



# Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

*Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke*

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Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaiéntákhwa

## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

### Chiefs pass Declaration of Office for current term

**For immediate release**

**(Kahnawake – 27, Enníska/February 2013)** The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke would like to inform the community that Chief & Council have passed a motion to accept the *Declaration of Office* for the 2012-2015 Council term. The motion passed eleven to one (11-1), with Chief Carl Horn objecting.

The *Declaration of Office* is a means of reiterating Council chiefs' commitment to work for the community and to achieve results for the benefit and well-being of all. It has been passed as a matter of standard operating procedure for the past several terms.

Normally, the *Declaration* is presented earlier in the term but a plan to combine the document with other related initiatives failed to materialize; therefore, it was presented once again as a stand-alone document.

The *Declaration* is attached, in its entirety, to this document.

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*For information, please contact:*

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Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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**MOHAWK COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE**

**DATE: 02 / 25 /2013 MCED NO: # 45 / 2012-2013**  
 MONTH DAY YEAR

**No. of Pages: 2**

**PROPOSED BY: Chief Rhonda Kawenanoron Kirby**

**SECONDED BY: Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer**

**WHEREAS** the Mohawk People (Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non), as part of the Mohawk Nation (Kanien'kehá:ka) and the Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee) are, and have always been a sovereign people;

**WHEREAS** the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have consistently and historically declared their right to govern their own affairs;

**WHEREAS** the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non have stated their intention to reinstate the structures, philosophies, concepts and principles of Mohawk Traditional Government as embodied by the Great Law of Peace (Kaianere'kó:wa);

**WHEREAS** the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnawa'kehró:non abide by the principles of Power, Peace, and Righteousness prescribed in and in accordance with the Kaianere'kó:wa;

**WHEREAS** these principles have governed, and continue to govern, the direction of the Mohawk Nation since time immemorial;

**WHEREAS** Elections were held on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 in order to elect the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke the whole in accordance with the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke Election Law*;

**WHEREAS** in accordance with the abovementioned Law, the Electoral Officer publicly announced the results of the Election;

**WHEREAS** the previous Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke's term of office ended at the time the Electoral Officer publicly announced the results of the Election;

**WHEREAS** the present Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke's term of office commenced at the time the Electoral Officer publicly announced the results of the Election;

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT:**

1. We, as the present Council, do solemnly declare that, we will at all times faithfully, conscientiously, honestly, loyally, industriously, and to the best of our knowledge, skill ability, experience and talents, perform all of the duties and responsibilities required of the position bearing in mind that our primary duty is to serve Kahnawa'kehró:non.
2. We, as the present Council, collectively and individually agree to be responsible for the general well-being of Kahnawa'kehró:non and for the administration and management of the Kahnawá:ke Territory through the promotion of:
  - Mohawk Nationhood and Political Autonomy
  - Economic Self-Sufficiency
  - Social Development
  - Mohawk Language, Culture, Values, and Traditions
  - Mohawk Laws and Legislation
  - Principles established in the Two Row Wampum
3. We further agree to be answerable and accountable to Kahnawa'kehró:non, to every other Council Chief and to the Council as an institution with respect to all matters for which we are responsible. We shall uphold at all times the values, traditions and principles of Kahnawa'kehró:non and will serve them truthfully, honorably and to the best of our abilities;

MDJ	CKZD	WTD	RKK	KSD	MTL	RWPJ	KKMc	GKD	COH	LOP	CTP
									Objected		

# MOHAWK COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

**DATE: 02 / 11 / 2013**      **MCED NO: # /2012-2013**      **No. of Pages: 2**  
Month                      Day                      Year

4. We acknowledge that as Council Members we may not agree on all issues and may publicly express our personal views. However, such public statements may not undermine the members of Council or the position taken by consensus. Furthermore, while an issue is in the early stages of development and discussion or when Council has not concluded its debate on the issue, or when Council has not given approval to divulge the information, we will not make the matter public;
5. In no case will we divulge or use information that we have obtained in the course of executing our mandate for personal gain.
6. We agree that any and all items created or used by us or furnished by the Council and all documents or materials in any form are the exclusive property of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke. Upon expiration of our term of office we shall immediately return to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke, in good condition, all property that is in our possession or under our control.
7. We agree to immediately disclose all conflict of interest and to remove ourselves promptly from any and all discussions regarding such interest. We also agree to refrain from taking any decisions or from voting in regards to the disclosed interest, whether it be personal, potential, direct or indirect conflict of interest. If a disagreement arises with respect to whether a Council Chief is in a conflict of interest or not, we agree that the Chairperson of the meeting will call a vote (by secret ballot or show of hands. At the Chairperson's discretion) in order to decide the matter. A quorum of Council Chiefs is required and if the majority decides that there is in fact a conflict of interest then the Chief concerned will be disqualified from further consideration of the matter.
8. We agree to make ourselves available to testify as a witness in any legal proceedings initiated by or against the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke during or after our term of office.
9. We understand that if we undertake any liability on behalf of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke that we shall be indemnified and held harmless from and against all costs, charges, and expenses which we may sustain or incur in relation to any action, suit, or legal proceedings which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against us, the whole provided we were:
  - a) acting in good faith
  - b) acting within the scope of our authority
  - c) acting under the direction of Council and Committee
  - d) acting in the best interest of Council
  - e) acting free of any conflict of interest

We further understand that for all personal legal matters we will be responsible for obtaining independent legal counsel unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke.

10. We agree that as an elected Council Chief and not a Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke employee, we will be subject to the actions and measures set forth in the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke Disciplinary Measures Regulations* K.R.L. c., E-1 r.1, and the regulations for the operations of Chief and Council until a comprehensive manual governing the Administration and Financial Accountability of the elected Chiefs of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke is complete.

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Ratsénhaienhs Michael Ahrírhon Delisle Jr.

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Ratsénhaienhs Martin Thawen:rate Leborgne

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Ratsénhaienhs Kenneth Karonhiatie McComber

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Ietsénhaienhs Rhonda Kawenanoron Kirby

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Ietsénhaienhs Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

**Objected**

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Ratsénhaienhs Carl Onakarakete Horn

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Ietsénhaienhs Gina Kanietahawi Deer

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Ratsénhaienhs Clinton Tionawate Phillips

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Ratsénhaienhs Robert Watío Patton Jr.

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Ratsénhaienhs William Tioronhiáthe Diabo

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Ratsénhaienhs Lloyd Oronhiakhète Phillips

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Ietsénhaienhs Christine Katsitsenhawitha Zachary Deom