

Facts about the Expansion Project Referendum

On April 30th, 2011, you will be able to vote in a referendum – “**Do you support the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe’s Expansion Project at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino?**” This is an important decision and it is important that all Tribal members have the facts before voting.

The Expansion Project

The recommended Expansion Project will include:

- Construction of a hotel, with 150 guest rooms, spa, pool and conference center connected to the expanded gaming operations
- Relocation of the Mohawk Bingo Palace gaming operation to the Casino site
- Renovations to existing casino

The merged Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and Mohawk Bingo Palace operations will consist of:

- Approximately 2,000 Class II and Class III electronic gaming machines



Proposed Aerial View

Benefits to the Tribe

- Feasibility studies show that a merged facility, with hotel accommodations will:
 - Increase the Tribe's overall gaming revenues
 - Increase the total number of gaming/gaming related permanent jobs with the gaming operations
 - Allow for marketing to overnight guests, expanding our gaming market
 - Provide meeting and banquet facilities that will be used to generate additional income and draw conference business
- Opportunities for tribal members to get construction contracts and jobs
- Revenues would fund tribal programs, health, education needs and job creation in Akwesasne
- Economic development in Akwesasne, spurring job growth from an increase in patrons drawn to the expanded gaming operations providing a greater opportunity for local businesses to attract new customers
- Allows our gaming operations to compete with casinos in the Ottawa/Montreal markets



Proposed Site Plan

Risks to the Tribe

The gaming operations would borrow money to fund the expansion and merger. We have minimized the risk to the Tribe itself by separating the Tribe from the gaming operations by creating independent corporations for the gaming operations.

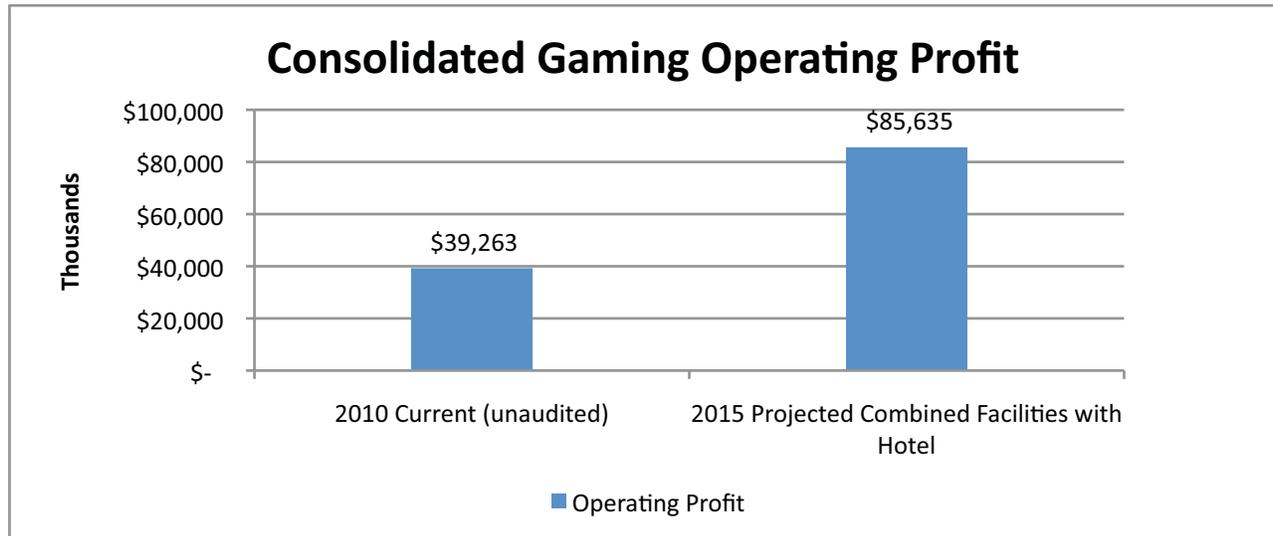
The total investment into the expansion/merger will be \$74.7 million. In addition, at the end of the project, the outstanding balance of the current debt will be refinanced to take advantage of lower interest rates currently available.

The Tribe will not spend Tribal government funds. The Tribal corporation will borrow money from a bank or banks. The loan will be repaid from revenues from the Tribe's gaming operations and from nothing else. It will be an entirely separate transaction and will not involve any tribal monies. Initial discussions with financing institutions indicate that, given the strong financial statements of our combined facilities, that we would receive very favorable financing rates at this time.

Questions and Answers

Why do we need to merge the Mohawk Bingo Palace and Akwesasne Mohawk Casino?

A feasibility study was conducted by an independent company, nationally recognized for its work. This study showed that a merged Class II/Class III facility would maximize profitability for both operations, thereby increasing overall profits to the Tribe. The feasibility study shows that the merged facilities, with a hotel, could generate a profit increase of 118% over the combined gaming operation's 2010 profits. The conclusion of the study is that it makes good business sense to expand and merge.



Given the state of the economy is this a good time to expand our gaming operations?

The cost of financing is the lowest we have seen in a long time, and lower than it will be in the future. Beginning the project now will allow the gaming operations to take advantage of the economic recovery when the economy rebounds.

