



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

CLARIFICATION ON LONGHOUSE POSITION CONCERNING TORCH RELAY

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke – Tsothórhá/December 2, 2009

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke offer greetings and thanksgiving. On November 29, 2009, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke issued a news release informing the community of its position concerning the upcoming Olympic torch relay. We have received questions and comments from community members who may have misunderstood our position.

Firstly, we are asking community members to boycott participating in the festivities associated with the torch relay as a gesture of respect for our brothers and sisters in British Columbia. We further ask those community members who choose to participate in the festivities, not to fly the Haudenosaunee or Warrior flags as it would be inconsistent with our position. However, if community members are planning to demonstrate against the 2010 Winter Olympics in support of their brothers and sisters in British Columbia, they are welcomed to do so. We feel this issue could have been avoided all together had the organizers simply exempted Kahnawà:ke from the torch route.

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke would like to also clarify that it intends to prohibit the RCMP from entering the territory of Kahnawà:ke for this event. Likewise, the People of the Longhouse have left it to its Warrior Society to prevent the RCMP from entering the territory of Kahnawà:ke. However, it is important to note that our men will not prevent or interfere with those civilians who are running with the torch or those community members who support the torch's passage, as it is their right to do so.

We hope this communication has clarified our position. For more information, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

In peace and friendship,
Kawennahente
Lynne Norton

Kawennenhén:te Lynne Norton
Assistant Secretary – Kahnawà:ke Branch
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