

June 2006



documents regarding the struggle at Six Nations...

This booklet was first put together in May 2006 by some people. The update in your hands was put together in late June 2006. The articles included are being reproduced without permission, and no assumption should be made that the authors do or do not approve of the content of this publication.

Feel free to make your own copies and distribute in your area.

To get involved with local organizing in Support of Indigenous Sovereignty:



put your group's name & contact info. here!

These Websites Can Be Checked For More Up-To-Date Information

CKRZ FM: <http://www.ckrz.com>
Gathering Place First Nations: <http://gatheringplacefirstnationscanews.ca/breakingnews.htm>
Land Reclamation information site: <http://www.reclamationinfo.com/>
My Two Beads Worth: <http://mytwobeadsworth.com/>
NDN News: <http://www.ndnnews.com/Caledonia%20Occupation.htm>
Turtle Island Native News Network: <http://www.turtleisland.org/news/news-sixnations.htm>
Autonomy & solidarity: http://auto_sol.tao.ca/taxonomy/page/or/217
Settlers In Support of Indigenous Sovereignty: <http://sisis.nativeweb.org/actionalert>
American Indian Movement Today: <http://www.worldtalkradio.com/show.asp?sid=141>
Ildikos: <http://www.ildikos.com/>
Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa: <http://reclamationinfo.blog.com/>
Resistrix: <http://resistrix.com/viewtopic.php?t=61>
Sketchy Thoughts: <http://sketchythoughts.blogspot.com/>
Verbene-19: <http://verbena-19.blogspot.com/>
Voice of a Native Son: <http://angryindian.blogspot.com/>

Letter and 11" x 17" versions of this booklet are available for free download in PDF format from www.lefrigovert.ca

4. Phone, Fax, and Email Actions

It is essential that pressure be kept on and that it be made clear that the world is watching. Phone/fax/email:

Ontario Provincial Police, Haldimand County
Inspector Brian Haggith
Phone: 905-772-3322
Fax: 905-772-5815

Premier of Ontario Dalton McGuinty
Phone: 416-325-1941
Fax: 416-325-3745
Email: dalton.mcguinty@premier.gov.on.ca

Attorney General of Ontario Michael Bryant
Phone: 416-326-2220 or 1-800-518-7901
Fax: 416-326-4007
Web comments: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/comments.asp>

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice
Ottawa Office: Phone 613-992-4275; Fax: 613-947-9475
Constituency Office: Phone 403-216-7777; Fax 403-230-4368
Email: prentice.j@parl.gc.ca

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Phone: 613-992-4211
Fax: 613-941-6900
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Governor General Michaëlle Jean
Phone: 1-800-465-6890 or 613-993-8200
Fax: 613-998-1664
Email: info@gg.ca
Online petition to Michaëlle Jean: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/850267742>

5. Send Messages of Support to the People at the Camp. Camp spokespeople can be reached at:

Dick Hill: 519-865-7722, 519-445-1351
Hazel Hill: 519-717-4292, 519-445-0719, thebasketcase@on.aibn.com
Jacqueline House: 905-765-9316; jacqueline_house@hotmail.com

Struggle for the Land: Interviews with Participants at the Six Nations Reclamation (April-May 2006). This 90 minute DVD consists of a series of interviews with First Nations activists at the Reclamation site and video of the protests and counter protests concerning the reclamation of the Douglas Creek Estates. In what ranks as one of the most significant indigenous confrontations with the Canadian State since the 1990 Oka crisis, participants speak in their own words about what is at stake in their struggle. Includes videos with reclamation site spokesperson Jacqueline House, Six Nations resident Robin Williams, supporter Mike Desroches, a member of the Mohawk Warrior Society, kitchen organizers Gene and Ruby, footage of the racist anti-native protests and a variety of interviews with Caledonia residents. All footage filmed and produced by Tom Keefer. Proceeds of the sales of this video will go to supporting the Six Nations struggle at Douglas Creek Estates.

To order contact Autonomy & Solidarity at auto_sol@tao.ca

(\$15.00 US / \$18.75 Cdn)

TAKE ACTION!



Immediate action is needed:

- to support Haudenosaunee people in their struggle to affirm their inherent right to self-determination and sovereignty on the land
- to take a stand against the ongoing aggressive theft of First Nations land and the use of state violence against First Nations who respond to this theft
- to push the Canadian government to respect national and international law, and engage in nation-to-nation negotiations regarding disputed lands

1. Go to the Camp / Help Get Supplies to the Camp

If you can, go to the camp to stand in solidarity with Six Nations people and be witnesses to any further police aggression. Help bring medical supplies, personal hygiene products, food, and a variety of other products needed at the camp. Be prepared to look after your own needs, and if you can bring supplies to support others. At minimum dress warmly, and bring rain gear, a tent and tarps, blankets/sleeping bags, non-perishable food, a large quantity of water, flashlights, and batteries. Be prepared for rainy and cold conditions. To assist in documentation, if possible bring still cameras, video cameras, and battery-operated tape recorders (with several sets of replacement batteries). Regular unleaded gas for the generator is also appreciated.

There is a rides message board at <http://excoboard.com/exco/forum.php?forumid=91715> with detailed driving directions. People at the camp have asked that supporters arrive during daylight.

There is a detailed list of needed supplies at <http://excoboard.com/exco/forum.php?forumid=91715>.

The blockade is on a construction site, so expect mud, wind, and rough, improvised accommodations.

Money can also be donated by people who can't bring supplies directly to the camp (this is more cost-effective than paying to ship supplies). People wanting to make donations can call 519-445-0719 or email thebasketcase@on.aibn.com.

2. Raise Public Awareness

Get the news out to as many people as possible. We know from the history at Kanehsatà:ke/Oka, Ts'peten/Gustafsen Lake, and Stoney Point/Ipperwash that public disinformation is a key state strategy. Use activist networks, personal networks, and media contacts to get the story out locally, nationally, and internationally. For daily updates, and links to several other sites monitoring the situation, go to: <http://sisis.nativeweb.org/n> the Six Nations reserve.

