



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

KAHNAWÁ:KE KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA ONKWANAKERÁHSERA - KAHNAWAKE BRANCH OF THE MOHAWK NATION
NE IÁ:IA'K NIHONONHWENTÁ:KE - SIX NATION IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

Notice to all Mohawk Nation People

For Immediate Release

Akwesasne Mohawk Territory -Tsothorhkó:wa/ January 29, 2007

On Tuesday, January 22m 2008 the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs , with one of the Clanmothers and some observers, met with the US Customs and Border Protection office in Roosevelttown, NY (Akwesasne Mohawk Nation Territory).

This meeting was requested by the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs because rumors were circulating indicating that the Haudenosaunee “Red Cards” would no longer be accepted by US Customs, or identification and documentation purposes, after January 31st 2008: THIS IS FALSE.

The Mohawk Nation Council met with the Port Director, Mr. Robert Stephenson. He clarified to the Council that nothing has changed. There will not be anything different than it was on January 1st 2008. However, there will be a transition period to get the people ready for the new regulations starting June 2009.

We are advising everyone that when the Mohawk Nation “Red Card” is used for identification purposes, people need to also present a second piece of identification, i.e. driver’s license, birth certificate, etc.

There have been abuses in the past. The “Red Card” has been copies and even counterfeited over the years. If the border crossing agents do not know the Mohawk Nation citizen who is at the US Port of Entry, they may be asked to supply some other form of identification. Other types of acceptable ID are driver’s license, birth certificate, Indian and Northern Affairs Custom (INAC) status card or a tribal photo membership card.

We were also informed that between now and June 2009, US Customs will require updated and current information: a verbal response will no longer be acceptable.

The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs would also like to inform the Mohawk people that the Haudenosaunee confederacy has been working towards a new identification card for all Haudenosaunee. The identification card we are working on will meet or pass the established criteria for an acceptable travel document.

Pleas be patient while we work within the Confederacy to meet standards and develop protocol for issuing the new identification cards. For further information, you may contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 518-358-3381.

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Adapted from and with permission from the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs statement of January 24, 2008