



Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy
GRAND RIVER COUNTRY

2634 6th Line, R.R. #2, Ohsweken, Ontario N0A1M0

Statement re McKinnon Park Secondary School
November 30, 2025

On November 17, 2025 a very concerning matter came to the HCCC appointed Repatriation Committee from multiple people in our community. A representative was sent out to investigate and report to the Council concerning the allegations of inappropriate use of Haudenosaunee medicinal masks within a classroom at McKinnon Park Secondary School.

Here are the findings and the report we have received:

A parent of a student made a post on facebook regarding an alleged issue at McKinnon Park Secondary school in Caledonia. After a careful review with the parent, students and the school team, it was confirmed there was no information found to substantiate the post that was made.

It was confirmed that the school counsellor, school office or any other member of the McKinnon Park staff was not made aware of the concerns before the Facebook post was made. The teacher in question did not have a mask or image of one in her classroom and did not say the mask "was medicine" or "if it is found on the internet, I can do what I want with it". The teacher has been at MPSS a number of years and has worked to build positive relationships with students to ensure any and all art projects are sensitive to all cultures.

Masks hold deep cultural and spiritual importance to the Haudenosaunee, serving as living representations of teachings, responsibilities, and relationships within the community. They are used with great respect in ceremonies connected to healing, protection, and maintaining balance within the world. The creation, use, and caretaking of masks follow long-standing protocols that honour our ancestors and the purposes for which these items were entrusted to the people. Because of this, masks are not simply artistic objects, they are powerful beings that continue to support the well-being and identity of the Haudenosaunee.

In future, we encourage everyone to pause, use Ka'nikonhri:yo (Good Mind), go through proper processes that are in place to address issues within the institution and verify information before expressing concerns publicly.

In peace and friendship,
Hohahes Leroy Hill