3. Solidarity Rallies and Demonstrations

Further actions are needed at Ontario government locations and at federal buildings in other areas to keep the pressure on. If you want to post a solidarity event announcement on the sisis website, email jgoldber@shaw.ca.

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Forcibly Imposed Band Council System

“According to International law, every person is entitled to his or her own nationhood, language, religion and land base. Canada has been denying Aboriginal people these rights through its imposed system of governance and citizenship.... Band Councils cannot represent themselves as a nation as they are a creation of the government of Canada – designed originally to undermine the power of women and, consequently, the traditional form of government of the Iroquois Confederacy. This form of ignorance is, in essence, genocide”

- Ellen Gabriel, Testimony to Senate on Bill S-24, May 9, 2001

The most enduring and effective resistance against Canada’s colonial rule has been the traditional Longhouse Peoples’ refusal to participate in Canadian imposed governance systems, and to actively participate in their own governance and laws of the Kanianera’ko:wa of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Resistance to the imposition of foreign government models and laws have been documented since the Indian Advancement Act of 1884 was passed by Canadian Parliament. The Indian Advancement Act was created so the “more advanced bands of Indians of Canada” could elect chiefs “with a view to training them for the exercise of municipal powers.”

There have been letters of protest filed by all member Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy to the Governor General and Minister of Indian Affairs. The following excerpts of these letters and petitions are just a few of the many gathered in the pamphlet, “The Best of Akwesasne Notes – How Democracy Came to St.Regis & The Thunderwater Movement” published by Akwesasne Notes, in 1974.

A petition from Tyendinaga to the Governor-General of Canada, October 29, 1888:

“Brother! As we understand that the majority must rule, and a very large majority of the Bay of Quinte Six Nations Mohawks have on the 13th day of October, 1887, renewed their Council Fire according to their rites, and decided to do away with council men entirely... our main object to do away with the way of electing council committee because they are working contrary to the welfare of the Bay of Quinte Six Nations, we have entirely lost confidence in them...”

From a second petition to the Governor-General, 1889:

“Brother! At the time of the formation of the treaties to be perpetuated, the Six Nations Indians were found and looked upon as a people, and had a systematic constitution. Therefore, they were enabled to form these very important and sound treaties with the English nation....It was understood by both parties in their treaties that each should maintain their own constitutions, but in the present instance, it appears that the Silver Chain is now tarnished upon these points... The Canadian Government which does not recognize us fully looks upon the Six Nations as minors and treats them as such... We will give you the statement made by Agent Hill on the 10th of November, saying that the Government are getting tired of us Indians, and they’d rather get rid of us, and also stated that we Indians will be paying taxes soon enough....”

In December, 1890 over a thousand Iroquois from Kanehsatake (Oka), Kahnawake (Caughnawaga) and Akwesasne (St. Regis) signed the following petition calling for a reuniting of the Confederacy and the dismantling of Band Councils:

“The Indian Act only breeds sorrow, contention, hatred, disrespect of family ties, spite against one another, and absence of unity among us Indians. It also creates two distinct parties at the elections. This law was never authorized in its adaptation among Indians.....There is only one way to recover brotherly feelings, that of substituting the seven lords appointed by each of the seven totems according to the ancient customs which we know gave us peace, prosperity, friendship, and brotherly feelings in every cause, either for personal good, or for the benefit of the entire band.”

Wednesday, June 21, 2006:

Indigenous organizations and individuals interviewed by press for “National Aboriginal Day” discuss the impact of the land reclamation and the accompanying repression. Hamilton’s Committee Against Racism and the aboriginal youth advisor at a Hamilton high school describes a pervasive anti-native backlash, with multiple incidents of indigenous youth being the targets of racist verbal harassment. Despite the backlash, Pat Green, program co-ordinator at Healing of the Seven Generations in Kitchener, says the land reclamation is a source of strength and pride that has united indigenous people. “We do have a voice and we are exercising our voice. It’s about time.”

Ken Hill, a Six Nations man from Ohsweken, is arrested early in the morning in Cayuga. Hill faces two counts of assault in relation to a confrontation between non-indigenous people, Six Nations people, and supporters on June 4. Hill will be held in jail until he appears in the colonial court next month in Cayuga.



Audra Taillefer, facing intimidation and robbery charges, was released on \$10,000 cash bail. Ordered to stay away from the reclamation site, two CH television and one newspaper reporter, and prohibited from contacting other accused, Audra has been ordered to stay in Ontario at her surety’s home until trial.

Karl Walsh, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, says OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface should be “forced to answer” for her management of the OPP response to the reclamation — a situation he characterized

as “anarchy”. Approximately 100 Caledonia residents bus in to the Ontario legislature to protest the province’s and OPP’s response to the Six Nations land reclamation, and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty meets with several members of the group “to hear their concerns”. In the ongoing distortion of the peaceful nature of the reclamation, press and non-indigenous Caledonia residents continue to whip up fear about violence, saying that there are rumours that “Six Nations members are prepared to use aggressive tactics to claim more land along the Grand River” and that non-indigenous people cannot rely on police for “protection”.

Thursday, June 22, 2006:

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty asks Six Nations people to leave the reclamation site, saying there’s “no need” for an ongoing presence as the colonial government is now paying attention to the issue of land theft. McGuinty also discloses that the province has agreed to pay \$12.3 million to buy out Henco, with ongoing negotiations for “an additional amount to be paid for the loss of future profits”.



to be continued...



