

Racing Against Drugs  
APRIL 24, 1996  
Anowarokowa Arena - Kawenoke District

Akwesasne -- On April 24, 1996, the community of Akwesasne will be sponsoring the first Mohawk Territory event called Racing Against Drugs.

Over 450 students from schools within Akwesasne, grades three to eight will be participating. The event will involve over twenty community programs offering information on drug prevention, positive health, role models, culture and support in the promotion of drug-free lifestyles.

The event has been made available through the Ford Motor Company. Other support

and coordination has been made possible through Performance Ford, Native owned by Danny Terrance, the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education and Schools, the RCMP Cornwall detachment, St. Regis Mohawk - Tribal Police, Frogtown International Speedway, St. Regis Mohawk Health Services, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Tsitewatakri:tat, Akwesane Mohawk Police and many other community organizations.

We invite you to attend, participate and assist us in promoting this event as a community effort

for encouraging positive growth in our Mohawk children. For more information please contact: **Irving Papineau, Chairperson at (613) 932-3366.**

The Racing Against Drugs Committee of the Akwesasne Territory includes:

**Irving Papineau**, Principal, Akwesasne Mohawk School  
**Louise Prichard**, Principal, Kanatakon School  
**Romaine Mitchell**, Principal, Tsi Snaihne Mohawk School  
**Marie Seymour**, Student Liaison, St. Regis Mohawk School  
**Rob Cree**, Ass't Administrator,

St. Regis Mohawk Health Services

**Al Bennett**, RCMP First Nations Services, Cornwall Detachment

**Leona Barnes**, MCA-Addiction Awareness and Prevention Program

**Eva Seymour**, RN, MCA Community Health Nurse

**Janine Rourke**, Tsitewatakri:tat "Let's Get Healthy" program

**Kevin Nanticoke**, Akwesane Mohawk Police

**Lewis Mitchell**, Chief of Police, Akwesasne Mohawk Police

**Wesley Benedict**, St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police.

### Attention Akwesasne Community and Surrounding Areas

The Akwesasne Mohawk Police Services would like to inform you that effective immediately and continuing through the summer months they will be conducting random checks for  
**Seatbelt Use and Impaired Driving.**

**Remember: Buckle Up and Don't Drink And Drive!**

**..Tax Strategy from front pg.** states the government says they will put reservations on a "level playing field" with other businesses.

"A lot of reserves are in out of the way places. Without the tax break no one would shop here," he said. "We've never been on a level playing field."

Harry Wallace of Unkechaug, said the whole issue is about protecting First Nations' sovereignty rights. He refers to the mission statement of the First Nations Business League which states: The mission of the First Nations Business League is to express the sovereignty position of the original Nations on this part of Mother Earth, and to promote, defend and exercise our sovereign right to conduct trade and commerce."

Randy Jock from Akwesasne said Natives need to reach the level of business where Americans are at today.

Those present for the press conference agreed that most of the employment in their communities was a result of jobs created through community business ventures.

Ross John, a Seneca said, "we are first generation business people. We do not have hundreds of years of experience like the state

government does. We are struggling for self sufficiency. This is a training ground for us." John said he estimates 80% of the public believe the tribe's interpretation of the treaties and support the tribes in their efforts.

Randy Jock added the local business people of Akwesasne work hand-in-hand with the local governments. "It's not a one-sided effort. We support one another," he adds.

The group gathered for this anti-tax meeting agree it is time to take the fight where it has to be fought (Albany). Phil Tarbell said, "New York wants to impose a tax on our retailers making us the tax collectors for them. They want us to do their dirty work." Tarbell adds.

Ross John states New York State has a lot of misinformation. Some of the numbers they use are wrong. "Further, the government is trying to put us on their time table."

The time table John refers to is the July 5, 1996 deadline that Tribes have to come to the table to negotiate a tax. Tarbell said Tribes have refused to meet with New York State as long as they impose a deadline. There has been no word what will happen if the Tribes do not meet with the government by the deadline.

**...protest con't from front page** School district for thirty years said Jean Herne.

Several parents question why residency has come to light in recent months. One parent said she is aware of Massena administration following school buses to see where Mohawk children were dropped off. Another Mother said she received telephone calls at home from Salmon River Central administration asking if she resided at the number dialed. The telephone number was a Canadian telephone number.

Several names have been thrown around as being responsible for bringing this attack on the Canadian Mohawk children.

When all the finger pointing is done the Mohawk parents and students are still faced with a complex situation.

Commissioner Richard Mills said a study group has been assembled to address the issue of borders and tuition.

Salmon River's Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Singleton said, "We want to provide education for those north of the border. We don't want to see them not attend Salmon River if they choose."

Phil Tarbell, Tribal Council member who was on hand to greet the Commissioner said, "This is all being driven by numbers and money."

### Grand Chief Roundpoint On Tuition

Akwesasne -- In a telephone interview on April 18, 1996, Mohawk Council Grand Chief Russell Roundpoint addressed the tuition concerns for the Salmon River School District.

Rumors circulated throughout Akwesasne regarding the threat of possible tuition fees for Canadian Mohawk students attending school in the Salmon River School District. Several concerned Mohawk parents held a peaceful demonstration at St. Regis Mohawk School in Hogansburg while State Education Commissioner Richard Mills was visiting the school. Roundpoint said this is NOT the case. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education are in negotiations for Tuition Agreements with the Salmon River Board of Education similar to the one with the SD&G School Board.

There will be NO expense to parents wishing to have their children attend school in the Salmon River School District. Roundpoint said he is committed to maintaining the arrangements for parents to send their children to school where ever they choose at no cost.