

**Application from Ron Boyer for an Appointment to the
“Truth and Reconciliation Commission”**



Ron Boyer

“Bebaminojmat” - “Bearer of Good News”

Ron Boyer
Box 548
Kahnawake, QC
J0L 1B0
Tel: 450-632-7389
decon.ron@sympatico.ca

The Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, Prime Minister
House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

December 4, 2005

Subject: Application for the appointment of Ron Boyer to the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission"

Dear Mr. Martin,

Several friends have suggested that I apply for a position on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was announced this week. I request that you forward my application for consideration with your recommendation.

My wife and I both attended residential schools in Spanish, Ontario for nine (9) and eight (8) years respectively. Over the past eighteen (18) years since my ordination as a Deacon, I have had the opportunity to travel the width and breadth of North America ministering to people of all Nations and Tribes. Within the native communities I have had the honor to work with people of all traditions including Longhouse, Mide-win and Christians. Within the non-native communities I have worked with Catholics, Anglicans, United Church, Presbyterians, Jews and Muslims.

My ministry has concentrated on the healing of families and the healing and reconciliation between the cultures. This work consists of conducting healing circles that have as a goal restorative justice, alternative dispute resolution, family reconciliation and cultural healing. I have also given many lectures, seminars and retreats centered on reconciliation and healing. One of the most recent events was at the National Treaty Day celebration at the Cathedral in Halifax where I gave the keynote address to the assembly. I believe that my participation on the Truth-and-Reconciliation Commission would be a natural continuation of my ministry.

I have compiled below a listing of several of my major qualifications:

1. Eight years of Residential School in Ontario.
2. Eighteen years of ordained ministry.
3. Seven years as chair of the Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation
4. Bachelors and Masters of Arts, Theology (Concordia University)
5. Community Justice Forum Facilitator (RCMP)
6. Community Law and Justice Program (Akwesasne Justice Department)
7. Many technical certificates and business related programs (Champlain College)

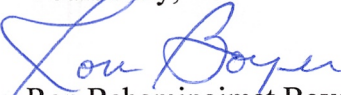
I have prepared a complete application with a full resume which includes references from many friends including the following:

- Mrs. Melody McLeod (Dene) Yellowknife, NWT
- Hon. Graydon Nicholas, (Maliseet - Tobique, NB)
- Mrs. Bernice Kahsennanoron Lazore, (Mohawk) Akwesasne, ON
- Chief Franklin Shining Turtle (Ojibwa) Whitefish River First Nation, ON
- Fr. John Walsh (Close Friend) Montreal, QC
- Dr. Gregory Baum, (Close Friend) Montreal, QC
- Sr. Dorothy Moore (Micmaq) Sydney, NS

I appreciate your support of my application and look forward to being a part of this historic process that will bring reconciliation and closure while providing hope for the future.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or require any additional information.

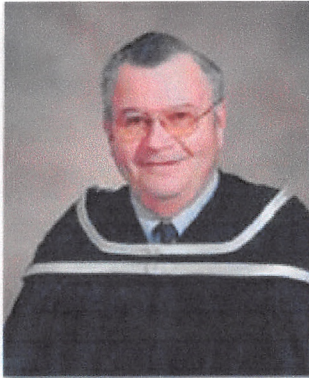
Yours truly,



Ron Bebaminojmat Boyer



Ronnie Boyer



Education:

M.A. in Theology (Concordia University)

Background:

Ron Boyer is an Ojibway from Northern Ontario and has been married for forty-eight years to his wife, Sheila, a Mohawk from Kahnawake. They have six children and ten grandchildren. Eighteen years ago, after passing the necessary accredited courses in theology at the Anishinabe Spiritual Center, Ronnie was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. He is a spiritual leader in Kahnawake and a Board member and past President of the Canadian Bible Society of Montreal. He is also a member of the Inter-Faith Council of Churches of Montreal and a writer for the English Catholic Times of the Archdiocese of Montreal. He was selected by the Canadian Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops to chair and serve as one of the Native representatives, in its "Reconciliation, Solidarity and Communion Initiative". Ronnie received his Master of Arts degree in Theology from Concordia University in 1998.

