



Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k

PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Political Advisor announces imminent departure

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 13, Tsothóhrha/December 2024) – The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) announces that Winona Polson-Lahache will be stepping down from her position as Chief Political Advisor in the new year. Polson-Lahache has been an integral member of the MCK's Office of the Council of Chiefs (OCC) since April 2012, playing a vital role in advancing the political interests of Kahnawà:ke.

Throughout her tenure, Polson-Lahache reported directly to the MCK Council of Chiefs, working closely with the Grand Chiefs to guide the community's political and strategic initiatives. She was first appointed as Chief Political Advisor in 2015, serving under the late Ohén:ton Í:rate ne Ratitsénhahienhs Joseph Norton, and continued in this role through the terms of Ohén:ton Í:iente ne Ratitsénhahienhs Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer and currently with Ohén:ton Í:rate ne Ratitsénhahienhs Cody Diabo.

Polson-Lahache's leadership, expertise, and tireless commitment have been central to the OCC's success. She played a key role in shaping policies and strengthening relationships with local, national, and international stakeholders, making her an invaluable asset to the Council of Chiefs.

"Winona's dedication to the MCK and the community has been invaluable," said Ohén:ton Í:rate ne Ratitsénhahienhs Cody Diabo. "Her leadership, insight, and unwavering commitment have positioned Kahnawà:ke as a strong political force. We are deeply grateful for her many years of service."

"I have made the decision to step away in order to focus on myself and my family," said Polson-Lahache. "I am deeply grateful to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke for the incredible opportunity to serve our community, and I am truly honored by the trust and confidence that has been placed in me throughout my tenure."

The leadership and staff of the MCK extend their best wishes to Winona Polson-Lahache in her future endeavors and thank her for her exceptional contributions to both the MCK and the community. She will continue to work as the Chief Political Advisor through the posting and recruitment process for her replacement, as well as the eventual orientation and transition period. Her last day of work is forecasted to be in February 2025.

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