

KANIENKEHA:KA



WAHTA MOHAWKS



2014-2015 **REPORT TO MEMBERS**

*Cultural Renewal and Healing*



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## Message from Chief and Council

On behalf of Council, I am pleased that we can provide you with this Members Report for our first year as a council. Prepared by the Administration staff, this report gives you a glimpse into the highlights of what has transpired over the year.

There were impediments during the first half of the year in instituting full progress, however, Council did formulate a strategy for dealing with the issues of the Wahta Mohawks. This plan considered the people, governance, the lands, and economic development.

The very pressing issue of Iroquois Cranberry Growers and whether it should be rejuvenated, as well as how it could be, was one of the first considerations. Council decided that certain actions could be undertaken to give new life to the farm. This is more of a long term commitment and Council monitors that progress regularly. The process includes increasing revenue and ridding ourselves of the financial burden of keeping unsold frozen berries from years past.

Council has strived to ensure administration, programs, and services are accessible and welcoming to the membership, and that there be increased communication and accountability to the membership. In this area there is always room for improvement and we continue to address that.

In ensuring financial accountability and best practices we are pleased that we were able to lower costs in many of the administration areas while still providing the necessary services that the organization is responsible for. Please look further in this report for detail on this.

On the issue of governance we still look forward to progress in the second year of this term, and that will include a very hard look at how our membership is formed and maintained. The existing membership code certainly has posed a few problems in its current form while living through many councils with varying values as well as changing federal legislations through the Indian Act. We welcome all members' participation when this review begins. This will pave the way to begin the other areas of codes dealing with governance, including the issues of residence raised by the Matrimonial Real Property act delivered by the federal government.

Council continues to attend meetings of the Iroquois Caucus where information on intergovernmental affairs is discussed and plans of action drawn up. Similarly Council has renewed a more active role with the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, fulfilling our responsibility as members of that organization.

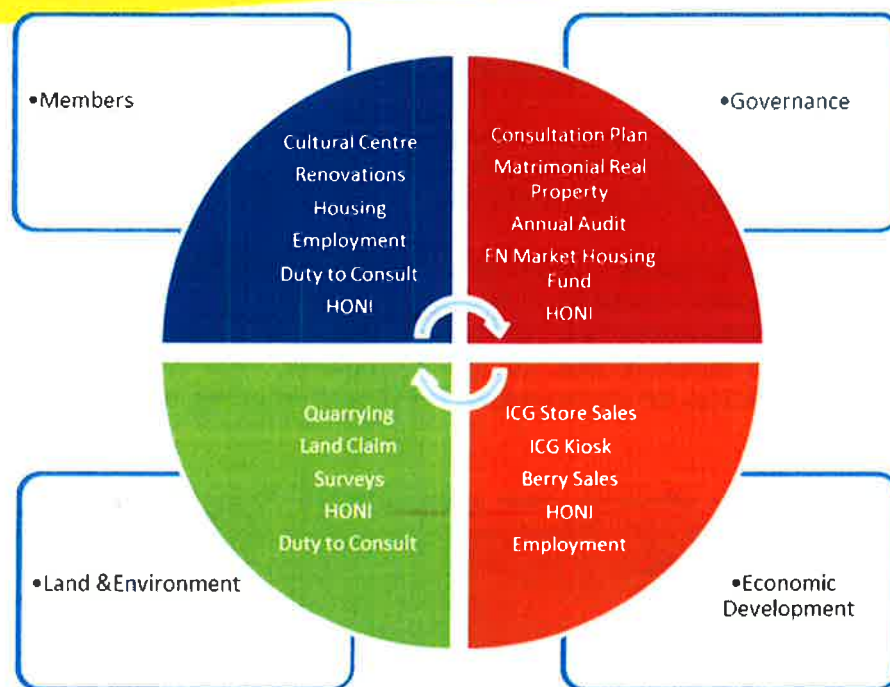
I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Wahta Mohawks staff in all areas for working toward a better community and to a brighter future. The staff have encountered change and difficulty in their work environment but still carry on. To the membership, Council extends gratitude for your participation and hope to see more of that as opportunities arise.

Please enjoy the Members Report and do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information and programs or issues.

