

*Featured Programs*

Judicial  
Oversight  
Commission

Natural  
Resource  
Damages

Water  
Resources

Three Sisters  
Program

# Kawennì:ios

Traditional  
Harvest





# Notice of Scholarship Availability

*By Rod Cook, Higher Education*

The Tribe has once again received support in the amount of \$26,500 from an anonymous donor to fund scholarships for Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal university students. Tribal Council will contribute \$500 to this fund so this round of scholarships will be nine (9) \$3,000 scholarships. This year, seven undergraduate students and two graduate students will be funded.

In addition to the applicant's educational and career aspirations, the application essay must state the specific financial needs for which the scholarship will be used. What out-of-pocket expenses will be met by the scholarship must also be included.

Award funding may only be used directly for attainment of degree.

The application essay must be original.

1. Last year's recipients are NOT eligible for this year's scholarship program, except in the situation described in section two (2) below.
2. An undergraduate student who received a scholarship last year is eligible to apply as a graduate student this year.

3. All applicants must currently be enrolled as a college student or entering college as a freshmen or graduate student for the 2013 – 2014 scholastic year.

4. Incoming freshmen or graduate students for the 2013 -2014 scholastic year must also submit a letter of acceptance from their target university.

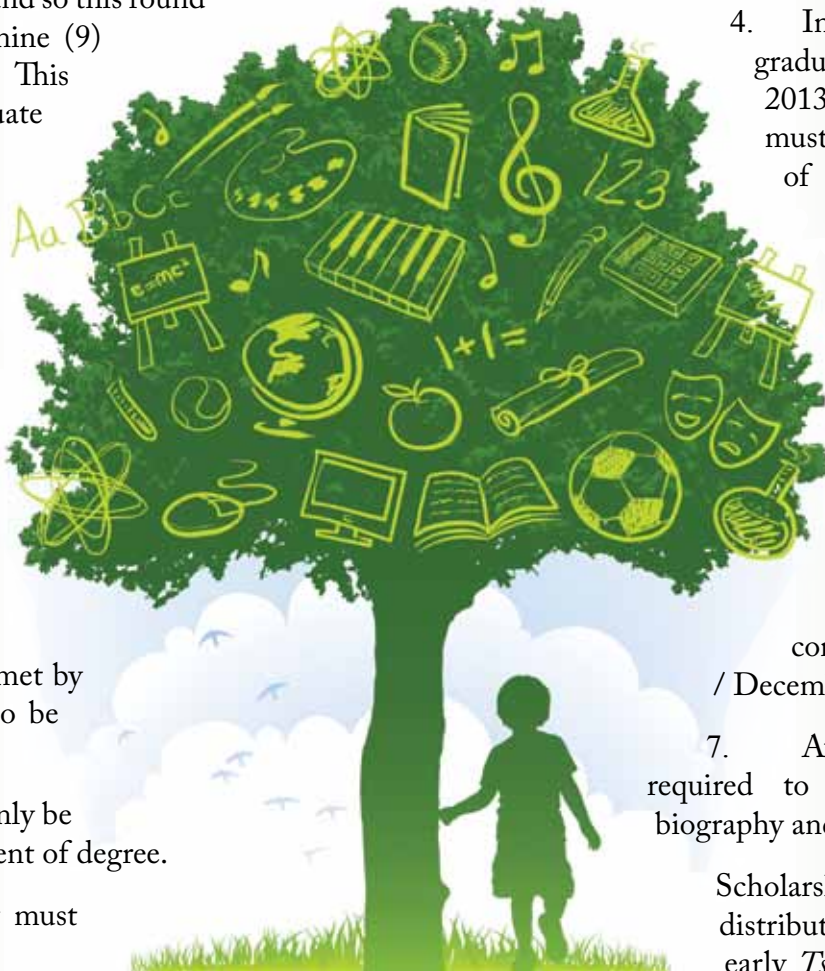
5. Deadline for submitting the essay will be Friday, *Kentenhkó:wa* / November 8, 2013.

6. A w a r d  
decisions will be  
made by an awards  
committee by *Tsiothóhrha*  
/ December 6, 2013.

7. Award recipients are required to submit a one-page biography and a current picture.

Scholarship checks will be distributed to recipients in early *Tsiotthohrkó:wa* / January after receipt of recipients' biographies and pictures.

