

July 2007

Six Nations (Caledonia) Negotiations

INFORMATION SHEET # 9

NEW MINISTRY

On June 21, the Ontario government announced the creation of a stand-alone Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to build a stronger relationship with Aboriginal people and speed up the resolution of outstanding issues.

The new ministry is a significant and symbolic step that reflects the importance of developing a stronger, broader partnership with Aboriginal leaders in Ontario. It has its own Deputy Minister and will work with the federal government on a new process that would expedite land claims in Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

On Saturday, July 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., an Environmental Forum will be held at the Six Nations Polytechnic, 2160 Fourth Line, Ohsweken (between Tuscarora and Chiefswood Road). The environmental forum will host the Amazon Conservation Team whose mission is “to work in partnership with indigenous people in conserving biodiversity, health and culture in tropical America.” Sponsored by the Public Awareness and Education Side Table for the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations-Canada-Ontario negotiations. Everyone welcome.

ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

On June 20th, archaeology fieldwork re-commenced on the Douglas Creek site, including the buffer zone on the north end of the Douglas Creek lands.

Part of the work will involve plowing a strip approximately five meters wide in the buffer zone.

This will include the land adjacent to properties on Thistlemore Drive and the one home on the south end of Braemar Avenue. The undisturbed land along the Douglas Creek side of the Notre Dame School fence will also be plowed.

It is expected that the fieldwork will last several weeks. During this period, the plowed land and other areas of the property will undergo archaeology work by the firm Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants.

Archaeology staff will be wearing identifying safety vests.

The archaeological study is being carried out to fulfill a commitment made to the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations by Ontario in the spring of 2006.

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DOUGLAS CREEK ESTATES UPDATE

Representatives at the Archaeology and Appearance Side Table recently agreed to remove two additional homes at the Douglas Creek Estates property. Utilities for these two homes will be located and marked for disconnection.

Work is continuing to remove and backfill concrete basement foundations throughout the Douglas Creek Estates property.

IMPORTANCE OF HAUDENOSAUNEE/SIX NATIONS-CANADA-ONTARIO NEGOTIATIONS

Ontario is committed to supporting the federal government in discussions with the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations to achieve a peaceful settlement of outstanding grievances.

The following statements underline the importance of the current Haudenosaunee/Six Nations-Canada-Ontario negotiations.

“It is important to realize that claims can and do get settled. It would be incorrect to suggest that claims are so numerous or so substantial that it is impossible to settle them . . . experience has shown that parties are able to negotiate creative, just, and effective settlements under the right conditions and with appropriate support.” – Justice Sidney Linden, Report on the Ipperwash Inquiry, Vol. 2, pg 80, May 30, 2007.

"The Six Nations Haudenosaunee (Confederacy Council) is continuing to work towards a peaceful, fair resolution of its more than 200 year old land rights issues." – Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy Chief Allen MacNaughton, July 9 2007.

"Canada's New Government is committed to finding common and lasting solutions to these complex issues through dialogue, and believes that this new phase of discussions will help move negotiations forward, bringing complex and long standing grievances closer to resolution." – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, March 29, 2007.

“Ontario is committed to a peaceful and negotiated resolution of Haudenosaunee/Six Nations’ outstanding grievances.” – Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, David Ramsay.

“The peaceful occupation of what is now Crown land points to reconciliation, not the force of law, as the best way to achieve a lasting resolution of this dispute.” – Court of Appeal for Ontario, Dec. 14, 2006.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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