*Regards, Chief Philip Franks and the Wahta Mohawk Council.*



# Key Accomplishments



## Council Supported Initiatives

- ✓Land Claim Contingency Agreement
- ✓Insurance: Costs reduced to \$47,302 versus \$55,710 in 2014
- ✓Hiking Trail: ICG Application for \$10,000
- ✓Brushing: \$320,000 contracted to Members, reflecting an increased rate per acre as well as increased acreage
- ✓Student Nutrition: Grab and Go Program 2017/18
- ✓Quarrying: 25,000 tonnes of gravel crushed for Territory roads
- ✓Grant Proposal for \$70,375: Prescription Drug Abuse, Healing through Culture
- ✓FNMHF – Capacity Development/ Community Comprehensive Planning Study – Market Based Funding
- ✓Membership – Recognize Non-Native Women with Status, through marriage as 100% Blood Quantum, for the purpose of determining citizenship
- ✓Governance Strategic Plan and Capacity Development
- ✓Rogers Tower- Permit investigation into 100 Meter Tower to improve Territory connectivity.
- ✓Wahta Mohawks Community Online Language Revitalization Strategy – Connecting Our Past With Our Future
- ✓Wahta Nursing Station Proposal to Wahta Mohawks Trust for renovations
- ✓Corda Application: Forestry Inventory
- ✓ICG Investment: \$250,000 with Algoma Orchards for juicing

# Political & Legal Update

Akwesáhsne, Kahnawà:ke, Kahnésatá:ke, Oneida of the Thames, Six Nations of the Grand River, Tyendinaga, and Wahta are communities of the Iroquois Confederacy. Although separated by distance, we recognize that we are one People who share a common Identity, common responsibilities and our own system of Law and Government.

We have come together as the "Iroquois Caucus" where we can discuss our shared issues and concerns, come to be of one mind and speak with one voice. Together, we develop consensus-based positions, formulate nation-based strategies and seek solutions beneficial to our people. As members of the Iroquois Caucus Wahta Mohawks are involved or represented in a number of political meetings and initiatives some of which include the following:

Confederacy of Nations meetings  
World Conference on Indigenous People  
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
Language Summit  
Algonquin Land Claim AIP  
IC Free Trade MOU Update

Tobacco-Bill C10  
Taxation Summit  
Border Security/Crossing  
Education Summit  
Economic Summit  
IC Consultation Policy

Wahta are also members of and attend other national and regional political organization such as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI).

These political groups have a mandate to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional, national, and international matters affecting the First Nations people of Ontario. They represent First Nations in the areas such as Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, Social Services, Youth, and Justice.

## A Message from the Senior Administrator

I am proud to report that over the last year the staff and Council of Wahta Mohawks have become a strong, supportive, and cohesive group that have withstood the challenges and continue to build on the opportunities that have presented themselves over the past number of months. People are our strongest and most important resource in this organization, and we have and will continue to invest in every person possible, so we are all at a place where we are healthy, satisfied employees serving the members and residents of Wahta to the best of our abilities. As you will read in this Members Report, the past year was very busy and productive and we look forward to carrying out a number of projects this year that are now just in the planning stages.



Karen Commandant



# BUILD, STRENGTHEN

## WELLNESS CONFERENCE

### OUR COMMUNITY, OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS HEALING

In January 2015 we gathered for a Health and Wellness Retreat with Jane Middleton Moz, internationally known speaker and author with over thirty-five years of experience in consultation, training and community intervention and has been awarded the distinction and title of "Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada." Ms. Middleton-Moz lead us through a participant driven journey workshop

so that we may begin to understand the effects of generational trauma, and validation so that healing can begin. Through this process individuals, families and communities can begin a process of empowerment and recovery. There were 65 participants that attended the workshop, of those, 42 people signed a pledge to make a vested interest in Wahta by becoming agents of change in our community.

#### AIAI

#### ELDERS CONFERENCE

IN AUGUST 2015, WAHTA MOHAWKS HOSTED THE AIAI ANNUAL ELDERS CONFERENCE. THERE WERE 130 ELDERS THAT ATTENDED. IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT AND RECEIVED POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

## health services highlights of 2014-2015

#### NIHB

**Total number of registered members that utilized these services.**

- 350 Distinct Claimants for Pharmacy
- 60 Distinct Claimants for Medical Supplies and Equipment



# AND SUSTAIN

## THE YOUTH OF WAHTA

### Longhouse After School Program

- An average of 12 children attended this program
- Provided 24 hours of language, dance, song, stories, traditional foods and culture
- Additionally 8 children had the opportunity to celebrate their first ever Maple Ceremony



**ENGAGING  
THE WAHTA  
CHILDREN,  
CREATING  
POSITIVE  
CHANGE**

### After School Program

- An average of 12 children attended this program
- 260.5 hours of literacy, numeracy, play, games, art and outdoor activities are provided while encouraging leadership, cooperation and fun!

### Parent and Youth Conference

There were 36 participants (parents & children) that gathered for a workshop on self-esteem building, internet safety, FASD. The parents worked on "SELF-ESTEEM TREES" with words of praise to help build healthy confident children.



### HOME MAKERS

- New Policies and Procedures to assure compliance to the Ministry of Health and LTC
- From March 31st, 2014 – August 31st 2015 we have provided 1529 hours of service.



### MEALS ON WHEELS

- We are currently serving 14 seniors in our community with healthy meals every Thursday.



