

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



Kentenha—( The time of Poverty)

October 2017



## *This issue....*

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

## Notice

### Hydro Distribution line brushing

The brushing of the distribution lines on Wahta Mohawks Territory has commenced by our Wahta Mohawks members.

Please Contact me if you have any questions.

Scott Aubichon  
Wahta Mohawks  
Land Manager

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

## Traditional Bean Supper & Silent Auction

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 530pm at the administration building**

**Auction ends at 8 you do not need to be present to win**

**Larger auction items will be auctioned off in a live auction**

**Tickets will be on sale as of Oct 1, the administration building**

**\$10.00 non-member, \$5.00 members**

**Wild meat and item donations for the silent auction are now being accepted**

**Proceeds go towards Children's programming**

**Please contact Amy or Kim**





# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC	3 Afterschool Program (3:30-5:30) CC Community Shopping 9am AB	4 Tutoring 3:30-5:30 CC Health Forum 6:30 -8 CC	5	6	7
8 Church Service- 11am	9 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC	10 Afterschool Pro- gram (3:30-5:30)CC Healthy Living Pound Fit 10am- 12pmCC	11 Tutoring 3:30-5:30 CC Foot Care AB	12 Youth Paint Night - 5:30 cc	13 Cancer Screening and Prevention 11am-1pm AB	14
15	16 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC Calendar Project 11am-2:30pm AB	17 Pole Walking Adventure 8am AB Drum Group 6:30- 7:30 CC	18 Tutoring 3:30-5:30 CC Movement Therapy 10am- 11am AB	19 Cancer Care Advisory Circle 6pm-8pm AB	20	21 LongHouse Social 6pm potluck Hide Tanning Workshop 8am AB
22 Hide Tanning Workshop 8am AB	23 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC	24 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC Faith Circle 7 pm CC	25 Tutoring 3:30-5:30 CC Chair Exercise 10am-1pm AB	26 Community Kitchen 11am- 12:30pm AB	27	28 Wellness Series #3 9am-3pm CC
29	30 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC Colouring 1pm- 3pm AB	31 Afterschool Program (3:30- 5:30)CC Faith Circle 7 pm CC				

# Chief and Council Update for September

## Chief Philip Franks

This month we welcomed Senior Administrator Murray Maracle into the organization beginning September 11. Murray comes with management and policy experience and we are looking forward to him applying his expertise as he learns our administrative structure and the many files we have on the go in all areas. In addition, Sue Tait, Cultural Healing Centre Coordinator is also working to develop the new programs dealing with Family Wellness and how it will integrate into our Health, Social and Cultural programming. Please welcome both of them on board, they are keen to learn about our community so they can successfully carry out their tasks.

Through the last of August and into September Council has met regularly on many topics. Councillors Commandant, Schell, and myself attended the Iroquois Caucus. Council has been involved in the hunting issue where Akwesasne hunters who had local permission were charged by the New Brunswick government for harvesting moose. This is an issue that could affect all of our rights on traditional hunting lands. Councillor Commandant will lead the Ontario section of the Caucus Hunting working group and speak with the Mohawk Nation on their views. The Caucus also heard two presentations on Cannabis from member communities, as well as the Ontario government on its project to retail cannabis.

At home, the planned meeting with Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation took place. The minister and his party were given a tour of our community, learning some of our history along the way, as well as the issues we face looking forward to the future. Discussions centred on how we might develop highway property. The Minister did commit to helping facilitate development once we have a plan in place. Meanwhile the Ministry has funded a feasibility study for the ICG drive and Hwy 400 area through the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund, this will start in the coming months.

We have been having regular Additions to Reserve process meetings on our land claim lands. This is a lengthy process and will take a couple of years at least partly due to items such as land surveys having to be redone, the environmental assessments are now stale dated, permits, easements and many more items that needs to be resolved. The 2014-17 Council determined that attempting to renegotiate the land claim settlement was not a possibility so the work is being carried out to have those lands to be returned to reserve status.

We continue to host community meetings on the issue of what our membership should look like, therefore, what our community wants to be in the future. We are continuing to discuss different ways to be able to reach out to all members. This membership consultation plan will be brought forward soon.

Another basic governance issue is to review our election regulations. A legal opinion on the current one shows there are areas that need to be looked at in more detail, the full review will be available in the next few weeks. It is hoped to have something in place well prior to the next election keeping in mind the consultation process with members, acceptance procedure and filing to INAC. Wahta is what was called a Band Custom Election community having opted into that Indian Affairs designation back in the late 1970s. At that time, off reserve members votes were accepted and the term of office was extended to three years.

Dealing with community capital projects such as housing and water Council will be meeting with our engineering firms for progress reports. Availability of lands, housing, and clean water members continue to be in Council's strategic planning.

On the issue of community safety Council has arranged to meet with the District of Muskoka regarding Muskoka Rd. 38. On the agenda will be the calming of traffic, possible shoulder widening, vegetation management, community safety zone, signage, and general long term planning for the road. Community members are concerned about the number of cars and speeding through our community. The incidence of people going off the road seems to be increasing and these drivers go too fast without knowledge of what is ahead. As part of community safety we will also meet with the Ontario Provincial Police to review and renew our relations with that police force.

