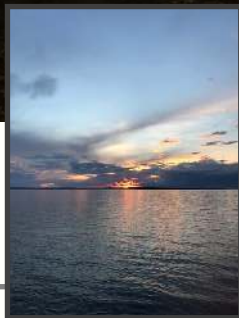
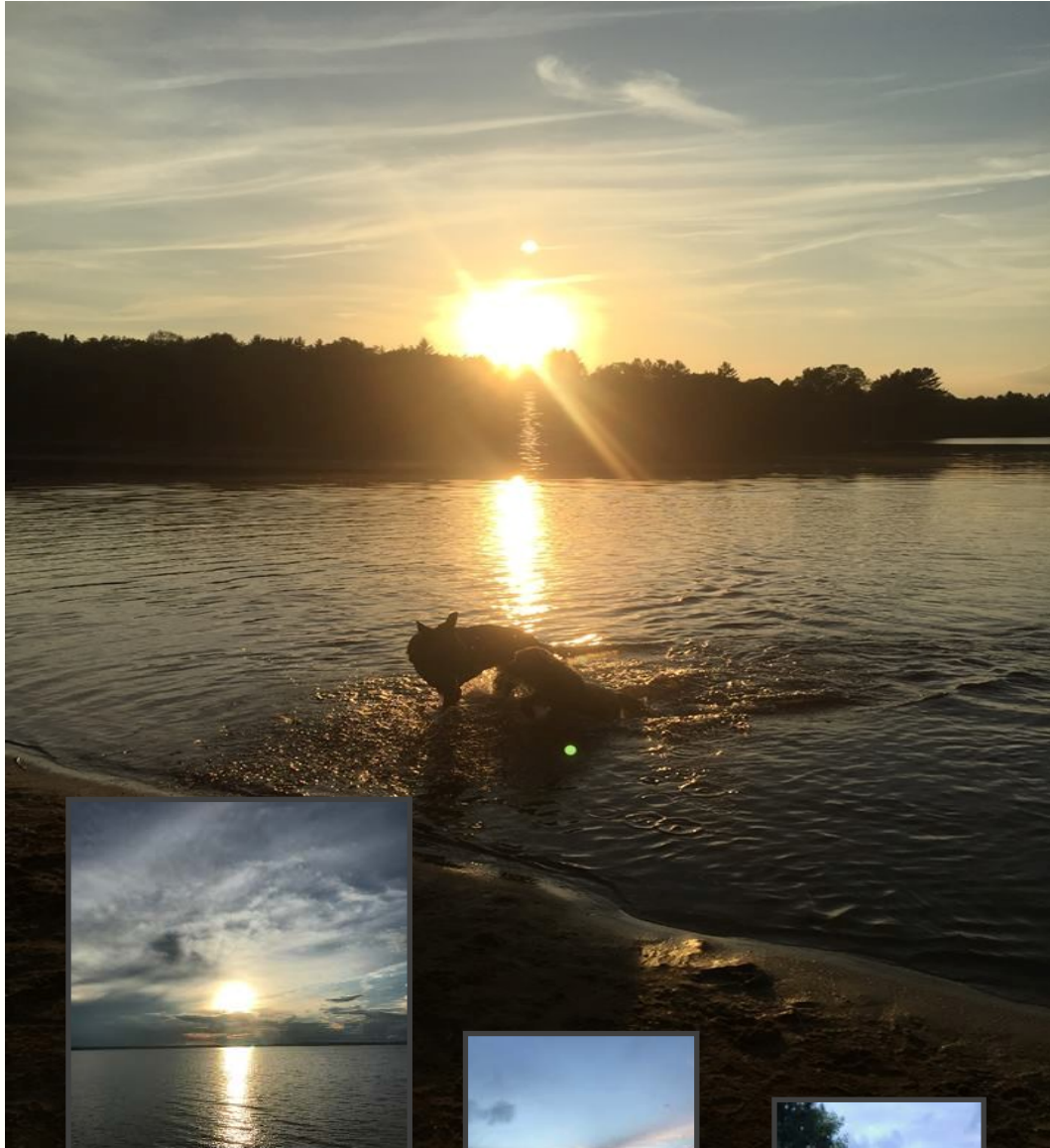


Orihwase'shón:'a ne Wahta Rontenro Raotirihwá:ke



Seskéha —(time of freshness)

AUGUST 2017



This issue....

Calendar of Events
Minutes
Health Services
Education and Training
Employment
FYI & Notices

**Regular Community Meeting
August 29th at the
Administration Building**

Notice

Hydro Distribution line brushing
The brushing of the distribution lines on Wahta Mohawks Territory will commence in mid-August by Wahta Mohawks members.

10 Members were awarded Hydro contracts via lottery at the July 25th community meeting and have been notified.

Please Contact me if you have any questions.

Scott Aubichon
Wahta Mohawks
Land Manager

Office: 705-7622354 Ext 242
scott.aubichon@wahtamohawks.ca

Notice

Indian Affairs will be at the administration office on Monday September 11th, 2017 at 2pm for an information session on estate planning. Topics will include wills, beneficiaries, administrators, lands etc. Please contact Karen Sahanatien if you plan on attending, 705-762-2354 ext. 222



AUGUST 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Blueberry Picking Summer Camp Faith Circle 7-9 CC	2 Community Shopping Summer Camp	3 Summer Camp	4 Summer Camp	5 Bass Derby
6	7 Summer Camp	8 St. Jacobs Summer Camp Faith Circle 7-9 CC	9 Conflict Resolution 10:30-1 CC Summer Camp	10 Summer Camp	11 Summer Camp	12 Community Language Revitalization 9am AB Wonderland
13	14 Summer Camp Yoga 8pm CC	15 Summer Camp Faith Circle 7-9 CC	16 Gravenhurst Market Depart at 8:30 Woman group potluck 5:30 CC Bean Supper meeting 5:30 CC	17 Summer Camp Celebration 4:30-6 CC Summer Camp	18 Summer Camp	19
20	21 Summer Camp Yoga 8pm CC	22 Elders Conference Summer Camp Faith Circle 7-9 CC	23 Elders Conference Summer Camp	24 Elders Conference Summer Camp	25 Summer Camp	26
27	28 Colouring 1-3 CC Yoga 8pm CC	29 Community Meeting 7 AB Faith Circle 7-9 CC	30 Chair Exercises 10-1 CC	31		

CHIEF AND COUNCIL UPDATE

The following information serves as an update for the past couple of months. In short much of the activity has been internal to Wahta Mohawks by staffing vacant positions, reviewing the organization at the administration, meeting with local organizations that serve our community, as well as tending to some of the ongoing initiatives such as the creation of a Wahta Economic Development Board.

