



Shekoli Swakwek, I greet you all with a good thought and feeling today. I hope that you all are well and are in good health.

First I want to say yaw[^]ko to each and everyone of you for allowing me to represent you in the capacity of Councilman for the Oneida Nation. It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life. It has also been my greatest challenge and learning experience and I am forever grateful for that. To serve in this capacity is not a simple or easy thing. It takes all of one's being to truly fulfill the role and responsibility. It is a spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical experience. And to sit in that seat and execute the role effectively one must be fully aware of all of those factors; in addition to knowing and understanding the content of the issues at hand, the needs of the community, tribal governance, intergovernmental affairs, legislation, and having a plan and vision for the future of the nation. That being said, I want to thank all of our past leaders, and those who have sacrificed years of their life to bring this nation to where we are today. Because it takes all of us working together to keep this nation moving forward.

When I first started to run for office years ago, I ran because I saw an incredible need for change. I still see that need today. I saw the need for change in direction, ideation, ideology, and how we function as a nation. But what I had learned within my first year and half in office was that the only thing we need to change is our beliefs. Because our beliefs dictate how we think, our decision making, our actions, our behaviors, and our results. Once we change our beliefs, everything else changes. I also very quickly learned that changing our beliefs and mindsets is one of the hardest things to change. So I began to wonder why that was. I then learned that our beliefs are formed by our real life experiences, many of which may be negative. By the end of my first term, I realized that many of us, including myself, have never directly addressed or healed from our negative life experiences. It is that trauma that sits in the deepest parts of our hearts and minds that affects our daily lives, our relationships to one another, ourselves and all of creation. That is where the fear, assumptions, and distrust comes from. And then we as individuals and a people begin to base our decisions on those fears, assumptions, and distrust, which leads to one bad decision after another.

So how do we create the change that is necessary for the future of our nation? By taking the individual responsibility and time to heal. How do we go about that? Through prayer, ceremony, counseling, asking for help, and many other healthy ways. If we choose not to, we should expect more of the same. We can create all the greatest programs, jobs, and initiatives in the world. We can fill our lives with all the nice material things money can buy, but if we do not take the time to heal our hearts and minds, then nothing will change. That reoccurring trauma will be passed down from generation to generation. We have already seen the evidence of that all around us. It doesn't just go away. Once we heal, change will be automatic; and reconnection will occur. A reconnection to ourselves, each other, our identity, and all of creation. It is because of this trauma that we have lost our connection, our way of

life, and our direction. My prayer is that each and every one of us can heal and be well again. That we as a people can find that kanolukhwasla (compassion, caring, identity, and joy of being), and Ka?tshatst^sla (the strength of belief and vision as a people) once again. Kwanolukhwa, and I will see you all down the road. Yaw^ko once again for the great privilege of serving this nation.

Councilman Daniel Guzman King

...When you sit and counsel for the welfare of the people, think not of yourself, nor of your family, nor even this generation... The Peacemaker