



*Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## MCK offers condolences on the passing of Sam Kirby Sr

For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – 21, Enniska/February 2024)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) is deeply saddened and wishes to offer its condolences to the family and friends of Sam Kirby Sr., who passed away on February 19, 2024, at the age of 80.



Sam held many positions throughout his life, allowing him to serve the community he loved. He is best described as a "gentle, kind soul who always had a smile on his face," expressed Ietsenhahienhs Tonya Perron. In 1985, Governor-in-Council appointed him as one of the first Justices of the Peace to preside over the Court of Kahnawà:ke. After serving for nearly 21 years, Mr. Kirby retired in 2006. "Sam always approached his judicial duties with compassion, an open mind, and respect for everyone. He was a pleasure to work with and will be missed dearly," said Commissioner of Justice Kevin Fleischer. Sam was also a Kahnawà:ke Fire Brigade alumni and always kept a close relationship with law enforcement - even returning to Court to preside on a regular basis after the passing of the late Josie Curotte in 2019.

In 1991, Sam took on a permanent position as a bus driver for the Public Works Unit. During this time, he worked alongside his beloved wife Cindy and his sons Sam Jr. and Dwayne Kirby. After 23 years of safely bringing our children to school, his last bus run was in January 2014.

As the news of Sam's passing spreads, the outpouring of love and gratitude from the community is a testament to his impact on so many lives. "I've known the Kirby family for 50 years, having been his neighbor and growing up with his sons. Sam was the gentlest person I knew and would greet all his colleagues with a smile. Sam will be missed by all his co-workers who drove alongside him," said Spencer McComber, manager of Daily Transportation.

As was Sam's wish, there will be no funeral service. Our thoughts are with his family at this very difficult time.

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