

SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COUNCIL
STATEMENT ON NATIVE MASCOT AND CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe stands in solidarity with countless others that the time has come to end the use of Indigenous mascots by professional and amateur sports teams, universities, colleges, and schools.

We are thankful to those who have made the decision to retire them.

We appreciate that many consider this a way of honoring Indigenous peoples and our indomitable spirit.

We must also acknowledge those for whom the images represent cultural appropriation and the perpetuation of stereotypes.

Perhaps most harmful of all is the implication that Indigenous peoples are a thing of the past, that we do not live in a new decade of a new century and a new millennium like everyone else. Clearly, we do. We take pride in having helped to build this modern world, while at the same time maintaining the culture and values that have always sustained us.

The time has surely come for all of us, regardless of origin, to feel welcome, included, and respected.