Traditional Support Program
Rekindling Old Ideas

Features

- Tribal Employee Enrichment Awards
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Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs) Submitted by the Tribal Clerk’s Office

TCRs are the recorded decisions of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council on matters requiring a formal expression of such decisions. Some examples include; but are not limited to; adoption and amendment of tribal ordinances or laws that do not require referendum vote, approval of grant applications, appointment of Administrators of estates and conduct of day-to-day tribal business operations requiring a written record of Tribal Council approval. (Source: Tribal Procedures Act. adopted by referendum, Ohiarí:h /June 1, 2013.)

TCR 2018-51  Appoint Members to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Police Commission

TCR 2018-53  Support Application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant

TCR 2018-54  Support the Three Sisters Program to Seek Funds from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime - FY 2018 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program

TCR 2018-55  Approve Appointment of Deputy Tribal Clerk

TCR 2018-56  Reaffirm Membership Appeal Process Under the Membership Code of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

TCR 2018-57  Adopt the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Good Standing Policy

Kanien’kéha Owenna’shón:ah Signage Project

Akwesasne travelers may have noticed beautiful handcrafted signs in Kanien’kéha (Mohawk language) popping up around the community during the past few months. Designed by Akwesasne craftsman Richard Cook, the signs are the result of the Kanien’kéha Owenna’shón:ah Signage Project, an initiative developed to promote the everyday use of Kanien’kéha at local businesses and organizations.

The Kanien’kéha Owenna’shón:ah Signage Project was overseen by Victoria Ransom at the Akwesasne Cultural Center and supported by a $100,000 award in 2017 from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement Fund. Administered by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program, the settlement funds allowed the project to help share the language with future generations through signage, brochures, and technology.

Through the participation of approximately 20 Akwesasne businesses and organizations, the project provided entrance signs and brochures at local restaurants and other establishments. Each item was designed to help educate and increase our shared Mohawk vocabulary about businesses, rivers, medicinal plants, trails, traditional foods, and many other local places of interest.

Concluded at the end of 2018, the Kanien’kéha Owenna’shón:ah Signage Project helped promote language revitalization by encouraging and supporting first language speakers, while allowing second language speakers and learners to practice speaking at settings throughout the community. ◊

Kawenni:i:os “Good Words” is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are available in print or digital versions.

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Greetings Akwesashró:non, both living locally and away from home,

As we close 2018 and begin 2019, Tribal Council wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. We hope that 2018 was good for all, as we had many great accomplishments within SRMT. Our Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort (Casino) continues to provide the necessary funding to supplement the outside funding we receive, which leads to continued employment opportunities for approximately 1,500 local residents between both the Tribe and the Casino.

The Casino success and funding also leads to continuing revenues which sustain the operations of the SRMT, providing necessary services and infrastructure for our growing community, and continued funding for operations to the Akwesasne Boy’s and Girl’s Club, the Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center, the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, the Akwesasne Freedom School, and the Standing the Trees Back Up men’s program.

As we are transitioning into our new facility, Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron (the new Tribal Administration Building), we invite everyone to attend our monthly community meetings. We have seen many new faces in the monthly meeting crowd in 2018, and several youth have attended. As we move to a new building with a new atmosphere, we hope to continue that positive trend with new beginnings at our new building.

We recently closed our 2019 budget process with a balanced operational budget. The process is set in place by the 2013 Procedures Act, which was put in place by a referendum vote. What this year’s budget again showed to us is that we have a need to diversify our revenue streams outside of a reliance on our Casino. The gaming dollars are meeting our current needs, but we are not able to grow the services we provide at the rate that our community is growing.

As a result of the need to diversify, we have taken several positive steps in the recent past. There are risks, but calculated risks, such as the Patent project which has brought significant dollars into our community (outside of the annual operating budget/expenses), a partnership between the Tewathahon:ní Board and the Entrepreneurs Roundtable Accelerator program, and our Casino’s microbrewery. While we can sit on our hands and not take risks, and rely on current funding to remain the same, our current Council chooses to seize the opportunities presented to us to help our community grow, and meet the needs of our growing population. Every year that funding remains the same is actually a decrease when inflation/rising expenses are factored in. We have to move forward…if we stand still we will watch others pass us by and be left behind.

Niawen:kówa

Tribal Chief Michael Conners
New Year, New Building!

By Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager

After 40 years, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) has a new home, Ionkwakiohkwaroró:ron (Our Group Gathered). Located on Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, the new Administration Building will serve 130 SRMT employees within 18 tribal offices. The three story 54,700-square-foot building is fully accessible for all community members, complete with handicap bathrooms and elevators. Abundant parking will be available for 225 vehicles.

Beardsley Architects and Engineers of Malone, New York designed the new Tribal Administration Building, incorporating energy efficient solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling system. It houses several meeting rooms and will serve as an Emergency Operations Center. Classrooms on the first floor welcome the Education Department as they relocate from the Akwesasne Business Center.

Community Building staff will be joining several SRMT offices located on Margaret Terrance Memorial Way: Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police, Tribal Court, Office for the Aging and Diabetes Center. The property is surrounded by ever-evolving Generations Park, including Tewathahitha Walking Trail, Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box and multiple practice fields. Generations Park is home to many community wide events including lacrosse tournaments, awareness walks, memorial ceremonies and much more.

