

# **Letter: Councillor Helen Miller is fed up with smoke huts on community land**

**Councillor Helen Miller  
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Turtle Island News**

**I am fed up with people lining or trying to line their pockets on the backs of the land reclamation and Confederacy Council.**

**I'm fed up with people trying to create jobs for themselves by coming up with various programs supposedly to help the community or to education the non-natives.**

**I'm fed up with people claiming to be followers of The Great Law when their behaviour and actions tell us otherwise.**

**I'm fed up with people denouncing the jurisdiction of the Six Nations Police when it suits their purpose or to use the DCE site as a haven from the police.**

**Last week a local newspaper was chastised for printing a story about a group of people working on a plan to establish a "Guardian Angels" type policing on reserve. The document the group claims was "secret and confidential" and meant only for the Confederacy chiefs and clan mothers. This sounds like band council! I wonder when these people were going to ask the community if we even wanted a "Guardian Angels" type police service.**

**I'm fed up with people using the Confederacy Council or Mohawk Nation to rationalize or excuse their behaviour, their actions or their criminal activity.**

**First we had Trustees of the Mohawk Nation Grand River filing a Notice of International Commercial Claim Administrative Remedy against G. Bruce MacDonald Real Estate LTD. demanding \$110 Million and aided by lawyer Justice Griffen.**

**Then we had Ellis Hill and his little following filing a \$4.3 Trillion Notice of Action in Brantford's Ontario Superior Court of Justice also aided again by Justice Griffen.**

**Recently we had Trevor VanEvery and Angel Smith accompanied by a "white" developer of all things asking band council to endorse the developer's Renewable Fuels Plant which they wanted built on reserve.**

**At least two groups have asked the Main Table to endorse and fund their public education programs.**

**Then we have individuals trying to get money out of the developers for one reason or another.**

**According to reports we have people arguing over who should be the media spokesperson for the land reclamation or other occupations.**

**Last week I'm told people stood by while Lynda Powless, editor of the Turtle Island News, was assaulted and barred from entering the occupation site at Hagersville by a Six Nations community member. Apparently people are upset because Powless printed a story that was**

unfavourable to the DCE site. So now we have people trying to muzzle one of our community newspapers.

If all this isn't enough we have Jeff Henhawk putting a smoke hut on Six Nations land, followed shortly by a shooting incident at this location.

I hear now another person has set up a smoke shop in the same area. I'm also told that several people have threatened to set up smoke huts on Painters Road and other band properties.

What angers me is that Jeff Henhawk and the other smoke hut owner are doing the same thing to Six Nations as the Henco Brothers did. Instead of a housing development Henhawk and the other owner have set up cigarette huts either on land under Six Nations claims or band owned land. Yet Henhawk claims to be a fervent supporter of the land reclamation.

Just because the land is band-owned doesn't give Henhawk the right to squat wherever he wants. What people from the land reclamation should have done instead of targeting the development in Hagersville was to target the cigarette shops squatting on band-owned land.

I agree the Confederacy Council has jurisdiction over the land which is why I agree to turn the land over to the Confederacy that infamous Easter weekend in Brantford.

On the other hand I believe band council's role is to manage and protect the band-owned land. This is done through policies and land use agreements.

The majority of band-owned land is currently in the process of being added-to-reserve which seems to be just as complicated and lengthy as settling a land claim.

Most of the band-owned land is rented to farmers until such time as the land is needed for economic development or housing development and such other initiatives that benefit the community as a whole not just one person.

Someone questioned the difference between a farmer and Henhawk's cigarette shop. Yes the farmer pockets the money from the harvest but every time we sit down to eat the community benefits. Without farmers we wouldn't have food.

The only people who benefit from Henhawk's cigarette shop other than himself are his rumored-to-be non-native partner and the non-natives who purchase the tax-free cigarettes.