



*Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Ionkwatahónhsate Victims Services launches today

### For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – 13, Kentenhkó:wa/November 2023)** The Justice Services Division of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is pleased to announce the opening of a new service for Kahnawa'kehró:nnon who identify as victims of crime called Ionkwatahónhsate Victims Services. 'Ionkwatahónhsate,' which means 'we are all listening,' will provide culturally appropriate victims support services and raise awareness of victims' rights and remedies within the community.

The service officially launches today - Monday, November 13, 2023, and will offer the following:

- Education about the criminal justice system and court processes
- Assistance with accessing emergency financial support
- Court preparation, court accompaniment, and court aftercare
- Access to information on your case
- Technical assistance to help with any paperwork
- Referrals to services and resources that can help further
- Local educational resources for victims

"Victims play an important role in the criminal justice system. Recognizing this and providing support and services is essential to the system," said Ietsénhaienhs Tonya Perron. "We are extremely excited about the launch of this new service to our community members as Kahnawa'kehró:nnon have long been underserved in this area."

"In the new year, we plan to expand the program to offer front-line services such as post-traumatic support and short-term socio-emotional support," said Commissioner of Justice Kevin Fleischer. "This new service will help community members navigate through the criminal justice system and support them on their recovery journey from the effects of crime."

Forthcoming is a community-wide education campaign that explores the rights, remedies, and healing options for those who are at risk of or have been victimized by domestic violence, bullying, sexual exploitation, and/or online fraud.

"This educational aspect is fundamental to the service's success by empowering people with knowledge," said Victims Advocacy Worker Iris Montour. "We are grateful to have this portion of the service funded by First Nation Representative Services through Onkwata'karitáhtshera, Kahnawà:ke Shakotia'takehnhas Community Services."

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