The telephone number remains (518) 358-2272. The updated mailing address is 71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Akwesasne, NY 13655. ☯
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is pleased to announce that it has once again increased the tribal minimum wage for all tribal government employees. The new tribal minimum wage of $11.82 went into effect on Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 1, 2019 and will immediately benefit 136 employees of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s government operations.

“Tribal employees are the organization’s greatest asset and we continue to review all opportunities to provide a competitive starting wage that reflects the cost of living,” stated the Tribal Council. They further added, “Staff contribute to many of the organization’s accomplishments and the increase to the tribal minimum wage will help serve as a reminder that all of their contributions are valued.”

The new tribal minimum wage represents an increase of $.34 per hour over the past year and $.79 compared to two year ago when it was increased to $11.03 on Tsiothohrkó:wa/January 1, 2016. The latest increase will apply to all tribal government employees. Tribal LLCs continue to set their own pay rates based on the needs and capability of each business.

“The tribal minimum wage increase represents the latest effort by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to provide for the wellbeing and livelihood of all tribal government employees,” stated SRMT Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro. “In doing so, we conduct periodic reviews of compensation policies to remain competitive and appealing to those seeking employment, while remaining fiscally responsible to tribal programs and the protection of community interests.”

Discussions on increasing the tribal minimum wage takes place each year between members of the Tribal Council, the Executive Director’s Office and the Chief Financial Officer. Talks focus on balancing the living needs of all tribal employees, the services provided to the Akwesasne community, and the need for the tribal organization to remain competitive in Northern New York State as an employer of choice.

The new tribal minimum wage of $11.82 assures that all employees of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will continue to receive compensation greater than the New York State Minimum Wage.

The increased wage will serve as the base rate for the SRMT Wage Scale that compensates all incoming and current tribal government employees according to job code and classification.

No tribal government employee of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe may receive compensation less than the new tribal minimum wage; with the exception of trainees and student interns who are specifically designated to receive a rate below the federal minimum wage due to program requirements. ◊
Tribal Council Funds Removal of Unsafe Structures

By Brendan White, Director of Communications

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Brownfields Program is moving forward with the demolition of abandoned homes in Akwesasne following Tribal Council’s allocation of $127,000 from the Community Development Investment Fund. On November 26, 2018, several tribal programs worked together to safely demolish the first of fifteen abandoned homes in a joint effort to remove unsafe structures in the community.

“The initiative to identify and demolish abandoned homes began in 2015 with a callout for individuals interested in having a Phase I Assessment conducted on old structures located on their properties,” said the Tribe’s Brownfields Redevelopment Specialist Julia Jacobs. Jacobs added, “These assessments entailed the identification of structures that may pose a danger to human health and the environment, which included collecting information on any hazardous substances and other potential contamination.”

Limited funding prevented any movement on the abandoned homes until this year when an EPA Brownfields Grant provided $10,000 in funding for ten abandoned homes to undergo Phase I Assessments. Based on the assessments, five of the structures have been approved for demolition by the end of 2018 and are located on Raquette Point Road, Frogtown Road, Jock Road, St. Regis Road and Route 37. The remaining ten structures however, must undergo further investigation and a possible Phase II Assessment due to the presence of potential hazards.

The expense to demolish all fifteen homes was not funded and is estimated at $127,000; which includes the cost of labor, fuel for an excavator and transporting materials, transfer station tipping fees, and to purchase clean fill to leave property owners with the ability to redevelop the land. To help in this effort, the Tribe’s Agriculture Program has loaned an excavator, Planning & Infrastructure provided a dump truck, Emergency Planning Office supplied a list of unsafe structures for prioritizing, and the Solid Waste Transfer Station is receiving the materials to sort and ready for transporting to a land fill.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Brownfield Program is coordinating efforts with several tribal programs to remove abandoned homes and other unsafe structures in Akwesasne. Pictured is excavator operator Christopher Adams, Lazore’s Construction, who removed the first of fifteen old structures that was located on Raquette Point Road on Monday, November 26, 2018.
“Having a safe and healthy environment for every tribal member continues to be a priority for us,” noted the Tribal Council. As a result of the Brownsfield Program not receiving external funding to complete their work, the Tribal Council identified it as a priority to help improve public safety and address public health concerns. They added, “We are proud to support the Brownfields Program in completing their work of safely removing dangerous structures in the community. This would not have been possible without funding from the Community Development Investment Fund and represents the most recent opportunity to utilize patent funds to improve the wellbeing of tribal members.”

Demolition of the fifteen abandoned homes is expected to last more than one year and represents a start, as the Brownfields Program estimates there are upwards of 150 old structures located throughout the community. Although some property owners may not consider the structures to be “abandoned”, they still have negative impacts on the community. They pose safety hazards, environmental concerns, and are susceptible to pests, mold, illegal trespassing, drug use, arson, as well as an eyesore for any developing tourism industry.

Removing all of the concerns associated with unsafe structures is a benefit, but an even greater benefit is that the property owners may use their newly cleared areas for other purposes; such as building a new home, developing a business, planting a garden or trees, or for selling the property.

If you have an abandoned home and want it removed, please call the Tribe’s Brownfields Program at (518) 358-5937. In order to qualify, you must have documented proof that you are the property owner.

