



*Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## MCK expresses gratitude to AFNQL Regional Chief for decades of leadership and service

### For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – 16, Tsothohrhkó:wa/January 2025)** – The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) extends heartfelt gratitude to Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) Ghislain Picard, who announced that he will not be seeking re-election at the end of his current term. With 33 years of exceptional service, his leadership has been a cornerstone in advocating for the rights and well-being of Onkwehón:we communities across Quebec and Labrador.

Chief Picard's dedication to the First Nations community has been unwavering. He began serving as Regional Chief of the AFNQL in 1992, and under his leadership, the organization has grown into a vital voice for Indigenous peoples. His influence has extended well beyond political circles, shaping a legacy of advocacy and progress.

"We would like to acknowledge and celebrate the legacy Chief Picard leaves behind. His hard work and integrity have paved the way for future generations of leaders," said Ratsénhaienhs lohahí:io Delisle, who holds the External Governmental Relations portfolio. "We wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and we will always be grateful for his contributions."

In addition to his role as Regional Chief, Ghislain Picard was appointed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly of the AFN to serve as interim National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) during a transitional period in 2014. His leadership was pivotal during that challenging time, further solidifying his reputation as a strong and respected voice for Indigenous peoples.

Although not from Kahnawà:ke himself, Chief Picard's children and grandchildren are Kanien'keháka of Kahnawà:ke, further strengthening his connection to the people he has served for over three decades.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Picard focused on inclusivity, ensuring the voices of youth and women were integrated into decision-making processes. His respect for the positions of fellow Chiefs and the communities they represent, combined with his fierce protection of Onkwehón:we rights, has made him a respected figure across our territories.

"On behalf of the MCK, I would like to thank Ghislain for his tireless dedication and commitment to our communities and to First Nations as a whole," said Ohén:ton Í:rate ne Ratitsénhaienhs Cody Diabo. "His leadership has been exemplary, particularly in advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples and ensuring that youth and women have a seat at the table. Ghislain's work has left an indelible mark on the AFNQL and on the broader political landscape of First Nations across Turtle Island."