



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

Important Notice on INAC Status Cards

(Kahnawake – 15, Tsothórrha/December 2009) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) has announced that a letter is being distributed to the community detailing problems/issues regarding the new Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Status Cards.

Border Crossing Portfolio Chiefs Mike Bush and Martin Leborgne met with INAC officials this week to discuss the MCK's concerns. There have been an inordinate number of technical problems surrounding application procedures. For various reasons, some people will be receiving a new Card relatively soon, while others will not be so fortunate.

"The United States Department of Homeland Security and INAC have been strongly advised that we expect that any deadline for border crossing will be delayed until the technical difficulties are fixed," says Chief Bush in the letter. "We have demanded that a statement to this effect be issued by one or both agencies to reassure our people about their concerns."

PLEASE keep in mind that this is an INAC project. MCK staff is only there to assist you (for example, to suggest where to have photos taken, or to help distribute correct information to community members whenever possible).

The letter (*see on next page*) is being distributed through the local post office. It will also be available at the MCK main Offices an on-line at www.kahnawake.com.

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For information about this release, please contact:

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15, Tsothóhrha/December 2009

To the People of Kahnawà:ke,

There are letters being sent to individuals in Kahnawà:ke by INAC regarding the new status cards. Each letter indicates requirements needed to be fulfilled prior to receiving your new Secure Certificate of Indian Status. Each letter is requesting a different response depending on technical problems surrounding the application procedure undertaken. The time of application and the types of identification provided add to the confusion. Sometimes the INAC equipment worked properly; sometimes the ID was copied incorrectly, sometimes the transmission to Hull was not completed, sometimes the different ID's didn't match. All in all there were numerous problems, mostly due to equipment failures, rushing to make deadlines, and conflicting pieces of identification. Added to this were issues of data security and privacy.


As this is an INAC initiative, and with all new initiatives, technical problems and difficulties are expected.

When requested to send a passport style photo, the MCK Membership Department suggests going to Uniprix Pharmacy, Jean Coutu or Cote Camera in Chateauguay. Pictures provided by the MCK Membership Department will not be accepted by INAC.

Unfortunately, due to these technical difficulties, our people have had to suffer the anxiety and frustration as well as our MCK Membership staff who have to deal with the anger from community members.

At this point it is important to follow the instructions in the different letters to get the process back on track. Also, be advised that United States' Homeland Security and INAC have been strongly advised that we expect that any deadline for border crossing will be delayed until these "technicalities" are fixed. Also, we have demanded that a statement to this effect be issued by one or both agencies to reassure our people about their concerns. Because of the irregularities of the system some people will be receiving a new card relatively soon while others will have to "go through hoops" and wait.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS AN INDIAN AFFAIRS PROJECT. MCK Membership Department staff are there to assist you, and to ensure the process and requirements are met and in a timely fashion.


MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWA:KE
Portfolio Chief Mike Bush