



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom

Chief Lorraine M. White

Chief Barbara A. Lazore

Sub-Chief Ronald LaFrance, Jr.

Sub-Chief Donald D. Thompson, Sr.

Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

PRESS RELEASE

For release:
Ohiari:ha/June 4, 2008

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St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Officials Question Unofficial "Election"

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council members raised several issues today in regard to the recently-held unofficial election. "The current tribal council is the only government officially recognized not only by our Native community in general, but by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior, the Congress of the United States and the Office of the President of the United States. The current tribal council is the only governing body that has the authority to deal on a government-to-government basis with the federal government, the state government and local governments," stated Lorraine White, Tribal Chief.

The disaffected group stated in a recent press release that five "community spokespersons" have been elected, that they will govern in accordance with signed "social contracts," and that they will discharge the "duties of the office." Despite these assertions, the group has yet to publicly communicate their so-called "social contracts" or the "duties of the office."

In an article published in the May 29th issue of *Indian Time* newspaper, the disaffected group also stated that "...it is understood and agreed that these elected community spokespersons will have no authority whatsoever to act on behalf of the membership of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe..."

"We are not clear exactly what they are attempting to accomplish," commented Tribal Chief James Ransom. "We have always maintained an 'open door' policy for the input of tribal members on issues. They have the opportunity to initiate personal contact, to attend tribal meetings, to write letters and to participate on committees and boards to be heard in a positive manner to effect change. We, as officially elected Tribal Council members, have always been willing to listen to our constituents."

"The official election for Chief and Sub-Chief will be held Saturday, June 7th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the lobby of the Tribal Community Building. I want to be sure that nobody is confused about the time and date of the real election," said Barbara Lazore, Tribal Chief.

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