

Community Condolence on Track

By: Teyowisonte (Thomas Deer)

Earlier this week, an official representing the Oneida Nation Council arrived in Kahnawake to go over the final details with the Community Action Group, who have been spearheading and organizing this initiative, for the upcoming community condolence ceremony. Some details, such as location and date, are still sketchy and are being refined as this article is laid to print. The tentative date slated for the ceremony is November 30th, although the Community Action Group is requesting the date be changed to December 1st in order to accommodate students and ironworkers returning home for the weekend; as their presence is especially encouraged.

The itinerary arranged by the Oneida Nation, which is slated to begin at 2:00pm, is as follows,

- The Oneida Nation delegation will officially return the wampum string representing Kahnawake's request for a community condolence.
- Oneida Nation delegates will then give a brief explanation of the ceremony in English for those who can't understand the language as well as those who are unfamiliar with the ceremony itself.
- The ceremony will then commence in Kanien'kéha and is expected to last at least two hours.
- When the ceremony is concluded it will be finished with the Ostowa'kó:wa (the Great Feather Dance); one of the four sacred ceremonies of the Haudenosaunee designed to honor and thank the Creator.
- A traditional feast will then commence.
- In order to continue the momentum of good feelings a social will be held that evening.

Traditional dress is encouraged for the ceremony. Although this ceremony maybe traditional in nature, it is opened to all Onkwehón:we regardless of spiritual denomination or political affiliation as this ceremony is means to relieve the community of unnecessary burdens and rebuild our unity. If you need more information or if you want to become involved in the organization of this event, contact Lynne Norton at the Mohawk Nation Office 632-7639 or Timmy Norton at the MCK Communication Dept. 632-7500. Also, stay tuned to K103 radio and the Eastern Door for updates or developments.

Skén:nen, Ka'shatsténsera, tánon Karihwí:io