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## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk - News Release

## **Urgent Memo**

## For immediate release

**(Kahnawá:ke – 4, Onerahtókha/April 2005)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK) is informing the community members that, as of today, Native people may be forced to pay up front in order to access their drug benefits at Québec pharmacies.

This is a pressure tactic being employed by the association representing Québec pharmacists (*Association Québecoise des Pharmaciens Propriéteres –AQPP*) in their dispute with Health Canada in the event the two sides fail to sign a new agreement by today's deadline.

"The MCK deplores the fact that Native people are being put into the middle of a dispute that we have no control over, "said Chief Lloyd Phillips. "The problem is that Health Canada still maintains that control. This is something *we* could have solved months ago."

In the meantime, Chief Phillips would like to assure the community that the MCK is doing everything in its power to ensure Kahnawakehronon will continue to receive medication/drug benefits without any disruption.

The issue will be discussed in today's Council meeting and on today's Partyline talk show on K103.

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