



The Six Nations consist of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora.



The Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Confederacy were originally five independent nation states bound by a central constitution and a common set of laws. The five original nations unified under the Great Tree of Peace and became the Iroquois Confederacy long before the arrival of Europeans. In 1722, the Tuscarora joined the Confederacy to form the Six Nations.

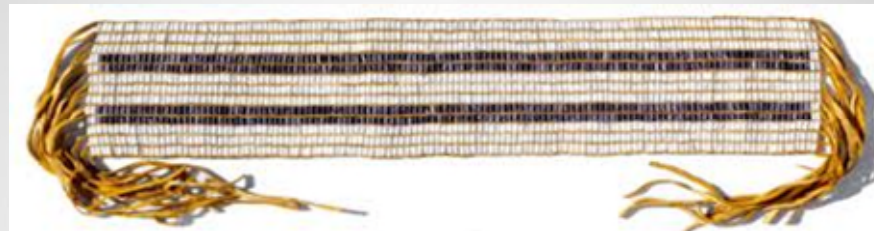
Historically, the homeland of the Iroquois was in modern-day New York State and Pennsylvania, between the Hudson River Valley to the east and the Susquehanna River to the west.





Our Relationship with Settlers

Two Row Wampum - Kaswentha



“The treaty was made in 1613 between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) as Dutch traders and settlers moved up the Hudson River into Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) territory. The Dutch initially proposed a patriarchal relationship with themselves as fathers and the Haudenosaunee people as children. According to Kanien’kehá:ka historian Ray Fadden, the Haudenosaunee rejected this notion and instead proposed:

“We will not be like Father and Son, but like Brothers. [Our treaties] symbolize two paths or two vessels, travelling down the same river together. One, a birchbark canoe, will be for our People, our laws, our customs, and our ways. The other, a ship, will be for the white people and their laws, their customs, and their ways. We shall each travel the river together, side by side, but in our own boat. Neither of us will make compulsory laws nor interfere in the internal affairs of the other. Neither of us will try to steer the other’s vessel.””



The Two Row Wampum treaty made with the Dutch became the basis for all future Haudenosaunee relationships with European powers. The principles of the Two Row were consistently restated by Haudenosaunee spokespeople and were extended to relationships with the French, British, and Americans under the framework of the Silver Covenant Chain agreements.

It was understood by the Haudenosaunee that the Two Row agreement would last forever, that is, “as long as the grass is green, as long as the water flows downhill, and as long as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.



SIX NATIONS COUNCIL

Indians (as we were called at the time) taught Europeans how to survive in our harsh climate, we became trading partners and we formed alliances with each other. We had a friendly, mutually respectful relationship.



During the American (Revolutionary) War of Independence, Captain Joseph Brant led many from the Iroquois Confederacy to ally with the British.



SIX NATIONS COUNCIL

Following the war, Great Britain and the newly formed United States established boundaries and negotiated a series of treaties that included the transfer of Six Nations lands. The Six Nations, excluded from these negotiations, sought to have entitlement to their traditional homeland territories recognized.

However, partly in compensation for lands they had lost, and partly for the significant role they had played as British allies in the war, and also to be a bulwark against any future invasion by the United States, a treaty designated approximately 950,000 acres in British North America, now present-day southern Ontario to the:



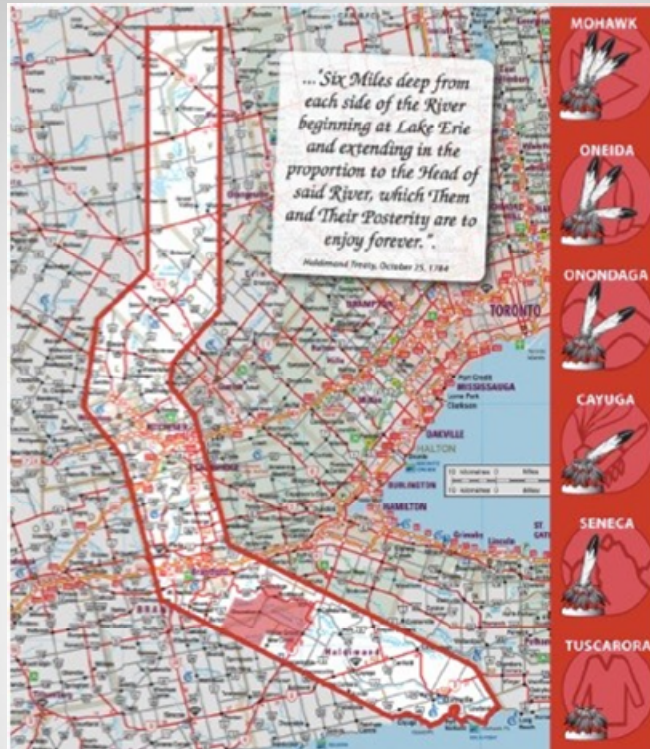
...Mohawk Nation and such other of the Six Nation Indians...upon the Banks of the River commonly called...Grand River...allotting to them for that purpose six miles deep from each side of the river beginning at Lake Erie and extending in that proportion to the head of the said river which them and their posterity are to enjoy forever..

