

Request for Law Deeming Tobacco Illegal
Report on Activities
60 day Information Dissemination (PHASE 1)
Enníska\February – Enniskó:wa / March 2012

Summary

In Ohiaríhkó:wa / July 2010, the KLCC received a request for legislation from community member Akenhnhahse White. The request proposed two (2) things:

1. *The distribution and sale of any and all cigarettes within the Kahnawà:ke territory hereby be deemed illegal.*
2. *The mass production of any tobacco that is not strictly intended for personal uses, such as medicinal, be deemed illegal.*

Meetings with Mr White were held in Tsothohrkó:wa\January 2012 to discuss the request and the community information process and activities.

Activities included two (2) kiosks on Enníska\February 16th and 23rd; the K103 talk show on Enníska\February 23rd, and Eastern Door interview on Enníska\February 22nd and Channel 4 straight talk on Enníska\February 22nd, which was cancelled at the last minute due to a scheduling issue.

An additional Talk Show has been scheduled for 17 Onerahtókha / April 2012.
The CDMP has been scheduled for 22 Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2012.

Eastern Door Newspaper

Both the proponent and sponsor did an interview with the Eastern Door which appeared in the Enníska\February 24th issue. The interview was to explain the request, clarify statements from an earlier article and announce the kiosks and questionnaire.

Kiosk & Survey

The first Kiosk was held on Enníska\February 16th at the Services Complex.

Approximately 40 people stopped by. Fifteen (15) questionnaires were filled out and an additional ten (10) taken with a commitment to return it. Some people offered an opinion once they were informed of the issue and others just walked away.

The second kiosk was held on Enníska\February 23rd. Mr White was on site to field questions. An additional twelve (12) questionnaires were filled out and an additional ten or so taken for later return. Mr White was questioned by Elders shortly after lunch and later in the afternoon by another community member.

K103 Radio Talk Show

Both the proponent and sponsor appeared on the Talk show on February 23rd. The host was Lori Jacobs.

Only the sponsor appeared on the second show on 17 Onerahtókha / April to speak about the report on activities a sampling of comments received and announced the date of the CDMP session.

Questionnaire

A total of 31 questionnaires were filled out.

The request proposes two (2) things:

1. "the mass production of tobacco...be deemed illegal" and
2. "the distribution and sale of any all cigarettes....be deemed illegal."

Q 1. What do you think about this request?

1. I think it is wrong and is it going to apply to all our territory which includes the SSSL?
2. I don't think it is feasible.
3. I think this request is not thought through. Tobacco is a strong economy in Kahnawà:ke, employs hundreds. I really think he should be more concerned on the drugs here. Tobacco is a worldwide enjoyment for people. You would never be able to stop that. There are much more pressing issues that are priority. Ban Alcohol, drugs, teen pregnancy, welfare to minors under 25 should be in school or working.
4. I don't agree the sale or distribution should be deemed "illegal". Business ventures within Kahnawà:ke should be encouraged but regulated.
5. I disagree with both statements. To trade in tobacco is a right and we do not have much [many] other ways of making money.

6. Feasibility in today's micro/macro society?? – not immediately solvable. Therefore, step 1: since smoking is an unhealthy vice, follow the lead of the majority governments and corporations and tactfully proceed. Consider cost – benefits for all stakeholders.
7. No.
8. I believe there needs to be some regulation on the production and sale of tobacco. Perhaps deeming it illegal is somewhat harsh but something need[s] to be done. I am just not sure what.
9. It's our livelihood now.
10. Not a good thing, many people will be out of work. Welfare will once again be a main source of money for many families.
11. I think that the tobacco industry should be legal. Any and all production.
12. Ridiculous.
13. I believe the proposal addresses several important health factors within the community. It is in the best interest of the masses that all aspects of the tobacco industry be reviewed. Perhaps the health sector is most important besides economy that needs review. It is possible for this to be implemented in an industry that has already existed for many years.
14. I think it is extremely unreasonable and I hope nothing comes of it.
15. I like it but at the same time feel it might be unrealistic. I wish it could be different.
16. Not sure due to lack of knowledge of the situation.
17. As a non-smoker I like it, but in reality its too far-fetched.
18. Needs regulations – not prohibition.
19. Good idea.
20. Should be deemed legal with regulations for the health and welfare of people who do work there. Your heart is in the right place ...but it employs a lot of people in Kahnawà:ke and elsewhere. Although it made many families and other people millionaires, I don't think its right to do this now. It seems a lot of things are illegal in Kahnawà:ke. I know personally that some of the factories out there help people in our community; houses, mobile wheel chairs, down and out individuals, some with children and rehab. Yes, rehab. They paid to help people, medicine, hearing aids...etc. I think it should be regulated, but not with the MCK. You should have been born 30 years earlier.
21. B.S. Negative impact on community.
22. I think it's a huge undertaking with many branches to explore. Hope people keep in mind the collective right and not the individual right of our people to manufacture, sell and distribute tobacco and tobacco products.
23. There are pros and cons on this issue. I don't think it should be deemed illegal but I do think it should be regulated.
24. I totally support the absolute abolition of anything to do with the so called "tobacco trade".
25. I do not think the questions are worded the right way. I believe it should be regulated.

