



## **Mohawk Council Communiqué**

Monday, 20 Kenténha/October, 2008

*The following is a synopsis of the latest Council Meeting*

### **Chiefs Attendance**

**In** - Chiefs Mike Delisle Jr., Mike Bush, Martin Leborgne, Melvin “Marvin” Zacharie, Peter Paul, Peggy Mayo Standup, Warren Lahache, Rhonda Kirby, John Dee Delormier, Johnny Montour, Kenneth McComber.

**Absent** - None.

**Also present** - Alana Goodleaf-Rice - Executive Director, Lanny Jacobs – Project/File Coordinator, Grand Chief’s Office, Samantha Montour – Assistant to the Grand Chief (OCC Review Update), David Lahache – Communications Officer (KTA Request), John Latour – Tax Consultant (KTA Request).

### **Housekeeping**

- Chief Kenneth McComber will attend an HRDC meeting in Montreal on October 22, 2008.
- Chief Martin Leborgne informed the table that the next Iroquois Caucus will take place from November 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. The Caucus will meet with members of the new parliamentary Opposition to lobby against Bill 47 (Matrimonial Real Property).
- Chief Rhonda Kirby requested support to attend graduation ceremonies for the new Kahnawà:ke Peacekeepers. Chief Warren Lahache gives his support stating the importance of Council members being present at such ceremonies.
- Grand Chief Mike Delisle Jr. requested support to attend a conference at The Banff Center in Alberta from November 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> concerning ‘Principals of Good Governance and Structures of Governance.
- Chief Kenneth McComber updated the table on the FNEC Education Training Center and the possibility of having a Director’s position filled and office located in Kahnawà:ke.
- Chief Rhonda Kirby informed the table that the Membership Department received a total of 101 calls, giving 80 names (5 with numerous complaints), of individuals residing in the community in contravention of Mohawk Law. A full presentation will be made by the Membership Department to Council at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Discussion took place regarding a story that appeared in the Eastern Door Newspaper concerning Casino Royale.

### **The following agenda items were discussed**

#### **OCC Review Update**

Samantha Montour, Assistant to the Grand Chief, presented a concept to improve the structure and efficiency of the Office of the Council of Chiefs. Recommendations included clarification of job descriptions and re-working the descriptions of two current positions (presently vacant) to ensure proper integration of political direction with related departments, Chiefs and technicians, as well as, keep the entire Council on the ‘same page’ with those directions. Much discussion took place on past problem areas and the



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best way to avoid repeating those problems. Chiefs are now being asked to offer their comments and input on how to proceed with implementation. Chief Marvin Zacharie was opposed to the hiring of any new personnel as part of any restructuring plan.

### **KTA Request**

Discussions took place concerning a request from the KTA to have Council sign off on a letter supporting the association's 'exclusive regulating authority' over the tobacco industry within Kahnawà:ke. Following input from the table, it was decided that the Grand Chief would contact KTA representative, Louis Stacey, to inform him of the Council Table's concerns and the need for further discussions. Discussion also took place with regards to a similar Seneca Nation regulatory system at Salamanca which could potentially be used as a model.

### **Community Issues**

Not on the official agenda, a presentation was made by the Grand Chief with regard to issues resulting from a meeting with concerned community members. Issues included graffiti, vandalism, roaming gangs, drug use etc. A brainstorm session took place to create a list of possible solutions. It was obvious that an overnight solution would not be found, but rather, an ongoing campaign of awareness and community observation would be required. The results of this discussion will be shared with the Community Prevention Task Force on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.