

On Nov. 24, 2012, Akwesasne Education Director Dr. Barry M. Montour gave a presentation beginning with a timeline. He was accompanied by Chief Abram Benedict who holds their Council's Education portfolio. In 1967, their Council assumed control over bus transportation and later hired an Education Liaison Officer. Mohawk language instruction was requested in 1971. In the same year, creation of an Akwesasne school board was discussed. Two years later, Council assumed the post secondary program. A local Control Study began in 1985 and a council resolution created the board and the policies and procedures for the board. Six Nations might need a similar study, noted Dr. Montour, who was hired as Education Director. He oversees administration functions including supervising staff, overseeing the budget, evaluating programs and policies, and following laws passed by Council, which appraised his work.

When Council moved on creating an education department in 1987, federal teachers were asked to apply for their jobs. About 60% of them teachers were rehired. In the same year, the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education assumed local control over the three community schools. Six Board trustees were selected through an election with two trustees from the three districts. The Board members believed that the focus of all planning and activities must be centered on the education of all students. In July 2005, the Board adopted a motto: "Ieh thi ha - We make the road for them". With 150 students, Tsi Snaihne School hosts a Head Start program for kindergarten students plus Grades 1 to 5. Teaching 280 students, Akwesasne Mohawk School also has the Head Start program and Grades 1 to 8. Full language immersion is taught in Kana:takon School where 110 students learn Skahwatsi:ra (full Mohawk Language immersion). The Board also has a transition program to instruct Grade 5/6 immersion students in English. At Kaniyenkeha, students take 200 minutes of Mohawk language instruction per



five day cycle. This is offered to students who were not enrolled in the Skahwatsi:ra program.

The Board also provides breakfast and food services, inclusive services program and technology. The After School Program and Boys and Girls Club operate in all three schools. Like Six Nations, bullying is an issue. Tutoring, physical activity, and additional learning about anti-bullying and making healthy choices are part of after school activities. Cameras keep watch over locked school doors for safety reasons and were installed in buses. At the end of 2007, teachers and instructional employees voted in favour of union membership and their collective agreement was approved by the Board of Education and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

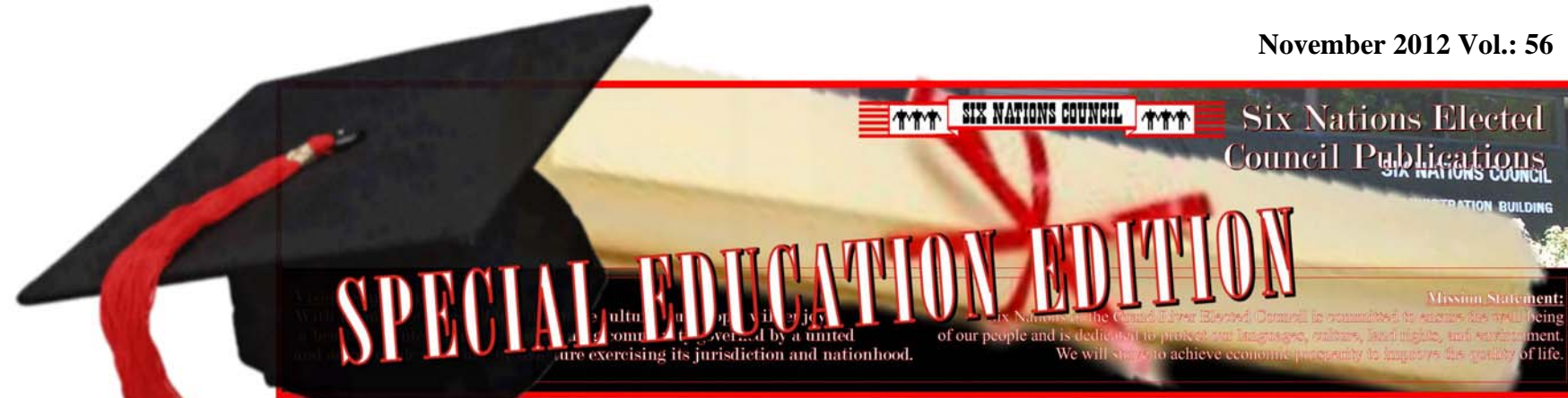
Akwesasne Council is recognized as the senior government authority for all policies and laws in the territory. Council gives advice, makes recommendations and keeps politics separate from education. Funding for textbooks, immersion programs and special education is also a concern as the province and Canada do not cover all education costs. Akwesasne Council topped up the funds to \$7,000. Six Nations Elected Councillor Helen Miller said students should be funded at \$13,000. Chief Abram Benedict noted that Council received \$28 million a year for social services, education, housing and roads. The budget is flexible for a wide variety of services, he added. Education will be impacted when Akwesasne Council

