



# 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

### Grand Chief puts Quebec on Notice

**For immediate release**

**(Kahnawà:ke – 9 Onerahthókó:wa/May 2008)** Grand Chief Michael Ahrírhon Delisle, Jr. has put the Government of Quebec on notice today regarding several outstanding issues.

In a letter sent to Premier Jean Charest and other high-ranking officials, the Grand Chief reminds Quebec that it must immediately address several important issues, such as their commitment to participate in the settlement of the Seigneurie and Highway 30, among others. It is a direct response to a telephone call yesterday (Thursday) afternoon by government officials regarding work that is scheduled to begin on Highway 30 this coming Monday.

The planned work is on Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis land.

“It is ironic that offers from the Quebec government to discuss issues of concern to Kahnawà:ke are extended only when a project, an initiative, a political appeasement or a photo opportunity is imminent,” Chief Delisle wrote. “(We) cannot accept token gestures of good faith without commitment.”

“It is time for Quebec to ensure (our) relationship remains intact by providing concrete, measurable and sustained commitments, plans of action and implementation strategies. Until then, Highway 30 can wait.”

The letter is attached.

-30-

For further information, please contact:  
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450-632-7500  
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# Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

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*Tsi Ietsenhaientáhkwá*  
" OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS "



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## VIA FACSIMILE & REGISTERED MAIL

09, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2008

Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec  
Édifice Honoré-Mercier,  
3<sup>e</sup> étage 835, boulevard René-Lévesque Est  
Québec (Québec) G1A 1B4

Benoit Pelletier, Minister of Native Affairs  
875, Grande Allée Est  
Bureau 5.741  
Québec (Québec) G1R 4Y8

Denys Jean, Ministère des Transports Québec  
700, boul. René Levesque Est, 28<sup>th</sup> floor  
Québec, Québec  
G1R 5H1

**Re: Highway 30**

Sirs,

As a result of my previous letter to Denys Jean, Deputy Minister of Transport, of 25, Onerahtohkó:wa/April 2008, it has become evident that the issues surrounding the Highway 30 project are the only preoccupation of your government with regard to relations with Kahnawá:ke. Since that letter, it has been implied that only Kahnawá:ke's support of the Project will ensure that Quebec will address issues affecting Kahnawá:ke.

I can acknowledge the fact that you are accountable to your constituents and that the completion of the eastern portion of the Highway 30 is of paramount importance to you. Let me remind you that the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke have asserted from time immemorial, and will continue to assert that the lands within and beyond the boundaries of the Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis are traditional lands that have never been surrendered. The MCK has the responsibility, extended from our ancestors, to protect our lands for generations to come. This position has never changed.

Over the years, permanent encroachment as evidenced by the St. Lawrence Seaway, the railway network, the Mercier Bridge and the intersecting highway systems have systematically eroded the land base upon which generation after generation of Mohawks have strived to preserve. The Highway 30 as it already exists has impacted the future usage of the land it occupies – the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke cannot support the current phase of the project that will expand further into traditional Mohawk Territory without recognition of what is rightfully ours and compensation for loss of use.

It is ironic that offers from the Quebec government to discuss issues of concern for Kahnawá:ke, are extended only when a project, an initiative, a political appeasement or a photo opportunity is imminent. “Give them something and they will agree”, seems to be the underlying message behind the “extended olive branch”. The Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke cannot accept token gestures of good faith without commitment.

Quebec has the responsibility to genuinely address Kahnawá:ke’s issues in good faith, and to remediate Quebec’s questionable practices of the past. It is time to seize the opportunity to demonstrate to Kahnawá:ke that our interests will be taken seriously and commitments made to achieve resolution.

An inventory of Kahnawá:ke’s interests can be categorized, but not limited to the following:

- Adequate compensation and repatriation of lands in consideration of the alienation of the 700 acres being expropriated for the expansion of the proposed Highway 30 including the 34 acres described to Minister Pelletier and the lands contiguous to Kahnawá:ke north of the existing Highway 30.
- Commitment to and identification of Quebec’s role within the SSSL negotiation process as requested in my letter of April 21, 2008.
- Jurisdictional recognition of Mohawk Internet Technologies to regulate on-line gaming.
- Enhancement of the current QKR Agreements through increased user fees for transport networks, geographic expansion of tax exemption, implementation of the Tobacco, Petroleum and Tobacco agreement, and additions to the QKR package;
- Rebuilding the 207 and 132 highways with infrastructure;

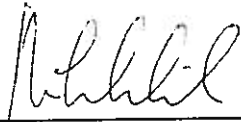
- Provide a permanent Kahnawá:ke commuter train stop as discussed with MTQ and AMT, to alleviate the traffic congestion that will be aggravated by the upcoming Mercier Bridge works;
- Facilitate the return of lands and negotiation of leases with Hydro Quebec.

This list is only an indication of Kahnawá:ke's interests that have been addressed by Quebec in a limited capacity. Kahnawá:ke has recognized the necessity for a political relationship with Quebec, and it is not the intention to sever ties over the Highway 30 project. It is time for Quebec to ensure this relationship remains intact by providing concrete, measurable, and sustained commitments, plans of action and implementation strategies. Until then, Highway 30 can wait.

I anticipate a response to this letter. Should you require further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Nia:wen,

**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS  
MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÁ:KE**



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Grand Chief Michael Ahrírhon Delisle Jr.

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## OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

### MULTI FAX SHEET

**DATE:** 09, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2008      **FROM:** Grand Chief Michael Ahrírhon Delisle Jr.

URGENT     FOR REVIEW     PLEASE COMMENT     PLEASE REPLY     PLEASE RECYCLE

NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET:   4  

NAME OF PERSON	FAX NUMBER
Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec	1-418-646-1854
Benoit Pelletier, Minister of Native Affairs	1-418-643-3166 & 1-418-643-8730
Denys Jean, Ministere des Transports Quebec	1-418-643-2033
<b>MESSAGE:</b>  Please ensure this fax is forwarded to the attention of the above <b>immediately</b> . An original will follow by mail. If you have any problems receiving this facsimile or if you do not receive all transmitted sheets, please contact us immediately.  Nia:wen (Thank you)  Samantha Montour, Executive Assistant Office of the Grand Chief 450-632-7500 ext 360	

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 \*\*\* ACTIVITY REPORT \*\*\*  
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ST. TIME	CONNECTION TEL	CONNECTION ID	NO.	MODE	PGS.	RESULT
*05/08 17:17	5183584016		9994	AUTO RX ECM	4	OK 00'52
*05/08 17:34	418 842 2660		9995	AUTO RX ECM	2	OK 00'30
*05/08 19:10			9996	AUTO RX ECM	7	OK 02'05
*05/08 19:25	4		9997	AUTO RX G3	2	OK 02'34
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*05/09 07:12			5002	AUTO RX ECM	2	OK 00'51
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*05/09 10:14			5004	AUTO RX ECM	1	OK 00'43
*05/09 10:18			5005	AUTO RX ECM	1	OK 01'17
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*05/09 11:10	2 2		5006	AUTO RX ECM	1	OK 00'56
*05/09 11:21	14186461854		0178	TRANSMIT G3	4	OK 01'38
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						0 STOP
05/09 11:29	14186432033		0182	TRANSMIT ECM	4	OK 00'41