To expand on some of the above, Council asked each employee to meet with them and discuss their roles, any challenges they face, and if they had any suggestions that could improve the operations of the administration. The results of these discussions will be compiled and a summary report will be shared with the staff. This information will be especially useful during the orientation of a new Senior Administrator.

With the respect to filling vacancies Council has completed a series of hiring interviews. A housing intern has been hired to help with the capacity development work that is ongoing, and receptionist was hired to fill the reception area. Welcome and congratulations to Bonnie Racine, and Nicole Belcourt. As of this printing Council has selected a successful candidate for the senior Administrator position, although the confirmation is pending.

It is the position of Council that Child and Family Services delivered to our membership in or out the community should be of high quality and conform with the provisions regarding indigenous people as stated in the provincial legislation. Council met with Child and Family Services to discuss such issues. Ongoing liaison with our staff will continue. Council will likely entertain a meeting with a native child and family agency to determine if this is a good fit.

On this issue of primary health care, following a meeting with the local health hub in Muskoka the Cottage Country family Health Team, Council supports the continuation and expansion of this health service being delivered on territory in our building. Council is also meeting regarding a new aboriginal initiative dealing with extra primary care funding recently announced by province

With regard to our membership there will be meetings starting up after summer. A legal review of the existing code is complete and available at the office. Last winter many discussions took place regarding membership and various options were explored, we will now proceed reviewing these options and which will serve us best.

Council is endorsing a project by a Professor at the University of Waterloo, to research and produce an in depth history of Iroquois Cranberry Growers. Given the final closure of the farm this year, and what it meant to the community over the years, it is important that we have something to use to reflect the development from both a social and an business point of view.

For the remainder of the summer Council will continue to focus on strengthening our organization and relationships before we head into fall and winter. Fall and winter will be a very busy time with many ongoing projects, the return of our lands, economic development advancements, and the cohesiveness of our membership.

Niá:wenhkó:wa
Chief Philip Franks

May 2017 Council Weekly Meeting Summaries

Council Weekly Meeting Summary - May 3, 2017

In Attendance:

☑P Franks ☑L Schell ☑B Commandant ☑T Greasley ☑L Strength-Fenton

Agenda:

05.03.01 McMaster Lake – Motion to allow Falls Law to transfer the McMaster Lake property title from Shirley Hay and Stuart Lane to current council members. Decision on recent expenditures deferred until more information is brought forward, community consultation needed. Motion 05.03.01 below.

05.03.02 CAS Protocol – Reviewed the proposed CAS protocol with Falls Law, many items changed to strengthen the rights of Indigenous children. Once complete to be adopted by council and presented to CAS.

05.03.03 Trespass By-Law – Jay Herbert spoke to new council about the proposed trespass by-law and its applications. More community consultation needs to be done especially regarding the formation of a decision-making committee if a trespass has occurred.

05.03.04 Additions to Reserve – Spoke briefly about where we are at the with process and updated on the latest developments. ATR Meetings ongoing.

05.03.05 Survey Approval – Survey for core area funded by AANDC to start, motion required. See motion 05.03.05 below

05.03.06 FNMHF Indemnity Agreement – Need extra time to review the Housing Policy, will defer for review.

05.03.07 AIAI Language Funding – Approval required for a community based language strategy funded by AIAI. See motion 05.03.07 below

05.03.08 MNR Meeting – New MNR Coordinator requesting meeting with council just as a meet and greet, defer for the time being.

05.03.09 Iroquois Caucus Hunting Request – IC requesting each reserve donate \$5000 of it's own money and approve \$30 000 of IC funds to support a hunting court case in Quebec. Most First Nation member communities have said no, need further information, motion denied.

05.03.10 CMHC Motion – Motion required by CMHC to approve current RRAP applications. See motion 05.03.10 below.

Motions:

05.03.01 – Motion to allow Falls Law to transfer the McMaster Lake property title from Shirley Hay and Stuart Lane to current council members. Carried by consensus.

05.03.05 – Motion to approve surveying of the core area based on sketch provided by T. A Bunker funded by AANDC.

05.03.07 – Motion to approve AIAI funding expenditures of \$9396.20 for a community based language strategy. Carried by consensus.

05.03.10 – Motion to accept the RRAP/CMHC application priority list dated April 26, 2017 as set out by the Lands and Housing Coordinator. Carried by consensus.

Upcoming Travel/Meeting Dates: AIAI General Assembly May 29-31

Next meeting: May 10, 2017

Council Weekly Meeting Summary – May 10, 2017

In Attendance:

☒P Franks ☒L Schell ☒B Commandant ☒T Greasley ☐L Strength-Fenton

Agenda:

05.10.01 - First Nation Market Housing Fund – Indemnity agreement has been signed.

Review of housing policy, has been approved in principle. Signing deferred until next week when some follow up questions can be asked.

05.10.02 - Economic Development – ICG Product sale will be announced for June

Members only the first two days then open to the public. Equipment to be sold to members and then auction.

Irrigation piping being removed. Pumps and pump houses will be removed once ground dries. MFP building roof needs replacement, getting quotes.

- **Feasibility Study** - Funding application has been submitted through LEDSP for Feasibility Study for Hwy 400 development. Study will include engineering as well as market research. We have a proposal from Neegan Burnside to undertake the study.
- **ICG History** - Proposal to gather the story (history) of the marsh by interviewing elders and others from Bryan Grimwood PhD
- **Development Corporation** - Set up a meeting with the law firm and Council to ensure that all terms of reference are approved and understood.
- **Ragged Rapids Road** - Need a preliminary engineering review of the road. See motion below.
- **Cultural Centre** - The waterproofing of the basement seems to have worked as it stayed dry through the recent heavy rains. The basement floor has been poured and drywall is going up this week. Decks will start next week weather permitting. Flooring in the basement section is set for next week as well.
- **Internet Project** - McPhee and Associates have begun looking at all possible suppliers and will report back.

