

STRENGTH

PEACE

UNITY

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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Notice to the Community

(Kahnawake – 10, Ohiari:ha/June 2020)

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) hopes that everyone is doing well and finding adequate coping strategies during these trying and difficult times. We all find ourselves in a unique and difficult situation that we have never experienced in our lifetime. There is stress and fear because of our new reality, but it has also brought up more frustration on a topic that is not new to any of us.

The MCK has been receiving numerous complaints from community members for many years regarding individuals who are residing in the Territory and who do not have the right or permission by the People to do so. The recent Pandemic and directives from the Task Force which have closed off the Territory to non-locals with the exception of those here for essential services, has only highlighted those individuals who may have been residing here without having been vetted or given the approval to do so.

There are many people who believe that the MCK and by extension the Community of Kahnawà:ke LOST after the most recent court challenge. The Court clearly indicated that it was ultimately up to the people of Kahnawà:ke to resolve conflicts resulting from membership issues and that perhaps an indigenous Court could one day be established with jurisdiction to resolve these issues. We then went to the People and asked for a mandate to separate all matters pertaining to Residency out of the former 2003 Membership Law. On June 17, 2019 the *KAHNAWA:KE RESIDENCY LAW* (KRL) was enacted after 2 years of engagement and direction from the People of Kahnawà:ke. This Law along with all other community laws can be found on Kahnawakemakingdecisions.com.

The regulations pursuant to this Law were posted on this website for a 30-day feedback period which has just ended. Once a Compliance Officer is hired and the regulations have been finalized, community members will be enabled to file complaints regarding individuals who are deemed to be in violation of the *Kahnawà:ke Residency Law*. This can trigger proceedings to have these persons charged with an offence under our Law. This can further lead to legal evictions from the Territory. More about this process will be coming from the Office of the KKR and the Portfolio chief through the month of June.

This Community is comprised of tight-knit families and we all look out for each other and the best interests of Kahnawà:ke. If you grew up here, you have known about our cultural/ communal rules since childhood. Over time we had to evolve with the courts and various challenges so we've had to put them into LAW so that we could have due process and enforcement. Therefore, if you are not a Recognized Kanien'keha:ka of Kahnawà:ke, an Approved Kahnawà:ke Resident or if you don't possess a permit giving you permission to reside here, then you can and will be subject to our internal processes and could face fines and/or legal eviction.

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We commend all of the People who have respected and followed our Laws since 1981. For those persons allowing individuals to reside here in spite of our Laws, we direct you to the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke Law (KKL). There is a section called "REVOCATION OF ENTITLEMENTS" and under section 13 "RESPONSIBILITIES".

This Community will soon be in a position where we have real enforcement of who can Reside in Kahnawà:ke.

For questions regarding the Residency Law (KRL)

Please contact:

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