



# 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 12, 2010

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

### **First Americans IGA Store Continues Restructuring**

#### *Business Space in Building Will be Available*

**Akwesasne Territory.** The Tribe's *First Americans* IGA store is continuing on its path to streamline its operations. "We are still in the process of evolving in order to operate more efficiently and to better meet customer needs," remarked Bonnie McDonald, store manager. "The IGA will remain open for business and continue to provide retail grocery services to the community." Empty shelves and open spaces are signs that the store is undergoing some downsizing to meeting current economic and local market conditions.

The store's floor will eventually be divided by a wall, opening up space for business opportunities. "Eventually, we will be able to offer about 21,000 square feet for business development," said Stacy Adams, Tribal Sub-Chief and Chair of the IGA Board of Directors. "Given the central location of the building it has a lot of potential for start-up businesses, or expansions of existing businesses."

The Board is taking the initiative in the process of re-vamping building space. They will develop a business plan to start the process of remodeling the available space. The Board will base the plan on the nature of the business or businesses that may have an interest using the space.

"The business community of Akwesasne remains strong," observed Ron LaFrance, Tribal Sub-Chief and Vice-Chairman of the IGA Board of Directors. "This will be a good opportunity to increase business here in the territory."

The potential changes in the grocery store's continued operation and the availability of space in the building reflects current business conditions. "With the limitations of land and space in Akwesasne, this can be a prime opportunity for an entrepreneur to contribute to the local economy," said LaFrance.

# # # #

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