



Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) Language & Culture Newsletter

Seskéha/Seskehkó:wa 2017

August/September 2017

Seskehkó:wa 11
(September 11)

UPDATE

Kanien'kéha and Cultural Classes Coming Soon...

The Kontinonhstats - Mohawk Language Custodian Association (MLCA) are very proud to announce that we will once again be offering Kanien'kéha classes. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join our language classes that offer Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels to enthusiastic learners.

The Kontinonhstats - Mohawk Language Custodian Association will also have:

- Wednesday Craft Nights – corn husk doll making, raised beadwork, and other fun activities

2016-2017 saw a partnership between the Kanehsatà:ke Education Center, the Mohawk Council and Kontinonhstats – MLCA that resulted in a strong commitment to promote, protect and preserve our precious legacy – the gift of our Indigenous Kanien'kéha language and culture. Because of this partnership, seven dedicated Kanien'kehá:ka individuals are immersed in the language while also being mentored by our expert, fluent Kanien'kéha teachers as Teacher Assistants.

Last year's language learners enjoyed presentations by the Cultural Center on pottery, wampum, women's responsibilities, Tewa'a:raton, a number of legends and other historical issues.

MLCA would like to thank all the Kanien'kéha learners and our talented teachers who attended/taught the classes held at the Cultural Center. It was so encouraging to see beginners, intermediate, semi- and fluent speakers coming every week, learning our ancestral language in a fun and welcoming environment. Every one of you contributed to the success of our language classes.

This year will follow the same hours and days as last year. Our experienced, fluent teachers will teach: **(Tentative schedule)**

Monday to Thursday: 9 am to 12 pm **or** 1 pm to 4 pm

Tuesday Evenings: 6 pm to 8 pm – mixed levels

Wednesday Evenings: craft night

Friday (employees): 12 pm to 2 pm (to be confirmed with MCK & KEC)

For more information or to register for our 2017-2018 schedule, you can:

- call our office at (450)479-1651, ext. 701
- in person at 14 A Só:se Onahsakèn:rat, Kanehsatà:ke Cultural Center

Canada to pass Indigenous Language Law

Canada is currently “engaging” Indigenous peoples and organizations across the country to gain support and advice on how this Indigenous Language Law will look like; will our Indigenous languages be recognized as “official” languages, as Bolivia does for its’ 36 Indigenous languages, how it will be funded; what it will fund; and its implementation timelines for our communities.

It is important legislation – *if* – it is fully funded to meet Indigenous peoples demand that it equitably support Indigenous languages as they currently fund French and English language programs in Canada, with special consideration for small communities. *If* this proposed law protects and promotes our rights to be educated in our language – in Early childhood centers, Immersion Schools for primary, secondary and Adult Education programs; to provide equitable funding for staffing of teaching staff, Teacher Assistants, professional development, curriculum development and researchers to ensure entire curriculum is current and updated on par with or exceeds provincial ministries of education guidelines.

In particular, how will this law impact everyday life in our communities, our programs and services and competency levels for program delivery, thus ensuring our human right to our ancestral language. Do we see Kanien'kéha as an integral part of citizenship in our Nation? Our leadership?