Letters of application must be submitted to Rod Cook, Higher Education Director, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York 13655 and must be postmarked by no later than *Kentenhkó:wa* / November 8, 2013. Late applications will be returned unopened. ♦



# Good Words of Welcome



*She:kon Sewakwe:kon,*

I feel honored to write the opening of this month's *Kawennì:ios*; I am grateful for all the voters who came out and supported me in the last elections. Thank you for your undying support and the opportunity to serve my community for a second term as Tribal Sub-Chief.

Autumn is my favorite time of year; the changing of the leaves, crisp days and cool nights. It's also a time of change, a time of harvest, a time of coming together, as a family and as a community. After each election, Tribal Council changes; while change presents itself in many different ways, most people tend to fear it. It can be threatening to them because things may get worse; but I choose to look at change as hopeful and encouraging or inspiring...a challenge to make things better. Every end is a new beginning.

We are currently working together on amending some ordinances, the Election and Referendum Ordinance being one. Our most recent election has highlighted a serious need to address ambiguities and inconsistencies within the document. These changes are necessary to ensure community confidence in our election process and in the Election Board. Keep your eyes open for proposed amendments by the end of 2013.

On the subject of working together, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is hosting a Child Safe Summit this month. Educators, medical personnel, law enforcement, child care workers, social workers, etc. will have two opportunities to come together on October 10 or 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort. The Child Safe Summit is a collective effort to educate and inform service providers of indicators, resources and to dispel any myths pertaining to child physical and sexual abuse. We are proud to be hosting this event and look forward to this important information exchange.

Lastly, a reminder to all motorists to please be extra vigilant when travelling throughout our community this Halloween. According to SafeKids.org, on average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than any other day of the year. Slow down and be especially alert, avoid distractions inside your vehicle and enter and exit driveways carefully. Together, we can make sure that everyone has a safe and happy Halloween!

Shelley Jacobs, Tribal Sub-Chief

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***On the Cover: One of the NRD cultural restoration projects will work with Akwesashró:non to grow, harvest, nurture and use traditional Iroquois harvest items such as blue corn, white corn, brown bush beans and bear paw beans. Crop by Sawatis John. Photo by Amberdawn LaFrance.***

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# Casino Resort Hosts National Indian Gaming Commission Regional Training

*By Russ Doxtdator, Tribal Gaming Network Manager*

A two-day gaming conference was hosted at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort on August 20 and 21, 2013. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Gaming Commission invited the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), based in Washington, D.C., to conduct the two-day Regional Training Conference.

gaming Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS) covering Class II electronic and paper-based bingo, pull tabs, all aspects of table games, plus cash control, Information Technology and IT Data.

Our conference attendees were treated to the



We were honored to have Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Paul Thompson extend a warm welcome to the territory to all conference participants which included an opening address delivered in our traditional *Kanienkeha* language.

The sixty plus participants of this conference included representatives from the Seneca Gaming Authority, Oneida Indian Nation of New York, Cayuga Nation of New York, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Gaming Commission from Taunton, Massachusetts, as well as our own Saint Regis Mohawk Gaming Commission and Mohawk Casino operations.

NIGC covered the newly released, revised

luxurious accommodations and hospitality of the resort hotel, a registration gift bag along with the conference lunches and a reception sponsored by Gaming Laboratories International.

The conference was wrapped up by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Sub-Chief Eric Thompson with the traditional closing also offered in our *Kanien'keha* language.

With the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort open and operational including the indoor pool, spa and banquet and conference center, we are looking forward to hosting many more successful training events and conferences bringing more to offer in Northern New York State. ♦



# Asthma Study to Begin

## Environment Division Receives Grant for \$30,000

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

On average people spend about 65% of their time in their homes, 25% at their jobs and the rest of time in various places - indoor and outdoor. Because so much time is spent indoors, it is important to create a clean air environment to maintain healthy lives.

All homes contain sources that can contaminate their air. Learning how to minimize these sources is the key to preventing unhealthful exposures to family and friends. Improving indoor air quality (IAQ) is especially important for susceptible populations, such as asthmatics.

Asthmatics are not the only ones that can be affected by airborne pollution, other illnesses that it can affect are: chronic bronchitis, emphysema, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The *American Heart Association* and *The Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation* are both in agreement that heart attacks, heart failure and stroke can all be linked to poor air quality.

The American and Canadian Diabetes Associations also agree that air pollution is linked to complications of the disease.