Eventually, most of the land would be stripped from them and they would be reduced to the present 46,000 acres recognized as "Six Nations Reserve No. 40"

SIX NATIONS COUNCIL



Under the terms of the Royal Proclamation and existing treaties of the time, the land was to be held “in trust” by the Crown for the sole use and benefit of the Six Nations. This land could not be bought, sold or transferred without the knowledge and consent of Six Nations and the Crown



As settlers moved into Six Nations territory, the land became unsuitable for hunting. Six Nations were forced to find alternate means of support and, at the urging of the Crown, surrendered lands to the Crown to raise funds for the perpetual care and maintenance of Six Nations.

In many cases, the Crown failed to uphold its trust responsibilities and participated in many actions that resulted in the dispossession of most of the Six Nations territory.

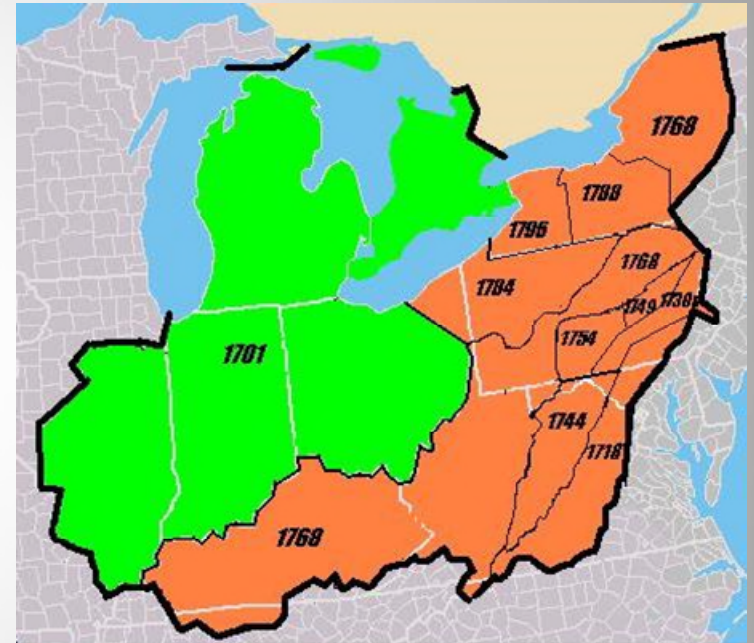
Forty years after the Haldimand Treaty was confirmed, Six Nations were dispossessed of nearly 90 percent of their original grant, often without their knowledge, consent, or to their benefit.

Funds raised by leases, and/or sales of Six Nations' land were to be deposited into a “Six Nations Trust Fund”. Some of this fund was invested or “loaned” to towns and municipalities to build roads, bridges or buildings, sometimes with no record of repayment.

SIX NATIONS COUNCIL

“In Ontario, Canada, since 1990, there have been three court actions in which the 1701 Albany deed has been the pivotal and deciding element....But the court rulings went beyond a simple right to hunt decision, as they also declared the 1701 Albany deed to be a valid treaty under the (Canada) Indian Act. Consequently, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario are now obligated by law to uphold and protect fishing and hunting rights of Canadian descendants of members of the Iroquois Confederation, who live in areas of southwestern Ontario considered part of the deeded area.”

Richard (Rick) Laprairie, 2014



Five Nations placed their lands under the protection of the Crown by Treaty of Nanfan 1701

Six Nations agreements 1718-1796



Six Nations of the Grand Rivers' Aboriginal and Treaty Rights throughout Southern Ontario are well documented through archaeological findings, historical facts and written Treaty Agreements.

