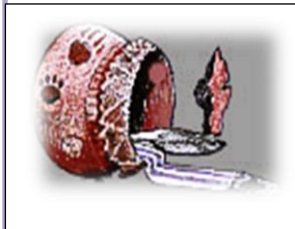


**Kontinonhstats ne Kanien'kéha – Mohawk Language Custodians Association  
Association pour La Préservation de la langue Mohawk**

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*Language – Culture – History – Curriculum - Books*

*Kentenhkó:wa 2016*

*Ionkwara'sé:she tsi Kanehsata'kehró:non na'akwaia'tó:ten ne tsi...*

*We are proud of being Kanehsata'kehró:non because....*

In April, 1977 the Kanehsatà:ke Women's Softball Team reclaimed the Softball Field in Onen'to:kon.

In the beginning, the Kanehsatà:ke Men and Women's Softball Teams worked out a time that each team would have the infield. However, the village municipality showed up with their junior teams and took the infield, not willing to share or negotiate equitable time for all players.

One day, Kanehsatà:ke's Women's team showed up for their regular practice time to find out the village had their junior team on the field. The Women's coach suggested that they practice in the outfield but they said no.

The Kanehsatà:ke Women planned to be at the field the very next day. When the village junior team showed up and said we had to leave the field. The village coach said it was their practice time, though it was scheduled for the Kanehsatà:ke Men's Team.

We said no! We were going to practice. The village coach said he was going to go get papers to prove it was their land. Meanwhile, the Kanehsatà:ke women concentrated on their practice. The village team continued to shout out racist names directed at the women, while their parents looked on. When the village coach returned, he was very angry. He told his team to pack up, they were leaving. He had no papers. In his anger, he backed up onto a tree stump and got stuck.

The Kanehsatà:ke Women's Softball Team made a commitment that they would return to the field every day. And they did. That is why our Women took a stand that year and with the support of the community – to ensure that our children and their children would have a beautiful place to enjoy sports. That is why we must all take care of Onen'to:kon.