

TOTAL OCCURENCES: 42
Occurences involving youthful offenders: 3

CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARDS:

Continuous service awards and recognition plaques were presented to the members of the Akwesasne Police Service on February 25, 1992. The ceremony which was sponsored by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne was the first of its kind in recognition of individual merit.

HOBEMA DELEGATION:

On February 12, 1992, chiefs in Council and members from the justice area played host to a delegation of Hobemas from Alberta. The Hobemas are in the planning stage for developing a local justice system. The day was dedicated to discussing problem areas in justice and the approach being considered in Akwesasne. This was more or less a fact-finding mission for the Hobema delegation.

EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATION:

Over the past several months, there has been considerable discussion over the need to develop and improve the coordination between emergency service (ie. police service, fire department and ambulance service) when a situation calls for a response from more than one. On February 19, 1992, the "Lead Agency Concept" was discussed and agreed upon.

FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

The Lead Agency Concept is essential in emergency situations where more than one Emergency Response Agency is required. There should be one of these three agencies identified as being the one that has the overall responsibility for the occurrence. The following identifies which agency will be the lead agency in what occurrences.

POLICE:

- any criminal occurrence (with the possible exception of arson initially)
- any unnatural death
- traffic scenes after situation is stabilized (ie. trapped victims)
- any other occurrence not covered by another agency

FIRE:

- actual fire until fire is extinguished, then dependent on circumstances the lead agency may change
- motor vehicle accident if people are trapped or if there is a fire hazard. Fire Department would be lead agency until situation is stabilized then police would become lead agency
- for water rescues, fire department will be lead agency, police and ambulance to assist. If drowning occurs then it becomes unnatural death and police department become lead agency
- for fireworks displays, fire department becomes lead agency unless the peace is disturbed, then police become lead agency
- hazardous material spills

AMBULANCE:

- medical emergency out of the normal and not within the responsibilities of the other agencies. (ie. large scale food poisoning)

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - POLICING:

In keeping with our commitment to keep in close contact with the community in regards to policing, the Interim Chief of Police, Mr. Ernie Houghton and Chief Brian David met with interested residents of the Snye district. This meeting was held at the Snye Homemakers Building on February 4, 1992, and was very successful in providing a forum to receive and to discuss the concerns of the people. (A special note of thanks for the organizers of this event.) It is hoped that similar events can be organized in other districts.

Chief Marshall Oakes

Activity Report for the month of February

CABLE SERVICE:

Meeting commenced at 10:55 a.m. on February 3, 1992. The topic was cable T.V. subscriber service. David Wolfe of New Channels was present. There is some problem about hooking it up because we have two different telephone area codes and that was as far as it went.

HIRING LAWYER:

We had interviewed Christine Deom to be our in-house lawyer and she was hired.

MEETING WITH TRIBAL COUNCIL:

On February 6, 1992 we had a meeting with the Tribal Council at Hogan's Inn. We talked about New York State Police and tax issues. The meeting didn't last too long because we had a drowning that day. Everybody was on the ice.

JUSTICE:

There was a meeting with the police chief at the Snye Homemakers building to discuss what was happening with the police force and how we could have a police force that we could respect and trust. Meeting ended about 10:00 p.m. that night.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

There were meetings the whole week of February 10th through the 14th. Coopers & Lybrand were present at the boardroom. We went through the financial statements that took most of the day. The next day we had an all day session with housing policy and during this time we worked on amendments.

STANLEY ISLAND:

We had also checked on Stanley Island about who was taking care of the cabins and there was nobody there. It looked like everything was alright.

Grand Chief Mike Mitchell

Activity Report for month of February and March

The period from January to March has always been a busy time for the Grand Chief and the Mohawk Council staff. This is the period when we lobby for dollars for our new programs as well as making sure that our existing programs are operational and have adequate funding. This year the issues of aboriginal rights in the constitution, Quebec's threatened separation and Ontario's proposed special relationship with First Nations have all added to an already busy schedule.

With the current recession in Canada and the United States it has become an uphill battle to maintain the level of funding we have become accustomed to but we have continued to strive for additional dollars to bring more services and programs to Akwesasne. The teamwork approach between myself and the Mohawk Council department directors has enabled me to present solid and well prepared documentation in our proposals for project funding to outside government agencies.

With regard to the issue of self-government, it is clear that it is important to have a strong position in Ottawa on the national level but it is also equally important to have a clear understanding of the Akwesasne self-government process. The people of Akwesasne must be comfortable with and understand the concept of self-government in order to provide direction to the Mohawk Council. General support from the Canadian public is evident based upon the results of last week's poll which indicates a 60% level in favour of First Nation self-government.

On the local level the thing that concerns me the most is the perception of self-government by the people of Akwesasne. Some of the feedback I've received so far is an expressed concern that self-government could mean that we would lose our tax exemption status or our health benefits or even our pensions. The answer to these concerns is that we would not lose any of these benefits. It is true that the government has been trying to sell us their version of self-government under the guise of "Local Government" since the 1960's, however, the Mohawk Council never accepted this because under their scheme most of the authority stayed in Ottawa and "Local Government" did not address the true intent of self-government.

