

His Majesty King Charles III
King of the Dominion of Canada
Buckingham Palace
London SW1A 1AA

September, 21 2023

Your Majesty,

I hope this letter finds you in excellent health and high spirits. With the utmost respect and admiration for the enduring bond between our nations, I write to you as a provisional representative of the Mohawk University, for Mohawk Nation of Grand River.

Our shared history is marked by moments of great significance, deep friendship, and mutual respect. One such moment, which I believe deserves special mention, is the historic visit of HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, to Brantford in the year 1919. During this momentous occasion, in full array, the hereditary chiefs of the Five Nations of Indians condoled the Prince of Wales in a traditional condolence ceremony held before a crowd of thousands in the heart of Brantford at Victoria Park.

The hereditary chiefs of Five Nations introduced Prince Edward to war veterans and surviving family members, leading the royal through a traditional ceremony in which he was named Taionhenseia, meaning "Dawn of the Day" and was adopted a full blooded member and condoled as a chief of the Mohawk Turtle clan. In "A Royal Mohawk Chief" by E. Pauline Johnson she recounts earlier events of when the duke of Connaught was adopted and the Prince recieved into the Mohawk tribe, conferring upon him the name of "Kavakoudge," which means "the sun flying from East to West under the guidance of the Great Spirit.", where "The constitution that Hiawatha had founded centuries ago, a constitution wherein fifty chiefs, no more, no less, should form the parliament of the "Five Nations," had been shattered and broken, because this race of loyal red men desired to do honour to a slender young boy-prince, who now bears the fifty-first title of the Iroquois." To specially note the Tuscaroras' adoptions into the League of Peace did not extend this gesture, wherein the Circle Wampum was refashioned to include the addition of the Maple Crown, extending the rafters of the longhouse, under the Mohawk Turtle clan. This significant event solidified the bonds of friendship and alliance between the British Crown and the Mohawk Nation.

Furthermore, we hold in great esteem the silver bells that were gifted to us by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2010. These bells serve as a symbol of our alliance, commemorating Queen Anne's gift of Silver to the Mohawk in 1710, and represent the enduring spirit of cooperation and friendship between our families and people.

As fellow holders of the title of UNITY OF THE EMPIRE (UE), we share a sacred responsibility for the continuity of our origins as a source of authority, which serves as the cornerstone of our law and sovereignty. It is crucial to recognize the profound significance of upholding the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784, as it forms the bedrock of our alliance and shapes the relationship between the original inhabitants of these lands and the Crown.

This alliance with the Mohawk Nation has bestowed upon the Crown certain rights that, in turn, are extended to the Crown's subjects. These rights are deeply intertwined with the concept of continuity—the uninterrupted flow of our shared history, responsibilities, and obligations. They are the foundation upon which the Canadian right to use our lands rests, highlighting the paramount importance of preserving our cultural heritage and exclusive use and enjoyment rights.

By acknowledging the significance of this continuity, we not only honor our shared history but also reinforce the enduring bond between our nations and the responsibilities that come with it. It is within this context that we approach our initiatives, seeking to protect and uphold the legacy of this alliance, ensuring its preservation for generations to come.

In recent years, the Mohawk Nation has been diligently working on vital initiatives, such as the Housing Initiative and the Drivers Program, aimed at preserving our cultural heritage and exclusive use and enjoyment rights. These initiatives are grounded in the principles of justice, unity, and peace that have defined our relationship over the centuries.

We humbly seek your support and understanding. Your Majesty, your guidance and support in our pursuit of justice, cultural preservation, and unity would not only strengthen our alliance but also further the cause of peace within our promised lands. Today, Your words of unity and alliance resonate from the Chamber of the Senate, “As neighbours, friends, partners and allies, there is no challenge to which we cannot rise, as we have done so often in the past.”

We respectfully request the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue with your representatives to discuss our initiatives, the importance of upholding the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784, and the significance of preserving our cultural heritage. Your Majesty, your support would not only honor our historic ties but also promote a future of cooperation and mutual benefit.

We eagerly await your response and look forward to the possibility of a productive and harmonious collaboration that benefits both the Mohawk Nation and the broader Dominion of Canadian community.



Benjamin Doolittle

Yours in Unity and Alliance,
Benjamin Doolittle UE, Sha'tekari:wate
Secretary General