

A few weeks ago the Crown made an offer on one of their land claims. The welland canal flood lands. They offered 26 million on roughly 2400 acres of land that was flooded around the 1830's. The Haudenosaunee Negotiators put a working group together to look at this offer, break it down so to speak, and get it ready for community consultation. Some time frames have been established to bring this information together, and representatives of the confederacy, band council, lands research office staff and the Haudenosaunee research team are working together preparing written hand outs, web pages, phone lines, community meetings and other mechanisms to ensure that all of the people have an opportunity to voice their concerns over this offer. No one has accepted nor rejected the offer and no one is going to without full consultation of the community. The next step is getting it out to community. The 1st part of the plan is mail outs and community meetings. And yes, its long over due! Just like every one involved with the negotiations, i too have been hearing the frustration of the people. They want to know what's going on. They want to know when there are going to be community meetings. They want re-assurance that no-one will be making a decision without their input. And the anger is real, the fear is real, the mistrust is real, and no-one knows more than I do how frustrating it is when you know something is suppose to be happening, but you see nothing happening and you begin to lose faith. But faith is the basis of who we are and the basis of that Peace we talk about. And by now every single person has sat down somewhere with someone and talked about this 26 million dollar offer. There have been discussions in every home, in every restaurant, in every arena and any other place people gather. And I'm sure all of the Clan families have begun their discussions and have informed their Clanmothers and Chiefs of what they think of the offer. But if they haven't, know there will be meetings scheduled. Not only for the clan families, but there'll be nation meetings, district meetings and other group meetings be it sports clubs or social clubs; whatever we need to do to provide the people with more information. Once the people have been able to look at the offer, read it and understand it; then they can tear it up, chew on it, spit it out, stomp on it, draw a red x mark right through it and throw it right back at the Crown as a reminder that we said we wanted land, and that its not about the money. OR, if you think its a good offer, then you get the opportunity to say that too. Point is, we're not going to be rushed into making any decisions. So what if the Crown says its only on the table for a certain amount of time. We've been waiting for over 170 years for compensation on this one, so if the Crown has to wait a few months while we consider their offer, then they can dang well wait. If they want to pull the offer back off the table, let em! Its time they realized that idle threats and political b.s. doesn't work any longer. The time of patting politicians on the backs, buying them a few dinners and guaranteeing funding for some project or department doesn't work here. Six Nations will not be bought. And if the pressure tactics are being used to put a feather in someone's cap or as security of keeping someone's job, thats not our problem! They haven't even made it clear exactly what the offer is for. Historically, the Chiefs have always said that they wanted to be compensated for their lands that were flooded. If this offer addresses only the compensation for loss of use factor and doesn't reflect replacement of the land, then someone needs to explain that. That's just one of the questions I've been asked. There are a whole lot of questions that the people need answers to, and we're going to have to come up with a process that allows for those questions to be answered. Regardless of how long it takes. And there have been members of our community who have been working on a ratification process which they presented to Confederacy Council as well as to the negotiations working group. And while it hasn't been sanctioned or ratified, at least its the beginnings of a plan that looks at how to bring all the concerns of our people together, organize and compile it, and have it available for the negotiators to review and discuss and utilize throughout this process. So alot of work is being done to ensure that this offer, and any offer that comes to the Haudenosaunee for any lands, will come back to the people and go through our Governmental process as we indicated at the very beginning of the land reclamation of Kanonhstaton.

Alot of the misinformation that is happening is a result of the fact that a good communications plan has not been established. We recognize that and are working on it. But these things take