**Pets**



**Mold**



**Chemical Irritants**



**Secondhand Smoke**



The SRMT Air Quality program is looking for 40 homes within the Akwesasne community to participate in a real-time monitoring project. Each home will be set up with an IAQ monitor that will monitor temperature, relative humidity, particle matter (0.5-10  $\mu\text{m}$  size range), CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and total volatile organic compounds (TVOC). The amount of time to do the required monitoring is approximately one month during which two in-home educational sessions will be done.

The grant was awarded under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, which supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues.

Please contact Angela Benedict (x129) or Julia Jacobs (x126) at the Environment Division 518-358-5937 for questions or to sign up.

So for the health of you, your family and the next seven generations give us a call and let us help you understand what the air quality in your home is like and what you can do to improve it. ♦

**Dust Mites**



**Wood Smoke**



**Cockroaches & Pests**



**Nitrogen Dioxide**



# Public Hearing

The Advisory Council and staff of the Saint Regis Mohawk (SRM) Office for the Aging invite you to attend the Annual Public Hearing to review plans for services for 2014. The Advisory Council is a group of concerned senior citizens, service providers and others who meet bi-monthly to review the programs and services of the SRM Office for the Aging. The public hearing is held to learn from local elders what current needs exist within the community and what issues are important to them.

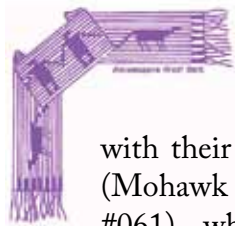
The findings from the hearing will be incorporated into the 2014-15 update of the SRM Office for the Aging Annual Implementation Plan. Your ideas and concerns are important to us as we plan ahead to the upcoming year on how to best serve the residents of the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation who are

55 years of age and older. Come and meet the elected Advisory Council members and the friendly staff of the Office for the Aging on October 16, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Citizen's building located at 29 Business Park Road in Akwesasne, NY. Written comments are also welcome and can be sent to the attention of: Kallen Martin, Director, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Office for the Aging, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.



We invite all community members who plan on attending to join us for lunch – corn soup, biscuits, and strawberry drink. Call 518-358-2963 for more information. ♦

## Community Notice



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is developing community legislation in accordance with their Law Enactment Procedural Regulation (Mohawk Council Resolution 2012/2013-#061), which includes community consultation with Members of Akwesasne. The Akwesasne Justice Department is working on creating a mailing list for members to receive educational material on legislative development initiatives like the *Iatathróna*

*Raotientáhtsera* 'Couples Property' Law dealing with matrimonial property on-reserve. To be added to the mailing list to receive updates on legislative development initiatives, please contact the Akwesasne Justice Department reception at 613-575-2250 ext. 2400 or email your mailing address to [kyrie.ransom@akwesasne.ca](mailto:kyrie.ransom@akwesasne.ca).

For more information on legislative development with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne visit <http://akwesasne.ca/JD-LegislativeDev.html> ♦

## Higher Education

Hey, high school seniors! It is not too early to plan for college next fall. Are you getting your applications narrowed to your select few? Do you have your references ready? Have you thought about the college essay? Have you taken the SATs or ACTs? These deadlines will be here before you know it.

If you plan on attending a community college, be sure to complete a *Certificate of Residency*. Without one, the community college could double your tuition fee.

Congratulations to our 35 Mohawk students

who persevered and successfully completed the requirements for their Associates and Bachelor Degrees. Further congratulations to those who completed the requirements for their Master Degrees.

Good luck to all who will be leaving soon to return to campus and to those who are leaving for the first time. Home is just a phone call away.

For more information on what assistance is available to further your education call Rod Cook or Samantha Phillips at 518-358-2272. ♦

# Judicial Oversight Commission

## Feature

*By Rosebud Cook, Paralegal*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is pleased to announce the official swearing in of the Tribe's Judicial Oversight Commission. The Commission's purpose is to ensure compliance with established standards of judicial behavior of Judges presiding in our Tribal Court system. Through Tribal law, the Commission is empowered to enforce the obligations of judges to observe high standards of conduct while safeguarding their right to decide cases independently. By forming this Commission, the SRMT hopes to promote public confidence in the integrity and honor of our Tribal Court system, by providing a forum for community members to have their complaints about the conduct of our Judges heard and addressed.

The Judicial Oversight Commission consists of a three member panel. They are Penny Coleman, Martha Montour and Kurt Fetter. Penny Coleman is a graduate of the University Of South Dakota School Of Law and is a member of the Virginia and South Dakota Bar Association.

