



Report to **Members**

2016

cultural
renewal
healing
growth
peace

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. A Message from the Chief
- II. Council
- III. Administration
- IV. Cultural Healing Centre
- V. Health Services
- VI. Education
- VII. Employment
- VIII. Economic Development
- IX. Lands, Resources and Housing
- X. Wahta Mohawks Trust
- XI. Finances



From the desk of

Chief Philip Franks



Welcome to the Wahta Mohawks members report. Council is pleased to present this to you. Included are many different programs and services available, and how they are operating. The report describes some key initiatives being undertaken, many of them long term.

For example, Wahta is looking to the future for our elderly by carrying out a Long Term Care study to determine if we can create a facility for assisted living. Infrastructure is also a multi-year process to improve water issues in the core area to start with. Our involvement with a housing fund helps to improve the capacity of the administration by working on housing policy, as well as financial policy. Our finance department has met the requirements of our audit process and Wahta is deemed to be in a strong financial situation.

Ongoing work includes creating and maintaining programs to help our children and youth understand traditional ways and add as much language exposure as possible. Perhaps for the first time in recent history, last summer most of the children prepared for and received Mohawk names during a ceremony held for that purpose. There have been efforts to help youth get together and have a voice in the community, as well as, with group gatherings.

You will notice mention of a peace and unity process that is ongoing. At the same time and somewhat connected, are talks we have had on defining our membership for the future. These two initiatives bring opportunities to learn where we have come from, as well as the chance to self-examine our community through discussion. All of these activities are designed to assist us in the path forward. They are not meant to be in isolation, but are regarded as opportunities where all age groups can learn and be involved so that individuals, families, and the whole membership can come together in a healthy way, to stand as one.

Initiatives undertaken by the administration follow the Wahta Council strategic plan which outlines direction for the community. This plan is designed to be updated yearly, and flexible enough for Council to respond to events and opportunities as they arise on an annual basis.

Please enjoy the members report and remember to be part of the direction of Wahta Mohawks future, there are ways you can help, by being part of meetings, responding to surveys, or submitting comments on any issues at any time.

Council would like to thank staff and the membership for leading Wahta onward to the future.

Niá:wen kó:wa
Chief Philip Franks

Wahta Political Affiliations

Wahta Mohawks Council is part of a system that benefits us in two main ways. By being active members of the Iroquois Caucus as well as the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) we gain information at meetings about current First Nation political initiatives. Further to that, issues are discussed at the meetings whereby as a whole we send a message to the Chiefs of Ontario, and thus to the Assembly of First Nations in some cases. It is a grassroots up type of system.

The Iroquois Caucus is comprised of those communities including Six Nations, Oneida, Wahta, Tyendinaga, Akwesasne, Kahnawake, and Kanesatake. On a wider geographic basis the AIAI is made up of Caldwell near Windsor, Delaware at Moraviantown, Oneida, Wahta, Tyendinaga, Hiawatha, and Batchewana up at Sault Ste. Marie. Many pertinent issues and statements dealing with intergovernmental relations both federal and provincial directly affect Wahta so the advantage to being involved is great.

One of the achievements of the Caucus was the development and acceptance of a trade protocol among the Iroquois communities which partly spurred the hosting of an economic development conference attended by Wahta's economic development staff.

With the fairly recent change in the federal leadership of Canada, and the release of the report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there has been improved relationships at the political level with First Nations. Actions though, are unfortunately slower.

One recent outcome is close to reality regarding high hydro rates. Through discussions with the Ontario Energy Board and Hydro One at the political tables, Ontario is to enact a bill that would help decrease hydro rates, and more specifically remove the delivery charges from First Nation customers. This came after consultations at the AIAI table and others groups as to how Hydro could assist with the exorbitant rates being charged to people who cannot afford them.

Wahta Council dealt with a couple of issues left on the table from the past council regarding land issues. Wahta followed up on the issues that Hydro One was to give some latitude on "in kind services" that were agreed to in 2013. The signed document was thoroughly investigated even to the point of mediation. Given that Wahta were signatory to the Hydro One relationship agreement it seems that most of that agreement will stand.

Also dealing with land, Council began moving forward with having the land claim area returned to reserve status. Council was dealing with an existing legal process that would file with the courts to improve the amount of compensation that was agreed to and signed by Wahta in the land claim settlement. It came to be, that the case being put forward, did not have enough merit to succeed in the court if it was to go there.

Furthering to redo the claim settlement also might have impacted on the whole settlement, including a possible return of the money already received for lost land. Acting on our lawyer's opinion, Wahta dropped the filing and turned to retrieving the land. The process of having the lands put back to reserve status is still going to be long and will require full attention to see it through in the next three years.

Skén:nen (Peace)- to cultivate good feeling of friendship, love and honor amongst all people, which results in state of peacefulness.

Key Accomplishments

Chief and Council would like to thank the community for giving us this opportunity to work towards shared goals, commitments and responsibilities.

It's been a challenging yet rewarding term for this council. Despite ongoing obstacles and a very slow start to the term we continue to work toward good governance, transparency, accountability and self-empowerment. Certain priorities were identified and achieved in various ways as outlined below.

Communication

Communication to the membership has vastly improved, specifically recognizing many members use the internet and yet many others still rely on printed information. Tools have been utilized such as ongoing updates, newsletters, and monthly minutes' reports and policies made available on the website. We have also added a motion summary to every month's regular council meeting minutes, these are the motions that take place during Chief & Council's weekly meetings and document ongoing decisions of Chief and Council business.

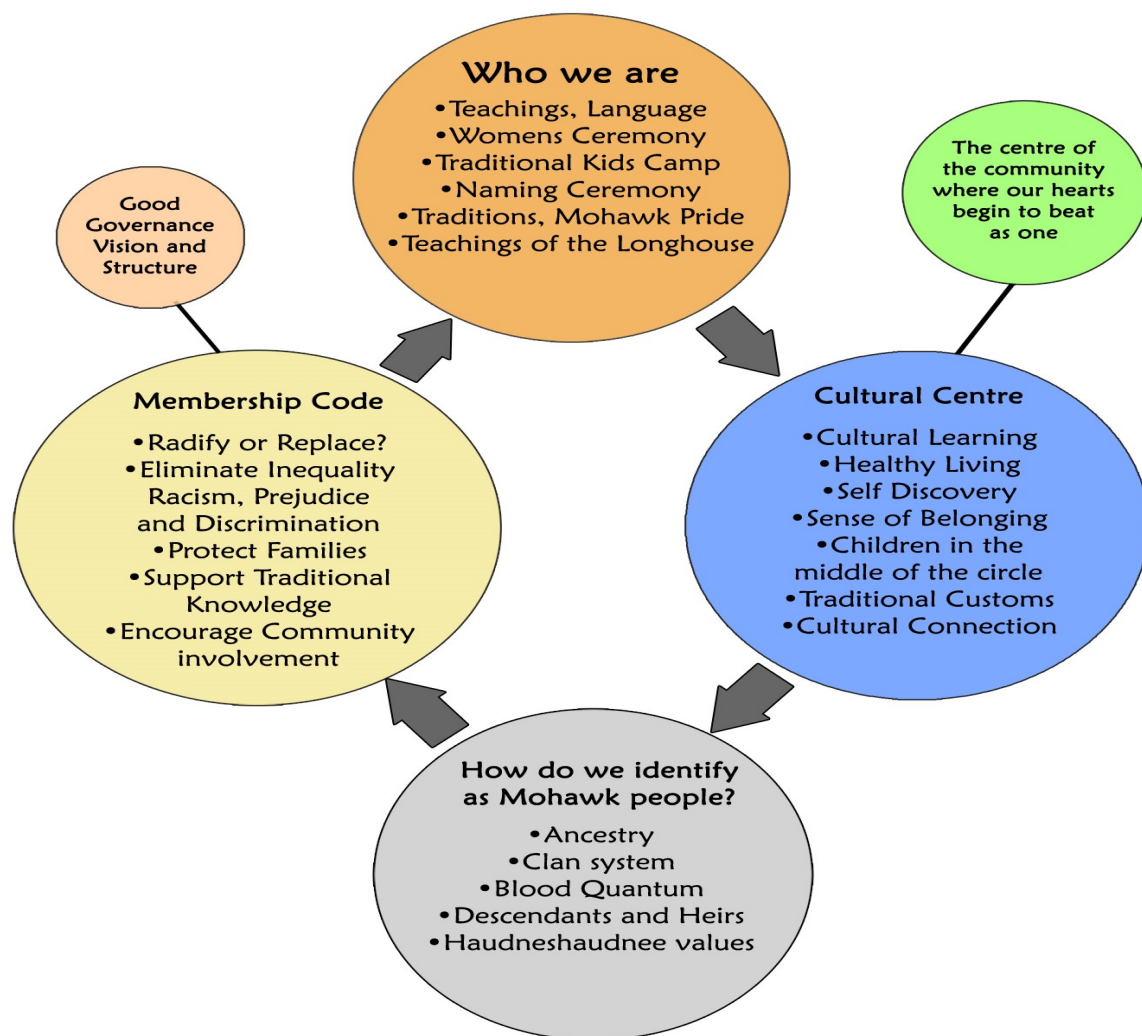
Regular updates are also on Facebook (facebook.com/wahtamohawksCouncil). Email sign up has been successful with more than 120 people now receiving emails instead of a paper and post newsletter. Council has also started recording some community meetings through video, these are posted on the website for your convenience. The goal is to have every meeting recorded and available to the membership.