05.10.03 - McMaster Lake – Review liability and recent purchases. Liability is covered through insurance, there is no reason not to use the land as it belongs to Wahta. The general meeting is June 24, consultation on how to proceed will take place at that time.

05.10.04 - Membership – Review next steps and set budget for legal– Deferred until after meeting with Finance.

05.10.05 - Oath of Confidentiality -Review and approve. Final draft approved. Refers to non disclosure of personal information within the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

05.10.06 - Review communications – publishing weekly summaries and audio/video use.

Weekly Council meeting summaries will be included in publication of monthly minutes.

Video use will take place at general meetings.

05.10.07 - Honourariums – Finalize budget and rates. Monthly honourarium reinstated due to the reading, research, meetings and other such work etc. required outside of office hours, see motion below.

Motions:

05.10.02 - Economic Development/Ragged Rapids Rd. – Motion to allow Neeghan Burnside to conduct a safety study on Ragged Rapids Rd. at a cost of \$5000 to present to Minister Zimmer and others. Carried by consensus.

05.10.07 - Honourariums – Motion to reinstate monthly honourariums of \$375 per month for both Chief and Council. Carried by consensus.

Upcoming Travel/Meeting Dates: AIAI General Assembly May 29-31

Next meeting: May 17, 2017

Council Weekly Meeting Summary - May 17, 2017

In Attendance:

☒P Franks ☒L Schell ☒B Commandant ☒T Greasley ☒L Strength-Fenton

Agenda:

05.17.01 Finance Meeting – Finance presented the yearly projected budget. Many figures are still being entered, funding is still coming in, budget approvals required. Changes to the finance policy required such as credit card limits and funding expenditure approvals.

05.17.02 FNMHF Follow Up – First Nation Market Housing Fund ongoing. Council would like to speak with the Tyendinaga Housing Authority on any potential issues arising. Matthew will make contact and report back. Approval of Housing Policy deferred.

05.17.03 Language Consultant – Short term contract available through AIAI to assess the needs of language in the community. Job description needs to be developed and posted.

Motions:

05.17.01 – Finance - Chief and Council approves in principle a deficit of \$ 1,844,315 for 2017 – 2018 and will revisit the budget to make changes on pending matters to adjust the numbers accurately. Funding dollars still outstanding in fiscal year.

Upcoming Travel/Meeting Dates: AIAI General Assembly May 29-31

Next meeting: Wed May 18, 2017

Council Weekly Meeting Summary - May 18, 2017

In Attendance:

☒P Franks ☒L Schell ☒B Commandant ☒T Greasley ☒L Strength-Fenton

Agenda:

05.18.01 Peace Process – Council met with Ed Conners and went over all previous reports and how the community benefited from engagement from all the presenters as well as areas of weakness and improvement opportunities and how this can take shape moving forward.

05.18.02 Membership Budget and next steps – Discussed membership challenges and how the process of consultation can continue. It was agreed that a legal review of the code was required to first understand the legal aspects. Surveys, community meetings, and/or a working group will be the next step. Budget required see motions below.

05.18.03 – Legal review - Membership code legal review to be conducted by Attorney Alisa Lombard. See motion below.

Motions:

05.18.02 – Motion to approve a budget of \$80, 000 of OLG funds for further development of the membership code and community unity process utilizing professional resources as required. Carried by consensus.

05.18.03 - Motion to approve the legal review of Wahta Mohawks current membership code to be conducted by attorney Alisa Lombard, cost is approx. \$6000 to funded from membership/peace process budget. Carried by consensus.

Upcoming Travel/Meeting Dates: AIAI General Assembly May 29-31

Next meeting: Wed May 24, 2017

May 2017 Council Public Meeting Minutes

Date: May 23, 2017

Present: Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Lawrence Schell, Councillor Blaine Commandant, Councillor Teresa Greasley, Councillor Strength-Fenton and members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Councillor Greasley, Seconded by Councillor Fenton-Strength. Carried.

Adoption of Minutes of April 25, 2017: Moved by Councillor Commandant Seconded by Councillor Schell. Carried.

Updates of Minutes of April 25, 2017:

Minister Zimmer from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will be coming to look at Ragged Rapids Rd through to ICG as well as the Hwy 400 study. AIAI language funding is available for a language strategy at \$9000. This will be a preliminary project looking at the language community needs. Applications are now being accepted. Councillor Greasley did find a Cultural Centre room rental rate schedule that needs to be looked at, it is confusing and most community events should possibly be free. It will be looked at again along with a policy in conjunction with the Guiding Principles. Karen Sahanatien is the contact for booking.

New Business:

Membership – The CFO requested a budget for the membership initiative so that the numbers are allocated properly. It is important to allocate funds in the most appropriate account and program area.

Previous motion made as follows:

Motion 05.18.01 – Motion to approve a budget of \$80, 000 of OLG funds for further development of the membership code and the peace process utilizing professional resources as required. Carried by consensus.

This dollar amount includes legal reviews, facilitators, consultation, meeting costs, development, and is amendable. The education portion was completed by Three Bears consulting, different topics were discussed such as blood quantum, Mohawk Identity and traditional knowledge. Next steps are analyzing the citizenship code from a legal perspective. Alisa Lombard will review the constitutional challenges, discrimination and human rights issues. Community consultations will follow. It was suggested that workshops be implemented.

Peace Process – Discussion on Ed Conner's and the peace process was discussed. The cost for 2015/2016 was approx. \$100 000 which included education, meeting events and presenters such as Kevin Deer, Rick Hill, Three Bears etc. There was some discussion on why the peace process came to be and attendance issues. Councillor Schell suggested that people who are concerned should attend and that we should be discussing things on our own as well. A further plan of action will be proposed by Kevin Deer and Ed Conner's. It is important to keep the Healing and Wellness and Peace process separate with distinct goals. There was some discussion on locations and if these things should still be at Rama or keep it here in the community. It was also discussed if the Peace Process should involve governance and not just membership. Chief Franks stated that membership had to be dealt with first before governance can be determined. Shirley Hay mentioned that people who were involved in the protest were not participating in the peace process and felt Ed Conner's did not get back to certain people.

