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# Kawennì:ios



**CSEU Carnival Supports  
Healthy Families**

# Investing in Community Safety:

## Akwesasne Community Streetlight Project Expands

### Press Release

A public safety initiative that began last year is set to resume in the community of Akwesasne. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council announced at their weekly work session held on Wednesday, *Ohiarikhó:wa*/July 17, 2019 that 63 additional streetlights will be placed at intersections and along roadways throughout the southern portion of Akwesasne. The latest installations will bring the total number of new lights to 94.

“The Tribal Council continues to take the overall safety and wellbeing of every Akwesasne resident and local traveler seriously,” stated Tribal Chief Michael Conners. Chief Conners added, “I extend my appreciation to those individuals who voiced the need for improved lighting and helped identify ideal locations for new streetlights along our community’s roads.”

In *Tsiothohrkó:wa*/January 2018, the Tribe requested the assistance of community members for their input on a proposed plan to expand street lighting in Akwesasne’s southern portion. The callout was in response to concerns voiced by local residents at tribal meetings and other venues.

“Strengthening the safety of our community is an initiative that the Tribe continues to undertake in collaboration with tribal members,” shared Tribal Chief Eric Thompson. Chief Thompson noted, “As the community of Akwesasne continues to grow, we look forward to continuing our combined efforts in helping to bring much-needed infrastructure projects to fruition.”

Following the callout for input, the Tribe’s Planning & Infrastructure Department developed a draft plan that involved

the placement of streetlights at most intersections and roadways in Akwesasne’s southern jurisdiction. The project commenced on *Kenténha*/October 4, 2018 with the first phase of installations, which included 31 new LED streetlights along Route 37.

The second phase of the community streetlight project began with the installation of ten lights. The majority of streetlights will be placed along Akwesasne’s secondary roads, as well as a few more

requested locations on Route 37—including at the Akwesasne Housing Authority entrance, Tribal Police Station, Maintenance Warehouse and American Legion Post 1479.

National Grid will continue to install the streetlights on existing poles at no cost however; the Tribe will be responsible for paying the cost for new poles, if needed, and electricity usage. Compared to conventional streetlights that are still located along some Akwesasne roads, the new ones being installed are Type D LED lights that are more energy efficient.

“I am very proud of the assistance and appreciation that has been received from individuals wanting to help keep our community safe for everyone,” said Tribal Chief Beverly Cook. Chief Cook added, “I am pleased that the Tribe is able to expand this initiative for the safety of local travelers and the security of community members.”

For more information on the community streetlight project or to suggest additional locations, please contact Construction Manager Brent Herne by calling (518) 358-4205, emailing [brent.herne@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:brent.herne@srmt-nsn.gov), or stopping by his office in the Planning & Infrastructure Building located at 2817 State Route 95 in Akwesasne. ♦



# Good Words of Welcome



*Shé:kon Sewakwé:kon,*

It is truly, my honor to be entering my third term during this important and pivotal time in our history. I say pivotal because we have a rapidly growing population who have growing needs in terms of education, safety needs, services, housing and food security to name a few. I say important because this growth requires that we expand our vision to meet the needs of a younger generation who are intently searching for purpose and identity, while avoiding the trappings of addiction at the same time. Parental engagement is crucial in all these areas and while many of our families have the resources and determination to provide their children all the support they require, some do not. Our programs are here to assist our families the best they can so please reach out and/or let us know of someone in need, young or old.

Speaking of identity, our history, language and culture are steadily emerging as valuable guideposts for our young people as we grow increasingly comfortable with who we are as a diverse people. It is apparent that not everyone is comfortable with this movement. The unease is completely understandable given the past policies of the U.S. and Canada designed to snuff out our identity and shame us into submission. It is a sad and undeniable part of our history; one that we share with Indigenous people around the world. I think, though, that our community is recovering from this deep wound. Several weeks ago, Tribal Council had the opportunity to observe a language class attended by community members of varying ages. What struck me the most was not only the obvious pride they took in their progress towards speaking and understanding the Mohawk language but their support of one another. Recently we listened to a young woman, at the monthly meeting, express how she could feel a deeper part of herself healing as she studied and learned our Mohawk

language. She described how she was conscious of her brain creating new pathways leading to new ways of thinking; perhaps finding old pathways long buried under generations of oppression. The revitalization of our language could be one of the more important roads to healing that we currently support.

While listening to our history retold in open forums lately, it becomes clearer how amazing it is that Akwesasne still exists at all and with a unique identity at that. With the telling comes a better understanding of the origins of our diversity and why there are differing political alliances and spiritual beliefs in our community. Clearly, some of the decisions made by our ancestors, centuries ago under difficult circumstances, resulted in loss of land. Still, some decisions resulted in the preservation of this small portion of our ancient homeland, and as a result, we are still here today. We survived up to this point with our history, language and culture essentially intact, which not all indigenous tribes or nations can claim. We are fortunate for those who held tight to our culture and we are fortunate for those who adapted in order to survive. Everyone has lived different experiences and learned different ways from family to family and generation to generation. Recognizing and acknowledging the uniqueness and value we each possess is what will strengthen our resilience as Akwesasne Mohawk people and families.

Tribal Chief Beverly Cook

# SRMT Annual Years of Service Awards

On *Seskéha*/August 7th, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe held an awards ceremony at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort to proudly recognize the accomplishments of 92 tribal employees for achieving important milestones as employees.

Human Resources Director Stacey Holcomb served as the Master of Ceremonies on this special day, as the Human Resources Department recognized the years of service and dedication of staff to the community of Akwesasne. Individual employees were celebrated for their service anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years.

Employees were presented with gifts purchased from local vendors who created or enhanced the gifts: Evan Cree, Jordan Thompson, Gail General & Pam Brown, Vicky Phillips and Delia Terrance.

