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Environment Office seeking feedback on establishment of protected areas

For Immediate Release

(Kahnawake – 16, Enníska/February 2016) The Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO) is seeking feedback from the community on management plans being developed for sensitive environmental areas throughout the community to ensure sustainable use for generations to come.

Following many years of study, KEPO has identified rare and unique areas of ecological value in the community. These studies have consistently shown that the following four specific areas of common land should be prioritized for protection / improved co-habitation efforts: Big Fence, the North Wall, Tekahkwi:tha Island, and, Turtle Bay.

"Feedback received during consultation will assist KEPO with developing an extensive management plan to protect these sensitive areas of our community," said Lynn Jacobs, Environmental Advisor/Projects Coordinator. "The feedback will also help us to identify potential pilot project we could implement in the coming years."

Consultation activities include an information kiosk to be held at the Kahnawà:ke Services Complex on Thursday, February 18th, an online survey (created by T2 Environnement consultants) available at <u>www.kahnawake.com/protection</u> (also available at Thursday's kiosk) and a presentation to the community to discuss the results of the information gathered.

Additionally, KEPO representatives are available at the Lands Unit and by telephone at (450) 635-0600 for those wishing to ask questions, provide feedback, or complete a survey in-person.

The project is funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk from Environment Canada.