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MEDIA RELEASE: INDIGENOUS RIGHTS CONFERENCE -NOVEMBER 16, 2019

ST CATHARINES, ON – Wednesday November 13, 2019

The Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt are very excited to welcome the Niagara community to our Indigenous Rights Conference. Our opening begins at 9:00am and features welcomes from our Co-Founders, Celeste Smith and Jodielynn Harrison, St. Catharines M.P.P. Jennie Stevens, City of St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik, and Brock University's Chancellor's Chair Dr. Robyn Bourgeois who shares "This event is a gift to all of us from the Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt, providing a safer space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to learn about and discuss decolonization in the Niagara Region and beyond".

We are pleased to announce that the keynote address will be offered by Kayanesenh Paul Williams, a member of the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority. Kayanesenh is a member of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force, the Kawen:nio School Board, and the Six Nations Tourism Board. As research director for the Union of Ontario Indians, and then as legal counsel and negotiator for many Anishinaabe communities, he has been involved in most of the major land claims or claim settlements on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes. Much of his work today is as lead negotiator for the Peskotomuhkati Nation in comprehensive negotiations with Canada and New Brunswick and as lead negotiator for the Thessalon First Nation in negotiations and litigation with Canada and Ontario. He has sought to pass on the knowledge through teaching in several universities, and more recently with the first book on the thinking in the Haudenosaunee Great Law of Peace, *Kayanerenkó:wa*. He lives at the Six Nations Grand River Territory.

We remind the public that this year there are no educational activities organized at Short Hills Provincial Park. In consultation with the HWHA, it has been determined that the Supporters of Haudenosaunee Right to Hunt will not have any presence at the park this year and, rather, have selected an accessible, indoor venue to hold our Indigenous Rights Conference conference.

Conference details: Saturday, November 16th at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, 15 Artists' Common, downtown St. Catharines ON. For more information please visit Sixnationsrighttohunt.com.

This event is co-hosted by Brock University Human Rights and Equity, The Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, Student Justice Centre, The Indigenous Solidarity Coalition @ Brock, CUPE 4207 and the Marilyn I Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

Thank you to our Community and Brock University partners: The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, Celebration of Nations and The Film House @ First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Niagara Quakers, Brock Department of Sociology.

The Indigenous Rights Conference is affirmed by the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority. The HWHA, which organizes the harvest at Short Hills Provincial Park, is a department tasked by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council with the management of wildlife resources.