Tribal Council was in attendance for the recognition ceremony, as employees represent the organization's greatest asset. They extended their appreciation in a letter that acknowledged employee's role in enhancing tribal services and improving the livelihood and well-being of community members.

Individual employees provide the ongoing desire and encouragement for tribal staff to continue making our community a better place. They are admired and regularly serve as an inspiration for candidates seeking to join the Tribe's efforts. ♦

**Five Years** - Phillip Barreiro, Chantelle Beeson, Jamie Benedict, Sandra Benedict, Donna Bishop, Alanna Cook, Chanel Cook, Everett Cook, Olivia Cook, Alison Cooke, Tiffany Cree, Owen Green, Debra Higginson, Casey Jacobs, Timothy Jock, Angello Johnson, Steven King, Tyson Lazare, Daniel Lazore, Dorothy Lazore, Verda Lyons, Andrew McDonald, Pamela McDonald-Lachance, Jordan Mitchell, Rolland Morris, Pernell Peters, Danielle Salgado, Jaime Snyder, Lanette Square, Brenda Stone, Charles Tarbell, Lori Tarbell, Anna Thompson, Jordan Thompson, Leslie Thompson, Sabrina Thompson-Buckshot

**10 Years** - Mary F. Arquette, Leslie Benedict II, Brian Bond, Lyndie Brann, Tracey Buckshot-Duciaume, Joni Cole, Justin Durant, Trudey Emlaw, Edwina Fry, Douglas Hamilton, Vicki Herne, Zachery Herne, Julia Jacobs, Kerry Jacobs, Margaret Jacobs, Diane Larock, Kim Lauzon McElwain, Jodanna Logan, Stacey Loran, Cameron Mitchell, Riccardo Najar, Nanette Oakes, Wanda Patterson, Anita Plann, Darryl Ransom, William Ransom, Renee Roundpoint-Adams, Chad Sherman, Ronald Swamp, Trinba Terrance, Decota Thompson, Jeremy Thompson





**15 Years** - Jennifer Brown, Michael Cook, Trenia Gero, Joe Hurteau, Jacqueline Lauzon, Joseph LeClair, Joanne McDonald, Mary Pecore, Jennifer Sawyer, Charles Thompson, Wendy Tremblay, Vanna White

**20 Years** - Anastasia Benedict, Ann Marie Bero, Greg Cole, Jeremy Cree, Cindy David, Florence Deon, Ross Garrow, Damon Gibson, Gregory Hendricks, M Dewitt Hummel, Louise Jacobs, Randolph Jock, Cherrie Lazore, Kanentiio Mitchell, Thomas Tarbell, Cory White



**25 Years** - Juanita Arquette, Gloria Benedict, Jonathan Bero, Vikki Dixon, Duane Greenfield, Michelle Hopps, Sharon Jackson, Melody Point



**30 Years** - William Arquette, Roderick Garrow

# A Light in the Dark:

## Glow Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

*By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist*

You may think domestic violence only includes physical hitting. You may also think that domestic violence victims are only women or that domestic abuse only happens in heterosexual (male/female) relationships.

According to a 2016 study from the National Institute of Justice, approximately 84 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women experience violence in their lifetime - more than half enduring violence at the hands of intimate partners. Statistics for domestic violence committed against Indigenous males however, is harder to find. For either traumatic event, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Three Sisters Program is working hard to break the stigma around family violence, as they empower and heal survivors.

"Our advocates are here to stand beside clients until they are able to stand strong again," explains Three Sisters Program Manager Deborah Bush. The program is one of many SRMT initiatives growing through the hard work of dedicated staff. Their expansive services fall into three categories: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy; Safe Home; and Safe Haven Visitation services.

Three Sisters Advocates are now cross trained in domestic violence and sexual assault. Advocates are available for 24/7 crisis response and provide guidance through many services as identified in each client's needs assessment. Support could be as intricate as creating an exit plan to safely exit the relationship, guidance through Orders of Protection or accompaniment to personal appointments.

Safe Home services are perhaps the most well-known offered by Three Sisters and have recently extended services to include

male survivors. Safe Home provides 24-hour monitoring in secure, temporary housing with round-the-clock support. Three Sisters collaborates with many local programs to incorporate a cultural component in their holistic approach to mitigation. Safe Haven provides supervised visitation and child exchanges, whether court ordered or under mutual agreement of parents or guardians. Advocates provide a non-confrontational and safe environment for families to support ongoing visitation.



Three Sisters Program is successfully building partnerships with outside agencies to fortify impact of their support services. Advocates collaborate with government and law enforcement agencies, such as tribal and state police and Franklin County Department of Social Services to guide survivors through each individual support plan.

"We've made cultural learning available to clients if that's something that they're interested in," says Three Sisters Advocate Peggy David, "We're constantly working to enhance the program to meet the needs of our community." Currently, the only Native-based safe house program on the East Coast, Safe Home includes its own sweatlodge. Collaborations to empower family violence survivors include workshops with Seven Dancers Coalition, SRMT Traditional Support Program and SRMT ICWA offices.

As October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, SRMT Three Sisters Program invites community members to join them on their inaugural Domestic Violence Awareness Glow Walk on Tuesday, *Kenténha*/October 1, 2019 at Generations Park. For more information, contact Three Sisters Program at (518) 358-4406 or email Deborah Bush at [debra.bush@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:debra.bush@srmt-nsn.gov). ♦

# AERC Celebrates 10th Anniversary

## Press Release

Finding meaningful employment is often an arduous process for individuals who are returning or entering the workforce for the first time. For Akwesasne residents that process has been made easier thanks to the personalized service provided by the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center (AERC), who recently celebrated their 10-year anniversary on Friday, *Seskéha*/August 16, 2019.