Three abandoned structures have been identified by the Brownfields Program for immediate demolition due to public safety concerns: one was already removed in Raquette Point Road, while the others are on Jock Road and Frogtown Road (pictured above).
Benefits of Gaming: 
Tribal Council Conducts Annual Winter Jacket Donation

By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council continued their annual tradition of donating winter jackets to Akwesasne students in need. The annual jacket donation is funded through the Community Support Fund supported by revenue generated by Mohawk Gaming Enterprise, LLC. Now in its seventh year, the donation program is expanding more than ever to assist students attending local schools or home-based daycares.

This year, 446 jackets were donated in the annual jacket donation, surpassing last year’s contribution by nearly 150. The program expanded not only in numbers; tribal students within the Massena Central School District and some attending daycares in Akwesasne’s northern portion were also included in the 2018-2019 donation.

Schools and childcare facilities that received winter jackets include the Akwesasne Freedom School, Salmon River Central School, St. Regis Mohawk School, Saint Regis Mohawk Early Childhood Development Program, Noel’s Small Steps Daycare, Nooch’s Daycare, Above and Beyond Daycare, Ista’s Little Helpers Daycare, and home-based daycares operated by Michelle and Lisa Collette.

School guidance officers gathered amounts, sizes and genders for jackets to be distributed to Akwesasne youth. After being purchased, sorted and packaged, jackets found a happy home with pupils from preschool to high school.

Salmon River Central School (SRCS) Ombudsman Kim Russell attributed years of dedication from Tribal Executive Administrative Assistant Anne Bero to much of the growth of the program, emphasizing that this year’s donation to SRCS required multiple car loads. Helping Anne in sorting jackets were Cathy Mitchell, Jori Rourke, Mahlon Smoke, Lindsay Day, Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne and Tribal Chief Beverly Cook.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is proud to pay kindness forward with the expanding program. Kim ensures that there are various ways for students to pay kindness forward themselves, suggesting students spend time with elders who don’t always have much company. “Many hardships are not financial or material and the holidays can be a tough time,” she explains, “being there for a friend and writing letters to those you care about are some ways.”

For questions, community members in need are encouraged to reach out to Guidance Counselors: Kim Russell and Darlene Adams, Salmon River Central School (518) 358-6670; Jodele Hammock, Massena Central School (315) 764-3710; or Lauren Mitchell at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Early Childhood Development Program at (518) 358-2272.

From left: Tribal Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne and Tribal Chiefs Eric Thompson and Michael Conners assisted High School Guidance Counselor Assistant Jodele Hammond with jackets for Mohawk students attending Massena Central Schools.
Division Update:

Education Division Stresses the Importance of School Attendance

By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist

As parents, we are willing to do everything in our power to ensure the safety and happiness of our children and the children in our lives. While we know that decisions and habits formed while children are young directly affect the choices children will make later in life, one habit is often overlooked: attendance. Studies confirm that poor attendance habits developed in early childhood have a direct impact on the educational path of growing students.

Young tribal members comprise 68 percent of the student body in the Salmon River School District. As a result, the quality of local public school education is heavily reliant on funding provided through New York State Indian Aid. The school district however, has recently noted that absentee rates for young grades have become alarming, reaching as high as 5.3 percent—potentially impacting the amount of educational funding received.

State funding from the Native American Education Unit of the NYS Education Department makes up a whopping 73 percent of the overall budget at Salmon River, but the number of students not in attendance to receive educational services through these tuition contracts reduces with each tardiness and absence. It can potentially affect services designed to help our children succeed in life, such as the Writer’s Workshop, which is in place at every grade level to improve reading and writing.

According to the program Attendance Works (www.attendanceworks.org), a site focused on the importance of your child’s attendance, absences become harmful after nine missed days on any school year. From here, it is very likely that students will fall behind in class and worse, develop negative attendance habits that could follow them through life. As students age, they will struggle in High School with learned habits well into college—excessive truancy will ultimately affect work place attendance and performance and, possibly, the ability to even secure a fulfilling career.

In an effort to improve school attendance, SRMT Director of Education Stephanie Cook has helped develop new programs to assist students and parents, which she says are positively impacting the issue. She noted, “We are beginning to see some incremental improvement, but we must improve on both the tardiness and absentee rates because they are both tied to student success and outcomes.”

The Education Division notes the importance for both child and parent to work together to get to school on time. They encourage parents to set your child up for success by only missing school for excused absences, such as sickness and bereavement. Implementing bed times and establishing morning routines is another great strategy, as well as scheduling appointments outside of teaching hours. They also encourage the utilization of the updated Grab-N-Go breakfast options and are willing to conduct home visits to help prioritize attendance.

With so much at stake by poor school attendance, it is important for parents to help create good habits that will lead to a successful, happy future for your child. With questions concerning attendance policies, contact Stephanie Cook, Education Division Director, by calling (518) 358-9721 or emailing stephaniei.cook@srmt-nsn.gov.

◊

Kawenn'kios Tsiothohrkó:wa/Enniska - January/February 2019
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe was honored to once again highlight the exceptional service and performance of seven tribal employees with an Employee Enrichment Award. Conducted two times each year, the most recent awards were presented at the annual Christmas Party held on Tsiothóhrha/December 14, 2018. The awards help recognize the ongoing efforts of tribal staff and their exceptional display of service to their fellow co-workers, community members and/or their team spirit and initiative to provide an enjoyable work environment that ‘Enriches Our Workplace.’