time, and they take money and that is the one advantage the Crown has always had and used over our people. The fact that they hold onto the purse strings and are very cocky about how those disbursements are made and where they 'allow' the monies to flow through, and what those monies are allowed to be used for etc. etc. has always been to our disadvantage. The Crown, who are self appointed holders of our trust, have violated that trust. They've misappropriated our funds and have never had to give a full accounting for that trust in spite of the many attempts by the Confederacy Council as well as the Elected Council to get one. And while we never officially 'hired' the Crown, in my opinion its high time we fired them. They've proven there is no honour in the Crown. They've proven that their only interest in being holders of our trust is so that they can continue to look after their own needs. They've proven that they are incompetent. We've continually asked for an accounting in the past. Now we need to demand that the Crown provide all proof of transactions, every receipt for lease monies collected, and proof of every expenditure that benefited the Six Nations. We need to call in auditors and lets get this accounting done once and for all! Anywhere else in the world when there has been embezzlement of money or deliberate mishandling of a financial trust that a given institution has been assigned, there would be charges laid. At the very least, a complete and full investigative audit demanded. From the very beginning, the Crown had no intention of respecting nor protecting the rights of the Onkwehonweh or the well-being of our people. Their intent has always been total assimilation. Their attempt at the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical genocide of our people has never left their minds. Its one of the reasons why recently the Pope made a declaration. That declaration was that the only 'true' and 'legal' religion was that of the Catholic Church. Why was that declaration made? Because the laws that the Crown has built its empire, are man made laws that were sanctioned by the Vatican and based on a religion implemented to have total control of all people. It was done through trickery lies and deceit to undermine the true holders of the Law of the Land, that being the Onkwehonweh. It had nothing to do with spirituality. It was designed to usurp the authority of His Children, and to attempt to stand before Creation as the Head. It's like the spiritual battle between the left handed twin and the right handed twin if you will, and as the Onkwehonweh stand before the Creator, defending the True Law, the Kaienerekowah, that was given to us, their man made law weakens and begins to fall apart. The spiritual bondage and control that they've had over the people has weakened, and the yoke has been broken. It's why you see Canadian and Ontario politicians speaking out against the rights of the Haudenosaunee to govern within our own law. Its why you see them using certain newspapers that will feed their readers untruths and promote fear mongering through media campaigns that compare our people to Nazi's. They've undermined the horrific crimes that were committed against another race, compared our actions of holding the Crown accountable, to acts of war crimes in history. Its why you see other papers use words like extortion and thugs. What they're really doing is deflecting from their own guilt. We've held up the mirror and they don't like what they see! The true conspirators, the true extortionists, the true thugs with their Mafia type tactics and army of paid leg breakers and enforcers of OPPression, are sitting in your canadian parliament and in your courts. Its why they'd rather spend millions of dollars on lands claim processes that go no-where, and behind the scenes make every effort to undermine the assertion of jurisdiction of the Haudenosaunee over our lands and our people. Its why they continually tell settlers and developers on our lands along the Grand River that the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI) has no authority. WHY? Because they've seen the results of our people standing in defense of our law; and the illusion that they are the superior race, the illusion that a law based on force rather than peace has been shattered. Their stock markets are seeing steady declines. Their mortgage and housing development is being halted. Their banking industry and real estate agencies have been faced with the reality that without the land, there is no collateral, and the biggest conspiracy and white collar crime in the history of Canada, has come face to face with the LAW. And now their laws, and their courts are having to deal with that because they are now faced with the TRUTH. And so the battle continues.

Meantime, the Haudenosaunee have been making great strides. The HDI, which basically is an arm of our Government, the Confederacy Council; just like Canada is an arm of the Crown

and the Indian Act System is an arm of Canada, has set up office. And while we're still working on setting up more community meetings which will allow the people to become more involved in the process, and where eventually a board of governors will be set up to oversee it and carry it through; right now the people involved have been sanctioned through council to get it up and moving, and that is exactly what we're doing. We're meeting with developers, we're meetings with institutions of Ontario, and in spite of the words that come from their politicians mouths that we are not a legal entity, the fact that they are meeting with us proves that the jurisdiction and rights of the Haudenosaunee are not only valid, but very much legal. Not only according to our Law, but according to their own. And the fact is, the Haudenosaunee through the Confederacy Council, have been the only ones to come up with a plan to deal with development, where Ontario and Canada have failed. A plan where the interests of all will be considered. Most importantly, a plan where the protection of our environment and respect for our mother earth takes precedence over the dollar bill. And rather than working with the Haudenosaunee and respecting the relationship and treaties that are in place on how we should work through our differences, via the Two Row Wampum and Silver Covenant Chain; Canada and Ontario in right of the Crown continue to act like ostriches, burying their heads in the sand. And when their citizens look to them for answers, they have none. They state that they stand behind their lands registry system. We've proven that their lands registry system has failed. The Crown's federal government is responsible for 'land claims'. They know exactly where every land claim title is. The Province, the Crown says, are the holders of the lands. The Municipalities issue the development permits. Yet somehow, in this so-called great democracy of Canada, the federal and provincial and municipal governments do not communicate that information to each other. Somehow, in this modern world of technology, they haven't designed a system where one little click on a button would allow any potential developer or homeowner access to any environmental, or title question to any lands they are considering purchasing. A poorly structured system or a deliberate conspiracy? Whatever the case may be, that is why you have municipalities handing over development permits on lands that are under 'claim' and why Ontario continues to hand over land titles over lands that are under 'claim' and why Canada sits there and tries to pretend that they don't know how or why it's happened and that they can't do anything about it. It's deliberate. It's manipulative. and it's unacceptable. They continue to say that by law, they are only obligated to 'notify' what they call 'First Nations' of any development. And yet their own courts have told them that they are required to fully consult and accommodate. But because their system is designed to fail, their court decisions haven't been made into legislation so they hide behind their current policies rather than upholding their current laws. They say that we should be charged, their MP's thumping their chests and stomping their feet....'take them to court', in their condescending and superior attitude. That is their choice. But if we truly were wrong, if we truly had no authority, and no legal right to the lands of Kanonhsaton or anywhere else in Turtle Island, including the Haldimand Tract, if we truly had surrendered or sold the lands, if we truly were simply the criminals or terrorists that they try to paint us to be; then the Crown wouldn't have offered 125 million dollars several months back for 4 of their claim areas. They wouldn't have offered 26 million on the Welland Canal flooded lands. They wouldn't have given the Burtch Facility lands back. They wouldn't have put a freeze on development consistent with the Haudenosaunee Green Plan, and they most certainly wouldn't be sitting at a negotiating table, in accordance with the Two Row and Ancient Covenants. They would have simply said NO!! And that is the reality of it all.

