



## **A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF R. DONALD MARACLE**

**November 28, 2017**

Sehenh Sewahkwekenh:

Niawen for the great privilege of serving you as Chief for the past twenty-four years and as a Councillor for twelve years. I also thank and acknowledge the Creator for his help during my tenure in office. During the three plus decades on Council, I have worked diligently to realize funding to implement many important goals and priorities which include, safe drinking water, better roads, housing, library and 59er's Hall renovations, Police Station, education, infrastructure development, Union Gas lines, Christ Church restoration project, increase land base, revenue generation, employment and training opportunities, \$26.7 million Water Treatment Plant, a new Administration Office and the design of a proposed Fire Station. I have defended our rights which include PST tax exemption at point-of sale, aboriginal, treaty, economic, education, hunting and fishing, human rights and the protection of our environment.

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED UNDER MY LEADERSHIP**

- Lobbied for \$6.5 million funding for the construction of the three Deseronto water and sewer projects servicing 325 homes
- Installed natural gas lines on Sero's, Bayshore, York Roads, Meadow Drive and Church Lane
- Ensured that Hastings County rehabilitated bridge on Highway #2 in Shannonville
- Lobbied for funds for two classrooms at Quinte Mohawk School in 2003-4 (\$900,000.00)
- Capital upgrade at Quinte Mohawk School for water, mechanical upgrades, gym floors replacement, roof replacement and a new water treatment system - \$2,516.00
- Chaired Christ Church Restoration Committee raising \$1.3 million of which \$675,000.00 was in government grants and \$330,000 for interior plaster restoration completed in 2015
- Secured funding for new fire truck and fire protection
- Capped and closed Tyendinaga landfill site and implemented a groundwater monitoring program
- Tyendinaga Police Station, Administration Building, Community Wellness Building
- Lobbied for an additional \$440,000.00 to offset some of the costs to complete the new police station
- New guiderails on York Road -\$220,471.05
- New water delivery truck
- Lobbied Union Gas for \$1.1 million contribution for York Road and Bayshore Road natural gas line project reducing heating bills
- Lobbied for First Nations hydro rate and exemption of the hydro delivery charge
- Concluded a Wind & Solar Project which will provide MBQ with \$295,000.00 annual income under IESO Aboriginal Adder Initiative this term
- Secured 2.4 million for Deseronto Sewage treatment plant expansion - 600 connectitons
- Deseronto Water treatment plant Optimization will be completed 2019

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

- Filed numerous responses and lobbied the Ministry of the Environment to close the Richmond Landfill Site which closed in 2011 and to improve the environmental monitor plan

## **HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

- Construction of 180 rental housing units and construction of Eider's Lodge providing MBQ with \$1,006,000.00 annual rental income
- Lobbied for \$1.4 million - Improved Housing Program which renovated 162 homes
- Turton Penn houses added to the MBQ home rental portfolio
- Lobbied Indian Affairs for an additional \$1 million for the MBQ revolving housing mortgage fund

## **LAND RIGHTS**

- Acquired Dies property (285 acres) to TMT and secure \$388,445.00 reimbursement from Indian Affairs and repatriated Turton Penn land (200 acres) to TMT. Negotiated settlement of Turton Penn Highway lands (15 acres) concluding a \$1.2 million Settlement Agreement for MBQ
- Successfully lobbied to have the 923.4 acre Culbertson Claim accepted for negotiation. Currently negotiating a partial settlement of 300 acres to be returned to MBQ. INAC Proxy model loss of use calculation is estimated to be in excess of \$20 million plus compensation for aggregate
- Filed a Loss of Use Claim for Turton Penn

## **EDUCATION**

- Lobbied Ontario Cabinet Ministers for the OSAP tuition grant for First Nations students
- QMS - 20011/12 Educational Instructional Services was increased by an additional \$272,868.00 for a revised budget of \$890,000.00
- Lobbied for corporate donations of \$675,000.00 for post-secondary education funding
- An amount of \$440,934.00 was utilized from Casino Rama funds to cover the short-fall for post-secondary education. INAC increased funding for Post-secondary education by \$382,000.00. MBQ now received \$3,025,000.00 for the program
- QMS Special Education Funding, a bus for special needs (\$96,000.00) and special needs washroom (\$16,000.00) were realized and playground improvements (\$41,000.00)
- \$41,000.00 was approved for playground improvements to correct a flooding issue

## **HUNTING AND FISHING**

- Ensured that the Ministry of Natural Resources respected the Mohawk right to hunt and fish in the Bay of Quinte and to hunt in our traditional territory

## **FISCAL PLANS**

- Lobby Federal Government to lift the 2% cap on INAC funding. An intensive lobby is required to realize liberal promises for southern Ontario First Nations for housing, water, sewer and settling of land claims
- Made a presentation to the Prime Minister's Advisor for increased budget for the INAC-Ontario Region for housing, water and sewer and capital. A report will be finalized in 2017 by the Prime Minister's Advisor
- New policing model to be decided

***For continued progress and dedicated advocacy, On December 9, 2017, I ask for your support as Chief***

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**Chief R. Donald Maracle**