### VOLUNTEER

### TRANSPORTATION

- The Canadian Red Cross provides transportation to our members for medical appointments



# Technology at work

CONNECTING YOU TO WAHTA



Wahta Mohawks have a new website with a calendar of events, information and employment opportunities to keep you connected. There is also a members only section where you will find the newsletters, MCR summaries and minutes from the Monthly Community Meetings along with other "member only" information. Please take a moment to register at [www.wahtamohawks.com](http://www.wahtamohawks.com) there is an area for comments or suggestions, let us know what you think!

The Wahta Mohawks Language Program is now delivered online through Adobe Connect and teleconferencing, with our language instructor. This technology allows us to deliver our virtual classroom to members that live off reserve and in the comfort of their own home. Classes are also available at the Administration Building on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING 2014/2015

- TRAINING, 6 STUDENTS, COMPLETED
- POST-SECONDARY, 9 STUDENTS COMPLETED THEIR PROGRAMS
- TARGET WAGE SUBSIDY, 3 PARTICIPANTS, ONGOING
- SUMMER STUDENT, EMPLOYMENT, 4 STUDENTS
- EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, 1 CLIENT
- POST-SECONDARY 2015/2016, 13 STUDENTS

## CONGRATULATIONS!

To all that **successfully participated in training, employment and education programs**

## WINTER & SUMMER TRADITIONAL KIDS CAMP

WAHTA SUCCESS!!!

14 Children of Wahta attended each camp to learn about our culture through song, drumming, dance, food, crafts and traditional teachings



Graduates from  
Canadore  
Entrepreneurial  
Training





## SMART BOARD

Recently Wahta acquired a Smart Board, an interactive whiteboard that operates as part of a system that includes an interactive whiteboard, a computer, a projector and whiteboarding software. This new technology will be a great asset to Wahta, it has many capabilities and will aid in teaching, training, conducting



ICG now has a new updated website.



You can now shop online for ICG Products!

[www.iroqoiuscranberrygrowers.com](http://www.iroqoiuscranberrygrowers.com)



Get Twitter Updates

@wahtamohawks

[twitter.com/wahtamohawks](https://twitter.com/wahtamohawks)

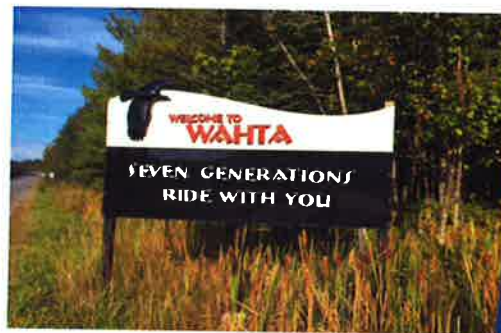


Register for Newsletters, Meeting Minutes and More Monthly Content  
[www.wahtamohawks.com](http://www.wahtamohawks.com)

## PUBLIC WORKS

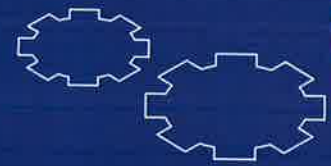
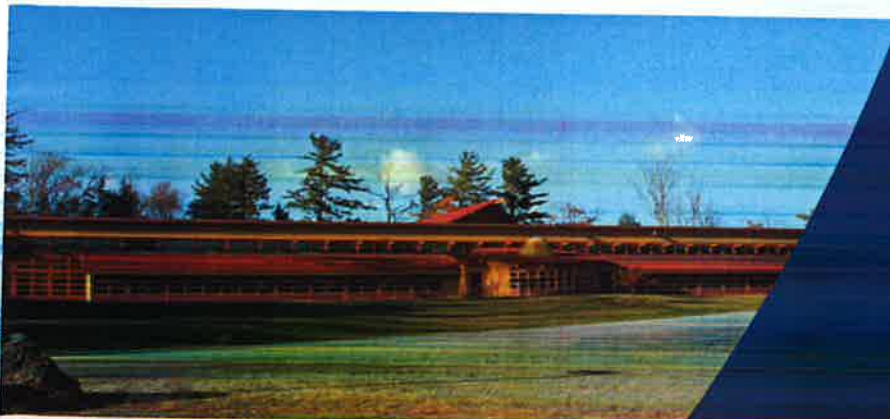
The Public Works Department is responsible for functions and services for the Wahta Mohawks Territory. Some of these services are;

- Road Maintenance
- Winter Road Maintenance
- Parking lot Maintenance
- Building Maintenance
- Weed Control
- Garbage Collections



## NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

- Septic Systems
- Water System
- Security System
- Parking lot lighting
- Renovations



## Summer Works

- 31 Clients for grass cutting
- 9 Wahta owned properties for grass cutting
- 14 km of road brushing
- 9 km of road and parking lot grading



## Winter Works

- 45 clients for driveway clearing
- 26 clients for walkway clearing
- 14 km of roads for plowing
- 7 km of roads for OPG contact
- 9 Wahta owned parking lots



## Annual Works

- Garbage Collection
- Landfill Operations
- Water Maintenance
- Maintaining outdoor lighting



# Cultural Healing Centre

In November 2014 a grant application was applied for and approved from the Ontario Trillium and Foundation for renovation dollars to create an identified need within the community; a cultural healing centre. The Wahta Mohawks Trust Fund also donated money to contribute to this project. In total \$440,700.00 is allocated toward construction for the building project. The Wahta Mohawks staff team have worked collaboratively from proposal writing to project management and construction of the building. The commitment and dedication shown by staff is appreciated as we bring this centre to reality.

