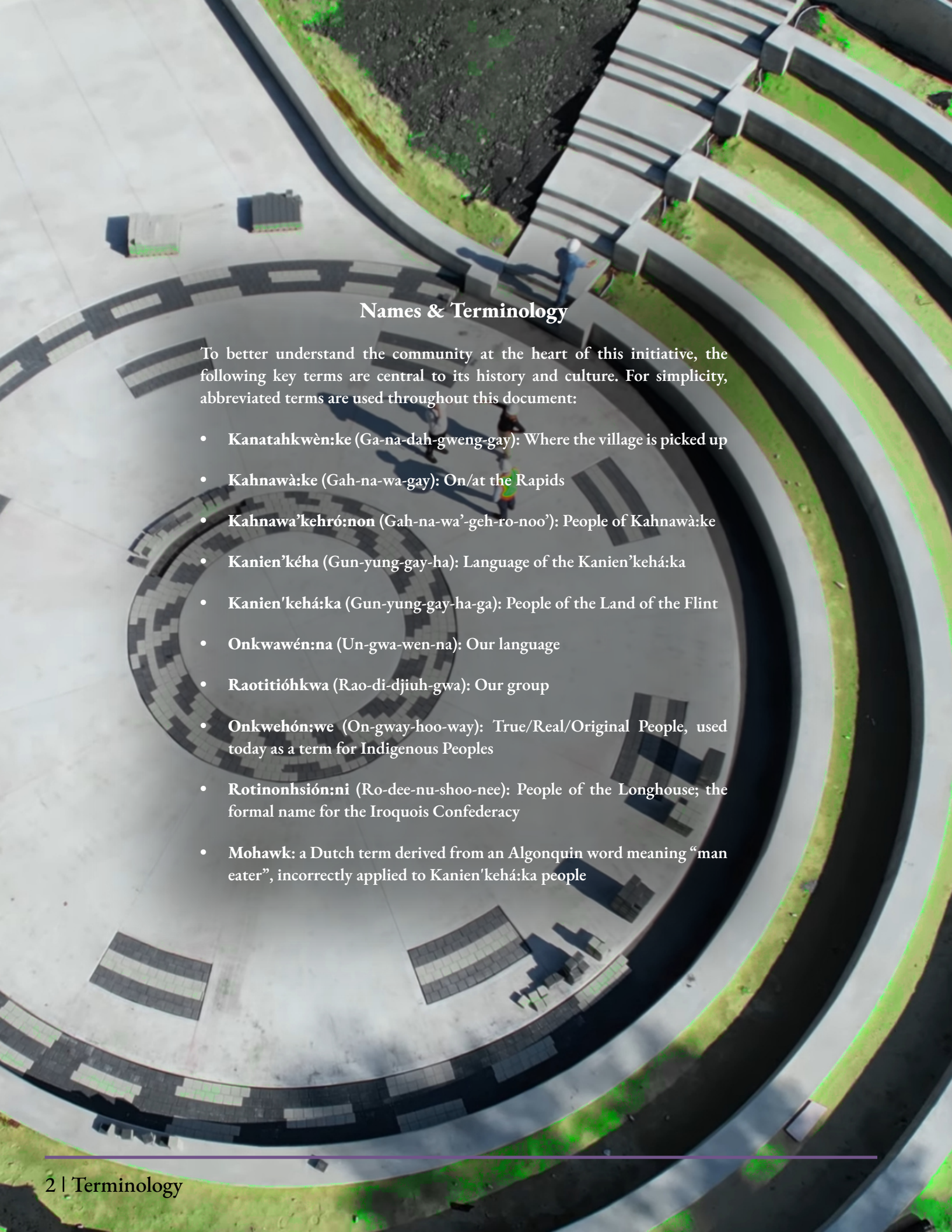




KANATAHKWÈN:KE



**MID-YEAR REPORT
2026**



Names & Terminology

To better understand the community at the heart of this initiative, the following key terms are central to its history and culture. For simplicity, abbreviated terms are used throughout this document:

- **Kanatahkwèn:ke** (Ga-na-dah-gweng-gay): Where the village is picked up
- **Kahnawà:ke** (Gah-na-wa-gay): On/at the Rapids
- **Kahnawa'kehró:non** (Gah-na-wa'-geh-ro-noo'): People of Kahnawà:ke
- **Kanien'kéha** (Gun-yung-gay-ha): Language of the Kanien'kehá:ka
- **Kanien'kehá:ka** (Gun-yung-gay-ha-ga): People of the Land of the Flint
- **Onkwawén:na** (Un-gwa-wen-na): Our language
- **Raotitióhkwa** (Rao-di-djiuh-gwa): Our group
- **Onkwehón:we** (On-gway-hoo-way): True/Real/Original People, used today as a term for Indigenous Peoples
- **Rotinonhsión:ni** (Ro-dee-nu-shoo-nee): People of the Longhouse; the formal name for the Iroquois Confederacy
- **Mohawk**: a Dutch term derived from an Algonquin word meaning “man eater”, incorrectly applied to Kanien'kehá:ka people

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A MESSAGE FROM THE KANATAHKWÈN:KE PARTNERS



Shé:kon (Greetings),

On behalf of the Kanatahkwèn:ke partners, we are proud to share that we have reached the final stages of bringing our vision to life. Construction is nearing completion, and both the museum and theatre are expected to be fully operational by mid-August 2026.

