

Ambiguousness at its best:

The MCK Declaration to return to traditional government

A Commentary by: Teyowisonte (Thomas Deer)

At the last public meeting of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK), the band councilors presented and signed a declaration reaffirming the community's 1979 mandate to return to "traditional government". Since this author is not a constituent of the Indian Act system at Kahnawake I did not get see the declaration until it was released in the MCK's latest issue of Onkwarihwa'shón:'a. I reacted with a good chuckle as the words; "showpiece" and "ambiguousness" ran through my mind. I never had seen any document drafted so ambiguous and inconclusive, leaving the door open for any of them to attach any kind of interpretation they desire. So I put my current writing project aside to address my concern while this news item while it's still hot. Of course, in keeping with my promise to present positive counter solutions to my many criticisms, I decided to draft my own version of a more specific and clear declaration instead of responding to it in editorial form. Here it is:

DECLARATION FOR A NEW UNIFIED MOHAWK NATION GOVERNMENT AT KAHNAWAKE

Preamble: WE, the now unified people of Kahnawake, regardless of religious denomination or previous political affiliation, do hereby declare the Declaration for a new unified Mohawk Nation Government at Kahnawake.

Whereas- The people of Kahnawake have jointly recognized the necessity for one unified Mohawk Nation community government.

Whereas-The people of Kahnawake have recognized the necessity to return to the Kaianere'kó:wa as the primary means to survive as a distinct and autonomous people and nation, as well as to resist and prevent colonial attempts at assimilation, genocide, and oppression of any form.

Whereas- The people of Kahnawake have jointly recognized the traditional government of the Haudenosaunee, in the form of the Kaianere'kó:wa, as the only political, social, and cultural means of providing peace, righteousness, and power, as well as ensuring political and social equality, justice and liberty to its populous.

Whereas- The people of Kahnawake wish to now reestablish a political, social and cultural relationship to the Mohawk Nation and the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee).

Whereas- The people of Kahnawake have recognized and wish to make it known, their right to self-determination and desire for independent nationhood, as

member community of the Mohawk Nation of the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee).

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the people of Kahnawake now declare its autonomy that is separate from Canada. Let it be resolved that the people of Kahnawake have determined to reestablish a traditional unified Mohawk Nation Government at Kahnawake. Let it be known that the people of Kahnawake have reaffirmed its allegiance to the Mohawk Nation and the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee). Let it be known that the good tidings of peace and power have now returned to Kahnawake in the form of the Kaianere'kó:wa and this declaration. Let it be hereby resolved that this Declaration for the new unified Mohawk Nation Government at Kahnawake will commit these principles to practice.

Tho ni wa'onà:ke

Well, there it is. I think mine's better, but make your own decision.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of peace and power!
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