Council will be hearing from Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services based out of Hiawatha. This will be to gather information so that we can consult with people here about whether we want to opt out of the service being delivered by the local CAS and accept service from this Indigenous run agency. The Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag should have provincial designation as a full service early next year. Indications are that if we opt in there will be social workers hired and based either in Wahta, or nearby. The approaches from these service workers are based on the fact that Indigenous workers have life experience on First Nations and are specially trained.

At this time there are two by laws being worked on. The first is an improved by law on hunting and fishing. The current one is very archaic having been developed in the 1970s. A wider encompassing one will allow us to consider traditional hunting practices. One issue many First Nations are experiencing is how to allow other Indigenous persons to hunt in the traditional areas and still manage the natural population.

The other bylaw will deal with trespass in general and consider designation of public areas in the community as well. The latest issues community members have faced is having verbal contracts over property and then not being able to reclaim their residences from those who are living there. First, always ensure you have legal contracts in place so this doesn't occur. The bylaw would give some enforcement measure to the issues if mediation does not work. For non members the bylaw would be added strength to our Residency code.

These have been some of the items currently being attended to by Council. Please plan to attend September 30 for the General Meeting. Once again if there are questions or comments you have don't hesitate to contact the Council office or your Council members.

Nia:wen

## *June 21, 2017 Council Weekly Meeting Summary*

**Date: Thurs June 21, 2017 (not included in last month's newsletter)**

### **In Attendance:**

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

### **Agenda:**

**06.21.01 - LHIN Health Hub Update** – Council met with Community Health Hub Executive Director, Shelly van den Heuvel of Family Cottage Country Health Team. They spoke about how the health hubs are doing in general, challenges that have arisen and indicated they would like to see more communication as well as adding more information in the newsletter.

**06.21.02 - General Meeting Agenda Approval and set next date** – Issues discussed items set at housing – Negan Burnside, Ryan DeCaire (Language Revitalization Strategy. Mohawk Language Dictionary, Community Garden), Economic Development Update, McMaster Lake, Wahta Trust. Next general meeting date set for September 30, 2017.

**06.21.03 - Videotape meetings** – The general meeting on June 24, 2017 will be videotaped. Videotaping of monthly council meetings was discussed and may be implemented, only council members would be on camera but audio will be of all participants.

**06.21.04 - Research Project.** A professor from the University of Waterloo would like to do a research project to record the history of ICG and its original formation and various stories and historical factors. It is fully funded by the University.

### **Motions:**

**06.21.05 - Cultural Centre Fees** - Motion to forgo any rental cost of the Cultural Centre for community events. Private events and policy adhering to the Cultural Healing Centre Guiding Principles will be drafted by the Family Wellness Coordinator. Carried by consensus.

## *July 2017 Council Weekly Meeting Summaries*

### **Council Weekly Meeting Summary - Wed July 5, 2017**

### **In Attendance:**

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

### **Agenda:**

**07.05.01 Northstar Medical Cannabis** – Met with Northstar to discuss the possibility of a licensed facility on territory. A partnership was discussed providing a land lease and revenue sharing. Needs further consultation and legal review. Will discuss at next community meeting and general meeting.

**07.05.02 Poverty Reduction Fund** – Council has endorsed the project work plan for the Poverty Reduction Fund. This fund will focus on a Women with children support group.

It will provide supports for Mothers and children in areas in need, removing barriers for mothers so they can provide for their children, preparing and building confidence for mothers entering the workforce. Ensuring children are provided with programs and supports for a healthy successful childhood. Nutrition baskets, Financial assistance for children's back to school clothing (winter coats, boot, hat, mitts etc.), financial assistance for holidays (toys, food), life skills work shops, money management, self esteem, cooking, sewing, budgeting.

**Next meeting:** Wed July 12, 2017

### **Council Weekly Meeting Summary – July 12, 2017**

#### **In Attendance:**

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

#### **Agenda:**

**07.12.01 CAS Protocol Meeting Jay Herbert/CAS** – Reviewed CAS protocol with legal, made changes to better reflect the rights of Indigenous children. Other items or review included the local Police policy, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services option as well as developing our own plan of care with the local customary care homes available when needed. CAS will be reviewing our protocol and notifying us of any concerns, once completed signing will take place.

**07.12.02 Brushing Contract Review** – Draw will be held at public meeting July 25, 2017. 10 contracts are available, a total of 31 applicants have entered the draw. As with all past contracts 50% of total amount is awarded for brushing contracts, therefore each contractor will be paid \$1,389.83 per kilometre of line brushed. Each contract will consist of 3 kilometers so the approximate contract will be for \$4,169.50 total for each contractor.

Once the contracts have been awarded a meeting with all the contractors and Hydro One will be organized prior to the commencement of any work. Safety training attendance is mandatory for contractors.

**07.12.03 Iworq Software** – Training is now underway for this software to provide and ongoing inventory of Wahta Owned Houses Construction Date, Size, Well Depth, map coordinates etc. It will also include Wahta Assets, Physical Plant Assets (such as HVAC, plumbing), Roads and Roads Assets (such as a particular road, a culvert, a sign). This will allow us to do inventories of assets and know where they are located (it will also involve numbering all rooms in buildings). Access Control (mainly keys) will be tracked with a record of who has what keys, fobs and cards. The final aspect of implementation is Work Management. It will allow us to create Work Orders for things from cleaning bathrooms to plowing snow. The Work Order component will include what machinery we are using and the human resources used for the task.