Community Unity

After a difficult start to the term due to the blockade, Chief and Council saw the need to try and bring the community back together. We referred to this as the "Peace Process" and although not everyone participated it has been a success in discussing our differences, finding some common ground and learning how to better work together. The process set out to identify issues that have been contributing to conflict within the community. Such issues as relationships, perceptions, community structure and primary needs including sustainability have been identified. These themes are an integral part of ensuring Wahta remains a viable community for our children, grandchildren and seven generations into the future.

Part of the community unity process has also been to look at some important questions Where do we come from? What is culture? What is our purpose? What does it mean to be Mohawk?

Why are we here? Where are we going? Some of these questions have been looked at through the various Healing and Wellness series and leading into our recent membership conference as well. We hope this work will be ongoing and the dialogue will continue in the interest of community health and healing.



Membership Code Review

One of the unifying issues as discussed in meetings through the Peace Process is membership and it's changing implications;

Under the current membership code the population of Wahta will eventually be only a fraction of what it is now. We must redefine ourselves according to our own terms; not those of the federal government. Whether we look to our past for a more traditional definition of identity, or look forward to something different, we cannot stay as we are, as this leads to extinction.

A recent community meeting sparked some interesting questions and gave people the opportunity to look at differing perspectives again within small focus groups.

The illustration outlines the purpose and intent of the Cultural Centre as it relates to our membership code, who we are as Mohawk people and community values.

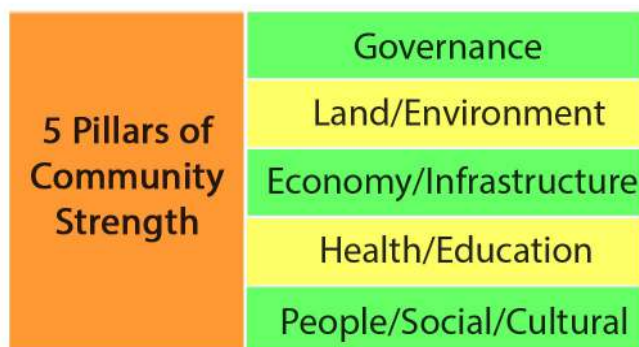
Cultural Healing Centre

As most people know the main renovations to the old hall are complete (basement still ongoing) the community now refers to it as the Cultural Healing Centre.

In January 2015 Healing and Wellness conference speaker Jane Middleton Moz recommended small focus groups work on rebuilding the circle. This was in part the reasoning that moved forward our initiative to have a community Cultural Centre that will place children back in the center of the circle, welcoming people back into the community, embracing culture and coming together as a community.



Naming Ceremony Summer 2016



Strategic Plan

The strategic plan adopted by Council in 2014 is a fluid document in which many areas overlap. It can change depending on circumstances, some items become obsolete for various reasons while other opportunities present themselves.

Some recent changes we are happy to announce is the addition of the AANDC Immediate Needs Fund and a new Finance Policy. Below are just a few of the recent items happening within our community that are noteworthy. Download our complete strategic plan at www.wahtamohawks.com/strategic-plan

Governance

Governance development will continue to be a priority accessing funding aimed at increasing capacity development with a focus in the areas of administration, finance and housing. Membership, Election Regulations, Wahta Mohawks Community Consultation Plan, Referendum Regulations, Human Resources manual, Health and Safety, and Family Youth and Child Services are a few areas of law and policy that are annually under review and update.

Finance Policy

As identified at the beginning of this term the financial affairs of Wahta must be clarified and budgets need to be adhered to. We are pleased to announce the newly adopted Finance Policy which will be released before the fiscal year end of March 2017. It will be available on the website and announced in the upcoming newsletter.

By-Law

The current trespass by-law is under development to assist in the management of lands, it also assists to strengthen certificate of possession holders, wildlife by-laws, and citizenship code and assign areas for communal use. This process is still under review through the Community Consultation Plan, meetings are ongoing.

Citizenship Code Review

A recent 3-day workshop was held to talk about membership and how we feel about such issues as blood quantum, who belongs and how we see membership changing over time and how it relates to the Great Law of Peace. It was well received with presenters Rick Hill, Kevin Deer, Three Bears Consulting and hosted by Ed Connors. Membership has been an ongoing issue for several years, Chief and Council feel the time has come to look at alternatives. How we define ourselves is the foundation for moving forward.

Community Housing Needs Assessment

A twenty (20) year Comprehensive Community Housing Needs Assessment has been approved through the Capacity Development Housing Needs Funding. The key objective of this project is to identify the community's current and future housing needs, determine critical housing gaps and issues and create an overall community housing plan.

Land/Environment

Additions to reserve (ATR)

The process is underway and can take up to five years to complete. 8300 acres identified in land claim will now be added to Wahta Mohawk Territory. Other obligations will also be fulfilled regarding lands.

Land Distribution for Members

18 lots successfully drawn. Surveying of additional lots underway as identified in the upcoming housing needs assessment.

Subdivision Planning

This will be moving forward with the goal to offer new residential housing lots in the core area of the community for members that currently do not own a house or want to return to the community.

Lots 12-9 Con 5 and Lots 13-1 Con 6 are currently in development

First Nation Market Housing Fund (FNMHF)

Council entered into this process to develop housing capacity and policy. In addition, it is expected that members that qualify will be able to access timely and more affordable housing options through our new relationship with Bank of Montreal (BMO).

AANDC Immediate Needs Fund

Phase one has been approved. A proposal for phase two has been submitted and we are hopeful to be approved for Capacity Development, new Housing options and Renovations as well as additional Water and Sanitation funding.



Economy/Infrastructure

Board of Directors

The vast majority of successful aboriginal community owned businesses are under the control of a community owned Development Corporation. Utilizing a development corporation separates political interests from business interests. In many ways, the board is hired by the community to run the community's business interests. If you are interested, please forward your resume to Lance DeCaire - lance.decaire@wahtamohawks.ca

Iroquois Cranberry Growers

The ICG business decline has been something Council has been dealing with over this term. Back in April 2014 it was revealed that losses since 2010 were enormous (with decline going back almost twenty years). Council recognized the seriousness of the issue and brought it to the memberships attention as this had not been done before. Council recently put out a survey to get members input. Chief and Council feel it must be fiscally responsible to the membership and has made a recommendation to discontinue the farming activities. The money can be better utilized for other social programs required by the membership.

People/Social/Cultural

Cultural Healing Centre

Basement renovations to be started in March 2017. The goal of the Cultural Healing Centre will continue to be geared towards healing through language and culture. This has become a very important part of the community. This centre will be coordinated by a Family Wellness Coordinator.