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In 1993, we had RCMP snipers in our fields when we tried to open a casino that could have bought in 100 million dollars a year for us. Once again our jurisdiction, our right to govern ourselves was denied by force of arms. We could not enjoy the same rights as our Anishinabe relatives in the States. We still have 77% unemployment. We are denied any recognition of our right to lease our 3 million acres of traditional lands and each year we receive less and less funding. It took us 125 years to get Treaty Land Entitlement recognized. Eight years we have waited to have our TLE land converted and still we have to wait, but it took the white farmers only 26 days to get an Order in Council taking our 12 sections of reservation lands away.

Roseau River is owed at least 60 million dollars from the 1903 land claim. We have been peaceful, we have been patient, we have waited 103 years for justice but meanwhile in Caledonia the white people got compensation already, millions of dollars have already been pledged by the government, yet the white people only had to wait 100 days, not a 100 years for the government to act.

Yes we believe that there are two sets of laws in Canada, one for whites and another for the Indians.

The Supreme Court of Canada decided in Haida that “Knowledge of a credible but unproven claim is enough to trigger a duty to consult.” In spite of the law as decided in Mikisew, where Justice Binney of the Supreme Court wrote that it was illegal for government officials to be indifferent, it is exactly what the Government of Canada does, Liberal or Conservative, they ignore the law if it is in favor of the Indians. Why do you think that in 1982, Premier Lyons of Manitoba would absolutely refuse having the Right of Property recognized in the Charter? They tried to stack the law in their favor but it didn’t work so they ignore the law when it is convenient for them to ignore it.

Over five hundred murdered and missing First Nation women in Canada. Our people fill the jails and prisons in Canada. Over 50% of the people killed at the hands of police in Canada are First Nations people. Over 6000 land claims in limbo because Canada refuses to put in place a process that will deal with these matters. The Conservatives refused to deal with the Kelowna accord despite the fact ten provincial premiers, three territories and the previous federal government had agreed to it. In Six Nations/Caledonia land claim, it was the people who took action, it was the people who finally had enough and decided not to be sidetracked by a useless Canadian government process, they, the people took direct action.

So I ask the question, are the people tired? Are you tired of watching hundreds of billions of dollars of resource wealth paid to the governments of Canada, while you, the original owners are denied a share of your own wealth. Are you tired of the housing problems, the lack of education opportunities, the denial of health coverage, the injustice, the brutality, are you tired of being the poorest of the poor in Canada. Are you tired of watching immigrants to our lands taking our resource wealth, while at the same time they call you down for not paying taxes to their government?

We at Roseau River will stand up as we have always done. We will not be ignored. We will not obey any white court injunction that the railway companies might try and get imposed upon us, an injunction that will be unilaterally imposed, an injunction that would deny our right of property.

We signed a treaty with Canada. They are obligated by the terms and conditions of that treaty. The immigrant to our land gets their title from the Crown but the Crown got their rights from us, the indigenous people of these lands. We were here first, these are our lands. We hold the underlying title to all these lands including under the rail lines.

At 3:30 p.m. vehicles will pull out of the reserve headed to the blockade sites. At exactly 4:00 p.m. cars will be driven onto the rail lines and we will stay exactly 24 hours to send a message to Canada, that we will no longer tolerate our rights being ignored. The Okijida Society will provide security and will not tolerate any acts of violence from anyone. We will welcome all peaceful people to join us on June 29th and 30th 2006. We ask that you get there at noon in order to ensure everyone knows their responsibility.

Chief Terrance Nelson



The Clan Mothers of St. Regis again wrote the Governor-General on June 2, 1898:

“We have considered the elective system as not being intended for us Indians, and we would therefore return to our old method of selecting our life chiefs, according to our Constitution Iroquois Government.”

The Department of Indian Affairs took little notice of Kanien’keha:ka protest, so the women went ahead and appointed and confirmed their chiefs, and set up their own government just the same. They told Ottawa what they had done. Predictably, the Department of Indian Affairs responded with a bristle. The Secretary wrote the local agent, George Long:

“The Department is determined not to allow any of the Indians to set its authority at defiance.”

The war was on. Twice the Department called an election. Twice the people forcibly prevented the election from being held. Inspector McCrea was sent down from Ottawa to hold a meeting, and he reported back directly to the Superintendent-General:

“They were informed in the most explicit terms that even if a return to what they consider their ancient system were allowed, of which no hope whatsoever could be held out, the relations of the Indians to the law would not be changed in any particular... They might as well look for the falling of the sky as to expect recognition of their claim to hold the position of a practically independent state.”

He got action from the Superintendent-General who exercised unusual executive authority:

“.....I have decided that no return to another system of constituting chiefs than that provided by the Indian Act shall be permitted.....the Indians be informed that no further representations will lead in any way to the modification of this decision....that the Indians be informed that the agitation carried on by those members of the band who claim exception from the operation of the law has prevented the distribution of the interest money...that the Indians be informed that as soon as they show their willingness to abide by the law and elect a council under the Indian Act, the interest money will be paid....that the Indians be informed that until a council is elected under the Act, the Department will administer as far as it may the affairs of the band.”



Indians Revolt at St. Regis

They refuse to allow an election to proceed and assault Dominion police.

Troops may be called out.

Cornwall:.....In August last, the time for the election of officers, the Dominion Government despatched some of the Dominion Police to St. Regis to maintain order and allow the election to be carried out according to law, but the Indians on the reserve refused to allow the election to proceed and the officers were forced to return to Ottawa.

The election was again billed for Monday last, and Lieut. Colonel Sherwood, commissioner of Dominion Police, sent Inspector Logan and Constable Chamberlain to try their hand. At twelve o'clock, these two gentlemen with Indian Agent Long and assistants went to the Village School House where the election was to have taken place.

They found it surrounded by about 200 aborigines. They were refused admittance and a general riot took place. The police were badly assaulted, and Indian Agent Long was seized and locked up in the school house. A guard was placed over him, and the Dominion Police were driven away. At six o'clock at night, Mr. Long was still caged up.

Inspector Logan said he could do nothing further in the matter, and would return to Ottawa and report to Commissioner Sherwood, who will in all likelihood send a posse of men, or the 43rd Battalion down to carry out the election.

The Inspector said the tribe became infuriated, and imaged that the old aborigine days had returned. With visions of the war-path before them, they fought like demons and the officers state that had they used their weapons, they would have been scalped by the frenzied mob.



In 1535 Jacques Cartier observed the Iroquoian settlement at Hochelaga now the site of McGill University in Montreal. In 1609-10 Samuel de Champlain encountered the Hotinonshon:ni at the southern end of Lake Champlain near Lake George using firearms against the unarmed Mohawks.

As first the Dutch, then the French, followed by the English encountered and traded with the Hotinonshon:ni, relations developed and wampum treaties were offered to the Europeans.

The Two Row Wampum, offered in the spirit of peace, friendship, and good minds, demonstrated the two ways, native and European, existing side by side, and unique and independent of each other, on Turtle Island.

By the late 18th century the Hotinonshon:ni attempted to remain neutral as the British tried to hang on to the American colonies adjacent to their native homelands.

The Anglo-assimilated, self proclaimed Hotinonshon:ni warrior Thayendaneagea, Joseph Brant, convinced most Senecas, Mohawks, Cayugas, and Onondagas to align themselves with the British struggle, leaving the Oneidas and Tuscaroras to side with the American revolutionaries.

As the struggles favored the colonials, the Hotinonshon:ni were largely abandoned by their allies on both sides. George Washington ordered a three pronged invasion and destruction of the Iroquoian homeland led by John Sullivan, James Clinton, and Daniel Brodhead.

Nearly 40 Hotinonshon:ni villages across the Finger Lakes region were obliterated. Amidst the killing and desolation many of the people headed north into unclaimed lands in what is now Canada. Sadly, the efforts of the Peacemaker were left to these survivors.

The Six Nations Reserve was granted to the survivors under Brant in 1784. The Haldimand Grant extended six miles either side of the Grand River from its source to its mouth at Lake Erie.

In 1793 British Governor John Simcoe forced the surrender of some of the source lands. Between 1798 and 1834 Brant, as leader, sold more than 140,000 hectares of the grant to raise money for the welfare of the people.

These lands include present day Brantford. Later, between 1834 and 1844, some monies from these sales were invested in the Grand River Navigation Company to open the river to a link with the Welland Canal, and later to the founding funds for McGill, the University of Toronto, and other capital investments. (Note: this was done without the approval of the Nations)

The Six Nations Reserve took its present form of 20,000 hectares in 1847. The longhouse tradition was reinforced by the teachings of the Seneca Chief and spiritual prophet, Handsome Lake [1735-1835]. Early Anglican and other Christian traditions were adopted by most of the people. The Indian Act of 1924 brought compulsory enfranchisement and the establishment of school education to the Reserve.

In the years following this disengagement from traditional learning in families and community, and the loss of language, difficult social problems have emerged.

The Two Row Wampum Belt says:

“This symbolizes the agreement under which the Iroquois/Haudenosaunee welcomed the white peoples to their lands.

We will NOT be like father and son, but like brothers.

These TWO ROWS will symbolize vessels, travelling down the same river together.

One will be for the Original People, their laws, their customs, and the other for the European people and their laws and customs.

We will each travel the river together, but each in our own boat.

And neither of us will try to steer the other’s vessel.”

The agreement has been kept by the Iroquois/Haudenosaunee to this date.

Tuesday, June 20, 2006:

David Ramsay, Ontario Aboriginal Affairs minister, states to press that in addition to providing money to non-indigenous business owners, the provincial government wants to provide financial assistance to non-indigenous Caledonia homeowners who “feel they have suffered” as a result of the land dispute. When asked if this might include buying homes or paying compensation for “psychological trauma”, Ramsay states to press he is not ruling out any possibilities at this point -- he wants to “hear from homeowners” about their needs.

The federal Canadian government warns they will vote against the UN Draft Decla-

ration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples if it comes before the new UN Human Rights Council at its inaugural session (June 19-30). Initially prepared by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1984 but never implemented because UN member countries did not agree on its wording, the draft declaration is not legally binding, but would be a symbolic gesture that shows countries support the sovereign rights of aboriginal people. In a joint statement last month, the United States, Australia and New Zealand rejected the assertion that aboriginal people have the right to “self-determination,” saying it was inconsistent with international law. Today, Canadian Minister

of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice says he will oppose the declaration because “it’s quite inconsistent with land-claims policies under which Canada negotiates claims”.

The DIA Band Council discusses a campaign to impeach leader Dave General. Six Nations man Wes Elliott says he has sufficient names on a petition to start an impeachment process against the chief councillor. General won 30 per cent of the votes for chief councillor in 2004. He has spoken out publicly against the land reclamation, and opposes the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) replacing the DIA band council system.

Are the People Tired?

Roseau River will peacefully blockade two railway lines for exactly 24 hours starting Thursday June 29th at 4:00 p.m. and ending Friday June 30th at 4:00 p.m. One of these railway line blockades will be north of Dominion City, four miles east and one and half miles north of the main Roseau River reservation, the other railway line to be blockaded is north of Letellier, which is approximately two and half miles west of Roseau River and one mile north of Letellier. Both railway lines move goods and services into and from the United States and will affect business in North Dakota, Minnesota and beyond. Both railway lines run on our traditional territory, we hold underlying title to those lands.

At noon on Thursday June 29 in front of the Roseau River Community Hall, two Roseau River drums will begin singing. People will gather to hear from the elders, the leadership and from the people themselves why First Nations are angry enough at Canada to initiate this action. Roseau River’s traditional territory was over 2000 square miles in south central Manitoba prior to the signing of Treaty # one on August 3rd 1871.