**07.12.04 Meals on Wheels** – A survey was done indicating that the seniors were happy with the meals made from a local restaurant as opposed to made from the band hall. It will be closely monitored to see if they are consistent with what they offer. The cost is within budget.

**07.12.05 Housing Policy** – Reviewed the Housing Policy Subsidy Application. This policy is intended for renovations or construction of homes and not for home purchases. The FNMHF (First Nation Market Housing Fund) will provide access to financing a home and larger renovations.

**07.12.06 Election Regulations Review Motion** – Motion required by Attorney Alisa Lombard, newly employed at Maurice Law. See motion below.

**07.12.07 Language Revitalization** – General discussion with Ryan DeCaire on the objectives of the language revitalization project, barriers to language, community history of language and possible steps moving forward.

#### **Motions:**

**07.12.06** – Motion to approve the legal review of the Wahta Mohawk election regulations carried out by Attorney Alisa Lombard at a cost of approx. \$5000. Carried by consensus

**Next meeting:** Wed July 19, 2017

### **Council Weekly Meeting Summary – July 19, 2017**

#### **In Attendance:**

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

#### **Agenda:**

**07.19.01 Scotiabank** – Met with Scotiabank representatives to discuss the Wahta Trust interest payments that come back to Wahta. Currently short term GIC options are not a great deal higher than current interest rates. They proposed a new investment portfolio with ease of liquidity if money is needed for infrastructure or capital projects or trust projects. We will also speak with the TD Bank on this as well.

**07.19.02 ATR Hwy Permit** – Send highway permit to Falls Law for legal review for Additions to reserve process currently underway.

**07.19.03 FNMHF Market Based Housing Policy Approval** - The FNMHF (First Nation Market Housing Fund) Housing Policy is approved in principle. The council resolution requires more specific wording, signing will be deferred.

**07.19.04 Sovereign Wealth Fund** – Hydro is selling shares to First Nations to sell off part of hydro. An Ontario wide agreement was presented to Chiefs of Ontario, the sign on cut off date is early 2018. Hydro requires 80% of First Nations to sign on. No money required up front but shares must be paid back and returns are not expected for some years.

**07.19.05 Membership Review Meetings** – Inquire if Alisa Lombard is available for meeting with the community on the legal review of the membership code. Start community meetings in September.

**07.19.06 Hunting and Fishing** – Iroquois Caucus is requesting financial assistance to help with a hunting and fishing case in Akwesasne currently in the courts. They have formed a harvesting committee to deal with this issue specifically and are requesting a meeting with the Chiefs for further discussion. Further information is needed for decision on financial contribution.

**Next meeting:** Wed July 26, 2017

**July 2017 Council Public Meeting Minutes**

**Date: July 25, 2017**

**Present:** Chief Franks, Councillor Schell, Councillor Commandant, Councillor 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 Commandant, Seconded by Councillor Schell. Carried.

**Adoption of Minutes of June 27, 2017:** Moved by Councillor Strength-Fenton Seconded by Councillor Commandant. Carried.

**New Business:**

- **Hydro Brushing Draw** – Scott Aubichon Lands Manager conducted a lottery for the Hydro brush cutting along the distribution lines, the total value of the contract is \$91 000. There is 30 km of brush each contract is 3km in length for a total of 10 contracts at \$4200 each. If your name is chosen you are responsible and must be on site at all times, if you have people helping you, the contract will still be in your name and you are responsible for the safety of the workers. The draw was held randomly, all names were called and assigned a number from 1-31. Only the first 10 people will be contacted, if anyone opts out then their slot will go to #11 and so on.



- **iWork Software Database** – This software will initially have details about Wahta owned houses with information such as construction date, size, well depth etc. It will also include coordinates so a house can be mapped.

We will then add Wahta assets, physical plant assets (such as HVAC, plumbing), roads and roads assets and all other band owned equipment.

This will help with budgeting purposes so we will have an idea of what is required from year to year. This could eventually expand to private homes on reserve in terms of budgeting for renovation dollars for things such as septic systems etc. All data is kept in the cloud.

- **Hydro Sovereign Wealth Fund** – Hydro is selling shares to First Nations to sell off part of hydro. An Ontario wide agreement was presented to Chiefs of Ontario, the sign on cut off date is early 2018. Hydro requires 80% of First Nations to sign on. It must be looked at in more detail, no money up front but shares must be paid back and returns are not expected for some years. It is not tied to hydro delivery charges on reserve.

- **Meals on Wheels Survey** – 8 Survey recipients indicated that the elders were happy with the Hook and Ladder. This will continue to be monitored, if there are complaints it is best to speak with Amy first. Other options are available if needed, Amy will follow up with everyone to check on the consistency and quality.

