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# Kawennì:ios

**DICK'S**  
SPORTING GOODS.  
FOUNDATION

FESTIVAL  
2016  
OFFICIAL SELECTION



## Keepers of the Game

# Tribally licensed businesses build a better Akwesasne...



Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club...Elders Electricity Assistance...Agriculture Program...Chronic Care...Kids for Fishing...Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department...Annual Roadside Cleanup...Fuel Assistance...Snowsuit Fund...Akwesasne Holiday Helpers...Akwesasne Community Sports Teams...Scholarships...Emergency Medical Assistance...Animal Control...Generations Park...Cemetery Upkeep...Iakwasenni:io Archery Club...Christmas Enchantment...Akwesasne Freedom School...Kanien'kéha Tsi Tewatá:ti AEDA Language Program...Akwesasne Library & Cultural Center...Seniors Caretakers Training...St. Regis Recreation Dance Club...Public Water...Disability Services...Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program...Police Department...Child Care & Headstart...Roads Maintenance...Health Services

**T**ribally licensed businesses serve an important role in the Akwesasne community. They provide funding to help support many essential tribal services to meet the needs of our growing community. The licensing fees collected from the sale of tobacco, alcohol and petroleum products directly support tribal programs, services and important community-based initiatives.

The Tribe's licensing program is conducted in the community's best interest through a working partnership with tribally licensed businesses. Their continued compliance is a critical component to a healthy, safe and prosperous Akwesasne.

Support Akwesasne's tribally licensed businesses.

**#BuyLocalAkwesasne**





# Good Words of Welcome



*Shé:kon sewakwé:kon Akwesashró:non,*

I hope this opening has reached you and yours with good health and spirits. Now that winter is over and it is officially spring, I hope that everyone can start to enjoy the warmer weather outside. Please be mindful however, of the kids beginning to ride their bikes and other people walking alongside the roads.

If everyone hasn't been made aware, there was a documentary movie featuring the Salmon River Girls Lacrosse team, titled "Keepers of the Game," that premiered on April 19th at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, NY. In attendance were sports celebrities Paul Rabil (who personally greeted the girls), Robert De Niro, Tom Brady, Serena Williams and our very own Salmon River sports alumni Reen Cook! It gives me great pride to see our girl's lacrosse team featured in a prestigious film festival.

From the struggles to success, all the hard work and dedication during the last year of filming have finally come to fruition. I honor, with kind words and thoughts, all the people who were involved in making this film about girl's lacrosse in Akwesasne possible: Tisha Thompson, Shari Bigtree-Adams, John and Amy Lazore and, most importantly, to all the parents who gave their time and dedication to see their girls fight through all the struggles that were presented to them. Congratulations on rising above and achieving great things. *Niawenko:wa!*

I thank all the community members who participated on April 11th in a heart wrenching meeting we had regarding the plague that has affected our community in ways we can't control or comprehend, heroin and drug addiction. Please know that Tribal Council is very concerned and understands this is reaching epidemic proportions. It has already taken too many of our young people.

We understand that people and families are frustrated and want action done immediately. As a community member, I would like something done immediately, but it will take time. In the meantime, the first thing we can all do is to tell those within some of our own families who are selling this poison to STOP! I personally don't want to see families go through this anguish anymore. There is light at the end of the tunnel and I can say that Tribal Council is working hard to address people's concerns.

In closing, please tell your children that you love them everyday. Those three words, "I Love You!" are the most profound words anyone can hear. It is often the only words needed to put them on a better path in life.

*Niawen,*

*Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance*

*Connect with us...*



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Aimée Benedict, Publications Manager  
Alyson Thompson, Production Assistant

***Kawennì:ios "Good Words"*** is published bi-monthly.

Subscriptions are available in print or digital versions.

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## ***SRCS Voting***

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Education Committee is encouraging community members to vote in the Salmon River School Board Election on May 17, 2016. The community's support is needed to ensure our Mohawk students continue to be properly represented in the Salmon River School District.

To vote in the election, individuals need to be at least 18 years old and reside in the Salmon River School District. Individuals are eligible to vote even if they do not have children attending school in the district.

The School Board election will be from noon to 8:00 p.m. in the Salmon River High School auditorium.

***Vote for our Future!***



## ***Hogansburg Dam Removal Public Information Session***

After over five years of planning, preparation for the Hogansburg Dam's removal is scheduled for July 2016. A community meeting will be held to discuss the removal process and answer any questions on Wednesday *Onerahtohkó:wa*/ May 25, 2016 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Akwesasne Housing Authority Training Center. Light refreshments will be provided.

The meeting will be hosted by Tony David, Environment Division Water Resources Program Manager. For more information, please contact Tony at (518) 358-5937 extension 112, or by email at [tony.david@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:tony.david@srmt-nsn.gov).

## ***Burn Permit Clinic***

The danger of uncontrolled fires is increased in the early spring. As a precaution, the Air Quality Program will not approve burn permits until *Onerahtohkó:wa*/May 14, 2016. The best practice is not to burn, but if you have to, you must apply for a permit. The process for obtaining a permit is fairly easy and doesn't cost anything.

On Thursday, *Onerahtohkó:wa* /May 5, a representative from the Air Quality Program will be in the Community Building lobby from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with burn permit applications. Burn pile inspections will take place the following week.

## ***Wellness Day - Save the Date!***

The 26th Annual Wellness Day, hosted by the Health Promotion, Disease Prevention Committee will be held on July 21, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities are scheduled at Generations Park, the Diabetes Center for Excellence, the Tewatahitha Walking Trail and the Office for the Aging.

Get inspired with healthy lifestyle information at vendor and program tables, bring the little ones for kids activities, join our physical activity sessions and listen to motivating speaker presentations. You could win door prizes and health promotion giveaways.

For more information, please contact Dana Henhawk at (518) 358-3141. ♦



# Community Engagement:

## Making Mohawk Language Classes Accessible

By Alyson Thompson, Communications Production Assistant

One of the mandates of the Tribal Historic Preservation office is to assist in preserving and maintaining our Kanien'keha (Mohawk language) language within the community and the workplace. Kanien'keha teacher, Katsi'tsienhá:wi Carole Ross welcomes community members and Tribal employees who wish to learn their language or expand their Mohawk vocabulary in a classroom setting.

The hands-on classroom instruction includes aspects of our Mohawk culture, heritage and life practices. Class participants can also utilize the Can-8® virtual language program at no



Katsi'tsienhá:wi Carole Ross

charge and learn more at their own pace outside the allotted class time.

