



# Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

*Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke*

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Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaientákhwa

## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

### **MCK offers condolences on passing of the Honorable Aurélien Gill**

#### **For immediate release**

**(Kahnawake – 20, Tsothohrkó:wa/January 2015)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke wishes to inform Kahnawà'kehró:non that Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr. has sent a letter offering condolences to the people of Mashteuiatsh on the passing of the Honorable Aurélien Gill.

The former Chief of the Innu community of Mashteuiatsh and Canadian Senator passed away on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the age of 81. The funeral will be held on Thursday in his home community.

He served his community as Chief for many years from the mid-1970's to the late 1980's and also served as Chairman of the Atikamekw-Montagnais in 1975 and 1976. He was named to the Canadian Senate in 1998 by then-Prime Minister Jean Crétien. He served as a Senator for nearly ten years, retiring in 2008.

“Senator Gill gained a great many friends across the country, including several here in Kahnawà:ke,” said Grand Chief Delisle. “He was always generous with his time and met often with representatives of this community, including yours truly.”

“On behalf of the community, we wish to offer our sincerest condolences and send our best wishes as he prepares for his final journey,” he concluded.

[Click here](#) to view the letter in its entirety (or see page 2 of this release).

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STRENGTH

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# Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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*Tsi Ietsenhaientáhkwawa*  
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19, Tsothohrkó:wa/January 2015

Wa'tkonnonhwerá:ton/Greetings,

It is with great sorrow that we have been made aware of the passing of the Honorable Aurélien Gill, one of the most important and influential leaders of the Innu people in recent history.

As former Chief of his community of Mashteuiatsh for many years, he had the confidence of his own people. That confidence was borne from his experiences as a business leader, educator, advocate and family man. The respect that he earned throughout his career was validated by his appointment to the Canadian Senate in 1998 by then-Prime Minister Jean Crétien. His service was exemplary and he dedicated himself to furthering the cause of his people and First Nations across Canada.

He gained friends across the country, including many here in Kahnawà:ke. He was always generous with his time and met often with representatives of our community, including yours truly. His loss will be felt by many, but the results of his life's work will be remembered for many years to come.

We join the many who will mourn his passing but we will also celebrate a life well-lived. As there is no doubt there were a great many sacrifices made by both Chief/Senator Gill and his family during a lifetime of service to his community, family and nation, we are pleased that was able to spend his final years close to those he loved most.

On behalf of the community I offer sincerest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues and send our best wishes as he prepares for his final journey.

**ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS  
MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÀ:KE**

Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle Jr

Md/jd/01192015