

Community Update- Departments



Administration

- Council 2-year Strategic Plan has been finalized and we are working with Coordinators to get it implemented
- Application submitted in conjunction with the City of Sarnia to have our watermains updated. More information to come
- Regular Council Meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Agenda submission deadline is Tuesday prior to the regularly scheduled meeting date, by 12:00 noon, for Band Manager review. Items to be submitted in person at the Band Office or via email to Ashley Jackson, Aamjiwnaang Council Clerk (ajackson@aamjiwnaang.ca)
- If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Council Agenda, please send an email to: pnamhabin@aamjiwnaang.ca providing your name and band number.

Finance

- Clench payments are ongoing. Please go to our website for the application form
- We now accept e-transfers to finance@aamjiwnaang.ca. Name and payment details must be included in memo
- 2021 Distribution has been approved for December 3, 2021. Please see TribeOne for details
- Copies of the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements are available at the Band Office can be requested by email to: finance@aamjiwnaang.ca

Social Services

- Our department continues to review and revise our protocol with the Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society.
- There is also a meeting coming up with the Southwest Region Children's Aid Societies and the First Nations Band Representatives on October 30, 2021.
- Our department will be running Circle of Security- date to be determined. Any interested community members please contact us.



Health

- The Health Centre is transitioning from paper-based client charts to an electronic medical record called Mustimuhw (mus-team-uchh). This will help coordinate client information and provide us with information needed for evaluation, planning and reporting.
- Health staff continue to focus on COVID guidelines, vaccinations, testing, contact tracing, client support and outbreak readiness.
- We are working with Bluewater Health to expand the Indigenous Navigation services at the hospital through our Bluewater Health Indigenous Partnership.
- The Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project will be hosting a community meeting in the fall. We are wrapping up two other projects focusing on mental wellness and use of opioids during pregnancy and will be sharing information with the community soon.



Economic Development

- Joint Venture Partnership Opportunities
 - Developing a source of revenue stream for the First Nation, in the process of due diligence whereby exploring (6) business opportunities.
- “One Circle” Entrepreneur Training (August 5 – November 25)
 - Workshop series that provides entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills to complete a Business Plan.
- Aamjiwnaang Gwetaandaawe Outdoor Market
 - Aamjiwnaang artisans, crafters and vendors market held the 4th Saturday of the month from July to December.
- Aamjiwnaang Greenhouse Business Plan
 - To assess the sustainability of the Greenhouse and provide options for business growth.
- Monument Honouring Residential School Kids and 60’s Scoop Kids
 - The project is currently in the early stages of development.
- Multi-Building/Cultural Centre
 - The project team including community cultural resource people are working with Burkhart Gilchrist Architects to revise the building concept that incorporates community input gathered during past community engagement sessions.
- Business Licensing Program Law
 - Community Engagement Sessions
 - Virtual – October 21, 2021 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm
 - Contact pnahmabin@aamjiwnaang.ca to sign up
 - In- Person – October 24, 2021 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm

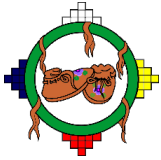
Governance

- Aamjiwnaang Cannabis Law development – have completed initial 6-week engagement session and will conducting 3-additional engagement sessions in September. Next steps will include information sessions and focus groups. Aamjiwnaang Inaaknigewin Dawaabmang’waa Niigaanzijig (Aamjiwnaang Law for Selecting Leaders) – the Governance Committee has completed their review and amend of the draft document and will be reposted prior to community engagement.
- Aamjiwnaang Youth Council – orientation sessions have been completed and the strategic planning process is nearing completion. Youth have audited Standing Committees of Council and have selected their committee of choice. Next steps are to host a joint meeting with Chief and Council, prior to the official launch of the youth council.
- Governance Committee meetings are held twice monthly with a focus on law development and amending the Aamjiwnaang Chi’Naaknigewin.

Community Services

- Community Service hosted the Summer Celebration on September 12. Ballgames, BBQ, Live music, and Fireworks were not deterred by the thunderstorms that rolled through Aamjiwnaang. Fun was had by all!
- Community Services helped to organize the Bus Trip to the Remember Me: A National Day of Remembrance, in Ottawa, on September 29th and 30th. Chief and Council sponsored up to 25 People to go to this event.

- Upcoming events for Community Services include a Halloween event and Christmas event.
- The Community Centre is open to programs in limited numbers with Covid Screening in place. Right To Play is back on Mondays & Thursdays. Youth Sports Night is on Tuesdays. After School Program started on September 22. The Fitness room is available to community members with Covid Protocols in effect. Call Community Centre for more information at (519) 491-2160.



Education

- We are very excited to announce our new Grade 1 portable classroom! Watch for Open House flyer
- Welcome new teachers & ECE – Jessie Plain (JKSK), Shannon Novakowski (Grade 1) & ECE – Jocelyn Diller (JKSK)
- Welcome new bus driver – Tammy Akiwenzie
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) introducing our new online learning platform & Brightspace for parents for JKSK & Grade 1
- AES Pilot Project – “Learning as we go” working with the Education Committee and Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) for a school improvement plan
- Dadavan Student Information System (SIS) is up and running for K-12 & post-secondary students to submit applications online
- Education Committee is working to increase public bus services for students & community members
- Continuing to develop the community Sugar Bush for land-based learning opportunities
- Our Early Learning Centre (Daycare) is working on upgrades to the playground
- The Resource Centre is offering many new programs for apprenticeship upgrading! We appreciate your support!
- Over the summer we created cultural curriculum for Indigenous Education for schools. We are excited to roll this out this year!



Housing

- The Housing Department received some Capacity Development Funds and hired Flamand Management Services to write a new Housing Policy. To date, the Draft Policy has been reviewed by the Housing Committee and presented to Chief and Council. 4 Community Engagements sessions have been completed and feedback has been received. Our next step will be to send the draft policy for a legal review.
- Due to Covid-19 we have not been able to have our Annual Home Maintenance Show, so the Housing Department and Committee organized a scavenger hunt around the community. All participants received LED light bulbs and recycling bins.
- The Housing Department hosted a Will Writing workshop with Lawyer Joyce Soney in March 2021. 10 community members had the opportunity to take part in this workshop,
- Housing is currently in the beginning stages of building a 3-plex for seniors. Funding has been approved through CMHC for these units.



Environment

- SO2 Regulations: working with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) and local industry to develop a good working model for the industries and the health of the Aamjiwnaang Community.
- Wheelchair Ramp: have two updated quotes for the ramp and working on getting additional funding for the work.
- Water Blessing Ceremony: was held at Bear Park, facilitated by Lynn Rosales. Members from Chief & Council, MECP and TransAlta Inc. were in attendance.
- Sediment Management Project: working to secure funding for a Mercury Analyzer to be used to take water test samples from the St. Clair River.
- Fall Harvest Clean Up will take place virtually and registration is required.
- Walleye Management Plan Presentation will take place virtually and registration is requested to qualify for a gift card.

Ontario Works & Employment & Training

- Completed Cannabis Program through Pharma-College -18 completed- participants received 6 diplomas each.
- Beginning Phases of Life Skills/Pre-Employment/Job Readiness Program
- LIUNA Training Program – 11 Participants – 12 Week Program- Upon completion, option to join Labourers Union. Also exploring a program for females in skilled trades.
- Will be looking to run Horticulture/Arborist/Landscaping Program on Aamjiwnaang

Public Works

- Continuing to do lawn maintenance (late for the season as weather continues to be good)
- Preparing vehicles for winter months (undercoating and preparing to attach plows)
- Gathering wood for community/ceremonial fires
- Beginning to prepare sugar bush area for next spring
- Continue to search for replacement vehicles for fleet
- Preparation of pavilion for community events.

Lands

- Available to assist Band Members who are wanting to transfer their land to another member and meet with Band Members who are interested in purchasing land
- Available to assist with Estates to provide the proper documents needed for ISC (Indigenous Services Canada)
- Continuing to ensure pipeline integrity (safety) and working towards agreement renewals
- Land Use Plan work is ongoing