Updated from original version published in 1998.

Concordia University

Montreal



Canada

It is certified that

Ronald Joseph Boyer

having completed the required course of study and having complied with all other requirements of the University is hereby admitted to the degree of

Master Of Arts

In testimony whereof, we have affixed our signatures and the seal of the University this twenty-ninth day of May, 1998.

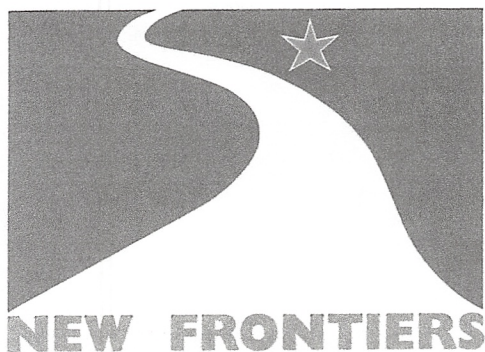
A. Jursenhein
SECRETARY, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Justin Singer
DEAN

[Signature]
REGISTRAR

[Signature]
CHANCELLOR

Frederick Lowy
RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



Commission scolaire New Frontiers
New Frontiers School Board

Services de l'éducation des adultes
et de la formation professionnelle

Adult & Professional Education Services

remet cette
is pleased to present this

ATTESTATION

à/to

Ronald Boyer

pour sa participation au cours de
in recognition of her / his participation in the course of study in

Français Langue Seconde et Intégration Socio professionnelle

durant la période du **23 septembre 2002 au 12 juin 2003**
during the period of

Directeur(trice) du Centre
Centre Principal

Coordonnateur(trice) de programme
Programme Co-ordinator

Nova Career Centre

Centre

Le 12 juin 2003

Date

Commission scolaire New Frontiers
New Frontiers School Board

Services de l'éducation des adultes
et de la formation professionnelle

Adult & Professional
Education Services



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

This is to certify that

Ron Boyer

has successfully completed the requirements of the course training standard and is certified as a Community Justice Forum Facilitator

May, 2000
Kahnawake Territory

✠
Karen Marshall

Karen Marshall - Instructor

Art Shofley

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

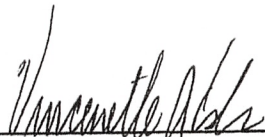
Certificate of Completion

in the

Community Law and Justice Certificate Program

Ronald Boyer

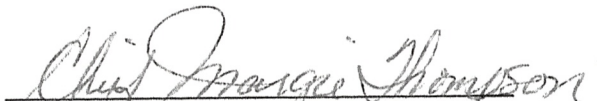
as prescribed by the
Akwasasne Adult Education Committee



PROGRAM MANAGER

December 20, 1999

DATE


MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

RESUME

RONALD BOYER
P.O.BOX 548,
KAHNAWAKE, QUEBEC
J0L 1B0
Tel: 450-632-7389
decon.ron@sympatico.ca

EDUCATION:

Tewatohnhi'Sakta (K.E.D.C.)* Intermediate Training Program 'Microsoft Office, Word, XP & Excel XP' (ongoing)	Nov. -2005
Iroquois Philosophy & Spirituality Concordia University	Jan- Apr.-2003
Nova Career Center, Chateaugay, QC. Emploi-Québec Training Program 'French as a Second Language' "Attestation"	Sept 2002-June 2003
Tewatohnhi'Sakta (K.E.D.C.) Intermediate Training Program in Microsoft Office 97, Word, Excel	July, 2000
Kahnawake Justice Commission: Community Forum Facilitator Training (Certificate R.C.M.P. approved Community Justice Forum Facilitator)	May, 2000
New Frontiers School Board Adult & Professional Education Services "Let's Chat in French" (Niveau 3) ATTESTATION	Jan. – Apr. 1999
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Justice Dept., Intensive Justice Training Program Intensive studies 180 hrs. Community Law & Justice Certificate Program (Certificate of Completion) Akwesasne, PQ	Sept.-Dec., 1999
Kahnawake Jobs Education Career Center Microsoft 95 (Word, Power Point), Messaging 4.0, Theoretical and practical application of knowledge skills in a networked environment (Training Certificate)	Sept.-Dec., 1998
Concordia University, Montreal, PQ Completed Graduate Studies, obtained Master of Arts Degree in Theology	1995-1998
Nova Career Center, Chateaugay, PQ, Introduction to DOS and Hard Disk Management (Certificate of Merit)	Jan. – Apr., 1997

