



Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy GRAND RIVER COUNTRY



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Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs reach out to Ontario

OSWE:GO, GRAND RIVER TERRITORY: The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs are reaching out to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne to help restore the "fair and honest" communication process, established during her tenure as the former Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (HCCC).

The request comes after a meeting with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer came to an abrupt end with no results August, 12 2014.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs and clanmothers met with the Ontario Minister, Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at Ohsweken to discuss renewal of the Haudenosaunee-Ontario Communications Protocol. However, the Minister was not prepared to discuss the protocol.

"The Minister made it clear from his comments at our meeting of August 12, 2014, that the protocol would not be discussed," said Hazel E. Hill, Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI) director. The HDI is the planning department of the HCCC.

Instead, she said, "The Minister indicated Ontario might be prepared to renew the Communications Protocol, but only if the HCCC participated in a table of multi 'political leadership' to address Kanonhstaton, Haudenosaunee lands adjacent to Caledonia (the former Douglas Creek Estates subdivision)," said Hill.

She said the Minister had said Ontario was "not happy with the outcomes" of the Communications Protocol, but she said the Chiefs made it clear the protocol was about relationship building not negotiations.

"The Minister made it clear that Ontario has not been able to achieve specific outcomes with respect to Kanonhstaton. But we would remind the Minister, the Communications protocol was not designed to provide either Ontario or the HCCC with the opportunity to achieve outcomes, nor was it a negotiation process."

"The chiefs and clanmothers were very disappointed with the minister. He made it clear that if those 'political leadership' discussions resulted in a positive outcome, only then, would he be prepared to consider renewing the Communications Framework," she said.

She said "The protocol was a good faith attempt to build a relationship between the HCCC and Ontario and now it appears Ontario was simply using the Communications Protocol as a means to exercise control over the Haudenosaunee and when it became apparent Ontario could not exercise the control that it desired, that Ontario would simply withdraw from the process."

She said the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs have continued to invite Ontario back to the Communications Protocol, a vehicle that allowed for relationship building between the Haudenosaunee and Ontario. Ontario did not have a Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs until June of 2007, operating as a secretariat prior to that. As a result Ontario is new to the Haudenosaunee processes that, until now, have been with the Crown.

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In the meantime, she said the HCCC has completed the privacy fence along the north easter perimetre of Kanonhstaton, that had been discussed in earlier meetings with Ontario. A chain link fence lines the perimetre, providing a five to 10 foot buffer between the fence and adjoining properties. The fence was completed in the spirit of unity with the help and support of a vast majority of Caledonia neighbours who live along the fence line.

Ontario has been part of the three month old discussions surrounding the installation of a fence, and reported the pending installation to both Haldimand County and the Six Nations Band Council earlier.

The Communications Protocol is a communications framework between the Haudenosaunee and Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. It is the first in a series of established processes for the Ontario government, as part of the Crown, in how Ontario and the Haudenosaunee will relate to each other, with its basis in the Two Row Wampum.

The Confederacy, Hill said, has invited Premier Wynne to meet with the Confederacy Chiefs and “repair the damage that has been done to our relationship and restore the processes that need to be in place so that we can have a fair and honest communication process, and relationship that respects the longstanding treaty relationship between the Haudenosaunee and the Crown.”

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