

Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k

PRESS RELEASE

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Meeting scheduled with Minister Jolin-Barrette on Bill 96 tomorrow (Friday)

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 12, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2022) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke wishes to advise the community that Ohén:ton Í:iente ne Ratitsénhaienhs Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer and Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, and Chief John Martin, will meet with Quebec's Minister of Language & Culture Simon Jolin-Barrette and Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs Ian Lafrenière tomorrow morning to discuss issues regarding Bill 96.

Grand Chief Sky-Deer, in a Facebook Live statement issued earlier today (click here to view), thanked the Kahnawà:ke Survival School students for organizing a march voicing concerns about certain aspects of the Bill. A large number of students, with the support and participation of parents, elders, political leaders, and other community members, participated in the march and subsequent rally, which caught widespread attention.

"It was a great show of unity, which was very much needed at this time," said Grand Chief Sky-Deer. "The community is seeing Bill 96 as an attack on our future, and the turnout was impressive. We are looking forward to tomorrow's meeting and are hopeful that, by meeting with Minister Jolin-Barrette directly, we will be able to articulate our concerns and make it clear that short of a deferral of the Bill to a future legislature, there needs to be a total and absolute carve-out of the Bill's application on Indigenous Nations, communities, institutions, and individuals."

Grand Chief-Deer wishes to advise the community that an update will be provided once the meeting concludes.

"We are advising that the community continue to meet on Bill 96 in the days to come in order to best understand and address this matter," she concluded.