



# 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

### **Membership Law Community Consultation results**

#### **For immediate release**

**(Kahnawake – 7, Ohiarí:ha/June 2013)** The Kahnawà:ke Legislative Coordinating Commission would like to update Kahnawà:kehró:non on last evening's 10<sup>th</sup> Community Consultation for amendments to the *Kahnawà:ke Membership Law*. Approximately twenty community members and several observers were in attendance. Because of lower numbers, participants agreed to combine Groups 1 and 2, with Group 3 remaining intact.

Groups 1 and 2 presented their response to Group 3's request for comment and position on their proposal/suggestion to consider applicants who have three Mohawk great-grandparents under certain circumstances. Groups 1 and 2 reiterated the position that the four great-grandparent requirement be retained and rejected the request to change the requirement to three great-grandparents with a clan (due to logistical concerns).

Group 3 then came to consensus and agreed with several positions presented by the other groups. These included a number of positions put forth at earlier meetings, including agreement that children of a Mohawk parent and another verified Iroquoian parent should be eligible for automatic enrollment; that those who clearly meet the four great-grandparent requirement should be enrolled by the Membership Registrar; and that certain requirements currently in the Law regarding language, culture and 'maintaining ties with the community' be removed and that, instead, these requirements be inserted into a preamble (due to unenforceability).

This consensus allowed the groups to move forward to discuss specific amendments to clarify the definition of 'what constitutes a Mohawk great-grandparent.' That process has begun and will be the topic of the next Consultation, to be held on 19 Ohiarí:ha/June. Another Consultation will be held the following week (26, Ohiarí:ha/June). Both are Wednesdays, and both will be held at the Karonhianónhnha School Gymnasium. **These will be the final Consultations for the summer.**

The official minutes will be posted at [www.kahnawakemakingdecisions.com](http://www.kahnawakemakingdecisions.com) early next week.

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