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The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Open Letter: Kahnawà:ke Rejects Federal Resource Plan that Bypasses Indigenous Rights

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is raising serious concerns about Prime Minister Mark Carney's proposed legislation to fast-track resource and energy project approvals — legislation that threatens to sideline First Nations rights and voices from the outset.

The federal government is using the threat of U.S. tariffs and economic instability as justification to accelerate development across Indigenous lands. This strategic move puts urgency ahead of legal obligations and attempts to push development through unceded territory without proper consultation or consent.

The plan, presented in a brief three-page document, was shared with a small number of First Nations organizations — including the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) — with only **seven days** to respond. The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke was not included, nor consulted.

“Canada is shirking and shifting its responsibilities so soon after the departure of King Charles,” said Ohén:ton Í:rate ne Ratitsénhaieñhs Cody Diabo. “Canada remains part of the British Crown and must honour the agreements in place. Relying on the AFN to represent us in a rushed, last-minute review is unacceptable. The duty to consult lies with rights holders — not advocacy organizations.”

Let us be clear: Kahnawà:ke is not opposed to development. What we oppose is the method — one that continues Canada's pattern of excluding First Nations from decisions that directly impact our lands, resources, and futures.

Fast-tracking legislation means cutting corners on consultation and oversight. It leaves no room for meaningful engagement with rights holders. It increases the risk of environmental harm. It continues a long and well-documented history of ignoring the legal and moral obligations to Indigenous Peoples.

Despite references to long-term wealth creation to Indigenous communities, there is no detail on how those benefits will be delivered or governed. Promises without partnership are meaningless. Experience has shown that the principle of free, prior, and informed consent — a core tenet of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) — is often ignored. This latest proposal demonstrates that Canada is not moving forward, but backward.

Indigenous Peoples must be directly involved in decision-making. This means more than consultation — it means leadership, control, and respect for jurisdiction. Without these safeguards, Canada's new policy is simply a modern version of an old injustice.

We call on the federal government to:

- Stop circumventing First Nations rights under the guise of economic urgency;
- Recognize and support First Nations-led conservation and development efforts;
- Ensure full transparency in how resource projects are proposed, reviewed, and approved;
- Actively dismantle barriers to Indigenous participation through legal reform, education, and community-led initiatives;
- Embed First Nations leadership at the core of all policies that impact our territories.

If Prime Minister Carney wishes to discuss infrastructure or energy projects, he is welcome to come to Kahnawà:ke — just as he was when he arrived unannounced in our unceded territory of Tiohtià:ke during the election. But he must come in the spirit of respect, partnership, and accountability.

True progress will not come through rushed legislation. It will come when First Nations voices are prioritized, our sovereignty respected, and our people empowered to lead. Only then can we move toward a just and equitable future for all.

In Peace and Friendship,

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHIEFS



Ohén:ton I:rate ne Ratitsénhaiehs
Grand Chief of Kahnawake