

## ***Securing the Territorial Integrity of Kahnawa'kehró:non***

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Unfortunately, Kahnawake seems to have now evolved into an urban district of Montreal in terms of physical setting and even in sociological patterns. Compliancy and greed now outweigh our community's security and sense of independence, thus diminishing our vigilance and leaving our community susceptible to foreign scrutiny. No doubt that surrounding communities feel this way about our community as they seem to feel they have the right to wander about our territory without heed. Recently, concerns regarding safety, security, and convenience on the Old Tennessee Road (207) have been voiced by some community members living on the road; leading to direct action aimed at diluting and limiting its use by non-natives. Perhaps the time has come once again to secure our territorial integrity by reestablishing checkpoints upon the entrances of residential areas and private roads.

Who in Kahnawake hasn't encountered that idiot who decides at the last minute to turn into a cigarette store without using a blinker; thus almost causing an accident? This author can sympathize with the residents of OCR as when I lived on that road, turning into my driveway was always a dangerous adventure as the Chateauguay "short cutters" driving at 100km/h nearly smashed into me from behind every time I came home. Not to mention the many who ignore school bus stops putting our children in a dangerous gamble every morning they go to school. These frustrating occurrences are reason enough to justify such a drastic action.

Also, there is an outstanding array of motorists and wandering vagrants who visit our community with less than honorable motives. Non-native drug dealers currently have an open door to supply Kahnawake with an enormous supply of narcotics. Everyday non-native vagrants can be seen wandering our streets without any clear business here. Moreover, Karonhianónhnha Tsi Ionterihwaienstákhwa has recently reported a student who was approached by a potential kidnapper. All of these undesirable facts are attributed to Kahnawake's open gate and lax security.

Another factor to be considered in this argument is national defense. A couple of weeks ago, the RCMP and INSET raided the home of a native man in British Columbia because of his involvement in the West Coast Warrior Society; a non-profit vanguard of indigenous people. Using the tragedy of 9/11 as a proverbial smokescreen, Canada now sees its opportunity to extinguish indigenous resistance movements by falsely labeling them as terrorists. It is no secret that Kahnawake is a well-known symbol of indigenous resistance in North America. How long will it be until the forces of colonialism become brave enough to try the same thing here? Here again, we can see more evidence to support the re-creation of a territorial security perimeter.

One major obstacle that has been voiced by some community members is that if the OCR, the 207, and residential areas were closed to outside traffic, economic development would suffer. Indeed, creative alternatives should be thoroughly contemplated, however

the truth is the income of some individuals is incomparable to the security, peace, and social stability of the collective; especially when many of these individuals use collective rights for individual gain. Perhaps, the existence of checkpoints will nudge entrepreneurs to explore a more self-sustainable economy based upon creating goods and services for our own peoples as opposed to relying on a foreign market; thus resulting in true independence.

Regardless, the reestablishment of security checkpoints seems to be the only feasible and realistic remedy to all of these problems. Indeed to re-erect checkpoints would be an aggressive act, but unfortunately it would quite necessary to do this now, since time will only make our community more complacent, greedy, and impotent to act when it is too late anyway. We, as a unified community, must now aggressively take back our streets and territory before our ability diminishes. I welcome the installation of checkpoints again in Kahnawake; provided they operate under strict discipline and under the rule of the entire community as opposed to secular control. This project could be a primary phase of an extensive Territorial Security Program paving the way and harmonizing with any future national defense establishment.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of peace and power!