Natural Resource Damage Assessment
CULTURAL RESTORATION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The signatories to this letter confirm that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs ("The Parties") have entered into a formal cooperative agreement concerning the establishment and implementation of a cultural restoration plan as part of the process to resolve the Akwesasne Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA).

The Parties have entered into this agreement in a spirit of cooperation and with the collective determination to protect the physical, spiritual and cultural health of the present and future generations of Akwesasronenon and all of the elements of the natural world.

The Parties will ensure a continuation of the supportive informal relationship of mutual respect, sharing, trust, and openness that characterized the research phase of the NRDA Cultural Impact Assessment.

Framework

This agreement recognizes a collaborative Mohawk process for the development and implementation of an Akwesasne based restoration plan associated with the resolution of the NRDA Cultural Impact Assessment.

This agreement is entered into without prejudice to the position of the Parties concerning any outstanding "aboriginal," treaty and other claims, including those being advanced in any legal proceedings. It is also understood that this agreement in no way waives or affects the existing authorities of any of the councils, nor does it assign sovereignty, "aboriginal" or legal rights, and it is "without prejudice" to any claim for damages or other court action that may be brought forward by any party in Akwesasne related to the activities of the Companies.

Commitments

It is agreed that the Parties will make available the human and technical resources and design a harmonized process to consult the community of Akwesasne on a restoration framework reflecting the community's values, goals and priorities concerning cultural reconnection to the natural environment.

The Parties agree to authorize their relevant departments to give all reasonable assistance to the SRMT-ED during the restoration phase of the NRDA Cultural Impact Assessment.
Notwithstanding the general commitment to openness within the community, the Parties agree not to publicize or to authorize the publication of any information related to the restoration plan, specific options or details related to the negotiation of a final agreement with the Companies without the prior express consent of all the Parties and other parties to the NRDA funding agreement.

Objectives

It is understood that in the negotiation of a restoration agreement with the Companies, Akwesasne will seek restoration funding and lands, as well as other forms of compensation, for a wide array of restoration projects, the specific number, substance and scope of which shall be determined according to the restoration plan.

It is understood that the Parties will seek to form a non-governmental representative body ("Cultural Restoration Commission") to oversee the design and implementation of the restoration plan and to govern the financial and administrative aspects of the final agreement with the Companies on cultural restoration.

It is also understood that this Agreement shall be extended beyond issues of cultural restoration to include the development and implementation of ecological restoration measures as well.

Signed on this date, November 9, 2007 at Akwesasne, by the following representatives:

James W. Ransom
Tribal Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Tim Thompson
Grand Chief
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Lorraine M. White
Tribal Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Rotiniáhtón/Turtle Clan
Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs

Barbara A. Lazore
Tribal Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Ronatháhi:ní/Wolf Clan
Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs

Rotiskaré:wake/Bear Clan
Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs