



SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER ELECTED COUNCIL OPEN INVITATION TO THE  
HAUDENOSAUNEE CONFEDERACY CHIEFS COUNCIL

March 12, 2025

Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council

P.O. Box 712

Ohswegen, Ontario

NOA 1M0

Sgę:nq̃h Swadiyanehsqs

The Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) are inviting the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC) to a joint council meeting. This meeting will bring both Councils to a meeting mutually agreed upon date and location. Many issues plague our community and our combined efforts to try and find solutions will greatly help our People/Q̃gwe. An example would be for discussing the mental health and addiction crisis that has led to so many of our young people to commit suicide or overdose on drugs and, the current dumping of soil/dirt on the Territory.

There is a history with HCCC and SNGREC working together for the benefit of our community.

This partnership occurred during the negotiations with Canada and Ontario regarding 'Kanonhstaton' (The Protected Place), formerly known as Douglas Creek Estates. During that difficult time our community witnessed first-hand what can be accomplished when our Councils meet with a 'Good Mind' /Ga'ni'g̃q̃hi:yo:' that provides accountability and transparency to the whole community.

We are hopeful that our two Councils can meet to begin the process of working together to address some of our community's pressing issues. It will be a great opportunity to show our community that what we accomplish together, will have a lasting positive effect on the future and health of our people and our community.

O:nę̃h gi hya'

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council



## Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy

GRAND RIVER COUNTRY

2634 6<sup>th</sup> Line, R.R. #2, Ohsweken, Ontario N0A1M0

September 6, 2025

Sherri-Lynn Hill  
Six Nations Band Administration

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council have received your letter dated, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, which included an invitation to a joint meeting. Below you will find specific areas where the Six Nations Band Administration (SNBA) has disrespected and undermined the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC).

Do not forget that the Six Nations Band Administration functions ONLY as an administrative body as defined by Canada within their Constitution Act and operates under the framework of the Federal Government of Canada. Elected Bands are specific creations of the Indian Act.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council is the traditional government of the Haudenosaunee based on Kaianere'kó:wa (Great Law of Peace). Treaties were made between the Haudenosaunee and other nations.

The Six Nations Band Administration continues to impose and undermine the HCCC since the violent coup of 1924. At that time, the Canadian government had established a solid foundation of genocide and assimilation. The Six Nations Band Administration continues to rule with said foundation by masking themselves as a Haudenosaunee government. More concerning, in recent years, the SNBA's attempts to mimic and undermine the HCCC have become increasingly visible, with your efforts to adopt our traditional symbolism and languages.

The statement in your letter does not fully reflect the true history. While there have been moments of dialogue, they were situational rather than indicative of an ongoing partnership as you assert. Efforts to adopt traditional governance, language, symbols, and decision-making structures has created confusion within our community and further eroded recognition of our Haudenosaunee governance system and reconciliation. SNBA continues to function under the authority of the Canadian government.



We have attached a document outlining instances where the Six Nations Band Administration continues to undermine the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council and the knowledge we uphold. These examples illustrate a pattern of actions that attempt to diminish the authority of the HCCC and the Haudenosaunee people.

All Haudenosaunee territories are affected by the poor mental health issues, addiction crisis and environmental concerns. These are attributed to a deep loss of cultural connection. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and culturally grounded approach that encompasses our ceremonies, ga'nigohiyo, peace, respect and friendship.

The HCCC has clearly stated our views regarding dumping since the 1990's and was reiterated as recently as 2022. Currently, the HCCC is defining environmental laws including consequences. HCCC will pursue the Province of Ontario to enforce their environmental laws with their citizens regarding soil and landfill before it can get to Six Nations Grand River Territory. The same applies to the Haldimand Tract as we are the rightful stewards and remain the allodial title holders of the land.

We remain committed to upholding our responsibilities as the Haudenosaunee and the values and principles that have guided us since time immemorial.

In peace and friendship

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hohahes Leroy Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capitalization.

Hohahes, Leroy Hill

## Attachment

SNBA is operating with a false sense of sovereignty, SNBA is a delegate of the Canadian government.

In 1991, HCCC provided the 8 Points of Jurisdiction and at various times over the years did so again to SNBA and the community. Whenever this topic has been raised by HCCC, the SNBA has never had any positive discussion or comments regarding this, while SNBA continues to impose Canadian and Provincial jurisdiction within our territory.

The following is just a small collection of topics where the SNBA has blatantly disrespected the HCCC in an attempt to undermine the HCCC governance role for the Haudenosaunee.

