



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK COUNCIL
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September 8, 2020—The Tyendinaga Mohawk Council would like to address concerns with planned large gatherings scheduled to occur in the upcoming weeks on the Territory.

To date, we have had zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tyendinaga, and that is the direct result of the responsibility that community members, businesses and visitors have taken on in combatting this virus. For that, TMC would like to acknowledge everyone's efforts and commitment to working together and to share our gratitude for all the hard work that has gone into helping our community remain COVID free.

Even though we can all take pride knowing that each of us has done our part up until this point, TMC cannot stress enough that the health risks and concerns, both in Tyendinaga and globally, are still present. While certain aspects of day to day life may be returning with elements of normalcy, we are still in a state of emergency and the global pandemic is still very much a threat with over 6 million cases worldwide.

TMC has remained consistent in discouraging large gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic in consideration of the health and safety of our community at large, and therefore we would like to clearly state our position that we do not support events such as the Indigenous Cannabis Cup taking place in Tyendinaga at this time, which was communicated to the organizer last week. This event, and other events involving people travelling from outside the area, should be cancelled or postponed until a later date, and we ask that you to continue to demonstrate your care as a responsible member of the community by doing so.

We acknowledge the potential disappointment for the hosts and your visitors, however we feel much like the cancellation of the annual Mohawk Fair and Pow Wow, that this is not the appropriate time for gatherings such as this when considering the wellbeing of the community during this state of emergency.

We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and for respecting the health and safety of the community above all else in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

R. Donald Maracle
Chief