

Questionnaire on Membership in Kahnawà:ke and the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law

TO THE RESPONDENT

Nia:wen for taking the time to answer these questions on membership. The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Membership Department values your opinion. You are the stakeholders in this review of the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law and you are participating for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The information will give the MCK your insight, your opinion, and your support to several options on issues involving the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law review process. This knowledge will guide the MCK and identify any draft changes to the Law. It will give a clearer direction on membership criteria to determine who will be on the MCK Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Registry. Results will be shared with the community.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please answer all questions. We ask some information about you so that we can see the age group and gender of respondents. Some of the questions have a short introduction and then the question. Some questions have more than one part to it.

Some questions ask you to circle on a line how much you agree with a statement.

Totally Agree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Totally Disagree
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Yet other questions ask you to check a box for options. The questionnaire has 12 questions asked. Take your time and if you are not sure about something, please ask. When you are done, give it back to the person who gave it to you. Niawenhkowa.

SOME FACTS ABOUT YOU

Please check the appropriate box:

1. Sex Female Male
2. Age under 15 years 45 – 54 years
 16 – 24 years 55 – 64 years
 25 – 34 years 65 – 74 years
 35 – 44 years 75 years or older
3. Do you live in Kahnawà:ke? Yes No
4. Is this your first time participating in a Community Decision Making Session?
 Yes No
5. Are you currently on the Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Registry? Yes No

————— Please proceed with the questionnaire —————

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1. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, membership criteria that determines who is a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, therefore determines who can receive services administered by the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, requires a person to:

- be identified as a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke at birth,
- be born of 2 members or born of 1 member and the other parent being one of the 5 Nations,
- have 4 or more Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents,
- have a clan or will get a clan affiliation following a process.

What do you think about the membership criteria for family blood line? Please check one option that best matches your opinion on membership criteria.

- Keep criteria as described above – *no change* in the current Membership Law.
- Keep criteria as described above but use *50%* Mohawk blood quantum instead of Great-Grandparents.
- Keep criteria as described above but use *three* Great-Grandparents instead of four.
- Keep criteria as described above but use *two* Great-Grandparents instead of four.

2. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, a person who has Indigenous lineage or who has little or no Kanien'kehá:ka lineage may apply to be confirmed as a member if the person is married or living in common law relationship with a member.

Do you agree with these criteria? Please circle your level of agreement.

Totally Agree Somewhat Agree Agree Somewhat Disagree Totally Disagree

2a. Do you agree that being married and living in common law relationship are equal conditions to be considered for membership?

- Yes No

2b. If a person who has Indigenous lineage gained membership through marriage to a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, should membership for that person be kept when the marriage dissolves?

- Yes No

3. Do you think if non-natives consistently become part of the community, that over time this will give the Federal government enough power to take away our reserve and Mohawk status?

- Yes No

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4. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, a member who *adopts a child* who has no Kanien'kehá:ka or Indigenous lineage, that child is not eligible for membership. Do you agree with this? Please circle your level of agreement.

Totally Agree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Totally Disagree
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5. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, an *adopted child* who has 4 or more Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents and normally resides in the Territory, at age 18 years must reaffirm a Member's Pledge within a year of turning 18 years old or their membership can be revoked.

What do you think should be the course of action at age 18 years for an adopted child with 4 or more Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents? Please check one option that best matches your opinion.

- I agree with the statement above, at 18 years a Member's Pledge must be made to keep membership – *no change* in the current Membership Law.
- When an adopted child with 4 Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents turns 18 years old, the person will make an *application* for membership as an adult member.
- When an adopted child with 4 Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents turns 18 years old, the person will present themselves to the Council of Elders and *request* adult membership.
- When an adopted child with 4 Kanien'kehá:ka Great-Grandparents turns 18 years old, the person will *notify* the Membership Registrar and request to be placed on the Registry and be issued a band card.

6. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, a person is eligible to apply for permission to be a non-member resident if the person has *some* Kanien'kehá:ka lineage, maintains family ties and has made positive contribution to the community.

Who do you think should be eligible to apply for non-member residency? Please check one option that best matches your opinion on eligibility for non-member residency.

- As above, the person must have some Kanien'kehá:ka lineage, maintain family ties and has made positive contribution to the community to be a non-member resident – no change in the current Membership Law.
- As above, but make a change so that any person with or without some Kanien'kehá:ka lineage who is married to a member can apply to be a non-member resident.
- As above, but make a change so that any person with or without some Kanien'kehá:ka lineage who is living in a common law relationship with a member can apply to be a non-member resident.

Questionnaire on Membership in Kahnawà:ke and the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law

7. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, membership criteria refers to “community ties.”

What would best describe “community ties” to you? Please check all options that best describe what you think “community ties” mean.

- Having your own biological child.
- Being an adopted child raised in Kahnawà:ke.
- Work in the community for more that 10 years.
- Having biological family in the Kahnawà:ke (parent, sister, brother, aunt or uncle for example).
- Married to a Mohawk who is a member.
- Living in a common law relationship with a Mohawk who is a member.
- Other. Please say: _____

8. The Kahnawà:ke Membership Law should allow all non- natives married to a member to live in Kahnawà:ke. Do you agreement with this statement? Please circle your level of agreement.

Totally Agree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Totally Disagree
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9. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, the Council of Elders is appointed by the community and is a group made up of not less than 9 and not more that 15 Elders.

Please check one option best matches your opinion on how many people should make up the Council of Elders.

- Keep the same number, 9-15 Elders – no change in the current Membership Law.
- Lower the number to 5 – 9 Elders, with one extra to be an alternate.
- Lower the number to 5 – 7 Elders, with one extra to be an alternate.
- Keep the same number (9-15 Elders) but have the Council of Elders be divided into small groups to make membership decisions on a rotating basis.

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10. Currently in the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, the definition of an *Elder* for the Council of Elders refers to being an adult, a registered member, one who has community trust, respect and confidence and has knowledge of our customs.

Should there be more or other requirements to be on the Council of Elders to make decision on membership based on the Membership Law? Please check one option best matches your opinion.

- Yes, being on the Council of Elders should have requirements besides what is currently described above.
- No, you could be on the Council of Elders if you want to, if the community does not disagree.

10a. Should the Council of Elders be selected by an election?

- Yes No

10b. Should the Council of Elders serve for a limited number of years?

- Yes No

11. If the Kahnawà:ke Membership Law allowed non-natives to live in the community, should there be any requirements for residency? Please check all that you think should be required for non-natives to live here.

- Be married to a Mohawk member.
- Be required to pay fees for residency services. (Residency services may apply to school bus services, snow removal and road maintenance, and land use fees for example. Fees, for example, can be used to lower the MCK annual community maintenance costs).
- Should leave the community when the person is no longer married to the Mohawk.
- Should live here until any biological children reach the age of 18 years.
- Should have residency criteria (contribute to the community, volunteer for example) identified by the Council of Elders.
- Kahnawà:ke is not for non-natives.
- Other. Please say: _____

12. Have you ever been told that if you marry or live with a non-native that you would not be able to live in Kahnawà:ke with the non-native?

- Yes No

Niawenhkowa for taking time to complete the questionnaire