Community Unity

As described above the Community Unity process was an integral part of our focus this past year. Understanding conflict and how we can achieve a more peaceful community for ourselves and our children is ongoing. It can at times be a difficult process, but can also bring us together and be quite rewarding.


Health/Education

Small Communities Fund (SCF)

A water treatment plant planning and engineering project is underway. This year will involve mainly the research, investigation, testing, development and design stages to provide safe drinking water supply located in the core area of the community.

Assisted Living/Long Term Care Facility (LTC)

A Needs Assessment LTC Advisory Circle is underway to help identify the strengths, challenges and gaps that exist for elders and family members who will be taking the journey into the next phase of life. It has been voiced by our membership periodically since 1975 that we should have a Long Term Care facility here in Wahta territory. Council is pleased to offer this opportunity for elders and families alike. Phase 2—Feasibility Study will begin this next fiscal year.



ADMINISTRATION

The program, maintenance and administration staff of Wahta Mohawks have had another busy and productive year. I am pleased to report that collectively we continue to move this organization, the community and the membership forward socially, culturally, and financially in an economic and efficient manner.

Throughout 2016/2017 fiscal year the staff provided planned, coordinated and culturally appropriate programming, keep abreast of the fiscal and political challenges that present throughout the year. Administrative and program staff participate as technicians in local, regional and national forums. All staff have continued to offer new and exciting programming for the Children, Youth, Adults and Senior populations centered around our overall goal of health and healing through language and culture.

The scheduled cultural and wellness series in particular are new and have been met with good participation and created great conversations about the future of Wahta Mohawks. Most programming has been held at the new cultural center, which has been a highly-utilized building hosting programs like the successful children's cultural camp this past summer.

Below are some of the capital improvements that have been initiated, funded or completed, which occurred above and beyond the regular annual asset maintenance that occurs as part of performance of staff duties.

Capital Developments:

Cultural Center	Completely renovate "Old Hall" upstairs and basement and construct a new 1800 s.f. addition with full basement
Cenotaph	Transported the existing Cenotaph from "Old Hall" and added four new monuments (including honoring those who attended the residential school), poured a concrete pad and installed a rock wall at administration building in time for November 11 th Ceremony at Wahta
Flag Poles	Constructed (3) new flag poles at Administration building near Cenotaph
Quarrying	Contracted and blasted 25000 tonnes of rock from our quarry on Wahta Springs Road
Road Resurfacing	Graded, graveled 15000 tonnes, compacted, and re-graded all Wahta Territory roads and parking lots of buildings, including Iroquois Cranberry Growers
Roads	Constructed new catch basin for water diversion at Seniors Units
Water Treatment System	Upgraded water treatment unit(s) at Seniors units
Culverts	Completed (3) new culvert replacements

Parking curbs	Purchased and installed new parking curbs at Administration and Cultural Center parking lots
Septic's	Contracted (3) new septic beds at community owned properties
Building Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stripped and re-shingled roof on maintenance shop -Completely renovated (2) rental units -all carpet replaced and flooring repaired at Administration building -all walls painted (excluding commercial kitchen) at Administration building -entire Administration building re-stained -front entry wall repaired; stucco and paint -new tables purchased (round and rectangle) for main hall -removed, contracted and replaced red entry concrete pad -contracted and installed new eastern and western main doors at Administration building
Gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -purchased and installed (3) new pieces of gym equipment -installed new entry door to gym -installed new security cameras at gym
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -planned, prepped and contracted installation of new playground at the Administration building (Wahta Trust Fund) -planned, prepped and contracted installation of new playground at the Cultural Center building (Wahta Trust Fund)

What's Up for Next Year's Administrative Activities?

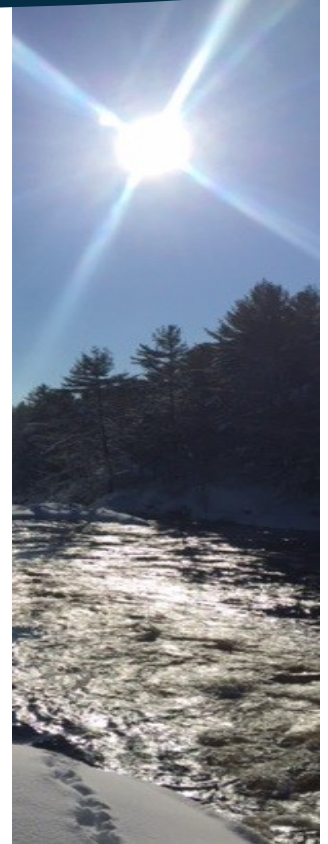
Health and Social Programs will continue to be geared towards healing through language and culture focused at the Cultural Center

Family Wellness Program is planned for the upcoming fiscal year to provide coordination of programs and services at the Cultural Center, coordinate family healing health and social programs, and to research and gain funding through proposal driven access to grants and other funding opportunities

First Nation Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) program will continue to develop capacity and policy, and members that qualify will be able to access timely and more affordable home mortgages through our new relationship with BMO

Subdivision Planning will be moving forward with the goal to offer new residential housing lots in the core area of the community for members that currently do not own a house or are wanting to return to the community

AANDC Immediate Needs Fund proposal has been submitted and we are hopeful to be approved for Capacity Development, new Housing options and Renovations as well as additional Water and Sanitation funding under this Program



Small Communities Fund (SCF) water treatment plant planning and engineering project will be underway. This year will involve mainly the research, investigation, testing and design stages for a communal water treatment system located in the core area of the community

Governance Development will continue to be a priority accessing funding aimed at increasing capacity development with a focus in the areas of administration, finance and housing. Membership, Election Regulations, Wahta Mohawks Community Consultation Plan, and Referendum Regulations, Human Resources manual, Health and Safety, and Family Youth and Child Services are a few areas of law and policy that are annually under review and update.

Capital Infrastructure projects will be underway in accordance with our mandate from Chief and Council identified in the Community Strategic Plan.





CULTURAL HEALING CENTRE

The Community Health Cultural Advisory Healing Committee was established in September of 2015 with the intent to provide guidance to the programming occurring at the centre. The committee represents all three clans Bear, Turtle and Wolf Clan. Over the past year the committee established a vision and mission statement along with guiding principles that reflect our traditional teachings and promote healing through language and culture.

The Cultural Healing Centre offers space for cultural programming and allows for confidential counselling sessions. The centre comes equipped with a full functioning and galley kitchen along with two guest rooms for presenters requiring accommodations. In the future, further renovations will be completed to allow the downstairs to be accessible for programming.

The first large gathering of over 70 people at the centre included Tom Porter, Mohawk Elder from Akwesasne, who reminded us of our traditional teachings and how we need to treat one another. In order for our community to reconnect in the true sense of community it is important that we remember our basic values that include showing respect and encouragement to one another. Tom addressed the group as he spoke about life promotion and shared the traditional teachings to support this. After a great feast the community came together in song and dance to celebrate community togetherness. We all enjoyed the positive energy that evening in the spirit of friendship and community. Since such time, other cultural programs have been housed in this location. Community healing workshops and meetings have also taken place in our new location.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CULTURAL HEALING

VISION STATEMENT: "The centre of the community where our hearts begin to beat as one".

MISSION STATEMENT: The Wahta Mohawks Cultural Healing Centre supports the individual, family and community to achieve self- awareness and empowerment. The Centre will serve as a place of knowledge and learning, and will provide opportunities for community to re-establish a sense of belonging, cultural connection, healthy living and self- discovery. The Cultural Healing Centre will become an integral component to healing within community by providing wholistic programming and access to treatment to promote and maintain balance. The purpose for our work is for the "Seventh Generation; those who are not yet born but will inherit the world".

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- ***Otanitenrahtsera (compassion for others)***

We will demonstrate compassion for others and recognize that each is on their own personal journey.

- ***Kakwenienstahtshera (respect for everyone)***

We will recognize each other's personal gifts and appreciate one another.

- ***Kanoronhkhwahtshera (love and caring for all)***

Love is a spiritual and physical connection. Our medicine is this flow of energy when our spirits connect; this is love.