To make the classes more accessible, a new series of classes has been scheduled for the remainder of 2016 in six-week sessions beginning on May 16, July 11, September 6 and November 8.

Registration forms can be picked up in the language lab located on the main level of the Community Building. They can also be downloaded from the Tribe's website at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov). Reach Katsi'tsienhá:wi by calling (518) 358-2272 if you have any questions.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beginner	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Lab open for self instruction and practice 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Lab open for self instruction and practice 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Beginner	12:00 - 12:30 p.m.		12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	
Intermediate	12:30 - 1:00 p.m.		12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	
All levels	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.		4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	
Advanced	By Appointment		By Appointment	By Appointment	

### Other Language Learning Options

The Kanien'kéha Language & Resource Center located in the Akwesasne Economic Development Agency on Kaweh nó:ke, (Cornwall Island), also offers the Can8® program, the computer language learning system that can be accessed in class or from home.

In addition to the Can8® Program, they offer study books, booklets, CDs, flash & memory cards, posters, banners, coloring books, greeting cards, calendars and labels. For Can8® access and prices, please call (613) 932-2923 or visit their website: [www.aeda.ca](http://www.aeda.ca).

YouTube has hundreds of videos with sessions on greetings, body parts, colors, clans and conversations.

TalkMohawk2013 is a Google Play Store App. Install on your mobile device to hear over 300 Mohawk words and phrases.

We welcome all tribal employees and community members interested in learning and preserving the language to use these vital resources so together we can ensure our language, culture and identity are not lost. ♦



# Division Update: Planning & Infrastructure

## 2016 Road Construction Projects

*By Alyson Thompson, Communications Production Assistant*

After another unpredictable winter, the roads in Akwesasne are in need of many repairs to make them safe for travelers and to protect the condition of vehicles. It is the mission of the Planning and Infrastructure Department to provide expertise in this areas by undertaking construction, project management, inspection, procurement, roads maintenance, infrastructure and transportation planning.

At the March 2016 Monthly Tribal Meeting, Planning and Infrastructure Director Ernie Thompson and Construction Manager Brent Herne presented information on which roads were identified as a priority for the coming road construction season.

The total estimated funds allocated for 2016 toward design and construction is \$1.2m. This amount is up \$108,000 from 2015 funding. Planning and Infrastructure anticipates a similar allocation of funds will be available in subsequent years for road construction.

Also in 2016, the design for River Road, Cook Farm Lane, Frogtown Road, Pumphouse Road, Beaver Meadow Road and Helena Road will be completed. These roads will be constructed between 2017-2020. Barret Paving is the contractor for Sarah Lane and Mohawk Lane. In accordance with SRMT's Mohawk Preference policy, Delormier Trucking and Lazore Construction, respectively, have been subcontracted for these two projects.

As these projects move into construction phases, Planning & Infrastructure will provide notices of closures and delays for traffic and any inconvenience for homeowners in those areas.

In addition to the roads projects, Planning & Infrastructure has several other capital projects in the works for this year.



*The present, overcrowded Planning & Infrastructure building will be demolished when the new location opens next to Akwesasne TV on State Route 95.*

The watermain, installed in 1977, will be replaced from the Tribal Police building along State Route 37 to the Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation complexes in Rooseveltown. Additional hydrants and shut-off valves are being added. The projected is being funded by HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grants and the Tribal General Capital Resources Fund.

The Frogtown IRA is in final stages of completion closing the Fort Covington location. The new Planning & Infrastructure building is set to break ground this summer 2016. It will house offices and a six-bay garage with a solar power unit. Ground-breaking of the new Tribal Administration Building will begin after the the final loan is approved. An addition to the Health Services building is scheduled for 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning and Infrastructure Office located at 12 Gray Street, former HAVFD Fire Station #1 in Akwesasne, or call (518) 358-4205. ♦

# 2016 Tribal Caucus, Election and Referendum

*By Election Board*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Election Board will hold the annual Caucus on Saturday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 7, 2016 in the Community Building lobby.

Nominations will be accepted for:

- Tribal Chief presently held by Beverly Cook
- Tribal Sub-Chief presently held by Shelley Jacobs
- Chief Judge presently held by Peter J. (PJ) Herne
- Traffic Court Judges presently held by Steven B. Cook and Lois Terrance

All five positions are for three year terms. Nominators and candidates must meet the criteria as specified in the Election and Referendum Ordinance as amended April 2, 2013.

## ***Tribal Election & Referendum***

Eligible voters are encouraged to vote on Ohiari:ha/June 4, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Community Building. Voters must sign in and present their Tribal Enrollment card or valid photo identification prior to receiving their ballots and must put their enrollment number next to their name.

Absentee ballots will be available once the candidates are certified and can be obtained by contacting the Tribal Clerk's Office. Walk-in voting will also be available before Election day. Voters who are home-bound may request in-home voting by contacting the Election Board at (518) 358-2272.

To verify your eligibility to vote, request an absentee ballot, or for questions or concerns regarding the eligible voter's list, please contact the Tribal Clerk's Office at (518) 358-2272.



## ***Eligibility of Voters***

At the time of voting, an eligible voter must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- Reside in the United States for at least six months immediately prior to the election.
- Have their name on the most current eligible voters list. It is the responsibility of all Tribal members to ensure they are on the eligible voters list.

## ***About the Election Board***

Election Board members are appointed by Tribal Council to ensure, direct and manage the security and integrity of the tribal caucus, elections and referendums in accordance with the Election and Referendum Ordinance. The Election Ordinance can be viewed online at the Tribe's website at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov). A printed copy is also available in the Tribal Clerk's Office. The current Election Board Members are Wendy Adams, Bryan Garrow and Katrina Jacobs.

## ***Election Workers Needed***

The SRMT Election Board is seeking several workers to assist with this year's annual election. Individuals must be available the two scheduled days of walk-in voting and Saturday's election. To be an election worker, individuals must be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

and 18 years of age or older.

Interested individuals can submit their letter of interest to the attention of the Election Board at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

Caucus, Election and Referendum results will be made available on the Tribe's website and facebook page, as well as in the local newspapers, radio and television stations. ♦

# Akwesasne Business Feature:

## Akwesasne Convenience Store Association Invests in the Future

*By Mary LaFrance, Program Support Officer, Office of Economic Development*

The Akwesasne Convenience Store Association (ACSA) is a network of around 40 gas station owners and tobacco retailers licensed within the jurisdiction of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT). Formerly known as the Petroleum Co-Op, its initial goal was a unified strategy in response to outside agency's encroachment onto the territory. Today, the Co-Op has expanded into an association that functions as a communication center for setting competitive pricing on petroleum and tobacco products in Akwesasne. It also supports community initiatives by contributing thousands of dollars through their newly formed 'Investing in the Potential Foundation'.