The Crown promised, that no white man would ever be allowed to set foot upon the reservation without our permission. The Crown pledged on their honor that if we agreed to the treaty giving them access to our 3 million acres of land that the reserved lands would be ours forever. Just 32 years later on January 30th 1903, the government would force the surrender of 12 sections or 70% of our reserve. Mr. Atkinson would be shot and killed for refusing to leave his home. It takes the Minister of Indian Affairs, twelve days to recommend an Order in Council and in just 26 days by February 25 1903 the white farmers have full ownership of 12 sections of our reserve with a signed Order in Council.



RCMP sniper: colonialism’s shocktroops

Friday, June 16, 2006: Six Nations reserve police arrest Audra Taillefer, one of seven indigenous people facing charges after a series of clashes last Friday, and turn her over to the OPP. Charged by the OPP with intimidation and robbery, Taillefer is being held pending a hearing at the colonial remand court in Cayuga to set a date for trial. Six others with warrants pending remain at large.

At a Ontario Superior Court hearing called by Justice David Marshall to discuss progress in addressing the land dispute, the Ontario government announces: that it (1) has signed an agreement-in-principle with Henco for a buyout of “Douglas Creek Estates”, and will hold the land “in trust” until land agreement is reached between the Haudenoniso and colonial governments, and (2) will be providing another \$1 million to help Caledonia-area businesses affected by the dispute. Reclamation spokesperson Janie Jamieson points out, “Title and jurisdiction isn’t placed back with Six Nations, is it? And that’s what the issue is....They haven’t begun to resolve anything with us, but as far as corporate Canada — they’ve done everything to appease them”.

At an evening community meeting at Six Nations Polytech to update Six Nations people on progress in land negotiations, Confederacy sub-chief Leroy Hill explains that the colonial government is being required to conduct an environmental assessment and clean-up before title on the Burtch lands is transferred (so Six Nations will not end up paying to restore lands damaged by the

colonial government). In the interim, Six Nations farmers have planted 260 acres of soybeans on the land. Hill also confirms that Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson has been removed by the province and that Jane Stewart is now the primary negotiator for Ontario.

A 12-hour benefit concert to support the Six Nations reclamation of Kanenhstaton (“the protected place”) is attended by an estimated 8,000 indigenous and non-indigenous people. Organizers estimate that over \$18,000 was raised to help with costs associated with the land reclamation.

Confirming earlier reports by Six Nations people, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (commonly known as the “ATF”) admits it has been involved in surveillance at the reclamation site. According to ATF special agent Joseph Green, the ATF has been in Caledonia to “share best practices and information with the OPP”. The ATF is a specialized American force responsible for fighting terrorism and violent crime, and is best known for its raid on a religious compound in Waco, Texas, in the early 1990s that left dozens of people dead. “They’re trying to peg us as terrorists now,” says reclamation spokesperson Hazel Hill.

At the inquiry into the murder of Dudley George by a OPP officer in 1995, OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface apologizes to the family of Dudley George and states, “Land grievances must be addressed....These grievances cannot and will not ever be resolved by police ser-

vices”. According to Boniface, the approach taken by the OPP to the Six Nations land reclamation represents a “new framework”, adopted by the OPP in January, to guide police response to indigenous resistance to land theft. Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson describes the siege as “very tough — as tough as things get...But this didn’t turn into an Oka or an Ipperwash and I don’t think it will.”

Monday, June 19, 2006: Response to archeological assessment exposes racist stereotypes. The sensationalistic hysteria about “violent natives” promoted at Caledonia community meetings last week continues. In response to excavation relating to an archeological assessment of the reclamation site (agreed to by the Ontario government in negotiations with Six Nations representatives), non-indigenous residents state to press that holes are being dug to create bunkers and weapons caches.



An unofficial archeological dig headed by anthropology graduate Joanne Thomas began last week at the Douglas Creek lands. Thomas said some red ochre (inset) has been found indicating burials may be present.

(Photo by Donna Duric and Jim Powless)

How Much Land Did the Iroquois Possess?

by Doug George-Kanentiio , Akwesasne Notes
Volume 1 #3

Prior to European colonization the Iroquois exercised active dominion over most of what is now New York State. Of the 49,576 square miles of the state the Iroquois held title to about 4/5 of the total area (approximately 39,000 square miles).

Traditional Iroquois boundary lines were quite specific as to which lands belonged to a particular nation. Mohawk territory extended from the Delaware River north to the St. Lawrence and included almost all of the Adirondack Mountains. Their boundaries to the east were Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Hudson River.

By adding up the area of the current counties within this region the Mohawk Nation can lay claim to 15,534 square miles (or 9,941,760 acres) as having been alienated from their possession through various means, including fraudulent “treaties.”

Oneidas recognized the West Canada Creek, the Unadilla River and the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in St. Lawrence county as their eastern border with the Mohawks. They also knew their land went as far north as the St. Lawrence River and south to below the Susquehanna. Using the same formula of applying county areas to indigenous Oneida territory, a figure of 5,819 square miles is arrived at (or 3,724,160 acres).

To the west of the Oneidas were the Onondagas; their borders followed the Tioughnioga River, Otselic River and Chittenango Creek as it flowed into Oneida Lake. Within their national boundaries are the counties of Jefferson, Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, part of Tioga and about half of Broome. Their total is 2,670,720 acres or 4,173 square miles.

Cayuga lands between Rochester and Syracuse included Cayuga, Seneca, Chemung, Schuyler, Wayne, Tompkins and part of Tioga counties. Their region is 3,123 square miles or 1,998,720 acres.

In western New York the Seneca Nation enjoyed fertile lakeshore fields and a rolling terrain which was rich in wildlife. Their lands stretched from east of the Genesee River to the Niagara Peninsula and southwest to Lake Erie. An estimated 10,248 square miles (6,558,720 acres) were held by the Senecas until various land companies removed them to three small reservations in the early nineteenth century.

