

The Politics of Unity

Why do we want traditional government?

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There are many different avenues and platforms that provide a prescription for achieving an independent Mohawk Nation. However, different scenarios have different consequences, and the process of achieving unity becomes a problem in itself as factions are led into senseless competition. Other than through personal education, this author does not have a concrete solution of how to eliminate this problem. However, It may help the situation by identifying what this author sees as the holes in the various scenarios held by different camps.

There are some that try to force unity amongst factions of our community through ultimatums and derogatory challenges. While I'm sure the intentions of such people are sincere, this approach cannot prove successful, as true peace will only be established in time and through unforced patience. There are others who demean and alienate certain sectors of the community who, at present, require more time to understand the true implications of a unified Mohawk Nation Government and reconcile the old wounds.

In essence the Kaianere'kó:wa is, and promotes, the power of the people. Likewise if a traditional Mohawk Nation Government is put in place for the people, then the people as a single unit must put it in place. Among the three principles of the Great Peace is Ka'shatsténhsera, ambiguously translated as the "power" or the "strength". This principle refers to the power of a good mind and strength of unity as portrayed in the "bounded arrows" analogy described in the Kaianere'kó:wa. Without Ka'shatsténhsera, the Great Peace cannot exist.

Granted, there are those who work against any significant move towards a unified Mohawk Nation Government using treasonous means that are rather indigent and sneaky. However, these people are still Kanien'kehá:ka by blood and should not be cast away or shun out. Rather, it is the responsibility of those who are within in the "circle of joined hands" to do their best to bring in those who have been led astray.

When the Great Peace was originally established, the founders included the evil wizard Atotarho in the circle of joined hands even though he had a crooked mind filled with fear, aggression, and hate. They knew that if shown the light, Atotarho would become the greatest ally of peace and the powerful ability he once manipulated to command authority would now be used to lead the people out of darkness. Likewise, the unity of our people must be established on a path of inclusion, rehabilitation and, tolerance, with the intention of establishing a traditional government that is guided by the ancient principles of peace, righteousness, and the power of a good mind.

From a logical standpoint, the reason we want to be a sovereign and independent nation is to have a geographical land base where our people can practice our way of life and the Kaianere'kó:wa without foreign interference. The reason we want to live by the Kaianere'kó:wa is so the principles of peace, righteousness, and the power of a good mind can preside and reign over everyone regardless of one's religious or former political beliefs. Through enhancing and embracing the principles of peace, righteousness, and the power of a good mind, we all can finally enjoy great

rights such as freedom, liberty, and justice as it will be provided as the final result of this equation. In such a state of internal harmony and unity, we can finally assert and defend the treaty rights that protect this equation of peace.

If this is not the desired goal of a move to traditional government and the Kaianere'kó:wa itself, then we must ask ourselves not only why would we want this, but what makes us different than the oppressive governments of Canada and the United States. Indeed, a nation could be established through such foreign means and ideologies, but it would not be a "Mohawk" nation based upon its traditional components. We must be cautious on the path we follow so that we do not become the evil that we are currently resisting. Achieving and reestablishing the Great Peace amongst all our people must be initiated on a path of tolerance, inclusion, and other noble qualities contained in a good mind.

In order to achieve the latter, we must first begin by finding peace and harmony within ourselves before anyone else. This is the first step in successfully unifying the entire community under one heart, one body, and one mind. Moreover, we must refrain from using condescendingly harsh and sharp words in attacking each other's ideas and platforms and begin to use encouraging and optimistic words. Certainly, formulas that include the ancient three principles of the Great Peace are viable options to be examined. Those scenarios that lack at least one or more components of the Great Peace equation should be discarded, as they will only lead us down a path of mistrust, confusion and competitiveness.

As we wait in the meantime, let us be of the optimistic mind to agree that a unified Mohawk Nation Government is in fact coming and that the good tidings of peace and power is spreading like wild fire, gaining ground and momentum in the hearts of everyone in Kahnawake. It is an unavoidable truth.

Ever onward towards the good tidings of peace & power!