The ASCA membership is able to make their community contributions through the administration of a small fee assessed on the individual sale of petroleum and tobacco products. This fee, in amount of \$0.04 per gallon of petroleum, is divided equally between SRMT and ASCA and is dispersed in the following manner: \$0.01 to the The Tribal General Fund to support community activities and programs, such as heating assistance and the Senior Electricity Pilot Project;

\$0.01 is held in a restricted account to oppose future taxation efforts; and \$0.02 is dedicated to the ACSA for distributing to the community through their foundation, with a portion dedicated for the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department.



The association's tobacco retailers also contribute to Tribe's overall community programming through a small fee assessed on the sale of individual tobacco products. In 2010, the fee was increased with the agreement of tobacco retailers to help support the Chronic Care Program administered by SRMT's Health Services.



*ACSA's "Investing in the Potential Foundation" contributes \$250 to help new families in the community.*

"The community receives so many positive contributions from the SRMT licensing regime with the businesses continuing to give back in many ways," stated Elliott Lazore, Director of the Tribe's Compliance Department. "I feel their biggest contribution is that they continue to help offset the health care deficit and the elder's pilot project we have been administering for the past two years."

The SRMT Compliance Department is designated to oversee the licensing,





*Rendering of the proposed year-round lacrosse facility*

regulation and collection of tribal fees collected from the sale of tobacco, alcohol and petroleum products. Their role is to ensure compliance with tribal regulations and helping ensure that all tribally licensed businesses are treated fairly.

Three years ago, the ACSA started a new initiative, themed ‘Investing in the Potential Foundation,’ to better facilitate the distribution of money into the community from the sale of petroleum and tobacco products. The new foundation has proven successful, as ACSA has been able to donate an additional \$150,000 to \$180,000 to help support many youth activities and families in need.

“ACSA members are community members too, like everybody else,” explains Paul Tatlock, ACSA Administrator. “They know helping the community is best for everyone.”

Recently, the ACSA announced plans to pursue a year-round lacrosse training facility in Akwesasne. The community-driven project came from the fact that Akwesasne is the only reservation without a year-round facility dedicated to the sport. When community members approached the ACSA about the project, support from the membership was unanimous. Although it is in the early stages of development, there is already an outpouring of support from local businesses and community members alike.

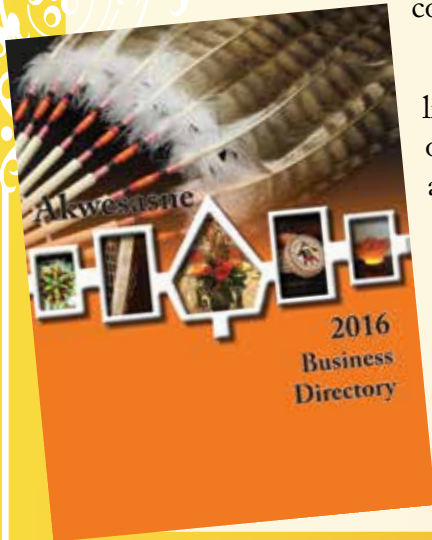
To become a member of the ACSA, a business must be a petroleum or tobacco retailer owned by a member of Akwesasne and possess a license from the SRMT Compliance Department. For more information about ACSA or ‘Investing in the Potential Foundation,’ please visit [www.AkwesasnePotential.com](http://www.AkwesasnePotential.com), or contact Paul Tatlock at ACSA (518) 521-5174 or [paul@akwesasnecsa.com](mailto:paul@akwesasnecsa.com). ♦



*Look for this sticker at local stores to support the businesses that support the Community. Taken at Winners Club Convenience, formerly Speedway.*

## Akwesasne Business Directory

The 2016 Akwesasne Business Directory is ready for pick up in the Tribe's Community Building lobby and the Office of Economic Development located at the Akwesasne Business Center. You can also have a copy mailed to you by emailing [communications@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:communications@srmt-nsn.gov).



The directory features a complete listing and contact information for over 300 Akwesasne businesses. The annual directory is a collaborative of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Offices of Economic Development.

***Support Akwesasne Businesses  
Buy Local!***

## Protecting Essential Business Records in the Event of a Disaster

Documents, records and reports are vital to the daily operation and financial survival of every business. This workshop discusses various protection methods for paper and electronic records and how to reduce threats that could damage or destroy these valuable business assets.

- June 2, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Akwesasne Housing Authority - Training Center
- Guest Speakers: Lillian Barton – SRMT Records Management and Michelle Collins – SUNY Canton SBDC
- Door Prize: Sentry Fire Safe

Register by calling the SRMT Office of Economic Development at (518) 358-2835.

## SRMT TechSpot

### Protect Your Personal Information

**Secure your accounts:** Ask for protection beyond passwords. Many account providers now offer additional ways for you verify who you are before you conduct business on that site.

**Make passwords long and strong:** Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password.

**Unique account, unique password:** Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals.

**Write it down and keep it safe:** Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list that's stored in a safe, secure place away from your computer.

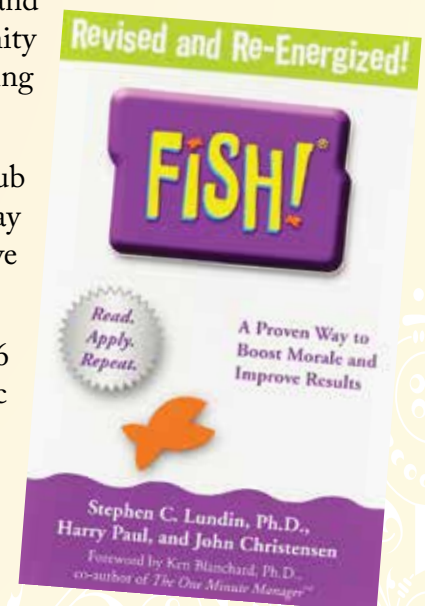
**Own your online presence:** Set the privacy and security settings on websites to your comfort level for information sharing. It's ok to limit how and with whom you share information.

## Local Business Book Club

Interested in reading and discussing books on community development and achieving success in small business?

Join us for the May book club offering: *Fish! A Proven Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*.