Councillor Greasley stated she would speak with Ed Conner's about that issue.

Councillor Schell asked everyone what transparency means to everyone? Anyone can access information within the band hall in a timely manner. This discussion can be deferred to the general meeting. Tim Thompson stated that some of his questions were not adequately answered in the past. Councillor Greasley stated that some issues are of a legal nature. Dan Stock asked for the motion when Karen Commandant was assigned as band administrator. Councillor Greasley stated she was not doing the minutes or motions at that time but would look into it as best she could considering the administrator no longer with us to assist.

Surveying – Surveying is being conducted in the unit's area. Possible expansion is being considered as well the Strength property lot and Lyla Lane lots are already completed. If there is funding left over it will be used to survey the Hwy 400 potential development area. Tim Thompson asked why there was trees painted east of Big Eddy power dam. These trees are numbered and state "Ministry of environment climate change monitoring project". Chief Franks stated in the 1980's when acid rain was an issue they used them for a very long study possibly 20 years.

Administration – The administrator is no longer employed at Wahta, the job will be posted. It being the beginning of the fiscal year, the staff already have their work plans in place. Council will oversee administration duties until a new administrator is hired. It will be posted in all AIAI communities, IC communities and other financial and First Nation websites. A mutual non-disclosure agreement was signed by both parties. Dennis Stock asked how Karen Commandant became administration from a council member. Chief Franks stated she was appointed to administration by council. Back in 2014 she was not being paid a salary at the same time as councillor. Proper record keeping of minutes and motions started when Councillor Greasley took on this task in November 2015. Tim Thompson asked if the decision to end her contract was unanimous, Chief Franks stated it was. Donna Commandant asked if Karen Commandant is still available to speak with, Chief Franks said he thought so.

AIAI General Assembly – The Ministry of Finance proposed plan which would see First Nations place a levy on tobacco retailers, it was rejected. Education reform was discussed to get more dollars for schools. Linda Commandant is the AIAI representative on the Board of Directors for the First Nation limited partnership.

Old Business/ Follow-up

Oath of Confidentiality – It is now separate from the human resource policy. It was read aloud and signed. The PIPEDA act references personal information. The act applies to all employees regardless of how they are paid, but consultants and outside contracts can be discussed. There was some discussion on the privacy of knowing staff's wages. Chief Franks stated there can be only ranges stated.

I _____ hereby promise and affirm by my honour and by my conscience that I will, fulfill my duties carefully and responsibly as an elected member of Wahta Chief and Council.

I will act in a professional manner and not disclose or discuss personal Information pertaining to members and employees of the Wahta Mohawks, in compliance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

I will conduct myself in a manner that will bring credit to myself and the Wahta Mohawks, and make my Onkwehon: we ancestors proud, affirming our cultural identity as Onkwehon: we people

McMaster Lake – Will be an agenda item at the general meeting June 24. Wahta purchased McMaster Lake and is Wahta's to use, there is blanket coverage liability. The maintenance staff put the road in and was issued a permit to do that work by the township. Tim Thompson mentioned there should be a land use policy and ensuring members have access to all lakes as well as to be careful about maintaining medicines. Stuart Lane stated he had no issue that his name was kept on the land as long as he was made aware of the activities in the area. Ryan DeCaire said that some areas of land should be preserved for agriculture activity and not used for housing.

May Motion Summary:

04.26.02 – Motion to appoint Falls Law as the legal representative for the additions to reserve process.

Carried by consensus

05.03.01 – Motion to allow Falls Law to transfer the McMaster Lake property title from Shirley Hay and Stuart Lane to current council members. Carried by consensus.

05.03.02 – Motion to approve surveying of the core area based on sketch provided by T. A Bunker funded by INAC. Carried by consensus.

05.03.04 – Motion to approve AIAI funding expenditures of \$9396.20 for a community based language strategy. Carried by consensus.

05.03.08 – Motion to accept the RRAP/CMHC application priority list dated April 26, 2017 as set out by the Lands and Housing Coordinator. Carried by consensus.

05.10.02 - Economic Development/Raggid Rapids Rd. – Motion to allow Neeghan Burnside to conduct a safety study on Raggid Rapids Rd. at a cost of \$5000 to present to Minister Zimmer and others. Carried by consensus.

05.10.07 - Honourariums – Motion to reinstate monthly honourariums of \$375 per month for both Chief and Council. Carried by consensus.

05.17.01 - Chief and Council approves in principle a deficit of \$ 1,844,315 for 2017 2018 and will revisit the budget to make changes on pending matters. Carried by consensus.

05.18.01 – Motion to approve a budget of \$80, 000 of OLG funds for further development of the membership code and community unity process utilizing professional resources as required. Carried by consensus.

Questions/Comments:

The McMaster Lake funds came from year end funding from AIAI in the amount \$30 000.

Shirley Hay asked where was the inventory of the medicines on the lands were, Councillor Commandant was not sure where it was now located.

Councillor Schell stated that there should be priorities made as to what initiatives come first, second and so on for the long-term care, water treatment and Recreation Centre.

Tim Thompson asked if there was product and equipment inventory done at ICG. Lance DeCaire stated that all items were inventoried. Tim Thompson stated that there was \$500 000 in revenue at ICG but Chief Franks stated there were no separate books, and the expenses are not included in those numbers so it was inaccurate because there were no separate accounting records. Councillor Greasley also stated that although that number is reflected in the audit it does not reflect the actual cost of doing business for ICG.

Stuart Lane asked about the Hydro brushing cutting contract was 930 000, and \$333000 was paid out and what the other \$600 000 was used for. Chief Franks stated it went to general revenue and to maintenance department. The work has not finished yet, Scott Aubichon will do an update.