moves into the own source revenue era. The First Nations Education Act seeks a tripartite group between First Nations, Provinces and Canadian government. All territories will be impacted and, unlike a treaty, legislation can be changed without anyone knowing, pointed out Dr. Montour. The Board of Education involves parents in many ways including receiving their comments, serving dinners to parent volunteers and department funded reading and science summer camps. Every month, the board has two meetings with one as an update process. The board hears appeals from parents and gives them a voice with the board.

In conclusion, Councillor Helen Miller stated, "We got a lot of information and are just exploring ideas and doing our homework. We are moving in a good direction."

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... The student rate was \$7,450 and post secondary student rate was \$14,900. After March 31, 2016, the organization must complete an own source revenue agreement. The most recent negotiated provincial education agreement is due for approval in the near future. The goal is to provide quality education to Mi'kmaq students to promote the language and culture in the provincial school system.



Hagersville Secondary School:

Leroy Cheyne Charles, Sabrina Ann Clause, Logan John Davey, Kaysha Brooke General, Ryan Elvin Gibson, Andrew David Blade Greene, Vaughn Scott Harris, Virginia Leigh Hess, Luke Marvin Aubrey Staats Hill, Tyler Clayton Hill, George Alvin Immel, Josh Randall Johnson, Scott Austin Johnson, Amanda Susan Mary Lickers, Gregory Owen Longboat, Brittany Jean Maracle, Clay William Martin, Ian Lyle Martin, John Wayne Martin, Katelyn Elizabeth Martin, Larry Arthur Martin, Joshua Kiel Anthony Miller, Madison Taylor Montour, Ashtin Dale Skye-Powless, Amy Leigh Thomas, Landon David Thomas-Hill, Breanna Elizabeth Elaine VanEvery, David Adam VanEvery and Dylan Williams

Assumption College School:

David Alexander Bethune, Jacob Kelly Bomberry, Cari-Lynn Caroline Elizabeth Henhawk, Erica Jane Henhawk, Jessica Lee Hill, Kaitlyn Marie Hill, Shasta Charvonne Hill, Spencer David Hill, Holden Brennen Isaacs, Cheryl Lee Tiniquois Johns, Gary Dylan Johnson, Timothy Allen Johnson, Brett Thomas Lickers-Earle, Alexandria Ashley Virginia Martin, Brandon Wade Montour, Cheryl Lynn Powless, Lucas Wade Smith and Rachel Chantel Styres

Brantford Collegiate Institute and V.S.:

Kalvin Elexander James Egan, Kody Aaron Hess, Heidi Cheyenne Hill, Megan Nicole Jamieson, Rikki-Lee Jamieson, Shanda Marie Johns-Barnett, Eric Robert Lickers and Ashley Ann Styres

Delhi District High School:

Jessi Alexander LaForme and Taima Lynn LaForme.

Garlow Line Academy School:

Kayla Rebecca Hess, Katlyn Amber Hess, Alyssa Michelle Hill, Michael Jared Johnson and Wynona Rae Powless

Hillfield Strathallan College:

Kahati:ne Melissa Chantal Miller.

Kawenni:io/Gaweni:yo Private School

Arlyn Inez Henry, Eli Alex Henry, Stanley Robert Henry, Ewehawas Elizabeth Jacobs and Halley Tiana Miller

Tollgate Technical Skills Centre:

Janet Nadale Thomas

McKinnon Park Secondary School:

Trista Kaitlyn Bomberry, Chelsey Celine Bouchard, Jaylynn Beatrice Burnham, Kalena Rayne Burning, Andrew Jacob Kenneth Davis, Ryan Robert Shane Davis, James Robert Garlow, Aiesha Zaena Shabannah General-Hill, Victoria Lyn Green, Jackee Leigh Greene, Kenisha Kathleen Rose Jacobs, Chantel Marie Jamieson, Randy Edward Johnson, Tyler Bud Longboat, Jordan Cameron Maracle, Ranni Nicole Maracle, Yegwenyes Delta Rayne Martin, Shawnee Alysse Martin, Kylie West Miller, Madison Skyler Miller, Sidnee Marina Miller, Skylar Kristen Claudine Montour, Bailey Catherine Porter, Catherine Cameron Porter, Daylan Sandy, Sonny James David Thomas, Johnnie Dylan Vanevery, Daulton James Van Every, Felecia Faith White and Elijah Monroe Williams

Pauline Johnson Collegiate & V. S.:

Tia Christine General, Heather Lorraine Jamieson, Tracilynn Riley Jamieson, Steven Raymond Johnson, Nita Taylor Dawn Maracle, Kayla Lynn Rock, Michael Andrew Sandy, Jeffrey Alan Sandy-Burnham, Matthew Ryan Turkey, Kayla Marie Uvanile and Erica Cheyenne Whitlow

North Park Collegiate V.S.:

Ashley Lynn Henhawk, Connor Alexander Hill and Lucas Dallas Martin



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This term I volunteered to take the lead on education. Basically, my role is to keep abreast of the education issues that will or may impact Six Nations. So this report covers some of the education issues I've been involved with.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

Once again Six Nations Council is contemplating taking on jurisdiction and control of Six Nations education. Previously two separate education projects were completed so I suggested a good starting point to revisit the issue was to hold an Education Summit and to establish an Education Ad Hoc Committee (EAHC) of which I am chair. Other members are Councillors Robert Johnson, Mark Hill and Ava Hill. The Committee's role is to review existing documentation, to explore Six Nations options, to get feedback from educators and the community and to identify priorities.

In June the Committee hosted the education summit coordinated by Claudine VanEvery-Albert. The report called "A Saturday Well Spent" is available on www.sixnations.ca Council's website or can be picked up in the administration office.

The EAHC thought it beneficial to hear the successes and pitfalls from other communities who have assumed jurisdiction over education so on Nov. 8 we hosted an information session with Executive Director Eleanor Bernard, M'kmaw Kina'matnewey from Nova Scotia. She brought with her Laretta Welsh, Director of Finance & Planning. Topic discussed was Jurisdiction & Funding. Also on Nov. 24 EAHC hosted another information session with Dr. Barry Montour, Akwasasne Board of Education and Chief Benedict who holds the Education Portfolio on the

Akwasasne Mohawk Council. Topic of discussion was Funding & Working Relationship with the Public Service Alliance Commission. Some very informative and enlightening information was shared by both presenters. Reports will be available on council's website soon.

EDUCATION LEGISLATION:

Last year two high profile reports recommended a First Nations Education Act. While both reports recommended extensive consultation with First Nations and working closely with First Nations in developing the legislation many First Nations leaders believe the government will try to steamroll the legislation. Recently, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan reaffirmed the government's commitment to legislate a First Nations Education Act by 2014.

The Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) met in October to develop a strategy on the issues facing First Nations communities. Education and responding to the proposed First Nations Education Act was identified as one of the Core Strategies. The Strategy Plan will be presented to COO at their annual assembly the end of November. In attendance at the strategy meeting were Chief Montour, Councillors Helen Miller, Ava Hill and Lewis Staats.

Also in October COO held an education conference. Councilor Wray Maracle attended and brought back several reports. The Next Steps identified is to continue working with other organizations involved in First Nations education and to analyze the existing system & funding mechanism and to provide recommendations to

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey ~ The whole process of learning

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey represents 11 Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia and serves as their collective voice for education. Their mission statement says the organization develops innovative alternatives and promotes excellence in education, interests and rights. Nine Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq First Nations have opted to participate in this education system. Their Board of Education has total authority over education, monitors standards and exercises jurisdiction of the inherent right to self provide recommendations to COO before or at the Annual Ontario Chiefs Conference in 2013.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Due to the disorganization and mismanagement at Aboriginal Affairs and Development Canada (AANDC) Six Nations schools supplies and supply teachers were and still are caught in the middle of AANDC's bureaucracy. Councilor Carl Hill, Ava Hill, Wray Maracle and Chief Montour are the key players in dealing with this issue.

