



## Press release

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### **MOHAWK NATION (KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA) : SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE INAUGURATES A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF THE MOHAWK NATION**

**SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE, Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – Today, on December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, in the presence of the Minister responsible for Native Affairs and Member for Jacques-Cartier, Mr. Geoffrey Kelley inaugurated a commemorative plaque in honour of the Mohawk Nation, at Kelso Park in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, at 11 am, a White Pine was planted in Kelso Park as part of a municipal tree-planting project funded by Tree Canada. This tree planting marked the beginning of a cultural exchange program between Kahnawake and the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue that year. The objective of this program was to enhance our common commitment to nature, the environment and trees. In order to fulfill this commitment, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, in the fall of 2005, offered, as a gift, several species of trees to plant in Kahnawake Reserve school yards.

Today, the inauguration of this plaque is part of a larger project aiming to raise awareness about significant events in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue by installing several historical interpretation plaques throughout the City. This plaque expresses our alliance with the Mohawk Nation and our shared commitment to the environment.

This alliance is also confirmed by the translation of the plaque into Mohawk in order to pay tribute to members of the Mohawk nation who study at our educational institutions John Abbott College and McGill University.

The White Pine is considered to be the Great Tree of Peace by the Mohawk people and we hope that its presence in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue will contribute to stimulating peace and goodwill amongst all nations for years to come.

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