A grand opening will occur in the near future and the date will be announced.

On August 26, 2015 the community gathered for a consultation meeting to discuss programming and possibilities related to programming at the cultural healing centre. We thank those who came out with a good mind to support the work involved in creating this centre and contributing to the program planning process. We have a great start to work from and we thank those who are committed to serve this centre through the Community Health and Cultural Healing Advisory Committee (CHCHAC).

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario

## Education

The students who reside on territory continue to prove to be strong students. Our commitment and philosophy in supporting our students holistically is demonstrated with family supports, individual and group tutoring and an annual celebration recognizing each student for their accomplishments. Providing cultural programming within community and the commitment from the local schools to provide cultural education promotes strong self-awareness and self-esteem. Our secondary school achievement levels have been remarkable, as our students not only graduate from secondary school but have graduated with honours over the last several years. Those students who have accessed post-secondary education funding through Wahta Mohawks have shown great success as well. Last year our success rate (students completing the year successfully and or graduating) was at 90%, 45 students were supported at a cost of \$367,488.41. We have students in a variety of post-secondary programs including health and social services, business, law, criminology, education, and psychology to name a few. We are very proud each year of the success we see in our youth.

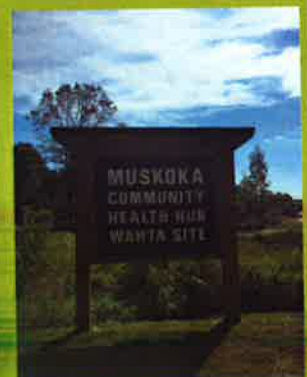
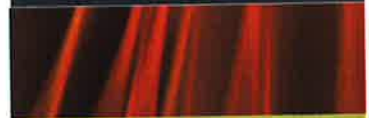
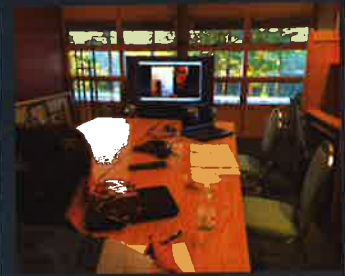




# Kanien'keha

## On line Language Program

We are excited to be involved in an on line language program. Our learning began August 25 and will continue for 30 weeks! There are 9 dedicated students who come together two nights per week to learn our language. We are grateful for these students who have taken the responsibility to learn Mohawk through this process. Once completed our class lessons will be available for others to learn at their own pace. We are also creating new language resources as curriculum resources continue to be developed. Funding was made possible through the Government of Canada Department of Canadian Heritage. We look forward to offer more language programs at the Cultural Healing Centre. Our goal is to build capacity within the community and encourage those with language skills to support others in their learning journey.



### Muskoka Community Health Hub

#### Wahta Site

The Wahta Mohawks Trust provided funding for the renovations at the Resource Centre for the Nurse Practitioner Clinic and the renovations needed for accessibility. Wahta Mohawks contributed the use of the building and also share the costs and maintain the property.



The Children's Place is for programming for children aged 0 - 4 and also encompasses after school programming. Well Baby Checks, Baby Play, and Baby Drop In are some of the programs offered along with Parenting Education and Cultural Programming. Some examples of the educational programming are; proper nutrition, breastfeeding, behavioral challenges through professional and peer to peer support.



