

**Notice From the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of the
Kinakwii Nation to the People of Canada**



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Kinakwii: People of the Great Spirit A Call to Evoke Our History – Inspire Our Future

The people of Canada, through the voice of their Prime Minister in their House of Parliament June 11, 2008 have apologized for their treatment of the indigenous aboriginal people who live on the lands within the borders of Canada and whose ancestors have done so since before those borders existed and before Canada was. The event of this apology has created history.

By the fact of this apology alone Canada has officially acknowledged two groups among those people who live within its borders: those who are of the heritage, roots, values and beliefs of the peoples who have lived on and occupied the lands within the borders of Canada for many 1000's of years and those who came from elsewhere beginning 500 years ago. Canada also officially acknowledged that the dominant group has been the group that arrived from elsewhere, and that this group owes the indigenous group an apology for the treatment perpetrated upon them.

This apology is empty and useless unless it signals the beginning of new behaviours and new relationships between the two groups to resolve the treatment that led to the need for an apology.

Outside of governments and legal institutions many non-indigenous non-aboriginal Canadians have been friends of the indigenous aboriginal people. Many are now just as much our ancestors as are our indigenous aboriginal ancestors. But white people's laws and their legal and religious structures have not been good for indigenous aboriginal people. The governments and the legal and religious structures of Canada have sought to reduce us to, and treat us as, a subjugated colonized people. We have been reduced to poverty, unemployment, welfare, addiction and dependence on white men's promises whose benefits for the indigenous people have always been short, late, non-existent or often, much worse – damaging to us individually and culturally. Canada's apology opens the door to the resolution of these historic injustices. Unfortunately, there can be no meaningful response or progress until there is an indigenous aboriginal national entity that is NOT created under the laws and regulations of Canada. Anything less will do nothing more than rejig the colonialism that created the monstrosity for which Canada has just apologized.

I, William Allan Baldwin, am Algonquin. My ancestors have lived in Eastern Ontario for 1000,s of years. I accept an inspiration from the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water that arises from deep within me to call upon all those people who espouse the values, rights and privileges of indigenous aboriginal people to come together in a Confederacy of Nations that can exist separate from the legal creations of Canada in order to negotiate with Canada on an equal basis – sovereign country to sovereign country – to resolve the tragedies, inequities and injustices of the past.

I hereby name this country, Kinakwii, which shall mean “People of the Great Spirit” and I offer this Declaration of Nationhood for all those who feel so inspired to join me.

(Signed) William Allan Baldwin, June, 21, 2008

Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii



Declaration of Nationhood

Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii Declaration of Nationhood

We, the People of Kinakwii, a Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Country, hereby declare:

That we are Children of Light and we are conceived and created by the Divine union of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water;

That we are a Sovereign confederacy of Nations under the authority of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water who speak to us through the voices of nature and guide us in our relationships with each other, with all people and with all life;

That we, together with our ancestors and the people who endorse this declaration, have occupied lands of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water for thousands of years, and that our occupation of these lands has been continuous since the beginning, without any agreement at any time with any other people to diminish our nationhood;

That our Nations have been granted, by the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water, entitlement to employ the abundance of nature in our lands of occupation sufficient to our needs;

That we accept the requirement that we must at all times live in accordance with our values and exercise our responsibilities to safeguard the sanctity of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water, and that in so doing we earn the rights and privileges granted to us by the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water, which values, responsibilities, rights and privileges are enumerated in the text cited below;

That we believe in this present moment of the early years of the 21st Century we are being called upon by the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water to demonstrate for all future generations what it means for us to proclaim our nationhood and to live and act in accordance with the values, responsibilities, rights and privileges of our ancient heritage and culture, and at the same time have respect for the knowledge and challenges of the present day;

That we seek to be known and recognized as distinct and Sovereign on the lands that we occupy as a country and in the richness of the whole human family;

And that having so declared on this ____ day of _____2008, I as one among many hereby request that our leaders prepare and enact a Constitution that will give substance, enforcement and empowerment to this our Declaration of Nationhood.

Name (printed & signed)

Address & phone #

Values of Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii

We the people of Kinakwii, a Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Country, as part of our Declaration of Nationhood hereby proclaim our values as follows:

The Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water are as one, and at the same time different and distinct with neither being over the other. We, the Children of Light, are created in their image and have characteristics of both. We believe each person has a relationship with the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water as the creator, ruler, preserver, protector and teacher for all life.

We are not owners of the gifts of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water. We are good stewards for a time until we pass them on or give them back. We renounce the principle of individual ownership of land and natural resources and embrace the principle of stewardship on behalf of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water.

Our children and our elders are gifts from the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water. We are all children; we can all become elders to be revered.

We receive and care for the forests, lakes, rivers, rocks, hills and plains that are all together the home that the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water have given us.

We accept the principle of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water to provide in abundance. Therefore we receive and value that which is in abundance. Resources that are scarce are to be treasured and preserved, not exploited.

We value the love of nature, of self, of family and of community as the supreme ideal to embrace. We value the differences among us as it is our differences that give richness to our heritage and our culture.

We respect the body of knowledge developed by all people throughout history and on into the future and reserve for all time our right to establish our own priorities and values with respect to the body of knowledge generated by all people.