At the same time, we have already begun developing programming for the remainder of the year and are excited to announce that Kanatahkwèn:ke's Grand Opening will take place on September 10 and 11, 2026.

September 10 will be dedicated to welcoming community members from Kahnawà:ke to celebrate this important milestone together, while September 11 will be a special occasion to recognize and thank our generous donors whose support helped make this vision a reality.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, this new Cultural and Arts Center has become a reality. As we look ahead, our focus will be on sustaining the Center's mission and ensuring that it continues to serve the community and future generations for many years to come.

Niá:wen (Thank you).

Lisa Phillips

Executive Director

Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center

THE PARTNERS OF KANATAHKWÈN:KE



Kimberly Cross,
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Jessica Hernandez,
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Representative

Lisa Phillips,
Executive Director,
KORLCC

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & OPENING



Photo Credit: Vanessa Cyr

SAVE THE DATE!

Event details to follow.

The completion of Kanatahkwèn:ke and its Grand Opening were originally scheduled for spring 2026. However, as construction of the museum and theatre continued into April 2026, the partners made the decision to postpone the official opening until September 2026.

We look forward to welcoming the community on September 10 and our generous donors on September 11 as we come together to celebrate this historic milestone and mark the official opening of Kanatahkwèn:ke.



KORLCC Soft Opening

On April 1, 2026, KORLCC officially relocated to the new facility and marked the occasion with a small community soft opening. The gathering was a meaningful and humble celebration that included a tobacco ceremony, remarks from individuals who helped bring this vision to life, a shared meal, and guided site visits.



Museum construction progress:

Since 1980, Kahnawà:ke has dreamed of creating a world-class museum that would honour and share the rich history, culture, and living heritage of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. This vision is now becoming a historic achievement for the community. As the first museum ever built in Kahnawà:ke, it will bring together a historical timeline of the community's political, cultural, and spiritual evolution alongside artifacts and archaeological collections. More than a museum, it stands as a place of preservation, education, and cultural pride for generations to come.

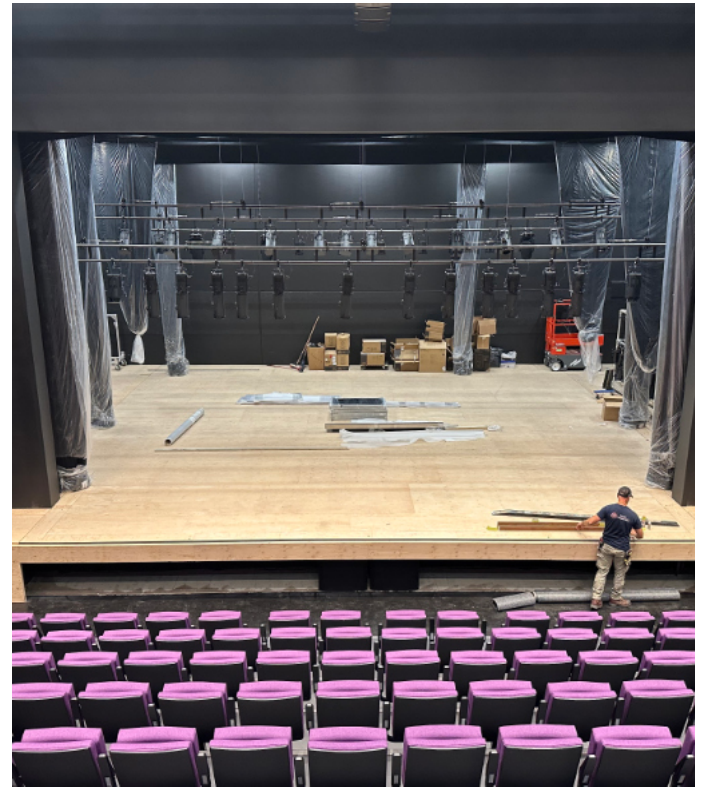
Significant progress continues to be made on key exhibition elements and the museum's official completion has been postponed to the first week of August 2026. The custom-built cabinets displaying museum infographics and the artifact cases for archaeological collections are scheduled for installation by the end of June 2026.