# Community Consultation and Engagement

Consultation Plan

Iroquois Cranberry Growers

Matrimonial Real Property

Health & Wellness Survey

Cultural Centre Focus Groups

Annual Audit

Land Claim

Citizenship

Bala Portage

Duty to Consult

Tobacco

Truth & Reconciliation

5 Year Strategic Plan

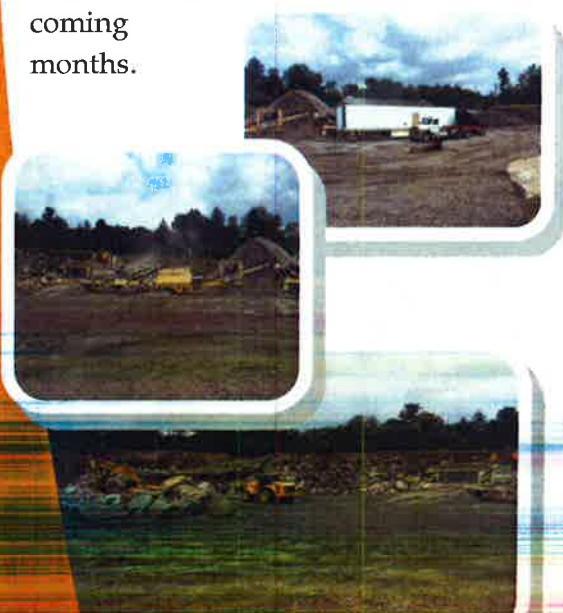


## Telecommunications Tower on Wahta Mohawks Territory???

During the past year we have been working with a major telecommunications company that has expressed interest in building a 100 meter communications tower located along the road just past Iroquois Cranberry Growers. Engineering and testing is now underway.

## Wahta Mohawks Road Improvement Project

In September we produced approximately 25,000 tonnes of granular "A" material down the Wahta Spring Road, this material will be used to resurface roads on the territory in the upcoming months.



### Membership

- 31 Accepted
- 3 Appeals
- 1 Denied

### Housing Funding

- 3 Subsidies
- 2 Renovations
- 4 Water & Sanitation

## Ash Inventory Project

A Grant from Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) provided the resources to develop and implement a forest inventory project concentrating on identifying both white and black ash trees populations on the Wahta Mohawks Territory.

Over 450 plots were sampled throughout the summer and tree species along with health of the trees being described were documented.

The inventory team consisted of two summer students, Alexander Mendes, Yiwei Ding and Scott Aubichon





# Iroquois Cranberry Growers



## Refocusing on Products, Brand and Marketing

### New Cranberry Products

Mohawk Food Processors has been restarted and is now producing and packaging many new products including our top selling Bog Beans (Chocolate and Yoghurt covered cranberries), Pies, Tarts, and BBQ Sauce in addition to drying cranberries.

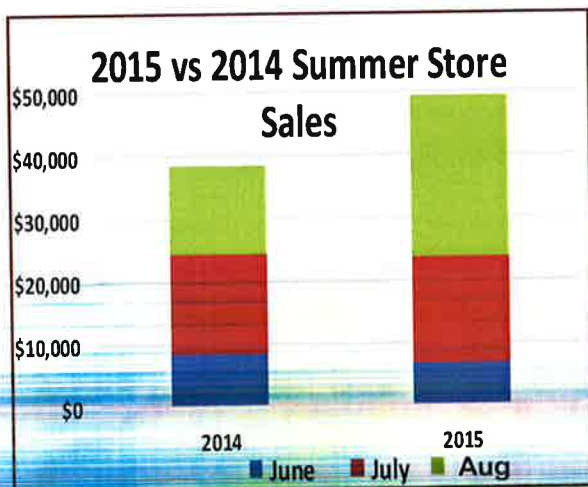
### The Brand

Indian Head logo will eventually appear on all products. We have found great brand recognition among regular customers and we are now well poised for sales in retail stores

### Marketing

Signage and radio ads have helped to increase retail store sales by 80%. Listen for our ad on The Dock 104.1. Test marketing of our products (juice, syrup and sauce) are underway in China. We now have a full time store manager on board.

## IroquoisCranberries.com



## August Store Sales Increase

### 80% Year over Year



# Wahta Mohawks Trust

## Update as of September 10, 2015



### Current Asset Mix

Cash & Short Term	\$384,662	3.9%
Fixed Income (Bonds)	\$6,238,614	62.6%
Equities (Stocks)		
Canada	\$2,203,095	22.1%
US	\$918,313	9.2%
International	\$166,074	1.7%
Total	\$3,287,482	33.0%
Total	\$9,962,072	100.0%

### Income

Estimated Annual Income      \$297,898 or 2.99%    Rate of Return

### Commentary

The Wahta Mohawks Trust was established pursuant to the land claims settlement agreement reached with the Federal and Provincial Governments. This agreement included the return of land and monetary compensation. As part of this agreement the parties agreed to establish a Wahta Mohawks Trust Fund for the monetary portion of this settlement for the "use and benefits of the Wahta Mohawks and its citizens". The agreement establishes that the full monetary value of the settlement shall be invested for at least 21 years.

Unfortunately, we expect a lower payout from the Trust this December as compared to the last several years.

Fears of the Chinese economy slowing have greatly hurt most commodity prices, especially oil. This in turn has hurt the Canadian economy and we've seen our dollar tumble as the Bank of Canada cut rates again.

The ongoing saga of Greece has quieted down for now and Europe appears to be growing, albeit slowly. The US economy is growing somewhat faster than Europe's. There is uncertainty as to when the US Federal Reserve will increase interest rates, possibly later this month or perhaps in December. This uncertainty tends to add to the market volatility.

