



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief Michael Conners
Chief Eric Thompson
Chief Beverly Cook
Sub-Chief Agnes Jacobs
Sub-Chief Benjamin Herne
Sub-Chief Kenneth Jock

TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

2020 - 21

STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR COMMUNITY OF AKWESASNE COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ELDERS BENEFIT PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council (the “Tribal Council”) is the duly recognized governing body of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (the “Tribe”) and is responsible for the health, safety, education and welfare of all community members; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 virus outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020 Tribal Council declared a “State of Emergency for Community of Akwesasne” (TCR 2020-17) due to the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in TCR 2020-18, in the interest of community health and safety, the Tribal Council ordered the closure of the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and Resort (the “Casino”), effective March 17, 2020, until the State of Emergency is lifted by the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Casino contributes more than 30 percent of the overall tribal government operational budget and funds most tribal services in whole, or in part; and

WHEREAS, in TCR 2018-22, the Tribal Council approved the Elders Benefit Pilot Program (the “Program”) for three (3) years, and approved revenue sources for Program, including (1) increasing the Hotel Motel Occupancy Fees, (2) entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Akwesasne Convenience Store Association to remit agreed-upon monies on a monthly basis, (3) imposing a four percent (4%) fee on food and beverage sales at the Casino, and (4) allocating start-up funds from the Tribe’s Community Development Fund; and

WHEREAS, one quarterly payment of the Elders Benefit is normally six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per approved applicant, with an estimated overall cost to the Tribe of \$237,000.00, assisting 395 approved applicants for the upcoming April 15, 2020 distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Community Support budget helps to fund the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, Akwesasne Freedom School, Akwesasne Cultural Center, Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club, and Seven Dancers Coalition, with each quarterly payment totaling \$238,595.00; and



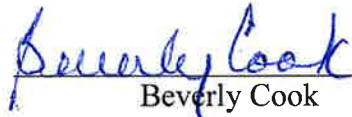
WHEREAS, the Casino closure has resulted in the loss of an essential revenue stream for an unknown, indefinite period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council must take the sudden halt of Casino revenue and decreases in other revenues into serious consideration, and make prudent cash-management decisions to continue providing vital services to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council hereby:

1. Reduces the Elders Benefit April 15, 2020 payment to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per approved applicant; and
2. Declares that future Elders Benefit payments will be limited to the revenue received from the dedicated sources for this purpose, due to the uncertain timing and amount of future revenue, as there is no assurance when these revenues will restart or rebound; and
3. Reduces the Community Support – April 1, 2020 payment by half of regular payment to the Hogsburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department, Akwesasne Freedom School, Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club, and Seven Dancers Coalition; and
4. Shall not make the Community Support – April 1, 2020 payment to the Akwesasne Cultural Center, based on its current need; and
5. Declares that future Community Support donations may be reduced in part or in full, based on the financial position of the Tribe, due to the State of Emergency.

SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COUNCIL

 _____ Michael Conners Tribal Chief	 _____ Eric Thompson Tribal Chief	 _____ Beverly Cook Tribal Chief
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CERTIFICATION: This is to certify that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council pursuant to the authority vested therein duly passed the above resolution.

 _____ Summer Bero Deputy Tribal Clerk	 _____ Ennisko: wa / March 27, 2020 Date
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