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Longhouse Opposed to MCK Tobacco Law

For Immediate Release

Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory – October 26, 2022

Greetings from the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation at Kahnawà:ke – People of the Longhouse. At a duly-convened General Council of the People held on October 18th, 2022, the clans discussed the proposed tobacco law that is in the final stages of assent in the MCK's Community Decision Making Process. The clans in council have expressed their opposition to this proposed law for various reasons.

Firstly, the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation at Kahnawà:ke contends that the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke does not have the political jurisdiction nor the legitimacy to enact a law that regulates a rights-based issue. Rights-based issues exist under the umbrella of sovereignty provided by the Rotinonhsión:ni Confederacy as established through the Kaianere'kó:wa. The proposed law itself uses language that suggests that it is a part of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation and the Rotinonhsionnión:we (Confederacy) and that is consistent with the Two Row Wampum, intended to mislead the reader into thinking that MCK and its law making process exists within the political sphere of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation and the Rotinonhsión:ni Confederacy, when it is a colonial construct of Canada.

The Longhouse feels challenged as the proposed law declares that it is paramount over any other authority and is subject to coercive enforcement by the Peacekeepers.

In evaluating the proposed law, itself, it is clear that it is being developed from a non-Rotinonhsión:ni perspective and uses the concept of coercive authority to enforce the rules outlined in this law.

The Longhouse does not recognize this law as being legitimate and will not abide by it. In the coming weeks, the clans will be discussing its own solutions concerning tobacco under the principles and values defined by the Kaianere'kó:wa.

Tho nikawén:nake,

Kahnawí:io Dione – Turtle Clan Chief

Skatsénhati Lazare – Wolf Clan Chief

Akwirén:te Deer – Bear Clan Chief