- ***Kahretsaronhtshera (words of encouragement for all)***

Words of encouragement are not possible unless compassion and love is present. Encouragement for one another is a basic responsibility. It is when this teaching is fully understood and applied then one has a good mind.

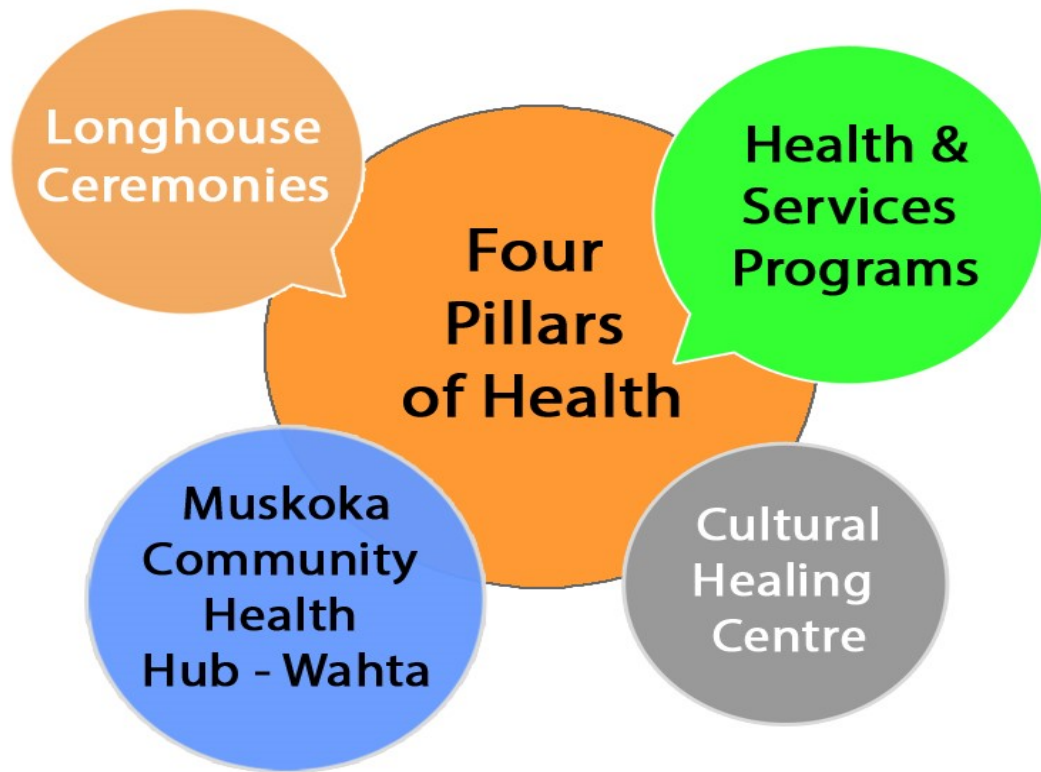
- ***Skenen (a state of peace)***

Words of encouragement will bring peace among us. When we experience a sense of peace we become more positive. Our positive outlook will encourage others to find their own peace.

- ***Ka'shatstenhsera (inner strength)***

Our own personal power of well- being enables us to fulfill our responsibilities while we walk on this earth.

- We will promote belonging and acceptance for all as we continue to build a sense of community.
- Programs and services are available to all community members and citizens; those members living beyond the borders of the Territory are encouraged to participate.
- All programs and services will reflect our culture and traditions and will meet the identified needs of the community with the purpose to regain and retain our language and culture.
- Confidentiality must be adhered to in order to create a safe place of trust which is vital to the success of the Centre and the programming that occurs within.
- We support and empower our own resource people as we recognize and respect their gifts and acknowledge their help to achieve our goals.



Every year Health Services strives not only to match the goals that our funders Provide, but to also fulfill our communities expressed interests. At the beginning of this three year term a reconnect with traditions and culture was requested. Reflective of the Four Pillars of Health (Health Services Programming, the Cultural Healing Centre, Muskoka Community Health Hub-Wahta Site and Longhouse Ceremonies) working together to provide a more wholistic program base for our community. Participation has been improving and the community is beginning to reflect a more wholistic approach to living.



The Calendar Project

The Calendar Project began with photo submissions entered for the calendar. The photos were then put out to the Community to choose 12 photos to be used in the 2017 calendar. Although there were a few kinks in the production of the calendar it brought members together to reminisce and share community commonalities in a positive way.

Book Club

The book club provides an opportunity for participants to read books written by First Nation Authors and to discuss the book as a group. They have also enjoyed speaking with the featured authors to ask questions and share their thoughts.

Chair Exercise and Healthy Lunch

The Chair Exercises and Healthy Lunch program continues once a month as members come out to enjoy exercising to maintain strength and mobility. Our community health nurse, Sue Siwik shares important health information to educate and promote health and wellness to our members. This is followed by a healthy lunch, which encourages good food choices and a time to socialize while sharing a meal.

Annual Elders Conference

This past year the Elders Conference was held at Delaware Nation Moravian of the Thames. Wahta Mohawks provided transportation and accommodations for our seniors. The seniors attended and participated in workshops and activities. This event was well attended, educational and enjoyed by our seniors.

Community Shopping

Community Shopping is currently available monthly. Wahta Members are transported by bus to various shopping centers to allow them to purchase necessities and socialize. This is also an opportunity for staff to acknowledge any concerns or health issues that our seniors may have.

Senior Christmas Luncheon

This past Christmas the Seniors, Chief, Council and Staff gathered for a Christmas Luncheon at the Administration Building. The Staff provided and served a wonderful lunch to our seniors. Everyone had a lovely time and enjoyed the Christmas festivities.

Christmas Cookie and Gift Exchange

As part of the holiday festivities community members came together to share lunch and exchange cookies. Members enjoyed time together reminiscing, sharing stories and gifts with one another.

Crafts

The participants enjoy learning cultural crafts while sharing conversation amongst one another. The number of participants has increased since the initial classes began and some have provided income for themselves after learning these crafts.

Drum Group

The drum group is an opportunity for sharing and creating bonds amongst the women of Wahta while drumming and singing together. Participants enjoyed drumming and singing, whether they had a drum or not. Various people would lead the songs. While the language may not seem easy to understand with practice it becomes easier and understanding what is being sung about becomes a part of the participants. The women share their experiences and teachings that they have learned over the years while learning the Mohawk language. The women have learned to recite the Thanksgiving address together. This time spent together has brought a sense of pride and self-esteem to the women of our community.

Wellness Series

This series began to encourage the community through 3 initial presentations to look within and look around at the reasons/causes for lateral violence and learn tools for recognizing it within themselves, and within the community, and learn how to put themselves beyond it so lateral violence begins to dissipate and eventually disappears. The final January conference saw the previous presenters return and go over what the community has learned and how they feel they have changed through this process.

The Community has shown commitment and dedication in coming together in a more positive way. It is an exciting process for the community to be a part of. Cultural teachings have been incorporated while identifying and educating the Community about lateral violence and that it exists and that it needs to stop. The Wellness Series has been intertwined with the Peacemaking Process and the community is looking ahead to moving forward.



Gun

A gun course was offered to members that are 12 and older. Twenty members participated consisting of men, women and youth. Everyone who attended was successful in passing the course.



Safety
Course



bers

Traditional Kids Camp

The children of Wahta are immersed in Mohawk culture and traditions held at the Longhouse located on the Territory. Under the teachings of Terry & Lucia Sahanatien the children learn their Mohawk language, Traditional dance, songs, foods (three sisters, making the strawberry drink and cooking bannock over an open fire), Traditional games; such as, the peach bowl game and snow snake are taught and played. The children have made their own medicine bags, and no -face dolls. The boys had the opportunity to learn about our medicine the maple syrup while gathering the sap for boiling. This past summer the focus was on the children learning the Thanksgiving Address and creating a Thanksgiving Address book to take home with them. As Wahta Mohawks move forward in providing culture and traditional programs it is important that the children learn about who they are as Indigenous children. In order for them to grow to make healthy decisions as adults, it is important for them to learn how to seek balance and harmony through wholistic traditional programs. To know where you are going, you need to know where you came from.

