

WAHTA MOHAWKS

TSOTHOHRHKO:WA - JANUARY (THE BIG COLD)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This time of year is filled with friends, family and hope for the New Year and the staff, Chief and Council is sending their best wishes to you and yours for 2015!

It was very encouraging to see everyone at the Community Christmas dinner coming together to enjoy the good times with the children. We all enjoyed an excellent performance by the girls singing and drumming group, and many thanks to Lucia Sahanatien for her ongoing commitment to the revitalization of culture in the community. Also, thanks to Iohate' for his leadership shown at community meetings and other gatherings this year by doing the Thanksgiving address in Mohawk for the community.

The Staff is looking forward to the upcoming conference and workshops at Red Leaves this year with the presenter Jane Middleton-Moz. The topics are relevant to many First Nations people and she will touch on some of the areas that could be contributing to the strife presently being experienced at Wahta and amongst ourselves. It is hoped these discussions will provide some food for thought for each of us around what is holding us back and how we can begin to heal and work together for our future – our children. That is our wish for everyone for 2015. Seasons Greetings to all members of Wahta Mohawks and their families.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Wahta Mohawks is now on Twitter. It's a quick and easy way to see if there are any community updates! There is also a Twitter feed on the main page of the website at www.wahtamohawks.ca. If you don't have a Twitter account it only takes a few minutes to set one up. Follow us on Twitter here at <https://twitter.com/wahtamohawks>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar	2
Message from	
Chief & Council.....	3
Health Services.....	4
Education	5
Nursing Station	6
Notices	7
Employment.....	8
Draft Consult Plan.....	11
Contacts	11

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Administration Office will be closed from December 22 , until January 5th.

Council Update

To start I'd like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays. Regrettably I was unable to attend the community Christmas Dinner held December 12 due to a funeral I attended at Kanasatake for a family member. I understand the dinner was very well attended with few seats to spare.

Some of areas Council are dealing with politically are new government legislations that have been coming into or close to being in effect. These issues once again show us that little consideration is given to how these acts impact our lives negatively and not much regard is shown by the governing bodies.

Bill C-10 is a bill that aims to curb the tobacco industry on First Nations. It carries hefty penalties including jail time for those transporting larger amounts of tobacco from First Nation to First Nation. In some communities the tobacco trade has become an integral part of the economy, employing those who might otherwise not be employed. Working with the Iroquois Caucus, Wahta is taking part in an effort to have the Bill taken down. A meeting with tobacco industry people and the Chiefs will take place in February. A similar bill, Bill 186, in Ontario that is aimed at regulating the growing of tobacco is likewise rejected by the Iroquois Caucus.

Tied into the above is a memorandum of understanding on a Trade Agreement between all Iroquois communities. This would set an avenue for the trading of goods from one community to the other. Council will likely sign onto that agreement early in the new year once it has been finalized at the Iroquois Caucus.

On taxation, Council will be forwarding a letter to the Ontario government urging them to remind retailers that point of sale exemption from sales tax exists in Ontario. More and more it seems retailers are refusing to honor the presenting of a status card to be exempt from the Ontario tax. Please feel free to report to the Council if you have been denied the exemption of tax at the point of sale.

We are following the system in Ontario where the

procedure for gasoline tax exemption by individuals may be changing in the future in some manner. With the Iroquois Caucus we are going to work toward making sure First Nations people do not lose anything if the process of change goes through.

We are currently gathering information on what work has been done about setting in place a law on the issue of Matrimonial and Real Property so that we can begin working on that in the next year. One of the problems many communities are facing is getting the required threshold of voters and Council will be taking that into consideration as we move forward.

Also on the home front Council is discussing with Rogers the erection of a tower to enhance internet usage in this area. Such a tower would be located on the grounds near Iroquois Cranberry Growers.

The harvest numbers are in, we did not do so well with the amount in this year's cranberry crop. The cranberry market is very poor at the present time so there will be more discussion of ICG in the new year.

The Wahta audit from last year is up on the website, we did submit the Audit on time to ANNDCC contrary to what they first reported. Council received an apology from Aboriginal Affairs for the confusion they caused.

