



*Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Ratsénhainenhs to present at AFN National Climate Gathering

**(Kahnawake – 9, Kentenhkó:wa/October 2024)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is pleased to announce that Ratsénhainenhs Ross Montour is attending the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 3<sup>rd</sup> National Climate Gathering in Calgary, Alberta from October 7-10.

This year's theme, "Catalyzing First Nations Climate and Conservation Leadership for Transformative Change," will see representatives from across the country come together to address crucial environmental issues. Of note, Ratsénhainenhs Montour will be representing Kahnawà:ke in a panel discussion titled "First Nations Leadership in Energy Transition" on October 9.

"The discussion will emphasize the need for consultation with First Nations before any large-scale energy projects are initiated," stated Ratsénhainenhs Montour, who oversees the Environment and Indigenous Rights and Research portfolios. "As First Nations people, we have a deep connection to our lands and a vital role as stewards of the environment. It is essential for governments and project proponents to regard consultation with First Nations as a fundamental aspect of their planning."

Since the AFN declared a First Nations Climate Emergency in 2019, bi-annual climate gatherings have been convened to address pressing climate issues. This year's gathering will cover a range of topics, including:

- First Nations knowledge systems, health, languages, cultures, and spiritual practices
- Jurisdiction and inherent rights to self-determination in conservation and climate action
- Capacity building and governance in climate strategies
- Addressing infrastructure deficits affecting First Nations
- Ensuring self-sufficiency in food, water, and energy
- First Nations-led prevention, mitigation, and emergency responses to climate challenges
- Reasserting jurisdiction, LAND BACK initiatives, and forms of resistance
- Youth-led climate initiatives and actions

Ratsénhainenhs Montour will return to the office on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

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