1. SNBA instructing JFK Law LLP to have SNBA added to the Wilf Davey and Bill Monture litigation against HDI and others named dated April 8, 2025. It is an attack on the HCCC and attempt to dismantle and take over all HCCC entities.
2. Letter from Sherri-Lynn Hill to Hon Greg Rickford dated December 11, 2024 – The letter is self-explanatory where SNBA confirms with harsh words that a joint meeting is not acceptable – **letter attached as Appendix A**
  - the letter expressed deep concern to the Minister regarding he suggests there is an outstanding issue to who lawfully and appropriately represents Six Nations and then SNBA quote court findings related to HDI specifically. SNBA then berate the Minister for suggesting to have a joint meeting with SNBA and HCCC and use HDI as the excuse to not meet. Further, SNBA indicate you are only open to a bilateral meeting where SNBA then dismiss HCCC participation. The letter then focuses on attacking HDI and not the request to meet with the Minister and HCCC.
3. Land Litigation currently under way falls within the claims process of the Federal Government and SNBA will have to surrender our rights as part of this claim. SNBA then actively opposing HDI as a representative of the HCCC as an intervenor, where as an intervenor, HDI is delegated to observe the case on behalf of the HCCC to ensure information is shared. In the last 30+ years, SNBA has shared no information on this with HCCC nor has asked for their opinion.
4. Use of HCCC symbols, wampum, our words to cover up that SNBA are an administrative body while attempting to show to the government that SNBA are a “traditional” government. These actions continue to undermine any possible relationship given SNBA has been advised not to do this any further.



5. 2006 Negotiating table where SNBA was dealing with the province behind our backs and walking out on the negotiations to crash the negotiation table
6. Telling both Federal and Provincial government not to talk to the HCCC on a regular and ongoing basis since Bill Montour left the office in 2013.
7. An elected band counsellor's constant misrepresentation, mistruths and attacks of the HCCC & HDI as well as her constant deflection and gaslighting toward the HCCC & HDI, when the Band is held to account in both editorials and on social media. Simple reference is her most recent letter in the Turtle Island. It does not matter that she is or is not speaking on behalf of the elected band, she is still a counsellor for the band – letter from Helen

**Appendix B**

8. Burtch lands – going behind the HCCC and dealing directly with the province to transfer the lands into a trust, when HCCC have the Peterson Promise out of negotiations, which indicates the land will be held in the manner in which it was originally held and then spending millions on a lawsuit that did not benefit ANYONE – letter from Ontario Caplan, **Appendix C** and Peterson letter **Appendix D**
9. The unrelenting attacks on our Haudenosaunee people who stand up for the HCCC. These attacks are both legal and otherwise through use of injunctions and Court proceedings against our own Haudenosaunee people
  - Legal action and injunctions on the Plank Road property and using the Addition to Reserve process as an excuse to do this.
  - Legal action and injunctions regarding Burtch lands
  - Band administration office injunction during peaceful protests by the community members
  - Ontario Hydro where SNBA supported an injunction that named HCCC and were also against community members, which lead to the community loosing land again
10. Lack of oversight regarding Band departments where these departments create issues where they misrepresent themselves, their interests and their history to SNBA and the community at large
  - Farmers Association
  - Economic development Corporation and Trust – restricting community access to community funding
  - Cannabis Commission
11. Hospitals and interference with the programs for Indigenous navigators displacing community people who were involved in that work

12. SNBA taking the concept of HDI and mimicking with the creation of EcDev. Then putting down HDI activities as a way to bolster EcDev profile
13. Land management issues related to lack of planning on community lands for community use with no input from the community
14. SNBA interference with the SN Language Commission with regards to Language programs and funding.
15. SNBA Land Acknowledgements and falsely claiming to be treaty parties and holders of the Land where they did not exist nor were they created during those times
16. Programs for mental health, addictions, etc are currently run by SNBA and are basically 9-5 programs and should be run when they are most needed during the evenings and at night and should have mandatory interface with police and first responders. You receive all the funding for those programs. What is missing that you are not able to make a difference for our people?
17. Hosting the AFN at SN and not acknowledging the Confederacy prior to that and then the next day giving a speech to apologize for community members disrupting the meeting, where it was Chiefs, Clanmothers, Faithkeepers and helpers who attended that event to give their message. None of you knew, including Amos Keye, that it was Title Holders that came to deliver that message. SNBA is not even aware of who the Chiefs, Clanmothers and Faithkeepers are, how incredulous is that.
18. There's no continuity in band administration decisions, beliefs and rules because you switch people every four years. You have minimal corporate memory within your organization due to this structure.





## Appendix A

### VIA EMAIL

December 11, 2024

Hon. Greg Rickford  
Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation  
Minister of Northern Development Ontario

Dear Minister Rickford

On behalf of the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council, we write in response to your letter of November 6, 2024.