Looking at good governance, Council will be revisiting the Community Strategic Plan, and capital planning projects according to the plan. Housing in the community still remains an issue to be dealt with. Further to that, work on the administration code and our governance policies will be completed using the finalized Community Consultation Plan. There is much to be done yet and Council looks forward to the next two years of development.

Once again to all Wahta members, the staff, and our associates, have a great holiday season!

Nia: wen kowa,

Chief Franks

WAHTA MOHAWKS

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

Our mission to provide effective language learning opportunities to Wahta and the membership has not gone by the wayside.....Over the past couple of weeks much work has been completed to bring together a proposal to support an On-line Mohawk language class. After researching our past documentation supporting culture/language, we felt an on line course was the most effective method of delivery to provide the opportunity to those who cannot physically attend classes in Wahta.

The proposed program can accept up to 12 participants (per stage) beginning at the Novice –Fundamental stage. This is the beginning level for learning. This class will run for ten weeks, 6 hours per week commencing mid August 2015. Both formative and summative assessments of students will be implemented. The next stage, Novice - Transitional will be offered in October with the same format. The final stage, Novice-Skilled will begin in January 2016 and will con-

clude in March. There is opportunity for those with previous language experience to participate in the later levels of learning, as well for those who want to continue the learning process; dependent upon mastery of previous levels.

We will be requesting the support of advanced or fluent speakers to act as tutors and assist new learners in community. This program is only one method of delivery. We will be seeking input from community as we review the current language strategy.

For funding purposes only and meeting a tight deadline we proceeded with the application for the On-Line course.

Effective as of December 10, 2014, Wahta Mohawks will no longer be a member of the Indigenous Education Coalition. We have withdrawn our membership based upon concerns with the management and direction of the Organization and lack of service provided directly to Wahta Mohawks.

Congratulations to the young girls who have been practicing traditional songs at the Longhouse. Their first performance was
at the Wahta Christmas Dinner.

**Many thanks to Lucia, Terry and Iohate Sahanatien who
have been so kind and patient teaching these songs.**

Wishing Everyone A Happy New Year!!!

EDUCATION

- Post secondary applications are available in January for courses beginning after April 1, 2015. A reminder to current students..... Everyone must re-apply each year for continued funding. Please contact Carol for a form in the new year.
- Our tutoring program will finish on December 10, and will begin again on January 7.
- Trillium Lakelands District School board have launched youtube videos to provide awareness and education about the effects and consequences of bullying. An anti bullying strategy is in place at every school. Visit the TLDSB website to view.



The support of
the Ministry of
Tourism, Culture
and Sport is
gratefully
acknowledged.

The library received a grant from the Ministry – Southern Ontario Library Services and new reading materials were ordered. We acknowledge our gratitude.

Housing Subsidies

Anyone interested in applying for a housing subsidy should do so by March 31st. This will allow you the time needed to get your house completed. There are several steps or requirements involved in applying for a subsidy. Here are the basics:

- Have to be 18 years old and be a status member of Wahta Mohawks
- Have to own the land
- Have to provide quotations for each step of the project
- Need to identify funds to complete the project
- Cannot own a home on or off reserve
- Cannot be in arrears with Wahta Mohawks

Please contact the administration office for a complete housing subsidy package.

705-762-2354
Ext. 222

NOTICE

Hydro One will be clearing trees and limbs from the main transmission line corridor early in the New Year. The crews will be using snowmobiles to access the transmission line and will contact any member for permission prior if access is required. If you have questions please contact;

Scott Aubichon
Wahta Mohawks
Lands Manager
Box 260 Bala, On
PoC 1A0
705-762-2354 Ext 242
Scott.Aubichon@wahtamohawks.ca



LOT FOR SALE


23 Acres for Sale

\$55,000.00

Lot 5-2, Concession 5

Wahta Territory

Please Contact Teresa DeCaire at 705-646-3784



If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please call the office or send an email with your request.

705-762-2354

martiestanton@wahtamohawks.ca

ONTARIO WORKS CLIENTS

For confidentiality purposes there will be a locked box provided outside of my door. If I am not in the office, please put your income report and hydro bill in the box. There is a slot on the top of the box for you to slip your paperwork in. Much Appreciated.