Bean Supper/Potluck

The Annual Bean Supper/Potluck and Auction was another success. This program has been revived from years ago. In the past, it was Bean Supper/Potluck and we have added in an auction to raise money to assist with children's programming. This past summer up to 17 children benefited from the money raised from the auction by providing healthy snacks at summer culture camp.

Swimming Lessons

This program is to ensure our children ages 3 to 12 know water safety and develop their swimming abilities. The children were provided the opportunity to explore their skills at swimming and being comfortable in and around water. This program provided the children an opportunity to build friendships with peers.

Naming Ceremony

The children that attended the after school program for the last year have been learning our language and culture, in partnership with the longhouse participated in the Naming Ceremony. Thirteen (13) children and one adult were given names by the cultural centre based on their individual characteristics while others were already given a name by family at birth. The ceremony was conducted in Kanienkeha:ka. It was a celebration of our Mohawk language and culture.



Children's outing to the Metro Toronto Zoo

It's important for the children to understand that our wildlife is precious. Our teachings tell us to respect the winged and four-legged creatures that we share this Earth with. This was a recreational activity to visit the Metro Toronto Zoo and First Nation Art Garden, the children enjoyed the outing with their peers. The program provided the children an opportunity to ask questions and learn the mohawk word for a particular animal which promotes the use of our language, and to acknowledge their culture outside of their community. The children visited the First Nations Art Garden located at the zoo which is home to various pieces of art created by First Nations people, and hosts indigenous plants.

Children's Strawberry Picking

It is important for children to understand that the strawberry teaches forgiveness and peace. The strawberry is shaped like a heart, and strawberries are known to our people as heart berries and it is the leader of the fruit since it is first to grow. The program provided an opportunity to acknowledge their culture outside of the community and to provide them with a strawberry teaching. The children were given the opportunity to learn or be reintroduced to the mohawk word for strawberry **ken'niiohontésa** which fosters the promotion of our language.

Youth Engagement

After facilitating a Youth Engagement night in April 2016, the feedback that we received from the Youth of Wahta was that they wanted to be more involved in the community and wanted to become "whole" again. There was a need to reconnect with old friends and make new friends in a healthy environment. Discussing topics such as mental health, addictions, and other community issues and respecting different views. The youth were lacking leadership skills, relationship skills and cooperation skills. It was decided that we would meet monthly and work on all of these skills sets.

The Program Goal is to reconnect youth with cultural identity and regain a sense of belonging and to encourage positive contributions to contributions to the community, learn traditional values and the virtue of generosity. Also in this environment the issues of intergenerational trauma and addictions were addressed. We created stronger relationships and bounds between the Youth and Young Adults to help stop the lateral violence within the community. We provided a safe and healthy environment for everyone to meet and discuss topics that interest the Youth.



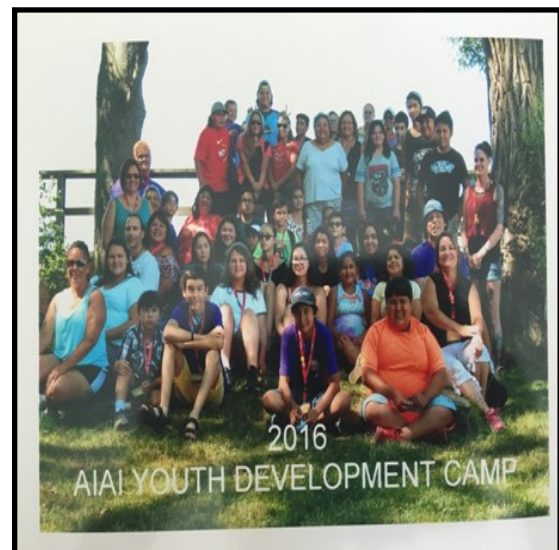
Some of the Youth Activities;

Lateral Violence Awareness
Life Promotion
Mindfulness Training
Met with Dr. Ed Connors to discuss community lateral violence
R.E.A.L. School Youth Leadership
Medicine Wheel Teachings
Crystal Chakra Meditation
Medicine Bag Making
Yoga/Crystal Chakra Meditation-
Water Teachings
Air Teachings
Fire Teachings
Earth Teachings
Traditional Social
Medicine Walk and Teachings
Visited Eagle Hill, Lake on the Mountain and Peacemaker Landing
Arts/Crafts/Games



A.I.A.I Youth Development Camp

Over the years through our community division there has been loss of friendships and connections with youth, cultural teachings and community networking amongst our youth. We want to continue to give opportunities to the youth of Wahta and a chance to make connections and network with other First Nation Youth of Canada. The goal was to inspire and bring the youth of the Member Nations together to learn the knowledge they need to succeed in life with a cultural learning perspective.





Attending the AFN provided First Nations youth with an opportunity to network, dialogue and identify new and innovative solutions for issues impacting our communities across this Nation.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) hosted the 2016 National Youth Summit, which provided an opportunity to bring together over 150 First Nations youth (ages 16-30) from across Canada for dialogue focused on key priorities and issues around mental wellness, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and the broader social determinants of health (including water, housing, education, etc.).



Robb Nash, who is the lead singer of the Robb Nash band, founded Robb Nash Project in 2012 to help at-risk youth who struggle with depression, bullying, self-harm, addiction and suicide. Robb Nash suffered from major physical injuries and psychological issues after a life-threatening accident as a teenager. Once Robb recovered from issues related to anger and depression, he started up the Robb Nash Project to help at-risk youth overcome the same issues he faced and conquered. The Robb Nash Project gives school presentations and concerts across Canada, designed to inspire students to make positive life choices.

One of our youth Makayla Smith was nominated by her peers to sing in front of the group with Robb Nash, and did an amazing job! We are so proud of her confidence and beautiful voice!

Walk for Attawapiskat

Youth from Wahta gathered and travelled up to Sudbury on their own to attend awareness walk for the Youth of Attawapiskat. They were able to gather with other First Nation youth who made the trip up to Sudbury to meet some of the youth from Attawapiskat and show our love and support to them.



Regalia Creations

Our women have been looking for ways to gather together over a common interest in our community. This sewing workshop was introduced for community members to learn from other community members on how to sew and be able to make regalia pieces for their family and friends.

We wanted to create new skills for the participants and also bring together many generations to socialize and learn from each other. It also created an activity to do in the evening where community could gather in a healthy environment.

Eight (8) women attended each session, our participants are confident to teach other members how to learn these skills as well.

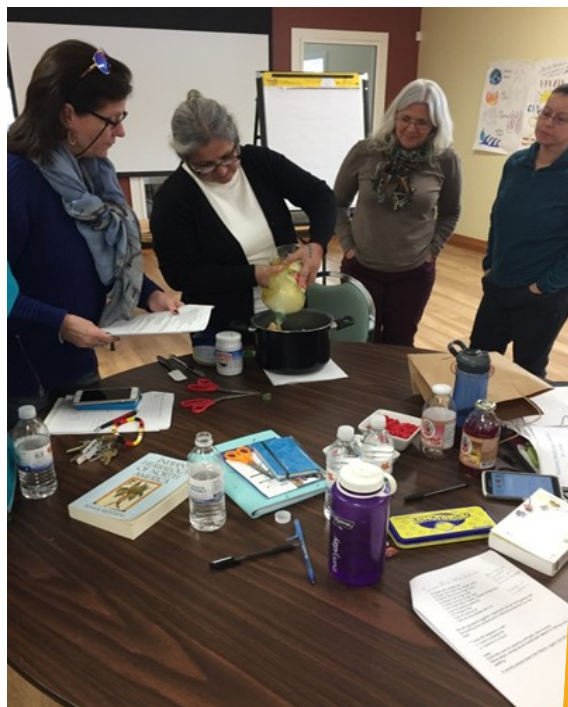


Healing Benefits of Medicinal Plants- Esstin Mcleod

This workshop was created to educate and reinstate the holistic practices of Traditional Medicine using plant therapy and spiritual development. Participants are now able to identify intervention and prevention strategies using natural plants within Northern Ontario.

