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**MEDIA RELEASE: WELCOME TO THE HAUDENOSAUNEE HARVESTERS**

ST CATHARINES, ON – October 22, 2019

As we enter into the 7th annual Haudenosaunee harvest of white-tailed deer at Short Hills Provincial Park, the Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt welcome harvesters and wish them a peaceful and fruitful harvest.

There has been a significant shift in public sentiment around Indigenous rights and culture, as the Niagara community comes to an increased understanding of inherent, land and treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt are pleased to have the support of Mayor Walter Sendzik for the traditional Haudenosaunee harvest. In a recent letter to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Mayor Sendzik, referenced the City of St. Catharines' partnerships with First Nations organizations to improve cross-cultural education, collaboration and cultural competency:

“Over the past seven years of the hunt at Short Hills, our community has been on a journey, learning together. The traditions and the hunt have become better understood and we appreciate the safety measures the provincial government and hunters have established...While in the past, some members of our community have expressed disagreement with the hunt, today we are walking together on a path of truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous heritage of the Niagara region, and for that reason, I offer my full support.”

The harvest at Short Hills is an important moment for our community as it creates opportunities to actively support reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians. This year, the Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt are welcoming the Niagara community to attend a free, full-day Indigenous Rights Conference to be held on Saturday, November 16th, 2019 at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines. All community members are welcome to attend the conference: Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, regardless of their position on the hunt. The conference will address the issues and focus on ways to move forward together.

The Indigenous Rights Conference is affirmed by the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority. The HWWHA, which organizes the harvest, is a department tasked by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council with the management of wildlife resources. The full conference schedule will be announced soon at [www.SixNationsRightToHunt.com](http://www.SixNationsRightToHunt.com)