



# St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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### AKWESASNE MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

#### *Funding to Support Professional Development and Training*

**Akwesasne Territory.** The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently awarded a \$49,000 grant to the Akwesasne Museum to implement a one-year youth training project. The project will develop an exhibit on *Tewaá:rathon* (lacrosse). The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe administers the grant. “We hope that the experience the youth gain through exhibit development will spark an interest in museum studies and eventually, for some, a museum career,” said Sue Ellen Herne, Program Coordinator at the museum. An earlier two-year project concentrated on exhibit development. The current project re-introduces this specialized programming. The museum’s regular youth programs include the traditional arts of basket-making, song and dance.

“From a traditional perspective, *Tewaá:rathon* is a way of giving thanks,” noted Herne. “By sharing their best effort through training and playing the game, the players show their thanks for the gifts of strength, speed and strategy.”

“Congratulations to the Akwesasne Museum in obtaining this grant,” stated Tribal Chief James Ransom. “The support provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services will help them continue to promote our traditional culture and values.”

The museum will be calling on experts in lacrosse from across the community to share their knowledge with the youth. Those who have lived the game will be providing broad perspectives on lacrosse, a crucial aspect of the project. “Many non-native lacrosse players don’t know that lacrosse is a Native game or understand its cultural tie to the Mohawk people and other *Rotinonshonni* (Iroquois Confederacy) nations,” said Tribal Chief Monica Jacobs.

“This new project calls upon a group of youth to share their best efforts and use their abilities to develop a successful *Tewaá:rathon* exhibit,” said Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. “As the general public sees the exhibit, it will continue to educate multiple audiences on the Native origins of *Tewaá:rathon*.”

The Akwesasne Museum is located at 321 State Route 37 in the Akwesasne Territory and is open year-round. Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Fridays, and weekends by appointment. Individuals or groups interested in visiting or participating in events can call the museum at 518-358-2461 for more information.

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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**

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