

**An Observer's View of Nonviolent Response**

By Burt Howard

The following incident was reported by one of many outside observers who monitor the barricades at Akwesasne 24 hours a day. It describes how a man with a bat approached the Eastern gate late one night.

The man was trying to provoke some kind of a violent response and he just didn't get anywhere at all. Everyone (at the barricade) just stood, listened to him and looked at him. He had the gumption to confront everybody directly rather than just drive by in a car.

He broke (with the bat) these little yellow flashers and on the car with flashing red lights, he broke them off the car. And he pushed down some barriers.

But it was just kind of sad to watch it all. Eventually he just gave it all up. He kept saying, "I don't have anything to live for." A lot of the people just stood silently with their heads bowed and listened to him. He just did whatever he did. That's what's scary about it. You can't predict what people are going to do. They could do anything. It's just meaningless. Crazy. It's as if someone is trying to incite some kind of fear or intimidation in a person. And if that response isn't there, the person kind of gives up or quits it.

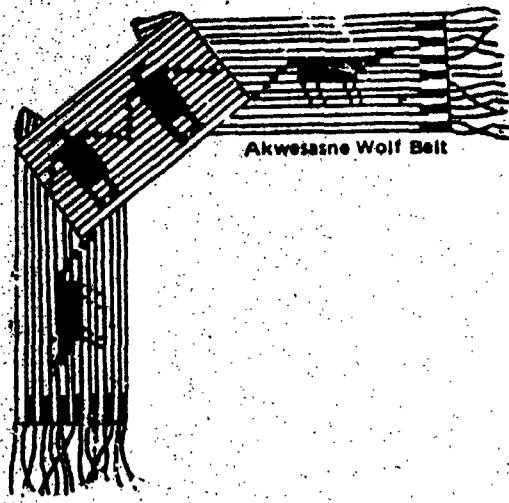
It's not just one person (turning away from violence at the barricades.) It's the whole group of people involved, which is different. As an observer, I was very appreciative of seeing this kind of response. Afterwards, I began to see that they (Mohawks) were way ahead of me. It just seems like they thought out these things beforehand and this is what they planned to do. You know, you can theoretically think about what you might do in a situation and how you would like to act, but you really never know until that happens. And here it was, happening. And all these folks, they just knew what they were doing. I felt that it was a wonderful thing to see.

When you think of all this tension, all this provocation and the guns shooting off every night, and the real fear....No one's gotten seriously hurt that I know of. They're really looking after each other in some way. Their feeling is that it's a very important thing that they are doing. It involves their very future and it's a sacred thing. There's no drinking, no use of drugs. It's the kind of thing you assume goes on in government circles of committed persons. To actually see it happening is a very impressive thing. These are the thinking people who are committed.

**From Our Elders to all Akwesasne Residents**

The St. Regis Mohawk Senior Citizens' Club Inc. is sponsoring a "Clean Up Our Reservation Day", Saturday, May 19, 1990. The Senior Citizens are appalled that the Reservation looks like it does. We are concerned about our Environment! We believe we should start cleaning up the environment right here at home! Our ancestors would cry if they could see the trash that is carelessly thrown out of cars on the road sides. We weren't brought up with fast food restaurants or convenience stores where you can buy anything from Pampers to Beer and that seems to be the bulk of trash on our Reservation land. Empty McDonald's containers, Burger King, soda bottles, beer bottles, Pampers or anything else you have in your car you want to get rid of. Where have we gone wrong? Have we neglected to teach our children the sacredness of Mother Earth? Please come and share this day with us to try to clean up what was once a beautiful Reservation.

We are still in the planning stages but will keep you informed. If your Organization or neighborhood wants to get involved please call the Senior Citizens' Center, 358-2963. We need volunteers with pick-up trucks from every area on the Reservation. Donations of trash bags and gloves will be appreciated.



**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE**

**COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL**

**IS THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE (MCA) PROPOSING TO BE A MUNICIPALITY?**

**NO! NO! NO!**

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL **NEVER** NEGOTIATED TO BE A MUNICIPALITY.

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL IS WORKING ON EXPANDING ITS AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL AND IS NEGOTIATING SOME OF THE POWERS AWAY FROM THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

