



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$4.68M AVAILABLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KAHNAWÀ:KE

Tewatohnni'saktha to administer the application process for the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF)

(Kahnawà:ke –9, Enniskó:wa/March 2009) Tewatohnni'saktha would like to inform the community about the proposal process for the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF). The AIF project, developed by the Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones Québec (SAA) was announced in 2006 as a means to support projects that may have major spin-offs in the development of Québec's Aboriginal communities. In October 2008, the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke reached an agreement with Québec, enabling the community to access the fund through a defined process. By mandate of the Mohawk Council, Tewatohnni'saktha will be managing and administering the application process for the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF).

Through a community proposal process, Kahnawà:ke will access 2 components of the AIF: Economic Development (\$4.68M), \$1M of which is designated for private medium scale business (\$250K plus) and the Community Infrastructures (\$1M) subject to availability. Eligible projects must be related to economic development and must have significant effects on the socio-economic profile of Kahnawà:ke such as:

- Structuring in nature for the community
- A leverage effect or driving force in the development field
- The creation or consolidation of jobs for the Aboriginal people
- The profitability and viability of the business

The AIF complements other Federal or Provincial programs according to the priorities expressed by the community. It is only used to fund projects that no other program can cover and, as the case may be, those projects requiring additional financial assistance not available under existing programs.

The deadline for submission for the fund is: Thursday April 30th, 2009.

Information sessions on the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund will be held at the Tewatohnni'saktha offices (3rd Floor) on:

Saturday, March 21st at 10am
Thursday, March 26th at 6:30pm
Friday, March 27th at 9am

If any further information is required you can contact: Skyler Taylor, Tewatohnni'saktha, at 450-638-4280 or by e-mail at: aif@kedc.biz