

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF KAHNAWAKE

AT A BAND MEETING HELD AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL ON SUNDAY JUNE 17TH. AT 8:00 P.M., I STATED TO THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC THAT I WAS NOT WILLING TO CARRY ON AS CHIEF OF THE BAND IF I HAD TO CONTINUE WORKING UNDER THE INDIAN ACT. I STATED THAT I HAD CONSIDERED THIS FOR QUITE SOME TIME, AND THAT THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE BEAUVAIS AND RIVERMONT QUARRY'S HAD FINALLY BROUGHT ME TO THIS POINT. THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT HAD PREVENTED ME FROM PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

I STATED THAT I WOULD FROM NOW ON WORK ON INDIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THIS INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE GREAT LAW OF PEACE.

I OFFERED TO RESIGN IF THE PEOPLE AND COUNCIL DISAGREED WITH THIS POSITION.

DURING DISCUSSIONS AT THIS MEETING, VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BAND ASKED QUESTIONS SUCH AS:

DO WE HAVE TO CHANGE RELIGION?

- THE ANSWER IS NO.

DO WE HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR CARS AND TELEVISION?

- THE ANSWER IS NO.

AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, 99% OF THE APPROXIMATE PEOPLE PRESENT STOOD UP AND SUPPORTED MY POSITION, WHICH WAS ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT.

I BELIEVE THIS TO BE JUST, BECAUSE WHEN I RAN FOR ELECTION I STATED TO THE PEOPLE THAT I WOULD BE WORKING FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO WORKING TO GET RID OF THE INDIAN ACT.

I INFORMED THE PEOPLE PRESENT THAT I WOULD BE MEETING ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 18TH. AT 4 O'CLOCK WITH THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THOSE COUNCILLORS WHO WERE NOT PRESENT AT SUNDAY'S MEETING. I ALSO STATED THAT I WOULD BE ARRANGING A MEETING BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS.

ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, THE COUNCIL MET TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. EVERYONE SUPPORTED THE POSITION AS DISCUSSED AT THE BAND MEETING, BEING THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED TOWARDS INDIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER THE GREAT LAW OF PEACE AND A MEETING SHOULD BE CALLED WITH THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS TO BE HELD EITHER IN CAUGHNAWAGA OR ELSEWHERE.

THE PRESENT ELECTED COUNCIL HAS NOT RESIGNED, NOR HAS IT BEEN REPLACED. IT MUST CONTINUE TO ACT IN A PROVISIONAL CAPACITY SO AS TO MAINTAIN THE SERVICES TO THE RESERVE, AS WELL AS BEING THE MECHANISM TO TRY TO PERSUADE ALL THE POPULATION TO PROCEED IN THE DIRECTION OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

I WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE PEOPLE OF KANAWAKE THAT YOU TRY TO FIND OUT AND UNDERSTAND THIS GREAT LAW. I ALSO BEG ALL FACTIONS TO LOOK AT THIS MOVEMENT IN A POSITIVE MANNER SO THAT IT WILL BE GOOD FOR OUR PEOPLE.

IT IS NOT THE TIME FOR A POWER STRUGGLE, BECAUSE AS IT IS, THINGS WON'T BE EASY, AND I ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND TOLERANCE.

WE WILL BE MEETING WITH THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND THEN A BAND MEETING WILL BE CALLED WHERE THE PEOPLE CAN ASK QUESTIONS AND WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE PROPER ANSWERS.

IN PEACE & FRIENDSHIP,

Chief Andrew I. Delisle

CHIEF ANDREW I. DELISLE
MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KANAWAKE
JUNE 19, 1979.