Several important cultural features have already been completed, including the turtle shell pattern on the museum floor symbolizing Turtle Island. On the first floor, a replica of a traditional longhouse is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by mid-July 2026. The longhouse is intended to immerse visitors in the daily life of the Kanien'kehá:ka prior to European contact. Additional cultural elements are also being incorporated into the museum experience, including a starscape ceiling installation and a central light feature that reflects the Kanien'kehá:ka Creation Story.

A sneak peek of the new KORLCC museum before we begin to populate it with content.



Photo Credit: Teiowtsonte Thomas Deer



Theatre construction progress:

Kanatahkwèn:ke's state-of-the-art theatre is nearing completion and is quickly becoming one of the centre's signature cultural and performance spaces. The remaining work is scheduled to be finalized by the end of June and includes:

- Capping of the balcony
- Installation of trims around the acoustic wood panels on the wall
- Finalization of the stage-front fabric covering for the subwoofer system
- Painting of the flooring
- Installation of balcony seating (6 seats per balcony, for a total of 12 seats)

What makes this theatre distinctive is the way it brings together cultural expression and professional-grade performance infrastructure. The use of raw wood materials reflects natural elements, while the purple seating pays tribute to the Purple Two-Row Wampum Belt. The theatre is equipped with a high-quality catwalk structure integrated into the ceiling with a professional rigging system designed to support advanced lighting and sound equipment.

Kanatahkwèn:ke was developed as a multipurpose facility designed to serve both community members and visitors alike. Among the services offered are a variety of rentable spaces, including the following. Please note that rental packages and pricing details will be published once available.



Theatre

Operated by Turtle Island Theatre, the theatre includes a stage, a 168-seat auditorium, backstage facilities, a green room, rehearsal hall, and reception area. In addition to regular programming and theatre productions, it serves as a versatile venue for guest speakers, presentations, and lectures.



Multi-purpose Reception Hall

Ideal for conferences, events, workshops, symposiums, training sessions, and temporary exhibitions.

Conference Room

Suitable for corporate meetings, training sessions, and workshops.





Workshop Space

Designed for cultural and creative workshops such as beadwork, basket weaving, and moccasin-making, as well as other activities.

Multimedia Filming Studio with Green Screen

Primarily used by KORLCC to produce 'Tóta tánon' Ohkwá:ri, a children's puppet show in Kanien'kéha. Also available for podcasts and other filming projects.



Outdoor Amphitheatre

A circular gathering space featuring a central fire pit, ideal for events, performances, or informal gatherings.

Commercial Kitchen

Equipped for event catering and cooking workshops.



To make the visit even more special, Kanatahkwèn:ke also includes a gift shop showcasing locally made crafts and artisanal products, as well as a café operated by a local enterprise, offering a variety of traditional and contemporary foods and beverages.

FUNDING-RELATED NEWS

KANATAHKWÈN:KE LIVING FUND

As the Capital Campaign has successfully reached its fundraising objective, the online donation form associated with the campaign will now be closed. At the same time, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new fundraising initiative dedicated to supporting the future programming and operations of the centre: the Kanatahkwèn:ke Living Fund.

Please check the Kanatahkwèn:ke Living Fund page on our website: [Kanatahkwèn:ke Living Fund – Kanatahkwèn:ke](#)

You can also make a donation here:



DES CULTURES WIND FARM CONTRIBUTES \$500,000



March 20, 2026

The Des Cultures Wind Farm is a 24 MW renewable energy project consisting of six turbines located in Saint-Rémi and Saint-Michel. Jointly owned by Kruger Energy and Kahnawà:ke Sustainable Energies (KSE), the project was co-developed by Tawatohnhi'saktha and has been producing renewable energy since 2022, generating

enough electricity to power more than 2,500 homes.

As an important source of sustainable revenue for Kahnawà:ke, KSE supports a variety of community initiatives, including Kanatahkwèn:ke. Through its contribution, the Capital Campaign moved significantly closer to achieving its \$16 million fundraising goal.

RBC FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ACCESSIBILITY AT KANATAHKWÈN:KE WITH A \$300,000 GRANT



Photo Credit: Vanessa Cyr

April 21, 2026

Through the RBC Foundation Community Spaces Grant program, Kanatahkwèn:ke received \$300,000 to support key accessibility features throughout the Centre, including:

- A museum access ramp with handrails, ensuring equitable access to

Kanien'kehá:ka culture for all visitors.

- Fully accessible washrooms designed to accommodate a wide range of users.

This funding also enables Kanatahkwèn:ke to pursue the Rick Hansen Accessibility Certification (RHAC), an important milestone in strengthening the Centre's long-term commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

KANATAHKWÈN:KE FEATURED AS RBC FOUNDATION'S PHILANTHROPIC SPOTLIGHT



Photo Credit: Vanessa Cyr

April 15, 2026

As a recipient of RBC Foundation funding and in recognition of the project's significance and alignment with RBC's social impact priorities, Kanatahkwèn:ke was selected as the philanthropic highlight of RBC Québec's annual staff event, La Voie du Québec.

