



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

HAUDENOSAUNEE DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

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A Message from the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee

News Release

Onondaga Nation Territory - October 28, 2007

Nearly two months ago, the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee (HDC) offered comments to the Federal Register regarding the proposed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) land border crossing rules. These comments included a proposal that Haudenosaunee ID cards and passports be accepted for border crossing as well as a description of our ID card system. To date, DHS has offered no response to our comments.

Despite this, the HDC is focusing on several areas of the border crossing work. Interviews and communications have continued with ID card companies in order to determine which ID card company will develop the new Haudenosaunee ID card and passport.

Currently, the HDC is encouraging all Haudenosaunee Councils to continue work on their distribution policies for new ID cards. Also, the HDC is educating the Haudenosaunee Councils on several aspects of the ID card system: the application process, the development and design of the card, the security features of the card and system, cost, time line of work, etc.

Furthermore, the HDC continues to schedule meetings with officials in Washington, DC, to build ongoing support for our ID proposal and to ensure that the US does not make any decisions that will affect our rights without first holding full and fair consultations with us.

These are just a few examples of how the HDC is continuing on to fulfill its mandate: to interface with the US and Canadian Governments regarding the political and technical development of the new Haudenosaunee ID cards and passports.

October has been a busy month for the HDC members. Gaiiwio has traveled to many of our communities; and many of us are harvesting this year's crops. Because of our busy travel schedules, the HDC is very thankful for the Indian Defense League of America (IDLA).

The IDLA is assisting the HDC in dealing with day-to-day border crossing problems. If a citizen is delayed at the border because of documentation, the IDLA suggests remaining cooperative while gathering this information: Name of border guard, Badge #, and the time and location of incident. Most instances are rather short, if the delay becomes lengthy, this information will be helpful in creating a record of the incident. For more information on the IDLA please contact Beverly Hill, President (716) 297-5297.

If you, our Haudenosaunee Citizens, have any questions or comments please contact us at the numbers above, or contact your Council of Chiefs, Clan Mothers and Faithkeepers.