



## Six Nations “Iroquois” Confederacy

*GRAND RIVER COUNTRY*

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### **Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council tobacco code passed**

**GRAND RIVER TERRITORY OF THE SIX NATIONS-** It's been two generations in the making but the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC) approved the final working tobacco industry protocols that will oversee the Rules of Conduct for the tobacco industry at Six Nations at its meeting today (Saturday, Oct 3, 2015).

The Royanni, accepted the final tobacco strategy flipping the switch to on for the Haudenosaunee Tobacco Trade Commission (HTTC) who will now begin the task of putting the strategy into operation.

HTC spokesperson Kris Green said “This is a truly historic moment for us. This is something that was begun by our grandfathers and two decades later here we are implementing what they started.”

The HTTC will now look to forming a tobacco board, begin staffing and implementing the protocol.

Green said “Now the real work begins. The next steps are a long list of housekeeping items that have to happen now to set up the tobacco board and license office, establishing priorities before actual implementation begins.”

She said the HTTC will continue to report on progress each month to the HCCC.

The HCCC formed a committee made up of HCCC delegates to work with the Haudenosaunee Trade Collective, a group of local tobacco manufacturers, to draft a Tobacco Rules of Conduct in response to Bill C-10, the Conservative government's omnibus crime bill that criminalizes the Haudenosaunee domestic tobacco industry by including it within its definition of “contraband” tobacco. The HTTC has been working on a strategy for almost two years, meeting with chiefs and clanmothers, holding community meetings and meeting with other indigenous communities who are interested in the tobacco strategy.

Saturday's approval brought into implementation an industry that has been on the back burner of the HCCC since the late 1950's when the HCCC first passed a comprehensive program aimed at bringing industry to Six Nations. That industry included Haudenosaunee grown and produced tobacco products, canning and clothing factories and loans programs.

The Confederacy Council works to protect Haudenosaunee people, lands and rights enshrined in the “Great Peace” and laid out in a number of treaties with the Crown from the Treaty of Fort Stanwick to the Dish with one spoon to the Haldimand Treaty of October 25, 1784.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council issued a notice last summer explaining both the domestic industry and that the original tobacco (oyengwaoweh) is a sacred gift the Haudenosaunee continue to grow and use.

Tobacco is an important driver in the Haudenosaunee economy. The notice explained the Confederacy would take steps to protect their people, that includes the creating of a tobacco law.

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