26. I think it is great to a point. But there is a point to be greedy. And any[one] and everyone trying to make a \$ to satisfy their own needs.
27. Tobacco is now part of economy – do not like the stigma of “contraband” or “smugglers” associated with cigarettes – think its too late for this
28. I think it’s a ridiculous request. Regulating to benefit the community is a better way to go. Why should the industry be deemed illegal?
29. I think it’s a little far fetched. Instead of banning the manufacture of tobacco, the Council should be working on regulating the industry. I know the KTA is presently doing this but they need more input from the Chiefs.
30. What motive could possibly give rise to a request like this? Tobacco has been grown and used for ceremony and money long before the arrival of the whiteman. How could we conceivably regard it as illegal?
31. This is a waste of time as it will not happen.

Q 2. Do you have any concerns that you would like to share?

1. Yes, our rights to free trade
2. I don’t like the strange people coming to town to buy cigarettes
3. “No Law” for this request... To Ban(ned). No! I think there is a group of people now meeting, on discussing regulations. I think it should be looked at very seriously and the tobacco people get something to regulate themselves. But for MCK, not to be in charge, but to stand up for our rights.
4. Having regulations for any business is good practice and will ensure safety standards, and honest business “etiquette” is being followed by all.
5. I believe the industry must be regulated as to quality control of the products and chemical content level should be on package so I know how much poison I’m inhaling.
6. This K-town is [in] particular must not be so “rogue”. We share this continent with millions whether we believe it or not. Hindsight of our past actions are as valuable as fore-sight.
7. Yes, make prices higher.
8. There should be zoning on cigarette factories and cigarette huts because they are an eyesore for our community.
9. It is our inherent right to trade.
10. Same as above. [see Q.1 # 11] It should stay legal.
11. Why would anyone want to stop our economy?
12. Because the industry continues to be unregulated, it seems that merely a handful of big enterprises really benefit monetarily. However, it does create jobs and other economy in the community. Regulation is a necessity.
13. The community and even the surrounding towns all benefit from our increased finances.
14. Health care for workers in the industry.

15. Too many young children are exposed to above [tobacco]. Lung cancer etc.!
16. In regards to Q.2, you should go after Quebec. They're the ones reaping in all the \$\$, or the big cig manufacturers. If cigs are not sold here people will go out of their way to buy them. What about Liquor?? Its here. What about Gambling?? Its here. What about the drugs, mobsters etc. Its all here....this is your white elephant in the room no one talks about in public.
17. My concern is that the law will be made by a few people and won't be followed by the majority of Kahnawa'kehró:non.
18. The white people who own and operate cigarette stores on Kahnawà:ke, including the one situated on ***** land on the 207 at the entrance to ***** operation. It is owned by ***** in Chateauguay.
19. Again I totally consider anything to do with cigarettes, illegal. Illegal in terms of this industry being against the Great Law of Peace.
20. I think some people are lucky to have a job. The young people make too much money and don't want to go to school. To move on in life for later, maybe they will have bad lungs.
21. #1 and #2 need to be regulated under a community law – would like to feel safe from the white people and the mob people who are connected to cigarettes – since “they” use our collective rights to blanket this, there should be % given to youth programs and education post secondary
22. There would be a lot more people without jobs, Social assistance would be on the rise.
23. What is the plan to enforce this law? Think of the impact economically, socially and what would replace the void? Liquor? Drugs?
24. Everyone knows that smoking is not good for you. But this request is not going to happen.

Question	Yes	No	Maybe Somewhat partially	Skipped
Are you directly involved in the Tobacco industry?	5	25		1
Do you have family involved in the Industry?	18	13		
Do you feel you or your family receive benefit from the industry?	14	16	C	
Do you feel you or your family is hurt by the industry?	9	20	C	1
Do you feel the Community receives benefit from the industry?	17**	10	2 A	1
Do you feel the Community is hurt by the industry?	12*	13	3 B	2

Additional Comments

Good luck in your quest.

Non-locals in town all hours of the day.

Two sided blade. (double edged sword)

A = to some degree but not as much as we could

B = Arguable

C = not directly

*=Yes but our collectivity may be at peril.

Unscrupulous outside business people may bring harm to our community

Too many factories

** a drop in the bucket

Verbal Comments from Kiosk

1. Its about time they get rid of it.
2. Don't care about Tobacco...(non-smoker)
3. Its people's livelihood...why change it?
4. Industry does good for community....why stop it?
5. What are the alternatives?
6. This is not well thought out.
7. There are too many people at risk [to do this].
8. And what? Go on welfare?
9. These are issues of self sufficiency ..jobs ..income...
10. Whole families are supported....Kids...
11. Some people did not want to respond because they felt it was a useless exercise.