I'm gonna touch a bit on the recent meeting between the Confederacy Council and the Band Council. There was a lot of uncertainty and assumptions being made prior to the meeting. A lot of speculations based on past meetings with other administrative councils that went nowhere. But all in all, it was a respectful meeting. The atmosphere was good, emotions were real, and in my opinion, it was a positive step. The Confederacy Chiefs talked about the Kaienerekowah, (Great Law or Great Peace) and how they've never relinquished nor abandoned their responsibilities to this Great Peace. They talked about the 8 points of jurisdiction and how the Confederacy Council has been actively working in and protecting those areas all along. And then the Elected Chief, Bill Montour read a statement on behalf of

his council. The statement talked about recognizing the importance of a united governance system for Six Nations. It addressed the 8 points of jurisdiction and the importance of the Confederacy Council in dealing with those 8 points. It was kinda like the beginnings of a discussion that might finally address the question of how those in the elected system could be brought back into the Circle. But that is a choice as individuals they have to make. You still have those in band council who believe that they are the only 'legal governing body of Six Nations'. You still have those who want to hang on to the purported power that the Crown has handed them. And I guess there's nothing wrong with that. But let's be clear about what that means and where that power lies. Know what it is you're governing and know what your constitution is cause it isn't the Kaienerekowah. Know where it is your standing and which side of the Two Row Wampum that your working from and know who it is your standing with. You're standing with the Crown. Your constitution is the Indian Act. And if you are going to govern, than that is what you use. Pick up that Indian Act and use it. Hold those accountable who created it. Study it, learn it and use it to help the people. But don't think for one minute that you have a right to speak for the Treaties. Don't think for one minute that you have a right to speak about the Great Law. Don't think for one minute that you have the right to determine our citizenship or deal internationally on our behalf. And don't think for one minute that you speak on behalf of the people. You only speak for those you represent. You only speak for those who vote. And know that the laws that you represent, are the same man made laws that were created to destroy your children. If you truly want to help the people, then you'll take those laws from where you stand, and use them against the Crown to hold them accountable for their violations. Go into those courts and stop the development based on their own laws and supreme court decisions. Demand that the development permits be revoked based on the fact that they are in violation of that law. But don't try and use the ancient covenants and treaties because you have no authority to do so. Don't try and drag our treaties into their courts, cause thats exactly what they want you to do. Because then you've given them what they wanted. Then you've given them their out and the right to say the treaties no longer exist. And that is what historically, the Chiefs Council and others have been trying to protect and will continue to protect, cause they have no choice. Its not being harsh or disrespectful. Its the reality of who we are, and what our obligations are to the LAW. When we talk about unity, when we talk about moving forward, we have to do so with the understanding and knowing that there has to be a RESPECT. Each has a different way that they can use what they've been given to help the people. If the band council respects the 8 points of jurisdiction like their statement reads, then they need to step back and allow the Confederacy to deal with them. Just like the Confederacy Council has respected that the Band Council has a responsibility to ensure that the roads, water and sewage systems need to be looked after. That the health and well-being of our people is first and foremost. Respect that as an administrative body, the band council has a role to play. And respect that the true government and holders and protectors of our land, our law and our people, are the Rotionsonh, represented in that Circle of 50 Chiefs. That same circle that our Chiefs just got through saying they were willing to look at how to bring those back in who've lost or abandoned their ways. And that is the ugly truth of where we're at. Its not to say that we can't do it. I am a firm believer in we either do or do not, there is no try. But the reality is, we are at the negotiations table today because of the people. The people have said they had enough. The people have said that they would no longer tolerate the Crowns interference in our governance. The people have said that they were sick and tired of watching Canada, in right of the Crown, destroy our waters, destroy our lands and destroy our future. The people have said that the disrespect of the Onkwehonweh stops here. We know who we are. We know what our law is. We know our responsibilities and obligations to our Law and to our Creator. And we are educated and know enough about their laws, and their ways to recognize when fraud is fraud. Theft is theft. Extortion is extortion. Lies are lies. And dishonour is dishonour. As leaders, be you Haudenosaunee or band council, it is your responsibility to listen, to observe and to carry out what it is the people have said. Don't allow personality conflicts or hidden agendas to get in the way of what the people have started. Don't get sidetracked and sucked back into a system of destruction or a path that has been walked by so many others before you that has been proven over and over again not to work and not to be in our best interest. Don't think for one minute that there is justice in their courts. And don't think for one minute

that the Crown agents are your friends or are doing you any favours. Their interests are their own. Our interests are our future.

In love, light and peace.

Hazel