



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

## HAUDENOSAUNEE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

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### News Release

#### Tonawanda Seneca Nation Territory - May 23, 2009

#### Accommodation Past June 1, 2009 Deadline

The Department of Homeland Security has confirmed in writing that “the current practice of accepting photo identification tribal cards will continue for a modest, but reasonable transition period” past the June 1 deadline. This means Red Cards will continue to be accepted for land and sea travel into the United States for the time being. HDC considers this a victory as we have pushed for DHS to ‘preserve the status quo’ since we submitted our comments in August 27, 2007. INAC status cards will also continue to be accepted. We will work with DHS and CBP to ensure that the transition period continues until our MOA is complete and our new ID cards are in the hands of Haudenosaunee people. In the meantime we are educating local CBP officials at Buffalo/Niagara, Massena, and Champlain POEs. Our goal is to ensure the continued safe and easy passage for our Haudenosaunee travelers.

#### MOA with US and Development of Card System

As we continue to work to reach an agreement (“MOA”) with CBP to ensure acceptance of our upgraded cards, we are also working with Siemens, our card manufacturing partner, to set up the card application, production, and distribution processes. During the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, Siemens performed site inspections of all five planned Haudenosaunee application office locations. Siemens was very pleased with our sites and is eager to begin work on the workstations in the offices.

#### Haudenosaunee Passport

On 05/12/09 the HDC sent a delegation to meet with the French Embassy in Ottawa. Our goal is to assist the French Foreign Ministry in recognizing our Haudenosaunee Passport. The meeting went very well and we look forward to working with French officials in Ottawa and Paris.

#### Other News

A Haudenosaunee delegation met with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in Ottawa on May 12th. Our goal was to update them on the progress of producing our new ID cards. They showed us the prototype of the new status card, known officially as the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). According to INAC and CBP officials in Washington, CBP has agreed to approve the new SCIS for border crossing. The new card will contain enhanced security features but will not contain RFID technology.

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.