All together the Iroquois Confederacy held as its own 24,894,080 acres of some of the most beautiful and resource wealthy lands in all of North America. Yet traditional Iroquois were careful custodians of the earth for nowhere in this broad expanse of territory was there a single polluted stream, hazardous waste site or open landfill. [...]

Total land holdings for the Iroquois in 1995 are about 86,716 acres remaining from the original 25,000,000 or .034% of what we once had.



Six Nations claim:

Lost lands

- On Oct. 25, 1784, Sir Frederick Haldimand, the Captain General and Governor-in-Chief for Upper Canada, signed a deed for land in what would later become southern Ontario for the Five Nations. [Later Tuscarora joined to create the Six Nations.] The Haldimand deed assigned land “six miles deep” on both sides of the Grand River from its source in south-central Ontario to its mouth at Lake Erie. The Haldimand Tract originally covered 955,000 acres.
- The land grant was made as compensation for the loss of the six-million-acre homeland taken by the United States in the Mohawk Valley in up state New York after the American War of Independence. The Five Nations (Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Cayuga and Onondaga) had fought on the British side in the Revolutionary War, which led to the creation of the United States in 1776. The land was a reward for Five Nations’ loyalty to the Crown and a gesture of appreciation for the military support offered voluntarily by the Indigenous peoples in defense of the realm.
- Shortly after the Haldimand Proclamation was made, John Graves Simcoe, Governor General of Upper Canada, issued the Simcoe Patent that limited the Haldimand Tract to 275,000 acres, of the original 955,000 acres, for the exclusive use of the Six Nations. That meant the other 720,000 acres would be leased, surrendered or sold.
- About 302,000 acres were mortgaged for 999 years to create an annual source of income for the care and maintenance of the Six Nations. It’s been only 122 years since the proclamation.
- Another 49,800 acres were mortgaged for a similar length of time and a similar purpose. Under the current process, where the federal Crown decides which land claims against it are acceptable and which are not, the Crown accepts as valid the claim of only 30,800 acres of this transaction. The remaining 19,000 acres of Six Nations’ land are lost forever with no compensation.
- An additional 112,689 acres were surrendered by Six Nations for sale. Proceeds were to be accounted for and invested by the Indian Department and a Crown-appointed trustee for the benefit of Six Nations.
- 19,180 acres (including the Port Dover Plank Road lands, which are involved in the current dispute) were leased for short-terms. They were 21-year leases with seven-year renewals.
- In all, Six Nations lost at least 125,000 acres without a full record provided by the Crown.

Lost monies

(Examples of investments by the Crown using Six Nations’ funds:)

- 1834: \$4,000 used to offset government’s debt. There is no record of repayment.
- 1845: \$14,717.58 was used to offset government’s debt. Again, with no record of repayment.
- 1851: \$8,000 used by municipal council of Haldimand. No repayment is recorded.
- 1847: \$1,000 was transferred to Law Society of Upper Canada. No repayment recorded.
- Additional loans, with no repayment recorded, to McGill University, the City of Toronto, Simcoe District Council, Public Works Canada and additional Crown debts. Six Nations’ research suggests a number of large public projects were funded with money from their trust accounts, without repayment.

Legislated repression

In 1907, Six Nations hired lawyer A. G. Chisholm to pursue the Grand River Navigation Company for improper use of Six Nations’ monies. This company ran shipping traffic up and down the Grand River but eventually went broke. It accessed Six Nations’ funds held in trust by the Crown without Six Nations’ permission. The Crown interceded against Six Nations’ attempts to pursue legal means of redress and stalled until it passed Section 141 of the 1927 Indian Act. That amendment made it illegal for anyone to hire a lawyer, create a fund or provide money to a First Nation to pursue a claim. That Canadian law stayed in effect until the section was repealed in 1951. Since the Crown acknowledged an obligation to recognize claims, Six Nations has filed 29. Just one, the CNR settlement, has been finalized with 250 acres returned to the territory. Another 28 claims, recognized by the Crown as legitimate, remain. And more may be filed.

From *Windspeaker* June 2006

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Sensationalistic hysteria about “a threat of native violence” continues to pervade Caledonia. Ignoring Six Nations’ repeated statements about a desire to live in peace with non-indigenous people, at the Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance’s second public information session non-indigenous individuals living close to the reclamation site say they are terrified that they will be attacked by people from the reclamation site.

A “resident response plan” created by Hamilton police officer David Hartless is circulated on Braemar Avenue and Thistlemoor Drive urging homeowners to sound car alarms or horns “in the event a home or resident comes under attack”, so neighbours could rush to the area supposedly under attack and collectively “gather and confront native protesters, to force them” back onto the reclamation site. Hartless states, “The OPP response has been largely ineffectual and it is now apparent that in order to protect ourselves, our families and our homes, we must do so collectively and present a united front.” Despite OPP and Hydro statements that Hydro operations are normal and that there is a round-the-clock police presence at the Hydro transformer vandalized on May 22, Waterford Councillor Harold Sonnenberg tells Norfolk Council that the transformer is unguarded and “vulnerable to attack”.

Railway Blockade Set for June 29!

Roseau River Anishabe First Nation Government
June 13, 2006

Ultimatum meets Ultimatum! As Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice pull out of the Six Nations/Caledonia land claim with ultimatums that the “barricades must come down,” First Nations across Canada are issuing their own ultimatums. Last week, 100 Ontario Chiefs walked to the site of the land claim dispute and issued their own warning to Canada. Today Union of British Columbia Chiefs issued full support to Six Nations. In Manitoba, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, representing 64 First Nations, passed a resolution supporting a 24-hour railway blockade set for June 29th 2006, “to force the Canadian government to establish a reasonable time-frame for settlement of land claims.”