Bonds have held in OK but stocks have fallen this year. We see this as a normal correction in an ongoing bull market. Corporate earnings are what drive stock markets over the longer term, and they continue to grow. We favour stocks over bonds in the next year. Within the asset mix ranges allowed for the Trust, we have a relatively high weighting in stocks as we do expect them to outperform bonds.

The Trust pays out all of the income (including capital gains) less any expenses. There are not likely to be many capital gains this year compared to previous years. Therefore, the likely payout will be lower.

The Trust agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the establishment of the Trust, the manner in which the funds shall be invested and the obligations of the Trustees who are elected and appointed to manage the Trust. The Trustees are obligated to establish policies and regulations on how the income earned from the trust will be used and invested.



The Wahta Mohawks Trustees are pleased to announce that we have approved funding support from the income earned on Trust for the following projects:

2014 and 2015 Trust Approved Project Funding Support		
2015	Wahta Mohawks Nurse Practioner Station-- <i>Renovations to the old Family Resource Centre</i>	\$ 330,000
	Cultural Healing Centre <i>Renovations to old Band Hall in partnership with Ontario Trillium Foundation</i>	\$ 290,700
	<b>Total for 2015</b>	<b>\$ 620,700</b>
	Staff Leadership Training <i>Provided by Morningstar Leadership</i>	\$ 12,000
2014	Front Loader <i>Maintenance services</i>	\$ 95,000
	<b>Total for 2014</b>	<b>\$ 107,000</b>

### Updates/News

The TRUST has renewed its membership with NATOA (National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association) for 2015. The TRUST met with Mark Sevestre "President of NATOA, to discuss Fiduciary Duties.

Moving forward, the TRUST will continue to keep Wahta Mohawk members updated on TRUST business by updating the website as new business is brought forth. To ensure accountability and transparency, all motions and minutes are available to Wahta Mohawk members. Year end audit will be submitted in a timely matter.

### Notice

The mandate for the current elected Trustees will expire on December 31st, 2015. The Nomination Meeting will be held on Nov. 28th, 2015 2pm – 6pm. The Candidates Qualifying Forum is on Dec. 5th, 2015 1pm – 4pm, and the Election will be held on Dec 12th, 2015 10am – 3pm. The Electoral Officer is Matthew Commandant. The Trustees would like to welcome Colleen Mendes as the new Coordinator to Trust

Three of the five Trust Board Members are elected and two are appointed by the Wahta Mohawks Council. The current elected Trustees are:

- Kristal Berwick
- Tim Thompson
- Sandra Monette
- Coordinator to Trust, Colleen Mendes
- The two council appointed Trustees are: Philip Franks and Michael DeCaire.

According to the Trust Agreement, they will serve until their term on Council ends and new Trustees are appointed.

The TRUST is accepting applications on a continual basis. If you would like an application please contact;

Co-ordinator to Trust

admin@wahtamohawkstrust.org (705) 762-2354

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying financial statements of the **Wahta Mohawks** are the responsibility of management and have been approved by Chief and Council.


The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.


The Wahta Mohawks maintains a system of internal accounting and administrative controls. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.


The Chief and Council are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and are ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements.

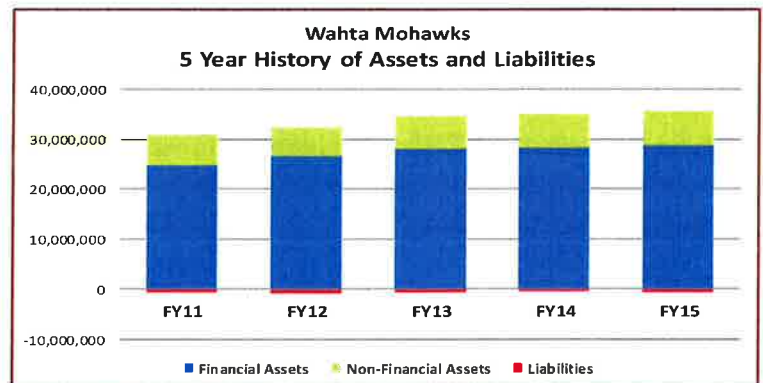
The Chief and Council review the Wahta Mohawks' financial statements and recommend their approval. The Chief and Council meet periodically to discuss and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the external auditors' report. The Chief and Council takes this information into consideration when approving the financial statements for issuance to the Members. The Chief and Council also consider the engagement of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the Wahta Mohawks.