Established in 2009, the AERC began as a partnership between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Office of Economic Development and the Akwesasne Area Management Board (recently renamed Akwesasne Career and Employment Support Services, ACESS), with contributions from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. The partnering agencies envisioned AERC to be a "one stop shop" for job seekers in Akwesasne, which it has done exceedingly well.

When the AERC opened ten years ago, 323 Akwesasne residents utilized its services during its first year to find employment. Since that time, through various outreach and a constant presence at community events, the AERC has become recognized as an employment agency that has continually connected job seekers to the world of work. Their proven track record has helped the AERC to increase the number of job seekers using their services to 2,659 each year.

Following its creation, initially as a pilot project, the employment agency began providing a physical and electronic job board, access to resources for conducting job searches and networking, assistance with developing cover letters and resumes, help with completing job applications, and mock interviews to prepare job seekers. The AERC also began offering employment coaching and counseling sessions, as well as a free three-week Job Finding Club that bundles all of the

AERC's services into a condensed workshop for those looking to quickly find employment.

"In the future we are hoping to branch out to reach more chambers of commerce and companies to share with them the workforce we have available in our community," said AERC Office Manager Danielle Salgado. On commemorating AERC's anniversary, Salgado added, "It feels great to have 10 years under our belt servicing the community and we look forward to many more. Thanks to Steve Cook, Linda Lalonde and Dan Garrow for identifying the need and helping create the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center."

For the past 10 years, the AERC was located at 611 Route 37 in Akwesasne. With the increasing number of job seekers, they relocated in April 2019 to their current location at 18 Eagle Drive, across from the Heart to Heart Fitness Center, which provided an ideal location for the anniversary celebration. Surrounded by booths of collaborating agencies and businesses, AERC staff offered an open house and a day filled with fun and prizes, as well as food.

"This was an amazing opportunity to give recognition back to the efforts of the staff for helping establish the

AERC as a credible source when businesses are looking to recruit in the Akwesasne community," said Office of Economic Development Director James Lazore. Speaking on AERC's increased outreach, Lazore added, "Not only do we assist job seekers, but we work with employers within a 2-hour distance of Akwesasne to fill their vacancies with qualified individuals.

For more information about the AERC, or to view the latest employment and training opportunities, please visit their website at [www.myaerc.org](http://www.myaerc.org), call (518) 358-3047, or stop by their office. ◇



*Joining in the celebration were (from left) Receptionist (SRMT) Wendy Cook, Employment Development Officer (ACESS) Leona Francis, Employment Resource Officer (ACESS), Susan Rourke, Office Manager (SRMT), Danielle Salgado and Director of the Office of Economic Development (SRMT) James Lazore.*

## ***Callout for Tribal Residency and Election Board Members***

The newly enacted Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Residency Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) will be administered by a “Tribal Residency Board.” The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is seeking qualified candidates for the initial Tribal Residency Board (“Board”), consisting of five Board Members and two Alternate Board Members, who will substitute for Members in the event of vacancies and absences. Tribal Council shall appoint the initial Board with a Tribal Council Resolution. Each Board Member shall be appointed for a three-year term. Thereafter, Board Members shall be elected and must satisfy all qualification requirements applicable to elected officials. Deadline: *Seskehkó:wa*/September 20, 2019.

The Tribe is also seeking three Tribal members serve on the Election Board with various term lengths, plus possibility for reappointment. The Tribe also is seeking one tribal member to serve as an alternate on the Board each for a term of three years or until a successor is appointed. The Election Board directs and manages the security and integrity of Caucus, Elections and Referendums in accordance with the Tribal Election and Referendum Ordinance (the “Ordinance”). Alternates are expected to attend Election Board meetings and be prepared to act during the absence, resignation, recusal or vacancy of a board member. Deadline: *Seskehkó:wa*/September 13, 2019.

For a list of responsibilities and qualifications, please view the complete announcement online at [www.srmt-nsn.gov/employment](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov/employment). Compensation for both Boards is provided based on a rate set by Tribal Council.

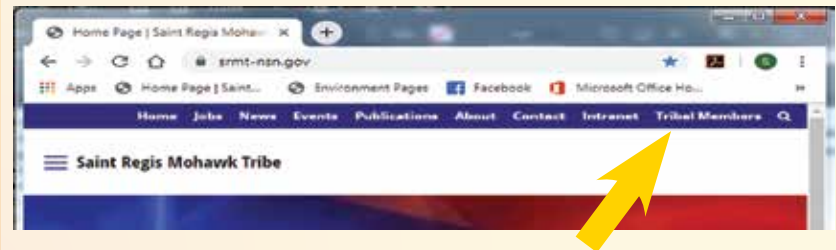
All qualified candidates must submit a letter of interest and current resume to Cathy Mitchell, Administrative Assistant to the Commissions, at [cathy.mitchell@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:cathy.mitchell@srmt-nsn.gov) or in person/by mail to:

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Attention: Cathy Mitchell  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwesasne, NY 13655

## ***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***

### ***Tribal Opinion Polls***

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe continues to seek the input and feedback from tribal members on important community matters; whether it be through monthly tribal meetings and radio talk shows, or community surveys and opinion polls, to name a few. At this time, we want to hear your voice in two opinion polls that are being conducted on social media and the tribal member’s portal. The feedback that is received will help determine how best to move forward, or not. If so, public meetings will be scheduled to share information and answer questions in advance of a tribal referendum that will give membership the final decision.



### ***1. TRIBAL MEMBER’S PORTAL:***

***“Should the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe raise the age from 18 to 21 for purchasing tobacco and electronic cigarette products, including vaporizers?”***

Please follow the instructions provided at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov) to access the Tribal Member’s Portal. Scroll down and click on “Tribal Polls and Referendums” to participate in the latest poll.

