

# KANIAN'KEHAKA (MOHAWK) THANKSGIVING ADDRESS



Ohenton kariwatehkwen

`words before all else`

Kentsyokwa sewatahonsiyohst ken'nikarihwehsha. Onen kati nonwa ne teyethinohweraton tsi nahoten wahshonkwawi

attention you all listen for a short while. So then now we will all give thanks for what he had given us

ne Shonkwaya'tison.

The creator.

Teyethinohweratons ne onkweshon'a

we all give thanks to the people

Teyethinohweratons ne yethinihstenha tsi yohwentsyake

we all give thanks to our mother the earth

teyethinohweratons ne kahnekaronnyon

we all give thanks to the water of the world

teyethinohweratons ne kentsyonshon'a

we all give thanks to the fish life

teyethinohweratons ne ohenteshon'a

we all give thanks to the grasses

teyethinohweratons ne ononhkwashton'a

we all give thanks to the medicine

teyethinohweratons ne otsinonwashon'a

we all give thanks to the insect life

teyethinohweratons ne kahikshon'a

we all give thanks to the fruits

teyethinohweratons ne tyonnhehkwen

we all give thanks to our sustenance (foods)

teyethinohweratons ne kontiriyo

we all give thanks to the animals

teyethinohweratons ne karontashon'a tahnnon okwireshon'a

we all give thanks to the trees and bushes

teyethinohweraton ne otsi'ten'okon'a

we all give thanks to the birds

teyethinohweratons ne kayeri nikawerake

we all give thanks to the four winds

teyethinohweratons ne yethisothokon ratiwerahs

we all give thanks to our grandfather thunders

tethsitewanonhweratons ne etsitewatsi'a tyohkenekha karahkwa

we all give him thanks, our eldest brother the day sun

teyethinohweratons ne yethiso'tha ahsonthennekha karahkwa

we all give thanks to our grandmother the night sun

teyethinohweratons ne yotsistokwaronnyon tsi tkaronhyake

we all give thanks to the stars in the sky

tethsitewanonhweratons ne shonkwaya'tison

we all give him thanks our creator

tho kati nenyotonhake ne onkwa'nikonra

that is the way it will be in our minds

thok nikawennake

that is all the words

(Provided by Joseph Brown from Tyendinaga, Ontario)

## THE WAYS OF KNOWING PARTNERSHIP TURTLE ISLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Toronto Zoo's Ways of Knowing Partnership Turtle Island Conservation programme shares the hopes and goals of First Nation partners in our commitment to the preservation of wild life and wild places for those yet to come. This programme partners with Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee First Nation communities located in the province of Ontario, Canada to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into turtle and wetland conservation programming.

The intention of this partnership is to bring together Keepers of Traditional Knowledge, Elders, First Nation community

members and Turtle Island Conservation programme team members to support community cultural and natural history priorities incorporating Traditional Knowledge while building awareness with non-Aboriginals.

The programme employs First Nation youth and is guided by a First Nation Advisory group.

All teachings and knowledge remain with our partner communities for their decisions on how it is to be used

### Our Objectives are:

1. To foster respect for self, community, Mother earth and the Creator.
2. To recognize and record significant landscapes valued by First Nations communities.
3. To integrate traditional ways of knowing with western science to monitor, protect, respect and restore landscapes.
4. To integrate language, art, and crafts to sustain traditional ways of knowing and living.
5. To facilitate understanding of the diversity of First Nation culture and way of knowing among non-Aboriginals.

For further information and companion resources available from this programme please visit:

[www.turtleislandconservation.com](http://www.turtleislandconservation.com)

[www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/FrogWatchOntario.asp](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/FrogWatchOntario.asp)

[www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/TurtleTally.asp](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/TurtleTally.asp)



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