Undergraduate Studies:

(Equivalency to bachelor degree in Theology) University of BC, Vancouver, BC, credited courses in Ecumenical Theology	1993-1994
Regis College, Toronto School of Theology Anishinabe Spiritual Center, Anderson Lake, Ont. Advanced courses in Theology	1987-1993
School of Formation, Anishinabe Spiritual Center Esplanola, Ont., Preparation for ordination	1983-1987
Ordained to the diaconate:	Nov.11, 1987
Training as a Kahnawake team member (35 hr. course) 'Suicide Prevention / Teens in Conflict'	Mar., 1985
Champlain College, St. Lambert, PQ credited Courses in in Business Admin. (Bus. Law, Acc'ting & Mgmt.)	Sept. – Dec., 1978
Attended Residential School in Spanish, Ontario Graduating from High School	1948-1956 June, 1956

EMPLOYMENT:

Ordained Pastoral Ministry, Ass't Pastor, Kahnawake Serving the community of Kahnawake, PQ with a population of 10,000; outreach to Akwesasne & Kanesatake Liaison to Schools (interior & exterior), Protestant Churches, Longhouses, Ecumenical Centers and the Diocesan Center. Ecumenical-Inter-ministerial with Churches of Chateauguay Give workshops and lectures regularly in High Schools, Colleges And Universities in Montreal based on 'bridging the cultures.'	1987-2005
Supervised Federal Job Creation Projects in Kahnawake. Restoration work on St. Francis Xavier Mission located on the historical Fort St. Louis. There I taught working skills to the unemployed, preparing them with construction skills in stonework, masonry, carpentry and restoration in order that participants could compete for employment outside the reserve.	1976-2000
Supervised construction of Kahnawake Boys/Girls Club Ass't Executive Director Kahnawake Boys/Girls Club	Jan. – Sept 1972 1972-June 1976
Employed as supervisor with Kingston Mechanical Const. Structural contracting with companies such as Air Canada, Canadair, General Motors, Imperial Tobacco, United Aircraft, General Foods and many other large firms.	1967-1972

Volunteering:

- *Past Board Member of Kahnawake School Board (four years)
- *Elder member of Onkwa'takaritahtshera; Kahnawake's Global Health and Services Board
- *Member of First Nations Headstart;
- *Member of Diabetes Working Group, Schools Diabetes Prevention
- *Member of KSTARS, Kahnawake's Musical & Drama Club
- *Facilitator 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' (Restorative Justice);
- *Chair, Council for CCCB National Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation
- *Board Member / Past President of Canadian Bible Society, Montreal.

References:

The Honorable Graydon Nicholas
Provincial Court Judge of New Brunswick,
Council Member, CCCB Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation, (RSC)
Address: Home
117 Kingswood Drive
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 6Z7
Tel: (506) 454-1981

Address: Work
P.O. Box 94, Oromocto, N.B.,
E2V 2G4
Tel: (506) 357-4020 fax: 357-4032

Rev. Fr. John Walsh,
Pastor, St. John Brebeuf Parish,
7777 George St., Montreal, QC.,
Past Episcopal Vicar, Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil includes Kahnawake
Radio Talk Show host, CJAD 'The Fr. John Walsh Show'
Tel: (514) 366-0131 email fatherjohn@johnbrebeuf.ca

Mr. Tom Boushel,
Vice-President U. S. Market Development,
VQuip U.S.A. Inc.,
1520 Doctor Penfield Ave., #94,
Montreal, QC, H3G 1B9
Tel: (514) 935-6551 1-866-878-4787
Email: tom.boushel@vquip.com Web: www.vquip.com

