

Editor's Note: The following letter was in response to the controversial voter list in the latest tribal elections.

Carol Herne
Tribal Clerk
Community Building
Hogansburg, NY 13655

For the past 10 years the policy of American Residency was never implemented. If you have a policy then it should be implemented at all times, and not when it suits your purposes.

The so-called voting list is invalid because it lacks proper approval. A residency policy was never discussed at any of the recent tribal meetings. The question of voting eligibility should have been discussed openly at a regular tribal meeting months ago, and not behind closed minds a few days before caucus.

I have examined the voting list carefully and have noted several discrepancies. There are several Canadian residents on the list and many American residents not on the list. Either take all Canadian residents off or put them all back on. Both Julius and Melvin's nominations were second by Canadian residents, so if you invalidate all Canadians then you will invalidate those candidates' nominations.

Canadian enrolled members are included in the statistics used for grant purposes, and for the yearly annuity from NY State. Yet, when it comes to voicing an opinion in the form of an election, then you want to exclude Canadian residents. Further more, an enrollment number means that you are considered a U.S. citizen. U.S. citizens are allowed to vote even if they are out of the country at election time.

Ruth B. Seymor
Akwasasne resident

cc: Harold Tarbell
David Jacobs
Lincoln White



Editor's Note: The following communications was sent to the tribe by John Kahionhes Fadden as a formal complaint to the same voting list.

Date: May 18, 1990
To: Carol Herne, Chief Harold Tarbell & Saka Pemberton
From: John D. Fadden/Kahionhes
Re: A formal complaint relative to the absence of Fadden family names on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Membership Roles.

It has come to our attention that my name, my wife's name, the names of our three children, and my mother's name are not indicated on the tribal roles exhibited at the Community Building. This communication is a formal complaint relative to this oversight, and we wish to have notice if its rectification.

The names and enrollment numbers in question are as follows:
Christine Mary Fadden-F-089
John David Fadden-F-090
Elizabeth Eva Fadden-F-091
Donald Gary Fadden-F-092
David Raymond Fadden-F-093
Daniel John Fadden-F-094

Thank you in advance for your prompt compliance.



Akwasasne Wolf Belt

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Historically, economic development at Akwasasne was based on a reliance on seasonal hunting, trapping, fishing, farming and trade of traditional craftware (baskets) and foods. Throughout the years, the land and waters of Akwasasne have suffered great environmental damage, and thus Akwasasne experienced a gradual trend from living off the land and waters to a reliance on salaried work on and off the reserve.

It has been the experience of Akwasasne, that direct and delegated economic development under the Indian Act is inadequate and seriously underestimates Akwasasne's capabilities to become economically self-directing.

Economic development is a vital component for the advancement and enrichment of any society. The concept of community development places much emphasis on the participation and involvement of community members in identifying and resolving community economic problems. The Mohawk Council's interpretation of economic development further enhances community development by considering the social and environmental impact of an economic venture. Long range planning must take into account Mohawk social and cultural beliefs in the selection of economic enterprises.

THE FIVE YEAR AKWESASNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne has been steadily improving the quality of life within the Akwasasne territory for the past half decade. Economic development has been a priority for the Council and the planning for the next five years will serve the need for increased employment opportunities and significantly increase the number of businesses within our territory. There are numerous business opportunities in Akwasasne. At this moment, many of our citizens go to the surrounding areas for service or commodities.

In recognition of the possibilities for business development, the staff of the Mohawk Council have formulated a plan of development for the purpose of revitalizing the Akwasasne economy. It is our sincere hope that as a result of this plan, the economy of Akwasasne will no longer be reliant on one industry, but become much more diversified and dependent upon small business.

The economic development plan for Akwasasne includes the following components

1. Employment Initiative Literacy Program
2. The Entrepreneurship Program
3. Small Business Centre
4. Business Development Centre (Loan Fund)
5. The Akwasasne Capital Corporation
6. Island and Tourism Development
7. Promotional Video and Brochures
8. Adult Education Facility at the shell of the St. Regis Building

The eight components of the Akwasasne Economic Development Plan have been extensively thought out by the Mohawk Council. It is expected that some people entering the Employment Initiative Centre or the Entrepreneurship Course are going to start a business. Upon completion of their course, they will have a completed business plan and received a grant, thus enabling them to approach the ABDC or ACC for funding to start their business. The Akwasasne Business Centre will offer an international location for the Akwasasne business community to operate their business. The islands and tourism development will serve to further attract people to this area. The promotional brochure and video will serve to attract larger businesses and hopefully increase the employment opportunities in Akwasasne. The adult education facility will offer a wide variety of courses for people aspiring to a career as well as offering space for industry.

As a result of new business initiatives at Akwasasne, the unemployment rate is expected to drop. The Mohawk Council of Akwasasne will offer alternatives in economic development to the community at Akwasasne and employment will be available to those who have to travel away on a weekly basis. At the end of the five year plan, Akwasasne will have experienced the beginning of new and diversified options in economic development.

Editor's Note: The following is Clerk Carol Herne's reply to Kahionhes. Note that it is admittedly written by Julius "Speed" Herne, a candidate for sub-chief in the same election, and that the discrepancies are blamed on "computer error."

May 23, 1990

John Kahionhes Fadden
Six Nations Indian Museum
Onchiota, NY 12968
Dear John:

SUBJECT: Eligible Voter List

The tribal Office is a madhouse today and Carol asked if I could write a reply to your letter dated May 18, 1990. It is good to receive word that my old friends are still around. In these modern times when everything, almost, can be blamed on a computer error it appears that many of these claims of computer error are valid. In any event, your

names were inadvertently left off our eligible voter list; the voter list is derived from but is separate from the Tribal Enrollment List. Your names are all listed on the Enrollment lists and since Daniel John Fadden will not have reached his eighteenth birthday on June 2, 1990 he will not appear on the eligible voter list.

Rest assured that the Tribal Council's goal is to allow all eligible voters to vote in the June 2, 1990 election and to prevent all ineligible individuals from voting.

Carol will sign this letter to make it official but rest assured that her secretary Julius "Speed" Herne sends you and yours his best also.

SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE

Carol T. Herne
Carol T. Herne
Tribal Clerk

Editor's Note: The following memo was sent to Chief Jacobs and White from Chief Harold Tarbell concerning their role in the voting list controversy.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Leo David Jacobs & Chief Lincoln C. White
FROM: Head Chief Harold Tarbell
RE: Voter Eligibility/sign in material
DATE: June 14, 1990

Further to my memo of June 4, 1990 our discussion and the legal memorandum of Barry Israel. I am once again requesting a copy of the voter eligibility list and the voter sign in registration list.

I see no issue of privacy or confidentiality or breach of the secret ballot process in the release of these documents as you have suggested. The sign in occurs in a public area, only the marking of the ballots are secret.

There is no way to connect a registrations with any particular ballot.

You have the opportunity to demonstrate that you are open

accountable Chiefs who have nothing to hide from the public. Releasing these lists will go a long way to reassuring myself that our democratic process has not been tainted by unfair practices. It will also allow you to begin the new term on July 1st with a clear indication of your openness.

To think in particular that a sitting duly elected Chief has no access to tribal documents is to state that proper governing by the Council or the individual Chief can not be done. It also sends a frightening message to all tribal members that their rights of freedom of information can be denied without due process, explanation or logic. This applies to everyone regardless of their political views and subjects them, in effect, to the whim of any particular Chiefs.

You have suggested to me and to others that court actions be commenced to secure the release of these documents without a proper explanation. That is an unreasonable burden to place on

your people. You are responsible, to them, you must make the decision and you must bear responsibility for them. You can not shift the burden of responsibility and decision making to the tribal attorney or the courts. Otherwise the people might as well elect them to office.

The legal memorandum clearly leaves you the opportunity and the responsibility for releasing these documents as having public purpose. This would best protect the democratic interests of our people, strengthen the credibility of the Tribal Council and assure that our democracy is open, accountable and has nothing to hide.

Unless I receive a written response from you I will assume that open government is your policy and will obtain a qualified copy within the next week.

cc: Carol Herne, Tribal Clerk
Barry Israel
Bill Out
Brian Stewart