Penny is an Attorney with over 30 years of experience in tribal law. As Lead Counsel for the National Indian Gaming Commission, her litigation, legislation and management experience in gaming is extensive. While serving in the Office of the Solicitor within the Department of Indian Affairs, she directly advised Department of the Interior Secretary, the Counselor to the Secretary and Assistant – Indian Affairs and Solicitor on Indian gaming matters. In addition, Ms. Coleman is experienced in federal acknowledgement, Indian Self-Determination Act, Alaska Native Claims

Settlement Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Child protection, subsistence rights, education, social service and tribal government leadership disputes.

Martha Montour is a member of the Mohawks of Kahnawake and graduated from the National Law Program of McGill University and is a member to the Bar of the province of Quebec and New York State Bar Association. Martha has 22 years of law experience in Native American law mediation, aboriginal law mediation, family mediation, commercial mediation, civil mediation, labor mediation and small claims mediation,

Native American justice, aboriginal justice, alternative dispute resolution (arbitration, collaborative law), elders, children, traditional justice systems, aboriginal mediation training and supervision.

Kurt Fetter is a member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and received his Master of Education in both Administration and Counselor Education from Saint Lawrence University. Mr. Fetter has

worked in the area of education for nearly 30 years as a teacher, counselor and School District Administrator.

The Tribal Council is proud of the great progress our court has made and is committed to supporting efforts to expand and develop our court system to the benefit of the community, and to exercise our collective right to govern ourselves and our relations with each other, and those that choose to conduct business with us. If you would like more information on the Judicial Oversight Commission please contact Rosebud Cook at 358-2272 ext. 290. ♦



*Martha Montour, Penny Coleman and Kurt Fetter at Swearing In Ceremony*



# Natural Resource Damages

## Environment Division Program Feature

*By Amberdawn LaFrance, Database Administrator/Brownfield Coordinator*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has recently announced a \$20.3 million settlement with Alcoa Inc. and General Motors. These funds are the direct result of resolution pertaining to a natural resource damages assessment claim aimed to “restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of trust resources injured as a result of the release of hazardous substances to the environment.”

The acquired funds must be spent on ecological, cultural and recreational fishing restoration. The document that describes how the money will be spent is called the Restoration Compensation and Determination Plan (RCDP) and is available to the public at [www.srmtenv.org](http://www.srmtenv.org).

Breakdown of the settlement funds:

- \$10.1 million for ecological restoration (environmental projects)
- \$1.8 million for fishing/boat access (boat launches)
- \$8.4 million for cultural restoration (cultural projects, apprenticeship program, and language)

The Tribe will be receiving a total of \$8.4 million for cultural restoration. A restoration commission will be created to oversee the implementation of the Cultural Restoration Plan. This commission will be comprised of community members from both the northern and southern portions of Akwesasne and appointed members from the Tribe, MCA and the Mohawk Nation. The commission will ensure accountability of all participants and provide equal and fair representation from the community.

After several years of research and community outreach it is understood that the people of Akwesasne

have experienced the harms of environmental contamination in many different ways. One overall effect has been a disruption of traditional practices that allow for the continuation of a Mohawk way of life. The conclusions of this research indicate that the main resource-based practices that have been harmed by contamination include: horticulture and basketmaking, fishing and river use, hunting and trapping, and traditional medicine and healing.

Through research and many community meetings, we found that the best ways to restore our traditional activities are:

1. An apprenticeship program in which Masters will teach Apprentices the traditional cultural activities that were identified as injured
2. Provide financial support to existing cultural institutions
3. Support Mohawk language by including it in all areas of the plan

The apprentice program will provide an avenue for hands-on experience for each category of traditional activity to the fullest extent, incorporating all fundamental elements. The program apprentices will acquire their knowledge from

the people most experienced in their chosen activity, a Master. Hands-on experience would be provided through direct harvesting, preparing, preservation and production of traditional products by the apprentice so as to completely immerse the apprentice in traditional information. A Mohawk language component is also infused into every aspect of apprentices' training in order to maintain the transmission of language and important vocabulary embedded in traditional resource harvesting practices. The goal of this program is for apprentices to gain a level of cultural knowledge and language fluency



*Visitors enjoying Thompson Island Youth Camp.*

*Photo by Daniel Benedict*





*Berry baskets made of Black Ash Splints. Photo by Amberdawn Lafrance*

which allows them to practice independently and to take on a mentoring role for the next generation of learners.