11.28.2005



JUSTICE

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE / PAGE COUVERTURE DE TÉLÉCOPIE

Date	December 5, 2005
To / À:	Phil Fontaine
Firm / Bureau:	AFN
City / Ville:	Ottawa, ON
Telephone No. / N° de téléphone:	1-613-241-6789
Fax No. / N° de télécopieur:	1-613-241-5808
No. of pages including cover / N° de pages incluant couverture:	2
Original sent or retained? / L'originale envoyée ou retenue?:	
File/Dossier:	
From / De :	Judge Graydon Nicholas Provincial Court
Telephone No. / N° de téléphone :	1-506-453-2811
Fax No. / N° de télécopieur :	1-506-444-3612

Message:

Dear Phil,

I am sending this attached Letter of Reference as requested by my good friend, Mr. Ron Boyer. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Graydon Nicholas
Provincial Court Judge**

Notice : This facsimile message may contain privileged or confidential information and should not be read by, copied by, or delivered to anyone other than the person to whom it is addressed. If you have received this fax in error, please destroy the original and telephone us immediately at our expense at the number given above. Thank you.

Avis : Cette télécopie peut contenir des renseignements privilégiés ou confidentiels et ne devrait être lue, copiée ou remise que par le destinataire. Si cet envoi télécopieur fut reçu par erreur, veuillez détruire l'original et communiquer avec nous immédiatement à frais virés, au numéro donné ci-dessus. Merci.

November 30, 2005

Mr. Phil Fontaine (Original Signed Copy Mailed Directly to Chief Fontaine)
Grand Chief
Assembly of First Nations
Trebla Building
473 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON

Dear Phil,

Re: Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Letter of Reference for Mr. Ron Boyer

I have been asked by my good friend, Ron Boyer, to write this Letter of Reference in support of his application for a position on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission being established by the AFN.

I have known Ron Boyer for many years and have been working with him since 1998 as members of the Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation (CARC) as part of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). Ron and I have also made many presentations on the spiritual aspects of our First Nations in gatherings of religious interfaith in Toronto. He, his wife, Sheila and I made presentations on World Youth day in Toronto in 2003. We have also met with aboriginal communities and did many sharing and healing circles.

I know that Ron is a very humble and spiritual person who has dedicated himself to improve the lives of aboriginal people and our communities. He has encouraged aboriginal and non-aboriginal persons and communities to dialogue with one another to foster better understanding, communication and respect for one another. He was involved in healing circles in the aftermath of the Oka crisis that affected the Mohawk people in Kahnawake and Chateauguay.

He has worked hard and sacrificed his time and energy to improve his knowledge at University and studies as an ordained Deacon to bridge the two Spiritualities as an Aboriginal and Catholic person. He is a firm advocate of reconciliation, healing and forgiveness. His personal life is a testimony of his beliefs.

I believe that Ron Boyer has the personal, academic and life skills to be an ideal person to serve on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I have no hesitation in recommending him to this Commission.

Sincerely,

Graydon Nicholas

December 2, 2005

(Original Signed Copy Mailed Directly to Chief Fontaine)

Grand Chief Phil Fontaine
Assembly of First Nations
Trebla Building
473 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

It is my pleasure and privilege to recommend the appointment of Deacon Ron Boyer to the above noted Commission.

Deacon Boyer was ordained 18 years ago and has served the First Nations people within and outside his community since. He has had the opportunity to travel the width and breadth of North America ministering to followers of all Nations and Tribes, some of which include Longhouse, Midewin and Christians. Within the non-native, Deacon Boyer has worked with Catholics, Anglicans, United Church, Presbyterians, Jews and Moslems. His ministry has focused on the healing of the families and the healing and reconciliation between the cultures. This consists of conducting healing circles that have, as a goal, restorative justice, alternative dispute resolution, family reconciliation and cultural healing. In addition to this, he has served as Chair of the Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation since its inception in 1998, an initiative by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. This initiative is part of a commitment made to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples to address, in word and action, all that continues to marginalize Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. It is focused on strengthening the Spiritual foundations to support reconciliation, solidarity and communion among Canada's founding cultures through funding programs that will increase awareness of aboriginal issues, support processes of healing and foster Aboriginal faith leadership in the Christian community.

