

## TSI NÉN:WE ONKWEHONWÈ:NE FOREVER NATIVE LAND

TEHANYATARÍ:YA'KS BRANDON MARTIN<sup>1</sup>

### 1. POSITONALITY STATEMENT

Dr. Tehanyatarí:ya'ks Brandon Martin is currently an Assistant Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University. His research interests focus on Haudenosaunee language, culture, and history. For more than a decade Tehnyatarí:ya'ks has been directly involved in the Haudenosaunee language revitalization movement at the community level. First as a Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk language) student at Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa in Six Nations. Followed by leadership roles with a Kanyen'kéha adult immersion program at Native American Community Services in Buffalo, New York. Then as Director of Deadiwënösnye's Gëjöhgwa, an Onöndowa'ga:' Gawë:nö' (Seneca language) adult immersion program that operates at the Seneca Nation.

### 2. COMMUNITY CONNECTION STATEMENT

Tehanyatarí:ya'ks niwakhsennò:ten ne Kanyen'kéha, káton Brandon Martin niyónkyats ne O'seronni'kéha, táhnon Ohswé:ken nitewaké:non.

*Tehanyatarí:ya'ks is my name the Mohawk language, or Brandon Martin is my name is English, and I am from Six Nations territory.*

Kanyen'kehá:ka niwakonhwentsyò:ten. *I am from the Mohawk Nation.*

Ohswé:ken nithoné:non ne ake'nihsténha táhnon rake'níha, táhnon tehnitsyá:ron Kanyen'kehá:ka nihononhwentsyò:ten ó:ni.

*My mother and father are from Six Nations, and they both are from the Mohawk Nation as well.*

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## 3. FEATURED POEM

Sateryén:tare ken tsi “Toronto” ne Kanyen’kehá:ka nakawennó:ten?  
 Did you know that “Toronto” is a word from the Mohawk Nation?  
 Tsi Tkaronto – Where the log is in the water Tsi Tkarón:to → Tsi Tkarón:to =  
 Toronto

Sateryén:tare ken tsi “Ontario” ne Kanyen’kehá:ka nakawennó:ten?  
 Did you know that “Ontario” is a word from the Mohawk Nation?  
 Yonyatarí:yo – A beautiful lake / A good lake Yonyatarí:yo → Yonyatarí:yo =  
 Ontario

Sateryén:tare ken tsi “Canada” ne Kanyen’kehá:ka nakawennó:ten?  
 Did you know “Canada” is a word from the Mohawk Nation?  
 Kaná:ta – Town / Village → Kaná:ta from Kaná:ta change K to C & T to D =  
 Canada

Tóhsa sesa’nikónrhen’, yah nón:wenton tesesa’nikónrhen’s, tsi kí:ken onhwéntsya  
 nè:’e Onkwehonwè:ne.  
 Don’t forget, never forget, that this land is Native land.

Onkwehonwehnéhne, shé:kon Onkwehonwè:ne, tsi nén:we Onkwehonwè:ne  
 It was Native land, it’s still Native land, it will always be Native land

<sup>1</sup> LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES, TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, CANADA

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