



Onkwe'tà:ke lakotokénhstha

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Suggested Media

Instructions:

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Red Trout Lake water levels impacted by unauthorized beaver dam removal

(Kahnawake – 2 Ohiarikhó:wa/July 2026) The Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO) and the Tioweró:ton Caretakers are informing the community that water levels in Red Trout Lake have dropped significantly following the dismantling of a beaver dam by community members. The decrease in water levels is negatively affecting the lake and poses a threat to the health of the surrounding habitat.



To help mitigate the situation, the Tioweró:ton Caretakers have installed a temporary dam and are closely monitoring water levels and beaver activity while assessing the long-term impacts.

Trout in the lakes of Tioweró:ton depend on cold, well-oxygenated water and abundant food sources to survive. When water levels drop rapidly, water temperatures can rise, oxygen levels can decline, and trout may lose access to critical feeding and sheltering habitats.

Beaver dams play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and can also help protect infrastructure. They:

- Create wetlands that provide habitat for numerous wildlife species
- Filter pollutants from water
- Help reduce flooding during periods of heavy rainfall
- Replenish groundwater and maintain cooler stream flows during drought conditions
- Create natural firebreaks during wildfires by retaining water in the surrounding environment
- Store carbon, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change

KEPO and the Tioweró:ton Caretakers remind community members to respect the natural spaces shared by all so they can continue to support wildlife and be enjoyed by future generations.

Community members who notice changes to water levels or damage to natural habitats are asked to contact the Tioweró:ton Caretakers immediately at **819-321-3375**.