



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

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

## MOHAWK NATION AT KAHNAWÀ:KE DOES NOT SUPPORT OLYMPIC TORCH RUN IN COMMUNITY

### For Immediate Release

### Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke – Kentenhkó:wa/November 29, 2009

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke offer greetings and thanksgiving. On December 8, 2009, the Olympic torch is slated to pass through Kahnawà:ke. The issue of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games has been marked with endless debate and conflicting viewpoints amongst the Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia.

We understand and appreciate that our own community is divided on the issue of the Olympic torch passing through Kahnawà:ke. However, we must seriously consider the ongoing struggle of our Indigenous brothers and sisters in British Columbia who endeavor to prevent the Government of Canada from further commandeering and expropriating their traditional territory for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

While community members may have different opinions on the Olympic issue itself, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke feels an obligation to discourage support for the Olympic torch passing through Kahnawà:ke as it would demonstrate a crippling lack of solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in British Columbia and undermine their struggle to protect and defend their traditional territory.

Moreover, the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke is deeply concerned over the possibility of an RCMP escort through our community. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke feels this gesture is an unwarranted concession of our sovereign jurisdiction and will resist the presence of a foreign police force within our community.

While we may be opposed to the torch relay and prohibit the RCMP to enter our community, we will not prevent or interfere with the torch's passage through the community. However, we ask community members who believe in the struggle of Indigenous Peoples in the defense of their territory to boycott this event. We also ask community members to respect our position by not flying either Haudenosaunee or Warrior flags. For more information please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

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