One thing which must be absolutely clear is that under our proposed model of self-government the people of Akwesasne have the authority, not a non-Indian Minister sitting in Ottawa. I cannot stress enough the fact the people of this community will be the power which runs this community and the Mohawk Council will be the administrative group which implements your decisions. Community participation in the development of our model of self-government which will include community laws, areas of concentrated development and the assertion of our rights is crucial to our collective success. The following is a breakdown of activities I have been involved in during the months of February and March:

During the week of February 3rd - 7th, I attended a Constitutional Working Group Committee meeting at the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa. Also met with Revenue Canada, INAC officials, along with MCA staff from Economic Development to discuss concerns of Akwesasne regarding GST and the proposed Island Mall operation. The next day I attended a parliamentary hearing on the disabled, discussions focused on a funding formula for natives with disabilities. I also met with Manpower officials to review new structures and progress for First Nations. On Friday, February 7th, I attended a graduation dinner for the RNA program.

The week of February 10th - 14th, I conducted day to day business of the MCA, reviewed proposals for the new fiscal year. I also attended a Chiefs of Ontario round table discussion in Toronto concerning the relationship between First Nations and Ontario on land, resources, justice, and jurisdiction. Also prepared for the grand opening of the Kawehnoke Community Centre on February 14th.

Participated in the Akwesasne Winter Carnival held February 15th and 16th.

On February 17th and 18th, I attended a Constitutional Working Group meeting in Toronto; Phil Fontaine was appointed chairperson and worked on the aims and objectives for national representation on constitutional issues.

February 19th through 21st, I attended a workshop on self-government at the Chiefs of Ontario office in Toronto. I organized workshops for Chiefs and Councils in Ontario on matters pertaining to self-government in the following areas:

- (a) Constitution - national
- (b) Statement of Relations with Ontario
- (c) Domestic Sovereignty of U.S. Tribes

Annual leave taken from February 24 - March 2nd.

The week of March 3rd - 6th, handled day to day activities at the MCA office.

Attended the monthly General Meeting in Snye on Saturday, March 7th.

Conducted day to day MCA business on March 9th and 10th.

Attended a Constitutional Working Group meeting at the AFN office in Ottawa March 11th through 13th.

March 14th and 15th, I attended an Aboriginal Constitutional Conference with Minister Joe Clark and the Dobbie Committee in Ottawa.

Conducted day to day MCA activities on March 16th and 17th.

Travelled to Toronto for March 18th through 20th to attend the Regional Area Management Board of Ontario (RAMBO) meeting to set new program criteria for Manpower.

Conducted day to day MCA activities on March 23rd and 24th.

Attended a meeting with Independent First Nations regarding budget and relations with other aboriginal organizations at the Chiefs of Ontario Office in Toronto on March 25th and 26th.

Attended the Council Special Meeting on March 27th.

Attended the monthly General Meeting in St. Regis on Saturday, March 28th.

Monday, March 30th, attended to daily activities of the MCA.

Tuesday, March 31st, travelled to Ottawa to attend the Constitutional Working Group meeting at AFN.

Chief Lynn Roundpoint

Activity Report for month of March

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

During the month of March, the Executive Committee has met on a regular basis to discuss matters pertaining to:

- Conflict of Interest Guidelines
- Collective Agreement
- Personnel Issues
- Indian Government Structure
- Financial Management Plan.

These matters will be further discussed as needed before presented to Council for ratification, with an exception of the Collective Agreement.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Membership Committee (Rose Marie Sunday, Lynn Roundpoint, Wally Oakes), within Council, met with the Membership Board to clarify any misunderstanding in regards to line of authority. At this meeting questions were asked of the Membership Committee within Council, but were unable to be answered as there is no mandate or procedural guidelines for the Committee to follow. Therefore, this Committee will be meeting in the first part of April to draft up procedural guidelines and the mandate of this Committee. We are scheduled to meet with the Membership Board the second week of April.

HOUSING:

Policy development: the proposed amendments to the housing policy are near completion. The Housing Authority will be meeting in the early part of April to finalize these amendments, it will then be forwarded to Council for review and ratification.

HOUSING AUTHORITY:

The Housing Authority continues to meet on a regular monthly basis, dealing with issues that need round table discussion and, if necessary, further recommendation to Council for ratification.

NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE:

The Assembly of First Nations held a "First Nations Chiefs Planning Session on Housing", this session was attended by myself along with the Housing Coordinator. Workshop topics are as follows:

- (a) First Nations Housing & Self-Government
- (b) Land Tenure and Home Ownership
- (c) Financing of Housing
- (d) Health and Safety Occupants
- (e) Maintenance of Physical Assets

The workshops were set up for participants to discuss, debate and explore options on each topic. Problems were identified and possible solutions were recommended.

A committee has been established to obtain all recommendations put forth by First Nations in regards to housing and begin the development of a Cabinet Submission for the month of August. Before this proposal goes to Cabinet, it must be accepted by the Chiefs at the next General Assembly, tentatively scheduled for June.

CORONER:

A meeting was held in the early part of March to discuss the issue of Coroner for the territory of Akwesasne where MCA has jurisdiction. There were many problems that were identified, such as:

- Jurisdiction
- International and Provincial Boundaries
- Hospitals (Hotel Dieu)
- Policing Agencies (who has the lead role)
- Provincial Coroners Guidelines
- Time limits

These are just some of the issues which were identified. There is a meeting scheduled in April to meet with both provincial (Ontario/Quebec) Coroners to discuss and explore the Provincial requirements of a Coroner. Recommendations should be coming forth in regards to a protocol in the event of a death, in the territory of Akwesasne where MCA has jurisdiction.

