

STRENGTH
PEACE
UNITY

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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Ohiarihkó:wa 21/ July 2025

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton Kahnawa'kehró:non,

The Council of Chiefs would first like to say niawenhkó:wa to the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation at Kahnawà:ke (207 Longhouse), the Kanonhsésne Tsi Kanien'kehá:ka ne Ronathá:te (Mohawk Trail Longhouse), and all Kahnawa'kehró:non for personally presenting your comments and concerns regarding the regulation of cannabis in our Territory in recent months. We appreciate the passion you've brought with respect to the protection of our community's safety and well being. We hope to further our dialog and collaboration with the traditional bodies, stakeholders in the regulated industry, and the community as a whole. We want all people to be heard and respected.

We understand the frustration and concerns that many in the community are feeling regarding the implementation of a regulated cannabis industry within our Territory. Our top priority has always been, and continues to be, the health, safety, and well-being of our People. It's our primary responsibility to ensure that all cannabis activity is strictly regulated, with safeguards in place to prevent illicit cannabis sales, illicit operations and to protect the safety of the community. Collectively, we remain committed to transparency, accountability, and community first thinking with regards to the Kahnawà:ke Cannabis Control Law ("KCCL") and its enforcement.

The KCCL and the accompanying Regulations were enacted through the CDMRP, the process through which laws and regulations are enacted in the Territory. This process included various opportunities for consultation and feedback with the community. Over the course of the several community engagements throughout the years, we heard from hundreds of Kahnawa'kehró:non participants and received over 1000 responses to surveys and polls on the issue of cannabis and on a regulated cannabis industry. The KCCL and ensuing regulations were drafted only after serious consideration of everything that was heard.

The KCCL and the enacted regulations demonstrate this by addressing key community issues such as limiting the number of licensed dispensaries to three (3)ⁱ, and restricting their locations outside of the village proper. Dispensaries must be distanced no less than 300 meters from residential areas and public facilities such as schools, parks, and playgrounds. This regulation directly addresses the concern of an increase in non-local foot traffic in the community resulting from a regulated cannabis industry. Additionally, customers are prohibited from consumption on the property. While regulated dispensaries will generate a non-local customer base, there will be no promotional advertising or enticements posted anywhere in the Territory, except for those to provide the location or directions to the dispensary and to endorse responsible and safe consumption of regulated cannabis productsⁱⁱ.

In addition to license holders, dispensary employees will also be required to go through a thorough vetting process, including criminal background assessments, and certified training, to be eligible to work in a licensed dispensary. By law, each location will employ a security guard to manage the entrance and ensure no customer is under the age of 21 or otherwise unfit to purchase cannabis if they are of legal age. They will also be responsible for ensuring that no cannabis is consumed on the property once purchased.

In addition to the focus on the health, safety, and the well being of the community, we also heard throughout the drafting of the Law the need for there to be a direct positive impact to the community from a regulated cannabis industry. Through a mandatory contribution from each licensee to the Kahnawà:ke Social and Economic Development Fund (“the Fund”)ⁱⁱⁱ, the community will receive additional resources to apply tangible benefits to our People. There will also be excess amounts deposited into the Fund on a quarterly basis from point-of-sale royalties, at the point in which the Kahnawà:ke Cannabis Control Board (“KCCB”) operational costs have been covered^{iv}. A regulated cannabis market will provide resources for the greater good of our People and not just allow individuals to benefit financially. At the same time, a royalty to be imposed at the point of sale to non-Onkwehón:we customers will be retained internally and added to the Fund. However, no Onkwehón:we, Kahnawa’kehró:non, or dispensary, will be subject to this royalty or any taxation mechanisms. Any excess funds generated via mandatory contribution or royalties directly benefit the community.

The MCK is committed to keeping Kahnawà:ke free of the concerning realities our sister communities face regarding the sale of cannabis. The introduction of a regulated market in Kahnawà:ke is a stark contrast to what we see on social media from other territories. We would caution comparing unregulated distribution and sale of unlicensed products to the public with strictly regulated distribution and sale of licensed safe products under our Law.

The KCCB has put in tireless effort of extensive due diligence to ensure approved license holders don't pose any threat to the community or links to unwanted persons having any gain, financial or otherwise, from a regulated cannabis market in Kahnawà:ke^v.

While the KCCL and regulations are in place to govern the legal cultivation, processing, and sale of cannabis in Kahnawà:ke, we also have complete faith in the Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Peacekeepers ("Peacekeepers") to continue to address any unlawful activities related to the sale of cannabis products. We take the safety and wellbeing of the community very seriously and remain committed to ensuring that only responsible and trustworthy businesses are permitted to operate on the Territory. Council will continue to hold businesses accountable regarding their relationship with our community. Businesses that are deemed unfit or unsafe, or that do not comply with the Law and regulations will be addressed accordingly. When necessary, appropriate actions to protect the community's best interest will be taken. We've seen your passion and commitment to keeping our People's safety a priority, and we urge you to report any illegal activities to the Peacekeepers. This is how, as a community, we protect our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

The safety and security of the community is our utmost focus. No aspect of the implementation of a regulated cannabis market has undermined this core mandate we all feel so strongly to uphold. We are proud our Territory hasn't followed the path of our sister communities since the federal legalization of cannabis and that's a testament to our processes and respect for one another. We look forward to, and welcome, future communication and collaboration with all Kahnawa'kehró:non on this matter and all matters that impact the community today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

In Peace and Friendship,

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHIEFS



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

ⁱ REGULATION CONCERNING DISPENSARIES AND DISPENSARY LICENCES SECTION 3

ⁱⁱ REGULATION CONCERNING DISPENSARIES AND DISPENSARY LICENCES SECTION 71

ⁱⁱⁱ KAHNAWAKE CANNABIS CONTROL LAW SECTION 23

^{iv} REGULATION CONCERNING PRICES ROYALTIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS SECTION 20, 21

^v KAHNAWAKE CANNABIS CONTROL LAW SECTION 16.16