Lisa Phillips, Executive Director of KORLCC and representative of Kanatahkwèn:ke, presented the new Cultural and Arts Centre highlighting the vital role Kanatahkwèn:ke will play in advancing cultural continuity for future generations. The presentation was filmed and broadcast online to nearly 7,500 RBC employees across Québec.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REACHES \$16 MILLION GOAL



May 4, 2026

A press conference was held on May 4 in Kanatahkwèn:ke's scenic multipurpose room to celebrate the successful completion of the \$16 million Capital Campaign, a major milestone in bringing the \$55.7 million Cultural and Arts Centre project to life.

Speakers included representatives from the Kanatahkwèn:ke partnership and Capital Campaign Cabinet Chairperson Kahsennénhawe Sky-Deer. Together, they emphasized the community's continued commitment to passing on its language, traditions, and values while fostering meaningful relationships with neighbouring communities.

CULTURAL SPACES FUND ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION GRANT



May 6, 2026

Following an extensive application process that spanned approximately one year, Kanatahkwèn:ke was awarded \$2.5 million through the Cultural Spaces Fund administered by Canadian Heritage. The grant contributed to the completion of the Centre's overall \$55.7 million construction budget, ensuring that the vision for Kanatahkwèn:ke could be fully realized.

PROGRAMMING & IMPACT





1. Language Revitalization:

Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats Adult Immersion Program



Photo Credit: Scott Berwick

The graduation ceremony of the 18th cohort of Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats took place on June 5th, 2026 at the 207 Longhouse. 14 Kanien'kéha speakers will now be advancing language revitalization across the community through a variety of career paths such as curriculum development, translation, educational support, and cultural programming.



Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats, a two-year full-time immersion program designed for Kanien'kehá:ka adults to develop fluency and confidence in the language, with the potential to become teachers through sustained practice and mentorship. The renowned language school plays a vital role in preserving and revitalizing Kanien'kéha by providing culturally grounded language curriculums that strengthen spoken language proficiency. Through immersive and intergenerational programming, the school supports learners at different stages of their language journey.

In April 2026, Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats moved into Kanatahkwen:ke and continued delivering classes there for the remainder of the 2026 academic year.

IMPACT - Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats

To better understand the impact of the program, a survey was conducted with first- and second-year students. The results revealed the following:

Strengthened Kanien'kehá:ka Identity

The program provides students with a culturally safe learning environment where foundational Kanien'kehá:ka teachings are integrated into the curriculum. Without access to this language program, many non-speakers would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience sense of belonging and cultural fulfillment that come from participating in ceremonies, traditions, and cultural practices. For example, participation in ceremonies at the longhouse, conducted entirely in Kanien'kéha, is an integral component of the curriculum and plays an important role in strengthening Kanien'kehá:ka identity. Students are also encouraged to take part in traditional Kanien'kéha singing groups, creating additional opportunities to engage with and carry forward their language and cultural practices.

A student in the 2nd year said: “The language program allowed me to finally find out who I am. For the longest time, I struggled with my identity, and this program helped me find myself.” Another mentioned: “It’s helped give me something I felt always missing. I learned a lot about myself, who I am, and where I want to go in terms of learning our ways”.

Improved Well-being

The program generally has a positive impact on students, fostering a strong sense of pride, accomplishment, and self-confidence. At the same time, it maintains high standards and challenges students to push beyond their comfort zones, which can be demanding throughout their learning journey. As a full-time program, many students place other aspects of their lives on hold in order to dedicate themselves fully to learning Kanien'kéha, a language recognized for its complexity. This level of commitment can often lead to personal and financial challenges throughout their studies. Recognizing the importance of these language revitalization efforts, community members, businesses, and foundations contribute by providing bursaries to help students manage their daily living expenses while pursuing their studies.

A student in the 2nd year said: “The program has been a huge part of my self-exploration and connection to self during the past two years”.

Another student mentioned: “My personal wellbeing has gone in different ways throughout the program. It’s helped me, stressed me, given me a lot of pride, and also pushed me beyond my expectations.”

Enhanced Intergenerational Transmission

One of the program's greatest benefits is the involvement of Elders. Elders bring unique perspectives shaped by their life experiences, traditional upbringing, wisdom, and deep cultural knowledge. The way they use the language to explain concepts often carries layers of meaning that extend beyond simple translation, providing students with a richer understanding of the language, culture, values, and worldview embedded within Kanien'kéha. Some students have even reported that the program helped them widen their thoughts or even change their ways of thinking throughout the program.

