



*Kahnawá:ke Ratítsénhaiens*

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**Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaintákhwa**

## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

# MCK to explore return to Clan System

### For immediate release

**(Kahnawá:ke – 17, Ohiari'kó:wa/July 2007)** Grand Chief Michael Ahrihrhon Delisle, Jr. is sending an open letter to the community to announce that, as part of the mandate to return to Traditional Government, the MCK has begun a project to investigate the feasibility of restoring the Clan System for use in the current decision-making process.

As stated in the letter, the MCK is engaging in a new project “designed to engage a broad cross-section of community members in order to reach a fair, impartial consensus that is not burdened or impeded by an individual perspective or interpretation.”

The letter, which will be printed and/or read in its entirety in the local media, explains this initiative and offers an introduction to the people who are being contracted to do the work.

Other than a technical team, the MCK has no involvement in the project.

The letter is attached.

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For more information, please contact:

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## OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

### LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

17, Ohiarikó:wa / July 2007

Shé:kon Tawatate'ken,

Since the imposition of the Indian Act, Kahnawà:ke has consistently declared its desire to return to our Traditional way of governing ourselves. Since the Community had re-affirmed this in 1979, the MCK has been involved in various initiatives to find peaceful and practical ways of implementing the mandate in a way acceptable to all Kahnawa'kehró:non.

As part of this initiative, we have begun a project to investigate the feasibility of restoring the Clan System as a Primary or Complimentary System of Governance and Decision Making in Kahnawà:ke. To do this, the project is designed to engage a broad cross section of community members in order to seek a fair, impartial consensus that is not burdened nor impeded by any individual perspective or interpretation. And, other than a technical team, the MCK has no involvement in the project.

We have contracted two scholars who live in Kahnawake to work with Kahnawa'kehró:non. Mike and Kahente Doxtater have conducted a workshop on the Clan system for the Council Chiefs so we could experience how the process works. They will be contacting community members to participate in the research. I strongly urge anyone who is contacted or anyone who is interested, to participate. If you are not contacted, but are interested in the project, you can contact Jeffrey Diabo at 450.632.7500 for more information.

It is essential that we find out from the grassroots community how we might return to what our elders have called a precious inheritance for our children and future generations—how to govern over our own affairs in our own way.

Tho'

In peace and friendship,



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Michael Delisle Jr., Grand Chief  
Mohawk Council of Kahnawake