



JAMAICAN HUMMINGBIRD TAINO PEOPLES

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STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE YAMAYE GUANI COUNCIL

We, the Yamaye Guani Council, issue this formal statement of support in strong solidarity with our Kalinago relatives regarding the protection of the Deux Branches site and the Concord River.

As Indigenous and First Peoples of the Caribbean, we are united by a shared responsibility and duty to protect the land, water, and sovereignty of our ancestors, our future generations, and our lives. The Yamaye Guani Council recognizes that the Deux Branches watershed is the life source of the Concord River and a crucial part of the Kalinago ancestral lifeways. This ecosystem supports the Kalinago People and is vital to their way of life.

The Council expresses serious concern over the current lack of consultation with the Kalinago and the developments at Deux Branches. We call for urgent action, including:

- No development projects must be started and/or proceed without the full, prior, and informed consent of the Kalinago Chief, the Council, and the community.
- Full, respectful, and meaningful consultations must occur in collaboration and partnership with the Kalinago People as inherent Rights Holders.
- We recognize that while Deux Branches is located outside the colonial-defined "Territory" lines of the Kalinago People, environmental destruction does not respect borders. Any damage to the lands and waters directly violates Kalinago lands.
- The Concord River must be protected from the gross violations, harm, and environmental degradation that could result from this industrial project. To harm the water is to harm the community's future.

We demand full transparency regarding the activities in this area and their potential impact on Indigenous health and the environment. Our Council and Yukayeke (community) acknowledge that our struggles are interconnected. When Ancestral Lands, plant life, and waters are threatened and disturbed, it impacts the spirit of all Indigenous People across the Caribbean and around the world.

The Yamaye Guani Council stands with the Kalinago in their demand and fight for justice and accountability for the land their relative, and for direct action that centres their voices. The health and well-being of the Concord River must be guaranteed for future generations.

YAMAYE GUANI COUNCIL

ROBERT "KALAAN" PAIRMAN
KASIKE NIBONRIX KAIMAN
CHIEF YUKAYEKE YAMAYE GUANI
MEMBER - Y.C.O.I.L

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