Wednesday May 25, 2016  
at the Office for Economic Development at 5:30 p.m.





# Employee Profile:

## Adrian McDonald, Tribal Safety Officer

*By Brendan White, Communications Director*

Adrian McDonald has been the Safety Officer since August 2014. Adrian has worked for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe off and on since 1988 starting in the Environment Office. His roles included Environmental Health Technician, Water Plant Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Officer, Solid Waste Management Operations and a member of the Environmental Response Team.

Since 1993, Adrian has been a member of the Hogsburg-Akwasne Volunteer Fire Department. Adrian is also a State Fire Instructor working for the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services since 2007. Adrian brings a wealth of knowledge with him from his experience at the Akwasne Economic Development Agency, Mohawk Council of Akwasne and Akwasne Training Associates.

Adrian has racked up an enormous amount of certifications through New York State, OSHA, EPA, USCG, CMHC and many other organizations including the State of California. Adrian began his instructing career at the New York State Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, NY. Followed by Instructor training at the California Standardized Training Institute in San Louis Obispo, CA. Adrian is now an Outreach Instructor for OSHA through the OSHA Education Training Institute providing OSHA classes for Tribal Employees.

Upon starting Adrian immediately came up with the following mission statement:

"The mission of the Safety Office is to provide the employees of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe with the tools, knowledge and guidance to perform their duties in a safe and productive workplace." That statement has been hanging on his wall since he started in 2014.

The Safety Committee of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe had been working on the Safety Policy for a while before Adrian was hired. The committee put in a lot of hours and energy working on the safety policy through one review after another until it was ready to present to council. The version sent to council was the tenth revision and with council's comments represents the 11th and final version of the safety policy.

With the passage of the Safety Policy in September 2015, the SRMT made official their desire to make the workplace safer. The roll out of the Safety Policy is presented to tribal staff in 1 ½ hour sessions throughout the organization.

The Safety Officer also provides training for staff that includes regular First Aid/CPR/AED, NYS Defensive Driver's Course, OSHA 10, Confined Space Entry, and many other required trainings as identified. He also conducts safety meetings, inspections, site visits and investigations when requested

For more information, contact Adrian McDonald, Safety Officer, at (518) 358-2272 ext. 2292 or email at [adrian.mcdonald@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:adrian.mcdonald@srmt-nsn.gov). ♦



## *Reminders from the Tribal Clerk's Office*

**Jury Duty** – Should you receive a summons or questionnaire for jury duty and you do not wish to take part, please bring in the letter to our office and we will send out a response on your behalf. This service is for enrolled members only.

**Social Security** – Social Security Representative Kelly Smith is available every second Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Tribal Clerk's Office. No appointment is needed, first come - first served. She can process new and replacement card applications, and change or correct information on your Social Security record. Applications can be picked up at the Tribal Clerk's office any time. Please remember to bring original documents for backup documentation.

**Membership Files** - Tribal caucus and annual elections are coming up in May and June. Please make sure your membership files are up to date. If there have been any changes, i.e. address, name change, etc., please let us know. Enrollment cards expire every five years and can be renewed by mail if you are not within a reasonable driving distance.

**Deeds** - There are several land deeds that need to be paid for and picked up. They have been waiting in the office for a while.

**Genealogical Research** - We've been making some headway into the list for research but there is still a long wait. Tribal Clerk staff has been referring inquiries to the Saint Regis Mohawk Catholic Church - Saint Kateri Center at (518) 358-2931. Several inquiries regarding DNA testing have been received and it is not an accepted proof of membership. DNA testing can provide a percentage of 'Native American' but cannot state which Tribe or Nation the ancestry is from.

**Proof of Enrollment Letters** - Enrolled members can request proof of enrollment letters or have forms filled out and signed at no charge. These types of documents are used for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, college and scholarship applications, employment, Headstart and daycare applications, health plans, Medicaid and Social Security. Please give us a couple weeks' notice when requesting these documents.

*Please contact the Tribal Clerk's Office if you have any questions or to request services by calling (518) 358-2272. ♦*

## *Spring Chipping Program*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division, Forestry Resources Program has begun its seasonal program to assist the community with their spring clean up. The chipping project will begin taking sign-ups on Wetentawén'kie'/Monday, Onerahtohko:wa/May 2, 2016 at their office located at 449 Frogtown Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655.

Chipping is the removal of dead and down trees, limbs and branches. This eliminates the need to burn and provides a safe and convenient way to get their yards in shape for the summer months. The elderly and disabled are prioritized and will be served first, although, anyone can sign up. Elderly and disabled unable to visit the environment office to sign up can be visited by calling the program with name, phone number and address.

Anyone participating in the program will be required to sign an access waiver before work is done on their property and if there is any question regarding land ownership the Tribe reserves the right to refuse services until these issues are cleared up.

In the past, the program has also assisted local cemeteries with clean up and removal of trees and branches and will do so again this year.

Community members are encouraged take advantage of these services by getting in touch with the Forestry Program located at 449 Frogtown Road, (518) 358-5937. ♦





# 'Keepers of the Game' Premieres at Tribeca Film Festival

## *Salmon River Girls Lacrosse Team Featured in Documentary Film*

The Salmon River Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team and volunteers embarked on a chartered bus trip to New York City, NY on Tuesday, Onerahtókha/April 19, 2016 for the world-premiere of "Keepers of the Game," a feature-length documentary movie about the girl's lacrosse team.

The documentary film produced by Flatbush Pictures and sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods; was unveiled at the annual Tribeca Film Festival and provided the player's with a 'once-in-a-lifetime' red-carpet experience, as well as an opportunity to view themselves in a full-production movie.

'Keepers of the Game' profiles the 2015 lacrosse season for the young all-Native lacrosse team's efforts to secure a sectional championship, while blazing a new trail that honors their people's traditions for the next generation of Native women. Shot on location in the Territory of Akwesasne, the film shares the female player's challenges playing the modern-day sport of lacrosse.

For each player, it's as much an internal fight, to figure out and assert who they are in a changing world, through a sport viewed within their culture as being traditionally played by males. Determined to break the mold, the team succeeds in earning a sectional championship as they embark on a new path for the coming generations of female lacrosse players, not just in Akwesasne, but around the world.

