



HAUDENOSAUNEE

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Howard Thompson No Longer Recognized as Wolf Clan Roiá:ner

For Immediate Release

Akwesasne Mohawk Territory - December 12, 2024

It is with a heavy heart, that the leadership of the Wolf Clan family of Sharenhó:wane and the leadership of the Bear Clan family of Tehana'karí:ne, hereby publicly announce that we no longer consider Howard Thompson to be a Kanien'kehá:ka Wolf Clan Roiá:ner of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. It is the position of our clan families that Howard Thompson has removed himself as a Roiá:ner for the following reasons.

Howard Thompson has been unwilling to meet or deliberate with the rest of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and the clans they represent, including his own clan, which is a gross violation of our consensus-based decision making process and his responsibilities as a condoled Roiá:ner. His behavior has crippled the functionality of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs as a cohesive political unit. It is important to also note that he has not attended nor has participated in the Haudenosaunee Grand Council in years and selectively chooses, on his own, with whom he will meet. The Kaianere'kó:wa (Great law of Peace) states that inactivity is a deposable offense. Moreover, Howard Thompson has never reported on any news related to the land claim settlement to the Haudenosaunee Grand Council.

For many years Howard Thompson and his followers have engaged with New York State and the elected councils at Akwesasne, to finalize a settlement tethered to the fraudulent Seven Nations Treaty of 1796. By tying the People of the Longhouse/Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs/Haudenosaunee Confederacy to this settlement, it inadvertently accepts the legitimacy of the 1796 treaty; which confirms a consensual surrender of our land in New York State. Despite the concerns of other Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs members, Howard Thompson and his lawyer Alexandra Page have actively barred other Mohawk Nation Council titleholders from participating in settlement deliberations with other stakeholders.

It is also important to share that public Mohawk Nation Council meetings came to a halt in 2014 after Howard Thompson blocked a consensus of the Rotiá:ner to remove themselves from the suit. Since then, the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs have not met publicly due to the divisions over the land claim settlement. The People of the Longhouse at Akwesasne (along with those from other Kanien'kehá:ka communities) held General Council meetings in 2014, 2023, and 2024, all affirming their desire for the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs to remove themselves from the suit. Attempts

by some Rotiá:ner and their helpers to reason with Howard Thompson and his followers were met with resistance, hostility, and ultimately ignored. Howard Thompson has ignored the pleas of the People of the Longhouse, his clan, and his brother and cousin Rotiá:ner to withdraw from the settlement. He remains steadfast to signing this agreement, demonstrating that he follows his own mind, rather than working towards One Mind as the Kaianere'kó:wa teaches us.

We share this notification now, as we cannot wait until after he signs an agreement that could potentially destroy our inherent claim to our ancestral lands. Attempts have been made to address this issue with his Clanmother, who refuses to discuss these issues. Additionally, he does not have a Rarontanónhna (Sub-Chief), who would play an important part in the deposition process; making him unremovable through the three-warning protocol. He exists with no accountability mechanism.

Therefore we have no choice but to no longer recognize Howard Thompson as a Roiá:ner of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, as he has acted independently of his brother and cousin Rotiá:ner and has passed into the void beyond Teionihtiohkwanhákstha (the Circle Wampum); leaving his antlers behind in the circle. This also applies to his followers.

While this is a sad occurrence, it is our hope that it will lead towards an overall unification of the People of the Longhouse of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. We invite other Longhouse council fires in each Kanien'kehá:ka community to support this decision. In the meantime, we are securing the Mohawk Nation Office at Akwesasne to ensure that no further communications are issued on behalf of the nation without due democratic process.

Tho nikawèn:nake