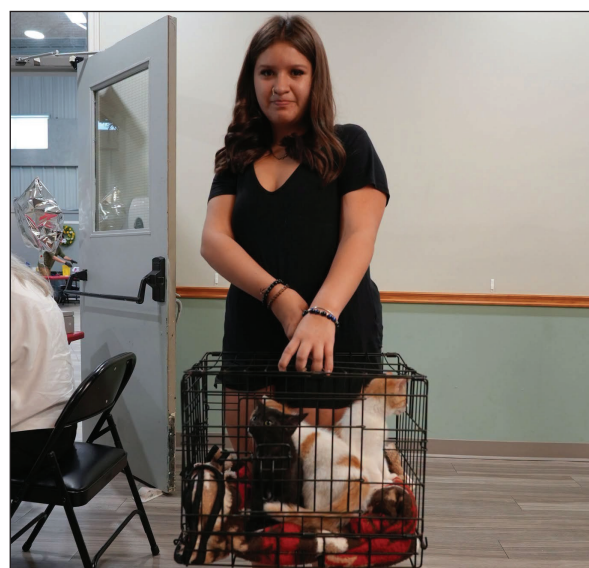
On August 22, a Pet Vaccine Clinic was held in Akwesasne and was a great success, thanks to the wonderful collaboration between the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Compliance Program.

Held at the Kawehno:ke Recreation Centre, the clinic provided community members with access to essential vaccinations for their beloved pets. A total of 65 pets received vaccinations, including rabies

and core vaccines, helping to keep cats and dogs throughout the community healthy and protected.

The MCA Compliance Program extends a heartfelt niawenhkó:wa to the veterinarians, organizers, and volunteers whose hard work, compassion, and dedication made this clinic possible.

Together, we are taking meaningful steps to keep Akwesasne's pets healthy, safe, and protected.



# AKWESASNE MOHAWK POLICE SERVICE

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BITTEN BY A DOG

Dog bites and scratches require immediate medical attention due to the risk of infection, including rabies. If you or a loved one is injured by a dog in Akwesasne, please follow this step-by-step guide to protect your health and ensure the incident is properly reported and investigated.

### STEP 1: IMMEDIATE MEDICAL & FIRST AID RESPONSE

- **Administer First Aid:** Apply firm, direct pressure to the wound to help control bleeding. If possible, elevate the affected area.
- **Wash the Wound:** Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible, especially if medical care is not immediately available.
- **Seek Medical Care:** Visit a clinic or hospital as soon as possible, even if the injury appears minor. Prompt medical care is important to prevent infection and assess any potential health risks.

### STEP 2: REPORTING THE INCIDENT

Reporting dog bites ensures community safety and allows officers to track potential health risks.

- **During Regular Hours:** Call the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service (AMPS) at 613-575-2340.
- **After-Hours/Emergencies:** For immediate safety threats or after-hours incidents, please call Central Dispatch at 613-575-2000.
- **Provide Critical Details:** When making a report, be prepared to share:
  - » The time and exact location of the incident
  - » The names of the reporting person and injured individual(s), if known
  - » A description of the dog (breed, size, colour, markings, and behaviour)
  - » The name and address of the dog owner, if known
  - » A photo of the dog, if available, to assist with identification

After-hours reports will be responded to by AMPS in coordination with the Compliance Department.

### STEP 3: FOLLOW-UP & INVESTIGATION

Once a report is received, it will be reviewed and followed up on in a timely manner.

- **Investigation:** Compliance Officers will review and respond to reported incidents as soon as possible.
- **Dog Quarantine:** Under Section 4A of the Emergency Interim Dog Control Regulation, any dog not under its owner's control that bites a person shall be quarantined for up to 10 days. The Compliance Department will contact the owner to verify up-to-date rabies vaccination records and visually monitor the dog for signs of the virus (such as increased salivation, irritability, or aggressiveness).
- **Rabies Testing:** If a dog exhibits symptoms of rabies, it must be humanely euthanized so tissue samples can be sent to a laboratory for testing. The MCA Environmental Health Officer (EHO) will oversee this process.
- **Enforcement & Tickets:** If the owner violated local laws by failing to secure their dog, the Compliance Officer can issue a written warning or an official ticket. For "Improper Care of a Dog" (such as a lack of vaccination records) or letting an aggressive dog roam unsupervised, fines range from \$50 up to \$1,000, or a term of imprisonment of up to 30 days.

### STEP 4: COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES

Dog owners are legally and financially liable for any injury or property damage their animal causes while not under control.

- **Documenting Expenses:** Individuals are encouraged to provide a detailed list of medical expenses, lost time, or property damage to the Compliance Department.
- **Reimbursement:** The Compliance Officer may facilitate communication between the affected parties regarding possible reimbursement.
- **Akwesasne Court:** If the owner refuses to pay, or if the damages are significant, a ticket will be issued, and matters may be referred to the Akwesasne Mohawk Court for resolution and potential recovery of damages.

Help keep Akwesasne safe. Please restrain your pets, keep vaccinations current, and report loose or aggressive animals immediately.

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE PRESENTS

OPEN TO ALL AKWESASRO:NON, WHEREVER YOU CALL HOME.

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. NO DROP-OFFS.

# FALL FEST 2026

**Saturday, October 10, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**ULTIMATE FREE FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL!**  
 BRING THE FAMILY OUT TO ENJOY RIDES, GAMES, FOOD, LOCAL VENDORS, ANIMALS, AND FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

A'nowara'ko:wa Arena  
 36 Arena Rd, Akwesasne ON K6H 5R7

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2ND ANNUAL



**OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
**A'NOWARA'KO:WA ARENA**  
**9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.**

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Many people enjoy transforming their homes into eerie scenes. Be sure to keep the path leading up to your door free of obstacles for the little ones, especially those with masks who might have trouble seeing in dim light.



Keep pets indoors on Halloween to protect them from hazards and preventing them from being aggressive to visitors.

## CHILDREN SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

- Wear pale colours with reflective bands.
- Bring a flashlight to see clearly and become more visible.
- Glow sticks are also an excellent method to increase a child's visibility.
- Have a trick-or-treating route planned in advance and share it with parents.
- Ring doorbells or knock on doors in groups and always wait outside a house.
- Stay away from animals you are not familiar with.
- Limit running from one side to the street to the other and only do so at intersections.
- Check with parents if candy collected is safe.