



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

Haudenosaunee at Kahnawake fears judge's decision will provoke more violence

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake – Seskéha (August) 13, 2006

The Haudenosaunee at Kahnawake offer greetings and thanksgiving. On Tuesday, August 8, 2006, Ontario Superior Court Judge, David Marshall rendered a provocative decision to cease all talks between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council at Grand River and the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

The Haudenosaunee at Kahnawake are dismayed and disturbed by Judge Marshall's order to sever productive and peaceful dialogue at Grand River. Evidently not learning from the troubling result of his initial call for violence on April 20th, when he ordered the Ontario Provincial Police to invade the Reclamation Occupation; Judge Marshall appears to believe violence is the only avenue that should be employed in Grand River Country.

Judge Marshall, as a stakeholder in the Haldimand Tract, is in serious conflict of interest and his order to sabotage peaceful talks only demonstrates his biased position. Moreover, considering how the Government of Canada has purchased the disputed area from Henco Industries Ltd., there is no logical reason to warrant the execution of the initial injunction and risk the prospect of more violence; seeing as the plaintiff is now removed from the dispute.

Citing the need to uphold the rule of law, the Haudenosaunee at Kahnawake would like to remind Judge Marshall and all Canadians that we are not citizens of Canada; we have been and forever shall be Haudenosaunee. Likewise, we are not subject to their laws as we have our own democratic constitutional government to which we are subordinate to its rule of law. Certainly, this is not a domestic issue to be dealt with by Canadian courts as it is a political issue to be dealt with by governments; a notion that is at the very heart of the Reclamation Occupation and cannot be ignored.

Considering that the Reclamation Occupation is ongoing and that Judge Marshall's is bent on destroying any peaceful resolve, the Haudenosaunee at Kahnawake would like to reiterate its full support for the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council, who are the original and legitimate governing authority for the Haudenosaunee people of Grand River. Furthermore, we would also like to reaffirm our commitment of support for the Reclamation Occupation of Haudenosaunee Territory within Grand River Country and our brothers and sisters who remain there to defend and protect our land.

We again demand that the Government of Canada resign themselves to a peaceful resolve of this issue and consider Judge Marshall's authority in the matter to be *Functus Officio*. We must keep in mind, that the intensity of this conflict was initially sparked by Judge Marshall's choice to employ violence as a means to control Indigenous Peoples. It is not too late for Canada to learn from this mistake.

For more information, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office; Secretariat for the People of the Longhouse at 450.632.7639

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