The individual players, volunteers and supporters who attended the premiere include: Shari Adams, Jillian Benedict, Summer Bero, Jadie Burns, Trysten Burns, Shye Chubb, Sequoya Chubb, Sienna Chubb, Olivia Cook, Reen Cook, Tristan Cook-Hasty, Halle Cooke, Mikayla Francis, Katsitsionni Fox, Colonie Gray, Elisha King, Marietta Jock, Tawny Martin, Louise McDonald, Tatyana Papineau, Nihahsennaa Peters, Konwahonkarawi Porter, Terri Swamp, Geena Terrance, Dava Thompson, Tisha Thompson, and Wahsontiio. Joining the group at the film festival were Jacelyn and Mirabella Lazore, along with parents Amy and John; as well as Marcella, Quinton and Karonienhawi Thomas.



*Our movie stars enjoy a private screening at the Tribeca Film Festival.*

CKON 97.3 FM's Reen Cook and Akwesasne TV's Mikayla Francis accompanied the team and provided reporting throughout the event that shared the team's excitement with community members. The movie was also broadcasted on ABC on Saturday, April 23rd at 3:30 p.m. EST.

A special *Niawen:kówa* to Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe employees Vicki Wood, Lilly McDonald, Teresa Oakes, Courtney Jacobs and Brendan White for helping with the travel and lodging arrangements.

Great job girls! Please remember this moment for life! ◇

# Attention All Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Are you raising a granchild,  
niece or nephew, or know  
someone who is?



The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Support Enforcement Unit (SRMT CSEU) can provide services to grandparents raising grandchildren as well as other relatives in many different ways. We value and appreciate grandparents and other relatives raising grandchildren and understand that caring for these children may be challenging.

The SRMT FSA Section III 2(A) states that a parent, child, custodial parent or guardian may petition for establishment of a child support order. If legal guardianship has not been established, but you are the primary caregiver for your grandchild or a relative's child, we may be able to assist you.

Grandparents, or other relatives, may apply for child support services at no cost, at the SRMT CSEU office or by completing an Application for Services. Referrals to the SRMT CSEU may also be received through any Tribal or State Program.

Call the SRMT Child Support Enforcement Unit at (518) 358-2272

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, NY 13655





# Program Snapshot:

## Child Support Enforcement Unit

*Child Support is more than Money. Get Involved. Your Children Deserve it!*

*By Jennifer Brown, Child Support Enforcement Unit*

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Support Enforcement Unit (SRMT CSEU) opened its doors to the Community of Akwesasne on April 1, 2014. Here are some frequently asked questions that the CSEU commonly responds to.

*If either parent loses a job or is earning more money, will child support automatically be changed?*

No, the child support amount will not change automatically; however, either parent can request a review for modification of their child support order. A child support obligation must be reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at least every 24 months.

*What can I do to make sure my child support order amount is fair?*

When both parents appear at the Mandatory Meeting and bring the necessary documents, the agency or court will be able to make a fully informed and fair decision about the amount of the child support order.

During this meeting you will have an opportunity to provide the CSEU with an accurate picture of your financial capability. The Mandatory Meeting provides both parents the chance to work cooperatively with the other parent to make choices that are in the best interest of their children, your children not only deserve your love and support...They depend on it.

*How is the amount of my child support order set?*

Once the CSEU has received all financial information from both parents, the CSEU will follow the steps below to determine what the Custodial Parent is entitled to.

- determine total gross annual income
- determine total annual deductions
- calculate annual net income

- calculate combined annual net income
- determine the basic child support obligation
- determine proportional share of income
- calculate basic child support obligation without consideration of low income limitations
- consider low income limitations.

### ***Legal Representation***

The SRMT CSEU Attorney works for and represents the Tribe only. The SRMT CSEU Attorney attends every court session to ensure that Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Family Support Act is adhered to in all proceedings and to provide clarification to the Judge on case related questions.

According to the Family Support Act (FSA), none of the CSEU Staff including the CSEU Attorney represents either party in the case. The CSEU staff can help parents understand what their legal rights are and help clarify procedures but can in no circumstances provide legal advice.

The following resources will assist parents find a family law attorney:

- [www.nysba.org/family](http://www.nysba.org/family)
- [www.courts.state.ny.us](http://www.courts.state.ny.us)

The Rural Law Center of New York, Inc., is an amazing resource for parents providing family law, consumer debt and housing services. RLC Franklin County (518) 358-2255 St. Lawrence County (315) 769-2500.

If you, or anyone you know are in need of Child Support Assistance, please contact the SRMT CSEU for further information at (518) 358-2272 Ext. 2410. ♦

# A Child Advocacy Center

## A Safe Place for Children

By **Brianna Jaris, CAC Coordinator**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has worked in collaboration with a Regional Child Advocacy Center Model to establish a satellite office for child victims of sexual and physical child abuse and to train a multi-disciplinary team to decrease trauma to children, families and the community. The child-focused model is a shift in previous child abuse systems and works toward an evolving model to decrease trauma to families. This approach recognizes the need for and provides supports and services to the non-offending family members to strengthen and support families.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) provides a child-friendly, culturally respectful place where caring professionals work together to help children, families, and communities cope with sexual abuse, physical abuse and exposure to violence.

### Referrals

Referrals are made to the CAC from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police or from Saint Regis Mohawk Social Services. The CAC provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary team (MDT) evaluation for child sexual or severe physical abuse concerns with the goal of reducing trauma to children. This may include a forensic interview, medical examination, victim advocacy, counseling support/referrals, and follow up for children and families.

### A Multi-disciplinary Team

A multi-disciplinary team is made up of dedicated professionals who share their respective skills, information and resources to coordinate the appropriate service interventions and plan collaboratively. This collaborative partnership is intended to minimize both the short-term and the long-term trauma of child abuse with the use of a supportive and child friendly environment for families.



*Members of the Child Advocacy Center MDT at a Recognition Breakfast hosted by DA Andrew J. Wylie.*

*In the photo (left to right): SRMT Executive Director Tsiorasa Barreiro, CAC Coordinator Brianna Jaris, Executive Director of the Clinton County Advocacy Center Richelle Gregory, CPS Caseworker April Seymour, CPS Caseworker Breanne Herne, Mental Health Counselor Alison Herne, CPS Caseworker Dorothy Stowell, SRMT Tribal Chief Beverly Cook, United States Attorney for the North District of New York Betsy Horseman.*

### Forensic Interview

To eliminate multiple interviews of a child, the center offers one location for forensic interviews to take place with specially trained interviewers in a family friendly environment.

### Medical Exam

Medical exams are scheduled as appropriate with professionals trained in child abuse. The exam rooms are child-friendly and are similar to normal pediatric exams.