A call out for proposals occurred in 2007 to the existing Akwesasne-based institutions and programs that have already begun the work of responding to the cultural harm caused by contamination. These institutions will be provided with the necessary financial resources to stabilize their relevant operations and meet their infrastructural and programming needs. All proposals received were evaluated based on a set of criteria. Proposals were ranked according to their strengths on two areas:

1. The degree to which they reflect the indigenous learning-teaching model in relation to the master-apprentice program
2. The extent to which they address the four main areas of cultural harm

Four institutions stood out in rankings among all the interested applicants and these institutions will be receiving funding based on their proposals.

1. Akwesasne Freedom School: *Tsi Niihahò:ten* "Choosing Our Path" and *Owira'ne'ha* "Language Nest" Projects
2. Akwesasne *Ionkwa'nikonri:io* Cultural Youth Camp on Thompson Island

3. *Kanatsiohareke* Strawberry Festival and workshops
4. Healthy Heart Raised Gardens Program

### ***Current Status***

The Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Program is very busy with restoration planning, and program development and structure. To help us with this work we have added a new face to our program, Ms. Wahiahawi Barreiro. "Hawi" has joined us temporarily as Cultural Researcher, organizing the details of the Apprenticeship program and preparing for the next stage of the settlement, implementation.

Hawi will be assisting with the hiring of the programs' Commission Members, Cultural

Masters, Apprentices and *Kanien'keha* Language Specialists. The job postings and call outs for these positions will soon be available to the public.

Although applications are not yet available for potential Masters and Apprentices, the NRD Program is collecting contact information from interested persons. If you would like to receive updates and any notifications for this program, please contact Amberdawn Lafrance, [amberdawn.lafrance@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:amberdawn.lafrance@srmt-nsn.gov), or Wahiahawi Barreiro, [wahiahawi.barreiro@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:wahiahawi.barreiro@srmt-nsn.gov), at 518-358-5937. ♦



*Wahiahawi Barreiro, Cultural Researcher  
Photo by Amberdawn Lafrance*

# Red Ribbon Week

## A/CDP Sponsors Photo Contest

*By Chelsea Sunday, Prevention Educator*

National Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention program reaching millions of young people during the campaign, this year from October 21 to 25. This campaign was designed after the murder of DEA agent Kiki Camarena by Mexican drug traffickers in 1985. Red ribbons became the symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs. The National Family Partnership sponsors Red Ribbon Week across the country to keep children, families and communities' safe, healthy and drug-free by educating the youth and encouraging them to participate in drug free activities. During this week, people and communities have the chance to come together and visibly stand up to drugs.

There are many fun and easy ways parents can promote a safe and drug-free lifestyle for their children. Did you know that you can decrease the likelihood of your child using marijuana, alcohol and tobacco simply by having frequent family meals around the dinner table? What about taking them for a hike up a local trail or teaching them a fun game that you played when you were a kid? These positive interactions strengthen the relationship between you and your children which can have a positive influence on your family.

**How do you and your family choose to live a safe and healthy, drug-free life?**



In celebrating Red Ribbon Week and the positive growth of our community, the A/CDP Prevention Program will be holding a family photo contest which is open to all *Akwesashe*:non. Show us how you and your family choose to live a safe and healthy, drug-free life. Send us your photo and registration form by *Kenténha* / October 18, 2013 and you could win one of three great family prizes.

Entries can be submitted at the Prevention Program office, located in suite 104 of the Akwesasne Business Center or online at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov). Photos will be displayed for voting on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Facebook page from October 21 through October 25. Winners for the contest will be selected by the community based on the highest number of votes. For any further information, please contact the A/CDP Prevention Program at (518) 358-2967.

*Niá:wen* / Thank you for making the choice to live a healthy and drug-free life. ◇



# Water Resources Program

## Environment Division Program Feature

*By Tony David, Program Manager*

The protection and management of the Tribe's surface waters, fish resources and wetlands is the charge of the Water Resources Program (WRP), a program of the Environment Division. WRP administers the Tribe's water quality standards which are supported by monitoring water quality and ecosystem indicators. Recent advancements include the monitoring of nutrients in rivers, sampling benthic macroinvertebrates communities, and new electro fishing equipment.

