



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

Tel. (315) 492-1922

A Message from the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee

News Release

Akwasasne Mohawk Nation Territory - July 30, 2007

The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee (HDC) is thoroughly analyzing the proposed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) land border crossing rules and drafting comments on them. These comments will include a proposal that Haudenosaunee ID cards be accepted for border crossing. To help us get the information we need to make our comments and proposal as strong as possible, the HDC is scheduling meetings with officials in Washington, DC. In addition, we continue to urge all Haudenosaunee Councils to work on their distribution policies for new ID cards. These policies must be included in our proposal to DHS. The ongoing analysis of the proposed rules will conclude with the submission of our comments to the Federal Register on August 27, 2007.

After the submission of our comments, the interviews with the ID card companies will continue. The HDC needs to determine which ID card company will develop the new Haudenosaunee ID card and passport. Also, the HDC is educating the Haudenosaunee Councils on several aspects of the ID card system: the application process, the development and design of the card, the security features of the card and system, cost, etc.

Recently, the North American Indigenous Games New York State Steering Committee (Steering Committee) contacted the HDC regarding the passport issue for the 2008 games. The games will be held in Cowichan Valley, Duncan, British Columbia. The HDC is working to assist the Steering Committee to ensure that our Team Haudenosaunee will have hassle free border crossing. These are just a few examples of how the HDC is continuing on to fulfill its mandate: to interface with the US and Canadian Governments regarding the political and technical development of the new Haudenosaunee ID cards and passports.

On Saturday July 21, 2007, the Indian Defense League of America (IDLA) presented the "80th Annual Free Border Crossing Celebration." This yearly event commemorates the Jay Treaty of 1794 - Restoring to Indians of North America Free Border Crossing. The 3 mile parade route started from the north end of Main Street in Niagara Falls, NY and ended at Niagara Falls, ON via Whirlpool Rapids Bridge. This year's parade was led by Haudenosaunee Chiefs and Faith Keepers: Cayuga Nation - Sam George, Karl Hill and Tami VanAernam; Tuscarora Nation - Stuart Patterson and Alec Hill. The parade was a big success with an estimated 1000 people and approximately 350 cars participating. The HDC was very honored to be a part of the parade. The HDC also extends a big Nya-weh to the IDLA for organizing this event.

The IDLA is assisting the HDC in dealing with day-to-day border crossing problems. If a citizen is delayed at the border because of documentation, the IDLA suggests remaining cooperative while gathering this information: Name of border guard, Badge #, and 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.

If you, our Haudenosaunee Citizens, have any questions or comments please contact us at the numbers above, or contact your Council of Chiefs, Clan Mothers and Faithkeepers.