Kagita Mikam Employment &

Intake applications are ongoing for Kagita Mikam Employment & Training Programs. If you are unemployed, underemployed or out of school and would like to receive training to get back into the workforce then support is available upon meeting the criteria and funding availability.

Programs available through Kagita Mikam are: Purchase of Training, Targeted Wage Subsi-

dy, Mobility Assistance, Youth Work Experience, Employment Assistance Supports and Self Employment Assistance. Funding for training is for 1 year only. Members of Wahta Mohawks without status are eligible for funding. A Letter from Wahta Mohawks stating that you have membership must be provided. Members with status must provide status number and membership letter.



For more information on the program please contact Kristal at 705-762-3343 x. 204 or by email kristal.berwick@wahtamohawks.ca

STUDENTS FUNDED THROUGH KAGITA MIKAM

Please remember to provide your monthly update by the 15th of each month. As you have just completed your 1st semester, please forward a copy of your marks as soon as you receive them.

Employment Opportunity

Short Term Contract Position: Education Specialist – Instructional Design

Wahta Mohawks wish to engage an Education Specialist with significant experience in providing instructional design under a short-term contract. This individual will be responsible to work with Mohawk SME's to design, deliver and support Mohawk language education, learning and e-learning development opportunities.

The successful candidate must be accredited with a Certified Training and Development Professional (CTDP) designation and a minimum 3 years' relevant experience in the field. A current CPIC (police clearance) is required.

Responsible for:

- Instructional Design and support of Mohawk Language learning and development strategies;
- Researching, creating and providing train-the-trainer and end-user training manual on the final e-learning concept chosen as a learning tool;
- Collaborate on various approaches to instruction and delivery methods and evaluate the outcomes;
- Ensure adequate transfer of knowledge to the Wahta Mohawks and finalize reporting on learning and development outcomes based on evaluations, surveys and other feedback gathered.

Resumes accepted until 12 pm January 9th, 2015

SEND RESUME TO HUMAN RESOURCES, WAHTA MOHAWKS

P.O BOX 260, BALA, ON. P0C 1A0 , FAX; 705-762-2376

OR EMAIL: martie.stanton@wahtamohawks.ca



Wahta Mohawks Consultation Plan (Draft)



Overview

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Definitions
- b. Purpose
- c. General Provisions and Focus
- d. Principals of Vision Statement

2. PROCESS

- a. Submissions:
 - i. Council submissions:
 - ii. Staff Submissions:
 - iii. Member Submissions:
- b. Decision-Making

3. PROCEDURES

- a. Level One: Approval of Regulation and By-Law
- b. Level Two: Introduction and Approval of Laws, Codes and Constitution

4. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

- a. Communication Principles
- b. Consultation and Engagement Opportunities

1. b. Purpose

Chief and Council wish to address the memberships expressed wish for more direct involvement in major decisions affecting the membership commencing with the Wahta Mohawks Consultation plan.

The purpose of the Wahta Mohawks Consultation Policy is:

To nurture involvement of the membership in the decision-making process, and

To ensure maximum member participation and engagement in developing, administering and amending Wahta Mohawk policies, by-laws and laws that affect the quality of life and sustainability of the membership for the next seven generations.

This process will be used for developing new policy or law and reviewing or amending existing policy or law. It is a consensus building model that provides opportunity to incorporate traditional principles into the elected government system that exists in this community today.

1. c. General Provisions and Focus

The following ancient principles shall be inherent in this policy (Great Law of Peace):

Respect, equality, one-mind

Critical engagement with oneself, family, community, nation

Collective Spirit

Consensus begins with the individual, family, clan, community and nation.

There are four main identified areas that require immediate and long- term attention:

The land

The people

The system of government

The economy

Social Equity, Culture, and the Environment are core principles that will guide the four main priorities. The Wahta Mohawk Consultation Plan will be utilized to build on these four areas and the core principles will support the governance and community development process.

1. d. Principals of Vision Statement

The Wahta Mohawks are of one mind in preserving our inherent and treaty rights to sustain future generations by respecting the Creator lithinistenha Ohwen:tsia (Mother Earth) one-self, others and our culture.