We are deeply concerned about the tenor of your letter. You implicitly suggest that there is an outstanding issue that needs to be resolved with respect to who lawfully and appropriately represents the Six Nations of the Grand River. The courts have made it perfectly clear in a series of long-standing cases that the Elected Council of the Six Nations of the Grand River is the legal representative of the Six Nations of the Grand River.

The Ontario Superior Court recently highlighted this point in its ruling on the case of ***Six Nations of the Grand River Band of Indians v The Attorney General of Canada and His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario, 2023 ONSC 3604***, <https://canlii.ca/t/jxnw4> where at paragraph 59 the Court said:

I find as a fact that, as HCCC's delegate, HDI seeks to advance HCCC's interest in positioning itself as the legitimate governing body of the Six Nations people within the Grand River community. **Its efforts to do so have been litigated and rejected three times.** [Emphasis added]

Ontario was a party to those proceedings, and in its written submissions explicitly argued that HDI was not an appropriate representative because it lacked legal capacity and was facing allegations of improper financial activities. Ontario acknowledged that Aboriginal and treaty rights are held collectively, such that any party asserting such rights would need to do so on behalf of a collective rather than on behalf of specific members of that group (Ontario Factum, May 1, 2023 at paras. 18-25, 40-41, and 53, online: <https://sngrlitigation.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-05-01-Factum-of-Ontario-HDI-Motion.pdf>). We are therefore shocked that Ontario takes a different position on its duty to consult and that it has failed to respect and implement the findings of the court.

We are particularly troubled by the fact that Ontario has failed to take effective measures to bring an end to HDI's actions. HDI has been using the rights of the Six Nations of the Grand River as a pretense to coerce payments from developers and



government bodies and divert these payments to unknown uses. HDI is not accountable to either the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council or to the membership of the Six Nations of the Grand River. In fact, as the Elected Council, we do not even know the extent to which HDI is accountable to the HCCC.

Despite these issues, Ontario continues to issue directives, instructing government officials to consult with the HCCC through HDI. This has resulted in the diversion of substantial economic benefits from the whole of the Six Nation of the Grand River community into the hands of an unaccountable organization (HDI) that is led by someone who is not even a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Ontario's failure to take meaningful action to respect and implement multiple court rulings concerning the lawful governance of the Six Nations of the Grand River, as well as to enforce Ontario's own law, has caused harm to our community and the citizens of Ontario. HDI's actions – which have been effectively supported by the Government of Ontario – have created conflict within our Nation and between our Nation and the non-Indigenous communities surrounding us. This situation has undermined our ability to consult with these communities and develop meaningful accommodations. Ontario's failure to respect our role as the elected leadership of the Six Nations of the Grand River is dishonorable and has hindered reconciliation. In our view, Ontario is very much culpable (along with HDI) for the harm that has been done and continues to be done to our community.

We are open to having a bilateral meeting with Ontario to discuss our path forward. This includes addressing Ontario's provision of financial assistance to the Six Nations of the Grand River in order to help repair some of the damage caused by Ontario's actions and inactions. Additionally, we would like to discuss immediate steps that Ontario should take to start rectifying the damage caused by explicitly condoning the actions of HDI over the last fifteen years.

You may contact Linda Parker, my Chief of Staff, to set-up this meeting.

Sincerely,



Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill  
Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council

c: Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council  
[1749resource@gmail.com](mailto:1749resource@gmail.com)  
[info@hdi.land](mailto:info@hdi.land)

Linda Parker, SNGR Chief of Staff [sncos@sixnations.ca](mailto:sncos@sixnations.ca)



# ***Appendix B***

## Letter to the Editor

Six Nations does not have a community decision-making process that satisfies and is approved by the collective including the Six Nations Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC). It was at the land talk table back in the Douglas Creek days when the thought came to me that Six Nations has no way of making a decision that involves the collective. In speaking only for myself and not the SNGREC, since then, I've been raising this issue every chance I get. Right now, the only reliable decision-making process Six Nations has is the Indian Act's referendum/voting process. We have people refusing to participate in this process because "we don't vote" they say.

On the traditional side we all know the clan system is broken. The Mohawk Clan Mothers have attempted to revive the clan system. However, the other Clan mothers haven't called clan meetings in years. In fact, I will be 81 years old in a few weeks and I don't ever recall a clan mother calling a clan meeting. Or is it that the clan mothers are selective in who gets invited to a clan meeting. When it comes to making a crucial decision like the court case being selective in who is consulted won't cut it.

We need to hear from a large majority of people.

