



681 Ste-Philomène
Kanehsatà:ke, Qc
J0N1E0
Tel: 450.479.8373
Fax: 450.479.1622

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Federal Court Decision on the 2025 Election : Election ordered for December 19

September 28, 2026 - The Mohawk Council of Kanehsatà:ke (MCK) is providing this update to the community following the Federal Court's decision issued today regarding the cancellation of the 2025 election. The Court's decision provides direction on how the community will move forward following the cancellation of the election on August 1, 2025, the day before voting was scheduled to take place.

The decision

The Federal Court found that the decision by the former Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Graeme Drew, to cancel the election was unreasonable. The Court found that the CEO role is to administer and apply the Mohawks of Kanehsatà:ke Custom Electoral Code, which was adopted by the community through referendum in 2015 and determined that the CEO did not have the authority under the Code to cancel or suspend the election in order to allow the Code to be amended. The Court also determined that Mr. Drew's term as CEO ended when the 2025 electoral process was cancelled and that a new CEO must therefore be appointed for the new election.

New election ordered

The Court has ordered that a new election for the Mohawk Council of Kanehsatà:ke will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2026, and that it will be conducted under the existing Mohawks of Kanehsatà:ke Custom Electoral Code. The Court has directed MCK to issue a call for tenders for the position of CEO within seven days of the judgment. Council will then select a new CEO in accordance with section 12.2 of the Electoral Code. The other timelines and requirements established in the Electoral Code will also apply to the December 19 election. In addition, the Federal Court has confirmed that the current Council will remain in place until the new Council elected on December 19, 2026, takes office, under the caretaker mandate established by the Court in October 2025. This means that Council's role is limited to "simple administration matters such as day-to-day administration, the provision of essential services to community members, ordinary payable accounts, management of administrative staff, the continuation of in-progress projects, and other measures necessary to ensure the continued functioning of Council and the protection of the community's legal interests" until the new Council takes office.

The Court did not authorize a delay of the election to amend the Electoral Code, the December 19 election will therefore proceed under the existing Code. The Court's decision does not prevent the community from considering changes to the Electoral Code in the future, however, any such changes must be addressed through the appropriate community process and cannot be used to delay the election ordered by the Court.

With the Court's decision, we now have an established framework and timeline for moving forward with a new election. The MCK will provide further information to the community as the electoral process moves forward.

**Communications Office | Bureau des Communications
For the Mohawk Council of Kanehsatà:ke**

For questions or information

communications@kanesatake.ca