Chief Terrance Nelson moved the resolution to “send a message, that resource wealth of our lands are what supports every Canadian.” Canada is the third largest producer of diamonds, has 10 per cent of the world’s forests, and mines 60 metals and minerals. Oil is now over \$72 a barrel, up from \$10 a barrel in 1999, and there are 1.4 trillion barrels of oil in the tar sands plus hundreds of other oil and gas producing areas. Canada had eight straight federal government budget surpluses, a 2005 reported net worth of \$4.5 trillion, and GDP over a trillion dollars. Today the federal government raises far more revenue from its share of resource royalties than it does from income taxes.

Roseau River will block two railway lines going into the United States. At least six other Manitoba First Nations have vowed to block railway lines at the same time. The financial cost of the railway blockades will be in the millions but the real impact is likely to be the international image of Canada. Canada was the United Nations choice as the “best country in the world to live in” for seven straight years, but while Canada was number one on the index, Canadian First Nations communities mired in extreme poverty were set at the 63rd level on the UN scale. Over 6,000 First Nations land claims are now in limbo.

“What pisses me off when I watch the Caledonia violence” said an angry Chief Nelson, “is the immigrants to our lands didn’t bring the diamonds or other resources from Europe in their little wooden boats, yet they have the gall to demand we, the owners of the land and resources, must now pay taxes to them on top of their theft.” Treaties 1 to 11 representatives went home last week from a Winnipeg conference to seek support in their regions to initiate railway blockades in traditional territories.



June 12th Update from Hazel Hill, camp spokesperson

Sago from Grand River. Well, the news tonight while it sits heavy on the hearts of some, is a decision that was felt to be the best for all concerned. The remaining barricades around Kanestahton have been removed.

The confederacy council has asked the people to support them on this decision. While there wasn't a consensus of the people, the majority of the people felt that it was a decision that we should support. First of all I have to assure everyone that this does not mean we are giving up our position on the land. The people are not leaving the land, nor do we intend to. We are calling Canada's bluff. The federal and provincial governments all along have stated that they will not negotiate on the issue of land while the barricades remain intact. Now we will see how honorable these people are. For the people on the site, this is a hard pill to swallow.

Continuously throughout history it seems that it is our people who always have to take the high road and it is we who have to give in to the threats and demands of the colonialistic government. They peg us as the criminals but it is they who have the guns, they who stole the land and they who created the barricades in the first place by sending in the riot squad and refusing to talk. We know that the only reason the true Onkwehonweh government is at the table is because the barricades were up. Will Canada continue with the talks now that the barricades are down or have they played out their hand in order to pull the rug out from under our feet? At this point it is the trust in our confederacy and in our Creator that is what we are holding on to. It is the trust and knowing that we are upholding the Law of Peace and our responsibilities that lie within that Law.

It is the belief in our Sovereignty and our obligation to protect the land for the generations to come. Our negotiators believe that in order for talks to continue, this is the only position that we can take. For the people on the site, it is the distrust of the canadian government and their ability to speak with truth that concerns us. Who is to say that this isn't another trap and we're playing into their hands. I hope for Canada's sake that this isn't the case.

While I write to you, I have just been informed that the police build up around the site has increased. Ambulances are on stand by. Have we made a mistake, or are they merely continuing to keep a presence to prevent the continued racial discrimination, hate crimes and violent actions recently displayed by some of the residents of Caledonia. This week in the media we have been portrayed as lawless and through the continued efforts of the government to incite a violent reaction, it has resulted in 7 of our people with warrants out for their arrest. These individuals have been brought before our clanmothers and chiefs to be held accountable for their actions according to the protocol of the Kaierenekowah. They will be dealt with according to our Law, and Canada has to be reminded of the fact that they do not have the jurisdiction to enforce their laws on our people.

The charges to the say the least are an exaggeration of the truth. For instance, the beating of the CHTV 11 cameraman that resulted in his having to get stitches, was confirmed on their own sister radio station CHML that the injury was a result of his being hit in the head with a police billy club during the attempt by the opp to diffuse the situation. Yes, the opp did try to intervene. But that is not the way it was led to believe. It was made to look like our men violently beat this man and that the opp stood by and let it happen. I've seen picture's myself taken by one of our local newspaper reporters that showed clearly that the opp did step in to physically stop not just our men, but the CHTV men from throwing punches as well.

It has also been reported that our people swarmed the car of an elderly couple who were only out "sight seeing". They did not report that the racial discrimination and insults that were directed at our people at the front gate of the site or the dangerous driving that resulted in one of our men being hit by this same car and why our men originally followed them to the Canadian Tire parking lot. It was not reported that while they state that they drove to the nearest place to seek help from the police that they drove right past the opp officers who were stationed only yards from the area where the incident occurred. Yes, our people did follow the couple to the Canadian tire parking lot. But that was because for some strange reason, they thought that they would somehow see justice given and that the deliberate action of trying to run one of our people down would result in charges being laid against the driver. How naïve of our people to think that this was even a possibility.

Attempted murder charges have been made against another of our men who reacted violently at seeing the United States Border Patrol vehicle lurking around the site, having our people under surveillance, with the support and assistance of the opp. This agent, who was learned to be of the ATF (alcohol, tobacco and firearms) had to have been given government clearance to be near the site, not just for the day, but evidence shows that they have been in the area since early April. The ATF agents normally are mandated to deal with terrorists. Obviously the government is trying to build a case against our people as terrorists to justify bringing in excessive force to physically remove us from the site. The government of Canada has yet to explain why, if they are seeking a peaceful resolution to this situation, have they enlisted the services of the United States government agencies to discredit the political positon of the Onkwehonweh on this land and try to peg this reclamation as a criminal activity rather than the political position that it is.

Furthermore, the government has yet to come to the table to deal with the real issues of the Onkwehonweh. The issues are not the barricades, the issues are the Land, Our Sovereignty, Our Treaties and OUR responsibilities to the Kaierenekowah. It is not whether THEY understand them or even believe them, this is about US and who we are as a people. A NATION long before Canada even existed.