Participants acquired understanding of Medicine Wheel and its holistic principles that will educate and restore the idea for personal wellness. They are more educated regarding the healing properties of medicinal plants and create an awareness regarding the personal connection to Nature with the emphasis on "Spiritual Development". The participants made various remedies and learned how to make sacred tobacco.

Fifteen (15) people attended this 2 day workshop and created a group of medicine gatherers that can now work together throughout the coming months to gather medicines and make remedies together.



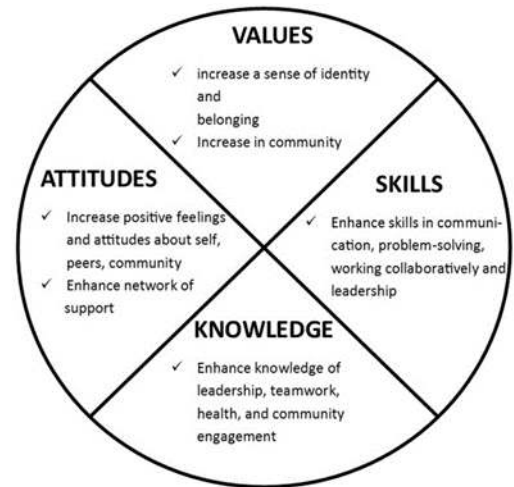
RIGHT TOPLAY

Right to Play

The promoting Life-Skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program partners with 88 First Nation communities and urban Aboriginal organizations across Canada to deliver safe, fun and educational programming for Children and Youth.

Each uniquely tailored play based program is designed to enhance educational outcomes, improve peer-to-peer relationships, increase employability and improve physical and mental health amongst our children and youth.

Through the power of play, we're helping our children and youth, recognize their potential and realize their dreams. Our programs focus on measurably impacting the three most critical areas of child development: the quality of their education, their ability to stay healthy and their potential to help build peaceful communities.



The foundation for Right to Play is simple: we create safe environments for children, where they can focus on their social, emotional and physical growth. Guided by our principles on inclusion, child protection and gender equality, we provide kids with the knowledge and skills they need to create sustainable and beneficial change.



25 children
and youth
are engaged
in this
program 4



Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Wahta Mohawks participated in a review of the NIHB with FHIHB and AANDC to analyze the NIHB program and how the program can better accommodate our needs within the community. This has been a lengthy process but unlike past reviews and working groups we have been successful with some immediate changes within the program and are expecting to see further changes once the review is complete. A progress list of

HOMEMAKERS

Homemaking services are offered to status members of Wahta Mohawks. Homemaking services that are covered under this program are; light house-keeping, meal preparation, personal care and aiding in activities of daily living. During 2015/2016 there have been 18 members that have received services through the homemakers program.



coverage on benefits has been sent out to all First Nations.

A benefit will be considered for coverage when an item or service is;

- ♦ Included on the NIHB benefit list.
- ♦ Intended for use in a home or other ambulatory setting.
- ♦ Requested through prior approval or predetermination process.
- ♦ Unavailable through any other benefits.
- ♦ Prescribed by a physician, dentist or other health professional.

health wellness

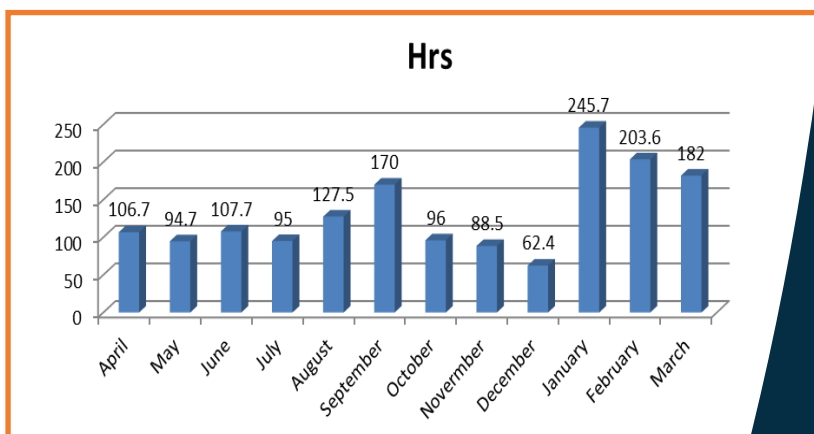
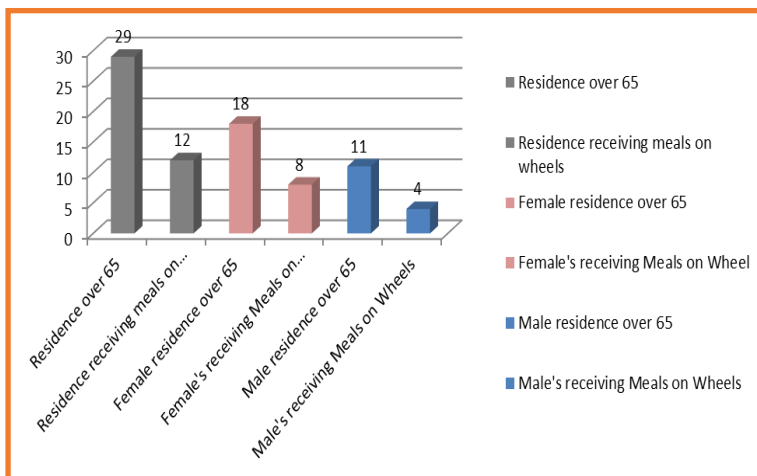
COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- *CCAC
- * SOADI
- * LIHN
- *COTTAGE COUNTRY HEALTH TEAM
- * HEALTH CANADA
- * CANADIAN RED CROSS
- * ENAAHTIG
- *B'SAANIBAMAADSIWIN
- *RVH

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is provided to seniors over the age of 65. The purpose of this program is to promote healthy eating and nutrition to our seniors and also supports their independence to remain living in their homes and within our community. This program also allows us to physically check-in on our seniors to ensure that they are well and that their needs are being addressed, as well as, allowing us to make recommended referrals.

- ◆ 12 senior residents of Wahta participating
- ◆ The program runs 50 weeks throughout the year.
- ◆ 600 individual meals served.
- ◆ Meals are prepared and delivered every Wednesday.



MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Wahta Mohawks has made arrangements with the Canadian Red Cross to provide transportation services to our seniors for medical appointments. Persons seeking to obtain this service must complete a client information sheet, once completed the Canadian Red Cross makes the necessary arrangements to provide transportation.

FOOT CARE

The foot care program supports and helps maintain a healthy life for people with or people at high risk of diabetes. This program is brought to the community to allow for easier access for those living on the Territory. Foot care is available on the second Wednesday of every month. Home visits are available to those with mobility or health conditions.

- ◆ 21 clients access foot care services
- ◆ 16 clients receive home visits
- ◆ Costs for 2015/2016 for this service were \$6000.00.

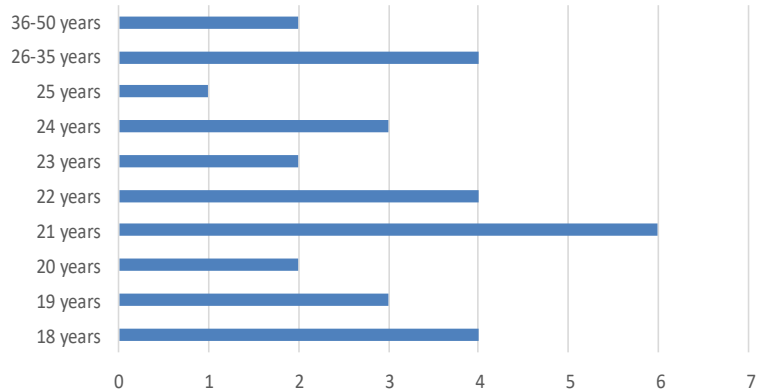
EDUCATION

2015/2016 Post Secondary education supported 31 students; 17 attended Community College programs, 13 attended undergraduate programs at the University level and 3 attended graduate programs at the University level. Our success rate last year was at 97%. Almost all students completed the year with great success.

