

STRENGTH
PEACE
UNITY

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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MOHAWK COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

DATE: 11 / 12 / 2018 MCED NO: #60 / 2018 - 2019 No. of Pages: 3
Month Day Year

PROPOSED BY: Ratsénhaienhs Ross Kakwirakeron Montour

SECONDED BY: Ratsénhaienhs Michael Ahrihrhon Delisle Jr.

WHEREAS the Mohawk People (Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non), as part of the Mohawk Nation (Kanien'kehá:ka) and the Iroquois Confederacy (Rotinonhsonnión:we) are, and have always been a sovereign people;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have consistently and historically declared their right to govern their own affairs;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have stated their intention to reinstate the structures, philosophies, concepts and principles of Mohawk Traditional Government as embodied by the Great Law of Peace (Kaianere'kó:wa);

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non abide by the principles of Power, Peace, and Righteousness prescribed in and in accordance with the Kaianere'kó:wa;

WHEREAS these principles have governed, and continue to govern, the direction of the Mohawk Nation since time immemorial;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, regard matters pertaining to citizenship as Nation matters, and therefore can only ultimately be decided by the collective Nation, and not individual communities, or foreign governments;

WHEREAS Settler nations, and their successors including the Government of Canada, have undertaken a deliberate attempt to colonize Indigenous Peoples, including the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, through oppressive acts of colonization and assimilation, such as the theft of lands, establishment of reservations, and the attempts to 'remove the Indian from the child' through stripping of culture, identity, language and family ties of Indigenous children via the Canadian residential schools legacy;

WHEREAS the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke maintain a long-standing position of being fundamentally opposed to the Federal Government of Canada's attempts to appropriate the inherent right of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke to determine their own citizenship and membership, through the imposition of registration criteria of the *Indian Act*;

WHEREAS since 1981, in response to ongoing federal efforts to appropriate matters of membership of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke through registration, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke began legislating over community membership matters through the establishment of the Kahnawà:ke Membership Law (now amended to the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke Law) and reciprocal Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke Registry;

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WHEREAS the latest *Indian Act* amendments passed by the Federal Government of Canada via Bill S-3, *An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada* attacks the self-determination of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke and speeds the growth of the discrepancy between the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke Registry and Indian Act Registry of the Mohawks of Kahnawà:ke at an alarming rate.

WHEREAS in addition to amendments contained within *Bill S-3*, the Federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is undertaking a "Collaborative Process" to consult First Nations on Indian Registration, Band Membership, and First Nation Citizenship, which will further reopen the Indian Registration process;

WHEREAS via the Federal "Collaborative Process", the Federal Government of Canada has offered funding opportunities for First Nations to access funds to support community consultation activities, to a maximum of \$10,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT DIRECTED THAT the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke asserts that it will not participate in, nor access funding for, the "Collaborative Process" to consult with its members on matters related to Indian Registration, Band Membership, and First Nation Citizenship as the breadth of such consultation extends into citizenship, a matter of which Canada has no business engaging with First Nations communities on;

BE IT FUTHER DIRECTED THAT the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke maintains the position that the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke solely hold the right to control their own membership, through their own legislative instruments, including the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke Law and corresponding Registry;

BE IT FINALLY DIRECTED THAT the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke hereby confirms that results of the "Collaborative Process" are not to be considered as inclusive of or applicable to Kahnawà:ke, and instead will undertake engaging with the community to inform the community on Bill S-3 and its impacts, develop a community position on S-3 and related articles of registration of the *Indian Act* and "Collaborative Process", and shall relay this position to the federal government of Canada as the official position of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke.

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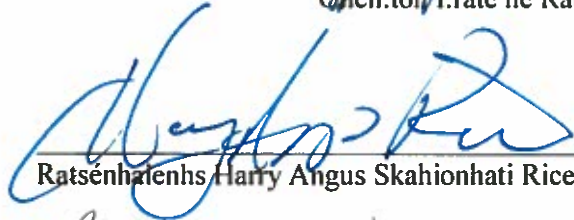
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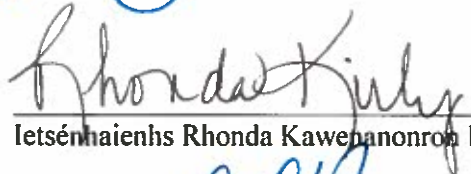
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