



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 WILL NOT RECOGNIZE MCK COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke – Seskehkó:wa/September 27, 2009

Greetings from the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke. On Wednesday, September 30th the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) will inaugurate its *Community Decision-Making Process*, which will determine whether or not its Justice Commission will receive a mandate to develop a *Kahnawà:ke Justice Act*. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke is dismayed to learn of recent instances during its campaign to promote the Community Decision-Making Process the MCK has commandeered references, symbols, and terminology synonymous with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

On two separate occasions this week, the Montreal Gazette published articles celebrating the MCK Community Decision-Making Process as “*traditional*” and “*culturally authentic*”, no doubt the result of an effective campaign designed to purport the appearance of this new process as one that exists within the sovereign framework of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. This misrepresentation is further demonstrated by its own documentation that insists it is “*a part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy*” and that it is “*governed by the Kaianere’kó:wa*”. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke considers such dishonesty as deplorable and unacceptable.

We wish to clarify that the Longhouse, as the traditional spiritual and political institution placed in each community by the Six Nations Confederacy, is the only legislative venue sanctioned by the Haudenosaunee Grand Council of Chiefs to serve as the custodians of Haudenosaunee sovereignty. The Kaianere’kó:wa – constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy – defines the degrees of political authority that are exclusive to recognize bodies of the league. This political authority is dependent upon two variables: the first rests with its commitment and ability to conduct the Haudenosaunee cycle of ceremonies. The second is determined by the political and spiritual relationship it maintains with the Haudenosaunee Grand Council of Chiefs and its national council.

Conversely, the MCK was born from Canada’s Indian Act and remains an extension of this colonial power, whose only strength stems from Canadian recognition and funding. The MCK is not recognized by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy in any manner, despite its efforts to suggest otherwise. Moreover, despite their claim to be a part of the Haudenosaunee, the MCK ironically does not recognize the Haudenosaunee Grand Council, its political authority as defined by the Kaianere’kó:wa, nor the legislation it creates.

Considering the above, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke will not recognize any legislation passed through the MCK Community Decision-Making Process, nor will it tolerate this misrepresentation. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke formally instruct the MCK to cease and desist from using any references, symbols, or terminology that suggest a relationship with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and its constitution. Until such time when the MCK chooses to recognize the legitimacy and political authority of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, it will remain outside its protective domain. Any future misrepresentation will be reported to the Haudenosaunee Grand Council of Chiefs.

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke protests the legitimacy of the Community Decision-Making Process and asks community members to refrain from participating in the process as it undermines the sovereign authority of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. For more information, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

In Peace and Friendship,

Atsenhaién:ton Kenneth Deer
Secretary – Kahnawà:ke Branch
Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy