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Sexual Assault Working Group welcomes Community Representative

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 8, Tsothórrha/December 2020) Working Group created to assist Kahnawà:kehró:non in the battle against Sexual Assault is pleased to welcome Kwanátawi Cook, who has joined the team as a Community Representative.

Kwanátawi was one of the main organizers of the rally that followed in the aftermath of controversial information/accusations posted on social media that brought a heightened awareness of the issue of Sexual Assault in Kahnawà:ke.

“I am a survivor of sexual assault and one of many people who came together in August to organize a solidarity walk in support of survivors,” said Kwanatawi. “I chose to devote my time to this cause in order to help change the narrative of sexual assault in our community, encourage healing for all, and to push for the needs of the community. I believe change is necessary for us to thrive, and I’m glad to be a part of that change. Niawenhkó:wa.”

The Working Group was formed by Kahnawà:ke Shakotiia’takéhnhas Community Services (KSCS), the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre, the Peacekeepers, and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke in an effort to pool resources and access proper expertise to deal with a long-standing and complex issue. As stated earlier, one of the Working Group’s main goals is to ensure that every person affected is made aware of the resources available to help address the results of sexual assault.

“The slogan “You are not alone” has been adopted as a reminder of the supports available for those affected,” said KSCS Manager of Prevention Services Stephanie Horne. “Anyone who has suffered such a terrible trauma is encouraged to disclose to someone that you can trust. We all understand that this could be one of the most difficult things you may ever have to do, but it is so important to take that first step. There are many options available to help people address this trauma, including KSCS, the Peacekeepers, or your family doctor.”

“Our job is to ensure those affected are aware of these services,” she continued. “For example, KSCS has someone available to speak to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We could either provide direct services or ensure that the caller has the proper resources in hand.”

To view a comprehensive list of available resources, [please click here](#).