



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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PRESS RELEASE

For release:
Kentenha/October 12, 2010

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St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Receives Grant

Funding to Develop and Enhance Tribal Justice System

Akwesasne Territory. The St. Regis Mohawk Court applied for a Department of Justice (DOJ) Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) grant for the fiscal year of 2010. The Department of Justice developed a new format for tribes to apply for CTAS funding. DOJ combined existing tribal competitive solicitations into one application and thus required only one application from each tribe or tribal consortium. This approach provides them the opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to public safety and victimization issues.

Under the CTAS grant, the Department of Justice awarded the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court \$184,128. This award is supported under the Bureau of Justice Assistance Tribal Court Assistance Program to further develop and enhance the operations of Tribal justice systems.

Under the grant proposal, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court will use these funds to re-constitute a SRMT Judicial Advisory Commission and to develop and strengthen full faith and credit of the court's orders and judgments. The grant will also establish and maintain statistics needed for implementation and maintenance of the SRMT Family Court and to work with programs within and outside of the Tribal Programs. They will develop needed agreements and protocols for services needed for the Tribal Courts. They will be consistent and available to tribal members and expand the jurisdiction and issues the SRMT Court can handle.

"Receiving a grant such as this that is available to every tribe is a major victory, especially when one considers that there are over 550 federally recognized Tribes," said Barbara A. Gray, Ph.D., Tribal Court Attorney and Administrator.

Unfortunately, data needed for funding and other services for Tribes, including the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is either unavailable or inaccurate. "The court has proactively developed its own statistics and is looking forward to developing agreements to expand the jurisdiction of the court," said Chief Judge Peter J. Herne. "We will also further develop the Tribal Court's statistical data."

The Tribal Court has come a long way in its development. The court's caseload is rising and funding is always an issue of great concern. "This funding will allow the court to continue the momentum of progress to provide the people of Akwesasne a forum of justice that is steeped in cultural traditions and laws as well as newer methods of justice," said Gray.

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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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