



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief Paul O. Thompson
Chief Beverly Cook
Chief Ron LaFrance Jr.
Sub-Chief Eric Thompson
Sub-Chief Shelley Jacobs
Sub-Chief Michael L. Connors

NEWS RELEASE

For release:
Seskéha / August 15, 2014

For more information:
Communications Department
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Tel: (518) 358-2272 ext. 286

Three Sisters Program Recipient of Three-Year Grant Signed by Governor Cuomo *Office of Victim Services Awards Funds to Support Domestic Violence Advocate*

Akwesasne, NY – In an effort to break the cycle of abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault victims in Akwesasne have access to services through the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Three Sisters Program which provides advocacy, supervised visitation, exchanges and Safe Home access 24/7. On July 31, 2014, the Program received notice of a grant, approved by Governor Cuomo, under the Office of Victim Services (OVS). The Three Sisters Program will use the \$155,034 funds to cover the salary of a Domestic Violence Advocate for three years.

“Our hope is to someday break the cycle of abuse by providing education and empowering women and men to take control of their own healing,” shared Program Manager Kaniehtawaks Francis. “Our Program has a staff of 11 highly qualified professionals providing strong, supportive and immediate services. We are very appreciative to be a recipient of this direct services grant award, and to be able to hire an additional Domestic Violence Advocate for the next three years.” Three Sisters cared for more than 170 clients in 2013. The 24/7 operation budget is funded through Tribal Gaming Funds (30%) and Grants (70%).

Sixty-one percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women (or three out of five) have been assaulted in their lifetime; this statistic shows the overwhelming need for domestic violence services for Native American victims in native communities. “Through each person's journey of healing, we as individuals gain wisdom. This wisdom will be the foundation for the nurturing of the next generation. Teaching our children that violence is never acceptable is the key to guiding healthy relationships in the future,” remarked Francis.

The Three Sisters Program has been in existence for 16 years and has been able to serve the community in a major part due to the grant funding graciously awarded over the years. This position will provide critical domestic violence services to residents in and around Akwesasne.

The Three Sisters Program doors are open to all; Let us help you on your Journey.

#

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the Saint Regis Mohawk People.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518-358-2272