- **Northstar** – An opportunity to partner with Northstar has been presented to council. They would like to apply for a license and propose a revenue sharing option and land lease deal. Demand is higher than supply, licensing times are quicker now especially for First Nation communities. Step one is to provide a letter of interest and then work on a Memorandum of Understanding. Any deal would be vetted legally with the community consultation process to follow. Tim Thompson stated that the credentials of the company and people involved be looked at.

Olivia Franks asked if it is healthy for the community to have people selling marijuana on reserve, at this point it is farming and pharmaceutical wholesaling, retailing is not yet determined. Shirley Hay commented that any potential deal include a certain percentage of profits go specifically to culture. More information will be forthcoming.

- **Scotiabank Update** – There is currently a balance of \$1.9 million in interest gained through the trust that is turned over to a separate Wahta Mohawks TD account. The trust cannot hold that money and maintain it as tax free. We are looking at ways to get a better return, the level of interest sitting in the account is approx. 2% roughly the same return as a GIC. It must be a cautious and balanced portfolio. Chief and Council will meet with TD representatives on this portfolio.

- **Enaahtig Healing Lodge** – Shirley Hay would like to be a board member for Enaahtig Healing Lodge. There is a vacancy for a Wahta Mohawk member. The letter that outlines the responsibility of a Board member can be put in the newsletter. Chief and Council will support interested candidates.

### **Old Business/ Follow-up:**

- **CAS Protocol Meeting Update** – Chief and Council met with Simcoe Muskoka Family Connections to discuss the protocol. They are currently going through many changes and disbanding the aboriginal unit and encouraging us to join the Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services. Service delivery being so far away out of Hiawatha could be an issue, once we meet with them more information will be forthcoming. We had a legal review of the protocol and specific ways to strengthen the protocol were recommended. They are supposed to tell us when they are coming onto territory, which has not always been the case, the new protocol outlines this clearly. One other recommendation was to set up customary care homes, in which homes in the community become qualified to be used instead of taking children off reserve, these homes including kinship care should be adequately compensated.
- **Membership Code Meetings** – Meetings will soon commence this fall for citizenship review. The legal review of the Membership code has been completed and released for members review. Election regulations will also be legally reviewed.

### **July Motion Summary:**

**07.12.06** – Motion to approve the legal review of the Wahta Mohawk election regulations carried out by Attorney Alisa Lombard at a cost of approx. \$5000. Carried by consensus

### **Questions/Comments:**

Rama – A meeting has been scheduled with Dan Shilling from Rama to discuss land in Port Carling. It as suggested that the land be cleaned up, the grass is very tall and the area is unkept.

Irma White was asking about the Policy development for the Long Term Care project. Chief Franks stated that we are not at that stage yet.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 29, 2017 \*changed to Sept 5, 2017.

**Adjournment**

**Closing**



She:kon,

My name is Murray Maracle and I am a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, which is where I was also fortunate enough to grow up. I now reside in Orillia with my wife and young son.

My educational background is in law, with B.A. (Law) from Carleton University and a LL.B. from Queen's University. Since finishing my studies, I have spent my entire career working with, and for, First Nations and bring a diverse set of professional experiences to the role of Senior Administrator, which include:

- Working as a Senior Policy Advisor with Indigenous Affairs' headquarters in the areas of social program reform, professional and institutional development, matrimonial real property, intergovernmental relations, and community infrastructure;
- Serving as a Health Policy Analyst and then Health Director with the Union of Ontario Indians, where I also served as a Senior Advisor to the Grand Council Chief on the issue of matrimonial real property;
- Overseeing the development of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island's Consultation Office as their Community Consultation Coordinator;
- Working with First Nation communities in south-western and north-western Ontario as a Senior Manager in First Nation and Métis Relations with Hydro One; and
- Most recently working as the Director of Policy and Communications for the most populated First Nation in Canada, Six Nations of the Grand River.

## Senior Administrator

I am both excited and very honoured to have been given the opportunity to work for Wahta as its Senior Administrator.

Nia:wen,

Murray



Sue Tait has recently been hired as the Family Wellness Coordinator and will be housed in the newly completed Cultural Healing and Wellness Centre. Sue has a Bachelor Arts in Social Welfare, a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts and English, and a Human Services Counselling Diploma. She has experience coordinating, developing and leading community programs that promote the wellbeing of communities including healthy living, arts and culture and social entrepreneurship. She has worked with a variety of indigenous organizations and is married with 6 children residing in Bracebridge. She spends her spare time painting, hiking and enjoying nature. She is seeking input into what the community would like to see offered in the Cultural Centre and welcomes you to stop by to introduce yourself and meet her.

## Family Wellness Coordinator

JOB DESCRIPTION

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PROGRAM AREA: Administration

POSITION TITLE: Librarian Part-Time

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REPORTING PROTOCOL: REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

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POSITION SUMMARY: Reporting directly to the Senior Administrator, the Librarian is responsible for tasks and activities including communicating with citizens, staff, and others in a timely and efficient manner and for applicable administrative functions for Library programs and services as required.

