

STRENGTH

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Tsiothorhkó:wa/January 29, 2026

**RE: History clarification**

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton Prime Minister Carney,

In your speech of January 22, 2026 on the theme of *Building Canada Together*, which you delivered on the Plains of Abraham, you spoke of Canada as a fair and inclusive partnership of peoples, extolled the virtues of the country as a bastion of progress and justice, and framed it as a democratic and prosperous beacon of civility and peace for the world's people.

In the speech, which we understand as a response to the provocations of the President of the United States, you stated that "Canada doesn't 'live because of the United States.' Canada thrives because we are Canadian" and painted an historical picture of Canada as a society built by the French and British, who chose to cooperate and become partners in a Confederation which by virtue of Canadians' inherent qualities of resilience, ambition and kindness, has evolved to become the greatest country on earth.

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is taking this opportunity to point out that your comments disregard the facts of history and erase the importance of our people, the Kanien'kehaka, in guaranteeing the existence of Canada.

One key fact is that Canada exists primarily due to the intervention and assistance from First Nations allied with the British in their military conflicts with the Americans. Our nations allied with and fought alongside the British against the Americans based on formal treaties of peace and friendship which for us Kanien'kehaka were represented by the Covenant Chain, the living Nation-to-Nation framework and unextinguished treaty relationship and military alliance.

Our Kahnawà:ke and broader Kanien'kehá:ka warriors fought, bled, and prevailed against the American expansion in several conflicts, all of which would have "British North America" not endure as we know it today. Our ancestors defended this alliance and defended these lands from United States aggression in the War of 1812, when their military invasion of our territories were repelled by the joint forces of First Nations warriors and British soldiers. American expansion and the United States' attempt to steal more of our land and end the existence of British North America was halted because of our people's sacrifices on the battlefield. It was only because of

the crucial role of our Kahnawà:ke and other Kanien'kehaka ancestors in key battles of that war that Montréal did not fall to the Americans and that the colony of Upper Canada survived.

At the Battle of Beaver Dams near Niagara Falls on June 24, 1813, 400 Kahnawà:ke and Kanehsatà:ke warriors ambushed an American column of 500 men, forcing the terrified Americans to cower and surrender to a handful of British troops who arrived on the scene only after the battle was over.

At the Battle of Châteauguay on October 26, 1813, Kahnawà:ke warriors provided reconnaissance and employed guerilla tactics in cooperation with French-Canadian Voltigeurs to cause the retreat of the American force of 4000 soldiers threatening British supply lines and the city of Montréal.

At the Battle of Crysler's Farm near Morrisburg on November 11, 1813, Kahnawà:ke warriors joined the British force of 800 soldiers confronting an American army of 4000 and attacked the Americans' sharpshooters to prevent them from targeting British officers, which ensured a decisive British victory and a retreat of the American army to Cornwall and an end to their campaign to capture Montréal.

At the Battle of Lacolle Mills on March 30, 1814, during a second attempted invasion, Kahnawà:ke warriors were the first to engage the 4000-strong American force, and their actions allowed the 500 combined 13th Regiment of Foot, Royal Marines, Canadian Fencibles, and French-Canadian Voltigeur force to rout the Americans, finally ending the United States' attempts to invade Canada.

We remind you as Canada's Prime Minister, and all Canadians, that it's important that this history isn't forgotten, neglected or glossed over. The fact is that Canadians thrive because not only the Mohawks of Kahnawà:ke but all of the Kanien'kehaka who fought as sovereign allies with the British to push back and defeat the Americans during their attempted invasions. The Kanien'kehaka and other First Nations are not merely, as you stated in your speech, the former stewards of this continent, we are nations and we are partners who are in treaty relations with Canada because of our blood sacrifices and the instrumental role we have played.

The Covenant Chain of Friendship living Nation-to-Nation framework is bounded by the use of silver, which requires the Chain to be 'polished'. This symbolizes the improvements of our alliance over time; for when this chain is not polished/cleaned, it becomes rusted. Since the early 1600s, the Chain has been upheld by all Haudenosaunee and has been respected and adapted to reflect both the United States of America and Canada's commitment to our co-existence.

We remind you that our people share your stated commitment to the principle of peaceful co-existence. We note that your government's *Building Canada Act* mandates consultation with "Indigenous peoples" and we were heartened to have heard you acknowledge that Canada thus far has been built "on the dispossession (land) of, and broken treaties with, Indigenous Peoples."

We challenge you to translate this sentiment towards justice into real action on reconciliation and to move beyond the rhetoric of a partnership of peoples by finally demonstrating respect for the Covenant Chain of Friendship by working together to restore relationship agreed to in our treaties. This includes not only the terms of the relationship but also the process for legally acquiring our land/territory which your King ordained in the Royal Proclamation, which underpins your constitution and outlines legal obligations of the Canadian government.

We offer this challenge not as petitioners of the past, but as a living and thriving nation: advancing our own interests, continuing our intergenerational identity, and exercising our responsibilities to our children. We are still here, we are resilient, and we will continue to advocate, peacefully and firmly, for the restoration of what is rightfully ours.

In Peace and Friendship,

**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHIEFS**



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