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PRESS RELEASE

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MCK expresses significant concerns for new owners of site formally held by Northvolt

For Immediate Release

(Kahnawake – 17 Kentenhkó:wa/November 2026) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) is expressing serious concerns following the Quebec Superior Court's approval of Hydro Quebec's acquisition of the Northvolt battery plant site, while significant environmental obligations related with the project remain outstanding.

Ahead of the insolvency proceedings seeking the approval of this sale, which took place on November 13, the MCK submitted a letter to Jean Pellerin of the Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Biodiversity, Wildlife and Parks, as well as newly appointed Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay. The letter outlined MCK's concerns regarding the transfer of ownership and the ongoing environmental liabilities associated with the site. The MCK also presented these concerns to the Court at the hearing on November 13.

In 2024, MCK filed a lawsuit before the Quebec Superior Court seeking orders requiring both the provincial and federal governments to consult with Kahnawà:ke regarding the Northvolt battery plant project in the South shore. The site contained some of the highest quality wetlands in the region. Wetlands are essential ecosystems, serving as critical habitat for fauna and flora, and providing multiple ecosystem services such as cleaning water, storing carbon, and retaining and redistributing water during major storm events, helping to prevent flooding.

The MCK's position has consistently been that the permits allowing Northvolt to destroy and fill wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas were issued without any consultation with Kahnawà:ke. Since that time, much of the wetlands that were on the site have been destroyed.

Northvolt was supposed to carry out environmental compensation work as a result. Northvolt has since entered insolvency, and the insolvency monitor proposed the sale of those lands to Hydro-Quebec. This sale was approved by the Court on November 13, with reasons expected to follow this week. The Quebec government and Hydro-Quebec have both confirmed that they will not carry out the environmental compensation work that had been required- thus leaving the destroyed wetlands uncompensated. The MCK is appalled to learn that no one intends to ensure that this environmental compensation work is carried out.

"The ownership of this site may have changed, but the environmental damage and the outstanding concerns have not. The wetlands that were destroyed are not coming back because a new name appears on the title. The environmental impacts remain, the Crown's consultation failures remain, and the responsibility to make things right remains," said Environment Portfolio Lead Ross Montour. "Our people deserve to know who will be held responsible."

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