2. Transmission of Cultural Knowledge:

KORLCC's mission is to make traditional Kanien'kehá:ka teachings and cultural practices accessible to community members and to encourage their continued learning and daily practice. Following generations of colonization and assimilation policies, the Kanien'kehá:ka experienced significant losses in language, culture, and identity. KORLCC was established to help address these impacts by supporting the revitalization and transmission of traditional knowledge. Kanien'kéha plays a central role in this work because language carries the ways of viewing and experiencing the world that are embedded within the traditional teachings. Most of the activities in this area are therefore done in the Kanien'kéha.



Wáhta (Maple) Radio Show

The Wáhta (Maple) Radio show took place on April 22 at Kanatahkwen:ke. The show brought together Elders and first-language speakers from the community to discuss about a variety of topics in Kanien'kéha. The show was broadcast on Kahnawà:ke's radio station: K103.7 FM.



Cultural Awareness Month

April 2026's edition of Tsi Niionkwarihò:ten Niwenhni'tò:ten (Cultural Awareness Month) took place at Kanatahkwen:ke providing Kahnawà'kehró:nnon (people of Kahnawà:ke) with educational and recreational opportunities to strengthen their cultural knowledge and to celebrate their distinct identity as Kanien'kehá:ka people.



Cultural Mentorship Program

Moose antler combs, handcrafted by David Farnham – an Onondaga artist from Six Nations - were presented to mentees of the Cultural Mentorship Program upon completion of a curriculum module. Rooted in foundational Rotinonhsión:ni teachings, the program supports cultural preservation and continuity by nurturing the next generation of cultural educators, wellness practitioners, and personal development coaches.



Tetewatierónnionwh Annual Variety Show

Tetewatierónnionwh, which took place on April 14th, 2026 is an annual variety show that brings together students of all ages from educational institutions across Kahnawà:ke to showcase a series of performances presented in Kanien'kéha.



Tóta tánon' Ohkwá:ri

The first episode of the 21st season of Tóta tánon' Ohkwá:ri, the all-Kanien'kéha children's puppet show, was filmed at Kanatahkwen:ke's state-of-the-art studio. It's the first episode ever produced at the new centre. Now available on KORLCC's YouTube channel, the show follows Tóta, a grandmother who carries a wealth of knowledge of Kanien'kéha ways, and her grandson Ohkwá:ri, whose imagination, curiosity, and energy guide each adventure.



UPCOMING:

17th Annual Haudenosaunee Beadwork Conference

The 17th Annual Haudenosaunee Beadwork Conference will be hosted at Kanatahkwen:ke from September 18–20, 2026, welcoming beadworkers from across the Confederacy for a gathering dedicated to sharing cultural teachings, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. The event will also provide an opportunity to showcase community beadwork and highlight the history and evolution of traditional artisanal practice that continues to strengthen relationships across generations and across Haudenosaunee nations.



The main objective of the Arts & Archives department at KORLCC is to preserve the collective memory of the community, documenting its stories, experiences, and knowledge through every technological means available.

Elders play a central role in this work by sharing their perspectives on a wide range of topics in Kanien'kéha, through weekly radio shows, stories, and home recordings. The collection includes recordings dating back to 1992, originally captured on cassette tapes and later digitized beginning in 2014 to ensure their long-term preservation. Recognizing that Elders will not always be with us, these recordings preserve their knowledge, wisdom, and language for generations to come.

Singing groups from various Kanien'kehá:ka communities are also recorded and documented, helping to safeguard traditional songs while encouraging community members to learn, practice, and carry them forward.

KOR Podcast



This podcast is part of a broader series exploring a variety of topics connected to contemporary and historical subjects in Kahnawà:ke. This particular episode focused on different theories surrounding the recognition of ancestral Kanien'kehá:ka lands and explored how historical records and oral narratives can intersect to build a more complete understanding of Kanien'kehá:ka history.

SUCCESS STORIES – Arts & Archives

S.J.'s story:

A summer student employed within the Arts & Archives Department had the opportunity to visit the renowned Museum of Anthropology at the University of Victoria, home to one of the largest collections of Indigenous archives and artifacts in Canada. Through this experience, she gained valuable knowledge about archival storage facilities and preservation procedures for new acquisitions. Inspired by the visit and eager to further develop her skills, she later applied for an internship at the museum and was accepted. This opportunity significantly advanced her professional development goals while strengthening the capacity of future Indigenous heritage and archival professionals.

A.D.'s story:

A graduate of the language program now works at KORLCC, where she is responsible for recording and editing the weekly radio show. While carrying out her duties, she also organizes the recordings into thematic segments and adding Kanien'kéha keywords to identify the topics discussed by Elders and community members. This initiative turned into a resource for language teachers, who can now easily locate and use specific segments in their classrooms to support both language acquisition and cultural learning. This initiative highlights the potential for collaboration between different departments, in this case between the Arts & Archives department and Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats language school to enhance access to authentic language resources and advance revitalization efforts.

