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PRESS RELEASE

Contractor selected for Recreation Bay Restoration Project

For Immediate Release

(Kahnawake – 2, Onerahtókha/April 2020) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) is pleased to announce that a contractor has been selected to complete the Recreation Bay Restoration Project ("the Project").

The contractor was selected through an open bid process with three bids received. Bids were evaluated based on experience, past performance, local content and cost. Local contractor **Rice Mohawk Landscaping** ("RML"), with a bid of \$3,283,474, was selected. RML will work with MK Excavation to complete the work, along with several subcontractors.

The restoration works will include the creation of two large natural zones on Tekakwitha Island, dredging a portion of the bay, harvesting aquatic plants in the bay, construction of a beach for recreational purposes, and many other enhancements to improve the usability of the area for wildlife and community members.

"The contract is being funded through external resources," said Ratsénhaienhs Cody Diabo, who is the lead on the Environment portfolio. "Monies were acquired through Canada as well as the REM Project as part of their restoration work required for impacts related to the construction on Montreal's 'REM' light metro network."

The Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office (KEPO) first began to investigate the problems at Recreation Bay in 2008. Since that time various studies have been completed to characterize the wildlife and habitats present, model the study area, develop solutions, and design detailed plans with feedback from the community. Once completed, funding was secured, and a contractor selected.

Work on the project was scheduled to begin this spring but the COVID-19 pandemic will impact this timeline," concluded Ratsénhaienhs Diabo. "KEPO will begin work with the contractor as soon as it is determined that this can occur in a safe manner. The health and safety of the community and workers will always be paramount.

For additional information please contact Patrick Ragaz, General Manager of Filed Sciences at KEPO (<u>Patrick.ragaz@mck.ca</u>).