

**KAHNAWÀ:KE MEMBERSHIP LAW  
FIRST HEARING - Meeting #11  
Golden Age Club  
12, Onerahtókha/ April 2016  
6:00 PM- 8:30 PM**

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION**

**FACILITATOR:**

Joe Delaronde

**RECORDER:**

Tracey Goodleaf

**RESOURCE PEOPLE:**

Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (Lead)  
Alexis Shackleton  
Shari Lahache  
Chief Arlene Jacobs  
Rose-Ann Morris  
Arlene Beauvais  
Kevin Fleischer  
Leslie Skye (KLCC)

**AGENDA**

6:00 P.M. **OPENING** - Leslie Skye

6:05 P.M. **INTRODUCTION/MEETING GUIDELINES** - Leslie Skye

6:10 P.M. **KAHNAWÀ:KE MEMBERSHIP LAW AMENDMENTS:**

- **THE DEFINITION OF 'GREAT GRAND PARENT'(continued discussion)**
- **SEC.15 APPLICATION PROCESS/APPROVED KAHNAWÀ:KE RESIDENTS starting at 15.1(a)**
- **SEC.16 ENTITLEMENTS OF KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA OF KAHNAWÀ:KE**
- **SEC. 17 PRIVILEGES OF APPROVED KAHNAWÀ:KE RESIDENTS**
- **SEC. 18 RESPONSIBILITIES OF KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA OF KAHNAWÀ:KE**
- **ANY RELEVANT/RELATED DEFINITIONS**

8:25 P.M. **NEXT STEPS** - Joe Delaronde

8:30 P.M. **CLOSING** - Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

**Definition:**

**"Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent"** means a great grandparent who

- 1) has Kanien'kehá:ka lineage or
- 2) was a Mohawk on the Mohawk Registry or
- 3) was/is a member or recognized as a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke on the Kahnawà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Registry.

**DISCUSSION:**

The discussion began with the explanation of several example *LINEAGE CHARTS* (previously requested at the CDMP session held on March 22, 2016) that were drawn up by the Membership Department. Since an applicant would not be eligible if their lineage was between 0 to 3 great grandparents, only examples involving four (4) "required" great grandparents were shown on the charts in various scenarios.

One chart showed that as of **March 31, 2016**, there are 1200 persons 18 years and older having four great-grandparents with "some" Kanien'kehá:ka lineage (both on and off reserve) who would be eligible to apply for membership under the current (2003) law. (Their eligibility would be based upon other criteria in the application process as well.) The chart assumed that 3 of the great-grandparents were 100% with the 4th great-grandparent having less than 25%, 25%, 50% and, 50% and over blood quantum. Currently, those 1200 persons, both on and off reserve with different lineage backgrounds, are on the Federal list but not on the KKR and may be eligible to be on the KKR under the existing (2003) law. The different lineage backgrounds of 4 great-grandparents were illustrated on charts and diagrams.

In the 2003 Kahnawà:ke Membership Law, there was no minimum blood percentage required of the great-grandparents, and this, if not rectified, might result in a drop of blood quantum in the future generations. "Some Kanien'kehá:ka lineage" is too vague. Therefore, the Membership Department is proposing 25% as a starting point **minimum** blood quantum for the great-grandparents. The Membership Department feels 50 percent is too high of a threshold.

For the next hour, discussions on different scenarios were had amongst all.

**Comment by facilitator:** I don't see a lot of support for 25%. As a matter of fact, I don't see any support for 25%. It was the starting point. 25% is out, over 50% is out. It seems to be geared toward somewhere in between for the requirement of great grandparent.

**Comment:** In the medical world they look at the DNA. Our DNA is different as Onkwéhonwe. We are biologically special. We need to protect that. If we go lower, we will wash that out. We have to keep those markers. We have to keep ourselves as much Onkwéhonwe, Kanien'kehá:ka as possible.

**Comment by Membership Department:** Before the moratorium on mixed marriages in 1981, there was a lot of marrying out in the community. There are people in the Longhouse even, who don't meet half, but speak the language, know the culture, etc. Those people, later on, aren't going to meet the great grandparent requirement, based on a threshold of 50%. You're going to knock out a lot of people. You're trying to protect for the future, but you will also discredit as great-grandparents those that are a product of mixed marriages. They were born here, raised here and lived here, etc. (if 50% blood quantum is used as the standard for great grandparent).

**Comment:** When you make a decision, it's for the collective and for the good of everyone, and for seven generations in the future. If you do make a decision that goes against the collective, you will suffer. More often it will be your children and your grandchildren that will suffer. That's our (Traditional) law.

**One suggestion:** Recognize as half: 45 to 50% and married back in to Kanien'kehá:ka (only way) doesn't include people already on the KKR. This shouldn't be the only criterion. People don't get married in this day and age.

**Another suggestion:** Just use the 45 percent.

This discriminates against people already here. There will be no internal consistency within the law with such a change, and we will run into problems. This will be creating a second tier of members and result in discrimination, etc.

**Comment:** People were grandfathered in previous to 1981. In 1981 the Mohawk Registry began via blood quantum.

Membership is about 6400 members...there are 1200 people out there that can apply to be members...there are a whole bunch of others that are status Indians with band cards. 1981 was the standard. Moving forward we can set standards; get a clan, learn the culture, etc. to become a member. We can't even agree with the 4 great grandparents. Don't set the bar so high. We need to set a standard for a great-grandparent: if you're on the Mohawk Registry, or the KKR, or you have 45 percent lineage and more. We can make the decision in 2016. By creating tiers of membership, we might be taking rights from someone who was a member.

In 1981 non-native women who married were on the Mohawk registry. They are not on KKR now. However, they are still on INAC list. (Rights for those on KKR: residency, land allotment, water and sewer, Tioweroton, education, etc.)

**Comment:** It should be 50 percent or more. If they don't meet that, then 45 percent and being married/living common law with a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke.

Automatic member: For example, in the case of a person 43 percent married to 47 percent, both members, in the future can't be great-grandparents. A child born of this relationship is an automatic member. But the parent cannot be great-grandparents in the future. There's a paradox, it won't work. Some on KKR are higher than others.

**Comment:** We shouldn't go back on what is already here. Not a one size fits all. Suggest a list of several items to consider for a great-grandparent.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on this subject. We need to be able to defend and uphold the law. Not shooting it down, just bringing up the concerns.

From now on; we can start here. People who have very low blood quantum and who are already on the KKR are going to slip under the loop hole for now, but in the future, it won't happen.

The “or”, “or”, “or”, has to stay in the definition. It’s a standard. The 1981 Mohawk Law was in effect. Blood quantum was in effect, people got on the Mohawk Registry.

**Facilitator:** So, Kanien'kehá:ka lineage is at 40? 45%?

We can't vote tonight.

**Facilitator:** No, not tonight.

**OUTCOME:**

Community attendees felt that another meeting was needed with more discussion. The general feeling around the room was that this process cannot be rushed. However, it was clear that the 25% minimum for great grandparents by the Membership Department was not accepted as a viable option.

**CONSENSUS REACHED:**

**There was no consensus reached on the definition of a Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent.**

Meeting closed at 8:30 pm. by Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer. The next meeting is to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Golden Age Club.

Approved by:

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Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

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Date

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Alexis Shackleton,

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Date

Director of Client Based Services