



MAY 2025 | VOLUME #30

# KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

Lets Talk Tourism | Montreal Tourism | Tourism Montérégie | Olympic Lab Event | Tours | Rendez-vous Canada



## INTRODUCING IONKHINÈN:RINE' - YOUTH CULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Kahnawà:ke Tourism is proud to launch Ionkhinèn:rine' ("They/She leads them"), a brand-new Youth Cultural Leadership Program designed to inspire and empower youth ages 12-17 through immersive experiences rooted in the Kanien'kehá:ka culture and heritage of Kahnawà:ke.

This exciting initiative offers participants a unique opportunity to grow as leaders while deepening their connection to Tsi Niionkwarihó:ten (our ways). Through storytelling, guided tours, artisan workshops, and hands-on community engagement, youth will build essential leadership and life skills in a supportive, culturally enriching environment.

*"We want to instill pride, responsibility, and cultural understanding in our youth, while*

*helping them become confident ambassadors of who we are as Kanien'kehá:ka,"* says Olivia Wakenhnhiióhstha Rice, Program Facilitator.

- ✓ **Learn from respected community leaders and guest speakers**
- ✓ **Assist in cultural presentations and guided tours**
- ✓ **Build skills in collaboration, public speaking, and storytelling**
- ✓ **Strengthen their sense of identity and responsibility as future leaders**

*"This program also prepares youth for meaningful roles in Kahnawà:ke's growing tourism sector and our new Cultural Arts Center,"* adds Tourism Development Manager Kimberly Kaniehténhawe Cross.



## LET'S TALK TOURISM KICKS OFF SUMMER WITH COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS!

To kick off the summer season, Let's Talk Tourism hosted two info sessions during the Kahnawà:ke Hunters Lacrosse games on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - and what a fantastic turnout we had!

Set up right in the heart of the action, our booth gave us the perfect chance to cheer on our local team while connecting with community members about exciting tourism initiatives. We shared details about the upcoming Ionkhinèn:rine' Youth Cultural Leadership Program, and introduced many people to the visual concepts for the new Kahnawà:ke Cultural Arts Center. There was a lot of buzz, curiosity, and great conversation around future job opportunities in tourism!

It was especially inspiring to meet so many interested youth, eager to learn and get involved. These sessions truly showed us the excitement and potential that's growing within our community - and we can't wait to see how these conversations blossom into action!

*Lets Talk  
Tourism*

Missed us at the games? Don't worry Kahnawakehró:non - we'll be out at more community events this summer! Be sure to stop by our table, say hello, and find out how YOU can be part of Kahnawà:ke's cultural and tourism future.

### Kicking Off Summer with Culture, Community, and Connection!

## MONTREAL TOURISM SUMMER LAUNCH

We were thrilled to kick off the summer 2025 season by attending the Montreal Tourism Summer Launch on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, held at the beautiful La Nesra venue.

The event began with a warm welcome from Mayor Valérie Plante, followed by remarks from representatives of the Grand Prix and Just for Laughs teams. The energy was high, and the atmosphere was festive, as businesses from across the region came together to showcase what they have planned for the season.

Our team was proud to represent Kahnawà:ke Tourism with our own information booth. We were ready to greet visitors, answer questions, and promote everything we have to offer - including our upcoming Pow Wow, which we're

especially excited to introduce to newcomers! We made some fantastic connections and are looking forward to welcoming many new visitors this summer.

Don't forget to check out everything happening in the city this season on the [Montreal Tourism site!](https://montreal.tourism.gc.ca/en/)

**TOURISME /  
MONTREAL**

## Tourism Montérégie - New Partnership & Relationships KIMBERLY ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that Kimberly Cross has been elected as an Administrator on the Tourism Montérégie Board of Directors for a two-year term. This appointment is a significant milestone, as Kimberly brings a wealth of experience and dedication to promoting regional and Indigenous tourism.

Her leadership will play a key role in shaping strategic initiatives that drive sustainable growth and enhance the visibility of Kahnawà:ke as a part of the Montérégie region, as a premier travel destination. We look forward to the positive impact her expertise will bring to the board and the broader tourism community.