We treasure the wisdom, rituals, ceremonies, traditions, knowledge and experience of our ancestors as passed on by our elders, teachers and Shamans. We value their willingness to teach and share.

We embrace the virtues of honesty, appreciation, gentleness, strength, humility, charity, gratitude, assertiveness, restraint and generosity. These virtues originate from before our lifetimes and last long after we have individually passed through the portal of Death. They lead to growth in personal stature before the Great Spirit and before our brothers and sisters.

Responsibilities of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii

We the people of Kinakwii, a Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Country, as part of our Declaration of Nationhood, hereby acknowledge and accept our responsibilities as follows:

- To worship, honour, listen to and hear the whispers of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water as an important and reverent necessity of life;
- To fulfill our honour and duty toward our family and our nation.
- To welcome and honour strangers, as they are also children of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water;
- To revere the leadership of those Chieftains, Shamans and Elders who do no evil and serve both the least and the greatest of our people;
- To preserve and enhance the sanctity of the natural environment and to recycle waste materials from the activities of our lives in recognition that the natural environment is the home of all people, animals and plants that live in it;
- To be warriors in the defense of our nation and peacemakers among our enemies;
- To dispense justice with fair discernment, judgment and wisdom for both the victim and the accused with the assurance that justice and wisdom originates in the Great Spirit;
- To provide opportunities for our children to develop intellectual skills, moral skills, social skills, employment skills together with their spiritual awareness, and to provide opportunities for adults to pursue life-long learning;
- To provide opportunities for our people to engage in meaningful, productive employment;
- To support those who are hungry, and those who are in sickness, infirmity, adversity or in the grip of evil;
- To encourage each other to be strong, cheerful, gracious, virtuous and clean in body, mind and spirit;
- To learn from our adversities, to refrain from complaining and to forgive others for their transgressions;
- To be honest, genuine, assertive and open in our dealing with ourselves, each other and all people;
- To acknowledge fear and in the face of fear, to be courageous;
- To be worthy of the love and respect of the Great Spirit, the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water and of all people.

Rights and Privileges of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii

We the people of Kinakwii, a Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Country, as part of our Declaration of Nationhood hereby assert our rights and privileges together with our right to defend them as follows:

The right to privacy of our person, our thoughts, our personal information and correspondence;

The right to associate and speak freely with each other;

The right to health of body, mind and spirit;

The right to be respected as equals by the people of equivalent rank in ours and other jurisdictions and cultures;

The right to interact and trade with each other and with other peoples in our traditional manner;

The right to receive education, knowledge and the development of intellectual skills;

The right to peaceful enjoyment of life, liberty and security;

The right to justice as provided by the Nation;

The right to be protected by the Nation;

The right to exercise freely one's opinion, conscience and faith;

The privilege of being free from hate, cruelty and torture;

The privilege of being free from undue judgment and condemnation;

The privilege of being free from harassment;

The privilege of being free from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile;

The privilege of being free from attacks upon one's personal honour and reputation;

And all the rights and freedoms provided in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights for Indigenous Peoples.

Whenever there may be conflict between the rights and privileges of the individual and the rights and privileges of our Sovereign Nation, those of the Nation shall take precedence over those of the individual.

Principles of Relationships with Other Jurisdictions

We the people of Kinakwii, a Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Country, as part of our Declaration of Nationhood hereby acknowledge that other jurisdictions, which were created later in time than our Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Nations, make claims on the natural resources under our care, impose constraints on our people and offer benefits to our people in addition to those of our Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Nations. We hereby state our principles of relationship to the people and governments of other jurisdictions as follows:

We hereby claim our right to the traditional lands of occupation under the ancient stewardship of our nation together with our right to freely enjoy the pursuit of our culture and our Nations' livelihood. These rights predate the arrival of explorers and settlers from Great Britain and Europe and are preserved in the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763 and all subsequent legislation. These rights cannot be given or taken away – they are fundamental.

Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People have – and have always had – the right of self-government.

To the extent that Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal citizens also enjoy the benefits of citizenship and residency in other countries and jurisdictions they may choose, as free-will human beings, to co-operate with the laws and regulations of those other jurisdictions on a free-will basis. However, the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Nation of Kinakwii and the various mechanisms of its self-government, accept no automatic obligations to require its citizens, either individually or collectively, to observe the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions.

When there is conflict between the laws and regulations of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Nation of Kinakwii and the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions, the laws and regulations of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal Nation of Kinakwii shall take precedence over the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions with respect Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal citizens.

We, and the leadership of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii together with our various mechanisms of self-government, hereby declare the right, and accept the obligation, to protect Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal citizens from persecution by the governments of other jurisdictions and their various agencies and legal creations.

Notwithstanding the above, and in keeping with the values, responsibilities, rights and privileges of the Sovereign Indigenous Aboriginal People of Kinakwii enumerated herein, the intention of Kinakwii is, as far as possible without unduly compromising our values, responsibilities rights and privileges, to interact peacefully with other jurisdictions.

We, the people of Kinakwii recognize that each of our individual selves is more than our physical body, and that we together are much more than a collaboration of individual lives. We recognize that, acting as a Sovereign Nation, we are an expression of the magnificence and grandeur of the Great Spirit and the Spirit of Mother Earth and Water.