### ***2. FACEBOOK:***

***“Do you support a name change for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe?”***



# Celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Kenténha/October 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

By Megan Bushey, A/CDP Prevention Program Coordinator

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Prevention Program will once again join the National Family Partnership in observing Red Ribbon Week this October 2019. Since 1988, the National Red Ribbon Campaign has influenced substance abuse reduction efforts and is currently the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program. Today, the red ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug free activities across the nation.

Red Ribbon Week began in honor of Enrique (Kiki) Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent who was tortured and killed in 1985. In Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, his family, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin.

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated every year at the end of October. During this time, the A/CDP Prevention Program plans and coordinates activities in the schools and community to recognize the importance of living a healthy, drug free life. We encourage local businesses, health clinics, law enforcement, senior centers and all other community members to show their support for Red Ribbon Week by participating in the theme days.

If you are looking for some cost-free family fun, the A/CDP Prevention Program invites you to a few activities in Akwesasne

throughout Red Ribbon Week, October 21st to 25th. Join us for our Red Ribbon Kickoff Walk on Monday, October 21st from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Tewathahita Walking Trail, Generations Park. On Friday, October 25th, the Akwesasne Coalition for Community Empowerment will be hosting their annual Trunk or Treat event at the Mohawk International Raceway from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Put on your costume and come trick or treating while seeing the elaborately decorated trunks that coalition members have designed.

If you can't make it to the events, here are some other ways that you and your family can become involved in Red Ribbon Week: educate yourself and your family about the meaning of Red Ribbon Week, dress according to the theme day each day, plan drug-free activities for your family, have discussions about drugs and alcohol and the rules regarding substances in your home, wear a red ribbon all week, or plant red tulip bulbs as a promise to live a healthy, drug-free, violence-free life – when they bloom, they will serve as a reminder of your commitment. Additionally, it provides a chance to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature, take a break from daily stress and see the rewards of something beautiful you've nurtured.



*Monday 10/21- Red Ribbon Day "Red-y to live Drug-Free and make a Difference" \*Wear red, including red ribbon shirts/skirts/dresses\**

*Tuesday 10/22- Pajama/Comfy Day "Follow your dreams, be drug free" \*Wear pajamas or comfy clothes\**

*Wednesday 10/23- Jersey Day "Team up against drugs, play drug free" \*Wear your favorite jersey or sports shirt\**

*Thursday 10/24- Tie Dye Day "Don't get tied into drugs, Say NO" \*Wear tie dye clothing/accessories\**

*Friday 10/25- Neon Day "I have a bright future without drugs" \*Wear bright, neon colored clothing\**

The A/CDP Prevention Program looks forward to celebrating a drug-free, violence-free life with you. Let's work together today, to build a better tomorrow. ◇

# Employee Spotlight:

## Enrichment Award Winners

By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe enjoyed the opportunity to highlight exceptional performance of eight tribal employees with an Employee Enrichment Award. Conducted two times each year, the most recent awards were presented at the annual Staff Appreciation Beach Day held on *Ohiarikhó:wa*/July 26, 2019. The

awards recognize ongoing efforts of tribal staff and their exceptional display of service to their fellow co-workers and community members and their team spirit and initiative to provide an enjoyable work environment that 'Enriches Our Workplace.' Summer 2019 recipients are:



**Amy Mossow – Early Learning Center**

Amy has worked her way up from a teacher aid and she takes every opportunity to learn more. Always willing to go above and beyond, she creates a fun and positive environment for all around her.



**Barb Kelly - Finance**

Barb leads by example each and every day through her hard work and reliability, consistently going above and beyond the scope of her official duties to take on new tasks and lend a helping hand whenever needed.



**Chuck Tarbell - Housekeeping**

Chuckie is always ready to offer a smile and a helping hand. With no project too big or small, he is more than happy to assist and will probably make you laugh in the process. He's a hard worker who enriches our workplace by making it a happy environment.



**Kerry Jacobs – Community Family Services**

Kerry is an amazing advocate and mentor, uplifting the most wounded victims back to an empowered state. She is a strong willed woman that works tirelessly with no end in sight, committing 100% of herself when she is part of a project or initiative.



**Leah Benedict, Jennifer Brown, Vikki Dixon and Sara Lazore - Child Support Enforcement Unit**

The hard work of the CSEU team continues to make a positive impact on families in our community. They have teamed up with many Tribal programs and outside entities in order to educate program staff as well as community members, providing services to strengthen and create a support system for the entire family. ◇

# Harvesting What is Sown

## SRMT Agriculture Program Continues to grow

*By Denita Ireland, Communications Specialist*

“Everything we do is connected somehow,” describes Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) Agriculture Program Manager Wally Ransom. “We’re doing everything as organically as we can.” The connection Wally references is a fundamental idea reintroduced to the Akwesasne community with the Environment Division’s Agriculture Program.

The Program focuses on creating paths to wellness through ecologically sound and sustainable methods -- utilizing traditional farming knowledge to return to natural cycles of food production. Through hard work, lots of bartering and teamwork, the program continues to flourish.

This summer saw the fruition of the Agriculture Program’s garden. Featuring summer squash, jalapenos, cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes and more, the garden is kept well maintained and hand-watered by Tasha Gautney and Ida “Akát” Thompson. The Agriculture team had many hands on deck with their summer student interns and are always appreciative of volunteer efforts by community members.

After being hand-picked and washed, the fresh produce is sold to the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort to be served in the Native Harvest Buffet, as well as made available for community members to purchase at the Akwesasne Farmer’s Market.

In April 2019, the Agriculture Program visited the Onondaga Nation where they offered boxes of Mother Earth Eggs and, in return, were gifted with traditional heirloom seeds. The SRMT team

members each chose from corn, bean and squash varieties to grow in Akwesasne. Traditional white corn is nearing harvest in the fields adjacent to the program garden, the seeds of which were the result of a 1980’s Cornell University study.