Kahnawà:ke is home to many forms of artistic expression that the community is committed to nurturing and growing. Through theatre, music, visual arts, and multidisciplinary programming, Kanatahkwen:ke inspire creativity and growth while empowering community artists to share their voices and experiences.



Turtle Island Theatre

Theatre has a unique ability to bring people together through storytelling, creativity, and shared experiences. Through after-school drama classes for children, youth, and adults, Turtle Island Theatre nurtures local talent while strengthening a vibrant and inclusive arts community in Kahnawà:ke. More than a theatre program, it provides a safe and supportive space where participants can build confidence, connect with others, and explore their identities through creative expression.

IMPACT – Turtle Island Theatre

Strengthened Kanien'kehá:ka Identity:

For many Indigenous people, identity and culture have historically been marginalized or undervalued. Through theatre, participants are given a space to be seen, heard, and celebrated. In a supportive and non-judgmental environment, they can confront and work through the shame that has often been internalized and passed down through generations as a result of colonization and historical trauma. Their growth and success foster confidence, resilience, healing, and a stronger sense of cultural pride.

Improved Well-being:

Theatre creates a safe and supportive environment for self-expression, helping participants build confidence, communication skills, emotional awareness, and teamwork. Performing on stage encourages individuals to overcome fear, take positive risks, and expand their comfort zones, while the collaborative nature of theatre fosters belonging and mutual support. Theatre also teaches perseverance, adaptability, and discipline through the challenges of rehearsing, performing, and working collaboratively. These experiences help participants develop

transferable life skills that benefit them in school, work, and everyday life.

As one former participant shared:

"It is because of my time in the theatre that I live a life full of creative expression with empathy for others, as well as a general confidence in myself to speak up and share my ideas... Theatre has been an outlet for stress relief, a place to have fun and a sense of community... It is because of this creative and expressive lifestyle that I am able to live a happy, fulfilled life."

Enhanced Intergenerational Transmission:

Many of our Musical Entertainers are residential school and Indian day school survivors, as well as choir members of the St. Francis Xavier Mission Catholic Church. They carry songs in the Kanien'kéha language that have been passed down for over 100 years. They have lived experiences and hold knowledge that are important parts of who we are. Without these members, many of these songs, stories, and lived experiences could be lost forever. Our programming creates a safe and welcoming space where these participants can share their knowledge with younger generations. Through music, storytelling, and working together, we help strengthen intergenerational knowledge transmission

and ensure these important cultural teachings continue to live on.

The End of an Era for Turtle Island Theatre

"Mean Girls" was Turtle Island Theatre's last show at Kateri Hall on Saturday, May 30, 2026. The next day, the crew started dismantling everything, lights, walls, seating at Kateri Hall and moved into Kanatahkwen:ke in June 2026. The theatre is almost complete and the crew started rehearsing for the Grand Opening Variety Show at the multipurpose room at Kanatahkwen:ke. The variety show will take place in month in October 2026, within the Grand Opening festivities.



Arts & Archives - Art Section

Through its workshops and professional development opportunities, community artists across visual, cultural, performing, and multimedia disciplines are supported in strengthening their practice and making their voices heard in Kahnawà:ke and beyond.

Iontkahthóhtha' is an annual all-Indigenous art fair held in Kahnawà:ke, organized by KORLCC Arts & Archives department. Translated as “a place to look” in Kanien'kéha, it provides a platform for artists from Kahnawà:ke and sister Kanien'kehá:ka communities to showcase and sell both contemporary and traditional works of art. Beyond creating opportunities for artists to gain exposure and generate income, Iontkahthóhtha' serves as a gathering place where Indigenous artists can connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen networks of mutual support within the Indigenous arts community.



UPCOMING: Iontkahthóhtha' – 2026 edition

The next edition of Iontkahthóhtha' will take place in October 2026 and will expand into a month-long celebration of Indigenous arts, culture, and community, developed by KORLCC in collaboration with Kahnawà:ke Tourism and Turtle Island Theatre. This partnership reflects the ongoing commitment of Kanatahkwèn:ke's partners to work together in revitalizing and promoting Kahnawà:ke's artistic, cultural, and creative talents within the community and beyond. By bringing together artists, performers, cultural practitioners, entrepreneurs, and community members, the event will showcase the richness of Kanien'kehá:ka culture while creating opportunities for cultural exchange, economic development, and community engagement.

The month-long program will feature a diverse range of activities, including:

- Art Exhibition
- Fashion Show
- Harvest Festival
- Market Night
- Comedy and Music Night
- Kyle Williams' Solo Show
- Grand Opening Variety Show by Turtle Island Theatre



Kahnawà:ke Tourism serves as an important bridge between the community and neighbouring municipalities by welcoming visitors to learn directly from the people, culture, and history of Kahnawà:ke. Each month, visitors from around the world are offered opportunities for meaningful connection and cultural exchange. Individuals, educational institutions, and organizations from across Canada, China, the United States, and Europe visit the community to

deepen their understanding of Kahnawà:ke and Kanien'kehá:ka culture.

