



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION UNIT MANDATE

Mandate:

The **Environment Protection Unit** is a component of Operations within the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) and is mandated with the authority and duty to govern over strategy, scope and standards that protect and enhance the environment within our territories of Kahnawà:ke, Tioweró:ton, and the Mohawk Traditional Territory.

The **Environment Protection Unit** is responsible to plan and implement a management system designed to develop and oversee its activities, roles & responsibilities, policies and procedures. The Unit will design and complete environmental projects, consult with external agencies and provide science based recommendations that support sound decision making related to our environment for the protection of our land, water and air, following relevant environmental laws, regulations and/or standards.

The management system will address education, advocacy and monitoring, applying principles derived from traditional knowledge and cultural practices, particularly through the following domains and identified functions:

- a) **Environmental Protection** –Seek funding for, design and carry out projects and programs to protect, improve, restore, monitor and raise awareness of the natural habitats within Kahnawà:ke and Tioweró:ton. Perform records maintenance and build upon past recommendations and project results; use geographical information systems (GIS) data for decision-making;
- b) **Scientific Knowledge** –Provide scientific advice to ensure the environment is a priority in decision making. Conduct environmental research to remain current and ensure best practices are communicated;
- c) **Education and Advocacy** –Develop and provide tools and knowledge to Kahnawa'kehró:non to enhance the understanding of environmental issues and concerns; advocate for environmental protection and promote sustainable development;
- d) **Environmental Legislation** –Apply subject matter expertise to identify need for and development of environmental laws and regulations. Carry out inspections, develop orders and support action in the event of non-compliance to existing community laws, regulations and policies.
- e) **Consultation** –Provide technical input to internal and external agencies and project proponents concerning initiatives that may cause environmental impact associated with Mohawk Rights and Interests.

Authority & Responsibility:

Organizational units of the MCK have the authority and responsibility to identify unit objectives and develop operational plans to support the strategic direction of the organization which contributes to the Comprehensive Community Plan and supports the community vision.

The **Environment Protection Unit** has authority and responsibility to govern its administrative and operational affairs. It shall implement unit strategies, standardized practices and provide expertise and guidance to the MCK for decision making to serve the best interest of the community.

The **Environment Protection Unit** has the authority to govern its activities and will be accountable to the MCK Executive Office.

The Leadership within the **Environment Protection Unit** will be accountable for all decisions made and actions performed.

Affiliated Authorities:

1. Finance, Administration, and Operations (FAO) Committee
2. Land Management Committee
3. Portfolio Chief of Lands and Environment

Definitions

Comprehensive Community Plan: Is the consolidation of the various areas of organizational planning and strategy along with comprehensive community engagement in relation to or under delegated mandates handed down by Chief and Council or its delegate. This ensures the best use of resources that integrates and links all other plans the community has produced, is inclusive at all levels including community and represents the perspectives of community members. Consideration of all key planning areas through one unified process using a multi-disciplinary approach defines community planning as a holistic and integrated exercise.

Environmental Monitoring: Is the collection of scientific data to assess the health of flora, fauna and habitats, and ultimately support sound decision making for environmental protection. It includes site inspections, surface and groundwater sampling; soil analysis; surveys of flora, fauna and ecological communities; invasive species surveying, and any other relevant ecological data collection.

Environmental Protection: Is the preservation and enhancement of ecosystems for the benefit and use of all species including humans.

Expertise: Basis of credibility of a person who is perceived to be knowledgeable in an area or topic due to his or her study, training, or experience in the subject matter.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS): Is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

Records Maintenance: All completed project raw data and reports are filed for reference.

Sustainable Development: is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Management System: a framework of policies and procedures used to ensure that an organization can fulfill all tasks required to achieve its objectives. Requirements for policy, operational, project, strategic and quality management frameworks are applicable to the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke.

Mohawk Rights and Interests: refers to the rights and interests of the Mohawks of Kahnawà:ke, including Aboriginal title and the exercise of Aboriginal rights, in Kahnawà:ke, Tioweró:ton, and our Mohawk Traditional Territory.


Technical Input: Both federal and provincial governments have a duty to consult and accommodate First Nations on actions that have adverse or potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal rights and interests. Technical input is providing input concerning environmental subject matter.

Mandatory Requirements

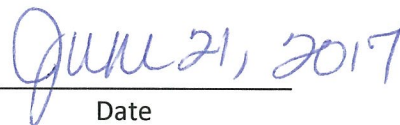
1. Sanitary Conditions Law, Amended 2012
2. Interim Landfill Policy and Procedures for Clean Soil, Amended 2015
3. Best Management Practices for Activities Taking Place in and around Water Habitats in Kahnawà:ke and Tioweró:ton – Guideline document dated 2013
4. Demolition Waste Recycling Regulation
5. Tioweró:ton Policy, 2005
6. Any applicable Kahnawà:ke Laws and associated regulation(s).

Signatories

This mandate has been reviewed and is accepted. On behalf of the **Environment Protection Unit**, I sign in agreement.



Melanie Gilbert
Director of Lands



Date



Kevin Kennedy
Executive Operations Officer



Date