Individuals are nominated by their co-workers and provide examples, as well as reasons, for the individual's nomination.

Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro and Tribal Council presented an Enrichment Award to the following recipients along with a corn husk doll made by Gail General and Pam Brown, and a monetary gift in recognition of their efforts in providing an enjoyable work environment. The Winter 2018 recipients are:

Mary Terrance, Recreation Coordinator, Generations Park

She consistently takes initiative in programming opportunities, she promotes a positive image of the Tribe and her programs.

She collaborates with community groups, tribal programs and her peers to produce great results. She is focused on safety for all users of the park grounds. Under her leadership, Generations Park has evolved to become a jewel of our community. A place where people enjoy sport, leisure and togetherness.

Shawn Laughing, Transportation Driver, Outreach

Shawn enriches the workplace by knowing her patients. What their needs are and how she can meet them. Shawn has a huge responsibility in getting patients to their appointments without incident and many times is the only person these patients talk to. She knows when the vehicle isn’t running right and she knows which vehicle is best to suit that patient.

Rachel Jacobs, Home Health Aide Manager, Outreach

Rachel has gone above and beyond in guiding me in the active care of my father. Recently, there have been too many incidents to mention that she and I have had to consult on, her knowledge and guidance is nothing short of phenomenal. She asks questions I don't remember to and she gets much needed equipment to the house or workers there to assist in everyday living. Rachel takes the time to connect with family members who step up and lend a hand when not all can be so involved, making sure they know they are an important piece in the health care puzzle.
Everett Lazore, Family Advocate, Community & Family Services

Everett Lazore enriches our workplace with a positive attitude and a great sense of humor. He has a genuine concern for the well-being of everyone he works with whether it be community members or co-workers. He has a passion for those that he serves, those he works with and the work he does.

He’s a team player and works well with others; he takes pride in his work and exhibits integrity with those he works with. Everett is not one to give up on anything and the word “no” is not part of his vocabulary; he is the kind of person that would willingly give you the shirt off his back if it would help, he’s witty, he’s professional, and a go-getter. Everett tends to family’s needs without hesitation. He goes above and beyond the minimum requirements of getting things done on a regular basis.

Jean Square, ICWA Coordinator, Social Services Division

Jean has worked with our most vulnerable families for over 15 years. She does more than meet the expectations of her position within the Tribe. She puts her heart and soul into her work in extraordinary ways.

I’m nominating Jean Square because of her commitment to Mohawk children who are adrift in the world through no fault of their own. Jean understands the serious adverse effects that disconnectedness from community and culture can have on a child and more importantly she understands that resilience must be built in these children as well as their families. Because of her insight and leadership qualities, she works closely with her tiny staff as a team and leads the way as the hands-on advocate and champion that these children so dearly need.

She reminds everyone involved that our children are not our possessions ...... they are gifts and therefore are our responsibility to care for the best way we can.

2018 Flood Unified Command: Matt Rourke, Derek Comins, Issac McDonald and Adrian McDonald

The Unified Command was selected for their professionalism and going above and beyond, during the Winter 2018 Flood which affected a total of 32 families who were evacuated from 30 homes. The evacuees ranged in age from newborn to the elderly. Many of the elderly who were evacuated had limited mobility and the hotels did not have a sufficient number of accessible rooms available.

The way these gentlemen handled the flood showed me that they not only enrich our workplace, but also our community. They are well deserving of being recognized for their continued commitment to the safety of our community.

Each department representative played a major part in the needed collaboration for the monitoring and response efforts by implementing shift monitoring. Within my realm, I had to review the many hours put in to ensure the staff were receiving the time to rest. This is how much their community means to them. They will go above and beyond to ensure they respond in an appropriate manner to avoid injury to the families of our community.

This was the first time this team worked together – missions were achieved and authorities were respected. The team pulled together and brain-stormed on external resources that our Unified Command could call upon. ◊
The Social Services Division of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) introduced the Traditional Support program in the fall of 2013. Combining traditional healing methods and modern counseling strategies, the mission of Traditional Support is to revive traditional Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) values through education, advocacy and guidance.

Traditional Support Worker Ian Clute has been with the program since inception. After graduating from Salmon River Central School (SRCS), Ian was a summer youth worker paired with Katsitsionni Fox, local artist, filmmaker and educator whom he assisted in developing a four-year workshop series for Haudenosaunee teachers. The annual workshop featured scholars and historical knowledge holders from across New York State.

Ian began his Social Services career as a Youth Advocate for SRMT Intensive Prevention Program (IPP). IPP focuses on providing supportive services for families and youth at risk of being placed out of the home. For eight years, Ian incorporated Haudenosaunee tradition into clients lives with activities like medicine picking and hosting socials before he began building curriculum for Traditional Support.

“Rekindling of Old Ideas” is an initiative by Traditional Support Workers Ian Clute and Katrina Herne to explore cultural symbols synonymous with our identity as Onkwehonwe (Indigenous People). The project will focus on relearning the importance of images we often see around us by discussing their true cultural significance. “You always hear people reference the next seven generations. We see sky domes and the Six Nations Confederacy belt,” Ian explains, “but why are they culturally important?”

Traditional Support guides families to cultural identity while acknowledging various religions and faiths within our community. Complementing strong traditional values embedded into the program, "Rekindling of Old Ideas" will discuss the transition of our ancestors to Catholicism through colonization. “We aren’t here to convert anyone,” Ian offers, “every family is different.”