The Mother Earth Pigs Pilot Project began in July 2018. Since the program’s initial investment of 14 pigs, the interest in locally raised livestock has increased. The program has welcomed the births of several piglet litters, in time learning the individual personalities and characteristics of their passel.

“Our pigs are pretty spoiled,” smiles Tasha, the swine’s identified favorite worker. From birth to butcher, the hogs are visited daily, greeted with kind words and lots of food. There are endless benefits to the natural approach in raising the SRMT pigs; the hogs live as nature intended, ingesting nutrients through their organic diets and always free from injected hormones, chemicals, and dyes.

The Agriculture Program is currently taking orders for half pigs. Community members will be able to purchase half a pig for only \$120. They will be prepared and packaged according to the cutting form submitted by each purchaser, with processing and packaging fees payable to Tri-Town Packing at pick up. The average weight is 245 pounds. There will be 20 half-pigs available *Seskehkó:wa*/September 23, 2019 and 14 half-pigs available *Kenténha*/October 3, 2019.

To order or for more information, contact SRMT Environment at (518) 358-5937. ♦



# Child Support Enforcement Unit 3rd Annual Family Fun Day

*By Jennifer Brown, CSEU Office Manager*

On *Seskéha*/August 7, 2019, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Child Support Enforcement Unit in partnership with multiple SRMT and MCA Programs hosted the 3rd Annual Family Fun Day as August is National Child Support Awareness Month. On this day, families were invited to participate in some family-focused carnival style games that promoted positive and healthy family interactions. We had an amazing turnout with over 260 people in attendance.

Games varied from basketball, mini putt to the fishbowl game. Participants were able to grab some fresh popped popcorn and cotton candy. Children had an opportunity for face painting and a light dinner was provided by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Tribal Police Department.



The SRMT CSEU thanks all of the programs who participated to make this event a great success, and we also thank all of the families who came out to have some fun. The sound of laughter from the children and parents make all of the hard work that goes into this event worth it; providing an opportunity for parents, totas, aunties and uncles to come together to enjoy each other's company and realize that the most important thing is family.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year and as always, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Child Support Program can be reached at (518) 358-2272 or you can stop in to our office located on the second floor of the *Ionkwakiohkwaró:ron* Tribal Administration Building at 71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, Akwesasne, NY ♦.



# CHILD SUPPORT

*Myth*

*vs*

*Fact*

<b>Child support stops at age 18</b>	<b>The SRMT Family Support Act specifies that a child support order is effective until the child reached 21 years of age.</b>
<b>Child support payments can only be spent directly on the kids</b>	<b>Child support can be used in any way that benefits the child, such as rent, groceries, clothing, sporting events, etc.</b>
<b>I don't have to pay child support if I don't get to spend time with my child</b>	<b>You don't pay child support to have access to your children. Child support is paid as it is your legal responsibility to care for your child.</b>
<b>If I move to the northern portion of the Territory, I can avoid child support</b>	<b>The SRMT CSP has the ability to enforce Tribal Child Support Orders in Ontario and Quebec in addition to other U. S. States.</b>

## Akwesasne Farmer's Market

*Submitted by Kanatires Barreiro, Communications Intern*

Fresh produce and sustenance are becoming increasingly available in the Akwesasne community and surrounding areas. An initiative to benefit the health of youth and adults alike was launched by the Strong Roots Charitable Foundation with the assistance of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe--a farmer's market. Since June of 2019, we have seen farmers from Akwesasne gathering at Generations Park every Tuesday to sell locally grown fruits and vegetables. Vendors have also been advertising a variety of things; such as beaded earrings, beadwork materials, flowers and other items available for purchase. Because of this event, an increasing amount of community members are coming together to feed the local economy, while consuming more nutritious food grown in our gardens. In the future, the collective goal is to have the farmer's market open more often than once a week.

It feels good to visit the farmer's market and see all local vendors and fellow *Akwesashó:non* mingling and doing their best to support our community. Fresh produce is sold by the likes of Shirley Peck and Ida Thompson, as well as Tina Karakwino Square of Strong Roots. Francine Gray arrives every week with handmade soaps and goat milk cheese, all resourced from Gray's Homestead Farm.

The Akwesasne Farmer's Market is open each Tuesday through *Kenténha*/October 1, 2019. For more information, contact John Bonaparte at (518) 651-6283. ♦








**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Photo Contest!**

Calling all photographers to help us get as many beautiful pictures of Akwesasne as possible! Selected photos will receive \$75.00 cash and their photo(s) published in the 2018 SRMT Annual Report and other Tribal publications. Deadline to submit is 9/30/2019. For rules and registration, visit [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).

**#PhotographAkwesasne**

Give us your best shot!



**MAKE  
AKWESASNE  
COUNT**

**our people. our tribe. our future.**

**United States Census 2020**

# ACR Program Awarded \$897,999

## Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton Project Continues Strengthening Kanien'keha

### Press Release

The Akwesasne Cultural Restoration (ACR) Program's *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* (We will make it new again) Project announced it has been awarded \$897,999 over the next three years to promote and strengthen *Kanien'keha* (Mohawk language). Overseen by the SRMT's Environment Division, ACR will utilize the funding to support activities designed to help increase language fluency in the Akwesasne community.

The grant award is provided by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families under the Native Language Preservation and Maintenance and the Esther Martinez Immersion Programs. The programs named ACR's *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* Project one of 18 grant recipients to receive funding for community-driven projects designed to strengthen Native languages.

"The ACR Program is proud that we will be able to continue working towards our long-term community goal of increasing the number of fluent language speakers," said ACR Program Coordinator Amberdawn Lafrance. Lafrance added, "The funding will help overcome challenges that have hindered the preservation and maintenance of *Kanien'keha* in Akwesasne."

*Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* received funding to complete three objectives over the next three years that will change the way language learners utilize learning materials, assess language fluency and use the language outside of the classroom. The project's goal is help encourage the passing of language and culture from generation to generation, strengthening ones connection with the natural world, and increase the availability of *Kanien'keha* and culture-based educational materials.

The project's first objective is to develop curriculum and other learning materials for making them available throughout the community, which includes contributing toward an Akwesasne-based *Kanien'keha* dictionary. Additional objectives include staff training on the process of oral proficiency interviews and providing 34 monthly workshops in partnership with community organizations and tribal programs. The cultural workshops will be free and open to all community members and designed to encourage speaking *Kanien'keha*.

"I am proud that *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* will help bring Akwesasne youth and elders together to promote the sharing of traditional activities and *Kanien'keha*," shared Tribal Chief Eric Thompson, who serves as tribal representative on the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Commission. Chief Thompson noted, "I am equally pleased that the grant will also be utilized for a language specialist to work with *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* in offering an adult language program."

In December 2017, *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* graduated 13 apprentices who participated in a four-year language program that focused on passing along cultural knowledge and *Kanien'keha*. The success of the program led the ACR Program to offer a second two-year language immersion program to 13 more students that begins on September 9th.

For more information about the ACR Program's *Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton* Project, please visit the Tribe's website at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov) or call ACR Program Coordinator Amberdawn Lafrance at (518) 333-0222. ♦



*Alicia Cook, Traditional Medicines Practitioner and Healer, helps ABGC students in a medicine making workshop.*

## ***Tribal Council Resolutions (TCRs) – Ohiarikó:wa/July 17 – Seskéha/August 14***

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

TCR 2019-31 To Approve and Implement Seasonal Road Weight Restrictions

TCR 2019-32 To Support the Akwesasne Housing Authority's Funding Application to Indian Housing Block Grant for Sunrise Acres Additional and Enhancement Project

TCR 2019-33 To Authorize and Support the Tribal Office of Economic Development to Seek Funds from the New York State Regional Economic Development Councils for Development of the Akwesasne Art Park/Art Gallery.

TCR 2019-34 Formally Designate Tribal Properties and Related Areas as Alcohol, Tobacco, and Vape Free Zones

TCR 2019-35 Approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Referenced Funding Agreement Between Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs

TCR 2019-36 Approve Fiscal Year 2018 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Referenced Funding Agreement Between Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs.

TCR 2019-37 Set the Compensation Rate for the Tribal Residency Board

TCR 2019-38 Approve Update to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Filing Fees ♦

***Kawennì:ios "Good Words"*** is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are available in print or digital versions.

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### ***Tribal Properties Designated Alcohol, Tobacco and Vape-Free Zones***

Pursuant to Tribal Council Resolution 2019-34, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has formally designated all tribal properties and related areas as "Alcohol, Tobacco and Vape-Free Zones." This includes all tribal facilities, work sites and places where tribal events take place away from tribal properties. The designation does not include the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort and is inclusive of cigarettes, vape products or similar devices, cigars, chewing tobacco and alcohol. Individuals found in possession of illegal or illicit drugs in these designated areas risk enforcement by tribal police. This preventive measure is intended to promote a safe and healthy lifestyle for our youth, families and all community members. ♦

# Ash Tree Removal and Replacement

## Press Release

On *Ohiarikhkó:wa*/July 31, 2019; the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) Environment Division held a public presentation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) survey results that was conducted in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the survey was to determine the extent of EAB's infestation for the development of plans that will help mitigate their impact on the community of Akwesasne.

The survey found that the EAB is spreading from the northwest to the southeast at an increasing rate, with the greatest densities now located in the areas of Raquette Point and Rooseveltown. The infestation is projected to continue increasing over the next few years and will affect 90 percent of all ash trees in Akwesasne. As the EAB spreads, public hazards will be posed when limbs become brittle and break off before the tree eventually falls.

"The survey helped identify areas with the greatest infestations that were not previously located through our annual trapping efforts," shared Environment Division Assistant Director Les Benedict. Benedict added, "The survey's findings discovered that the infestation is still in the early stages, but is progressing farther east. This information has been helpful in developing mitigation plans that will assist in reducing the threat that the EAB poses."

To help reduce the spread of the EAB and the risks associated with dead trees, one measure being implemented by the Tribe's Environment Division is for the safe removal and replacement of ash trees located alongside Akwesasne's roadways, particularly along Route 37. The highway spans nearly 7 ½ miles from the western portion of the community to the east and includes an estimated 200 ash trees that were planted when the road was rebuilt in the 1980's.

In advance of the EAB's spread eastward in Akwesasne, the Environment Division is conducting a call out for property owners along Route 37 who are willing to have an ash tree safely removed and replaced with another tree type. Replacement trees may include maple, oak, hop hornbeam, blue beech, sassafras, hickory, horse chestnut, patriot elm, flowering crab, hawthorn, catalpa and osage orange, and more, depending on matching soil conditions.



The responsibility of maintaining and caring for the replacement trees, or any remaining ash trees, rests with the landowner. For one time, however, the Environment Division is providing property owners with the chance to help improve street tree health by

having an ash tree removed and replaced at no cost. Property owners have until *Seskehkó:wa*/September 30<sup>th</sup> to express their desire to have an ash tree safely removed and replaced. Any requests received after September 30<sup>th</sup> will be at the landowner's expense.

"The management of our community's resources and the safety of the public are important to us," noted Environment Division Director Tony David. He emphasized, "We encourage property owners with ash trees along Route 37 to please contact Environment before September 30<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of this opportunity to have them removed and replaced before they become infested and pose a hazard."

Community members should take note that there are no plans to treat ash trees with pesticides or to have them removed from an individual's property once the infestation and damage begins.