### Case Review

An identified interagency team meets monthly to review case information and makes recommendations for follow up services and treatment.

Feel free to contact the Child Advocacy Center if you have any questions, or would like further information at the main office number (518)-358-2520 or to the direct line (518) 898-6298. ♦



# Division Update:

## *Health Services: From the Director's Desk*

I am very interested to hear your concerns, frustrations and/or complaints. I want to be able to address them directly with you. I assure you that I address all items that are brought to my attention. My contact number is (518) 358-3141, ext. 7103. We have been having issues with our phone system, so you can call the Community Building number, (518) 358-2272, and they will relay the call. I do like to hear positive things as well! Below are some questions our staff hear on a regular basis and tips for safety and health.

*Michael Cook*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

***If I arrive 15 minutes or later for a scheduled appointment do I risk not being seen?***

Unfortunately, yes. There are complications that result from you being late. First, our providers often have very full, sometimes double-booked, schedules. Our ability to keep the time allotted for your appointment is challenged by the provider's time available. Second, the individual who has an appointment after you has in all likelihood planned their day (leave time from work) around their scheduled time.

Our staff will do what they can to get you rescheduled, but there will be situations where rescheduling to another day is the only option.

***I hear I can be reimbursed for what I paid into Medicare?***

If you are enrolled, live close by on the American side and are an active user of our services; then you may be eligible. Bring in your 1099 for 2015 to get processed.

***What is a Primary Care Provider and Why Should I Choose One?***

Your primary care provider will be your main healthcare provider for your most common medical problems. They will also look out

for your overall health, make recommendations for screenings and referrals when necessary, as well as providing education for healthy habits and so much more! You need someone whom you can develop a trusting ongoing relationship with and who can meet your general medical needs. It is important to choose the right provider because they will be the person that will oversee the health and wellness of you and your family for the long-term range. This provider can be a Physician, Physician Assistant or a Family Nurse Practitioner.

***Do you currently see different providers for your care at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services?***

This should only occur if you are going for an acute illness and you are unable to see your primary care provider right away. So the next time you are here for your scheduled appointment, or you are calling to make an appointment, please let them know who you have chosen to be your primary care provider.

### **Helpful Tips when Seeing a Medical Care Provider**

*By Donna Bishop, RHIT Health Information Management*

For some people, visiting a health care provider can cause anxiety and uncertainty.

***Be Honest*** - You may feel embarrassed when talking about certain topics with your provider – like drug or alcohol use or sexual activity, but it is important to be honest. Your provider can provide the best treatment only if he or she knows everything about your health. Remember – what you discuss with your provider is confidential!

***Ask Questions*** – Medical terms can be complicated and confusing to most people. If you don't understand what he or she is talking about, then ask questions about your treatment plan!

***Speak Up*** – If you feel uncertain or uncomfortable with what is going on around you, speak up and talk to your nurse or provider. It is better to question why they are doing something than to have a

problem later on.

**Bring Your Medical History** – When preparing for your appointment, be sure to bring a copy of your medical history with you. This medical history should include any allergies, past surgeries and illnesses, your current medications and your vaccination record.

## Pharmacy Services

*By Dr. Benson Kelly, Medical Director*

***If I call tonight, can I expect to have my medications ready the next day?***

Not always. We ask your patience and give us at least two business days to prepare your order. Over the last several years, we have gotten extremely busy and it is often difficult to keep up with the demand in a timely basis. We offer the following suggestions which, we hope, will make things more convenient for you and allow us to provide more efficient and timely service.

Please request refills when you are down to your last three or four doses of medication. Please do not wait until you are totally out of medication or down to your last pill. Please give the pharmacy at least 48 hours of notice before you will need a new prescription.

Please take into consideration when you know you may be going on vacation or going out of town and may need medication earlier than usual. Most insurances will not allow us to give you medication earlier than three or four days from when it is due. Also, please keep in mind when holidays or long weekends occur or when inclement weather is called for, so that if the pharmacy is closed you are prepared.

If you have not refilled your medication for a while, for whatever reason, you will need to see a provider to get a new prescription. We expect medications to be taken as directed and any lapses can have an impact of your health condition and you must be reassessed. If you have not seen a provider in over one year, your prescription will be expired by State law and, again, you must see a provider before getting any medication refill.

Please realize that our pharmacists work hard in a relatively cramped space and they are more concerned with accuracy and

safety than getting prescriptions done quickly. Give them as much notice as possible when you need a refill.

In closing, please remember to give the pharmacy at least 48 hours notice when you need medication. Keep in mind such things as vacation, holidays, long weekends when planning to refill your medication. We are required to follow New York State law and insurance rules regarding dispensing medication. Please be patient with our pharmacists and they will do their best to give you safe and efficient service. If you still have questions, please contact your provider or one of the nursing staff.

## Keep Your Teen Safe

*By Melerna Back, A/CDP Prevention Coordinator*

***90% Of Addictions Start in the Teenage Years.*** Research shows parents are the most powerful influence in their child's life. You may think their biggest influence would be friends but what we say matters - our teens watch us and they are taking it all in. It's almost that time again, prom and graduation parties. So this season, let's take a moment to think about how our own behavior with alcohol impacts the impressionable teens in our lives.

***Be a Role Model.*** If you drink, make sure you are setting a good example by drinking responsibility and in moderation. Try and reflect on how you may model behavior because you have a direct impact on the choices your teens make. For example, after a stressful day, instead of saying "I need a drink," try showing healthy ways to cope with stress such as taking a walk, deep breathing or stretching.

***Never Drink and Drive.*** Celebrate with healthy behaviors instead of making parties about alcohol. Try to find healthier and different ways to have fun. Show your youth that parties are not just all about the drinking; you do not need to be drinking to have a good time. Using theme party ideas, physical games and activities can teach them there is more to a party than alcohol.

***Talk With Your Teen. Talk Early and Talk Often.*** Know where, who, what, why, they are doing something and when they will be home. Meaningful conversations with your teen is essential. Research has found that young people who are not regularly monitored by their parents are four times more likely to use alcohol or drugs.





Keep an open mind and remain calm and nonjudgmental. This is key for them to keep coming to you to talk. Offer compassion and reassurance whenever you can. Be there to listen and give advice.

**Remove Temptation.** Monitor the cans and bottles in your refrigerator and lock your liquor cabinet. A study read only one out of three parents safeguard alcohol in their own homes, even though they have underage children living with them. For teens, the most common sources of alcohol and prescription drugs are parents and family members.