IPP Youth Advocate Chantelle Beeson echoed the core values of Traditional Support. “There is a big disconnect between our people and our culture. They don’t know what’s missing - because of this they have fallen into drug abuse or abusive relationships, but reintroducing them to their culture fills them,” she explains, “They come to us lost, and we build them up so that...
they’re confident they can handle things without resorting to drugs and alcohol.”

Ian’s busy workday includes assisting Katsitsionni Fox with her Haudenosaunee Art Class at SRCS. An art elective, Haudenosaunee Art allows students to study and create traditional art pieces. Both educators have strong ties to cultural art, both traditional and contemporary.

“Young people and some of the older people, they’re removed from [traditional teachings], because of religion and other results of colonization throughout history, and when you give people access to it, you find they were longing for it and it fulfills them,” explains Katsitsionni. Director of the Title VII program at SRCS, she works closely with students from Salmon River, Akwesasne Freedom School and participants of Ohero:kon.

For the past four years, The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has contributed donations to Ohero:kon, a traditional rites of passage ceremony. The ceremonies guide young teens to adulthood over the course of four years, focusing on ceremonial foods and sustenance, sexual health and respect for self and others.

“Supporting the validity of our ancient healing ways is a positive step towards reinforcing the critical importance of mind/body wellness,” says Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, who is featured on Katsitsionni’s mini-doc Ohero:kon: Rites of Passage - Creating Health and Wellness. “You can’t separate the biological from the behavioral health - you can’t just talk about a disease process, you have to talk about what happened in their life that lead to that and how could that have been prevented.”

Ohero:kon participants finish their ceremonies with a fast on Thompson Island, a key location for Traditional Support Workers. Because there is no electricity, Ian finds it easy to get young people off their phones and interested in what is in front of them. Traditional Support has hosted numerous culture camps and events on Thompson Island with community members, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Culture camps have provided young Akwesashró:non the opportunity to participate in team building activities such as hide cleaning, canoeing and learning social songs. Here, various guests from the community are able to present their skills to camp participants, teaching ancient skills that the youth will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Traditional Support workers also offer education and advocacy to patients of the Partridge House, an inpatient addiction program for Native Americans. The only Native American inpatient program licensed through the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Partridge House guides patients through an eight-week curriculum using traditional teachings and spiritual ceremonies.

The initiatives of Traditional Support are reflected elsewhere at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and throughout the community of Akwesasne. Iahki’nikonhraketskwas “We Uplift the Mind’, SRMT’s Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Prevention, Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne’s Traditional Medicine Program all work in synergy with Traditional Support using traditional teachings to promote mental and social health in our community.

The Traditional Support Program partners with existing community support networks on a referral basis. Referrals to the program are received through the Division of Social Services. For more information, contact Traditional Support at (518) 358-2272 ext. 6312 or Ian Clute at ian.clute@srmt-nsn.gov ◊
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe held a swearing-in ceremony in the Community Building lobby on Monday, Tsiothóhrha/December 10, 2018 to welcome four tribal members to the Police Commission. Tribal Head Judge Carrie Garrow conducted the oath of office for Gilbert Terrance, Steve Thomas, Emily Lauzon and Ross Garrow as each began their staggered terms on the five-member Police Commission.

“I am extremely dedicated to the community of Akwesasne and believe we can achieve our goals with focused leadership, providing fairness at all levels, and a willingness to hear both sides of stories,” said Emily Lauzon. She noted, “I have gained experience from my participation on boards and committees, with the hope of helping improve the partnerships within Akwesasne and the surrounding areas.”

The Tribe conducted a callout during the summer of 2019 for tribal members interested in joining the oversight body as a police commissioner. To be eligible, candidates needed to be an enrolled tribal member and meet all requirements outlined within the Police Commission Act. The callout also required a letter of interest be provided specifying experience in the areas of law enforcement, legal, criminal justice, public safety and/or human resources.

The Tribal Council reviewed the potential candidates and identified those who met the Police Commission membership requirements. As a result, they passed Tribal Council Resolution 2018-52 on Tsiothóhrha/December 5, 2018 naming four tribal members to terms as Police Commissioners.

Gilbert Terrance received a law degree from the University of Ottawa in 2015 and worked as an Akwesasne Court Administrator, while Steve Thomas served for six years as Public Safety portfolio holder for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and eight years on the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Commission. Emily Lauzon currently works as Assistant General Manager of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort and is knowledgeable of compliance and regulatory matters; while Ross Garrow serves as Chief Inspector for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission.

The four Police Commissioners join Rena Smoke, whose terms ends in 2020, in overseeing the Tribal Police Department by providing supervision of the Chief of Police, reviewing and providing recommendations on the department’s annual budget, increasing public awareness of the Commission and Police Department, submission of a monthly report to the Tribal Council, and making themselves available to meet with police officers and department personnel.

The Police Commission meets on a monthly basis to hear and respond to reports from the Chief of Police concerning the activities of the Police Department and any community issues that may have developed. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in Tribal Council Chambers Room #307. The public is welcome to attend the first 20 minutes.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Commission can be reached by phone at (518) 358-2272 extension 2167 or by email at police.commission@srmt-nsn.gov.
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division’s Forestry Resources; in conjunction with the United States Forest Service and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; will be hosting a series of workshops on the second phase of the Emerald Ash Borer Delimitation Survey.