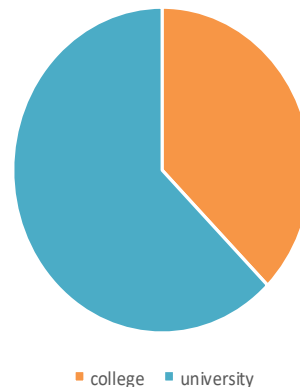
100% of our secondary students are doing well. We anticipate each student to graduate within the four years. Our 15 elementary students travel by school bus to Glen Orchard Public School and 3 graduated from grade 8 to secondary school. We can contribute the success of our students to parents who are engaged in their children's education and to the second level supports provided to students in after school programming; such as, tutoring, cultural mentorship and other social programming.



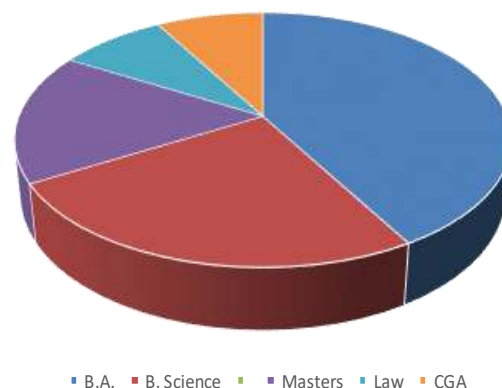
Ages of Students



2016/2017 Students

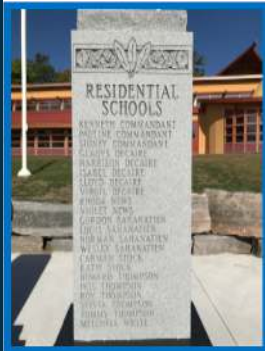


Some Programs Include:



Lyla Lane Land Lottery

Early last year a survey was completed on Lyla Lane and 18 lots were severed. These lots were offered to members to participate in a land lottery to encourage development and provide opportunity to Wahta Members to obtain land. The land lottery was held on October 29th, 2016 at the general meeting. There were 74 members that entered the lottery draw to purchase one of the 18 lots. The high volume of participants has identified the need for developing residential property on the Territory.



HONOURING OUR PAST

Wahta Mohawks Cenotaph

In 2015, the war memorial was moved from the old community centre to the current administration office. Four more cenotaphs were designed and acknowledge all Wahta military veterans and residential school survivors.

This same year, the monuments were dedicated at the Remembrance Day service.

Wahta Mohawks will always remember and honour those who served in the military and attended residential schools.

RECLAIMING MCMASTER LAKE

In September, the Maintenance and Public Works Crew cleaned up the McMaster Lake property, later that month all the Staff of Wahta and ICG joined in to help with this project.





In the last year there have been many improvements completed on the Wahta Mohawks Territory.

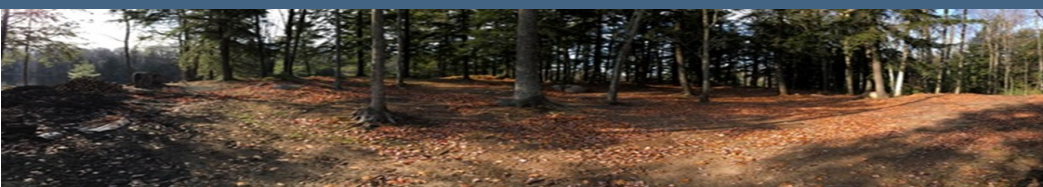
One of which was that the Wahta Quarry was opened, and a contract was tendered to crush stone and produce gravel for Wahta Mohawks Territory roads and parking lots. Another contract was tendered and awarded to a local member to distribute the gravel. Over 10,000 metric tons of gravel proxi-

or approximately 6 inches of gravel was applied to all community roads and parking lots. By utilizing Wahtas' resources gravel was offered to Members at a significantly reduced cost. To date, over 2,200 metric tons of gravel has been delivered to members for their personal use. Also, to further improve the roads and prevent future washouts all the major culverts on the community owned roads were replaced.

By maintaining and improving Community roads we can built on future development for Wahta.



Through the Canada/Ontario Resources Development Agreement (CORDA) Wahta has been conducting a forest inventory for the past two years. To date our forest inventory staff have sampled over 800 plots and categorized trees by species, diameter, health and understory. They have also identified any insects or disease affecting the forest. This information is valuable for determining future forest planning and species diversity.



HYDRO ONE

Brushing Contracts
This past year Wahta Mohawks negotiated two brushing contracts with Hydro One Networks. The first contract was for brushing a large area of the transmission line. There were 30 Wahta Members that secured a contract and brushed over 600 acres in 3 months. In total \$290,000.00 was tendered and awarded to Wahta Members.

The second contract will begin this spring with the brushing of an additional 30 kilometers of the distribution lines that run throughout the Territory, this is a much smaller contract in size and scope than the first contract but it is of interest again to the members of Wahta. Details of this contract will be provided in future newsletters.



WAHTA

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

WAHTA MOHAWKS

Statement of Financial Position

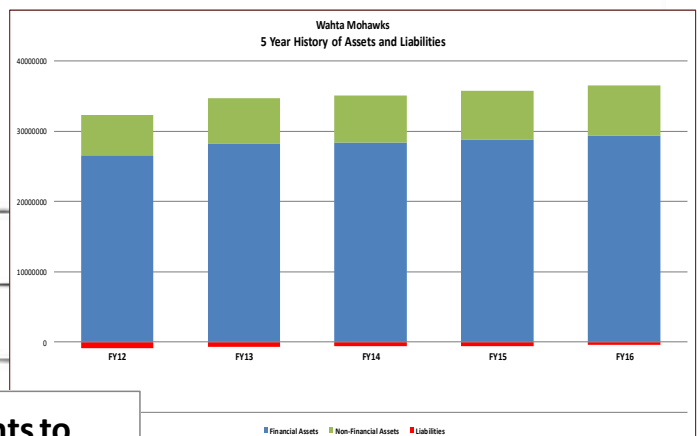
March 31, 2016, with comparative information for 2015

	2016	2015
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 2,413,612	\$ 3,104,114
Accounts receivable (note 2)	707,339	636,080
Investments (note 3)	23,199,482	22,127,517
Consolidated revenue funds	3,004,640	2,942,222
	<u>29,325,073</u>	<u>28,809,933</u>
Financial liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	352,004	595,368
Deferred revenue	53,421	29,631
	<u>405,425</u>	<u>624,999</u>
Net financial assets	<u>28,919,648</u>	<u>28,184,934</u>
Non-financial assets:		
Tangible capital assets (note 5)	6,562,419	5,859,182
Prepaid expenses	51,921	72,477
Inventory	614,630	1,009,802
	<u>7,228,970</u>	<u>6,941,261</u>
Contingent liabilities (note 7)		
Accumulated surplus (note 6)	<u>\$ 36,148,618</u>	<u>\$ 35,126,195</u>

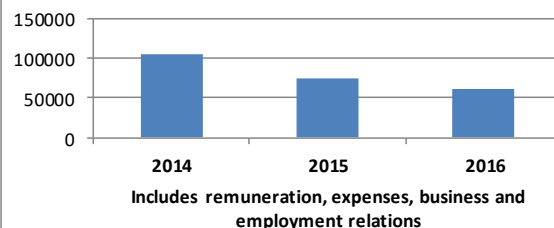
See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the First Nation:

Chief *[Signature]*
Councillor *[Signature]*
Councillor *[Signature]*



3 Year History of Payments to Chief & Council



Net Financial Assets

\$28.1 m

+734,714

+ 3%

Accumulated Surplus

\$36.1

+ 1,022,426

+ 3%

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.

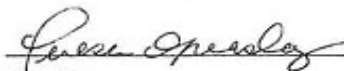
The Chief and Council are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and are ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements.

