



# Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

*Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke*

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Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaiéntákhwa

## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

### Important Notice re: Border Crossing

#### For immediate release

**(Kahnawake – 4, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2009)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke is informing the community that it has received a letter from INAC's Director General of Individual Affairs, Ray Hatfield. In the letter, INAC is recommending that, "individuals who currently rely on their Certificate of Indian Status to cross the border **obtain alternative documentation.**" The letter is attached to this release.

"This is a disgrace," said Grand Chief Michael Ahrihrhon Delisle, Jr. "With less than a month to go before the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline imposed by (United States) Department of Homeland Security, we have been informed that, basically, INAC will not be in a position to deliver the new secure Status cards. This is completely unacceptable."

"The fact that many, if not most, of our people rely on a Canadian-issued card as a primary means of identifying ourselves as Native Americans continues to put us in a difficult position," he said. "The time has come to address this once and for all."

"The community is being made aware immediately, he continued. "We are assuring all Kahnawà'kehró:non that we have been mobilizing. Every effort is being made to address this issue. This is absolutely a top priority."

Grand Chief Delisle is preparing a letter to be sent, not only to Mr. Hatfield, but to all parties who have any involvement with the process. Other measures are being considered.

The community will be made aware of any and all developments as they happen.

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For further information, please contact:  
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# Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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*Tsi Ietsenhaientáhkwá*  
" OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS "



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01, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2009

Mr. Ray Hatfield, Director General  
Individual Affairs  
Indian & Northern Affairs Canada  
10 Wellington Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Wa'tkwanonhwera:ton/Greetings,

On behalf of Grand Chief Michael Ahrihrhon Delisle Jr. I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 27, 2009 regarding the Certificate of Indian Status Cards.

Please be advised that your letter has been forwarded the Grand Chief Delisle as well as the appropriate personnel here at the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke for their review.

I trust this information is satisfactory; should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Nia:wen,

**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHEIFS**

Samantha Montour - Cross  
Executive Assistant, Office of the Grand Chief

Smc/050109/

CC: Grand Chief Michael Ahrihrhon Delisle Jr.  
Chief and Council  
Dwayne White, Director of Operations, OCC  
Michael O'Brien, Chief of Staff, OCC  
Alana Goodleaf Rice, Executive Director  
Membership Department, SDU  
File



Mohawk Council  
of Kahnawake  
Received  
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Office Of The  
Grand Chief  
Notre référence - Our file

April 27, 2009

cc: mike.D  
Chief + council  
mike.O  
Dwayne W  
Alana S.E  
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file

Grand Chief Michael Delisle Jr.  
Kahnawake Band  
P.O. BOX 720  
KAHNAWAKE, QC J0L 1B0

Dear Grand Chief Delisle :

As you may be aware Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has been working towards national implementation of a new secure Certificate of Indian Status. The objective of the project is to increase the security features on the Certificate of Indian Status to reduce the risk of identity theft and fraud.

A secondary benefit of the new secure Certificate of Indian Status is that it may potentially be used as a valid cross-border document for visiting the United States via land and water. As of June 1, 2009, the current versions of the Certificate of Indian Status will no longer be considered valid documents for crossing the Canada-US border under the United States World Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The Government of Canada has been working with the Department of Homeland Security, and has received conditional approval of the new secure Certificate of Indian Status as a cross-border document at land and water ports-of-entry only. However the final decision lies with the United States. We are not in a position to forecast when this decision will be made.

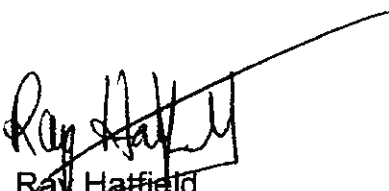
Implementation of the new secure Certificate of Indian Status was to begin with Mobile Application Centre visits to 25 First Nation communities located near the Canada-United States border by June 1, 2009, followed by roll-out to other communities across Canada over a five-year period. We reached four of these border communities during this initial phase. While the Mobile Application Centre deployments were well attended, observations of the process led INAC to undertake a quality assurance review on the new secure Certificate of Indian Status issuance process. This has delayed further Mobile Application Centre deployments, and will ultimately delay the national implementation of the new secure Certificate of Indian Status.

Consequently, INAC will not be in a position to deliver the new secure Certificate of Indian Status to First Nation communities located near the Canada-United States border before June 1, 2009. As the quality assurance review progresses, we will provide you with updates regarding the Mobile Application Centre schedule. Regular updates on the implementation of the secure Certificate of Indian Status can be found at <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/index-eng.asp>.

**In light of recent developments and as a reminder of the upcoming June 1, 2009 date upon which the current version of the Certificate of Indian Status will no longer be accepted for cross-border travel, INAC is recommending that individuals who currently rely on their Certificate of Indian Status to cross the border obtain alternative documentation.** Other documents, such as a passport, NEXUS card or Enhanced Driver's License (where available), will continue to be accepted as valid border-crossing documents under the World Hemisphere Travel Initiative. To find out more information on these documents and other requirements which will be accepted when visiting the United States via land and water and air please visit Canada Border Services Agency website at <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho/menu-eng.html>. **Note that a valid Canadian passport or NEXUS card is required for travelers entering or departing the United States by air.**

I regret any inconvenience that this may cause you and your members. However, our priority remains ensuring that those eligible to receive services and benefits are able to access them quickly and efficiently through provision of the new secure Certificate of Indian Status.

Yours truly,

  
Ray Hatfield  
Director General  
Individual Affairs