



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

MCK begins process for Independent Investigation into the Dismissal of Former Director of Education

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 7, Enniskó:wa/March 2013) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to inform Kahnawà:kehró:non that it is proceeding with the independent investigation into the dismissal of the former Director of Education.

The investigation was requested by parents and guardians of students enrolled with the Kahnawake Education Center during a meeting held on June 18, 2012. At that time a committee was mandated to develop a Terms of Reference. Due to a variety of reasons, the investigation has been delayed by several months.

“The MCK has secured the services of an independent firm to conduct the investigation,” said Education Portfolio Chief Rhonda Kirby. “(They) will be responsible for conducting the investigation in accordance with the July 12th Terms of Reference, and with the guidance of the Independent Investigation Steering Committee.”

In order for the investigation to proceed, the above-mentioned Independent Investigation Steering Committee – comprised of up to three representatives – will be created and given the responsibility for ensuring the process is conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The document entitled *Call for Interest for Independent Investigation Steering Committee Members* contains the necessary details for those interested in participating.

“Once this is done, the process is expected to take up to thirty (30) days,” concluded Chief Kirby.

To submit your interest in serving as an Independent Investigation Steering Committee member, please contact Chief Kirby at 450-632-7500 or by email at rhonda.kirby@mck.ca by 15, Enniskó:wa/March.

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**Call for Interest
for Independent Investigation
Steering Committee Members**

[Issued March 7, 2013]

Background:

On Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) would like to inform the community that it is proceeding with the Independent Investigation into the Dismissal of the Former Director of Education. The Independent Investigation was request by parents and guardians of students of the Kahnawake Education Center during a meeting on June 18th, 2012. On July 12th, a Steering Committee mandated to produce a Terms of Reference for the Independent Investigation completed this task. On November 7th, the MCK and KCSC co-hosted the KEC Annual General Assembly and at the Assembly, requested that any feedback on the Terms of Reference be issued to the attention of Chief Christine Zachary Deom.

Due to a variety of reasons, the Investigation was delayed by several months. The MCK has recently made a decision to address other issues through an Action Plan and prioritize and proceed with the Investigation. As there was no feedback received on the Terms of Reference as presented at the November 7th, 2012 Assembly, the MCK has used the draft as presented by the Steering Committee to obtain an Independent Investigator.

To assist in completion of this work and maintain neutrality, the MCK has a limited role in the Investigation of facilitating the hiring of a firm, and facilitating the establishment and coordination of a Steering Committee.

The Investigation:

To date, the MCK has secured the services of an Independent Firm to conduct the Investigation. The Firm will be responsible for conducting the Investigation in accordance with the July 12th, 2012 Terms of Reference, and with the guidance of the Independent Investigation Steering Committee. The Investigation will review the processes and procedures used in the dismissal of the former Director of Education, with a final report to be presented to the parents, guardians and community members.

It is expected that the timeline for conduct of the Investigation can take up to 30 days, with a report to be presented to parents, guardians and community members.

Steering Committee:

A Steering Committee comprised of up to three representatives will be responsible for ensuring the Investigation is conducted in accordance with the July 12th, 2012 Terms of Reference. The responsibilities include:

- Reviewing and familiarizing of the Investigation Process with the Investigation Firm
- Advising on the processes, tools and techniques used by the Investigation Firm where required
- Receiving reports on the status and outcomes of the Investigation
- Aiding in the presentation of the final report
- Supporting the maintenance of a neutral, secure and confidential Investigation
- Maintaining neutrality in providing objective and constructive contributions

To submit your interest in serving as an Independent Investigation Steering Committee Member, please contact Education Portfolio Chief Rhonda Kirby at (450)632-7500, or by email at rhonda.kirby@mck.ca by March 15th, 2013.