Through a variety of cultural and educational activities, Kahnawà:ke Tourism creates spaces for dialogue, discovery, and shared understanding. These experiences help foster meaningful cultural exchange, challenge misconceptions, and build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.



IMPACT - Kahnawà:ke Tourism

Strengthening Kanien'kehá:ka Identity:

Kahnawà:ke Tourism initiatives strengthen cultural identity by creating opportunities for community members and visitors to engage with living Kanien'kehá:ka culture, history, language, traditions, and contemporary community life. Visitors are offered immersive cultural experiences that include guided community tours as well as engaging presentations on the community's history, governance, and cultural teachings delivered by community leaders and knowledge keepers. These activities promote pride in Indigenous identity and celebrate the unique traditions that continue to shape the community today.

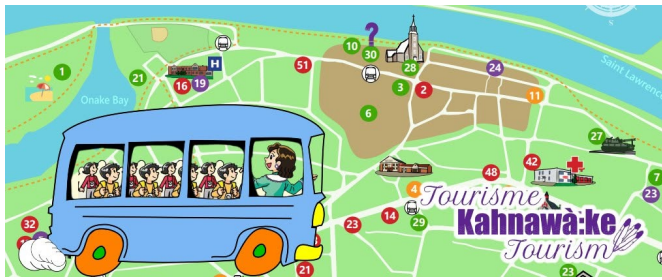
Improved Well-being:

Cultural connection and community belonging are important contributors to mental wellness. Kahnawà:ke Tourism activities provide spaces where community members can gather,

celebrate traditions, reconnect with cultural teachings, and participate in positive community events. Festivals, cultural experiences, and opportunities to share stories, food, music, and traditions foster a sense of belonging, pride, and social connection, all of which support individual and collective well-being.

Enhanced Intergenerational Knowledge Transmission:

Many tourism and cultural activities in Kahnawà:ke encourage the sharing of knowledge between elders, adults, youth, and children. Events such as the Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow, cultural demonstrations, language and cultural centre exhibits, food fest celebrations, tour guide mentorship programs and storytelling opportunities create environments where cultural knowledge, language, values, and practices can be passed from one generation to the next. These experiences help ensure that Kanien'kehá:ka traditions remain vibrant and relevant for future generations.



Intercultural Exchange Day:

Beyond guided tours, Kahnawà:ke Tourism shares knowledge and promotes cultural understanding through a variety of initiatives. In February 2026, a cultural exchange brought together 14 students from Deerfield Academy and students from Kahnawà:ke Survival School, creating meaningful opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to connect, exchange perspectives, and learn from one another.

Podcast: Teachings on Mid-Winter Ceremonies:

Kahnawà:ke Tourism also extends its educational reach through its podcast, available to both community and non-community members through Kahnawakenews.com. One notable episode focused on the 13 Moon Cycles and the importance of living in harmony with nature through a discussion of the Mid-Winter ceremonies. While the ceremonies themselves remain private, the conversation provided valuable insight into the teachings and values that continue to guide the community.

Placing Kahnawà:ke on the International Map:

The organization also plays an important role in raising Kahnawà:ke's profile on the international stage. In 2026, representatives attended the International Indigenous Tourism Conference (IITC) in Edmonton, Alberta, hosted on Enoch Cree Nation territory. The event brought together Indigenous tourism leaders from across Turtle Island and around the world, including participants from South America, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Australia, and Finland. Through panel discussions, networking opportunities, and knowledge sharing, Kahnawà:ke Tourism strengthened relationships and contributed to global conversations on Indigenous tourism and cultural preservation.

We Are Stronger Together:

As one of the six Haudenosaunee nations, Kahnawà:ke also recognizes the importance of strengthening relationships with fellow Haudenosaunee communities. To support this goal, Kahnawà:ke Tourism participated in the Haudenosaunee Tourism Summit in Akwesasne and continues to collaborate through the Haudenosaunee Tourism Network. Through initiatives such as the Haudenosaunee Tourism Connections campaign, promoted throughout Montréal and beyond, new opportunities have been created for visitors to engage with Indigenous communities, often for the very first time.

TESTIMONIALS:

“I was happy to visit Canada upon the invitation I got from McGill University in Montreal. Besides my academic activities, I was able to see some important landmarks and museums of the city (including the McCord-Stewart Museum of Indigenous Cultures). However, the most remarkable day of my stay was the day when I visited the Kahnawà:ke Territory, a prominent Indigenous village just opposite the city of Montreal on the other side of the river... My visit to Kahnawà:ke is a real pivot of my tourist activities in Canada. It inspired me to learn more about the First Nations, so I also downloaded a few books. It will remain in my brain as information, in my heart as memories and on my shelves and wardrobe as souvenirs.”

