



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

MCK supports authority of parents in schools issues

(Kahnawake – 13, Ohiarí:ha/June 2012) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to inform the community, once again, that Chief & Council supports an independent investigation/ review of the process used to dismiss the former Director of Education this past January.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, 12 Ohiarí:ha/June, the Kahnawake Combined Schools Committee stated that they 'do not recognize the authority of the MCK' in this issue. The MCK's involvement thus far has ONLY been to ensure that the issues are resolved in a fair and timely manner, not to invoke any type of 'authority.'

"We must be explicitly clear in this matter," said Education Portfolio Chief Kenneth McComber. "Our position supports the parents' authority in the matters of education. The fact that a substantial number of parents are upset and frustrated at the lack of movement in the independent investigation and the lack of information on this matter coming from the Combined Schools Committee needs to be addressed. The MCK has consistently stated that we will assist in the matter of getting clarification on the issues so the matter can be closed once and for all."

As indicated in the MCK's 31, Onerahtohkó:wa/May statement:

"The MCK wishes to remind the community that the parents are the ultimate authority when it comes to education and its services in Kahnawà:ke. Any and all actions taken will be in the spirit of ensuring that parents' wishes are respected."

At this point, it has been clearly demonstrated to Chief & Council that the issues related to the dismissal of the former Director of Education and the subsequent behavior of the Combined Schools Committee have remained unaddressed and, as such, we support the right of the parents to make decisions in that regard – no more, no less. Thus far, it has been clear to the entire community that the issues remain unresolved. With that in mind, the MCK will respect the outcome of the upcoming Parents' Meeting scheduled for 6:30pm on Monday, 18 Ohiarí:ha/June at Karonhianohnha School.

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