



KAHNAWÀ:KE EDUCATION CENTER

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PRESS RELEASE

KEC to Host the Second of a Two-Part Planning Session to Develop Community Language Plan

For immediate release

Kahnawà:ke Education Center (KEC) (Kahnawà:ke, Quebec – Tsothohrhkó:wa/ 12 January 2018) - The Kahnawà:ke Education Center is proud to be hosting a follow up to its first Strategic Planning Session for a Community Language Plan that was held in November 2017. The second and final session for the project will take place at the Mohawk Legion in Kahnawà:ke on Thursday, January 18th, 2018 where participants will continue their work on developing a 5-year strategic plan toward language revitalization in Kahnawà:ke, with a focus on community goals and action items for the next five years. The project, entitled "*Skátne Eionkwaió'ten*" (We will all work together) stems from funding secured in the amount of \$51791.00 from the Aboriginal Peoples' Program (APP) Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) in the fall of 2017.

The KEC, along with partners Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center (KORLCC), and the Iakwahwatsiratátie Language Nest make up the project's steering committee to ensure it is truly rooted in collaboration, and the current needs of the community. Wahéshon Shiann Whitebean, the *Skátne Eionkwaió'ten* Community Language Plan Coordinator, acknowledges the hard work that was done in the first session. "Our first community language planning session in November was a great success! All community schools and many community organizations were represented, and actively participated in the planning process. The first session was about acknowledging the hard work and dedication of our many community members, teachers, and Elders who have gotten us this far to keep our language alive," stated Whitebean, who is enthusiastic about reaching the project's goal of strengthening all Kanien'kéha language revitalization efforts through a *whole-community approach*. "The goal of this initiative is to mobilize the community to work *together* to ensure that Kanien'kéha is transmitted with strength and vibrancy to the future generations." Following this second community planning session, the next steps are to prepare a community language plan based on the input and data gathered at both sessions, translate the data into Kanien'kéha, and present the final bilingual document to the community by Summer 2018.

Along with KEC Director of Education Robin Delaronde, Kahtehrón:ni Iris Stacey, KEC Kanien'kehá:ka Curriculum Developer, acts as a lead on the project for the KEC. Stacey 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 and agrees with Whitebean. "We will continue to see limited success if work is done in isolation. This process allows 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."

Community members interested in participating in the session on January 18th can contact Wahéshon Shiann Whitebean by email at WaheshonShiann.Whitebean@kecedu.ca or via the *Skátne Eionkwaió'ten Facebook page* to inquire about open community seats. The deadline to confirm or request a community seat is Monday, January 15th at noon.

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For More Information, Contact:
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