Every three years the Water Quality Standards of the Tribe are reviewed and updated. In September of 2013 the Tribe reauthorized the Water Quality Standards that protect our tribal waters. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is the only tribe in New York to achieve federally enforceable water quality standards.

WRP is currently conducting rare fish surveys in and around tribal waters. The recent purchase of electrofishing equipment - backpack shocker for shallow streams and boat based operation for rivers - has elevated the ability of the Environment Division to study and manage fish resources of the tribe. Trained staff use electrofishing to temporarily stun fish,

record biological data, and release the fish with minimal disturbance. Electrofishing can also be used for fish contaminant and disease studies.

WRP is wrapping up the field season of a major effort to update territory-wide fish contaminant data.

The Tribe's current advisory is over 25 years old and needs to be updated to reflect improvements made in the environment. The new fish data will include many popular fish: walleye, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, common carp and channel catfish. Next month this newsletter will feature an overview of the new SRMT fish advisory.

As part of our overall mission to improve fish populations and increase opportunities for tribal members to catch and consume fish, the WRP has been the lead in negotiating for the removal of the Hogsburg dam. The dam currently operates with a power license that expires in September of 2015. If this dam is removed it would restore up to 250 miles of historic spawning runs for migratory fish. SRMT has successfully reintroduced Atlantic salmon to the St. Regis River through a partnership the U.S. Geological Survey. Increasing spawning habitat will mean more fish for the community of Akwesasne. ♦



*Hellgrammite or dobsonfly larvae lives in the river under rocks. They are very sensitive to water pollution and are indicators of good water quality.*



*The Water Resources team electrofishing a stream stocked with Atlantic salmon*

# Monthly Tribal Meeting

*Seskehkó:wa/September 7, 2013, Chaired by Chief Beverly Cook*

## **Agenda**

1. Introductions:
  - Welcome
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Diabetes Building Update
  - Debbie Martin/Ernie Thompson
3. NRD Settlement Update
  - Barbara Tarbell
4. Climate Change Adaptation Plan Presentation
  - Angela Benedict
5. New Business
6. Reading of Action Items
  - Tribal Clerk
7. Adjournment

## **Action Items from September Meeting**

1. To have Angela Benedict report on depth temperatures of the St. Lawrence River, available for next month's meeting
2. To research the transfer of property from the Bingo Palace to the Tribe
3. To have an update on the status of the trailers at the IGA location, to possibly house people in distress

## **Follow-up on Action Items from August Meeting**

1. To have a synopsis of the gaming compact including the 2005 amendments available for September's monthly meeting

*The Legal Department has provided a synopsis of the Tribal-State Gaming Compact including the 2005 Amendments. The report is available as a handout.*

2. To have Ernie Thompson give an update on the sewer line extensions

*The Planning & Infrastructure Director has provided a report which includes a timeline, map and funding requirements. The report is available as a handout.*

3. To look into having NYS DOH pharmacy card funding increase from \$278,000 to over a million dollars

*Tribal Administration continues to look into this issue with New York State and will report back to the community when more information is available.*

4. To look into the eligibility of the people utilizing our health services

*Tribal Administration is working with SRMHS to analyze the health care expenditures segregated by number of patients, location and distance from the territory and will report back to the community when more information is available.*

5. To look into additional space for the Outreach Department

*Tribal Administration and Tribal Council are currently exploring options for a potential expansion to the Health Services building, including possible budgeting in 2014 for A&E work and researching potential construction funding monies from Health and Human Services.*

6. To look into the status of the St. Patrick's Church property

*The church and parking lot are for sale, the rectory has a sale pending. A real estate offering package was received from the Realtor and Tribal Council has toured the property. No decision has been made yet on the acquisition.*

7. To look into removing National Grid from the territory and having Massena Electric as an option for services

*Chief LaFrance has been in contact Andy McMahon of Massena Electric, Mr. McMahon will be consulting with his Board before issuing a response to the Tribe. Tribal Council will report back to the community when more information is available.*

8. To have Lindsay Tarbell give an update on the Natural Gas discussions for September's monthly meeting

*Colleen Thomas will be providing a verbal update on this project at the next Tribal Meeting. ♦*