For further information, please call the Tribe's Environment Division at (518) 358-5937 or visit their office during normal business hours at 449 Frogtown Road in Akwesasne. ♦



# Tribal Monthly Meetings

*Obiarikhó:wa/July 13, 2019*  
*Chairperson: Tribal Chief Eric Thompson*

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## *Agenda*

1. Review of previous action items:
  - 1) Request to find out how much of NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) money was spent to maintain reservation roads. **Complete.** *Tribal Council provided an in-depth response at the June Tribal Meeting. If community members would like a copy, they may obtain it from the Tribal Clerk's Office. The Tribe will continue to request the State DOT let us know exactly how the funding is allocated for specific Reservation roads.*
  - 2) Request for Tribal Council to look into State law/policy that requires Salmon River Central School Board candidates to be district residents. **Complete.** *Tribal Council provided an in-depth response at the June Tribal Meeting. If community members would like a copy, they may obtain it from the Tribal Clerk's Office. In addition, the Tribe's NYS lobbying firm, Bolton St. Johns, will continue to see if it is possible to amend the relevant education laws.*
- 10:05 a.m. | New Business
2. 10:50 a.m. | Tribal Medical Marijuana Regulations Presentation by Dale White, General Counsel and Erick Giles, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum
3. 11:20 a.m. | Overview of Planning and Infrastructure Projects by Colleen Thomas, Director, Planning and Infrastructure and Shawn Martin, Manager, Water/Wastewater
4. 11:50 a.m. | Tribal Police Camera Safety Project Presentation by Matthew Rourke, Chief of Police

*Seskéha/ August 3, 2019*  
*Chairperson: Tribal Chief*

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## *Agenda*

1. Review of previous action items: *There were none.*
2. New Business
3. 10:45am | *Tsi ni:tsi wakahronhkha'onhakie* "How I am becoming fluent" – Chelsea Sunday
4. 11:05am | Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program Update – Amberdawn Lafrance
5. 11:20am | AMCR Sports Betting Project and Construction Presentation – Todd Papineau
6. 11:35am | Community Feedback: Age to Purchase Tobacco Products on Territory (18 v. 21 years old)
7. 11:55am | Community Feedback: Proposed SRMT Name Change Initiative & Referendum – Chief Connors and Darren Bonaparte
8. 12:30pm | Announcements:
  - a) Community Meeting on Draft Medical Marijuana Ordinance is today following Tribal Meeting
  - b) 2019 Mid-Year Annual Tribal Budget Report Public Presentation on August 14th at 5:00pm

# Calendar

## *Seskehkwé:wa/September*

2 - Labor Day - Tribal offices closed  
7 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
10 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office

## *Kenténha/October*

5 - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - Lobby  
8 - Social Security - 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. - Tribal Clerk's Office  
14 - Indigenous People's Day - Tribal Offices closed  
21 to 25 - Red Ribbon Week  
25 - Trunk or Treat

# New Faces

Sadie C Adams	Teacher Aide	Education, Early Learning Center
Jonathan P Cree	Procurement Assistant	Finance, Accounting
Tyler A Curleyhead	Forestry Laborer	Environment
Bianca Jacobs	Teacher	Education, Early Learning Center
Kirsten B Jandreau	Recovery Center Supervisor	Health Services, A/CDP
Nicole M. Lazore	Business Office Clerk	Health Services, Business Office
Jesse A Light	File Clerk	Education, TLAP
Taja C Montour	Inspector	Tribal Gaming
Elisha M Thompson	Teacher Aide	Early Learning Center

# Donations

Community Activities - \$ 30,500

Funerals - \$ 7,000

Sports - \$ 8,000

# Jobs

The following positions are open until filled:

Child Protective Caseworker - Social Services  
Head Start Teacher - Early Learning Center  
Mid-Level Practitioner - Health Services  
Account Receivable Clerk - Finance, Accounting  
Direct Support Professional - Community & Family Services

Culture & Language Provider - Early Learning Center  
Police Officer - Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police  
Bus Driver - Early Learning Center  
General Practitioner - Health Services  
Internist - Health Services

Complete job descriptions and application instructions are available online at [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).

# Let Me Out!

## Feeling Trapped?

*By Angela Benedict, Air Quality Program Manager*

Have you heard the statistic that Americans spend as much as 90 percent of their time indoors? Well, guess what? This isn't Ripley's Believe It or Not, but we actually spend more time than that indoors. Don't believe me? Think about it...at least 10 to 11 hours at night, eight hours at work, and at least an hour in the car (an hour and 10 minutes if you stop at Timmies, LOL). Now for myself it's probably more like 99.9 percent of my time; as I don't like bugs, I'm allergic to the sun and pollen, I don't like heat, and I don't like cold, snow or ice. I usually only spend time outdoors walking to my car. This statistic is the reason why I always talk about indoor air quality and the reason I always say if you can smell it, you are being exposed to it. I read an article however; about low-VOC paint and actually low-VOC paint is not lower VOC's—its just less smelly VOC's. The off gassing of VOC's still happens...What? Really? Well that kind of blew my mind.

Anyway, about indoors versus outdoors. I can hear some people right now say, "I spend tons of time outside" or "I'm outside all the time". It may feel like that, but spending exactly four hours everyday outside still leaves you spending 83 percent of your time indoors. This might make a pretty cool study or survey, but I hate filling out surveys (I know hate is a strong word). I would be curious though.

Would you be willing to keep track of your time outside? If so, let me know. It has to be real time though; so riding in your car is being indoors, sitting in an arena, sports complex or indoor swimming pool is being indoors. In a restaurant or at the casino, yep indoors. In a camper or in a tent that's also indoors. So, now that I got you feeling like you're trapped inside get outta here. Make sure you keep track of your time. The first 8 people who get me the amount of hours spent outside every day

for four days--two workdays and two weekend days. Any way you want to do it, but it must be midnight to midnight. I have gifts. And no, the gifts aren't the paper straws the Air Program has been handing out. Those are available to anyone, anytime! If I get any takers for the survey, I'll publish the percentages.

