



## KAHNAWÀ:KE EDUCATION CENTER

PO BOX 1000  
KAHNAWÀ:KE QC J0L 1B0  
TEL: 450 632-8770 FAX: 450 632-8042  
WWW.KECEDU.CA

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **KEC secures funding from Aboriginal Languages Initiative for language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke**

##### For immediate release

**Kahnawà:ke Education Center (KEC) (Kahnawà:ke, Quebec – 31 Kenténha/ October 2017)** - The Kahnawà:ke Education Center has secured funding in the amount of \$51791.00 from the Aboriginal Peoples' Program (APP) Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) in support of language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke.

The project submission was supported by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitíohkwa Language and Cultural Center, and the Iakwahwatsiratátie Language Nest, with whom the KEC will partner with on a project entitled "*Skátne Eionkwaió:ten*" (We will all work together). Representation from the three organizations will comprise the project's steering committee to ensure it is truly rooted in collaboration and the current needs of the community to develop a 5-year strategic plan toward language revitalization. Wahéhshon Shiann Whitebean has been hired as *Skátne Eionkwaió:ten* Community Language Plan Coordinator.

The project's goal is to strengthen all Kanien'kéha language revitalization efforts through a whole community approach, and to foster an increase in community collaboration to meet the needs of the community.

Kahtehrón:ni Iris Stacey, KEC Kanien'kehá:ka Curriculum Developer one of the leads on the project for the KEC and has done extensive research on the history of language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke as well as on national and global issues in Indigenous languages revitalization. "This endeavor will be quite timely, as language initiatives have been growing and expanding throughout the community yet we will continue to see limited success if all continue to be conducted in isolation" said Stacey. "A community strategic plan will allow for collaboration between all Kanien'kéha language programming as we strive towards our community's vision to once again see Kanien'kéha as the main language in the home and the community."

The next steps in the project's implementation include a Strategic Planning Session for a Community Language Plan that is tentatively scheduled for November 2017, and will include community stakeholders.

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For More Information, Contact:  
Alana Atwin, Communications Officer  
Kahnawà:ke Education Center  
450.632.8770  
[alana.atwin@kecedu.ca](mailto:alana.atwin@kecedu.ca)