

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

Terms of Reference for the letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs

Enacted by MCED #111 / 2021 - 2022
Approved on: 7, Enníska / February 2022

Purpose

- 1.1 This document establishes and describes the position of letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs (formerly referred to as “Council Chief”) as an elected representative of the community of Kahnawà:ke and as a member of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaienhs (formerly referred to as the “Council of Chiefs”).

Appointment and Authority

- 2.1 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are elected to their position according to the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Election Law*. This document and all provisions contained within it are superseded by the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Election Law* and are subject to consistency with the Law as it may be amended.
- 2.2 The Ratitsénhaienhs has the authority to make decisions on:
 - a) Political priorities and overall strategic direction for the community of Kahnawà:ke;
 - b) Laws, regulations, and policies affecting governance in Kahnawà:ke; and,
 - c) General planning of resources of the Kanien’kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, and global strategic matters of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke as an organization.
- 2.3 The Ratitsénhaienhs have authority to provide strategic direction to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke on global and strategic operational/administrative matters, including through the Finance, Administration and Operations Committee. Individual letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs, as members of the Ratitsénhaienhs, do not hold authority to intervene in operational/administrative matters of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke as an organization, unless formally mandated to do so by the Ratitsénhaienhs.

Accountability

- 3.1 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are accountable to Kahnawa’kehró:ron, to other members of the Ratitsénhaienhs and to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke with respect to all matters pertaining to their work.
- 3.2 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs shall respect and uphold all laws applicable within the Territory.
- 3.3 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their positions faithfully, conscientiously, loyally and diligently, respecting their Oath of Office and Code of Conduct, and in accordance with the administration guidelines and operations regulations for the Ratitsénhaienhs, and all other applicable MCK policies and regulations.

- 3.4 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are expected to conduct themselves and make decisions in a manner that respects the principles of fairness, dignity of persons, compassion and consensus consistent with the traditions, philosophies and customs of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke.

Roles of a Council Chief

- 4.1 The role of a letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs is to protect and defend the rights and interests of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke, promote the overall well-being of Kahnawa'kehró:non, to protect the jurisdiction and integrity of the Territory, and to contribute to the effective governance of the community.
- 4.2 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are expected to:
- a) Contribute to the protection and advancement of Kanien'kehá:ka nationhood;
 - b) Foster economic self-sufficiency for Kahnawà:ke;
 - c) Foster social development and the well-being of all Kahnawa'kehró:non;
 - d) Ensure the development of Kahnawà:ke's capacity for comprehensive community planning and service provision;
 - e) Revitalize Kanien'kéha and protect Kanien'kehá:ka culture and traditions;
 - f) Assert Kahnawà:ke's jurisdiction;
 - g) Ensure the continuing development of Kahnawà:ke legislation;
 - h) Protect the environment and territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawà:ke; and,
 - i) Defend the principles of the Two Row Wampum.
- 4.3 In carrying out the roles outlined above, letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs shall serve the community with its best interests in mind, and shall support and encourage creative, critical and resourceful thinking, accept and nurture new ideas and approaches, and demonstrate their dedication and integrity in their efforts, actions, and words.

Duties and Responsibilities

- 5.1 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs will protect and promote the jurisdiction of Kahnawà:ke through:
- a) Creation of Kahnawà:ke legislation, via participation in the Community Decision Making Process (CDMP) in their respective role(s) as prescribed by applicable policies;
 - b) Dialogue and negotiation with external governments; and,
 - c) Making and providing direction on political decisions.
- 5.2 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are expected to participate in the decision-making processes of government and promote the general welfare of Kahnawa'kehró:non, and are specifically responsible to:
- Attend and participate in all scheduled meetings of the Ratitsénhaienhs
 - Perform follow up to decisions of the Ratitsénhaienhs
 - Provide overall guidance and strategic direction to the MCK Executive Office
 - Prepare and send all necessary correspondence
 - Participate on committees and engage with files as assigned by the Ohén:ton Í:iente/Í:rate ne Ratitsénhaienhs and in accordance with Portfolio allocations
 - Provide leadership in community and organizational disputes that may arise
 - Report to Kahnawa'kehró:ron on the political and global activities of the MCK

- 5.3 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are assigned leadership roles on portfolio teams and as such are specifically responsible to:
- Act as the official spokesperson for a Portfolio Teams
 - Provide direction to the relevant Portfolio Coordinators and Portfolio Teams
 - Ensure implementation and respect of portfolios’ mandates
 - Attain Ratitsénhaienhs’ approval of the portfolio mandates
 - Provide strategic direction to the Portfolio Teams
 - Provide regular updates to, and attain direction from, the Ratitsénhaienhs
 - Monitor and report on external government actions affecting Kahnawà:ke
 - Lead negotiations with external governments and organizations
 - Provide input on major projects
 - Call for Portfolio meetings and set meeting agendas
 - Foster and manage relations between members of Portfolio Teams
- 5.4 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are mandated by the Ratitsénhaienhs to act as liaisons on various community organizational boards and committees, and in these roles letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs are specifically responsible for:
- Informing the Ratitsénhaienhs on the activities of the organization
 - Informing the board/committee of related MCK activities
 - Facilitating communications with the Ratitsénhaienhs
 - Assuming the duties of a board/committee member, where applicable
 - Assisting organizations’ leadership in liaising with other government bodies
 - Assuring organizations’ adherence to shared Kanien’kehá:ka values
- 5.5 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs provide overall direction to programs, services and projects of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and its affiliated organizations, and in this role Council Chiefs are specifically responsible for accounting for and reporting to Kahnawa’kehró:non on the funds, programs and services administered by the MCK and its affiliated organizations.
- 5.6 The Ratitsénhaienhs are responsible to ensure the development of policy responses to issues which fall outside the authority of MCK Administration and are not addressed in current policies and procedures, and are specifically responsible for:
- Acting to resolve situations that may negatively affect Kahnawa’kehró:ron
 - Consulting with the MCK executive leadership and community on policy responses
- 5.7 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs may be required to perform other duties associated with their roles in accordance with direction from the Ratitsénhaienhs.

Qualification

- 6.1 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs should possess a sound knowledge of Kahnawà:ke policies, programs, procedures, regulations and jurisdiction, a thorough understanding of the issues facing the community, and be aware of the community’s present and future needs.

- 6.2 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs should possess the skills necessary to be effective in their roles, including:
- Verbal and written communications
 - Conflict resolution and mediation
 - Leadership, representation and advocacy
 - Negotiations
 - Critical thinking
 - Problem solving
 - Interpersonal relations and diplomacy
 - Coping and stress management
- 6.3 letsénhaienhs/Ratsénhaienhs must be committed to continually improving their ability to speak Kanien'kéha and continuing to advance their knowledge of Tsi Niionkwarihò:ten.

Coming Into Force of This Policy

- 7.1 This document shall come into force upon the passing of a Mohawk Council Executive Directive to this effect and will replace all previous versions of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Chief and Council Terms of Reference.