**Primary Duties:**

- Maintain inventory of the library and place orders for supplies, ensuring appropriate and accurate allocation to cost centres as required.
- Maintain and organize the library, filing and data entry.
- Library programming and services.
- Reporting, documentation as required.
- Update and maintain entry bulletin board.
- Must maintain confidentiality as required and ensure all information is handled in a manner that ensures complete confidentiality, and must be professional in conduct, work ethics and actions at all times.
- Operates in accordance with and ensures compliance to the Wahta Mohawks Administrative, Finance, Personnel and program policies and procedures as may be updated and amended from time to time.
- Other duties/tasks/responsibilities as required and as assigned.

**EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Post Secondary diploma in Office/Systems Administration or other related field required or a minimum Grade 12 with two (2) years work experience in a similar or related position with a proven demonstration of skills.
- Must be knowledgeable, including mandatory training/upgrading

**Skills required:**

- Must have the ability to work in and contribute to a team environment.
- Must have a proficient level of communication skills, verbal and written, and be comfortable dealing with the public.
- Must possess a proficient level of organizational and time-management skills.
- Must have a proficient level of computer skills in areas suitable to the requirements of the position.
- Must be willing to work flexible hours including evening and weekend hours based on the needs of the tasks and activities assigned by the Senior Administrator.
- Must have the capacity to take initiative and to multi-task at times to accomplish the tasks and activities assigned.
- A knowledge and understanding of the community environment and culture is an asset.
- Must possess a current and valid Driver's License and dependable vehicle.

Required to submit a CPIC (Criminal records check).

## ***Peace Process October Meetings***

Wahta's Peacemaking Process has begun the next steps of development. The new Council has approved that we initiate the next steps that was proposed and introduced to the community through numerous community meetings, telephone conversations, meetings with community members and 2 conferences held over this past year. The information that was shared with us through these sessions was recorded and shared back with the community members in written form through further community meetings, newsletter publications and on the Wahta website. It is from this information that we have identified that a significant portion of the Wahta community would like us to continue to develop a process for further dialogue of important topics that need to be discussed until agreement is reached about how the community wishes to proceed on these matters.

The vision at this point is to create a forum that will facilitate open, inclusive and transparent dialogue between community members that will enable full consideration of diverse opinions that can lead to agreed upon positions that represent the best interests of the Wahta community. As community members, you are invited to attend the gatherings of the circle.

**Community talks are continuing, please join us Friday October 6 and Saturday October 7**

**10am to 4pm**

Everyone Welcome!

Ed Connors and Kevin Deer

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## **Longhouse Socials**

Join us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at 6pm for a Potluck social at the longhouse.

Songs, dances and social interaction with community members and guests!

This is an alcohol and drug free event. Please join us!

2591 Muskoka Rd. 38



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## **Johnston Cranberry Marsh Hiring**

Johnston Cranberry Marsh is hiring for their harvest season. Employment Available immediately.

Please call 705-762-3203 to inquire

# CHIEFS OF ONTARIO



First Nation Communities in Ontario,

RE: BACK TO SCHOOL 2017-18

Dear Chief and Council, Education Directors, Parents/  
Guardians/Caregivers and Learners,

The purpose of this brief communication is to wish everyone the best for continued success as we embark on a new school year. We would also like to take this opportunity to keep everyone apprised of the wide variety of exciting and productive lifelong learning initiatives underway. As you know, the Chiefs of Ontario takes action on the mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly and we have many mandates that pertain to the lifelong learning continuum. We will not be able to provide in-depth information on every activity in this short letter; however, we encourage you to visit the Education Portal on the Chiefs of Ontario website at <http://education.chiefs-ofontario.org/> to obtain further details.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission continue to guide the evolution of our relationship with the settler governments in a positive way. First Nations control of First Nations education is a founding principle of the evolving relationship and is a stated and fundamental goal of all activities underway. As First Nations, we are adamant that all education initiatives, inclusive of design, development; implementation and evaluation of all projects, programs, policies and legislation are led by First Nations. Although the present circumstances do not always allow for this type of partnership relationship, we continue to strive to make this the standard way of addressing challenges and barriers.

The following is a brief list of current activity underway. We encourage you to explore them more fully and get involved to ensure we meet the unique and diverse needs of our learners in the most appropriate way to ensure success for our people, communities and nations.

## National Joint Collaboration

- Joint Task Team on writing a Memorandum to Cabinet this fall to “unlock” funding to support K-12 education at the community level;
- Joint Task Team on Funding Mechanisms to jointly discuss and elaborate on options for regionally-based fiscal frameworks and funding mechanisms for First Nations K-12 education;
- Joint Task Team on Statutory Funding to discuss and explore options on how to establish a statutory/legal guarantee of education funding for First Nations;
- Joint Task Team on Early Childhood Education which is sharing technical expertise and knowledge to create a report on ways to improve access to quality early childhood education for First Nations learners;
- Joint Task Team on Northern and Remote communities provides an opportunity for regional experts to discuss and make recommendations on educational concerns that are unique to northern and remote First Nation communities;
- First Nations Review of Federal Post-Secondary Education Programming to determine policy and funding changes to best meet First Nations needs based on inherent and Treaty rights to education.

## Charting Our Own Path Forward

- The driving impetus for this initiative is a call by the Chiefs in Assembly for the development of recommendations on systems and a funding framework for education. There will be opportunities provided this year for grassroots and regional engagement on the development of these recommendations.
- Additional engagement areas for the purposes of making recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly include Post Secondary Education and Early Childhood Education.