### Olympic Lab Event: SHARING CULTURE AND SPIRIT WITH TEAM CANADA

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Kahnawà:ke Tourism staff were honored to participate in the Olympic Team Canada Lab Event held at the Airport Marriott Hotel. The event brought together athletes and coaches preparing for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy, and we were very proud to represent Kahnawà:ke and share our culture with the delegation.

The day began with the opening address and land acknowledgement, delivered by Ratitsenhá:ens Stephen McComber, who offered the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén (The Words Before All Else). His words highlighted the sacred relationships between our people, the land, and one another - setting a meaningful tone for the day.

Following the opening, Kimberly Kaniehténhawe Cross introduced our talented performers. Atsenhakèn:iate Lazare led four songs, accompanied by vib dancers: Nashytn Mayo, Kwena Boivin, Kaiè:wate Jacobs, Watatsensheriiósthá Thompson, Shatekaiè:ton Diabo and Isabella Cross.

Their performance brought energy and emotion to the space, beautifully connecting our culture

with the Olympic spirit. The athletes responded with heartfelt appreciation, and it was a moment of true cultural exchange.

In the afternoon, Dwayne Stacey, Danny Stacey, Tyler Gilbert, and Kimberly hosted a wampum bracelet and belt-making workshop, where each participant crafted a personal replica wampum bracelet. They also contributed a strand of beads to a Friendship Wampum Belt, which was presented as a gift to the Team Canada Olympic Committee - a symbol of respect, connection, and shared journeys.

*"It's meaningful and appreciated when organizations like the Olympic Committee take real steps to include Onkwehón:we voices in their spaces. It helps educate, build awareness, and foster meaningful relationships across Turtle Island and beyond."*

We were deeply grateful to be part of this special event and to walk alongside the athletes as they prepare for their Olympic journey. Best of luck to Team Canada in Italy for the 2026 Winter Olympics!



## TOURS

With the beautiful weather gracing us with her presence at the beginning of May brought visitors to the doors of the Kahnawà:ke Welcome Center. Our staff greeted 6 private group tours.

### May 6<sup>th</sup>

8 visitors from L'Autre Montreal participated in a tour of Kahnawà:ke before stopping in at Iron Horse boutique and Tóta Ma's Café.

### May 8<sup>th</sup>

10 visitors from the Conseil Regional de L'Environnement de la Montérégie participated in our tour of the historic village and tour of the language and cultural center. The group also visited many of the local boutiques Kahnawà:ke has to offer.

### May 9<sup>th</sup>

Our very own Kimberly Cross conducted a FAM tour with ADMTL who had a bus tour of Kahnawà:ke, Brunch at Two O Seven, meeting with Playground and visited the new museum site.

### May 9<sup>th</sup>

4 staff from a place that everyone loves and enjoys the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center partook in an educational tours of our base package visiting key sites and destinations.

### May 12<sup>th</sup>

Tremblant 6 visitors enjoyed a tour of our base package including the tour of Kahnawà:ke, tour of Saint Francis Xavier Mission and the Language and Cultural Center. The group also enjoyed their lunch at Two O Seven.

### May 28<sup>th</sup>

36 visitors were greeted by stage student Hayden before beginning their visit of Saint Francis Xavier Mission with Shrine tour guide Marion.

## TRIP ADVISOR REVIEW

“

**Amazing tour in Kahanawake**

**What a tour! Amazing French guide.**

**We've learned a lot about  
Kahnawake community. We were a  
group of 7 persons, and everybody  
appreciated the visit. Nia: wen**

”





## FÊTE DES CULTURES St-Constant | May 24

Despite the chilly weather, the Fête des Cultures in St-Constant was a vibrant and heartwarming celebration! The event featured lively dances from various cultures, which quickly warmed up the crowd. Visitors enjoyed a delicious array of food from around the world - a true treat for the palate.

Countries from South America, Africa, and Asia were proudly represented, making it a culturally rich experience for all attendees. Kahnawà:ke Tourism was proud to be part of the celebration with our information booth, sharing with visitors who the true hosts of the land are.