# Calendar

*Kenténha / October 2013*

- 4 - Sisters in Spirit - Shining a Light on Domestic Violence - 6:00 p.m. - Hogansburg Bridge
- 5 - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Community Building lobby
- 8 - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's office
- 10 - Head Start and Childcare programs closed - Staff Development  
Breast Cancer Awareness Day - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Health Services lobby
- 14 - Fall Heritage Day Holiday - Tribal offices and Transfer Station closed
- 16 - Office for the Aging Public Hearing - 11:00 a.m. - Senior Citizen's building
- 18 - Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest deadline
- 21 to 25 - Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest voting on Tribe's Facebook page
- Tuesdays - Tribal Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Tribal Council executive boardroom

# New Faces

Barreiro, Phillip R	Court Administrator	Tribal Court
Barreiro, Wahiahawi	Cultural Researcher	Environment
Benedict, Sandra	Admin Assistant	Home Improvement
Burk, Jacob E	Technician	Broadband
Cook, Clarissa Em	Home Health Aide	Health Services - Outreach Chronic Care Nursing
Cree, Haley	Prevention Educator	Health Services - Alcohol/Chemical Dependency
Dishaw, Daniel	Credential Counselor	Health Services - Alcohol/Chemical Dependency
Garrow, Duane	Maintenance Worker	Health Services - Outreach Chronic Care Nursing
Garrow, Misty	Home Health Aide	Health Services - Outreach Chronic Care Nursing
Herne, Josephine	Home Health Aide	Health Services - Outreach Chronic Care Nursing
Leggue, Terri L	Admission Officer	Health Services - Partridge House
Peters, Wakenda	Receptionist	Health Services - Medical Clinic
Staves, Gwendolyn	Pharmacy Clerk	Health Services - Pharmacy
Sunday, Danielle	Receptionist	Akwesasne Employment Resource Center
Tarbell, Lisabeth	Medical Secretary	Health Services - Administration
Thompson, Charlan K	Home Health Aide	Health Services - Outreach Chronic Care Nursing
Uribe-Rios, Xochitl	Registered Nurse	Health Services - Medical Clinic
White, Isaac N	Court Clerk	Tribal Court

# Jobs

- Child Protective Services Caseworker* - Social Services
- Home Finder Caseworker* - Social Services
- Surveillance Operator* - Tribal Gaming Commission
- Clinical Director* - Alcohol/Chemical Dependency
- Registered Nurse* - Medical Clinic

Positions with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe are posted at : [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino's website at:

[www.mohawkcasino.com](http://www.mohawkcasino.com).

Akwesasne and surrounding area positions are posted at [www.myaerc.org](http://www.myaerc.org)

# Three Sisters Program

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*By Kanni Francis, Program Manager*

### *History*

The Three Sisters Program has been in Akwesasne for over 18 years, originally as the STOP Domestic Violence Program. The program has expanded over time from a small office with only a Program Manager and Advocate to now include a Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program with two Monitors, a transitional housing shelter with two Advocates and Security, a Sexual Assault Advocate and two Domestic Violence Advocates. Last year alone, our program helped empower 116 women, gave shelter to 61 families and provided visitation services to 17 more families.

Through our program we offer an array of confidential services including safety planning, 24-hour crisis response, domestic violence, sexual assault, supervised visitation and exchange, a Safe Home. We also provide various forms of advocacy to help empower our clients to be the strong individuals we know they truly are; these include personal, medical, transitional housing, transportation, and legal advocacy (i.e. court accompaniment, Orders of Protection, custody, etc.). All services offered are free and confidential.

### *Statistics*

Domestic violence is a problem that predominantly affects more Native American people than any other nationality. According to the United States Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women, one out of three Native American women will be raped in their lifetime and are 2.5 times more likely to be a victim of sexual assault. Along with these staggering numbers, 39

