

# *Skátne Eníonkwaió'ten – Community Language Planning*

*Creating a five-year strategic plan for language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke*

## **Discussion Questions for Elders – Session 2**

### **Name(s) of participants:**

Sakaronhió:ta'ne, Raronhianónhnha Joe Deom, Konwatsi'tsá:wi, Tekaronhió:ken Frank Jacobs, Konwakién:se Carolee Jacobs, Karihwénhawe Dorothy Lazore

### **1. Are there any new activities for Elders you would like to see planned in the community to help you learn/speak the language?**

Form an Elders and fluent speakers group/committee to focus on Kanien'kéha language promotion. Tape and record them speaking Kanien'kéha.

### **2. What is your vision for the language in Kahnawà:ke?**

To make and use the language as a living language within the hearts and minds as Onkwehón:we.

### **3. What message would you give our youth and future generations about our language (Kanien'kéha)?**

#### **RESPECT**

- 1) Love our language enough to speak it fluently everywhere and to everyone.
- 2) Use full Kanien'kéha names – do not shorten it. You own that name personally, you received your name through baptism or a traditional naming ceremony. Don not insult yourself by allowing this to happen. Your name has a meaning and a lot of thought has been put into it. The time you were born, the weather, your family tree.

#### **IDEAS**

- Form an inter-community language revitalization group. Call it “stage 6” (working title)
- Invest your time into restoring and awaken our DNA and cellular memory. It will strengthen Kanien'kéha identity as a whole
- Make learning the language a “hobby”
- Everybody spoke Mohawk back then. Education was the oppressor and still is.
- Language is fundamental to our identity. We all know our silent and sul? language well enough. So now we must add to that.
- We have devalued our language – iah satekani.
- More bilingual conferences with simultaneous translation.
- Fluentforever.com, 100+ names are there
- Start a language fund