

KAHNAWÀ:KE MEMBERSHIP LAW
FIRST HEARING – Meeting #13
Golden Age Club
7, Ohiaríha /June 2016
6:00 PM– 8:30 PM

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

FACILITATORS:

Joe Delaronde
Ron Skye

RESOURCE PEOPLE:

Rose-Ann Morris, Kahnawà:ke Membership Registrar
Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (Lead)
Alexis Shackleton
Arlene Beauvais
Kevin Fleischer
Chief Arlene Jacobs
Leslie Skye - KLCC

RECORDER:

Caroline McComber

CHIEFS IN ATTENDANCE:

Grand Chief Joe Norton

AGENDA

6:00 P.M. **OPENING** – Leslie Skye

6:05 P.M. **INTRODUCTION/MEETING GUIDELINES** – Chief Arlene Jacobs

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 ANY RELEVANT/RELATED DEFINITIONS - Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer**

8:25 P.M. **NEXT STEPS** – Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

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

The meeting began with a recap of the May 17th, 2016 meeting with Chief Arlene Jacobs conveying that consensus had not been reached on the **definition of “Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”**. However after the two motions from the May 17th meeting, the first motion was withdrawn in support for the second proposed motion as amended. It was agreed that this amended motion, seen below in blue, will be the starting point for this evening’s discussion.

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.

“Definition of Great Grandparent” (Mother or Father)
(Proposed definition from the May 17th, 2016 discussion)

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

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

DISCUSSION:

A proposal was made to the floor to further amend the proposed definition of **“Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent”** to now reflect as the term **“Sha’teienekwensí:hen”** (meaning an individual is made up of two equal parts of blood) in place of the of **“Sha’tehatinekwensí:hen”**, as this was deemed grammatically incorrect.

“Definition of Kanien’kehá:ka Great Grandparent” (Mother or Father)

This ancestor must be of one the following:

- ***Sha’teienekwensí:hen***
- ***On former Mohawk Registry and Sha’teienekwensí:hen***
- ***On the Kahnawà:ke Kanien’kehá:ka Registry and Sha’teienekwensí:hen***

The rationale for the above amended language is that it provides a better description and includes the standards of different eras, emphasizing further that oral tradition is a large part of our culture; therefore it is important to ensure that each (era) is captured within the definition.

Throughout the evening’s discussion there was much debate on the 50% blood quantum requirement with the concern being that, in theory, the majority of Kahnawà:ke membership essentially are not of one-hundred-percent (100%) **Kanien’kehá:ka** lineage. Many were apprehensive on ways the 50% number may impact individuals past, present and future.

OUTCOME:

Questions and motions presented:

- ❖ A motion was presented to the floor for the purposes of the definition of Great Grandparent, would a forty-five (45%) to 50% reference be considered for a Great Grandparent? ***This motion was rejected by the group.***
- ❖ The group was then polled on whether blood quantum (terminology) ought to be replaced back into the draft Law? ***This was also rejected by the majority with two (2) individuals opposing.***
- ❖ Further, the group was also polled on the inclusion/replacement of the terminology ***Sha'teienekwenhsí:hen*** in the definition? ***Consensus reached.***
- ❖ And a final motion came from the floor to accept the above motion to include that ***Sha'teienekwenhsí:hen*** be translated/defined as a person with forty-seven percent (47% minimum) or more blood quantum. (***For clarity, note that although the term "blood quantum" was rejected, the proposed 47% minimum blood quantum reference will be further defined at the next CDMP meeting on the Membership Law.***)
- ❖ The participants were asked by a resource person about whether it was intended that this decision would impact those currently listed as members on the KKR, who would consequently not meet the requisite blood quantum and would not be eligible to be considered a Kanien'kehá:ka Great Grandparent in the future. Only one participant indicated that it would have such an effect.

CONSENSUS REACHED:

In conclusion, **CONSENSUS** was reached to submit a draft definition with the term **Sha'teienekwenhsí:hen** translated to: an individual originating from two cultures in approximate equal measure. There were six (6) individuals who objected to the motion to define **Sha'teienekwenhsí:hen** with the preference to preserve the 50% Kanien'kehá:ka blood quantum requirement.

The draft definition and proposed 47% blood quantum will be the first item on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for June 14th, 2016 at the Golden Age Club.

Approved by:

Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer

Date

Rose-Ann Morris,
Kahnawà:ke Membership Registrar

Date