



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

## HAUDENOSAUNEE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

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### News Release

**Tonawanda Seneca Nation Territory - September 9, 2009**

#### MOA Update

On June 17, 2009, the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee (HDC) sent a revised Proposal to Customs and Border Protection (CBP). After reviewing our proposed MOA, CBP requested a description of the Haudenosaunee ID Card System. On July 13, the HDC sent CBP the description of our card production system. Following the review this document, the CBP and the HDC held numerous conference calls in June, July, and August regarding the remaining issues in the MOA. We have made great progress and the MOA is very nearly complete. In our ongoing efforts to reach a signed MOA, the HDC participated in two high level meetings with US officials. On August 25, the HDC met with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echohawk at the Onondaga Longhouse to emphasize the need for CBP to finalize the MOA as we have proposed. Lastly, on September 3, the HDC met with federal officials in Washington, DC, to follow up on the Echohawk meeting.

#### Card Design

On June 30, 2009, at the HDC meeting in Akwesasne, Siemens presented our first mock cards. The mock card has several ICAO compliant security features including, holograms, micro and UV printing, machine readable zones, etc. The mock card does not contain the RFID chip. The HDC is working to finalize the card design so it can be presented to the Grand Council before it goes into production.

#### Card Application Offices

The HDC is working with each Nation to set up our card application offices. In May, Siemens conducted site surveys of our five proposed office locations (Tonawanda, Akwesasne, Onondaga, Grand River, and Oneida - near Southwold, ON). On July 17, Siemens presented the HDC with the results of the site surveys. All of the locations surveyed meet the needs of our system. Delivery of the new equipment to set up the application offices is expected soon.

#### Haudenosaunee Passport

The following is a brief history of the Haudenosaunee Passport: 1) First used in 1977 by a Grand Council decision for a delegation to begin work on the now-adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland; 2) The Grand Council decision is significant because it was based on a consensus decision of the leadership of all Haudenosaunee Nations. Since 1977, the Haudenosaunee passport has been recognized by many nations. In 1999, the United States Department of State distributed a memo to US consulates abroad explaining the use of the Haudenosaunee passport by our people.

In December 2006, the Grand Council created the HDC with the mandate to upgrade our ID cards and passports. The HDC's choice of Siemens to produce our ID cards was based in part on Siemens' demonstrated ability to produce upgraded passports, as well. We are working with Siemens on the short-term project of producing a limited number of low-tech passports now and on producing the upgraded passports next. We have also met with several foreign embassies on recognition of our passports. On July 25, the Grand Council decided to standardize the color of our passports to black (currently passports are available in black for diplomatic/limited use, and yellow for general travel).

If you have any questions or comments please contact the HDC at the numbers above, or contact your respective nation's Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers, and Faithkeepers.