## Special Education

- The Special Education Support Technicians have planned and are delivering several information sharing and professional development opportunities for First Nations including, a quarterly newsletter, three information sharing/professional development gatherings and several webinars.

## First Nations Lifelong Learning Table

- A bilateral process between First Nations and the province that includes grassroots and regional engagement on several priority areas jointly designed to address challenges and barriers associated with the education of First Nation learners in the provincial education system.
- The five overarching priority areas include:
  - ♦ Relationships
  - ♦ Language and Culture
  - ♦ Curriculum
  - ♦ Information, Access and Accountability
  - ♦ Policy Development

At the Chiefs of Ontario, we look forward to addressing challenges, issues and barriers on behalf of our learners to ensure they have opportunities to fulfil their educational aspirations. We will undertake all activities with a sense of moving towards full and complete control over lifelong learning while ensuring we work in full partnership with our federal and provincial counterparts as required. If you have any questions about any of the aforementioned activities or wish to discuss other areas pertaining to lifelong learning, please contact COO Director of Education,

Julia Candlish at [julia@coo.org](mailto:julia@coo.org) or 416 597-1266.

Best wishes for a successful year of learning,

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini Ontario Regional Chief



# **Preserving the Voice of our Language Keepers**

## **Wahta Mohawks Video Documentation Project**

### **Advisory Committee Required**

The Project requires an advisory committee to provide direction on the content of the video and language to be captured. The committee will assist in developing the questions to be asked of the first language speakers. The committee will also provide direction regarding written materials to be produced from the video.

If you are interested please contact Sue at the Cultural Healing Centre, she can be reached at 705-762- 3343 and by email [sue.tait@wahtamohawks.ca](mailto:sue.tait@wahtamohawks.ca).



### **Last call for Potential Development Corporation Directors**

We are looking for people who would be interested in sitting on a Board of Directors for our Development Corporation.

We are especially looking for members with either accounting or legal expertise.

If this sounds like you contact Lance DeCaire, 705-762-2354 ext 224 or email at:

[lance.decaire@wahtamohawks.ca](mailto:lance.decaire@wahtamohawks.ca)



### **Seeking Community Members to Joining Culture Healing Centre Committee**

We are seeking community members to join the Cultural Healing Centre Committee. This committee has done a great deal of work to date and is now moving forward to the implementation stage of program planning for the Centre. Meetings will be held starting in October and will require a commitment of a few hours per month.

If interested in joining the committee, please contact our New FWB coordinator, Sue Tait at 705 762 3343 or email her at [sue.tait@wahtamohawks.ca](mailto:sue.tait@wahtamohawks.ca)



# Snow Removal for Driveways

Dear Homeowner:

Once again this winter season, Wahta Mohawks will be providing snow removal on household driveways for the time period November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. To assist with the planning and billing for this years' service, we are asking that this form be completed and returned as soon as possible. The rate charged will depend upon the area of your driveway. Please contact Karen at the office to determine which rate that applies to you. We are pleased to advise that this service will continue free of charge for our senior residences.

If you would like to have this service for the winter season 2017/2018, please fill out the information below and deliver or mail it to the administration office. Only those who have completed and signed the form will receive this service. There will be no "as needed" service available.

Homeowner \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following for service delivery:

Snow blowing required:

Senior Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Community Residence \_\_\_\_\_

**It is the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure all objects are removed or marked clearly along the driveway area. All items should be at least 3 metres (10ft) from the snow removal area. Wahta Mohawks is not responsible for any damages under any circumstances and if damages do occur, no compensation will be paid. This service is provided at your own risk.**

Everyone including senior and community members must fill out this form and return to the administration office.

Please note any outstanding invoice from last season must be brought up to date before you will be added to this year's listing.

The billing of this service is generated at the end of every month.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.



## Join Our Newsletter Email!

In an effort to help save postage and paper costs, we would like to email the newsletter to as many members as possible. We are asking all members that have not registered their email address through the website portal to join the newsletter list, there are 2 ways to do so.

**2 ways to get your newsletter through email:**

**Register at [www.wahtamohawks.com/member-registration](http://www.wahtamohawks.com/member-registration)**

**Email us at [info@wahtamohawks.com](mailto:info@wahtamohawks.com)** and let us know you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you.

## Why Switch to Email

### Why should I opt in for Newsletters?

Help Save on Postage and Paper! With over 700 newsletters sent out each month it is a time constraint and costly procedure for staff every month. If you have an email address we would like to email you and save on time, paper and postage costs.

### When will I get the Newsletter?

Getting the newsletter online is usually faster than postage. We can email it once it is ready, no need to wait for snail mail.

### How else will my email address be used?

Your email address will not be shared with anyone and will only be used for newsletters and occasional communication regarding community updates.