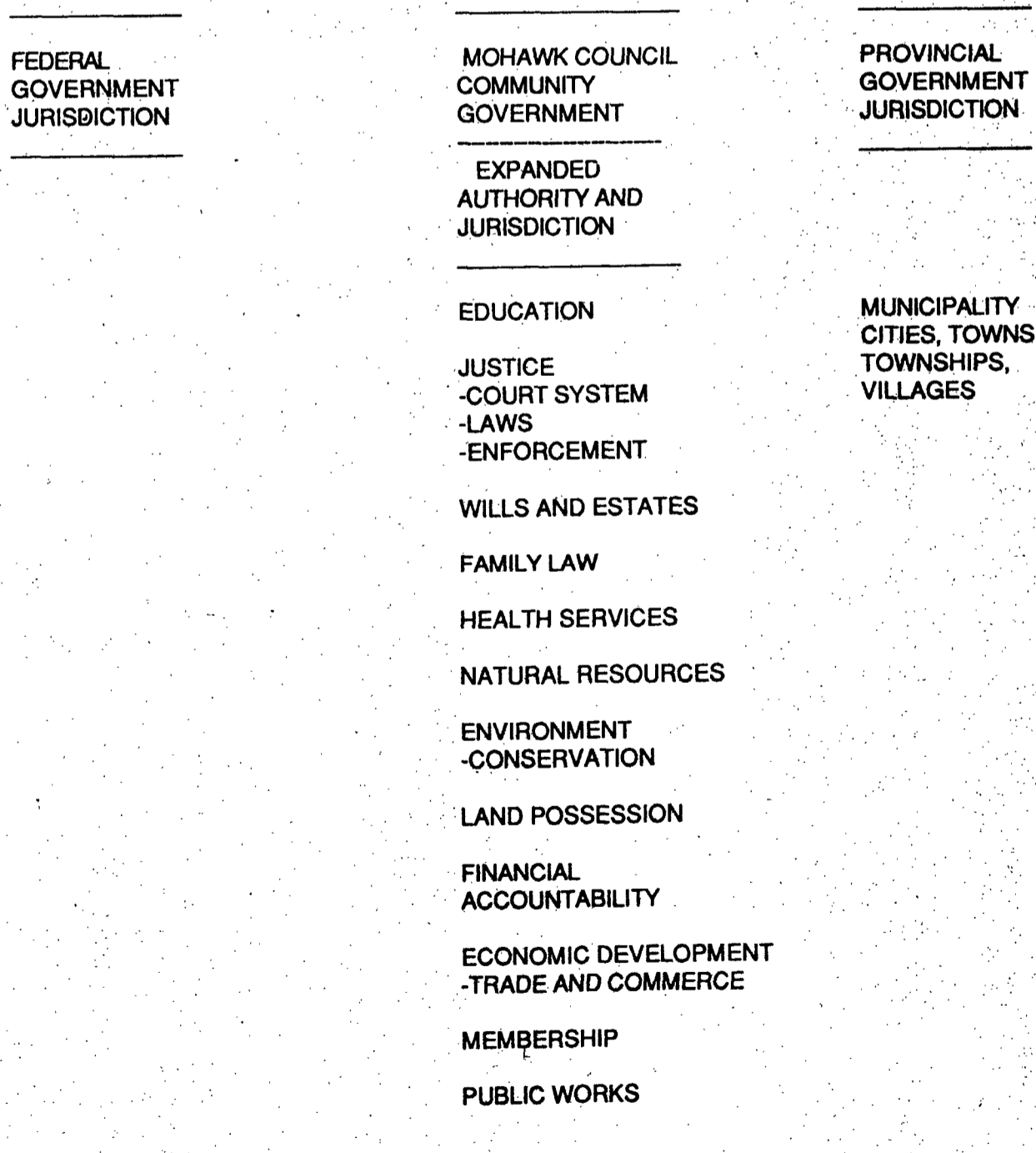
FOLLOWING ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE AREAS THAT THE MCA IS PROPOSING TO NEGOTIATE AND THE DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS.

MCA negotiations for jurisdiction and authority.	Do municipalities have these powers?	Who currently has these powers?
EDUCATION	NO	MCA with Provincial curriculum
JUSTICE-COURT SYSTEM	NO	Federal and Provincial
WILLS AND ESTATES	NO	Federal and Provincial
FAMILY LAW	NO	Federal and Provincial
HEALTH SERVICES	NO	Federal and Provincial
NATURAL RESOURCES	NO	Federal and Provincial
ENVIRONMENT	NO	Federal and Provincial
LAND POSSESSION	NO	Federal and Provincial
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY	NO	Federal and Provincial

**MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE'S COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL STRUCTURE**

THE AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OF THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE (MCA) IS REPRESENTED IN THE DIAGRAM AS A THIRD ORDER GOVERNMENT. THE MCA IS NOT PROPOSING TO FUNCTION AS A MUNICIPALITY. A MUNICIPALITY, AS SHOWN IN THE DIAGRAM, IS A LOWER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CREATED BY THE INCORPORATION OF THE PEOPLE OF A PRESCRIBED LOCALITY INVESTED WITH SUBORDINATE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT.

THE MCA PROPOSES TO FUNCTION AS A UNIQUE BODY OF GOVERNMENT WHICH TAKES AWAY JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY FROM CANADIAN FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. THE ARROWS IN THE DIAGRAM COMING FROM THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, MEETING AT THE DOTTED RECTANGULAR SHAPE REPRESENTS THE AREA OF NEGOTIATION, WHEREBY THE MCA PROPOSES AN EXPANSION OF ITS AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION.



The Council therefore is proposing to negotiate for community government powers now being exercised by federal and provincial laws imposed on Akwesasne. The community government will **NOT** either in its powers or political structure be similar to municipalities.

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL WANTS POWERS **FAR** GREATER THAN A MUNICIPALITY CAN EVER HAVE.

**THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN WITH COMMUNITY RATIFICATION.**