



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

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

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake protests Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples

For Immediate Release

Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake – Ohiarí:ha (June 29) 2007

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake sends greetings and extends the arm of peace. The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake has elected to express its solidarity with all Indigenous Peoples in Canada by marching up the Mercier Bridge and adorning it with our national flags.

The Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake would like to take this time to address the dire issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in Canada. However, we must stress that we are not answering the call of AFN Chief Phil Fontaine and nor are we using his agenda to express what we are protesting. We stand in solidarity with all Indigenous Peoples who are using this day to protest Canada's treatment of Indigenous Peoples. We believe our grassroots and non-violent method of protest shall be an effective action to affirm the following:

- *We assert our sovereign jurisdiction over our traditional territory and support the assertion of sovereign jurisdiction upon the territories of other Indigenous Peoples.*
- *We call attention to the negligence and lack of good faith by the Government of Canada concerning the many land claims affirmed by Indigenous Peoples in Canada.*
- *We express our support for the traditional governments and original democracies of Indigenous Peoples that are not recognized by the Government of Canada.*
- *We express our disappointment and frustration with the Government of Canada in their condemnation and lack of support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*
- *We oppose the criminalization and military targeting of Indigenous Peoples by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces.*
- *We reject the denial of our identity as Indigenous Peoples by the Government of Canada.*

At this time we would like to also call attention to the UN General Assembly in New York, whereby Canada is expected to condemn the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is particularly disturbing that Indigenous Peoples are expected to discuss their issues in good faith, knowing that internationally Canada is ensuring that our inherent rights are extinguished. For more information, please contact the Mohawk Nation Office at 450.632.7639.

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In peace and justice,

Atsenhaién:ton Kenneth Deer
Secretary - Kahnawake Branch
Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy