



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

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

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke assists Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee on new ID card and passport

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawà:ke – Enníska/February 15, 2007

Wa'tkwanonwerá:ton Kahnawa'kehró:non we hope this letter finds you in peace and good spirits. We would like to address the recent community concern over Kahnawà:ke's position regarding the application of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which requires all persons traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to present a valid passport.

We would like to inform you that the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake is currently working with and supporting the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee in the development of new Haudenosaunee identification cards and passports. The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee is a working group mandated by the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee to execute the political legwork and technical development of Haudenosaunee documentation.

As indicated in the Confederacy's press release of January 19, 2007, the Haudenosaunee ID Passport/Card Committee is estimating a timeframe of 6 months to both initiate and implement its new documentation system. In the meantime, we are advising community members to be patient as your support and vigilance on this matter is vital to our sovereignty position as Haudenosaunee people.

We further advise Kahnawa'kehró:non that if you must travel by air after the January 23rd deadline that you make arrangements to drive across the border to depart from a US airport; as domestic flights will not be subject to the same passport scrutiny. We understand the inconvenience this may cause to our people however it must be stressed how vital this issue is to the sovereignty position of the Haudenosaunee.

Also, we would like to inform the community to keep in mind that there have been no official decisions made in terms of the criteria for these documents and that as this issue develops every possible attempt will be made to keep the community informed. For more information on this issue, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

Atsenhaién:ton Kenneth Deer
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Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy