



**SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
2026 DIRECTORY**



Environment Division Table of Contents

- 3** Statement from the Director and Assistant Director
- 4** Environmental History and Major Milestones
- 5** Agriculture Program
- 6** Air Quality Program
- 7** Land Resources Program
- 8** Remediation and Restoration Program
- 9** Solid Waste Management Program
- 10** Water Resources Program
- 11** Candidly

Office Location
Community Services Building
850 State Route 37,
Akwesasne, NY
8:00 – 5:00
518-358-5937
Environment@srmt-nsn.gov

Solid Waste Transfer Station
143 County Route 43
Fort Covington, NY
518-358-4632
7:00–2:45 M–W/ F–Sat
CLOSED THURSDAY
transfer.station@srmt-nsn.gov

Tekwanonhwerá:tons Sewakwé:kon from the Director and Assistant Director

Tony David, Director

Nearly 47 years ago, the Environment Division was born out of a call to action—a direct response to the discovery of widespread industrial pollution impacting Akwesasne. SRMT recognized the urgent need to organize and train staff to understand the effects of pollution on community health and the environment, and to communicate those risks to our people. Since then, the Division has grown in both capacity and authority, empowering SRMT to regulate pollution and manage our natural resources. We fought to secure a meaningful role in environmental decision-making and to engage with partners as one sovereign government to another. Today, our team of educated and skilled professionals continue to evolve, applying new science and technology to confront complex environmental challenges and emerging threats. With more than 40 full-time and 15 seasonal positions, the Environment Division offers broad opportunities for professional growth and development. Together, we remain committed to managing, protecting, and restoring our natural resources for generations to come.



Les Benedict, Assistant Director

This Directory reflects the depth and breadth of the Division's programs that advance our shared vision for environmental quality in Akwesasne. The Division's national recognition stems from its greatest asset—its people. Our staff are skilled, knowledgeable, and deeply committed to delivering the highest quality services to the community. The programs and services in place today stand as a testament to our collective ability to turn vision into action, transcending from the legacy of pollution into a cleaner, healthier environment. We are proud of our team and their commitment to Working Together Today to Build a Better Tomorrow.





Environmental History and Major Milestones

- 1958 Construction of General Motors and Reynolds Metals upstream of Akwesasne
- 1960 Moses-Saunders Dam and St Lawrence Seaway fully operational
- 1976 Discovery of fluoride contamination on Cornwall Island
- 1979 SRMT Environmental Health Program started under Health Services
- 1983 Environment Division becomes its own department
- 1984 General Motors added to National Priority List - extreme risk to health and environment
- 1986 SRMT Health Services issue broad fish consumption moratorium (women and children)
- 1986-89 Studies on PCB Contamination of breastmilk in Akwesasne women
- 1987 St. Lawrence River designated Area of Concern by Intl. Joint Commission
- 1989 SRMT passes own cleanup standards for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- 1990 Sloan and Jock report on extensive contamination of local fish and wildlife
- 1999 Operation Salt initiated to track groundwater contamination
- 2001 SRMT and EPA sign first Performance Partnership Agreement to support programs
- 2005 Opening of the Solid Waste Transfer Station with in land claim
- 2007 Federally enforceable Water Quality Standards under the Clean Water Act
- 2007 Tribal Implementation Plan for Air Quality Standards under Clean Air Act
- 2013 \$20M Settlement of Natural Resources Damage Claim-SRMT Lead Trustee
- 2016 Decommission and removal of Hogansburg Dam-return project lands to SRMT
- 2018 Agriculture Program establishes Tribal Farm on Blair Road
- 2019 Creation of the Remediation and Restoration Program
- 2019 Completion of SRMT oversight for in-river remediation of lower Grasse River
- 2020 SRMT & DEC agreement for co-coordination of Area of Concern restoration
- 2023 Transfer Station redesign and new Tipping House construction
- 2024 Environment Division moves to Teionkwarihwaienawa:kon CSB
- 2025 Construction of SRMT public boat launch with damages settlement funds
- 2025 SRMT and EPA sign sixth Performance Partnership Agreement

Agriculture Program

Program Manager: Emma Phillips

Mission statement: Leading Akwesasne towards sustainable agriculture through farming education, community outreach, and services.