EDUCATION FUNDING:

Over the past four years I've been predicting the federal government not only wants to get rid of reserves but get out of its fiscal responsibility for First Nations people. So although it is concerning, it is not surprising the federal government is pushing what they call "Shared Fiscal Responsibility" to the First Nations in Nova Scotia and B.C. who have already taken over jurisdiction of their education. What this means is Prime Minister Harper wants these First Nations to cost share their education using their Own Source Revenue. This is revenue the First Nations generate outside of the federal funding allocations. So Six Nations needs to come up with a battle plan should we proceed with jurisdiction over our education. *cont'd on back*

government. Common services and curriculum development of culture and language courses are provided. The underlying statement is: Protect education rights of all Mi'kmaw.

Approximately 2900 students attend reserve schools. The Mi'kmaq Education Act is posted on the Department of Justice website. The act was the result of negotiations and support from the communities.

Two driving forces are behind school success. They are MK Executive Director Eleanor Bernard and Director of Finances and Planning, Laretta Welsh. Their education system has its own constitution and has jurisdiction

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (GEDSB):

GEDSB is responsible for and administers the Tuition Agreement with AANDC that covers Six Nations students attending high schools in the GEDSB catchment area. These schools are: Hagersville Secondary; McKinnon Park Secondary; BCI, Pauline Johnson Collegiate; Cayuga Secondary; Tollgate Technical and two Grand Erie Learning Alternative schools (GELA): GELA Brantford and GELA Nation which is located at Six Nations. Marion McDonald is Six Nations representative on the GEDSB. To date Six Nations has 720 students attending high school under the GEDSB.

GEDSB TUITION AGREEMENT

Recently I arranged a meeting between council and John Forbeck, Education Director, GEDSB to learn more about the tuition agreement, how the funding works and how council can be more involved in the negotiation process. Currently, there is no tuition agreement for the 2012-2013 year and AANDC

over education plus legal authority to negotiate education with the provincial and federal governments on a government to government basis. This brings on benefits including band directed education, improved resources and language and cultural teaching. Their list of successes include the immersion program, graduation rates, capital development and school funding equal to provincial schools. Mi'Kmaq language programs are provided in provincial schools. Some of their challenges include defining an ongoing relationship with Aboriginal Affairs, literacy and numeracy challenges and human resource development. In 1992, a framework agreement was signed with Canada followed by a political accord and an

hasn't yet come to the negotiation table. We also reviewed Marion McDonald's role as Six Nations representative on the GEDSB.

In addition Six Nations has over 120 students attending Assumption College; yet Six Nations does not have a tuition agreement with the Catholic School Board. Council needs to meet the Catholic School Board and AANDC regarding this issue.

GEDSB NATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Marion McDonald is the chairperson and I represent Council. This committee is my favorite committee to attend because we meet monthly at each high school in the catchment area. Six Nations students attend these meetings to tell us what their goals are, what they like about the school and what they may not like. GEDSB native advisory unit attends as do all the native guidance councillors along with the principals and other staff.

I attended the annual High School

agreement-in-principle for Mi'kmaw education. After the community ratification process, a final agreement was signed. Both Nova Scotia and Canadian governments approved the law. A three-year funding extension was put in place followed by a new five-year funding agreement.

A number of successes included an immersion program, better graduation rates, improved school work and capital development funding equal to provincial school boards. Further opportunities such as an education working group, professional post secondary programs, provincial education agreement and Mi'kmaq language programs in Nova Scotia schools were possibilities to follow up on. From 2009 to 2012, student success improved in math. More Grade 12 students graduated in 2012. Overall reading scores showed consistent growth. Some challenges facing Ms Bernard included defining an ongoing relationship with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada along with literacy and numeracy, and human resource development.

In 1991, the pursuit began for a Mi'Kmaq education system. Six years later, a \$20 million funding agreement was signed to provide education to 9 out of 13 Nova Scotia communities. The funds were for elementary, secondary, post secondary education, capital, operation and maintenance and governance funded at \$1.2 million. The current funding agreement will be in place until March 2016. In total, \$46.8 million was provided for 11 communities. *cont'd on back*

Graduation Awards along with Councillors Ava Hill, Wray Maracle, Mark Hill, Robert Johnson and Education Assistant Marilyn Mt Pleasant. Robert Lickers and Cara Martin were welcomed volunteers. Also Councillors Ava Hill, Carl Hill, Robert Johnson and I attended the monthly Principal's Advisory Committee meeting.