If you suspect your child is having a problem, get help. Don't wait. Call the A/CDP Outpatient program (518) 358-3141 ext. 160. Have a safe, healthy and fun prom and graduation season.

## Summer Grilling

By Kim McElwain, WIC Coordinator and Nutritionist

### Handle Food Safely

- Always wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Keep the kitchen, dishes and utensils clean.
- Always serve food on clean plates.
- Harmful bacteria present in raw meat and poultry and their juices can contaminate safely cooked food. Do not use the same platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat/poultry if the same plates are used this can cause food borne illness.

### Keep Hot Foods **HOT** and Cold foods **COLD**

- Until ready to use, keep poultry and meat refrigerated.
- After cooking meat and poultry on the grill, keep it at 140°F or warmer until served.
- In hot weather (above 90°F), food should never sit out for

more than one hour.

- Refrigerate any leftover promptly in shallow containers.

### Marinating

- Marinate to tenderize and add flavor.
- Do not marinate on the counter, always marinate food in the refrigerator.
- If marinade is to be used as a sauce for the cooked meat, make sure to reserve a portion of it before putting the raw meat and poultry in it or boil it before using on cooked meat.

### Cook Thoroughly

- Precooking food on a stove is a good way to reduce grilling time. Make sure that the food goes immediately on the preheated grill to complete cooking.
- Always use a meat thermometer to check temperatures. This ensures that you are cooking food hot enough to kill bacteria, parasites and viruses that may be in the product.
- Reheat previously cooked meats to 165°F.



## Suicide Prevention Walk for Help, Hope and Healing

The Akwesasne Suicide Prevention Coalition and Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health Services are co-hosting the event on Wednesday, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 25, 2016 on the Tewathahita Walking Trail at Generations Park. Informational booths, remembrance walk, snacks and refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m.

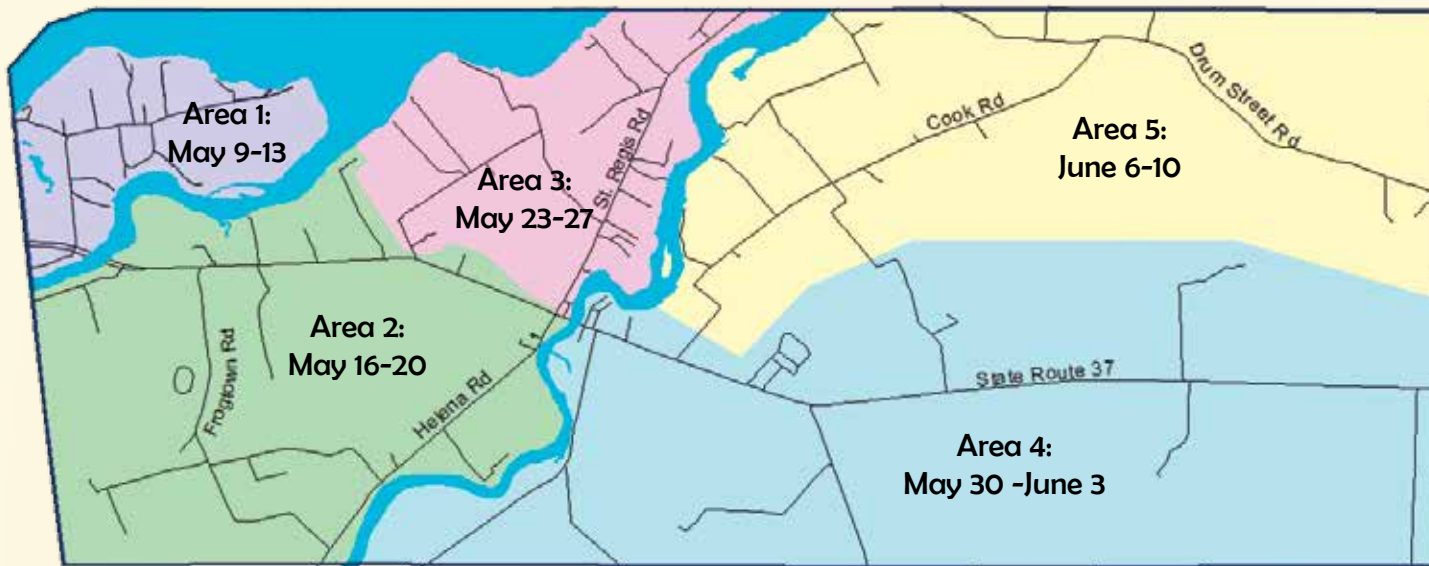
The first 100 participants will receive t-shirts. For more information, please call Saint Regis Mohawk Mental Health at (518) 358-3145. ◇

## 2016 Spring Cleanup - May 9 to June 10

The Tribe's Solid Waste Management Program will be offering curbside collection of white goods, scrap metal, bulky items and electronics at no charge.

Please call (518) 358-4632 if you have any questions.

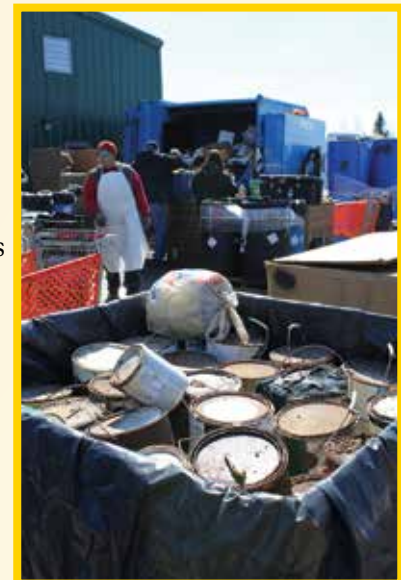
**Non-acceptable materials** include those containing or leaking liquids, yard equipment, radioactive materials, pcb containing materials, paints & paint cans, waste oil, anti-freeze, materials that contain asbestos, lead/acid batteries, paint thinner & cleaning products, regular household garbage.



## SRMT Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Successful

The Saint Regis Mohawk Solid Waste Program in partnership with New York State DEC held a hazardous waste collection event at the Tribe's Transfer station on March 26, 2016. The event drew in over 70 vehicles representing almost 120 households and drew people from as far away as Lake Titus and Chateaugay. The Collection properly disposed of over 1,500 gallons of paint, 55 gallons of anti-freeze, 165 gallons of liquid pesticide, 440 pounds of solid pesticide, 800 pounds of batteries, 55 gallons of oxidizers, 220 gallons of corrosive acids/bases, 110 gallons of bulk motor oil, 165 gallons of aerosols, and 12 hazardous propane tanks. Some chemicals of note that were collected include DDT, which was banned in 1972, and diazinon another restricted chemical.

