Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

P.O. Box 720 Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory JOL 1B0 Phone: (450) 632-7500 Fax: (450) 638-5958

Web Site: www.kahnawake.com E-mail: communications@mck.ca Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaientáhkhwa

Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

Reminder re: New Indian Status Certificates

For immediate release

(Kahnawà:ke – 11, Enníska/February, 2009) The Social Development Unit of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and the local INAC Lands and Estates office would like to remind all Kahnawa'kehró:non of the procedures regarding the new Secure Certificates of Indian Status (SCIS).

The first and most important step is to make an appointment by calling 450-638-0500.

Top priority will be given to people who use the border for work purposes or to access Social Security benefits. Those not considered priority will be placed on a waiting list and will be scheduled according to availability. The cards from this early registration process are expected to be issued in April.

Those applying for a new SCIS will be required to provide an original birth certificate (photocopies will not be accepted) and two pieces of identification.(i.e. driver's license, old age security card, government issued employee card, other government issued I.D., student I.D with digitized photo of applicant or passport).

Application forms are available at the Social Development Unit, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke main building and the Lands & Estates (INAC) office (across from Kateri Memorial Hospital Center).

Current Status Cards will be accepted for tax exemption purposes until the marked expiry date; these laminated cards will not be accepted at land border crossings after June of this year. The general release of the new SCIS is scheduled for April of this year.

If applicant's previous Status Card has been damaged, lost or stolen, the applicant must complete a statutory declaration. If it has been stolen, the police claim number is also required.

Children under the age of 16 will have access to land and sea borders by providing a birth certificate. They will not be required to hold the new SCIS. After the initial rush of applications, children under 16 will be able to access the new card. Parents will be required to make the application on behalf of their children and birth certificates and identification will be required for both parent and child.

*Please note that this Certificate is not to be confused with the Haudenosaunee Identification card. For more information, please contact the Nation Office at 450-632-7639.

-30-

For information about this release, please contact:

Gene Diabo MCK Communications Officer 450 632 7500 ext. 254 gene.diabo@mck.ca