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#### Mohawks close to building casino in Catskills

Updated: 3/4/2007 4:36 PM  
By: Dana Hendrickson

\$600 million. More than 700,000 square feet. Restaurants, retail, and New York City's closest casino.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Chief Lorraine White said, "After ten long years in this process and having our application pending for such a great deal of time, this sure is a tremendous achievement."

Now that Governor Elliot Spitzer approved, the tribe just needs the federal government to put the land into trust.

Leslie Logan, of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, said, "While it's true that the secretary can take as long as he feels like it, there is a trust responsibility to respond in a timely manner."

The proposed casino in Sullivan County would be three times the size as the one in Franklin County, and the chief said if everything goes as planned, groundbreaking could happen this year.

White said, "The immediate benefits from the generation of revenue from the project down south will have a tremendous and immediate impact here."

A percentage of the \$400 million the casino is expected to generate in the first year will go to the state, but the tribe will also cash in. One of the projects the tribe is looking into is establishing an urgent care facility.

People who live on the reservation said right now they would need to travel to Malone, a 40-minute trip.

Tom Stacey, a Hogansburg Resident, said, "We all need the help to be healthy, be strong, and live longer."



WATCH THE VIDEO



#### Casino dream coming true

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino is a playground to many in the North Country, and now the tribe is about to give people near New York City a place to frolic. News 10 Now's Dana Hendrickson tells us while Northern New York may be 400 miles away, the St. Regis Mohawk tribe will still cash in.

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The Mohawks are ready, but for now, it's a waiting game.





Tom Stacey


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