

STRENGTH
PEACE
UNITY

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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DECLARATION

ON RESTORING TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE ROTINONHSÓN:NI CONFEDERACY

It has been forty-five years since Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non first mandated the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke to honor our ancestral system of collective decision-making, by restoring a Traditional Government that is based on Rotinonhsón:ni philosophies and values and which is rooted in the Kaianere'kó:wa.

The philosophies of the Kaianere'kó:wa have consistently and continuously guided Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non, who over the generations have recognized that the Indian Act electoral system is not compatible with the principles of Skén:nen, Ka'nikonhrí:io, tánon Ka'satsténhsera and have desired and consistently advocated for a return to the structures, philosophies, concepts and principles of Traditional Government.

On this day, the 17th of June, in 1979, Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non mandated the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke to withdraw from the Indian Act and to begin the work of instituting a system of government aligned with the Kaianere'kó:wa. This mandate was formalized on the 15th of April 1982 by a resolution of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke to take immediate action to transition from the Indian Act electoral system to the Rotinonhsón:ni Confederacy system of government. The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, on the 28th of November 2000, restated its support for the 1979 mandate and asked all Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non to join and work together to achieve the reunification of the collective community under Traditional Government.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke respects the voice of Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non and we share the community's desire to unify and strengthen our community and Nation and to protect the lands and birthrights of our future generations. We recognize that in order to accomplish these goals we must separate ourselves from the Indian Act and contribute to the efforts of Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non to restore Traditional Government.

THEREFORE, WE DECLARE that the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke recognizes the Rotinonhsón:ni Confederacy as the ancient and true system of government of Kahnawà:ke; and,

WE FURTHER DECLARE that the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke will continue the work of disassociating from the Indian Act with the express goal of restoring Kahnawà:ke's place within the Rotinonhsón:ni Confederacy; and,

WE FINALLY DECLARE that the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke will work with all Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non and with the Grand Council of the Rotinonhsón:ni Confederacy to restore Traditional Government in accordance with the Kaianere'kó:wa.

Signed, on this 17th day of Ohiaríha/June, in the year 2024,

Ohén:ton Fiente ne Ratitsénhaienhs Kahsennéhawe Sky-Deer

Ratsénhaienhs Harry Angus Skahionhati Rice

Ietsénhaienhs Tonya Wentanoron Perron

Ietsénhaienhs Jessica Teiotsistohkwáthe Lazare

Ratsénhaienhs Cody Kanerahti:io Diabo

Ratsénhaienhs Stephen Angus McComber

Ratsénhaienhs Lindsay Skaniatará:ti Leborgne

Ratsénhaienhs Arnold Ken'wentéshon Boyer

Ratsénhaienhs Ryan Karoniarakwon Montour

Ratsénhaienhs Ross Kakwirakeron Montour

Ratsénhaienhs Iohahiio Delisle