Gerry Fox asked what programs are going on at McMaster Lake, this will be addressed at the general meeting

Lance DeCaire stated there will be 70% off per case of juice but only 6 or 7 skids left for sale, very few frozen berries left for sale.

Chief Franks stated that the Cultural Centre basement is still leaking so they needed to build a trench and French drain to fix it.

Next Meeting Date: June 27, 2017

Adjournment

Closing

The legal review of our membership code is complete. The complete review is approximately 26 pages and is online at www.wahtamohawks.com/citizenship under the heading of Citizenship Code Legal Review (member login required). Full print copies are available at the office. Below is the shorter summary of the legal review that outlines some of the main points from a legal perspective.

A tentative date has been set for Sat Sept 9 for our first community meeting to discuss the membership code, legal review, feedback, suggestions and how we can maintain a strong community for the next seven generations with respect to the future of Wahta. Please refer to the September newsletter for more information.

Legal Opinion on Wahta Mohawks Citizenship Code

By Alisa Lombard, S.S.Sc., LL.L., JD

Wahta passed its most recent Citizenship Code in 2014. Its stated purpose is to preserve Wahta Mohawk cultural and political integrity and sovereignty, and to establish who has Wahta Mohawk rights and obligations.

Citizenship Rules & Inconsistencies

Under the Code, anyone who was entitled to Indian status before the Code, or with two parents who are entitled to status, is a citizen of Wahta. Otherwise, a combination of blood quantum and ancestry is required: for natural (non-adopted) children, one must have a parent who was entitled to status and at least a quarter of Mohawk blood. Adopted children have different rules. They may acquire citizenship only if they have 25% Indian blood quantum, which need not be Mohawk blood.

The Code also bars citizenship for those who acquired Indian status through marriage and their descendants, and anyone who gave up their status through the voluntary enfranchisement provisions of the *Indian Act*.

There are two important inconsistencies in the membership provisions. First, the rules for blood purity are inconsistently applied. There is a lower threshold of blood quantum for adopted over naturally born children. Second, excluding those who enfranchised is inconsistent with giving citizenship to all those entitled to status before the 1987 Code, as some of those who enfranchised were entitled to have their status restored by Bill C-31 in 1985.

Authorized by and Based on *Indian Act*

The Wahta Citizenship Code is actually a *membership* code that is authorized by the *Indian Act*, section 10. It establishes membership in Wahta, a Band under the *Indian Act*, not an Indigenous Nation. It is still based in part on the criteria for Indian status under the *Indian Act*.

The *Indian Act* is colonial legislation whose purpose was to eliminate tribal governance and sovereignty, and indeed Indigenous culture altogether. In adopting the criteria of the *Indian Act* for membership, Wahta is exercising a delegated power in a manner that mirrors colonial legislation intended to eradicate all forms of tribal governance. This is the opposite of the stated purpose of the Citizenship Code, which is to preserve Mohawk cultural integrity.

Constitutionality

In order to be found discriminatory, a law must distinguish between people on the basis of an un-changeable personal characteristic such as race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability. It must also negatively affect the people with that characteristic, increasing their level of disadvantage.

The Code clearly distinguishes on the basis of race, through its blood quantum and ancestry requirements. It disadvantages those people who fall below the blood quantum threshold, that is, people of mixed-race with not enough Mohawk or Indian blood. They are not allowed to be citizens of Wahta, and lose the associated rights of citizenship. Mixed-race Indians could likely claim discrimination, if they can prove their disadvantage with evidence.

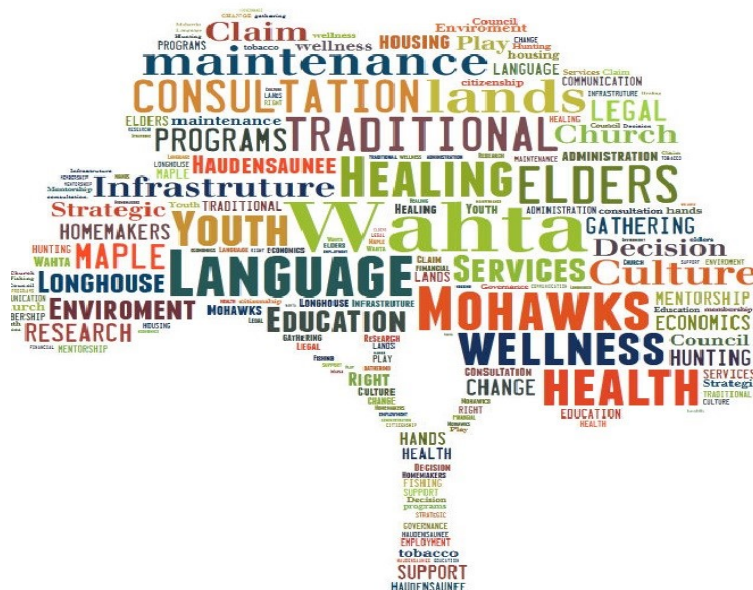
However, the purpose of a membership code is to determine membership in a race of people, which is a race-based exercise in its entirety. It is very possible that courts would use a different framework for analyzing a claim of discrimination in this context, and would find the principles of self-governance to allow race-based distinctions to be made. It is very difficult to predict the outcome of a section 15 challenge to the Code.

However, what is clear is that the membership rules in the Code do not actually achieve the stated purpose of the Code. The purpose is to preserve *cultural* integrity and sovereignty. Blood quantum requirements preserve *racial* purity, not cultural purity. Moreover, the Code is an exercise in delegated authority by an *Indian Act* band of *Indian Act* rules, which is not an exercise in sovereignty. Because of this, if the Code was found to be discriminatory, the Band could not likely justify the discrimination on the basis of the section 1 of the *Charter*.

Further, the Code is likely not connected to an Aboriginal right, which would also justify discrimination. Aboriginal rights are practices the Mohawk undertook prior to European contact which were centrally and independently significant to the Mohawk community. Expert evidence suggests that the Mohawk intentionally *included* people of other ancestries to create a sense of common patriotism, strengthen alliances and to ensure the strength of bloodlines, and did not exclude them on the basis of blood quantum. Blood-quantum exclusion is probably not an Aboriginal right.

Recommendations

- Give effect to the Code's purpose, to preserve Wahta's cultural integrity, by replacing blood quantum distinctions with cultural integrity criteria to acquiring membership. Cultural integrity criterion can include ancestry as one factor.
- Define and explain the terms in the Code, such as blood quantum.
- Clarify the community's goals for citizenship and membership, for the Nation and for the Band separately, and whether the focus is racial purity or cultural connection.
- Analyze the residency and election codes to ensure all are consistent and advance the community's goals.



HEALTH

Services

August 2017

- Healthy Living on Tuesday, August 1st, Blueberry picking
- Community Shopping on Wednesday, August 2nd, **9 am pick up** (Midland)
- St. Jacobs on Tuesday, August 8th, contact Colleen or Sherry
- Lunch and learn, Conflict Resolution on Wednesday, August 9th, 10:30-1 at the Cultural Centre
- Gravenhurst Market on Wednesday, August 16th, 8:30 departure
- Summer camp Celebration on Thursday, August 17th, 4:30-6 at the Cultural Centre, RSVP Colleen
- Foot Care on Wednesday, August 9th, at the Administration Building
- Colouring Monday, August 28th, 1-3 at the Cultural Centre
- Chair Exercise on Wednesday, August 30th, 10-1 at the Cultural Centre
- Pole Walking every Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-9:30...Administration Building

Wonderland

Saturday August 12, 2017

Bus departs Administration Building at 8:00am

There is a \$20.00 per person non refundable fee payable in advance.

Please contact Colleen 705-762-2354 ext. 241 or Amy ext. 240 to reserve your spot
(maximum 46 participants)

Women's Group Gathering

Pot Luck

August 16th, 5:30

at the

Cultural Centre

Please bring a game or craft or any other ideas you have for social activities.

Moms Group Sewing Classes

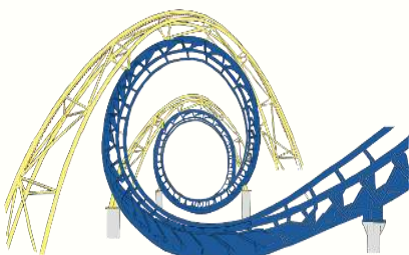
Sept. 12, 19, 26 and Oct. 3rd

5:30

at the Cultural Centre

Contact Amy to sign up

705-762-2354 ext. 240



Potluck Dinner





AIAI 18th ANNUAL ELDER'S GATHERING

WHEN

August 22 - 24, 2017

WHERE

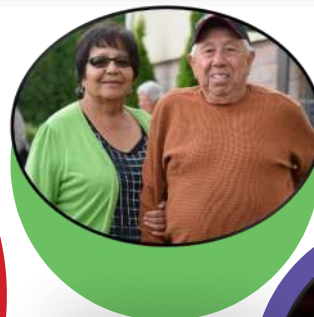
Batchewana First Nation

Batchewana Learning Centre | 15 Jean Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4B1 | 705.759.7285

DETAILS

Theme: Power of the Past, Force of the Future
Dress Up Theme (Day 2 – Aug 23rd) : 1940's Era

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 28, 2017
(Registrants must be from an AIAI Member Nation).



TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:

Christine (273) or Sherry (250) As soon as possible so we can get the hotel reserved.

AIAI.ON.CA

WÁHTA MOHAWKS

Tsi ní:ioht tsi Entsitiónhnhete' ne Onkwawén:na

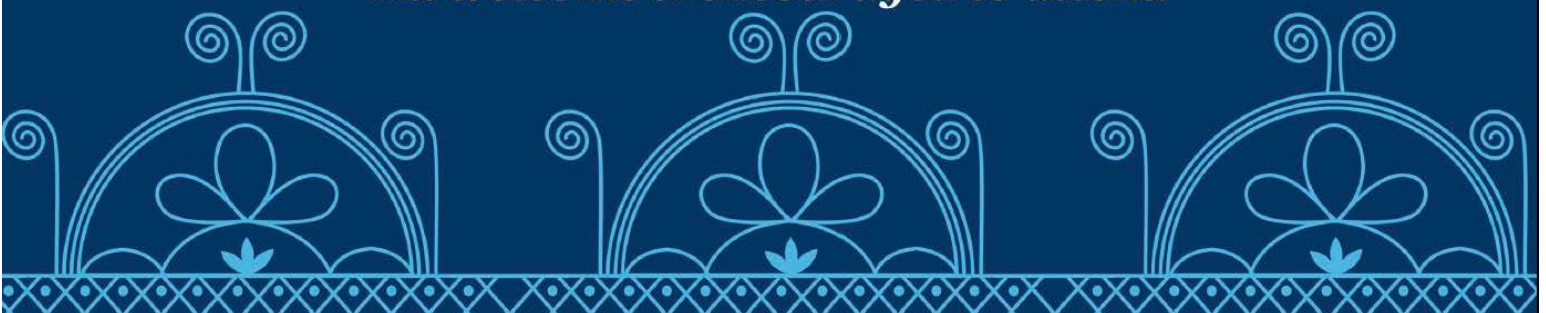


WÁHTA COMMUNITY LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

Community Info / Input Session

Presented by Ryan DeCaire

*Saturday August 12th 9:00am
Wáhta Mohawks Administration Building
Coffee and snacks provided
All welcome & encouraged to attend*



SUMMER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMP

WHEN; August, from 9:00AM – 4:00pm Monday – Thursday
9:00am – 1:00pm on Fridays

WHERE: Cultural Healing Centre
This language and culture camp will run Monday to Friday.

Activities to include but not limited to;
Language, Culture, Arts & Crafts, Play, Traditional Foods, Gardening

WHO: School aged children, Mom/Dads and babies and tots, Students that require volunteer hours, and Elders.

WHY: Language and Culture is who we are and we believe if we give our children enough exposure, they will learn it and continue speaking and teaching the future children in our community.

Please contact Colleen (705)762-2354 ext241. to register your child(ren).



