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## **Kahnawake Peacekeepers Clarify Report**

### **For immediate release**

**(Kahnawá:ke – 13 Tsothóhrha/December 2006)** The Kahnawake Peacekeepers wishes to clarify a recent report concerning their expenses while providing services during the policing crisis in Kanesatake in January 2004.

In the article published by the Montreal Gazette (“Spending rules flouted in policing Kanesatake” – December 11, 2006) it was reported, “five high-ranking officers of Kahnawake’s force, which helped end the January standoff, billed \$414,176.”

The role of the Kahnawake Peacekeepers during that crisis demands clarification. Please be reminded that the Peacekeepers were not involved in the original Gabriel-initiated “police operation” of January 12, 2004 but, rather, they were called in to end the standoff safely in a deal brokered by the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake and then-Public Security Minister Jacques Chagnon.

The Kahnawake Peacekeepers then assumed all policing duties at the request of Kanesatake community members and government officials. The Peacekeepers successfully completed their mandate in Kanesatake on March 31, 2004. In the period that followed, policing services were then turned over to the Kanesatake Mohawk Police (KMP). History shows the KMP’s mandate was less than successful.

For the period between January 14 and March 31, 2004, the cost of providing policing services to Kanesatake was \$305,328.07. The Kahnawake Peacekeepers’ bill was strictly for the cost of having 29 officers, who provided “around the clock policing.” That amount included the cost of food, lodging and travel expenses. Our books were audited and approved by the Minister of Public Security.

In the period after March 31, there were several Kahnawakeró:non who were hired by the KMP; however, there was absolutely no affiliation with the Kahnawake Peacekeepers after that date.

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