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January 20, 2005

Mr. Joseph Zayed  
President BAPE  
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Subject: Public Consultations on the Effects of the Implementation of the Niobium Mine in Oka


I learned about the public consultations being held in the Municipality of Oka from a public announcement published in the local newspaper, L'Eveil. The BAPE's announcement clearly states that a "file/dossier" is available for consultation at any of the four listed locations. I called both the Municipality of Oka 479-8333, and the Mohawk Council office 479-8373, to inquire about the "file" and both locations were not aware of any such "file." This is misleading the general public. I have been attending these public consultations both afternoon and evenings since they began on January 17<sup>th</sup> and the *only* literature that was made available was the annual report of Niocan. I would *still* like a copy of the so-called "file" that was supposed to be made available for consultation.

As I stated publicly during these consultations of the past few days, the Mohawks of Kanehsatake have not been consulted nor have we been kept abreast of current developments. In fact, participating in the consultations has made me realize just how *little* information is at our disposal. As such, I along with several of my fellow band members, would request that an in-depth consultation take place here on the territory of Kanehsatake.

I was gravely disappointed to see that *not one* representative from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) was present *especially* when the mining site is part of our land claim, and given the potential adverse health effects upon the native population. INAC has a fiduciary obligation to protect our rights and interests yet their visible absence speaks volumes.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Respectfully,



Sonya Gagnier

Cc The Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Andre Cote, Regional Director, INAC  
Ghyslain Picard, AFNQL

Encl.