



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

## HAUDENOSAUNEE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

C/O Onondaga Nation Communications Office  
258C Route 11A Onondaga Nation Territory (via Nedrow, NY) 13120  
[www.onondaganation.org](http://www.onondaganation.org)

Tel. (315) 492-1922

## A Message from the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee

### News Release

#### Onondaga Nation Territory - May 19, 2007

Recently, there have been updates in the REAL ID Act and WHTI which affect the HDC's goal for a more secure ID card. First, in March '07 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published in the Federal Register a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, titled, "Minimum Standards for Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards Acceptable by Federal Agencies for Official Purposes" (REAL ID Standards). At the present time, the REAL ID Act does not require that an individual declare his citizenship. However, if a declaration of citizenship is needed, then the Haudenosaunee issued ID card would satisfy the technical security requirements of the REAL ID act. The HDC is closely monitoring the developments of the REAL ID act regarding the requirement declaring citizenship.

On May 10th, the US House of Representatives passed several important amendments to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The amendments must also be approved by the Senate and the President in order to go into effect. These amendments include: 1) A requirement for Homeland Security to complete a cost-benefit analysis before implementing WHTI; 2) Mandatory trials on the passport card technology and a report to Congress before issuing a final rule on WHTI; 3) A six-month grace period for travelers who do not have approved documentation; 4) A public outreach plan to be coordinated between DHS and the US and Canadian travel and trade communities; and 5) An expansion of the NEXUS travel programs. If these amendments go into effect, then the deadline for the WHTI will be delayed. Currently, the DHS has not released the new regulations for WHTI.

Once the DHS releases the WHTI regulations, we can start finalizing our proposals with the DHS and the ID Card / Passport manufacturers. It should be noted that recently, Haudenosaunee delegates traveled successfully abroad using the current version of the Haudenosaunee passport. The HDC is working to ensure that the Haudenosaunee Passport remains acceptable as an international travel document.

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec are in the process of updating the security levels of their driver's licenses. The HDC is monitoring these new Canadian security levels. In order to address our concerns, the HDC is currently making arrangements to meet with the DHS in Washington, DC and officials at the Canadian Embassy. Also, the HDC is currently making arrangements to interview ID card manufacturers and Passport manufacturers to create the new Haudenosaunee Identification Documents.

In order to address the growing concern of our citizens when crossing the border, the HDC has enlisted the assistance of the Indian Defense League of America (IDLA). The IDLA was established to guarantee the inherent right of unrestricted passage on the continent of North America for Indian people. If a citizen is delayed at the border because of documentation, the IDLA suggests that he remain cooperative while gathering this information: Name of border guard, his Badge #, the time and location of incident. Most instances are rather short, if the delay becomes lengthy, this information will be helpful in creating a record of the incident. For more information on the IDLA please contact Beverly Hill, President (716) 297-5297.