



Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy
GRAND RIVER COUNTRY

2634 6th Line, R.R. #2, Ohsweken, Ontario N0A1M0

September 12, 2025

Ms. Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow:

Re: 19A Withrow Avenue – Haudenosaunee Confederacy Consent

We trust this correspondence finds you in good health and good spirits.

We are writing about the burial site investigation at 19A Withrow Avenue and in response to the letter from Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager of Toronto Water, dated August 12, 2025.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy does not consent to work continuing at this site. Our treaties and inherent rights give us the authority to decide whether activities that affect our ancestors may proceed. This right is also recognized in Article 11 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the City of Toronto has committed to uphold.

It is troubling that it has taken the City of Toronto more than 17 months to formally reply to our first request, made in January 2024. This delay shows a lack of urgency and respect.

In March 2024, we met with City representatives and asked for the following steps:

- A meeting with you, City Councillors, and senior staff.
- A monitoring agreement with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to lead the protection of the site, including engagement with other Indigenous Peoples.
- A commitment from the City to provide timely notice of all Toronto Water projects and to respond promptly to engagement requests.
- A site visit with HCCC and City officials.
- A joint response plan for emergencies involving burial or cultural sites.

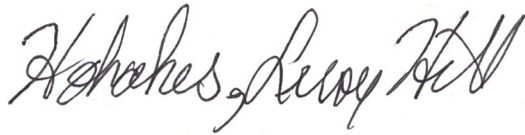
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We are also concerned about discriminatory treatment. The City is engaging with the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation regarding this site but not with us. The Mississauga of the Credit hold no treaty rights in this area, while the Haudenosaunee hold several. Ignoring our rights while engaging with another Nation undermines reconciliation and respect.

Any work at this site without our consent will be considered a direct violation of our rights. We demand the City stop all activity at the site and begin meaningful, treaty-based engagement with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

We request a meeting with you so that we can come to an understanding on how to proceed with this matter and future matters in a respectful and meaningful way. Please provide your availability over the next 2 months so that we can coordinate a mutually agreeable date.

In peace and friendship,

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

Hohahes, Leroy Hill
Secretary
Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council

cc: Registrar Burials