The workshops will take place during the week of February 4th to 8th and the following week of February 11th to 15th at the former Mohawk Bingo Palace located at 202 State Route 37 in Akwesasne, New York. It is open to the community to participate and observe the bark peeling process, as well as to learn about the identification of the Emerald Ash Borer.

The workshop follows work conducted in the spring of 2018 during the first phase of the project, which established over 200 sentinel trees throughout Akwesasne across a ¼-mile-square grid for detecting Emerald Ash Borers (EABs). The sentinel trees are ash trees that have had a section of the bark removed and girdled around the entire circumference of the tree.

The removal of the bark from living ash trees stressed the trees over the summer months and, in doing so, the trees released plant volatiles that are very attractive to dispersing EABs. As a result, the girdled trees are more likely to be infested by EABs — compared to surrounding trees — making them an effective tool for detecting low-density EAB infestations.

The second phase of the EAB Delimitation Survey entails removing all sentinel trees, collecting three bolts (segments) from each tree, peeling bark off the bolts, inspecting the bolts for EAB larvae and galleries, and compiling the data to determine population densities and current spread of the invasive pest. The information collected will assist in developing EAB management strategies for the territory of Akwesasne.

The workshops will be held inside the former Mohawk Bingo Palace and will include a final presentation to recap the Emerald Ash Borer Delimitation Survey in its entirety and to review and discuss the results of the survey findings.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer Delimitation Survey, please visit the Environment Division’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov/environment or call Forestry Resources at (518) 358-5937.
I got to thinking about writing an article on this and the only thing that comes to my mind is the comedy act where the comedian is talking about the Kool-Aid guy crashing through the wall and saying “Oh yeah! Oh yeah!” and sweating and condensating… OMG. That is funny! All comedy aside, toilet sweat or condensation can lead to problems in your bathroom. So what causes it?

Condensation is the process of which water vapor in the air is changed into liquid water. It can happen when the air and the water container are different temperatures (more than a few degrees). Toilet sweat can occur around the tank and around the bowl. More when you take a shower or bath. Why you ask? Because taking a shower or a bath adds moisture to the air, unless you take cold showers, hot water vaporizes faster than cold water. It also warms up the bathroom making the temperature difference bigger. So what can you do about this? Stop taking showers? No, please don’t. As I have said many many times before, ventilation is key. You’ve got to move it, move it, right out. The one way you can do that is by using the bathroom fan or vent.

Most bathrooms have some type of vent. If not, then usually you have a window. If you have a window, try getting a fan that takes the air out and just put it on for about 15-20 minutes after you take a shower or longer if it still feels damp in there. If you want or need a vent or fan in your bathroom, they have gotten very fancy lately. I mean you can still go with the basic light and vent/fan or you can go all out with blue night light, bluetooth speaker and diamond encrusted. Just kidding, I don’t know if they have diamond encrusted but I do know they have bluetooth speakers with your light vent/fan combination. They also have heaters in these light and vent/fan combinations for those cold winter mornings. Just remember that if you do have a vent make sure the air is piped to the outside and not just into your attic. That could start a whole list of other problems.

So for now and the next seven generations, next time you see toilet sweat remember, “Oh yeah! Oh yeah!” but think “Oh no!” condensation is not cool and open a window or turn on the bathroom vent.
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe continues to make progress on its strategic vision for a healthy and prosperous community. This vision includes enhancements to community infrastructure for increased safety. Following several public safety initiatives that include installation of streetlights, road improvements through Generations Park and the removal of unsafe structures, the Tribe is now pleased to announce it is seeking comment on draft designs for new sidewalks.

“For too long, we’ve experienced the losses of, and injuries to, our friends and relatives walking or cycling along our community’s roadways,” shared the Tribal Council. They noted, “As a result of these issues, and based on feedback from the people, we feel it is time to seriously study how we can improve existing sidewalks and install new ones to become a more pedestrian-friendly community. We are looking to start the process for two of our community’s busiest roads: St. Regis Road and Cook Road.”

Contributing to the sidewalks draft design is data obtained in August 2018 between the Tribe’s Planning and Infrastructure Department and AES Northeast. Both collaborated to capture drone footage and collect data along St. Regis Road and Cook Road on elevation, identification of environmental concerns and sensitive areas, and any potential obstructions for consideration; such as cemeteries and bridges.

Based on the data, AES Northeast’s Civil Engineering Division has proposed four different plans for a sidewalk along both roads: a sidewalk set back from the roadway, a widened shoulder, an off-road multi-use trail, and curbing and sidewalk (similar to Generations Park). The feedback from community members will determine the best design or combination for either St. Regis Road or Cook Road. Community feedback will also help determine associated costs for constructing the final design.

“This is an exciting project and one that is long overdue. Our community continues to grow and our roadways have become busier. A real conversation is needed among our families to understand what it will really take to install suitable sidewalks. Possible easement requirements and other sensitive issues need to be understood if we are to make sidewalks a reality,” said Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro.

A copy of the Sidewalk Design Option for St. Regis Road and Cook Road is available to view at the Tribe’s Construction Building located at 2817 State Route 95 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. It is also accessible through the Tribal Members Portal located on the Tribe’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov.

There is currently no deadline for submitting comments, as a presentation on the proposed sidewalk designs is being scheduled for the coming year. Individuals interested in providing written comment can submit them in person or by mail to: Brent Herne, Construction Manager, SRMT Planning & Infrastructure, 2817 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York 12914.

For more information or questions, please contact Construction Manager Brent Herne by calling (518) 358-4205 or emailing brent.herne@srmt-nsn.gov.
What builds an ideal life? For most of us, it includes a happy home, fulfilling work, recreational activities and friends to share in the enjoyment. For those with developmental disabilities, Tiffany Thompson is more than happy to help get them there. Throughout her 10-years of employment with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Tiffany has made an immeasurable impact on the community she serves, displaying a commitment to providing exceptional services and a passion for ensuring quality of life.

Tiffany is a life-long resident of Akwesasne and a mother to two children, ages one and three. Her post-secondary education began at North Country Community College and continued at SUNY Potsdam where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology, with a Psychology minor in 2015. Her initial employment with the Tribe began at the Akwesasne Group Home where she was a Youth Worker for five years. The Group Home was a nice beginning for Tiffany, whose passion fit the facility’s mission of working to strengthen, support and protect Onkwehonwewa for independence and self-empowerment.

After a five-month break, Tiffany returned to the Tribe as a Care Manager in the Medicaid Service Coordination Program. The Program helps individuals with developmental disabilities strive for the highest quality of life and focuses on assisting each person to achieve their own unique goals.

Developmental disabilities occur among all socioeconomic groups, races, and ethnicities. In 2018, the Center for Disease Control reported that about one in six children have one or more developmental disabilities. When an individual with developmental disabilities ages, additional hardships may include an inability for self-direction and self-care.

Tiffany helps her clients to overcome challenges by ensuring they have access to work and health services, as well as strengthens their relationships by connecting individuals to friends, leisurely activities, and safe housing. In fact, she says her caseload is the most favorite and rewarding part of her job. She takes immense pride in making a positive impact on people’s lives, stating, “I enjoy helping my clients to live the life they want, so that they can live happy.”

Tiffany’s clientele are not the only ones who appreciate her hard work. She was recently acknowledged by the Compliance Department at Care Design NY for her outstanding work performance. Care Design NY is a Care Coordination Organization that services thirty counties within New York State, specializing in culturally sensitive and ethnically diverse care options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The agency recognized Tiffany for meeting and exceeding regulatory standards. Humble, Tiffany credits her attention to detail, as well as providing documentation and thorough follow-ups, for helping her excel at managing cases for the Medicaid Service Coordination Program.

Tiffany is a valued member of the Tribe’s Division of Community and Family Services, who continually strives to assist individuals in achieving their goals and leading a fulfilling life. She works hard to give her clients complete access to work, community resources, medical and clinical services and ultimately, the pursuit of happiness.

Great job Tiffany! ☺
The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Planning and Infrastructure Department announced that a Control Schedule for the 2019-2022 Tribal Transportation Plan is now available for public comment. The Control Schedule identifies six (6) road projects that have been prioritized for the next four (4) years and includes Helena Road and Church Street, Frogtown Road, Tarbell Road, Beaver Meadow Road, Ransom Road, and Pump House Road. The projects entail reconstruction and other enhancements to improve roadway safety for local residents and the traveling public.

Depending on the availability of funding, reconstruction of Helena Road and Church Street is tentatively scheduled to begin next year and includes a new subbase, culverts, ditching, pavement, signage and new pavement marking. Similar reconstruction, including some widening, may take place in the coming years for Frogtown Road. Tarbell Road and Beaver Meadow Road will follow, along with a layer of gravel possibly being added to Ransom Road and Pump House Road.

A copy of the 2019-2022 Tribal Transportation Plan is available to view at the Tribe’s Construction Building located at 2817 State Route 95 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The document is also accessible through the Tribal Members Portal located on the Tribe’s website at www.srmt-nsn.gov.

The deadline for submitting comments on the proposed Tribal Transportation Plan is Friday, January 11, 2019 and can be provided in person or by mail to:

Brent Herne, Construction Manager
SRMT Planning & Infrastructure
2817 State Route 37
Bombay, New York 12914

For more information or questions, please contact Construction Manager Brent Herne by calling (518) 358-4205 or emailing brent.herne@srmt-nsn.gov.
2018 in Review

JANUARY/FEBRUARY - Historic flood displaced nearly 100 Akwesasne residents along the St. Regis River in February. High water levels and ice jams threatened homes of community members from Cook Road to the border of the Tribe’s jurisdiction on Helena Road.

Mohawk Networks LLC. Recipient of $10.9 Million Investment to Increase Access to High Speed Internet

FEBRUARY - Five fixed wireless towers in Franklin County will deliver high speed internet services to 1286 unserved households through 26 miles of backbone fiber. The broadband services will be provided by Mohawk Networks subsidiary North Country Broadband Services, Inc. “We’re connecting communities to what matters,” Interim CEO Allyson Doctor affirms.

