

**UP-DATE – BORDER CROSSING**  
**AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

- As of **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**, a Canadian or American Passport is required if you are **flying** from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda into the United States. The only other documentation that will be accepted is: US Permanent Resident Card, asylee or refugee document, Merchant Mariner's Document or NEXUS Air Card.
- You do not need a Passport if you are flying from point to point within the United States (example – from Buffalo to Florida).
- **As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**, all persons travelling into the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda **by LAND OR SEA**, will be required to present a Passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security.
- The Six Nations Elected Council has been participating on the Iroquois Caucus Border Crossing Working Group, which was chaired by Kahnawake, for the past two years. The other members of the Caucus are the Elected Councils from Kahnawake, Kanasatake, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, Wahta and Oneida. The purpose of this Working Group was to work towards developing an ID Card that could be used by our citizens for the purposes of crossing the border, subsequent to the guidelines being put in place by the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.
- The Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee of the Confederacy Council has also been working on developing an ID Card.
- The Final Rule of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative was issued in October 2007. This Rule indicates that they would only consider ID Cards from U.S. Federally Recognized Tribes.
- The Department of Indian Affairs will also be issuing a new enhanced Certificate of Indian Status Card. DIA has indicated to us that the Department of Homeland Security has given “conditional approval” for this CIS Card to be accepted as a border crossing document. Our citizens would still be required to possess a Certificate of Indian Status Card for the purposes of tax exemption and other uses.
- The Ontario Government is also negotiating for the Ontario Driver's License to be an acceptable document for border crossing purposes.
- Our citizens could, therefore, be faced with many options as to which Card they would choose. As mentioned, they would still need the Indian Status Card for tax exemption purposes.
- At an Iroquois Caucus meeting held in May, 2008, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake informed the other communities that they have agreed that the work of the Iroquois

Caucus, with respect to the ID Card, should cease. They felt it would be unproductive to continue as we have not been placed on the list in the Final Rule from the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

- The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake has stated that they will support the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee in their efforts to get an ID Card. Further to their presentation, the Six Nations Council has also agreed to support the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee in securing an ID Card that can be used by our citizens for border crossing purposes.
- The Six Nations Council has asked that this issue be an agenda item for the next Joint Council meeting with the Confederacy Council, which is being held on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. It is hoped that, at that time, we can get agreement to work jointly on this important issue.
- The Six Nations Council did meet with representatives from Indian Affairs on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. We had a number of questions for them and are inviting them back to Council for the first General Council meeting in September to further discuss the issue.
- Indian Affairs has indicated that they hope to start issuing the new Certificate of Indian Status Cards in March 2009. They have designated Six Nations as a priority area for the Mobile Application Centres. There will, however, be a two week turn around period to get the new Card. More information on the new Certificate of Indian Status Card will be provided after we have the meeting with Indian Affairs in September. At this point in time, further information regarding the secure Certificate of Indian Status Card is available by telephoning toll free 1-800-567-9604, emailing [InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca) or by viewing the INAC website.
- **IN THE MEANTIME, AND UP UNTIL JUNE 1, 2009, YOU CAN USE YOUR CURRENT INDIAN STATUS CARD FOR BORDER CROSSING PURPOSES.**
- If you have any questions or require more information, contact can be made with:
  - Councillor Wray Maracle – 226-208-1275
  - Councillor Ava Hill – 519-445-4399
  - Jan Burning - Director of Lands and Membership – 519-445-4613