



Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy  
GRAND RIVER COUNTRY

June 27, 2014

Elected Chief Ava Hill  
Six Nations Elected Band Council  
P.O. Box 5000  
Ohsweken, ON  
NOA 1M0

Dear Elected Chief Hill and council:

**Re: Haudenosaunee Burtch Lands**

In response to your letter of March 21, 2014, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs' Council has considered your inquiry about the position our council has taken on the Burtch property lands.

The Burtch property lands are in the process of being remediated and returned to the Confederacy and have been placed in the Confederacy's land registry.

The lands were part of an agreement between the Confederacy Council and the Crown, both the Province of Ontario and Canada, that would see several parcels of land returned to the Confederacy under the same status held in 1794, under the Haldimand Proclamation.

It is unfortunate that there appears to have been a disconnect or misunderstanding between the Six Nations Elected Band Council and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council's department, the Haudenosaunee Development Institute who are acting on instructions from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs council.

So let us clarify that for your council.

The Haudenosaunee Development Institute was put in place by our council and acts under the direction and intent of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council.

The Haudenosaunee Development Institute has been directed by the Confederacy Chiefs Council to lease the Burtch lands for farming and to undertake a study of the lands to ensure they are suitable for farming.

As you are aware there have been several environmental issues surfacing on the lands and the upkeep of those lands by the Crown.

An issue over farming the lands has arisen. The Confederacy has reached out to all our farmers in recent years and the Six Nations Farming Association has had the privilege of farming the lands for the past five years with no fees attached.

When they failed to sign a lease for the lands this year, the lands were leased to another Six Nations farming family, who are working with the Confederacy to revitalize those lands through a process that will take two years to rebuild the lands, which have also been registered in the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council land registry.

While that revitalization takes place the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council has agreed no one will farm for the lands for the 2014 year, the lands will be secured and the issue revisited in 2015 when testing again takes place.

The return of the Burtch lands is entirely due to the strength and resilience of our people who stood up for our lands in 2006 and through the leadership of the Confederacy Chiefs Council, at the negotiating table.

The Confederacy Chiefs Council in seeking a peaceful resolution negotiated a signed, good faith agreement from Provincial representative, former Ontario Premier, David Peterson, to return the Burtch lands as well as several other parcels.

The lands have always been under the jurisdiction of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council and are a part of our original homelands, also recognized in the 1701 Treaty of Albany.

It was by the Governor General and Commander in Chief at the time, who in respecting the pledge of lands made to us, should any of our homelands be lost in the American Revolution, that the Haldimand Proclamation came into being.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council hopes this letter clarifies the matters relating to the Burtch property and the status of the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, that it was created by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council and acts on our direction and instruction and have been following the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs' Council direction and instruction in the protection, remediation, restoration and leasing of the Burtch Property lands.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tekaihoken" followed by a date "1/18/14".

Tekaihoken

For the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council