

Local News

Mohawk Language Signs Return to Customs and Toll Booth

Kahwehnoke: The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne passed a resolution on April 4th at their MCA general meetings to have the Mohawk language sign returned to the Mohawk lane at the customs. The resolution was discussed at length including an explanation by Grand Chief Russell Roundpoint as to why the sign was removed.

Any driver using the Mohawk lane has encountered non-Indians trying to and sometimes using the Mohawk lane. This has caused the Mohawk residents to complain and the non-Indian driver not understanding the Mohawk language does not know they are in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The sign was removed in an attempt to educate the non-Indians. This happened but at the cost of what - losing our distinctiveness as a First Nation territory. As stated by Chief Mike Mitchell, "we are Mohawks and our Mohawk language makes us distinct." The sign gives the children an opportunity to see how the Mohawk language can be used. Another Chief stated, "all the streets, roads and informational signs should be in Mohawk." It was also brought to the Council's attention that several years ago the MCA passed a resolution making the Mohawk language the first language.

The concerns from some Chiefs included a sign needs to be at the Customs in French/English so that non-Indians can understand that the third lane is the Mohawk lane.

Another comment was to have the sign in French-English moved back toward the bridge to the highway where it would be visible and understandable to the non-Mohawk driver. The sign

written in Mohawk language will be situated in the original site.

The resolution was voted on - eleven approved and one voted no. The resolution passed. The Mohawk lane will retain its individuality, clearly identifying the lane as Mohawk.

RESOLUTION SIGN IDENTIFYING MOHAWK LANE AT CANADIAN CUSTOMS ON CORNWALL ISLAND

Whereas the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne erected a sign at the Canadian Customs on Cornwall Island in July 1988 to identify the lane to be used by "Mohawks of Akwesasne" and

Whereas that sign was bilingual to the extent that it was written in English & Mohawk and

Whereas the purpose to write the message partly in Mohawk was to inform the public of the presence of a community who are members of the Mohawk Nation and that they too are respectful of their own cultural heritage, and Whereas the leaders of the community wished to stress the importance of our Mohawk Language to our future leaders and community members,

Therefore be it resolved that the present sign located by the Canadian Custom Native Lane which is written in English and French be moved back towards the bridge-highway where it would be more assistance to the French public and Further be it finally resolved that the sign that will be permanently situated at the Customs Mohawk lane be written in English and Mohawk.

Moved by Mike Mitchell
Seconded by Lynn Roundpoint
11 in favor, 1 opposed, Gerald Sharrow.

Mohawk Nation Agrees Community Flag Should Change

The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs was approached by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to consider and recommend the community flag color of British red be changed to Haudenosaunee purple. The wampum belts are purple in color and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy used the Hiawatha Belt as their national flag. The MCA following protocol asked for consent to change the colors of the community flag.

The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs acknowledged the request by stating "it is appropriate for the community flag to be purple in color for the Mohawk Nation is an integral nation to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy." The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne presented a resolution at the general meeting held on April 4 at the Kahwehnoke Community Center. The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs' letter was introduced after the reading of the resolution. There was some discussion at which time artwork of the flag was shown to Council and the public. The flag has the tree of peace, the Hiawatha Belt and the partridge to identify the flag as a community flag and not the National flag. The partridge represents - Akwesasne - "Land Where the Partridge drums". After discussion the vote was called and the resolution passed unanimously.

The new flag will be flying at the toll booth, Canadian Customs, government buildings and the schools within the next few weeks. If you are interested in

owning the 'new' community flag you can contact the MCA government office.

HAUDENOSAUNEE
MOHAWK - ONEIDA -
ONONDAGA - CAYUGA -
SENECA - TUSCARORA
MOHAWK NATION COUNCIL
OF CHIEFS
VIA BOX 366 ROOSEVELT-
TOWN NEW YORK 13683
Telephone (518) 358-3381 Fax
(518) 358-3488

April 4, 1996

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Territory of Akwesasne
via St. Regis, PQ H0M 1A0

To Whom It May Concern:
The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers and Faithkeepers send you greetings. The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs acknowledges that it is appropriate to have the colour of the flag depicting the Territory of Akwesasne be changed from a red background to a purple background. Also, it is an appropriate flag for the community of Akwesasne.

This has been recorded in a meeting of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.

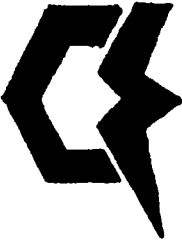
On behalf of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs,

In Peace,

signed

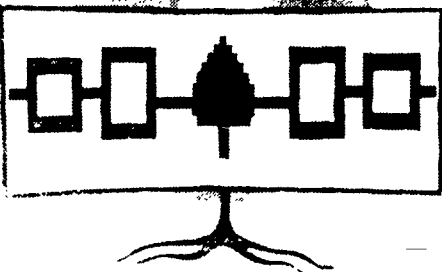
Joyce Mitchell
Administrator
Mohawk Nation Office





**CORNWALL
ELECTRIC** 1001 Sydney
St., Cornwall
932-0123

"Customer Service .. Our Priority"



QUINNLYN AUTO INC.

3035 Pitt St. North

- All makes of New & Used vehicles
- We pay instant cash for your car or truck
- Financing & bank loans available to qualified buyers
- If we don't have what you want, we'll find it!!

Quinn J. Benedict 938-1237 / 575-2194