



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Monica M. Jacobs
Chief Mark H. Garrow
Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance Jr.
Sub-Chief Pamela D. Brown
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

PRESS RELEASE

For release:
Tsiothorko:wa/January 19, 2010

For more information:
David T. Staddon, Director Public Information
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Tel: (518) 358-2272 ext. 286

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Hosts Grand Opening *St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Completes Casino Expansion*

Akwesasne Territory. On Wednesday January 13, 2010, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino hosted a Grand Opening Celebration in recognition of its recent \$55 million expansion. The event included guest speakers, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a press conference, followed by a luncheon.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal officials, elected officials, contractors and guests were on hand for the event. Tribal Chiefs James Ransom, Mark Garrow and casino General Manager Patrick Bassney welcomed the guests and acknowledged the casino staff for their achievements. Chief Ransom remarked, "The casino has provided the tribe with revenues that have allowed it to provide essential government services to our tribal members. The casino also provides economic benefits to regional economies and the state economy. Research shows that the impact on the state economy in 2008 was \$119 million." Chief Garrow praised the casino staff for their hard work and diligence, "They are the backbone of this organization and the amount of growth we've seen here is incredible. I'm proud to be associated with this casino and its operation." General Manager Bassney said, "Tribal Council has had the foresight to look to the future. We will make this venture into a destination resort."

Key Bank provided the financing for the project. "We were impressed with the tribe's leadership and were confident that the project would be a success," remarked Mike Lettig, Key Bank's Executive Vice President of Native American Banking.

John Sabini, Chairman of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, conveyed greetings from Governor David Paterson and also spoke at the event. He remarked, "The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino is the economic engine of the North Country and is an example to gaming across the country." In 2008, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe began the largest construction project in its history. The casino expanded its gaming floor to house an additional 600 slot machines. It completed the construction of the *Sticks Sports Bar and Restaurant*, a new casino entrance, a casino bar, a food court, gift shop, along with parking lot and other infrastructure improvements. The most recently completed additions are the food court with three new dining venues and the gift shop. The casino now has five dining venues for its guests and over 1600 of the latest Vegas-style slot machines along with 20 table games. The expansion project provided workers with employment opportunities during the economic downturn. Day-to-day casino operations have boosted tourism to the area and have a significant impact on local and regional economies.

#

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

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

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