

Local News

MCA Resolutions Passed in Principle

Kanakaton: The monthly general meeting of the Mohawk Council of Ahkwasasne included the passage of our (4) resolutions in principle. The resolutions involved the Governance Procedural Act and environmental issues. Chief Lynn Roundpoint moved and Chief Phyllis Lazore seconded the resolution to accept in principle the Procedural Governance Act of Ahkwasasne. Chief Roundpoint gave the background to the history of the Procedural Governance Act. The Justice Program was brought in to assist with final drafts. Chief Roundpoint emphasized that this was not a law but a regulation. This document will give the Council guidance. The regulation is consistent with the MCA election regulations.

There was some discussion on the resolution. There was a question about access to the Information Act. Chief Roundpoint responded that this was being worked on. What is confidential will also be defined. There is a section for amending the document which allayed the fear of all resolutions being passed in special meetings. After discussion the resolution was passed in principle with the community understanding

changes and recommendations are welcomed.

The next resolution related to the first resolution on Procedural Governance. This resolution was for a manual for the MCA Council. The manual was described as a document that includes all things that a Chief may encounter during his/her term. The document will help any new Council member. This is a law so it will have to go through the four phases of the law enactment process. The starting of the process is the passage, in principle, of this law presented at the general meeting. The law will be read at the next three district meetings. The law speaks of the terms of reference for the Council: conduct of members, duties of council, procedures, elections, passage of laws. This resolution is a real by-Law. It was emphasized by Chief Roundpoint that changes can be made to the law. The resolution was moved by Chief Lynn Roundpoint, seconded by Chief Johanne Jackson. After discussion, changes were made to the resolution and passed by the Council. Stricken from the resolution were the sentences referring to the Constitution of Canada.

The next two resolutions

directly involve the environment and community welfare. The Petroleum Act was introduced by Chief Ray Mitchell. The Petroleum Act is to regulate the fuel industry at Ahkwasasne and to provide the sale of fuel and fuel products to the Mohawk community of Kahnawake. The Act will provide Mohawk jurisdiction over fuel supplies in the Mohawk territory. The law if passed will be in principle only. The law is needed to get the process moving. The resolution was moved by Chief Ray Mitchell and seconded by Chief Vincenette Cook. The law will include inter-community trade. "The law does not speak to how many gas stations or marinas can be opened, that comes with zoning," according to Chief Mitchell. Zoning is an issue to be discussed and will be if the community so requests. For the community's information, Chief Mitchell said that the marinas were not in compliance now. "We need to work together to put together a good Governance Act so that it can be put in place," stated Chief Ray Mitchell. The community was told that these were valid concerns and were assured they would be addressed. The law was passed in principle after

the wording which dealt with "Canada and Constitution" was deleted.

The discussion continued about the need for zoning and the need for regulations for gas stations and marinas. It was pointed out by a community member that the Environmental Department is presently conducting environmental assessments to ensure businesses are not in default of regulations and implementing plans for clean up and or the maintenance of clean businesses.

The Fire Marshall Law has been reviewed and changes made. The law will enforce the fire codes and make it official for the imposing of fines. The Fire Marshall will inspect homes and commercial enterprises to ensure compliance with the fire codes. The law will include an environmental assessment for buildings, 1600 square feet and over. "The law is needed," stated Chief Ray Mitchell. Anyone interested in starting a marina business or any such business should contact the environmental department for an assessment. The resolution passed unanimously.

By Kawehnihe

Mohawk Council of Akwasasne Akwasasne Police Commission Vacancy For the District of St. Regis

The Akwasasne Police Commission, which is the governing body that oversees the Akwasasne Mohawk Police Service, has a vacant position for one person from the Village of St. Regis. To be considered for this position, the following qualifications are required:

- I. Reside in the Village of St. Regis
- II. Be at least 21 years of age.
- III. Possess a clean criminal record.
- IV. Cannot be directly related to a police officer or a member of Council.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Akwasasne Police Commission, please submit your name to one of the following Chiefs from St. Regis:

Chief Johanne Jackson
Chief Gerald Sharrow
Chief Leona Benedict
Chief Vaughn Phillips

For further information, please contact Chief Vaughn Phillips or Chief Phyllis Lazore at 575-2348.



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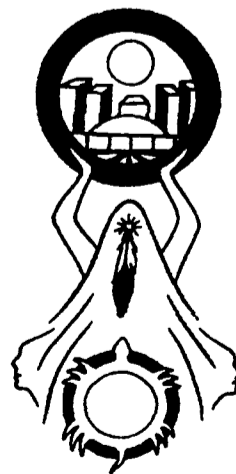
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