



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

KAHNAWÀ:KE KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA ONKWANAKERÁHSERA - KAHNAWAKE BRANCH OF THE MOHAWK NATION
NE IÁ:IA'K NIHONONHWENTSÁ:KE - SIX NATION IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

MOHAWK NATION AT KAHNAWÀ:KE DISMAYED AT GAZETTE EDITORIAL CARTOON

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke – Onerahtohkó:wa/May 21, 2009

The people of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke offer greetings and thanksgiving. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke is dismayed at the unfair portrayal of a Mohawk Warrior flag sprouting a marijuana leaf, which appeared as an editorial cartoon in the Montreal Gazette on May 20th. The cartoon, illustrated by the talented and thought-provoking cartoonist Terry Mosher (Aislin), no doubt refers to the massive police raid on marijuana grow-ops in our sister community of Kanehsatà:ke on May 19th.

Firstly, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke would like to clarify that it does not support the commerce of mind-altering narcotics within our territory. These mindchangers are forbidden under our traditional laws and spiritual beliefs. As a branch of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke deplores and condemns such enterprise and considers those engaged in such illegal activity as violators of the Two Row Wampum.

In light of our anti-drug position, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke would like to express its disappointment at the offensive manipulation of our icon of unity and resistance. We feel this cartoon unfairly misrepresents the 35,000 people of the Mohawk Nation as a nation of criminals. As every society must deal with organized crime, we are no exception, but it is another thing to accuse a nation as criminal.

Under this same flag, the people of the Mohawk Nation defended their ancestral territory during the summer of 1990. That summer, most were prepared to give their lives to protect the land and the tenets for which this flag represents. While some may hide behind our flag today to conduct illegal activity, those who believe in its meaning understand the true nature of the flag as well as the ancient roles and responsibilities that go with being a warrior.

In spite of the insulting nature of this cartoon, we hope that the better judgment of Gazette readers will prevail. With respect to Mr. Mosher, we hope he would use better judgment in the future.

For more information, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

In peace and friendship.

*Kawennahente
Lynne Norton*

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