



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK COUNCIL,
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November 12, 2021 – TMC Statement Regarding Kanyen'kéha Affirmation and Commitments

On Wednesday, October 20th, 2021, the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council (TMC) passed **Resolution #2021/22-056** affirming Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk) as the official language of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and the original Mohawk Tract as a whole. With this, TMC will prioritize the development and implementation of initiatives that will work to incorporate Kanyen'kéha into all aspects of everyday life.

To ensure that all community voices are heard and consulted with, in respect to these efforts, TMC is formally announcing the creation of the Kenhtenkéha Advisory Committee (KAC), which will consist of members from demographics such as:

- Language Speakers
- Cultural Knowledge Holders
- Longhouse Community
- Church Community
- Education Advisors and Supports
- Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na
- Parents of School Aged Children
- Youth Representatives
- Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Additionally, TMC has approved the creation of a Community Language Engagement Coordinator (CLEC) position, who will work with the KAC to design a process for community consultation and engagement with intention to draft a Kenhté:ke Language Act. The CLEC and KAC will also design and carry out a plan for the ratification, adoption, implementation, and on-going assessment of the Kenhté:ke Language Act with key components being:

- Community Development
- Bilingual Signage
- Minimum Speaking Requirements for Administration Employees and Chief and Council
- The Protection and Promotion of Kanyen'kéha

In order to achieve success in these initiatives, TMC acknowledges the need for a consistent financial commitment towards language revitalization and supports for improving proficiency. Therefore, TMC has passed **Resolution #2021/22-057** which establishes a multi-year 4-million-dollar commitment for programming and assistance for members towards learning and engaging with Kanyen'kéha.

TMC also recognizes the importance of dedicated spaces, including classrooms of all types, for language learning to take place. As a result, TMC passed **Resolution # 2021/22-058** committing 1-million dollars towards the construction of the Kenhtéke Language and Cultural Centre to be located at the former Shannonville Fairgrounds, which in 2019, was designated as the future build site for this proposed facility.

In closing, the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council believes that we are at a crucial time in our history, one where we must all embrace the responsibility we have to one another, to our ancestors, to our children and grandchildren to keep our language alive. By strengthening our community through language engagement and learning, we are supporting and promoting a healthy, vibrant future for us as Kanyen'kehá:ka.