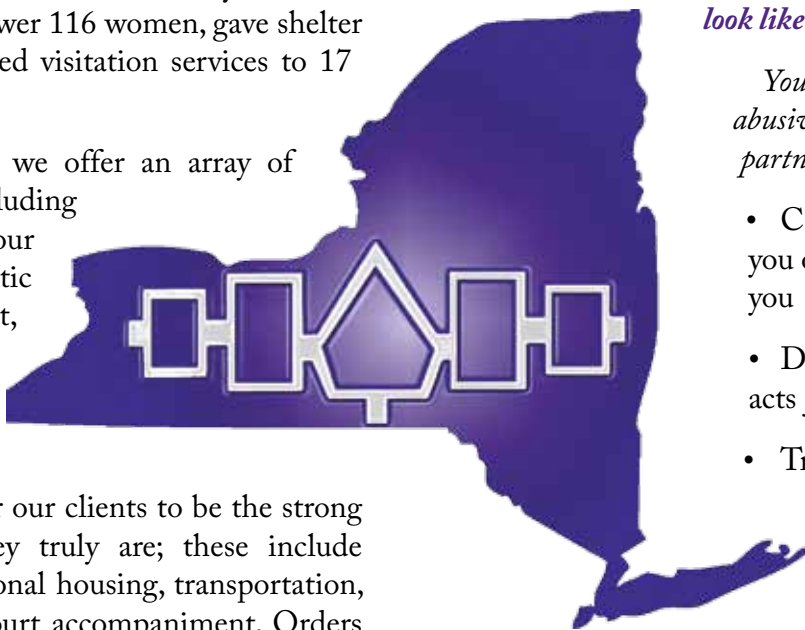
percent will also be victims of domestic violence. These statistics are frightening and show the increased need for programs like the Three Sisters Program in Native American communities.

The Three Sisters Program's mission statement, "Always Here to Protect, Empower & Guide our Sacred Families" illustrates our unwavering support to end the cycle of abuse in Akwesasne families.

### *What does Domestic Violence look like?*

*You may be in an emotionally abusive relationship if your partner:*

- Calls you names, insults you or continually criticizes you
- Does not trust you and acts jealous or possessive
- Tries to isolate you from family or friends
- Monitors where you go, who you call and who you spend time with
- Does not want you to work
- Controls finances or refuses to share money
- Punishes you by withholding affection
- Expects you to ask permission
- Threatens to hurt you, the children, your family or your pets
- Humiliates you in any way





*You may be in a physically abusive relationship if your partner has ever:*

- Damaged property when angry (thrown objects, punched walls, kicked doors, etc.)
- Pushed, slapped, bitten, kicked or choked you
- Abandoned you in a dangerous or unfamiliar place
- Scared you by driving recklessly
- Used a weapon to threaten or hurt you
- Forced you to leave your home
- Trapped you in your home or kept you from leaving
- Prevented you from calling police or seeking medical attention
- Hurt your children

Domestic violence can and does extend far beyond these two examples. Threats and physical violence are just the most obvious forms. Domestic violence should not happen to anybody. Ever. Period. However, it does - and when it does, there is help. Maybe you have lived with abuse, maybe it happened just once; maybe you work or live next to someone who is being abused right now. Whoever you are, we at the Three Sisters Program are here for you 24/7, any time day or night.



### **Events**

The month of October is "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month." The Three Sisters Program is organizing a couple of different events to kick off the month and spread the word about Domestic Violence and the services that are offered in Akwesasne. We will be hosting a *Sisters in Spirit - Shining the Light on Domestic Violence* gathering on October 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. We encourage all community members to come join our gathering at the St. Regis River bridge on State Route 37 in Akwesasne, NY. The Three Sisters Program is planning to release paper lanterns to commemorate those who have lost their lives to domestic violence and show support for those who have survived. We will also be holding a "Wear Purple Day" on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 to show your support for victims, survivors and family members who have been affected by domestic violence.



If you or someone you know is in a domestic violence situation or is a victim of sexual assault, call us at 518-358-4406. If after hours, call our hotline number at 1-855-3SISTER. Understand that you are not alone and that abuse of any kind is never okay. ◇

***Lanterns will be Released on October 4 at Sunset  
to Commemorate Those Who Have Lost their  
Lives to Domestic Violence and Show Support for  
Those Who Have Survived***



Help us celebrate National Breast Cancer Awareness month by spreading awareness to all women; both in and around Akwesasne. Breast cancer is the most common cancer amongst women. The American Cancer Society estimates that more than one million women in the U.S. have breast cancer and don't realize it. Remember, the best protection is early detection.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Outreach Chronic Care Nursing Department will be hosting their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Thursday October 10, 2013 in the lobby at the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event will feature informational tables and displays, breast cancer trivia, chair massages and lots of freebies.

Women should have a clinical breast exam at least every three years starting at age 20 and every year starting at age 40. On Thursday October 10 and Friday October 11, the Outreach office will be scheduling appointments for women who wish to have a breast exam. If you think you are due for your annual breast exam please call 518-358-3141 extention 130 to set up an appointment. Exam spots are limited so please call early. A rose will be given to all women who receive a breast exam. ♦

# Breast Cancer Awareness Day

*Kenténha/October 10, 2013*



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655

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