



Going to the States? IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke wishes to pass on some important information to those who plan to travel to the United States. Recently, some U.S. Customs officers, especially those at airports, have begun applying the “letter of the law” when our people have attempted to cross the border.

Several Kahnawa’kehró:non claiming North American Indian citizenship have been asked to provide a document that attests that the person possesses at least 50% blood quantum. They were **not allowed** into the States until they provided this document.

This is a long-standing policy of the U.S. Government that has rarely been enforced. However, in the aftermath of September 11th attack on the World Trade Center and the subsequent actions of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs has had a large influx of new staff and management, which may be adding to the stricter enforcement of the policy.

It has nothing to do with the Kahnawá:ke Membership Law, past or present.

For your information, U.S. Customs officers may ask for any or all of the following documents at the border:

- Certificate of Indian Status (“Status card”)
- Photo I.D.
- Long-form birth certificate
- **A letter from the MCK Membership Department stating that you have at least 50% Aboriginal blood**
- Some people may choose to present their Haudenosaunee “red card” at the border.

Anyone planning to travel to the United States is advised to obtain the letter beforehand. Unfortunately, those members of the community who do not meet 50% blood quantum cannot be issued such a letter at this time.

On a related note, the MCK is in the midst of working with both American and Canadian officials with the goal of creating a system that would allow for easier border passage.

For more information, please contact the MCK Membership Department at 638-0500.