

August 1, 2017

Kanehsatà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Territory

RE: Illegal Housing Development and Land Fraud on Traditional Kanien'kehá:ka Territory in Kanehsatà:ke

Canada's lack of interest to Intervene in Kanehsatà:ke's 300 Year Old Land Dispute promotes situations of conflict and does not uphold the Honor of the Crown!

As Kanien'kehá:ka of Kanehsatà:ke, we are obligated by our Constitution Kaianera'shera'kó:wa to protect our lands and our people. We return to express our dismay and disappointment of the lack of good will by the government of Canada to intervene in halting the development taking place on our traditional territory of Kanehsatà:ke (also known as "OKA"). Canada, Quebec and Oka knowingly continue their efforts of collusion to defraud present and future Kanien'kehá:ka generations from enjoying our lands and its resources.

We also reiterate our opposition Bill S-24, the "*Kanesatake Interim Land Management Act*" which contributes to our long standing land dispute with Canada. S-24 has only benefited Oka and third party interests, condoning the land dispossession of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kanehsatà:ke, forcing us into situations of conflict. This Act of Parliament was passed fraudulently and causes the Crown to infringe upon land rights Kanien'kehá:ka of Kanehsatà:ke.

In spite of years of multiple generations of requests by Kanehsata'kehró:non to settle this long standing historical dispute, Canada has yet to intervene in this injustice and so land fraud continues. We have been deprived the security of our lands, for over 300 years now due to the fact that Canada bases its sovereignty on the racist Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius. Archaic laws based upon racial superiority and economic agendas rather than respect for the Indigenous peoples of this continent.

During the 1990 Crisis in Kanehsatà:ke, the federal negotiator Bernard Roy, stated his commitment to deal with the Longhouse people of Kanehsatà:ke on all issues dealing with land on our traditional territory. The Federal government never fulfilled that duty to consult and to include the traditional people of Kanehsatà:ke in land negotiations.

Instead, after the 1990 Crisis, Canada sold more of our land of which includes a parcel of our precious pine forest, to a private land developer rather than returning the land to the people of Kanehsatà:ke. As a consequence Les Collines d'Oka began development of luxury homes in the 1990's in spite of Rotinonhseshá:ka – the People of the Longhouse stating their opposition to it.

Since our last encounter with Mayor Quevillon of Oka, we have requested Minister Bennett to come to Kanehsatà:ke to speak with the community. On July 15th Minister Bennett agreed to

visit the community but she has yet to respond as to when. Minister Bennett also stated that she did not know what “they could do”! Canada’s silence indicates a lack of good will and faith ignoring its duty to uphold the “Honour of the Crown”.

We stand united in the protection of our lands, but we cannot allow the colonially created band council to speak on our behalf. Treaties were created with Onkwehón:we nations, and the original treaties remain under the authority of *Rotinonhsheshá:ka – the People of the Longhouse*. We have been aware for some time now through bureaucrats in INAC, that the Mohawk Council of Kaneshatà:ke has been in discussions with the *Municipalité d’Oka* without informing the community and without obtaining the free prior and informed consent of Kaneshata’kehró:non.

We therefore ask the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould and Minister Carolyn Bennet of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to intervene and halt all development on our traditional territory so that they may uphold the Honour of the Crown, which is their own constitutional duty.

Canada must also denounce the Doctrine of Discovery that justifies its acts of land theft and dispossession and which criminalizes Indigenous peoples land defenders.

While there were no cell phones and social media to help our cause in 1990, today we take this opportunity to help Canadians become more educated and aware of their colonial history. This is an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate its sincerity for reconciliation and bring a resolution to this 300 year old land dispute.

In the meantime, we the concerned people of Kaneshatà:ke:

- reject any measures that will bring about the extinguishment of our land rights – as in the *“Interim Kaneshatà:ke (Kaneshatà:ke) Land Management Act”*
- respectfully urge the government of Canada and Quebec to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples in all land negotiations that also incorporates Kaianerasherá:kó:wa (the Great Shining Peace); and that Rotinonhsheshá:ka – the People of the Longhouse be the lead in any and all land negotiations.
- we oppose any fraudulent land sales by Les Collines d’Oka and the Municipalité d’Oka along with any further construction of homes on Kanien’kehá:ka traditional territory by GBD Construcion
- demand a halt to any development in “Parc Nationale d’Oka” which is traditional Kanien’kehá:ka Territory and demand the return of our cultural artifacts taken from Oka Park;

- we reject the implementation of Oka's second hand water system which purports to provide 'clean' water [to certain segments of our community]. It is a ruse and instead its true intention is to support the mining of uranium and niobium on our territory: a project by Niocan and others, that has been rejected several times by Kanehsatà:ke. The damages suffered to our aquifers will affect present and future generations who will be deprived of our water source which the majority of Kanehsatà:ke presently use in their homes.

It is time now for Canada to uphold its international human rights obligations and respect Indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination. Canada must halt the land fraud it has created and intervene on all afore mentioned issues.

Skén:nen – in peace

Concerned Kanien'kehá:ka of Kanehsatà:ke

Unceded Kanehsatà:ke Kanien'kehá:ka Territory