



## Announcement: Akwesasne Powwow Moving to Temporary Location Due to Road Access and Safety

**Kawehno:ke, Akwesasne, April 15, 2024** – The Akwesasne Powwow Committee (The Powwow Committee) would like to thank our guests, sponsors and participants who have supported the powwow for the past 22 years.

The Powwow Committee and respected leadership have had to make the difficult decision to change the location of the 2024 Akwesasne Powwow. As the powwow continues to grow in guest numbers, it was determined the powwow has outgrown its current location at the A'nowarako:wa Arena and will relocate to the north side of St. Lawrence River, in Cornwall/Tsikaná:taien. The A'nowarako:wa Arena exit/entrance road has created increasing worries over the years, and the safety of guests is one of the most important factors to The Powwow Committee.

Understanding this news may come as a surprise to some community members, please know The Powwow Committee is working alongside the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and our new partners at the City of Cornwall, Tourism Division to ensure the powwow is THE cultural event of the year for our community and the region.

The Powwow Committee will be working with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to address the safety issues that have been identified, with the number one goal of having the Akwesasne Powwow back at the A'nowarako:wa Arena in the future.

We hope to welcome you back at our new location, on September 7 & 8, 2024.

More information will be on our website at <u>akwesasnepowwow.com</u> as we move forward with good intentions of making Akwesasne proud of who we are.

Sken:nen / In Peace,

Tanka Thompson
Natasha-Marie Thompson
TJ Point
Yolanda Wild
Amanda Mitchell
Kylie Thompson

## MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together, and building a strong and healthy future.



Office of the Grand Chief

Ennisko:wa / March 27, 2024

Akwesasne International Powwow

Wa'tkwanonhwera:ton / Greetings,

We hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, we are writing to you today to express our disappointment but understanding for the relocation of the Akwesasne International Powwow to Lamoureux Park in the City of Cornwall.

While we acknowledge the deep sense of sentiment and the profound connections tied to the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena, where the Powwow has beautifully thrived for more than two decades, we understand that community safety is paramount. It has always been of the utmost priority, and this move, albeit difficult, is made with the well-being of our people in mind.

The Powwow has long been a cherished gathering, one that brings together families, friends, and allies in the spirit of unity and celebration. Through vibrant displays of culture, dance, and song, it enriches all attendees and leaves lasting impressions that transcend the gathering itself. It is a testament to the strength and the enduring spirit of the Akwesasne community.

In light of this, we extend our full support in this period of transition. We trust that the Powwow in its new venue will continue to be a space of joyous communion, preserving our cultural heritage and affording the opportunity to educate both visitors and residents of Cornwall about our rich history. Rest assured, relocating will in no way diminish the significance or the vibrancy of the event, rather it will mark the beginning of planning and transformation at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena to accommodate large gatherings.

Together, we stand committed to ensuring that the Powwow remains a beacon of traditions and a symbol of the strength that lies within our collective community.

Sken:nen / In Peace

Abram Benedict Grand Chief