In addition to his hands-on experience, Deacon Boyer has a Bachelor and Masters of Arts in Sacred Theology (Concordia University), is a Community Justice Forum Facilitator (RCMP), holds a Certificate in Aboriginal Community Law and Justice Program as well as many other technical certificates and business related programs from Champlain College.

Deacon Boyer's participation on this Commission would be a natural continuation of his ministry; his experience and knowledge would be invaluable and provide strength and credibility to the Commission. I have known, and worked with, Deacon Boyer for several years and it is without hesitation that I submit this recommendation. Your consideration of this is sincerely, and humbly, appreciated.

The contact information for Deacon Boyer is as follows:

Ron Boyer
Box 548
Kahnawake, QC J0L 1B0
Tel: 450-632-7389
decon.ron@sympatico.ca

Thank you, Marsi Cho, Meegwiich.

Melody J. McLeod
14 Braathen Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3H4
(867)920-6251 (W)
(867)920-4340 (H)
(867)873-0185 (FAX)
melody_mcleod@gov.nt.ca

38 Tewesatenni Road
Akwasasne, On
K6H 5R7

December 2, 2005

Phil Fontaine
National Chief
Assembly of First Nations
Trebla Building
473 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON

Shekon Chief Fontaine:

I am most pleased to write a character reference and support for Ron Boyer who has expressed an interest in applying for a position on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

I have known Ron for the past 25 years. We have worked together on various Native Ministry Programs and he is also a graduate of the Spanish Residential School. He has many friends that he went to school with from Akwasasne and he visits them quite often and ministers to them when he is invited.

Ron is a tireless worker, having given many volunteer hours for the community and in the Kahnawake and Akwasasne parishes. He is always cheerful and dependable, his wit is a joy to experience and to learn from. He travels with his friends and family as often as he has the opportunity, especially making trips to other First Nations reserves to minister to them, from New Brunswick to British Columbia. He took the time in his life to return to school and obtained his Master's Degree in Sacred Theology from Concordia University in Montreal. All of these activities testify to Mr. Boyer's value of learning. His ability to communicate increases regularly and touches the center of our mutual humanity.

Our Akwasasne Kateri Circle is very proud to work with Ron, he has been a great friend and teacher in learning our Native Spirituality. We have witnessed the care and attention he gives to people that ask for his help in our Talking and Healing Circle gatherings.

I am sure knowing Ron his dedication and commitment to committees that he serves, would be a great benefit for all should he be considered a seat on this Commission.

Sincerely

"Kahsennanoron"

Bernice Kahsennanoron Lazore 
President, Akwasasne Kateri Prayer Circle

Assembly of First Nations
Trebla Building
473 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Attn: Grand Chief, Phil Fontaine

December 13, 2005

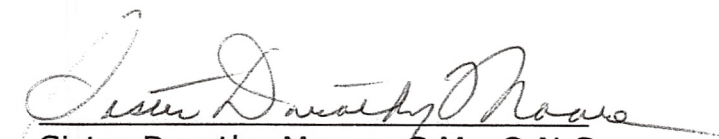
Dear Mr. Fontaine:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of Mr. Ron Boyer and his application for the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

I have known Reverend Boyer for a number of years and feel that this man fits all the criteria required to serve on the Commission. Mr. Boyer is deeply committed to fostering right relationships with all peoples but most especially with the First Nations. Not only is his culture important to him, his wisdom, his spirituality, his integrity and gentleness all speak of his character and personality. Above all, Mr Boyer has experienced life in the Residential School which is significant for better understanding, empathy and compassion for all survivors to help bring about healing for those who need healing.