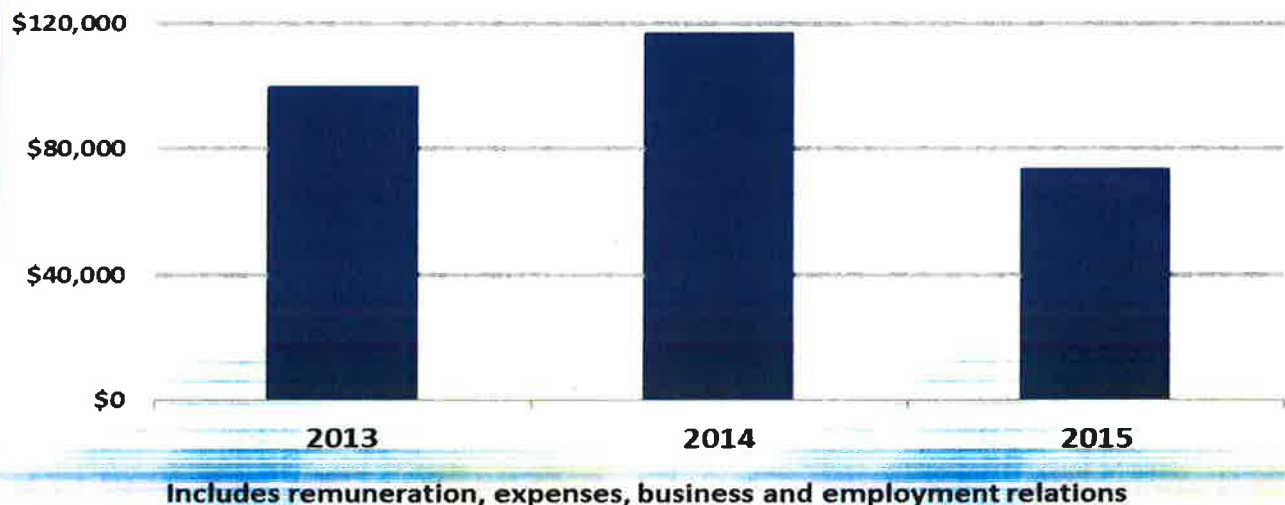
  
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Chief

  
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Councillor

  
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Councillor

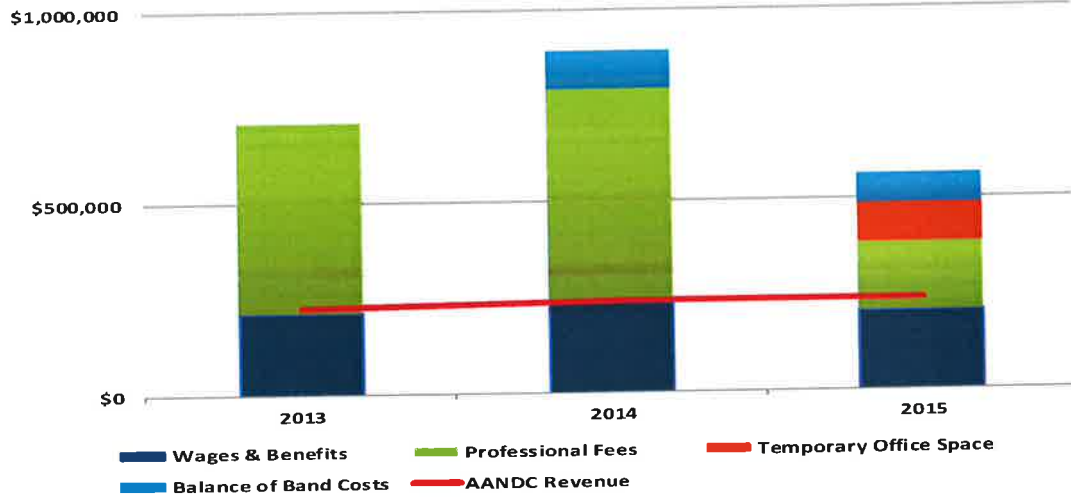


## 3 Year History of Payments to Chief & Council





### 3 Year Administration Revenue and Expenses



## WAHTA MOHAWKS

### Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
<b>Financial assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 3,104,114	\$ 2,520,576
Accounts receivable (note 2)	636,080	407,292
Investments (note 3)	22,127,517	22,630,433
Consolidated revenue funds	2,942,222	2,861,215
	28,809,933	28,419,516
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	595,368	579,253
Deferred revenue	29,631	14,893
	624,999	594,146
<b>Net financial assets</b>	28,184,934	27,825,370
<b>Non-financial assets:</b>		
Tangible capital assets (note 5)	5,859,182	6,006,411
Prepaid expenses	72,477	54,522
Inventory	1,009,602	642,868
	6,941,261	6,703,801
<b>Contingent liabilities (note 7)</b>		
<b>Accumulated surplus (note 6)</b>	\$ 35,126,195	\$ 34,529,171