# HEALTH

## Services

October 2017

- Community Shopping on Tuesday, October 3rd (Orillia) Bus leaves at 9am
- Healthy Living Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm. Wear Comfy Clothes!! Administration Building
- Drum Group Tuesday, Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-7:30pm Cultural Center
- Chair Exercise on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm Administration Building
- Pole Walking every Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-9:30...Administration Building
- Special Event for the Pole Walkers: Orillia Tuesday October 17th Bus Leaves at 8:30am
- Calendar Project 1pm-2:30pm Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> Administration Building
- Community Kitchen with Karma Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> Administration Building
- Wellness Series- Mary Anne Spencer Saturday, October 28th The Clans 9am-3pm Cultural Centre
- Foot Care Wednesday October 11th Administration Building

### **Save the Date: Cancer Screening and Prevention Luncheon!**

**When:** Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 to 12:30pm

**Where:** Cultural Centre

Did you know that about half of all cancers can be prevented by making healthy lifestyle choices? Join us for an interactive lunch and learn about cancer screening and prevention! Ryan Walsh from the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program will be discussing strategies to prevent cancer and how to access cancer screening services closer to home. Attendees will receive tips and tricks to make healthier choices as well as learn about ways to talk to others about prevention and screening.

### **Calendar Project** 1pm-2:30pm

Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Administration Building Calendar printed and ready for you to look over before they become available  
Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250 if you are interested or for more information

**Community Kitchen with Karma** Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> Administration Building – this “new to us” program provides a warm space that brings together people to learn, cook, and share nutritious and inexpensive meals. This program is designed to build food skills, increase social cohesion, and provide access to healthy food. Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250.

**Movement Therapy** Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am Administration Building - this “new to us” program combines dance and light movement for individuals looking to increase their balance, mobility, and strength. Movement therapy provides healing for the whole body and is naturally therapeutic due to the integration of the mind, body, and spirit. All are welcome.

**Community Shopping** Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Orillia) Bus leaves at 9am Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250 to book your seat.

**Muskoka Community Health Hub: Wahta Site** Community Forum Cultural Center

Date: Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 6:30pm.

**Healthy Living** Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm. Wear Comfy Clothes!! Administration Building Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250 if you are interested in attending.

**Patient and Family Advisory Circle – Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program**

**When:** Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> – 6pm to 8pm

**Where:** Administration Building (location change)

Have you, or a close family member, received treatment from the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program (SMRCP)? Wahta Health Services and the SMRCP are hosting an Indigenous Patient and Family Advisory Circle to gather feedback on experiences with cancer care for Indigenous Patients. Anyone who has received treatment, or is a close family member of someone, who has received treatment, is encouraged to come and share their experiences. A visual facilitator will draw the conversation as it happens. Information gathered will be used to improve cancer care services for Indigenous patients and families.

**Special Event for the Pole Walkers:** Orillia - Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> Bus leaves at 8:30am Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250 to book your seat.

**Drum Group** Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-7:30pm Cultural Center \*newcomers welcome  
\*drum not required

**Chair Exercise** Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 10am-1pm Administration Building

Contact Christine at 705-762-2354 x273 or Sherry x250 if you are interested

**Colouring** Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> Administration Building 1pm-3pm



## **Moving Forward**

### **An Update**

#### **Our final Wellness Series Installment**

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> The Clans**

**Mary Anne Spencer**

The Wellness Series continues 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.

Participants noted last year...a connection was made...people were 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. This October session is the last available session to be eligible for the January conference. You will notice that we, due to late availability of the “mini-sessions” they are no longer required. Please show your interest.

Thank you

Wahta Mohawks Health Services

**Muskoka  
Community  
Health Hubs**

**WAHTA**

## **Community Engagement Session**

We invite all patients, potential patients, and others from the communities of Wahta, Bala, and the surrounding area to attend a community engagement and planning session.

We will provide an update about the Wahta Health Hub and give you a chance to have a voice in future planning for growth and sustainability.

Date: Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Place: Wahta Cultural Centre

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.





# Youth Paint Night

**What:** Join us after a meal for an evening out painting and having fun! Muskoka Artist Nancy Hunter will guide you step by step through the night's featured painting. No experience required!

**When:** Wednesday October 11, 2017

**Who:** Youth 12+

**Where:** Wahta Cultural Centre

**Time:** 5:30-8:00pm

## **RSVP**

Kara ext.227 or kara.wanothmee@wahtamohawks.ca





## 2- Day Hide Tanning Workshop

Hide Tanning is an important skill to learn – especially if you plan on hunting or trapping in the wilderness. Not only do you honor a fallen animal by preserving its hide, but the supple tanned hide can be used for many purposes from moccasins, to bags, to numerous other leather uses. This course will cover all the basic topics starting with skinning and fleshing, all the way through racking, scraping, and tanning.

Lecture material will be provided as well as hands on time with the hides teachings techniques and skills. All participants will go home with a section of the fully cured brain tanned hide.

**When:** Saturday October 21 & 22, 2017

**Time:** 8:00am-6:00pm both days

**Who:** All are welcome -max. 12 Participants

**Where:** Wahta Mohawks Public Works Building

All tools and materials will be provided. Just come prepared with clothing to spend a weekend in the outdoors, bring a lunch, and a notebook & pen to take notes.

Water and Snacks will be provided!

Please RSVP Kara ext. 227

# Beginner Fitness

Come get FIT physically, mentally, & spiritually.

