



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

MCK issues important notice re: Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 17, Tsothóhrha/December 2012) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to advise the community that Chiefs Rhonda Kirby, Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, Christine Zachary-Deom and Gina Deer are planning to visit Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence this Wednesday. The MCK Chiefs will meet to offer first hand, face-to-face support for Chief Spence while she undertakes her hunger strike at Victoria Island in Ottawa, which is in its seventh day.

Chief Spence has embarked on her quest to cause awareness in regard to the continuing disaster her people are experiencing in her northern Ontario community, as well as other issues affecting First Nations. She vows to continue her action until the Prime Minister and the Governor General ('the Queen's representative' in Canada) agree to meet with her.

First Nations people from across Canada have been voicing their support for the chief, including the MCK, who issued a Letter of Support this past Friday, 14 Tsothóhrha/December.

In Kahnawà:ke, community members have held grassroots meetings, resulting in a vigil that has been underway since Friday at a ceremonial fire located near the Mercier Bridge. As well, more meetings are being planned, some with the intent to organize participation in a day of solidarity and support expected to take place on Friday in Ottawa. The MCK is preparing to organize logistical support, if needed.

"We are encouraged that Chief Spence's brave actions have inspired people across the country, Native and non-Native alike," said Grand Chief Michael Ahríron Delisle, Jr. "We are proud of the fact that Kahnawà:kehró:nnon are standing up and showing solidarity with Chief Spence in a peaceful and respectful manner. Now let's see if the Prime Minister is ready to act in a likewise manner."

"The current government is acting in a disgraceful manner," he concluded. "Whether it's allowing the situation in Attawapiskat to worsen or trying to crush our spirit with oppressive legislation is something First Nations are not going to accept."

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