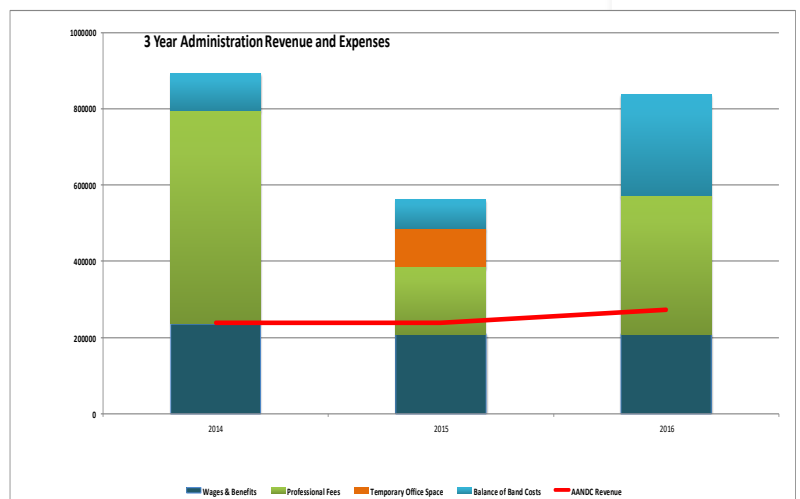
The Chief and Council review the Wahta Mohawks' financial statements and recommend their approval. The Chief and Council meet periodically to discuss and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the external auditors' report. The Chief and Council takes this information into consideration 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.


Chief


Councillor


Councillor





WAHTA MOHAWKS COMMUNITY TRUST

Elected Trustees

Tim Thompson

Shirley Hay

Lance DeCaire

Council Appointed Trustees

Philip Franks

Mike DeCaire

Co-ordinator to Trust

Colleen Mendes

The annual year-end earnings for the Trust Investment account for 2016 is \$393,921.12 and the total amount in the Trust Holding Account is \$2,005,401.79.

The Wahta Mohawks Trust was established in 2001 pursuant to the land claims settlement agreement reached with the Federal and Provincial Governments.

This agreement included the return of land and monetary compensation in the amount of \$9,050,000.00.

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" (interest only).

2014 – Approved Projects

\$12,000.00 Staff leadership training provided by Morningstar Leadership

\$95,000.00 the purchase of a Front Loader for Maintenance

2015 – Approved Projects

\$330,000.00 for the renovation of the old Family Resource Centre into the Wahta Health Hub

\$290,700.00 for renovating the old band hall for a Cultural Healing Centre in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation

\$48,725.00 for the purchase of Playground equipment for the Cultural Healing Centre

2016 – Approved Projects

\$39,124.00 for the purchase of a Maintenance work truck

\$12,500.00 for Community programs which included the Gun Course, the purchase of wheelchairs, and the Wellness Series Programs

\$97,321.50 for the completion of the Cultural Healing Centre.

For applications or for information please contact;

Co-ordinator to Trust, Colleen Mendes

Ph. :(705)762-2354

admin@wahtamohawkstrust.org

ANNUAL AUDIT

Wahta Mohawks Community Trust Statement of Operations and Net Assets

Year Ended December 31, **2015** 2014 2013

Revenue

Dividends	\$ 76,440	\$ 103,217	\$ 97,988
Interest	\$ 215,204	\$ 208,499	\$ 231,763
Realized Gain	\$ 113,206	\$ 51,774	\$ 182,064
Unrealized (Loss)	\$ <u>(149,684)</u>	\$ <u>420,346</u>	\$ <u>27,809</u>
increase in fair values			
	\$ <u>255,166</u>	\$ <u>783,836</u>	\$ <u>539,624</u>

Expenditures

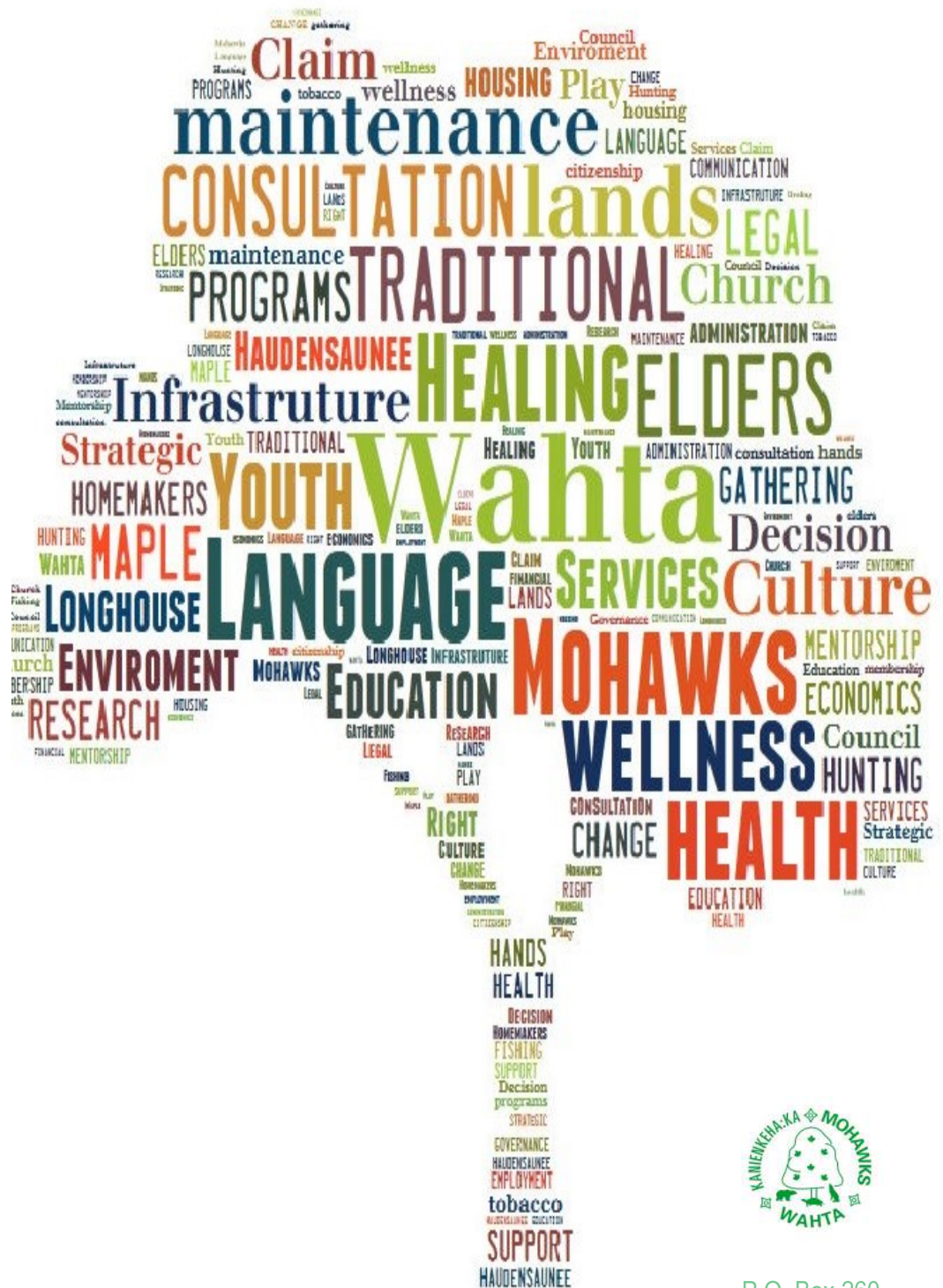
	2015	2014	2013
Transfer to Wahta Mohawks	\$ 346,381	\$ 322,951	\$ 472,073
Management Fees	\$ <u>40,836</u>	\$ <u>40,236</u>	\$ <u>39,074</u>
	\$ <u>387,217</u>	\$ 363,187	\$ 511,147

Excess of revenue over expenditures \$ **(132,051)** \$ 420,649 \$ 28,477
(Loss)

****Unrealized Loss occurs when a stock decreases after an investment purchase and the stock has not been sold. If the stock rose back above the original price, then the investor would have an unrealized gain. Gains and losses are said to be realized when they are sold.****

2015/2016





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