



*Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## letsénhaienhs Jessica Lazare in Ottawa to make presentation to Standing Committee on Bill C-21

### For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – 7, Enniskó:wa/March 2023)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to inform the community that letsénhaienhs Jessica Lazare will be in Ottawa this afternoon to make a presentation in front of the federal government's Standing Committee on Bill C-21 (the proposed federal legislation to make amendments to the *Criminal Code*, the *Firearms Act*, and other federal legislation in relation to gun control/firearms).

She will reiterate the MCK's position that "the legislation will have significant and unacceptable impacts on our people."

"We want to make it clear that an alignment is needed between the Canadian government drafting legislation and recognizing our inherent rights, which are ingrained in our roles and responsibilities as Onkwehón:we," letsénhaienhs Lazare stated.

In a letter addressed to Ron McKinnon (the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety & National Security) and Marco Mendicino (Canada's Minister of Public Safety), the MCK states, "the Bill will place unfair burdens on the shoulders of the Peacekeepers who safeguard our territory and will increase the potential for discriminatory and over-policing of our people off-territory."

"This bill is being considered to the detriment of our ability to exercise our rights to conduct a culturally rooted practice," letsénhaienhs Lazare added. "The realities of Indigenous people who travel for sustenance harvesting with their firearms are being overlooked due to lack of consultation."

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