The Wellness Series

Moving Forward

September 16th -17th The Great Law of Peace – Tom Porter

October 28th 9-3 Clans- Mary Anne Spencer

Please Register with Sherry or Christine

The Wellness Series will continue to bring the community together and will begin to establish a knowledge base and a comfort level of expressing what we know of our past, and present so as we move into the future. We are supportive of eliminating the occurrences of lateral violence with shared understanding and respect.

Please note there will be mini sessions within the year that will complement the Wellness Series

Participants noted last year...a connection was made...people are able to come together with common knowledge and comfort to share...to understand...and to commit. As with last year we are asking you to participate in a minimum of 2 complete sessions of the ones listed above and 1 of your choice of mini-session... By participating you show your commitment to making Wahta a healthier community that we can be proud of.

Thank you

Wahta Mohawks Health Services



Education News for August

Summer vacation is now midway and advertisements for back to school supplies are back in the newspaper flyers and on television!

Our recent graduates who completed grade 12 and reside in Wahta and attended local schools include:

Tad DeCaire graduate of Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School
Felicity Smith graduate of Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School
Iohate Blaze Sahanatien graduate of Gravenhurst High School
Tait Strength graduate of Gravenhurst High School
Nadia DeWasha graduate of St. Dominic's Catholic Secondary School

Congratulations to all other students who are 2017 secondary school graduates!

New student registrations for Glen Orchard Public School – Bonnie Bell will be available at the school office from August 28-31 for any students not yet registered for fall 2017.

During the month of August, the Education office will be accepting applications for Employment and Training during Kristal Berwick's absence. If you are a member of Wahta Mohawks and are seeking training dollars please contact me during this time. 705-762-2354 x 233. I would be happy to assist you in your application for funding through Kagita Mikam Area Management Board.

AFN releases the IT'S OUR TIME digital First Nations Education Toolkit. Available on iTunes U, it is a free downloadable package for iPad use. This valuable resource tool for educators is an excellent hands on educational device to bring knowledge and awareness of First Nation culture and history.

"Education is key to reconciliation because it builds bridges of understanding," said AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde. "The It's Our Time First Nations Education Toolkit will help increase cultural competency and understanding of First Nations' rights, histories and cultures, developed from First Nations perspectives. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for education to lead Canada's reconciliation effort, and this Toolkit provides First Nation and non-First Nation learners, teachers, schools, institutions and the Canadian public with a resource that fosters a spirit of cooperation, understanding and, most importantly, action."

Notice

Indian Affairs will be at the administration office on Monday September 11th, 2017 at 2pm for an information session on estate planning. Topics will include wills, beneficiaries, administrators, lands etc. Please contact Karen Sahanatien if you plan on attending, 705-762-2354 ext. 222

Annual Bass Derby and Picnic

Civic Holiday Weekend

Let's celebrate summer with some fishing and a bbq/fish fry

Saturday August 5th – fishing begins at 8am at Webster Lake

Lunch will be served at the cultural centre

Hamburgers, hotdogs, fish, salads

Baseball and horseshoes

Everyone is invited to come out and participate

Please plan on attending

Wahta Mohawks

705-762-2354

Customary Care

Customary care is an important care option for First Nations children who are not able to remain with their immediate family. It is a family-based care model reflective of the culture, values and traditions of the child's parents and community. It recognizes that members of the child's immediate and extended family and community share responsibility in the provision of care to a child, who is or may be in need of protection.

There are two kinds of customary care:

Traditional Customary Care

For First Nations communities, customary care refers to care throughout an individual's lifespan and it is a way of life in which the community takes care of its own members according to its own customs, traditions and standards. Customary care is sanctioned by tribal laws that are indigenous to each Band or First Nations community; tribal laws give Chief and Council the authority to act on behalf of the community in matters related to child and family services. For this reason, the contents of a Customary Care Agreement may vary between each Band or each First Nations community. The mandated child protection agency may or may not be involved in traditional Customary Care Agreements. A traditional Customary Care Agreement may be entered into by a child, the child's parents, the child's Band, or the alternative caregivers who will be providing out-of-home care for the child, pursuant to the Band's customary care declaration.

Formal Customary Care

Where a child protection agency determines that a First Nations child is in need of protection, removal of the child from the parents/caregiver is required and there is a customary care declaration by the Band, the agency may grant a subsidy to the person caring for the child. Formal customary care is recognized as a culturally appropriate placement option for First Nations children, but the child's placement must be supervised by a child protection agency pursuant to the Band declaration and the terms of a signed Customary Care Agreement.

This service is provided by the Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions FNMI protection team and resource team.

If you are interested in learning more about customary care or if you are interested in becoming a customary care provider in your home, please contact Colleen Mendes at 705-762-2354 ext.241

Membership, Leadership and Governance: A Community Peacemaking Process – An Update

During the February 2017 weekend gathering we had Rick Hill a well known Haudenosaunee teacher to speak to us about the principles, form of government and leadership that come from the Great Law of Peace. Ed Conner's and Kevin Deer facilitated the conference, Alisa Lombard and Kahante Horn-Miller also did presentations on getting to the roots of Indigenous citizenship, membership and identity as well as some examples of other communities that have faced similar challenges. This was provided to help you to make decisions about governance, leadership and defining membership within your community.

The entire event was videotaped and is now available online. Please use the links beside this to watch the presentation.

Video #1 – Introduction – Alisa Lombard
<https://youtu.be/eVWXKATuUr8>

Video #2 – Kahante Horn-Miller
<https://youtu.be/KyzO5F0ZwHQ>

Video #3 – Rick Hill
<https://youtu.be/ylyrqrDBxag>

Video #4 – Rick Hill Continued
https://youtu.be/0_TZIH2kvwl

Video #5 – Kahante Horn-Miller
https://youtu.be/kAi2_YBfV7c

Video #6 – Alisa Lombard
<https://youtu.be/47QA5U4TV3k>

Video #7 – Alisa Lombard
<https://youtu.be/apjXrCz3bOw>

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

June 21 is our day to remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission closed in 2015. They recommended a national inquiry for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.

A gesture of support for that inquiry was marked by bell ringing at churches across Canada.

Here at Wahta we rang the church bell at the Wahta United Church 1,181 times May 31 to June 21, 2015.

