



Kahnawá:ke Ratítsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

Bell Cell Tower to be Erected on MCK Roof

For immediate release

(Kahnawá:ke – 21 Seskehko:wa/September 2007)

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake would like to announce that it will begin negotiations with Bell Mobility in mid-October for the construction of a new Bell Cell Antenna/Tower on the MCK main building roof. The Bell Cell Tower is intended to reach “dead spots” in the Community for Bell Mobility users and to increase the availability of Cell service in case of emergencies. The Tower lease comes with a \$12,000 annual rental fee, which will be donated to Community non-profit organizations.

Concerned about potential health risks, the MCK hired an independent researcher to conduct studies. The MCK's Environment Protection Office also provided studies. Studies and information on the project were given to approximately 35 neighboring residents and the MCK Main building employees, followed by a survey to gauge support. 66% of employees were in favor and only two of 35 neighbors chose to participate, but both were negative. Overall, approximately 50% of employees and neighbors chose not to participate in the survey. The Environment Protection Office advised the Finance, Administration and Operations (FAO) Committee to “err on the side of caution” and not go forward on this project.

The MCK will ensure that there is an escape clause in the contract as part of the negotiations. Should future studies conclusively show that there are health risks, the tower can be removed.

After hearing from all sides, the (FAO) Committee finally made the decision to move forward with negotiations on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 but the MCK wanted to inform MCK staff first.

All information that was provided to neighbors and MCK staff is available at kahnawake.com/bell. Chiefs Johnny Montour, Melvin Zachary and Peggy Mayo-Standup sit on the FAO Committee.

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