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the First Nation

Chief

Councillor

Councillor

#### Net Financial Assets

\$28.2 m

+\$359,564

+1.3%

#### Cash Position

\$3.1 m

+\$583,538

+23%

#### Accumulated Surplus

\$35.1 m

+\$597,024

+1.7%





Chief Philip Franks

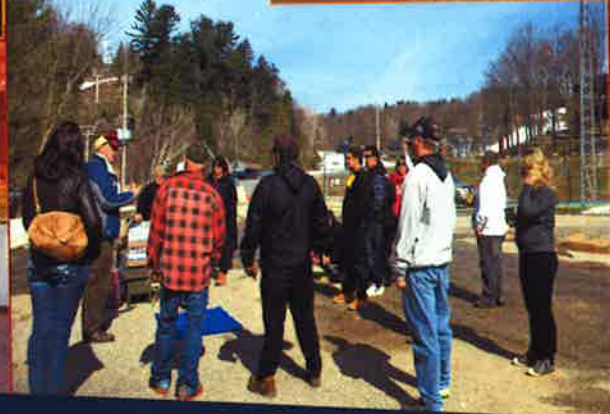


Councillor Mike DeCaire



Councillor Teresa Greasley



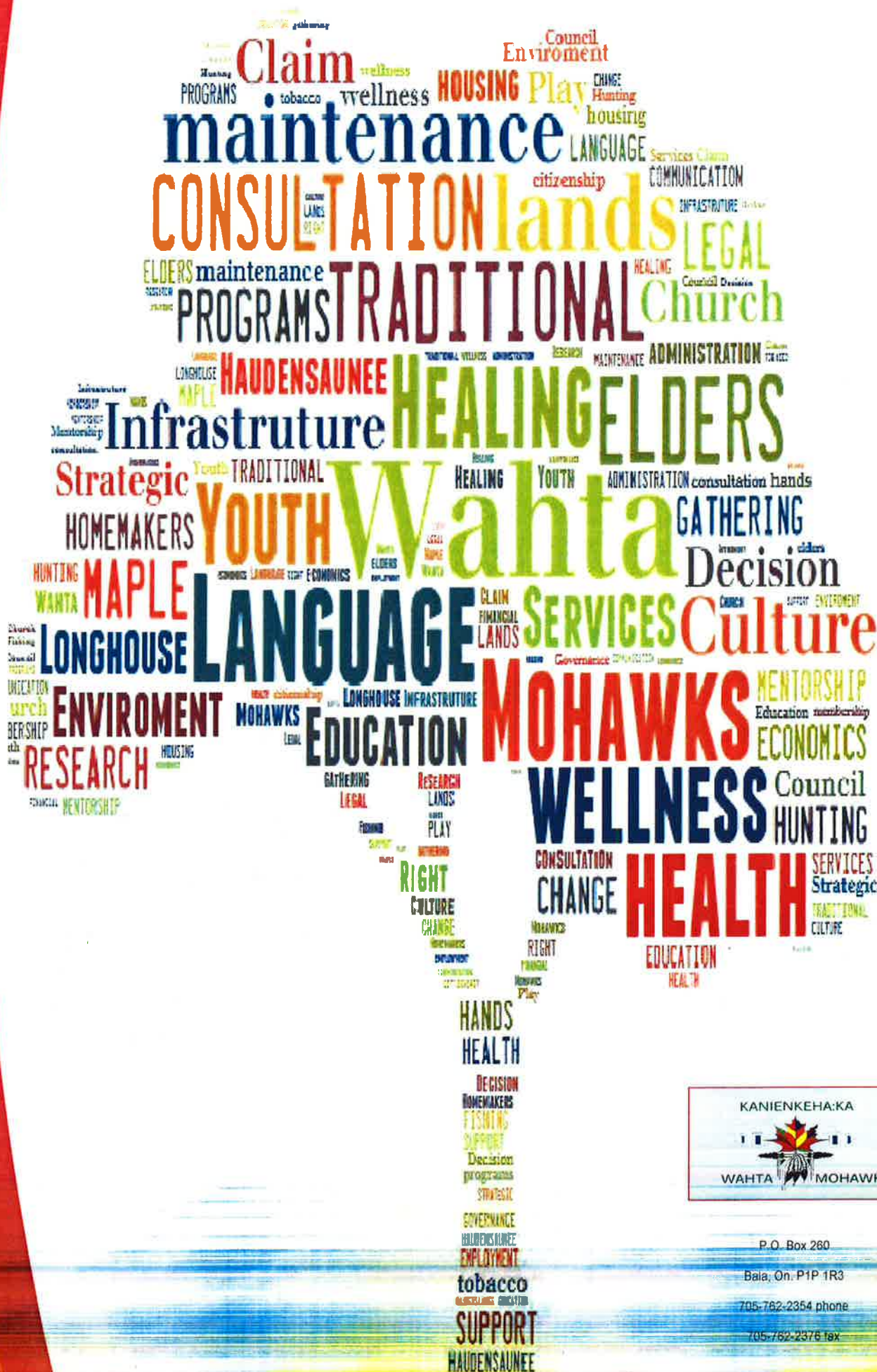


Councillor Stuart Lane



Councillor Lawrence Schell





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