The Agriculture Program operates multiple projects, services, and offers many products grown at Mother Earth Farm.

Products

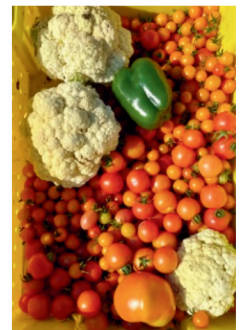
- Mother Earth Eggs
- Pasture Raised Pork
- Traditional White Corn
- Seasonal vegetables
- Haudenosaunee Seed varieties

Services

- Free Community Tilling
- Sustainable Agricultural Workshops
- Annual Pumpkin & Leaf Collection
- Farm Tours
- Technical Assistance

Projects

- Free Community Garden Space
- Akwesasne Farmer's Assistance Project
- White Corn Project
- Composting
- Agricultural Ditching



Air Quality Program

AQP Mission Statement: To ensure that the air quality in and around Akwesasne remains clean, healthy, and free from pollutants that degrade the environment, quality of life, or cultural well-being of the community.



Programs / Services

- Early response to industrial manufacturing activity and CAA violations
- 2007 First Federally Approved Tribal Implementation Program in the US (Air Quality Standards)
- Indoor Air Quality assessment services
- Outdoor burning regulations
- Acid rain monitoring
- Ambient air quality monitoring



airqualityprogram@srmt-nsn.gov



Land Resources Program

Program Manager: Jessica Raspitha

LRP Mission Statement: Promoting the sustainable restoration and enhancement of land resources while working to protect the reciprocal relationship that exists between the land and the Akwesasne community.



Programs / Services

- Forest Assessment and Inventories
- Hazard Tree Program
- Native Plant Nursery operation
- Plant and Tree Production to meet local restoration needs
- Black ash protection and Emerald Ash Borer mitigation
- Integrated Pest Management
- Invasive Terrestrial Species Control
- Tribal Pesticide Regulatory Program
- Cultural workshops and events



Remediation and Restoration Program

Program Manager: Jessica L. Jock

RRP Mission Statement: The Remediation and Restoration (R&R) Program uses scientific measures and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to manage industrial chemical risks to human health, and restore healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and traditional foods and medicines in the Akwesasne territory and surrounding environments.



Programs / Services

- Oversight of 3 Superfund Hazardous Waste Sites
- Brownfields Sites
- Abandoned Homes Cleanup
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annexes
- Co-Coordinator on the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern at Massena/Akwesasne
- Fish and wildlife contaminant, population, and habitat studies



**St. Lawrence River AOC Facebook Page
Community Services Building (CSB)
8am-4pm**

remediationrestoration.environment@srmt-nsn.gov

Solid Waste Management Program

Program Manager: Brian Lanning



Dedicated to responsible management of solid wastes that contributes to the economic and social progress of the community and beyond.

We accept for free:

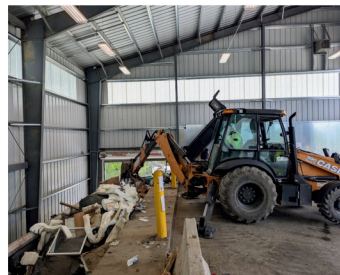
- White goods
- Scrap metal
- Uncontaminated used oil (residential)
- recyclables (residential)

We Accept for a fee:

- Municipal solid waste
- Construction and demo waste
- Tires
- Contaminated oil

Other Services

- Pay as you Throw (Blue Bags)
- roll-off bin rental
- Commercial services



Solid Waste Transfer Station

179 County Route 43
Fort Covington, NY 12937
M-W, F-Sat 7:00-2:45

Free Recycling Depo

Location: Former Bingo Palace
Warehouse

Contact us

518-358-4632
transfer.station@srmt-nsn.gov

Water Resources Program

Program Manager: Tiernan W. Smith



The Water Resources Program protects Akwesasne's waters and aquatic life through monitoring, research, and application of SRMT Water Quality Standards.