Further the process will encompass the Mission Statement for program delivery described as follows:

We will collectively strive towards the empowerment of the community"

"We will continue to strive toward community based programs; planned, implemented and based on community identified needs";

"We will continue to plan collectively with community, staff and Council";

"We will promote Mohawk language, culture and tradition in Wahta in order to rebuild and maintain our identity";

"We will follow and promote the sacred teachings of Respect, Honesty, Humility, Sharing, Caring, Wisdom and Love";

"We will provide an accepting atmosphere based upon a positive approach for the promotion of a self-sufficient and healthy community";

"We will recognize and respect the diversities, lifestyles and tradition of all people regardless of residency and status in the best interest of the community";

"Wahta Mohawks administration has a responsibility to be aware and knowledgeable on matters of a local, regional and national level to the best of their ability";

"Wahta Mohawks administration and staff will conduct themselves in a business manner where time and resources are valued and used efficiently and effectively".

We will collectively strive towards the empowerment of the community"

"We will continue to strive toward community based programs; planned, implemented and based on community identified needs";

"We will continue to plan collectively with community, staff and Council";

"We will promote Mohawk language, culture and tradition in Wahta in order to rebuild and maintain our identity";

"We will follow and promote the sacred teachings of Respect, Honesty, Humility, Sharing, Caring, Wisdom and Love";

"We will provide an accepting atmosphere based upon a positive approach for the promotion of a self-sufficient and healthy community";

"We will recognize and respect the diversities, lifestyles and tradition of all people regardless of residency and status in the best interest of the community";

"Wahta Mohawks administration has a responsibility to be aware and knowledgeable on matters of a local, regional and national level to the best of their ability";

3.b. Level Two: Procedures for Introduction and Approval of Laws, Codes and Constitution

Step 1: Consideration of a law is brought forward at a membership (information) meeting;

Step 2: Members approves in principal or consensus the development of a Draft law;

Step 3: A Band Council Resolution is passed at a subsequent Council meeting supporting the development of a draft law;

Step 4: Council directs the Senior Administrator to provide necessary resources to support the initiative; such as, Project Manager and define scope of project;

Step 5: The Draft Law is researched by staff, Consultant or Legal Counsel;

Step 6: A facilitated public engagement and consultation meeting is scheduled and notice is provided in accordance with the Communication Plan; List of principles to form the basis of the law presented at meeting to solicit comments and discussion;

Step 7: All pertinent information will be provided on the website simultaneously to the members (information) meeting in accordance with the Communication Plan;

Step 8: Results of meeting recommendations as recorded, by the recording secretary, are reported back to the members and Council in accordance with the Communication Plan;

Step 9: The Project Manager incorporates feedback into the Draft law and vetted through legal counsel;

Step 10: A third facilitated public engagement and consultation meeting is scheduled and notice is provided in accordance with the Communication Plan;

Step 11: The process of engagement and consultation shall continue until a draft law has been produced and reviewed by the membership, legal counsel and Council;

Step 12: The final draft must be communicated in accordance with the Communication Plan and must be ratified through the Wahta Mohawks General Referendum Regulations.

The time frame for this process will vary, but a goal of **365** days is recommended.

4. Communication Plan

A Communication Plan is an essential part of the decision-making process to ensure consistency in access to information, provide opportunity for comment and ultimately collaboration on decision-making affecting the quality of life of the membership.

Early notification and engagement of Members is important in communicating proposed initiatives or other messages.

Every contact is an opportunity to communicate the message effectively.

Chief and Council

Phillip Franks	Chief	705-528-9468
Lawrence Schell	Councilor	705-644-3001
Mike DeCaire	Councilor	705-644-3384
Teresa Greasley	Councilor	705-644-9934
Stuart Lane	Councilor	705-641-1548

Administration 705-762-2354

Karen Commandant	Senior Administrator	Ext. 231
Scott Aubichon	Lands and Resources Coordinator	Ext. 242
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
Allan Farrell	Properties Manager	Ext. 244
Carol Holmes	Education Services	Ext. 233
Alice Murphy	Financial Accountant	Ext. 245
Colleen Mendes	AHWS/NCWPW	Ext. 241
Kim North	Finance – Accounts Payable	Ext. 237
Karen Sahanatien	Lands and Housing Clerk	Ext. 222
Martie Stanton	Executive Assistant/Human Resources	Ext. 272

Wahta Nursing Station 705-762-1274