



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

HAUDENOSAUNEE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

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A Message from the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee

For Immediate Release

Onondaga Nation Territory - January 17, 2007

Midwinter greetings from the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee would like to take this opportunity to inform Haudenosaunee citizens of the recent developments concerning the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

Beginning January 23rd, 2007 the United States will implement the WHTI, which will require all persons traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to present a valid passport. Currently, this law has no special status for Indigenous Peoples and will require Haudenosaunee citizens to present a Canadian or US passport to travel within our own homeland. However, the rules of the WHTI allow the US Dept of Homeland Security to grant exceptions to the passport requirement.

The Haudenosaunee appreciate and share the security concerns of Canada and the United States. We are convinced, as well, that both countries are committed to fulfilling the obligations contained in their treaties with the Haudenosaunee. We have concluded that the ongoing development of Haudenosaunee ID cards will meet or exceed contemporary international security standards, and accomplish both goals.

In order to achieve this, the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee has been mandated by the Grand Council of Chiefs to coordinate both the political and technical development of this initiative, and will soon be meeting with high ranking government officials in United States and Canada. This committee is made up of the following representatives: Mohawk Chief Curtis Nelson - Oneida Chief Belanger Brown - Onondaga Chief Tadodaho Sid Hill - Onondaga Faithkeeper Oren Lyons - Cayuga Sub-Chief Karl Hill - Seneca Chief Roger Hill - Seneca Sub-Chief Darwin Hill - Tuscarora Chief Stuart Patterson - Tuscarora Alec Hill - Six Nation Representatives: Brian Doolittle and Paul Williams.

The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee is estimating a timeframe of 6 months to both initiate and implement its new documentation system. In the meantime, we are advising citizens of the Haudenosaunee to be patient.

We further advise Haudenosaunee citizens that if you must travel by air to a destination in the United States after the January 23rd deadline, that you make arrangements to drive across the border to depart from a US airport; as domestic flights will not be subject to the same passport scrutiny. We understand the inconvenience this may cause to our citizens; however it is vital to the sovereignty position of the Haudenosaunee.

The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee will issue regular reports to various media outlets throughout our territories to keep our people informed. For more information, please contact the Onondaga Nation Communications Office at (315) 492-1922, or your local Nation Office.