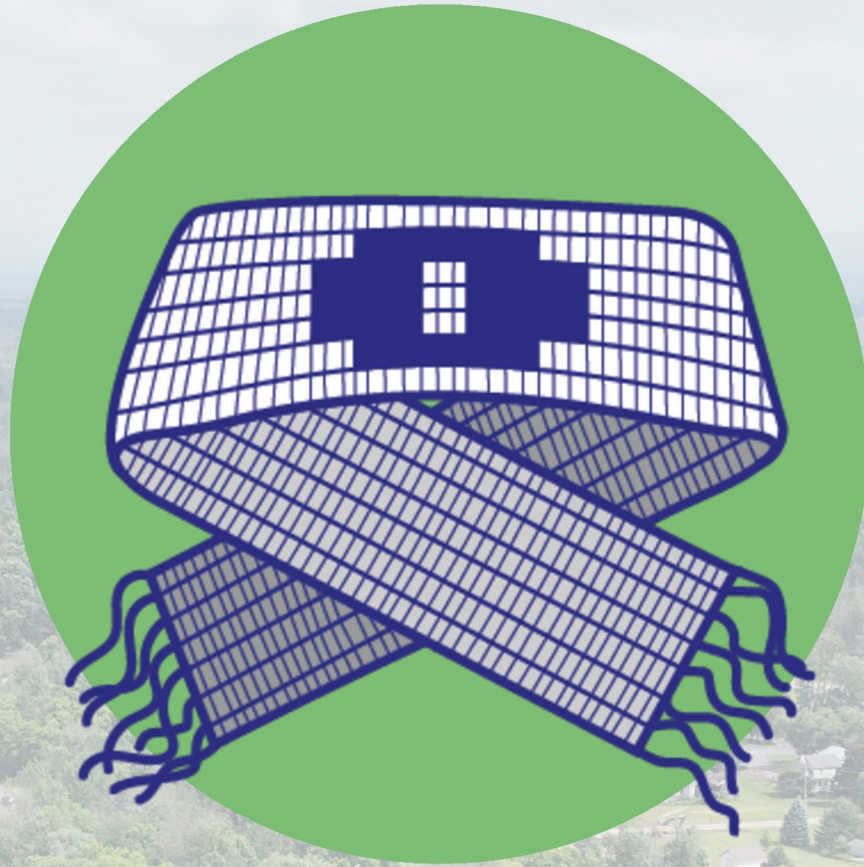
Programs / Services

- Clean Water Act Authority
- Tribal Water Quality Standards
- Wetlands management and permitting
- Blanding's turtle research
- Macroinvertebrates studies
- Aquatic invasive species research
- Fisheries management and Atlantic salmon reintroduction
- In-house pathogen analysis (PIB)
- Nutrient sampling and analysis in surface waters
- Ambient water quality monitoring
- Swimming safety advisories
- Emerging contaminants research
- Environmental DNA Research (eDNA)
- Shoreline erosion assessments for Future Restoration Projects



CANDIDLY





Dish with One Spoon

This wampum belt represents sharing and managing resources for mutual benefit. It acknowledges our responsibility to ensure the dish is never empty, to respect the land and the living things on which we rely, and maintain peace—as signified by the absence of knives. The inclusion of traditional teachings guides our work, strengthening our culture and identify.



SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Office Location
850 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

Solid Waste Transfer Station
179 Couty Route 43
Fort Covington, NY

 www.srmt-nsn.gov/environment

 Environment@srmt-nsn.gov

 **518-358-5937**

 **SRMT Environment Division**