In conclusion it is my hope that Reverend Mr. Boyer will be given strong consideration to serve on the Commission because with his participation and commitment many more will be able to walk a path of peace, love and pride of their native identity.

Yours truly,



Sister Dorothy Moore, C.M., O.N.S.

Grand Chief, Phil Fontaine
The Assembly of First Nations
Trebla Building, 473 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7

fax (613) 241-5806

Subject: *Ron Boyer's Application for an appointment to the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission"*

December 7, 2005

Dear and Honoured Grand Chief Phil Fontaine,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend to you Mr. Ron Boyer who has applied for an appointment on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I have known Ron Boyer over many years. He took courses from me at Concordia University in Montreal; I also had occasion to meet him at church events, which he, a deacon in the Catholic Church, also attended. I am well aware of his achievements and his gifts. He got a B.A. and M.A. in theology, he has been ministering to his community for over a decade, he is well versed in the Aboriginal legal tradition and customs related to justice, and he has acquired the skills as a good administrator. He is a man committed to both justice and peace, a commitment that marks his personality, exhibiting strength and gentleness. In my opinion, he is eminently well prepared to be a creative and responsible participant at the promised Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

With my very best regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Gregory Baum
Professor emeritus, Religious Studies, McGill University
Le Centre justice et foi
25, rue Jarry ouest
Montreal, QC H2P 1S6

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF SAINT JOHN
BREBEUF**

7777 GEORGE STREET
LASALLE, QC
H8P 1C8

Website: www.johnbrebeuf.ca

e-mail: office@johnbrebeuf.ca

e-mail for Father John Walsh fatherjohn@johnbrebeuf.ca

phone: 514-366-0131

fax: 514-366-7469

December 5th, 2005

Chief Phil Fontaine
Assembly of First Nations
One Nicholas Street Suite 1002
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7B7

Fax at 613-241-5808

Dear Chief Fontaine,

The intention of this letter is to recommend the hiring of Rev. Mr. Ronald Boyer as a member of the Commission of Reconciliation that will be established by the AFN.

The AFN is to be congratulated for the establishment of a body that will address the painful aftermath of residential schools and a commission of reconciliation may well provide native people the healing of the abuses inflicted on Native People in Residential Schools during a very unfortunate period of our common history.

It is most certainly bound to be successful if we can look at the incredible results obtained in South Africa by their efforts in Truth and Reconciliation.

It is uppermost in my thoughts that we cannot move into the future without the healing of the deep wounds that have occurred because of the abuse of Native people by Government policy of assimilation and sexual abuse by members of the churches.

Rev. Mr. Ronald Boyer has served for many years in the Church as a Permanent Deacon. He is an Ojibwa living at Kahnawake and has lived there the majority of his almost 50 years of marriage to Sheila Paul, a Mohawk. However, after the Crisis of 1990, Ron has spent a great deal of his time teaching non-natives about the healing circle and native spirituality. He embarked, at his own expense, on a number of cross-Canada ventures to bring the healing circle to Native and non-Natives. He has testified as to the need for healing of natives before the Bishops of Canada at their General Assembly. He has traveled to the Far North to listen and discern what the people of the South could provide to remedy the misunderstood situations in the North. I can personally attest to the effectiveness of these teachings at the elementary school level, as well as High School,

and throughout many communities because I witnessed these gatherings first-hand when I was working more closely with Ron. Ron has absorbed the depth of a native spirituality that heals natives of the oppression they have felt from the non-Native culture.

I would strongly recommend that Ron be part of the Commission assuring you that he would make a very special contribution to the Commission.

Meegwetch!

Yours truly

Father John E. Walsh, B.Ph.; S.T.L.; S.S.L.



