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## Media Release: Thirty Mohawk children's books published by Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na

(Tyendinaga, December 9, 2020) Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na (TTO) has recently published 30 children's story and colouring books in the Kanyenke'háka (Mohawk) language and is giving away 6,000 copies (200 copies per book) of these original and updated works in Toronto, Brantford, Buffalo, Montréal, Tyendinaga, Akwesasne, Kahnawake, Kanehsatake, Wahta, Ohsweken, Kanatsiohareke, and Ganienkeh.

"We are very excited to introduce these books to our community, in keeping with our belief that our world is made better by Kanyen'kehà:ka culture, knowledge, and ways of knowing," said Callie Hill, Executive Director of TTO. "Educating our young people and bringing up a new generation of Mohawk speakers is crucial so our language and culture can thrive. We greatly appreciate the support of the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC), the Government of Canada, the Woodland Cultural Centre and our many supporters contributing to the important work of Indigenous language preservation."

Canadian Heritage has designated the Mohawk language 'endangered', and research by the [Canadian Encyclopedia](#) found, in 2018, that the language had just 932 native speakers.

Raising a new generation to speak and write in Mohawk has been a focus for TTO, a not-for-profit based in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, since its founding in 2000. In addition to publishing these books and various other resources, TTO operates a nursery and primary school and delivers an accredited adult language program. Additionally, TTO is engaged in Indigenous Language Revitalization research projects with several post-secondary institutions.

In partnership with FNCCEC supported by Canadian Heritage Aboriginal Languages Initiative Program, TTO began recruiting writers and illustrators in July of 2019 to work on updating 20 existing children's books and creating 10 original stories.

The books are intended to be suitable for use by teachers, students, parents, caregivers, schools, and libraries to assist with increased literacy and proficiency in Kanyen'kéha, especially for use by primary immersion students, teachers, and families. They will also be released as audiobooks on their website.

The 20 existing books were written by and translated into Kanyen'kéha by Kanatawakon, Professor at University of Western and member of Tyendinaga. The new books were written and illustrated by different members of the Tyendinaga community and broader Mohawk communities, many of them first-time authors, and designed specifically to respond to contemporary issues. (See Page 2)



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The books are designed to inspire young children to learn and interact with their language. They include fun and educational works such as, “Taking Care of Mother Earth”, “Reyna Really Likes Snow”, “My Grandfather the Farmer”, and “Pizza is my favourite”.

“We wanted to make this a fun and interactive way for kids to learn and interact with the language of our ancestors and to get the Tyendinaga community involved. Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na means “keeping the words alive” and that’s what we hope to do with these books,” adds Hill.

**To arrange an interview, please contact:**

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**About Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na - [www.tto-kenhteke.org](http://www.tto-kenhteke.org)**

Tsi Tyónnheht Onkwawén:na believes the world is made better by Kanyen'kehà:ka culture, knowledge, and ways of knowing.

Each day, we work to share and preserve our culture for generations to come, creating a better future for all.

We welcome all to learn about our past, experience our present, and join in our bright future.

Mohawk Title	English Title	Illustrator	Author
Á:kweks Awenhní:sera	Eagle's Day	Jennifer Glenister	Karen Lewis*
Akohserá:ke	In the winter	Joanne Jacobs	Melanie Howard*
Hányo Tewayenthwá:ko	Let's Harvest	Jennifer Glenister	Tayohserontye Nikki Auten*
Í:i ne...	I am...	Moira Villiard	Lindsay Brant
Í:i tánon Kateri	Kateri and Me	Kaila Schuyler	Melanie Howard*
Reyna kwah í:ken tsi Yenón:we's ne Ónyehte	Reyna Really Likes Snow	Joanne Jacobs	Tina Brant*
Nahò:ten Ní:se Són:nis	What do you make	Darlene Peltier	Tayohserontye Nikki Auten*



Skara'wista Aonhá:'a Waké:kas	Pizza is my favourite	Kaila Schuyler	Tina Brant*
Waké:ka's ne Ken'niyohontésa	I love strawberries	Ness Griffin	Lindsay Brant
Yethinónstat ne Yethi'nisténha Ohóntsa	Taking Care of Mother Earth	Minja Gaines	Tina Brant*
Skátne Yatya'tahkariyóhstha	Getting thin together!	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Enhontekhwà:ren	A big meal	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Tsi Tyontenhninòn:tha Ya'ákene	Going Shopping	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kentsyonkshón:'a	Fish	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Rakhsótha Rahehta'kehró:non	My Grandfather The Farmer	Paul Wald	David Maracle
To Ní:kon Yonkwá:yen	How many things	Paul Wald	David Maracle
To Nikón:ti Kwa'yén:'a	How may rabbits	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Akitshé:nen Takó:s	My cat	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Satkáhthon Ken Akwyà:tawí?	Have you seen my coat?	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Satkáhthon Ken Akwanòn:warore?	Have you seen my hat?	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Sé:ka's Ken Sewahyó:wane?	Do you like apples?	Paul Wald	David Maracle
To Nikón:ti Ata'èn:rakon Kón:ne's?	How many things in the yard?	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kaná:takon Yewakenóhne	I was in town	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Ka'nón:we ne Akwyà:tawí?	Where is my coat?	Paul Wald	David Maracle



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Sótsi É:so Nikón:ti Kítkit	Too many chickens	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Sateryèn:tare ken Ka'nón:we Niká:yen ne Akwáhta?	Do you know where my shoes are?	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kenòn:we's Kenkwitè:ne	I like Spring	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kenòn:we's Akennhà:ke	I like Summer	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kenòn:we's Kanenna'kè:ne	I like Fall	Paul Wald	David Maracle
Kenòn:we's Akohserà:ke	I like Winter	Paul Wald	David Maracle