



# Kahnawá:ke Ratítsénhaiens

*Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke*

P.O. Box 720 Kahnawá:ke Mohawk Territory JOL 1B0

Phone: (450) 632-7500 Fax: (450) 638-5958

Web Site: [www.kahnawake.com](http://www.kahnawake.com) E-mail: [communications@mck.ca](mailto:communications@mck.ca)

Enhsakotò:kénhte Nitiotié:ren Tsi Ietsenhaiéntákhwa

## Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

### Iroquois chiefs issue statement at AFN meeting

#### For immediate release

**(Kahnawá:ke – 8, Tiothórrha/December 2005)** The chiefs of the elected councils of Kahnawá:ke, Kanesatake, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Oneida of the Thames have prepared a statement, which was read yesterday at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly.

The statement, which is attached below, basically informs those attending the Assembly of the establishment of the Iroquois Caucus and the intention for the Caucus to represent the interests of its members.

“There has been a lot of frustration with the AFN,” said Grand Chief Michael Ahríhron Delisle, Jr. “This statement sends a clear message that we are quite prepared to use other means to ensure our collective voices are heard.”

-30-

For more information, please contact:  
Joe Delaronde, Political Press Attaché  
Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke  
(450) 632-7500 ext. 251

**Iroquois Statement of Solidarity**  
**Amongst and Between the Elected Councils**  
**Of**  
**Kahnawà:ke, Kahnesatá:ke, Akwesáhsne,**  
**Tyendinaga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River**  
**And Oneida of the Thames**

To the Chiefs of the Assembly

Many hundreds of years ago, a Peacemaker came amongst our people and demonstrated that a single arrow could be easily broken, but that five arrows bound together could not. This promoted the unification of Five individual Nations into the Haudenosaunee or Iroquois Confederacy, which still exists today. We are seeking to restore this principle of Unity.

Kahnawà:ke, Kahnesatá:ke, Akwesáhsne, Tyendinaga, Wahta, Six Nations of the Grand River and Oneida of the Thames are communities of the Iroquois Confederacy. Although we are separated by distance, we recognize that we are one People who share a common Identity, common responsibilities and our own system of Law and government.

In our long history as the original people of this land, it is only in the very short time since the arrival of the Europeans, that our Nations have been disrupted, our relationships severed, and our families torn apart by a system designed and imposed for that very purpose.

But even within this system, we find that many of the issues affecting our people require us to look to our original rights, our own system of Law and, the historical relationships and agreements our people entered into as Nations.

As individual communities, we have had our issues and views represented through other processes. This has not worked for us.

Instead, we have come together in a forum known as the “Iroquois Caucus” where we can discuss our shared issues and concerns, come to be of one mind and speak with one voice. The purpose of this forum is to develop consensus-based positions, formulate nation-based strategies and seek solutions beneficial to our people.

As Iroquois, we will now, and in the future, represent ourselves at all regional, national and International levels and speak on our own behalf as one People.

We recommend to our Sisters and Brothers across Turtle Island to also begin this process of internal rebuilding and to renew the historical relationships between our Nations, for the purpose of adding more arrows to the bundle.

Niá:wen