Oct.19, 2017 & Nov.2, 2017



Held at the Cultural Healing Centre

**All are welcome to come out and enjoy a fitness class within our community!**

**Instructor: Melanie Sanford -Maracle** from Tyendinaga, Mohawk of the Bay of Quinte. (birthplace of the Peacemaker.) Melanie is certified with the Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology (CSEP) as a Personal Trainer and Honoured with 10 years of Service with the Government of Canada in the Canadian Forces as a Fitness, Sports and Combat Instructor.

**RSVP**

**Kara 705-762-2354**

**A Partnership with Wahta Mohawks  
& the Parry Sound Friendship Centre**

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“Aboriginal Healthy Living Program Coordinator” **Melanie Sanford -Maracle** from Tyendinaga,



# WARRIOR

## MILITARY FITNESS TRAINING PROGRAM

This Fitness Training is for all fitness levels.

Each exercise will offer two intensity levels (easy & hard)

**Nov. 23, 2017, & Nov 30 2017 5:00-6:00pm**

*"Exercise is Medicine"*

*"Aboriginal  
Healthy Living Pro-  
gram Coordinator"*

**Melanie Sanford -  
Maracle** from Tyendinaga,

Mohawk of the Bay of  
Quinte. (birthplace of the  
Peacemaker.) Melanie is  
certified with the Canadi-  
an Society of Exercise  
Physiology (CSEP) as a  
Personal Trainer and  
Honoured with 10 years of  
Service with the Govern-  
ment of Canada in the Ca-  
nadian Forces as a Fitness,  
Sports and Combat In-  
structor.



**Held at the Cultural Healing Centre**

**RSVP**

**Kara**

**Phone: 705-762-2354 ext. 227**

**[kara.wanothmee@wahtamohawks.ca](mailto:kara.wanothmee@wahtamohawks.ca)**

**A Partnership with  
Wahta & the Parry  
Sound Friendship  
Centre**



**Parry Sound Friendship  
Centre**

**13 Bowes Street , Parry  
sound**

**(705)746-5970**

# Kagita Mikam Employment & Training

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 Subsidy, 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 at [kristal.berwick@wahtamohawks.ca](mailto:kristal.berwick@wahtamohawks.ca)



## Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

- ☒ Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts.
- ☒ Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk.
- ☒ Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents.
- ☒ Take steps to repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps.
- ☒ Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- ☒ Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.
- ☒ Have a professional inspect your heating system.
- ☒ Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep.
- ☒ Clean humidifier plates or pads to ensure efficient operation.
- ☒ If you have a gas-fired room heater, have it inspected by a pro. Also, perform any routine maintenance recommended by the maker.
- ☒ Wood stoves are making a comeback. To avoid a deadly situation, be sure to inspect yours before firing it up.
- ☒ A home safety check should be an annual ritual in every household. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards.



Here is why you should consider using LED lamps in your home.	LED	Compact Fluorescent	Incan-descent
Light bulb projected lifespan	50,000 hours	10,000 hours	1,200 hours
Watts per bulb (equiv. 60 watts)	10	14	60
Cost per bulb	\$35.95*	\$3.95	\$1.25
KWh of electricity used over 50,000 hours	500	700	3000
Cost of electricity (@ 0.10per KWh)	\$50	\$70	\$300
Bulbs needed for 50k hours of use	1	5	42
Equivalent 50k hours bulb expense	\$35.95	\$19.75	\$52.50
Total cost for 50k hours	\$85.75	\$89.75	\$352.50

## From the desk of the by-law coordinator:

Greetings everyone,

I have been working on meetings with the OMNR as of late. We have discussed many topics some of which I would like to discuss with all Wahta Band members who are hunters, anglers and trappers or are concerned with proposed changes to the hunting by-laws.

I am anticipating having an initial draft of the proposed new hunting by-law ready by September 20<sup>th</sup>. I will make available a copy of the proposed by-law available at the band office for anyone interested after that point. I would like to have a community consultation on the topic with all members who wish to discuss their concerns. The initial meeting will occur on October 5, 2017 at 6:30pm.

I hope we have a full room and look forward to meeting with all concerned parties.

Thank you for your time and hope to meet with you soon,

William Manary



### Status Cards

Rama First Nation has been assisting our members with renewing status cards. Unfortunately they can no longer do this.

As an alternative, renewing your status card can be done by mail. The forms are available online at [www.aadnc-aandc.gc.a](http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.a) or from the Wahta administration office. Assistance in completing the forms is also available at the Wahta office.

Please check the expiry date on your card, if you have one, as it could take a couple months to renew it by mail.

If you have any questions, please contact the administration office.

## Traditional Bean Supper

### Is looking for wild game meat to be donated

If you are interested in donating 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

"Services and faith circle will be starting back up in September.

Faith Circle will be meeting at 7pm at the cultural centre on Tuesday October 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st.

Church Service will be on October 8th at 11am

If you would like a visit or have any questions, please contact Pastor Derek at (705) 346-1858"

Our next church service will be October 8th at 11





# Batchewana Elders Conference 2017

Fun was had by all!!



## 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/ Administrative Assistant	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
Murray Maracle	Senior Administrator	Ext. 231
William Manary	By-Law Coordinator	Ext 242
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
Sue Tait	Wellness Coordinator	CHC
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](http://www.wahtamohawks.com)