Марко Д

“I’ve just finished teaching a one-week intensive graduate course at Concordia University in the Department of Applied Human Sciences. Last week, the students and I went to Kahnawà:ke and took part in the Tour of Kahnawà:ke as part of the course, which focuses on systems change. As all of us live on unceded Kanien’kehá:ka land, and it is the land on which we work/aim to work, we wanted to deepen our understanding of the land, history and culture... In our class conversation the next day, one of the students commented on how powerful the experience had been and how it is one thing to read about a place and culture in a text book and an entirely different thing to stand in that place and hear some of its history and stories from someone in the community. We were deeply touched by the experience. On a personal note, I will definitely repeat this experience the next time I teach this course and will seek out opportunities to repeat it in other contexts as well. I see how every visit will be different and there is so much to learn.”

Eva P.



KORLCC Language School: Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats

Whether through the language networks of sister Kanien'kehá:ka communities or partnerships with renowned academic institutions, Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahní:rats is continually striving to strengthen its programming for the benefit of both the community and the broader revitalization of Kanien'kéha. As part of this commitment, the language school has partnered with McGill University, combining community-led language revitalization with academic expertise to expand research capacity and support the development of language resources, curricula, and teaching methodologies. Furthermore, in the spirit of growing together as Kanien'kehá:ka communities, language teachers from Kahnawà:ke and sister communities regularly come together to share best practices, teaching strategies, and knowledge, fostering collaboration and strengthening collective efforts to revitalize and promote the use of Kanien'kéha across the territory.

UPCOMING: Collaboration between KORLCC and McCord Museum

To commemorate the 325th anniversary of the Great Peace of Montreal, signed in August 1701, a symposium will be held at the McCord Museum in Montreal on September 18 and 19, 2026, bringing together researchers and academics to present and discuss the history related to the treaty and its lasting relevance.

As part of the commemorative activities, a reception will take place at Kanatahkwèn:ke on September 17, 2026, in collaboration with KORLCC's Cultural and Historical Liaison and the McCord Museum. This event holds particular historical significance, as some of the negotiations between the 38 Indigenous Nations that led to the signing of the treaty, and brought an end to nearly a century of conflict, took place at this very location in 1701.

Researchers, academics, history enthusiasts, and cultural practitioners will be invited to attend, along with representatives from museums and cultural centres of Indigenous communities that were parties to the treaty.

The reception will begin with a welcoming ceremony, followed by a tentative presentation by a Kanien'kehá:ka historian reflecting on the history of the Great Peace of Montreal. Guests will then be invited to tour the museum, where a replica of the wampum belt representing the treaty will be on display.

Building Relationships through Artistic Expression

Over the years, Turtle Island Theatre has welcomed audiences, participants, and collaborators not only from Kahnawà:ke, but also from neighbouring communities and schools. These relationships have created meaningful opportunities to share the knowledge, values, and lived experiences of the Kanien'kehá:ka people.

On the other hand, the Arts & Archives department at KORLCC creates meaningful opportunities to connect Indigenous artists with corporations and organizations seeking to advance their reconciliation commitments through the integration of Indigenous artwork into corporate and public spaces. For instance, organizations such as Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated (JCCBI), Rogers, IKEA, and McGill University have approached the Arts & Archives department at KORLCC to connect with Kanien'kehá:ka artwork. These installations serve as lasting acknowledgements that their workplaces and operations are situated on the unceded and traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka.

Indigenous Artwork at the Mercier Bridge

The Mercier Bridge has lined both spans with work from Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) artists every 3 years starting 2017, when the Jacques-Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated (JCCBI), Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center unveiled the first series of artworks as part of Canada's 150th anniversary. The 2023 works included eight artists from Kahnawà:ke, two from Kanehsatà:ke and one from Oneida. The art banners were installed again in 2026.



Embedding Indigenous Artwork at McGill University

The second floor of New Chancellor Day Hall was modernized to integrate an Indigenous Learning Space & Lobby with features inspired by Indigenous cultures. The space that will include a large classroom with a capacity of up to 80 will showcase an artwork by Kanien'kehá:ka artist Skarahkotane Deom entitled "Balance".



Mural Artwork at IKEA

An artwork by Robin Marquis an artist from Kahnawà:ke was showcased on a twenty-six feet by eight feet mural at the entrance of the IKEA Beauharnois warehouse. This initiative marks the first step in IKEA's journey towards Indigenous Reconciliation, focusing on establishing meaningful and reciprocal relationships with Kahnawà:ke and Indigenous communities across Canada.



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING
THE TIME TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR WORK.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU AT THE GRAND
OPENING IN SEPTEMBER!**

CONTACT US:

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Located next to Kahnawà:ke Survival School

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