SRMT Launches Historical Marker Project

SEPTEMBER - Historical markers will be placed throughout the region to commemorate historic births, deaths, battles and other important events in the Mohawk traditional homelands.
Tribal Police Awarded $890k US Department of Justice Grant

OCTOBER - Tribal Police were awarded $889,732 in funding from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTSS) grant program. The grant funding will be used to purchase six police cars equipped with in-car technology; one 23’ Duck Water Ocean Boat; one Mobile Command Center with a law enforcement accessory package to increase visibility and response time in the community; and dress uniforms for 30 sworn police officers to be worn as a symbol of honor.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Reacquires 240 Acres of 1796 Treaty Land

SEPTEMBER - Family housing is at the forefront of the proposed vision for the property. Plans for the acreage also include a new Partridge House, a birthing center, a non-denominational gravesite, a recreational park and athletic field, an expansion of the Tribe’s Agricultural Program and a solar farm.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Joins Lawsuit Against Monsanto Corporation

NOVEMBER - Tribal members are continuing to incur medical costs due to cancers and non-cancer disease attributed to PCBs, leading the Tribe to file the lawsuit alongside five individuals. The complaint alleges that Monsanto was aware of the health and environmental risk yet continued to produce and sell the product.

Tribe’s Brownfields Program Begins Removing Unsafe Structures

DECEMBER - Demolition of fifteen abandoned homes is expected to last more than one year and represents a start, as the Brownfields Program estimates there are upwards of 150 old structures located throughout the community. “Having a safe and healthy environment for every tribal member continues to be a priority for us,” noted the Tribal Council. As a result of the Brownsfields Program not receiving external funding to complete their work, the Tribal Council identified it as a priority to help improve public safety and address public health concerns.
Agenda

1. Review of previous action items:
   a. Request to look into electronic absentee voting. **Completed.** Please see memo from Election Board in handouts.
   b. Request for Tribe to provide information on the pipes that are sticking out of the St. Regis River by the Hogansburg Bridge. **Completed.** The referenced object is a Verizon telecom utility conduit. In 2016, the Tribe and Hogansburg Dam Removal General Contractor, Kingsbury, notified Verizon that it was exposed. If Verizon has plans to address the conduit, the Tribe will share with the community.

2. 10:05am | Farm and Wilderness Summer Camp Presentation by Tsiorasa Barreiro

3. 10:25am | Social Services Division/ICWA Presentation by Jade White

4. 10:45am | Traditional Support Program Presentation by Ian Clute and Katrina Herne

5. 11:05am | Food Pantry Committee Presentation by Mary Jo Terrance

6. 11:25am | Cigarette Allocation Update by Compliance

7. 11:40am | Announcements
   a. 2019 Draft Budget Presentation on Thursday, November 15th at 5:00pm, Community Building Lobby
   b. LIHEAP and Tribal Fuel Assistance Announcements by Compliance

8. 11:45am | New Business

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The January Tribal Meeting will be held on Tsiothórhrkwa/January 12th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron, the new Tribal Administration building on the first floor.
**Calendar**

**Tsiotbrkó:wa/January 2019**

- 8 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's #121
- 9 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Chamber Room #307
- 12 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Conference Rm #124
- 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday - Tribe closed

**Enniska/February 2019**

- 2 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Conference Room #124
- 12 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's #121
- 13 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Chamber Room #307
- 18 - President’s Day - Tribe closed

**New Faces**

- Anontaks J Barreiro: Resident Aide
- Jill B Benedict: Executive Director
- Ronnie Phillip Boots: Clubhouse Worker
- Avery L Benedict: Receptionist
- Jade R Benedict-Bough: Bus Driver
- Peter Boots: Maintenance Laborer
- Daniel M Cahill: Dentist
- Deborah J Caldwell: Habilitation Aide
- Sequoya R Chubb: ECDP Substitute
- Mark S Cooke: Maintenance Laborer
- Alicia L Francis: Home Health Aide
- Teioshontathe Herne: Home Health Aide
- Denita M Ireland: Communications Specialist
- Harrison M Jacobs: Animal Control Officer/Trapper Helper
- Jocelyn M Jacobs: Inspector
- Tazzaz J Jacobs-Oakes: Custodian
- Joshua J King: Habilitation Aide
- Kevin Z King: Kitchen Aide
- Rebecca L Kruseck: Custodian
- Jennifer H Patrick: Medical Coder
- Mallory R Patterson: ECDP Substitute
- Crystal M Ralston: Outpatient Counselor
- Samantha Seguin: Paralegal
- Raelee P Simcox: Dental Hygienist
- Matthew Tarbell: Carpenter
- Veronica Thompson: Habilitation Aide
- Deborah Thompson-Bush: Program Manager
- Waylon D White: Laborer

**Jobs**

All current positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted on the Tribe’s website at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov). The following positions remain posted until filled: **Program Accountant** for the Finance Division, **Early Childhood Development Supervisor** and a **Head Start Teacher** for the Early Childhood Development Program, **Internist** for Health Services-Medical Clinic and a **Senior Financial Analyst** for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.
Save the Date!

Please join the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe as we begin a new chapter in our community’s history. Look for a future announcement of a date and time for an open house to be held for our new Administration Building: Ionkwaihkhwaró:ron (Our Group Gathered).

On the Cover: The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Traditional Support Program helps their clients to develop mental and spiritual self-awareness by reconnecting their clients to the cultural teachings of our ancestors. Pictured is Yanenowi Logan making a dust fan in Salmon River Central School’s Haudenosaunee Arts Class with the assistance of Traditional Support Worker Ian Clute.