The air outside can rejuvenate your well-being, especially after a nice rain or snow the air feels and smells so clean.

So for now and for the next seven generations get outside smell the flowers, feel the breeze and enjoy the fresh air. ♦



*Even if you spend four hours outside every day, you are still spending 83% of your time 'trapped' inside.*



# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2017

*Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe - Public Water Supply ID# 1617071*

## **Introduction**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe provides an annual drinking water quality report to Akwesasne homes and businesses to comply with federal regulations. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and the need to protect and conserve our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met and/or exceeded drinking water health standards. We continue to assess and improve our operations to ensure that we continue to provide drinking water that meets and exceeds health-based standards. Details are provided below in the “Table of Regulated Detectable Contaminants” and in the “Notes” following the table.

## **What’s in the source water?**

Your drinking water comes from the surface water of the St. Lawrence River. The sources of drinking water are surface waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or ground water from wells that tap underground aquifers. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. A Source Water Protection Plan has been developed to help establish a way to protect any source of contamination to the river from upstream sources.

## **How does the water get to my home?**

Water is pumped from the St. Lawrence River to the water treatment plant on Garrow Road. The system currently supplies water to residents and visitors of Akwesasne. The treatment plant is a dual-sand filtration system and uses sodium hypochlorite, powdered activated carbon (PAC), ultraviolet (UV) for disinfection and poly aluminum chloride, a coagulant to remove organic material

from raw water before it enters the treatment plant. The plant has the capability of producing 1.4 million gallons of treated water per day. We presently have 1,000 connections and produce an average of 485,548 gallons of water per day and produced an average of 500,000 gallons per day in 2018 with the highest production of water during August at 15,540,000 gallons.

The treated water is then stored in a clearwell, pumped to the 500,000 gallon water tower on McGee Road where it is gravity fed to your faucets. It is also stored on State Route 37 for fire protection by way of booster pumps.

## **How can I get the chlorine taste and smell out of my water?**

The water is treated with chlorine before it leaves the plant to protect public health and prevent microbiological organisms from growing. You can place a carbon filter ( i.e. Brita) on your faucet to remove the chlorine taste or allow a pitcher to sit on the counter before refrigerating.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance and prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the SRMT Environment Division or the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to certain contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Outreach Office at the clinic and at the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. SRMT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

### Regulated Detected Chemical Parameters

#### Inorganics

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	12/26/18	.34	mg/L	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	No	12/26/18	0.11	mg/L	4.0	MCL=2.2 NYSDOH standard	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Barium	No	12/26/18	.018	mg/l	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Lead <sup>1</sup>	No	09/2018	<0.001	mg/l	0	AL= .015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper <sup>2</sup>	No	09/2018	0.0013 (.0013-0.18)	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

#### Microbiological Contaminants

Total coliform	No	Monthly (6/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	1 positive monthly allowed	Naturally present in environment
Fecal coliform and E.coli	No	Monthly (6/mo)	0	Negative or positive	0	None	Human and animal waste

### ***Turbidity***

Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	2018	0.03 (average)	NTU	N/A	1 NTU maximum allowed	Soil runoff; stormwater
Turbidity <sup>3</sup>	No	Daily 2018	95%<0.3	NTU	N/A	0.3 - 95% of samples - TT	

### ***Disinfection By-Products***

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) <sup>4</sup> Water treatment plant - WTP	No	August <b>See Note</b>	31 34 16 23 9.8-WTP		N/A	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) <sup>4</sup> WTP	No	August <b>See Note</b>	15 9.1 15 15 5.5-WTP	ug/L	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

### ***Other Detected Contaminants***

Contaminant	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	Guideline
Semi-Volatile Organic Chemicals	Non-detect	mg/l	See Note #5

#### **NOTES:**

N/A - means not applicable

1 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 19 sites sampled. The minimum # required is 20. Sampling will continue on 2016. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the lead samples detected at your water system. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the action level.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 19 sites sampled. The minimum # required is 20. There were no violations due to the 90th percentile being below the action level.

3 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test turbidity because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. We did not have any violations of turbidity in 2015.

4 – This level represents the local averages calculated from the data collected at five sites. Routine flushing and disinfection management and reduction in chlorine use has kept the by-products in check.

5 – Organic chemical sampling was done on Aug 20, 2015. EPA method 524.2 POC's, Vinyl Chloride, and MTBE was used.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):* The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):* The highest level allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Action Level (AL):* The level that, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.

*Treatment Technique (TT):* A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

#### **HEALTH EFFECTS LANGUAGE:**

*Turbidity* - Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water. It has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity violation of standards for more than four hours may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

*Total Coliform Bacteria* - Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

*Fecal coliform* - Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

*Lead* - Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your homes plumbing. Additional information is available from the SRMT Health Services or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). ♦

4th Annual

# Great Akwesasne River Cleanup

Seskehkó:wa/September 15, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Carter Jack Marina, Adam's Marina, Tsi Snaihne

Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m. - Participants are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles and their own dishes for the meal.

Community members can also bring their own kayak or use one of 25 provided for the cleanup. Register by calling Jessica Shenandoah at (613) 930-3941.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
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Akwesasne, NY 13655

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**On the Cover:** Lacey Chubb and Lennix and Liani Heiserman take a break from popcorn and carnival games to pose in the photobooth at Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Child Support Enforcement Unit Family Fun Day. Hosted at the Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box, Generations Park on Margaret Terrance Memorial Way, the third annual Family Fun Day was a joint effort with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Programs to promote positive and healthy family interactions.