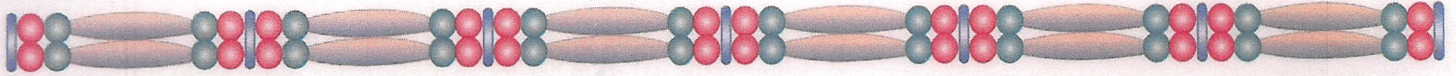
Aionkwatakari:teke

(A-YOU-GWA-DA-GA-RI-DE-GEH)

Vol. 5, No.12

Kahnawake's Only Health and Wellness Newsletter

Tsothórha / December 2000



**It's Not
the Money,
Glory or Fame
That Makes
a Person
Become a
Volunteer.**

**Like Ron Boyer,
many people give of
themselves unselfishly
just to help others.**

**KSCS salutes
those volunteers.**



Deacon Ron Boyer

He looks like a stereotypical grandfather, like a snapshot straight out of a picture book. He walks slowly with the aid of a cane, is soft-spoken and has a certain calmness about him. White wisps of thinning hair hug the sides of his weathered face; gold-tinted glasses camouflage the darkness of his eyes. He's an untiring volunteer, and always seems to be smiling. Just this past summer, he was asked to sit as an elder representative on Onkwata'karitáhtshera, Kahnawake's Global Health and Social Services Board. Most people know him as Deacon Ron.

He was born as Ronald Joseph Bebaminojmat (*"the one who speaks the good words"* in Ojibway) Boyer in April 1938 in the small Anishnabe community called Mississauga, located between Sudbury and Sault St. Marie, Ontario. Ron met his wife-to-be Sheila Paul of Kahnawake at the Residential School in Spanish, Ontario, where they both attended. They married at the school in September 1957, and soon after, moved to Kahnawake. Ron quips *"she took me out of the bush, but she didn't take the bush out of me."* The couple have six children, three boys and three girls. Today, ten youngsters call him grandfather.



The sixty-two year old has been a volunteer in some capacity most of his life. *"You don't feel good about yourself until you get involved. It's second nature, reaching out to help others. Volunteers feel a sense of pride,"* says Ron. *"When you are active, you are an integral part within the community, your purpose is fulfilled. I try in my little way to make a difference."*

Ron has chaired the Church Committee since 1967. His native rights were transferred to Kahnawake in 1971, after being adopted into the Band. In 1972, he took a six-month leave from a large construction firm in Montreal to oversee the construction of the Kahnawake Youth Center and became the first Program Director. Four years later, he left to coordinate restoration projects of the Mission complex, and later supervised construction of the new Kateri Hall. He was also a member of the Combined Schools Committee in the 1970's. He chairs the Council for Reconciliation, Solidarity and Communion, an initiative of the Bishops of Canada, and a result of the Royal Commission in the early 1990's.

In 1992, Ron and his wife Sheila founded and also direct the Kateri Native Healing Ministry of Kahnawake (Ionterihwaweihnstahkhwa). Ron was ordained as one of only

two Native Deacons in the province of Quebec in October, 1987. A Deacon is a minister of the third order, below bishop and priest.

Ron is a Board member and Past-president of the Canadian Bible Society. He received his M.A. in Sacred Theology from Concordia University in 1998. In December 1999, Ron, along with his grandson Travis Jacobs, completed an intensive training program in Aboriginal Law as Federal Justices of the Peace. Both grandfather and grandson completed their stages at the Palais de Justice in Montreal, presiding over mock trials with a superior court judge and attorneys, playing the roles of accused, witness, prosecutor, and defendant.

In May 2000, Ron participated with several other community members in the Community Justice Forum Seminar on Restorative Justice, becoming a qualified facilitator. His newest venture is his appointment to Onkwata'karitáhtshera as an elder community representative. Ron describes his role. *"At meetings and conferences, I represent not my own interests, but those of Kahnawake, and I incorporate my ministry to promote good will between cultures, as I see my role as a bridge-builder to the exterior."*

Why Be a Volunteer?

*It's not for the money,
it's not for fame*

And it's not for any personal gain.

*It's for the love of fellow man,
It's just to lend a helping hand.*

*It's just to give the tithe of self.
That's something you can't buy
with wealth.*

*It's not the medals worn with pride.
It's just for that feeling deep inside.*

*It's that reward down in your heart.
It's the feeling that you've been a part*

*Of helping others far and near
That makes you a VOLUNTEER.*

~Anonymous