The Haldimand Treaty and the 1701 Fort Albany/Nanfan Treaty have been recognized in past court proceedings and are presented as factual evidence in the ongoing litigation from 1995 between Six Nations of the Grand River and the provincial and federal Crowns.



Canada was not uninhabited when the Europeans came, nor was it 'discovered' by them. It has been the homeland of Canada's First Peoples for millennia. Nor could the newcomers claim title to the land by conquest, for there was no conquest. Early in the contact period the relationship was one of peaceful coexistence and non-interference. It was mainly after Confederation that Canada began to appropriate large tracts of land to house the ever-increasing influx of settlers and that the process of colonization and domination of the Aboriginal population began (RCAP)



Aboriginal nations have limited resources. Their lands and resources were taken from them by the settler society and became the basis for the high standard of living enjoyed by other Canadians over the years (RCAP),



Aboriginal people in Canada say that they never consented to be governed by the French or the British or the government of Canada. Indeed, they were never consulted and had no say in the matter. (RCAP)





Six Nations of the Grand River believe that moving forward in a manner consistent with the original tenets of the Two Row Wampum, that is relationships based on Peace, Friendship and Respect is our only option.

That is the path toward reconciliation.



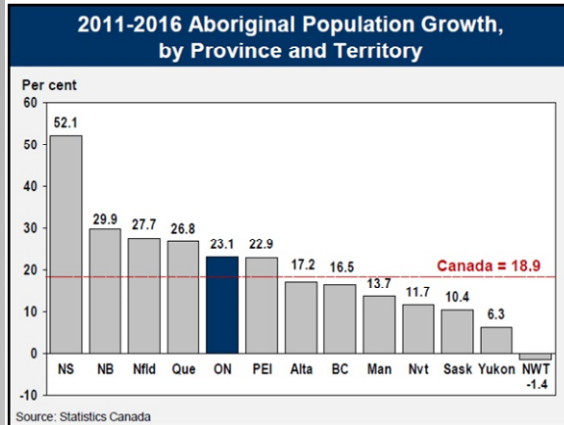
Six Nations of the Grand River is the largest First Nation community in Canada with approximately 28,000 members of which approximately 13,000 live on Reserve.

The main reserve is located approximately 25 km southwest of the City of Hamilton, between the cities of Brantford and Caledonia.

From 1784 to the present date, 275,000 acres of land up to the source of the Grand River remains an outstanding treaty land entitlement to the Six Nations people.



The Six Nations of the Grand River is in many ways very much like a small municipality with many of the same challenges. We must constantly be open to finding innovative ways in which we can increase our income in order to deliver the basic services that our community members require.



One of the challenges the Six Nations face is to accommodate an ever growing population. We are currently sitting on the same land base that we have occupied since the Government of Canada confined our territory in 1848

One way for Aboriginal peoples to acquire more land and resources is through the land claims process, but in most cases such negotiations have been hamstrung by lack of goodwill, if not lack of good faith, on the part of governments. Claims have dragged on for years, and it is clear that the processes in place are not effective. (RCAP)

Six Nations is making it a priority to explore various opportunities to increase our land base and to secure our financial well being. We have created a mechanism through our Consultation and Accommodation process that enables us to inform proponents interested in developing projects on our territory of our rights and their obligations



The Six Nations Elected Council (SNEC), as the official governing body of the territory, on behalf of the peoples of the Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR), has a duty to protect land, air, water and our Aboriginal economic base within the Haldimand Tract and the wider area specified by the 1701 Fort Albany/Nanfan Treaty.

The SNEC, in accordance with Canadian and International laws, **requires that The Crown, proponents and municipalities consult in good faith with SNEC**, acting in a fiduciary capacity on behalf of SNGR, in order to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of SNGR prior to commencing any project that may potentially affect SNGR's right or interests.





The Six Nations of the Grand River and CN Rail have been working collaboratively to ensure that the concerns of the Six Nations are being addressed. We have been meeting with representatives from CN Rail on a regular basis and ongoing consultation and accommodation discussions are required to further our mutual interests and address our concerns regarding the proposed Milton Project.

Environmental rehabilitation enhancements, air quality, railway safety, archaeology, and community employment to mention a few.

Six Nations' approval for the Milton Logistics Hub Project will be contingent on our two parties being able to arrive at a satisfactory environmental enhancement accommodation parcel.