The national Inquiry MMIW was launched in 2016 and continues, despite difficulties.

Last month we remembered and acknowledged that issue again on June 21.

It is a continuing dilemma affecting Indigenous people everywhere, women, girls, men, boys.

We see the casualties among our families. There is damage to our spirit and damage to our communities.

We thank Shirley Hay who sang and drummed 3 songs "The 60's Scoop", "The Residential School Song", and "The Strong Women's Song".

We thank Donna for the drumming, Ben for the photos, and Chief Philip Franks for joining us to be a part of our day.

We are the survivors and recipients of many gifts.

We gather to be together. It is a celebration to share our stories, laugh together, shed a tear, and remember our families and traditions, a source of strength and spirit.

We are thankful to still be here, together.

We believe that there is much to be done in all our territories, in the justice system and in the policing bodies throughout Canada.

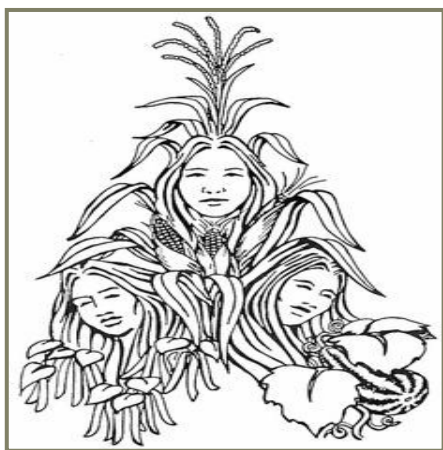
Family. Tradition. Spirit.



Traditional Bean Supper COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 16th

If you are interested in
being part of this group please contact
Amy at 705-762-2354 ext.240



Housing Assistance

Wahta Mohawks is accepting applications for housing renovations and housing subsidies.

Housing Subsidy

- Grant of \$26,300.00 for house construction
- Grant of \$15,000.00 for well and septic installation
- Must have status and membership
- Need to own the land where the home is to be built

Housing Renovations

- Home must be located on Wahta Territory
- Home must be the permanent residence of applicant
- Must have status and membership
- Cost shared with Wahta Mohawks at 50% homeowner and 50% band up to maximum of \$26,300.00

This is a summary of information for housing assistance. Please contact the office for further information,

705-762-2354

Wahta United Church

Faith Circle will be at 7pm every Tuesday
at the **CULTURAL CENTRE**

Our next church service will be
Sept 3rd at 11

If anyone would like a visit, they can contact Pastor Derek at (705) 346-1858



Basement Renos at the Cultural centre are nearing completion. The summer students worked hard brightening up the finished basement art and crafts room with this painting.

For Sale

For Sale (located on Wahta) 2009 model trailer home 42x12, comes fully furnished can be moved to your location. 1 bedroom with additional loft sleeping area and pull out couch, sleeps 6. Central air, central vac, includes all appliances and more. Outside deck also included. \$49 000 plus delivery negotiable. For pictures or a showing please contact teresai@rogers.com or call 705-762-1870.

DreamCatcher Foundation

Thank you DreamCatcher Foundation for the opportunity to play Ontario Player Development Soccer for the Burlington Bayhawks. Your generosity gave me the chance to better myself as a soccer player by playing at the highest level possible. I have now been selected for the Provincial Screening Tryouts with the hopes of making the Ontario Provincial Team.

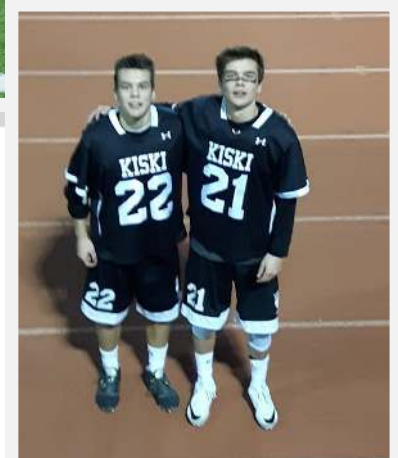
Thanks DreamCatcher!

Koby Commandant 2015-2016



Quinn and Caleb Commandant would like to publicly thank and acknowledge The Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation for their extreme generosity. Dreamcatcher has provided the boys with financial assistance to attend The Kiski Boys Prep School in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania since 2015.

Caleb just completed his freshman year and will be returning for his sophomore year in the fall of 2017 to continue his studies and play lacrosse. Quinn recently graduated from Kiski with honours and will be attending university at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in the fall of 2017 to study business and play lacrosse.



Chief and Council

Chief Philip Franks	philip.franks@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca	705-528-9468
Councilor Blaine Commandant	blaine.commandant@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca	705-644-3384
Councilor Teresa Greasley	teresa.greasley@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca	705-644-9934
Councilor Lorie Strength-Fenton	lorie.fenton-strength@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca	705-774-2796
Councilor Lawrence Schell	lawrence.schell@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca	705-644-3001

Administration

705-762-2354

Scott Aubichon	Lands and Resources Coordinator	Ext. 242
Nicole Belcourt	Reception	Ext. 221
Matthew Commandant	Housing Coordinator	Ext. 275
Joanne Conatant	Chief Financial Officer	Ext. 245
Kristal Berwick	Employment/SS Administrator	Ext. 230
Sherry Byrne	Health Services	Ext. 250
Christine Cox	Health Services Family Violence	Ext. 273
Amy Davidson	Health Services Assistant	Ext. 240
Lance DeCaire	Economic Development Officer	Ext. 224
Carol Holmes	Education Services	Ext. 233
Colleen Mendes	AHWS/NCWPW/AHBHC	Ext. 241
Kim North	Finance Clerk	Ext. 237
Bonnie Racine	Housing Intern	Ext. 259
Karen Sahanatien	Lands and Housing Clerk	Ext. 222
Martie Stanton	Human Resources	Ext. 272
Kara Wanoth-Mee	Community Wellness Worker	EXT. 227

Please Feel Free to Call with any Questions or Concerns

Administration Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday, 8:00am—4:30 pm



P.O. Box 260
Bala, On. P0C 1A0
705-762-2354 phone
705-762-2376 fax
www.wahtamohawks.com