Due to the amazing turnout from Akwesasne and surrounding communities, some people, unfortunately, had to be turned away and we were unable to collect their hazardous waste. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is pleased to announce the Solid Waste program will be hosting another event in the near future. Please be on the lookout for the future date, time and location of the next important hazardous waste collection day.





# Tweeting on Air

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager, Environment Division*

A few months ago while checking out what's going on in the world, I came across a very interesting article from across the pond. In London, England a man named Pierre Duquesnoy became interested in air quality testing after winning a design festival at the marketing company he worked for. First he thought drones would be great but they require charging and have limited flight times and they are also illegal to be flown in the city. He then came up with an idea of using birds. I thought, what a smart idea. But which ones? He contacted Brian Woodhouse with the Royal Racing Pigeon Association and they came up with the Pigeon Air Patrol.

Since way back when or many, many moons ago, pigeon have been used for communicating between distant places. They were called "carrier" pigeons and they were one of the fastest ways of communicating human messages. And they are pretty smart.

The 10-bird Pigeon Air Patrol wore little backpacks with air sensor monitors as well as a GPS to monitor carbon monoxide, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and other dangerous greenhouse gasses that were present in city's air.

Now this is the greatest part...they tweeted. The official Twitter handle was @PigeonAir. So, if you wanted to know what

the air quality was like in London, England you could go to their handle on Twitter and find out: <http://www.pigeonairpatrol.com/> The successful three-day experiment may open the doors, or cages, to more cities using this technology in the future.

"Millions of people die every year around the world from air pollution. It's basically a pandemic, but we have a hard time realizing this, because it's largely invisible," Romain Lacombe, CEO

of Plume Labs, told CNN. "So, the Pigeon Patrol has been about making the invisible visible. And, there's a nice parallel there – we don't always think about the fact we breathe about 20 (kilograms) of air every day. Much in the same way that pigeons themselves are all around us, and we rarely notice them." Plume Labs created the custom backpacks and who also created smart apps for people to check the air quality around them before even stepping out of their home. The data is especially important for sensitive groups like children, the elderly, asthmatics, and those with respiratory conditions.

Wouldn't that be awesome to have birds monitor our air...old technology with new technology. So for now and the next seven generations, let's use our resources the best we can to benefit our children, elderly and our community. ♦



*Disclaimer: No pigeons were hurt in the process of fitting them with little backpacks which only weigh 25 grams each or about five quarters.*

*We're working to raise awareness and change minds about pollution in London, including the minds of drivers! #PigeonAir*

*Follow @karinbrulliard*



# Tribal Monthly Meetings

***Enniskó:wa/March 5, 2016***

***Chairperson: Tribal Chief Beverly Cook***

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## ***Agenda***

1. Welcome - Chairperson
    - Reading of the Action Items - Tribal Clerk
  2. Introduction of the new GM of the AMCR
  3. Mohawk Network LLC Update
  4. Land Claims Update
  5. Emergency Measures Presentation
  6. New Business
  7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
  8. Adjournment
- 

***Onerahtók:ha/April 2, 2016***

***Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson***

## ***Agenda***

1. Welcome - Chairperson
  - Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
2. Presentation Bingo Palace Financial Report - Emily Lauzon & Janique Odjick
3. Update Hogansburg Dam Closure - Tony David
4. Presentation Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club - Jessica Cree Jock
5. Announcement - New NYS Department of Education Native American Education Coordinator
6. New Business
7. Reading of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Adjournment

## ***Follow-up on Action Items from February Meeting:***

1. Request for Marsh Schmidt present to property owners the process of land into trust. *Completed.*
  2. Tribal Council to present update on land claims at the March Tribal Monthly meeting. *Completed.*
  3. An update on the Election Ordinance from the Election Board. *Completed.*
  4. Request for update from Planning and Infrastructure on roads and priorities. *Completed.*
- 

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

1. A report on Bingo Palace financials since it moved to the Casino location.  
*A report will be given at the April Tribal Monthly meeting.*
  2. Request for Tribal Council to add one cent onto gas fees, for dedication to roads.  
*Discussions are ongoing.*
  3. Request for information on DMV \$20 fee on Franklin County residents registering vehicles in Massena.  
*Danielle Lazore-Thompson is working on this issue once completed a report will be given.*
  4. Franklin County and Town Hall meeting schedules and informations to be distributed to the community.  
*A handout on the county and town meetings will be provided at the April monthly meeting. Information can be viewed through resolve the boundary website.*
- 

## ***Actions Items from April Meeting***

1. Request to check into the progressive jackpots. The jackpots decrease when someone wins, especially on Saturday, March 26, 2016.
2. Request for Bingo Palace net profits.
3. Request for a community meeting on the Art Park.
4. Request for community meetings on drug concerns. Ongoing community meetings scheduled for April 11th and May 9th.
5. Request for a presentation on the Soy Bean Project.



# Calendar

## *Onerahkó:wa / May 2016*

5 - Burn Permit Clinic - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Lobby  
7 - Annual Tribal Election Caucus - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
10 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office  
11 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom  
14 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
17 - SRCS School Board Elections - 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. -  
Salmon River High School Auditorium  
30 - Memorial Day Holiday - all Tribal programs closed

## *Obiari:ba / June 2016*

4 - Annual Tribal Election - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Lobby  
8 - Police Commission - 3:00 p.m. - Executive Boardroom  
11 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
14 - Social Security - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office  
Wednesdays - Tribal Council Work Session - 9:00 a.m. - Executive  
Boardroom, Community Building

# New Faces

Ricky B. Benedict

Lena Purlee

Johanne Sullivan

Denise D. Thompson

Mathew J. Thompson

Wallace Ransom (corrected)

Maintenance Laborer

Home Health Aide

Staff Attorney

Administrative Floater

Compliance Inspector

Agriculture Program Manager

Administration

Health Services - Outreach

Legal Department

Administration

Compliance Department

Environment - Agriculture

# Donations

Community Activities - \$ 18,185

Funerals - \$10,000

Sports - \$ 8,183

Cultural Development - \$ 20,000

# 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).

Positions with our gaming operations are posted on the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort's website at [www.mohawkcasino.com](http://www.mohawkcasino.com).

Akwesasne and surrounding area employment opportunities are posted at the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC) at [www.myaerc.org](http://www.myaerc.org).

