

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Press Release (Constitutional Government)

Community Members File Class Action Suit Against Park Place Entertainment

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE, HOGANSBURG, N.Y. (April 27, 2000) - Concerned citizens of the community have filed a Class Action suit in St. Regis Mohawk Court today against Park Place Entertainment Corporation, Arthur Goldberg and Clive Cummins requesting that the agreement be declared null and void because they fraudulently misrepresented to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council the nature and effect of entering into an agreement, giving to Park Place exclusive gaming rights with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. Further, injunctive relief was requested, the imposition of actual and punitive damages as well as costs and attorney's fees.

On December 4, 1993, Hilda Smoke made a motion on the floor of a Tribal meeting to present any future casino development proposals be brought before the people before any letters of intent were signed by Council. She stated that her reason for the motion was to prevent Council from conducting secret transactions between Council and developers which could be detrimental to the people of the Tribe, without Tribal members knowledge (see Monthly Tribal Meeting Minutes of December 4, 1993). This resolution passed with no opposition.

The signing of the letter of intent on April 14, 2000 and the April 15, 2000 Tribal Council Resolution waiving sovereign immunity is a violation of Tribal law established by Resolution at the December 3, 1993 meeting.

To date, no public meeting has been held to let this community know the

details of this proposed deal, despite requests from Barbara Lazore, Charles Terrance and other members of the Constitutional Government. Of immediate concern was the fact that they put the Tribe in debt for \$3 million dollars without asking the community first!

Entering into this agreement is senseless. The terms are identical to the one entered into with Ivan Kaufman except the contract length is 7 years instead of 5, the percentage is 70 for the Tribe and 30 for Park Place. Other than that, everything else is the same. This makes the Park Place contract considerably worse than the contract the Tribe presently has with Ivan Kaufman. This is particularly shocking because, Cindy Smoke, editor of the People's Voice publicly accused the Constitutional Government members of forcing the Kaufman deal down Paul, Hilda and Almas's throats

The Park Place agreement will shut down any off-reservation casino development in New York State, including Monticello, for at least 3 years. This is ludicrous, when with the Governor's approval, construction could be started at Monticello within a couple of months. That's a far cry from the promise of the 3 year time frame which Park Place proposes for construction to begin! The Constitutional Government was in the process of re-negotiating a better contract for this Tribe when the people's government used the federal court ruling on September 30 to confuse the community.

Further, not only does this agreement halt the Tribe's ability to nego-

tiate better terms for the Monticello Casino project, or any other casino project in the State of New York, there is also no guarantee that this new deal would even be considered for review by the Bureau of Indian Gaming. After all, how could this Tribe expect the Bureau of Indian Gaming to even look at another casino deal when the people's government have effectively thrown out the five years it has taken for the Monticello land to be taken into trust. It's time for the people to let this smokescreen, generated by the people's government to evaporate. It is time for the people to have complete access to the truth. This community is entitled to all details of this back-room deal.

The people's government know that we will be telling this community everything we can about what is going on, especially something as shady as this. So Gus McDonald has ordered that our phone be disconnected. He also ordered that if we reconnect, we have to use a different number. That will not be the case, our phones will be reconnected as the previously connected number: (518) 358-3604.

In the meantime, for further information, we may be reached at our home numbers: Charles Terrance at 358-2435, Barbara Lazore at 358-9224, Erma White Moore at (315) 389-4095, Bryan Garrow at 358-9040, Randall Conners at 358-2027, Debbie Terrance (315) 764-9362, Ed Smoke at 358-2480, Carol Herne at 358-2491 and Lois Thomas at 358-4878.

NYPA continued

Proposal the full context for this Project, including the negative socio-economic impacts of this project to area communities, especially, but certainly not limited to, the Mohawk community, and the environmental impacts of the project which affect fish and wildlife resources and the Mohawk communities."

The DOI letter raises the ownership of islands in the St. Lawrence River as an issue. Akwesasne has an ongoing land claims over those islands, including Barnhart Island where the project sits. Raddant states in the April 10 letter "In addition, since it is the United States' position that the islands in the St. Lawrence were unlawfully transferred, the Mohawks should be considered prospective landowners and consulted regarding development of land management standards."

Raddant also calls into question the \$72.7 million that NYPA claims its Proposal will provide in benefits. More specifically, Raddant argues the \$23.3 million set aside for the aquarium and ecological center and the \$6.8 million for eel issues are not enhancements required by the FPA. In Raddant's words "the total cost of NYPA's proposed project-related enhancements will be \$42.4 million in 2003 dollars, not \$72.7 million."

The March 22 NYPA Proposal (Reported in Indian Time Volume 18 Issue #12) was presented by John Sulloway, NYPA's relicensing director as their back-up plan in the event efforts to reach settlement with all parties are not successful.

NYPA has not met with the Mohawk governments since December 1999 when NYPA agreed to provide a response to Mohawk proposals related to relicensing. At the time, NYPA requested one proposal from the Mohawk community and they made it clear any funds provided to the community must be administered by an entity designated by all three Mohawk Councils.

MCA General Election

The following is a schedule for the upcoming General Elections for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne:

Nominations Saturday, May 13, 2000 9:00 am.-6:00 p.m.

Nominations for Grand Chief and District Chiefs for all 3 Districts within the Territory of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Advance Poll Voting Saturday, June 10, 2000 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Advance Poll Voting will be held at the St. Regis Recreation Centre for all districts of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

According to section 10(4) of the Akwesasne Election and Voting Customs Regulations any person wishing to vote at the advance poll must apply to the Chief Electoral Officer and receive consent before being permitted to vote at the advance poll.

Section 10(5) provides the following list of consideration by the CEO in approving advance poll voting: hospitalization, education, training, employment or travel commitments and physical incapacity.

Therefore, any person wishing to vote at the advance poll should submit their application, giving reasons for the request, to the Chief Electoral Officer.

General Election Saturday, June 24, 2000 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

General Election voting for the districts of Kanatakon, Kawenoke and Tsi Snaihne.

If any person has any questions please contact:

Clifford Sunday, Chief Electoral Officer
Administration Building II St. Regis, Quebec H0M 1A0
613-575-2348

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Press Release

Constitutional Government Causus to be held on Saturday, May 6th

ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE, HOGANSBURG, N.Y. (April 26, 2000) - The Election Board of the Constitutional Government will be accepting nominations for 7 positions at the annual Causus on Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m. This year the Causus will be held in the lobby of the Tribal Court, which is located in the basement of the HUD building on Route 37.

Nominations will be taken for two 2-year Legislative Council positions; two 3-year Legislative Council positions; one 4-year term of Chief Executive Officer; one 4-year term of Vice Chief Executive Officer and one 3-year term of Tribal Clerk.

The Election Board will accept nomination on the forms prescribed in the Act Relating to Elections and Voting Regulations. Accordingly, any person who is entitled to vote in the election also has the right to propose or second the nomination of any duly qualified person.

The Election Board is comprised of Executive Director/Tribe Clerk, Carol Herne, Deputy Clerk, Lois Thomas and Election Board members Rudy Hart, Cecil Garrow and Bernice Lazore.

For further information, members of the Election Board may be contacted at (518) 358-3604.

Niawen:kowa

Its easy to say Niawen but its harder to convey. The deep and heartfelt gratitude we really feel today. But maybe having said this much by now we've let you know your thoughtfulness means more to us than words will ever show.

A real big Niawen:kowa to all the businesses and people who donated their time, money, food and items for the Silent Auction and Jamboree. Niawen. We really are overwhelmed by the support of the community and appreciate it.

Niawen:kowa
Marie, Arvella & Derek Cook



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