

STRENGTH
PEACE
UNITY

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

P.O. Box 720
Kahnawake Mohawk Territory J0L 1B0
OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS



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MOHAWK COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

DATE: 06 / 17 / 2024 MCED NO: # 45 / 2024 - 2025 No. of Pages: 1
Month Day Year

PROPOSED BY: **CONCENSUS REACHED**

SECONDED BY: **CONCENSUS REACHED**

WHEREAS the Mohawk People (Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non), as part of the Mohawk Nation (Kanien'kehá:ka) and the Iroquois Confederacy (Rotinonhsonnión:we) are, and have always been a sovereign people;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have consistently and historically declared their right to govern their own affairs;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have stated their intention to reinstate the structures, philosophies, concepts and principles of Kanien'kehá:ka Traditional Government as embodied by the Great Law of Peace (Kaianere'kó:wa);

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non abide by the principles of Peace, Power, and Righteousness prescribed in and in accordance with the Kaianere'kó:wa;

WHEREAS these principles have governed, and continue to govern, the direction of the Kanien'kehá:ka since time immemorial; and,

WHEREAS the Kahnawa'kehró:non Ratitsénhaienhs support the recommendations of the Kahnawà:ke Governance Project's *Report on Community Engagement*;

THEREFORE BE IT DIRECTED that the Kahnawa'kehró:non Ratitsénhaienhs initiate the transition to Traditional Government as embodied by the Kaianere'kó:wa; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED that the Kahnawa'kehró:non Ratitsénhaienhs approve the attached *Declaration on Restoring Traditional Government and the Authority of the Rotinonhson:ni Confederacy*.

Ohén:ton Í:iente 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

ABSENT
Ratsénhaienhs Lindsay Skaniatará:ti Leborgne

Ratsénhaienhs Arnold Ken'wentéshon Boyer

Ratsénhaienhs Ryan Karoniarakwon Montour

Ratsénhaienhs Ross Kakwirakeron Montour

Ratsénhaienhs Iohahiio Delisle

VACANT

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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'nikonhri: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 Tíente ne Ratitsénhaienhs Kahsennéhawe Sky-Deer

Ratsénhaienhs Harry Angus Skahionhati Rice

Ratsénhaienhs Tonya Wentanon Perron

Ratsénhaienhs Jessica Teiotsistohkwáthe Lazare

Ratsénhaienhs Cody Kanerahti:io Diabo

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Ratsénhaienhs Iohahiio Delisle