There was also a lot of curiosity and excitement about the new Cultural Arts Center in Kahnawà:ke. Many people mentioned seeing the construction but weren't sure what it was - now they're looking forward to its opening next year!



### Kahnawà:ke Tourism VISITOR STATS

In May, the Welcome Center had 94 visitors: 66 from Canada, 10 from the USA, 12 from France, 2 each from Germany and Poland, and 1 each from Turkey and the UK.

*Building bridges, one event at a time.*





## KAHNAWÀ:KE GOES NATIONAL AT RENDEZ-VOUS CANADA 2025!

Public Relations Officer, Bronwyn Johns, and Tour Coordinator, Jordan Diabo, took flight to represent Kahnawà:ke at Rendez-vous Canada (RVC) 2025, held this year in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This annual event is Canada's premier international tourism marketplace - a key opportunity to build relationships with tour operators and travel partners interested in bringing visitors to our community.

### Day One: Exploring Like Tourists

Before diving into meetings, Bronwyn and Jordan got a taste of local tourism with a visit to Fort Whyte Alive, where they met the bison herd and 12 newborn calves. The day included peaceful trail walks and fresh bannock over a roaring fire — a warm welcome to Winnipeg!

### Opening Night Magic

The evening kicked off at Assiniboine Park Zoo, where guests mingled among polar bears, seals, and a dazzling light show. The night concluded at The Leaf botanical gardens, where the team enjoyed performances by talented Indigenous jig dancers.

### Productive Networking & Cultural Exchange

The rest of the week was filled with scheduled meetings, connecting with national and international tourism professionals. Highlights included the Bonjour Québec Networking Event on Wednesday and a stunning host night reception at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Thursday - a beautiful venue to celebrate Indigenous presence and dialogue in tourism.

The event wrapped up Friday afternoon, closing out a week of strong connections, cultural exchange, and opportunities for future tourism growth in Kahnawà:ke.





## KAHNAWÀ:KE WELCOME CENTER HOURS

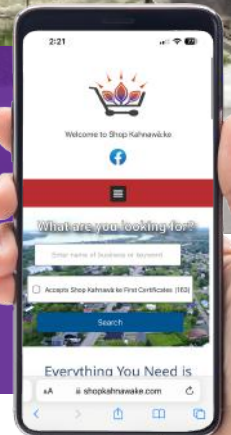
MON .....	8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUES .....	8:30AM - 4:00PM
WED .....	8:30AM - 4:00PM
THU .....	8:30AM - 4:00PM
FRI .....	8:30AM - 4:00PM
SAT & SUN .....	10:00AM - 3:00PM

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNAWÀ:KE QC, J0L 1B0

## SHOP KAHNAWÀ:KE

Shop Kahnawà:ke Gift Certificates are now available for purchase at the Welcome Center! Gift certificates can be given as a gift for that special occasion and can be redeemed in over 100 business locations in Kahnawà:ke. Visit the Shop Kahnawà:ke Facebook page and website for more information.

[Shopkahnawake.com](http://Shopkahnawake.com)



## BOOK A TOUR WITH US

To experience all that Kahnawà:ke has to offer, we invite you to book one of our many fun and informative tours or join us at one of our many cultural events.

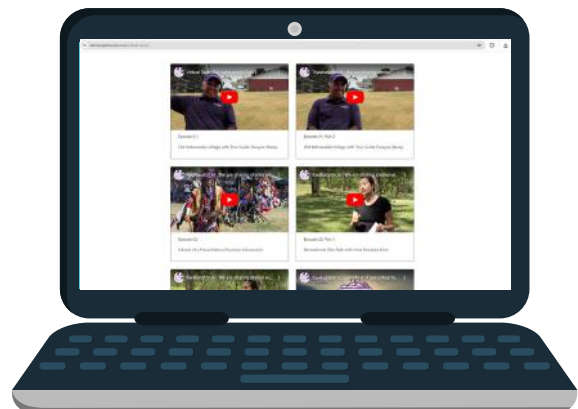


**SCAN TO BOOK!**



[KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR](http://KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/BOOK-YOUR-TOUR)

## CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL TOURS ONLINE



[KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS](http://KAHNAWAKETOURISM.COM/VIRTUAL-TOURS)





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