

KAHNAWÀ:KE MEMBERSHIP LAW
FIRST HEARING – Meeting #12
Golden Age Club
17, Onerahtohkó:wa /May 2016
6:00 PM– 8:30 PM

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

FACILITATORS:

Joe Delaronde

CHIEFS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Martin Leborgne

RECORDER:

Caroline McComber

RESOURCE PEOPLE:

Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (Lead)

Rose-Ann Morris, Registrar

Chief Arlene Jacobs

Shari Lahache

Kevin Fleischer

Leslie Skye - KLCC

AGENDA

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

6:05 P.M. **INTRODUCTION/MEETING GUIDELINES** - Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

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** - Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

8:25 P.M. **NEXT STEPS** - Joe Delaronde & Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

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

The meeting began with a recap of the April 12th meeting, conveying that consensus had not been reached on the **definition of “Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”**. The Membership Department had been asked to present numbers in-terms of how many individuals would be impacted if the definition of **“Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”** were to incorporate blood quantum into the definition. The proposed amendment to the 2003 Law defines **“Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”** as having Kanien’kehá:ka lineage, however this could minimally mean anything over 0 % (some). Many were not comfortable with the terminology or idea of “some.” From several prior meetings, there was a suggestion on the floor to define a minimum blood quantum which was discussed. The Membership Department and Portfolio Chief had previously proposed a minimum twenty-five percent (25%) blood quantum. Since then, there has been much deliberation concerning whether 25% is too low and if blood quantum were reincorporated back into the definition, would blood quantum be a requirement for the applicant as well?

The Membership Registrar provided statistics illustrating the number of current members on the Kahnawà:ke Kanien’kehá:ka Registry (KKR) falling under the different blood quantum amounts.

KKR Members Registered Under #070 Kahnawà:ke KKR Members Total (6408) As of April 30, 2016	
Less (>) than 25%	48
25-30 %	80
31-40%	162
41-49 %	236
50%	655
50 % Plus	5227

THE DEFINITION OF ‘GREAT GRAND PARENT’ (discussion continued from April 12, 2016)

“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:

A suggestion was made that a general definition could be written for **“Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”**, and that further into the Law the drafting team could develop a new section that outlines all criteria for the **“Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”**. In essence leave the definition as is and characterize it later on in the Law

It was noted that blood quantum is a necessity: to simply make allowance for individuals to marry back in is insufficient as it is all dependent on the lineage of who one marries.

There were two motions presented:

1. **"Definition of Great Grandparent" - A registered fourth (4th) generation Mohawk Member recognized on the Mohawk Registry with half Kanien'kehá:ka distinct Native lineage"**

This proposed definition would provide opportunity for the children to marry back in raising their lineage. There was an inquiry to the group whether "half" would suffice to be 50%? Furthermore, a community member mentioned that the Membership Law must settle at keeping 50% as the minimum blood quantum, cautioning that any buffer zone accepting individuals with 48% or less blood quantum lineage prevents moving forward with the Law and furthers assimilation.

The legal advisor commented that from observations made at past meetings, there is the sense that some individuals are trying to control who can be a member through the definition of a Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent.

2. **"Definition of Great Grandparent" (Mother or Father)**

MUST be one of the following:

- ***50% Blood quantum***
- ***Half Indian and has had children with an Onkwehonwe***
- ***Have a Clan***
- ***On KKR list***
- ***Was a Mohawk on the Mohawk Registry***

It was noted that if the consensus were to be the 50% threshold (as an absolute criterion), according to the statistics provided by the Membership Department, there would be over five-hundred individuals on the KKR that would be ineligible to be considered a "*Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent*" as per the definition.

Questioned was how much percentage is required to be on the KKR? The statistical chart presented represents the current total membership on the KKR. Years ago where individuals married out and had children, then their children married out and had children, the blood quantum became less and less, these individuals were not breaking any rules as the Law (The Indian Act) at that time allowed outside marriages. Those persons with acquired status who were on the "*Mohawk Registry*" were ineligible for and therefore omitted from the KKR.

The issue was raised that numbers (50%) cannot be used in considering eligibility as a "*Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent*" noting that there are no individuals of 100% lineage.

One community member shared that her father married a non-native in 1950 and she was considered "half" at the time. Later on it was discovered that one of the Great Grandparents was non-native therefore the father was not of 100% lineage which then lessened her "half" status. For the individuals of that generation *if 50%* is defined as the minimum, she would not currently be considered a "*Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent*" under the new amendments.

A motion was made to accept the second proposed definition, expressing that it is expansive enough to capture many different scenarios like the above. After much debate it was decided to remove "half" and "50%" and insert the term "*Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen*" as it is a Mohawk term that has cultural meaning. The term "*Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen*" generally translated, expresses that of an individual who is of two cultures in approximate equal parts. It was also decided to remove "have a Clan" and proposed that this be incorporated into the Preamble whereby its importance can be acknowledged as an oral tradition after the Membership Department confirmed that Clans cannot be used as a measure for membership due to the Membership Department not having this information on individuals. It was agreed that the second definition proposal shall be written as follows:

"Definition of Great Grandparent" (Mother or Father)

MUST be one or more of the following (could have one or all):

- *On KKR list and at a minimum be Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen (half-blood meaning equal parts)*
- *Was a Mohawk on the Mohawk Registry and at a minimum be Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen (half-blood meaning equal parts)*
- *Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen before 1981*
- *Sha'tehatinekwensi:hen that have had children with an Onkwehonwe*

In conclusion, after the two motions, the first was withdrawn in support for the second proposed motion as amended. It was agreed that this amended motion will be the starting point for the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 at the Golden Age Club.

No consensus was reached.

Approved by:

Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

Date

Rose-Ann Morris, Registrar

Date