

September 2006

Six Nations (Caledonia) Negotiations INFORMATION SHEET

Who are the Six Nations?

The Six Nations is a community located on the Grand River with whose representatives Canada and Ontario are negotiating with respect to a number of issues including those arising out of the Caledonia situation. Following the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the American War of Independence, some of the people of the Iroquois Confederacy who were allies of the British Crown – composed of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and later, Tuscarora and Seneca Nations – relocated from their homeland in the Finger Lakes region of New York state to settle along the Grand River.

What are the negotiations and how do they work?

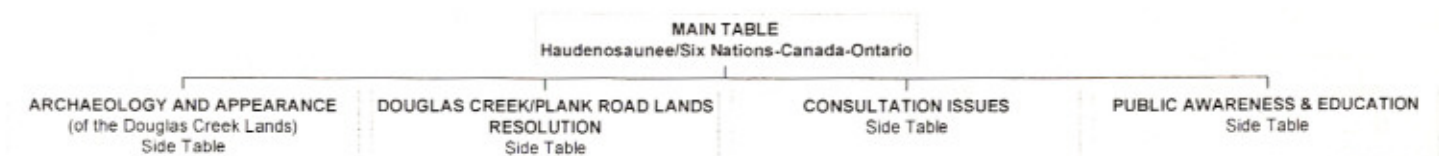
The Six Nations-Canada-Ontario Main Negotiation Table includes representatives from Six Nations elected council and the Haudenosaunee traditional council, and the provincial and federal government.

The parties to the Main Negotiation Table have agreed to conduct negotiations based on principles of mutual respect, peace and friendship.

The Haudenosaunee/Six Nations-Canada-Ontario negotiations are ongoing and meetings take place on a regular basis.

Since early May, there have been frequent Main Negotiation Table meetings and several Side Table meetings. Four Side Tables were created to assist in dealing with priorities agreed to by all the parties.

STRUCTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS



The Side Tables will:

- provide options for resolution of the issues associated with the Douglas Creek, Plank Road lands;
- address consultation issues such as development and impacts on Haudenosaunee/Six Nations land;
- develop educational, promotional and public awareness strategies regarding Haudenosaunee traditions, languages, history and culture; and
- determine if human remains exist and explore options for improving the appearance of the Douglas Creek lands.

Ontario is also conducting additional outreach through the development of a municipal advisory committee, a stakeholders' advisory committee and local outreach and information, including a website.

Are the occupiers going to be removed from the Douglas Creek property?

The Ontario government strongly believes negotiations are the best option for a peaceful resolution to the situation in Caledonia and continues to press the issue of disengagement from the Douglas Creek lands at the Six Nations-Canada-Ontario Main Negotiation Table.

Is there a claim against the Douglas Creek property?

Between 1976 and 1994, Six Nations filed 29 claims with Canada. One claim has been settled by Canada. In 1994, Six Nations, represented by the Elected Council, brought a claim in court against Ontario and Canada for an accounting of all the transactions involving Six Nations lands and the proceeds of their disposition. This litigation encompasses at least 14 of the claims that were submitted to Canada.

The Douglas Creek Estates property in Caledonia is a part of one of the 14 claims in the litigation.

Will Ontario expropriate my property to settle the Six Nations' claim?

Ontario's policy is not to expropriate private property to settle land claims.

What does the province plan to do with the property? Will the land be given to the Six Nations?

The province intends to hold the property in trust. No further decisions about the property or the ownership and use of the land have been made. The main negotiating table has established a side table involving Haudenosaunee/Six Nations, Canada and Ontario to provide options for the possession, use and development of the Douglas Creek lands. The land will be dealt with as part of the resolution of the outstanding claims. There will be consultations with local interests before any decisions are made.

Does the community have a say in what happens in these negotiations?

Community feedback will be essential to achieve a successful negotiated settlement. The provincial and federal governments are currently working with municipal leaders to form a community advisory group which will consist of representatives living in the areas that border the Douglas Creek property and municipal leaders. This will ensure that residents and municipalities are more informed of the progress of negotiations.

The suggestions from the group will assist provincial negotiators with their deliberations.

For more information, call our public information line at: 1-866-876-7672 (toll free) or 905-765-1897, or visit the Six Nations (Caledonia) Negotiation web page at:
<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.osaa.gov.on.ca/english/caledonia/>