

SRMT Office of Technology, Research and Patents (“OTRAP”)

Mohawks have a unique and distinct history and culture encompassing a long history of traditional crafts, traditional medicines, the traditional sport of lacrosse, and a unique language. The Tribe understands the value of ideas and knowledge and the importance of the protection of ideas and inventions.

Looking to the business model already utilized by State universities and their patent offices, in 2017 the Tribe adopted a Tribal Resolution to establish the “Office of Technology, Research and Patents” (“OTRAP”) and is part of the Tribe’s Economic Development Department. The overall objective of OTRAP is to create wealth, jobs, sponsored research, and economic development opportunities for the Tribe and its members and to serve as a resource for promoting the education of Mohawks to enter the fields of technology and research. OTRAP’s purpose is to contribute to the strengthening of the Tribal economy by encouraging the development of emerging science and technology initiatives and projects and promoting the modernization of Tribal and other businesses. The Tribe will manage the acquisition of intellectual property from third parties, and the maintain and license the acquired legally protected intellectual property. In the future, the Tribe could potentially consider to seek to develop its own technology or other intellectual property.

More specifically, OTRAP was formed to:

- i. Contribute to the strengthening of the Tribal economy by encouraging the development of emerging science and technology initiatives and projects;
- ii. To promote the modernization of Tribal and other businesses by providing assistance with development, application and commercialization of new and emerging technologies; and
- iii. To foster the continuing growth of educational, research, and scientific opportunities for the Mohawk people.

OTRAP will facilitate the growth and development of emerging technologies through a variety of methods, including but not limited to:

- i. Facilitating the research and development of new technology with the potential to have widespread impact on individuals and businesses;
- ii. Coordinating with local and regional colleges and businesses on issues impacting the development of emerging technologies;
- iii. Providing assistance to colleges, universities, and businesses seeking to increase income streams derived from their intellectual property; and

- iv. Implementing workforce development and educational initiatives in science, technology, engineering, and math (“STEM” initiatives).

OTRAP will work closely with a team of financial, legal, and technical experts to identify technological initiatives and projects with the potential to meet the stated purposes and goals of the Office. Among other things, OTRAP’s projects will include a data center and it will serve as a resource for promoting the education of Mohawks to enter the field of technology and research.

The Tribe’s goal *vis-à-vis* OTRAP is to work with companies to enhance the value of its intellectual property and provide an efficient means to protect the Tribe’s substantial investments in their research and development of such intellectual property. All revenue, after expenses, goes into the Tribal General Fund, which supports tribal programs and facilities that support the health, education, and general welfare of the Tribe and its members. The fruits of this endeavor will also go to preserving Mohawk cultural traditions, and the education of future generations.