We know HCCC relies heavily on Aaron Detlor/HDI to make all their decisions. Or so it seems. Well, I'll tell you that won't wash for the collective when it comes to the court settlement.

Six Nations needs to be prepared now, not sit on our butts waiting for the 11th hour. If the collective doesn't come to some kind of agreement on decision making, the federal government and possibly the court may impose the referendum process as per the Indian Act. That's the gist of it, folks.

Recently, Six Nations Lands Membership was informed by Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) of the upcoming Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cutoff (I wrote a letter to the TIN couple of weeks ago about this) and Section 10 Voting Thresholds. In this document ISC has made the decision that Section 10 of the Indian Act will be the decision-making process for Six Nations to decide whether we support the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cutoff. I suspect if Six Nations can't make a collective decision on a court settlement, ISC will impose the referendum process.

According to the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cutoff and Section 10 Voting Thresholds Six Nations must hold a referendum and meet three conditions: Notice, Consent and Acquired Rights.

Notice: Six Nations would have to give two notices to the electors, meaning those who are eligible to vote (18 and older). This would be approximately six thousand band members (6000). With Six Nations band members living all over the world giving such notices would be impossible.

Consent: Six Nations must maintain consent from its eligible voters. However, according to ISC consent is only achieved when a "double majority" threshold has been met. A "double majority" threshold means that a majority of the six thousand band members (6000) must vote, and a majority of those band members must vote in favor. Again, it is impossible to achieve. And ISC knows this.

Protection of Acquired Rights: This means everyone whose name is on the band list maintained by ISC will remain legally entitled to band membership. In other words, people who have status or entitled to status cannot be removed from the band list. With Six Nations being the most populated reserve in Canada and over half of our band members living off reserve there is no way Six Nations could meet the Notice and Consent of an Indian Act referendum. Nor achieve a "double majority."

Six Nations has had its own referendums in the past where the Indian Act process wasn't followed. Or where a "double majority" wasn't required. But those issues needing decisions were local issues. The federal government had no interest in our local issues. But the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cutoff and Section 10 Voting Thresholds and the court case is of interest to the federal government so they will insist on the "double majority" because they know Six Nations has no hope of achieving that. This is why it is critical for Six Nations to develop their own decision-making process. My suggestion is to establish a task force to begin discussing what a decision-making process might look like. We don't need the federal government nor the court telling us how to decide. So let us not get too excited about a court settlement just yet. The collective must have a way to accept the court settlement first.

Helen Miller  
Letter to the Editor  
Turtle Island News  
October 9, 2024



# APPENDIX C

## **Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal**

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8th Floor, Mount Block  
900 Bay Street  
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Tel.: 416 325-0424  
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Mailing Address:  
777 Bay Street  
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Toronto ON M5G 2E5

## **Ministère du Renouvellement de l'infrastructure publique**

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May 10, 2006

Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy Council

Dear Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy Council:

Further to your discussions with the Provincial Representative, David Peterson, on behalf of the Province of Ontario, I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Province intends to convey title to the Six Nations of the Burtch lands, specifically:

Parts of Lots 2, 3, 4 and 5, Range 2, East of Mount Pleasant Road, City of Brantford (formerly Township of Brantford), County of Brant.

The provision of the Burtch lands would be taken into account in any future claim settlements. Prior to conveying these lands the Province is required to perform necessary due diligence and preparatory work in order to ensure that title and other land related issues are addressed appropriately. I will also be working toward obtaining necessary approvals.

As you can appreciate, these are practical issues that must be addressed in any conveyance of title and are in no way intended to undermine the Province's commitment to providing these lands to the Six Nations in good faith.

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal would be pleased to arrange a meeting between yourselves and ministry staff to discuss the details of the conveyance. Carol Layton, the Deputy Minister for this ministry will be your contact. She can be reached at (416) 325-4616.

.../2

I have instructed my officials to work toward a conveyance and I will be closely monitoring their progress.

Yours sincerely,

***Original signed by***

**David Caplan  
Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal**

## **APPENDIX D**

May 17, 2006

Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy Council  
RR 2  
Ohsweken ON N0A 1M0

Dear Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy Council:

Subject: Burtch Lands letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2006

As acknowledged by the Honourable David Peterson,

Ontario is prepared to return title to the Burtch Lands to the Six Nations People. The land is to be available on an interim basis for the Six Nations people for immediate use while the land rights negotiations continue.

It is imperative that there be an immediate and full environmental review of the land to be carried out by the Province of Ontario.

The title of the Burtch lands will be included in the land rights process of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations/Canada/Ontario main table. It is the intention that the land title be returned to its original state, its status under the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable David Peterson