Why does the Tribe need more money?

Although our gaming facilities are doing well and continue to provide a steady stream of revenue to the Tribe, the community's needs are increasing. Growth in population, especially in our elderly population, will require additional funding for job creation, health care, education, housing and infrastructure. At some point soon, the Tribe will require new funding sources to continue to meet the needs of the growing Akwesasne community. In addition, decreases in federal and state funding for many programs have increased reliance on the Tribe's General Fund (TGF) and, in some instances, some programs are fully funded by the TGF.

How many jobs will be created?

Initially, there will be many construction jobs created. Tribal preference will apply so that not only will construction jobs be provided to all qualified Mohawks, contracts and subcontracts will also have a preference requirement.

At the expanded/merged facility, our first priority is to ensure that all of our existing employees remain employed. In addition, many permanent jobs at the expanded/merged facility will be created. Initially, we've estimated 40 new, permanent jobs will be created by the opening of the hotel. As the operations grow, new positions will be added.

If the Referendum passes, what will be the next step?

Because of the preliminary work and studies that have been conducted, construction on the project could begin within months of approval by referendum. In order to minimize disruption to the existing gaming operations, the construction would be conducted in phases over a two year period. The first step would be to expand existing gaming space at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino in order to relocate existing operations there. Second would be to renovate to the existing Cascades room to accommodate the needs of the Mohawk Bingo Palace operations. This will include both smoking and non-smoking bingo sections, their own new entrance with handicapped accessibility and drop off area. Once the gaming operations are merged, the focus would then be on the hotel and conference center and RV park.

Will the Mohawk Bingo Palace maintain its own identity?

Yes. The Mohawk Bingo Palace has been tremendously important to the economic health of the Tribe for over 25 years. Its is a Class II gaming facility, which means that it is regulated primarily by the Tribal Gaming Commission, without interference from the State. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council values this independence. We intend to preserve the unique identity of the Mohawk Bingo Palace by maintaining many of the departments including Bingo, Video Gaming and Food and Beverage. We will be recreating the Palace Café so that our loyal bingo patrons will be in familiar surroundings with familiar faces. We believe that, in order to preserve the valuable resource of Class II gaming, it is necessary to make this move.



Proposed Bingo Palace Entrance

Council tried to move the Palace before and it didn't work. What makes you think it will work this time?

We acknowledge that the previous attempt to move bingo to the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino was unsuccessful. We've reviewed that attempt and are determined not to make similar mistakes. Our proposal is well thought out, we are requesting community input, both through public meetings and through the referendum process. We have also met with employees of both facilities to address their concerns. The reality is that many departments are already merged, including Human Resources, Surveillance, Marketing and soon, Purchasing. The Tribal Gaming Commission regulates both facilities with a staff moving back and forth between the facilities.

Public Meetings

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Election Board has scheduled three public meetings in advance of the referendum to be held on Saturday April 30, 2011.

The meeting dates are:

1. Wednesday April 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm
2. Saturday April 23, 2011 at 10:00 am
3. Wednesday April 27, 2011 at 6:00 pm

All of the meetings will take place in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building. The Project Team will also make themselves available to meet with any interested community groups to present the proposal and answer any questions the community may have.



Proposed Bingo Palace Interior

Voting

Absentee ballots will be available starting Monday, April 11, 2011 through Monday, April 25, 2011, and will be mailed to eligible voters who request one. The last day to request absentee ballots is Monday April, 25 2011 at 5pm. Ballots must be returned to the Tribal Clerk's Office no later than Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 12:00 noon. To vote by absentee ballot or check your voting eligibility, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 518-358-2272 extension 261 or 271.

At the time of voting an eligible voter must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Be an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- Reside in the United States or in the U.S. portion of Akwesasne for at least six months immediately prior to the Referendum.
- Have their name on the most current eligible voters list.

Election and Referendum Ordinance, Amended Onerahtókha/April 10, 2009 available at http://srmt-nsn.gov/_uploads/site_files/SRMTElectionReferendumOrdinance2009.pdf



Proposed Bingo Palace Interior

Stay Connected

If you know of any family members who have not received this information, please encourage them to update their addresses with the Tribal Clerk's Office at 518-358-2272.

We have several ways to keep you informed of events happening at the Tribe. Our monthly newsletter, *SRMT Kawenni:ios* (Good Words) newsletter is available by mail or download. Our website at www.srmt-nsn.gov has laws and new ordinances, calendar of tribal events, directory of tribal programs, employment opportunities, press releases and links to our gaming enterprises. You can also "like" us on Facebook for up to the minute notices of events. Contact the Public Information Office for more information, 518-358-2272.

Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, April 11: Absentee ballots available
- Wednesday April 20: Public meeting - 6:00 pm, Community Building lobby
- Saturday, April 23: Public meeting - 10:00 am, Community Building lobby
- Monday, April 25: Last day to request absentee ballots - 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 27: Public meeting - 6:00 pm, Community Building lobby
- Saturday, April 30: Referendum from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Community Building lobby
- Saturday, April 30: Deadline for return of absentee ballots, 12 noon



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwasasne, NY 13655

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE
13210
PERMIT NO.
3893

Eligible Tribal Voter(s)