On March 3rd, 2006, Rotin'oshon'ni Six Nations people set up camp on the Haldimand Tract, located at the entrance to Douglas Creek Estates, a 71-lot subdivision under construction by Henco Industries Ltd. on Six Nations territory.

"Six Nations" refers to the six nations that are part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy: Gayogoho:no (Cayuga), Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk), Onyota'a:ka (Oneida), Onoda'gega (Onondaga), Onodowahgah (Seneca), and Ska-ru-ren (Tuscarora). The traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy crosses the colonial US/Canada border, including parts of "Ontario", "Quebec", "Pennsylvania", "Ohio", "New York", and "New Hampshire".

There are many Rotin'oshon'ni communities. The Six Nations reserve is in the area known as southern "Ontario", near the towns of Brantford, Caledonia, and Hagersville.

Other Rotin'oshon'ni communities include Kanehsatà:ke (a Mohawk community near the town of Oka, which the Canadian government laid siege to in 1990), Kahnawake, Ganlengeh, Tonawanda, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, and Gibson. There are also many Rotin'oshon'ni living outside these areas.

Canada's Ongoing Theft of Six Nations Land

1784: In recognition of Six Nations support of the British Crown during the American War of independence, the Crown issues the Haldimand Proclamation officially recognizes land stretching six miles on either side of the Grand River from Lake Erie to Dundalk (approx. 950,000 acres of land) as Six Nations land.

1795: Lieutenant-Governor John Simcoe decides to reduce the area formally recognized as Six Nations land by the Crown to 275,000 acres.

1924: Department of Indian Affairs imposes band council system on Six Nations, to undermine hereditary systems of governance and facilitate land theft.

Since 1795 the Crown has continually stolen more and more land for occupation by settlers, sale to developers, and road construction. The area officially designated by the Canadian government as the Six Nations reserve

is now less than 5% of the original area promised by the Crown in 1784.

Chronology of the Reclamation Camp

June 13, 2005: The province of Ontario passes the Places to Grow Act. The act provides a legal framework for the provincial government to designate any area of land (including unceded First Nations land) as a "growth plan area" and decide on its development. A regulation was also passed identifying the "Greater Golden Horseshoe area" (which includes unceded Six Nations land) as the first area for which a growth plan will be prepared.

October 25, 2005: Six Nations people and supporters hold an information picket at Douglas Creek to raise awareness of the ongoing theft of Six Nations land.

November 24, 2005: The Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal releases the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Unceded Six Nations land is part of this development plan.

February 28, 2006: Six Nations people and supporters reoccupy the land to block further construction by Henco Industries, saying they will stay until jurisdiction and title over the land is properly restored to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

March 4, 2006: The presence of 12 OPP cruisers outside the Haldimand County fire station in downtown Hagersville leads people at the camp to wonder if police are massing for an attempt to stop the land reclamation. A Cayuga OPP spokesperson confirms that aboriginal OPP officers have been brought in to "deal with the occupation". One officer states that Henco Industries has applied for a court injunction to have Six Nations people removed from the site; Henco won't confirm whether this is true.

March 5, 2006: A local sheriff delivers an interim injunction by Henco Industries stating members of Six Nations will be forcibly removed by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) if

they continue to block construction. OPP say they don't have authority to enforce the injunction because it's a civil order. Federal officials say the dispute will have to be resolved locally.

March 9, 2006: Ontario Superior Court Justice David Marshall issues a permanent injunction against Six Nations people, stating that the people re-occupying their territory are in criminal contempt of court. Inspector Brian Haggith of the Cayuga OPP says, "We are going to do what we can to resolve this peacefully"; according to Cayuga OPP spokesperson Paula Wright, the injunction is a civil order that must be enforced by the sheriff, as the OPP have no power to

forcibly remove the protesters unless a criminal offence is committed. A hearing is set for March 16 to determine enforcement. The people at the camp vow to continue the reclamation.

March 15, 2006: The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development says it will not take action to address the issues raised by Six Nations about theft of their land, characterizing the reclamation as a dispute "between the protesters and the developer".

March 16, 2006: A hearing is held in provincial court to determine how the injunction issued on March 9 will be enforced. Ontario Superior Court Justice David

Marshall refuses to recuse himself from the case despite Indigenous activist Dawn Smith's challenge that his ownership of land in the Haldimand Tract as a conflict of interest in the case.

March 17, 2006: An enforcement order is issued stating that any Six Nations people or supporters who do not leave the construction site by March 22 will be forcibly removed and charged with criminal contempt of court, with a possible 30-day sentence.

March 20, 2006: Clan Mothers issue a statement reaffirming Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) sovereignty and calling for nation-to-nation negotiations.

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Just A Few Stats...

Unemployment rate for First Nations people in the labour force rose from 15.4% in 1981 to 24.6% in 1991, despite advances in education – on some First Nations reserves rates are as high as 80% and 90%;

Earned income for the average First Nations individual in 1991 was \$14,561 compared to \$24,000 for all Canadians - a \$1,000 **decline** since 1981;

The infant mortality rate among First Nations people is more than double the Canadian rate (17.2 compared to 7.9 per 1000 babies);

The suicide rate is 3 times higher than the national rate – 7 times higher for youth 17 to 24 years old;

Only 42% of First Nations children complete grade 12 compared to 61% of Canadian children;

Death rates from injury are 3 to 4 times higher among First Nations children than among Canadian children in general.

Over 30% of First Nations adults reported a disability - more than double the national rate. Among First Nations adults aged 15 to 34, the disability rate is three times the national rate for the same age group.

54% of 74,000 First Nations housing units do not meet basic standards.

The incidence of TB and diabetes is 17 times and 3 times higher, respectively, among the First Nations population - in 1991, 75% of the TB cases reported in Canada were of First Nations origin;

First Nations people make up 3% of the population but more than 10% of the prison population;

First Nations women represent only 2% of the women in Canada but 29% of women in Federal prisons (as of July 2003) - this breaks down to 46% of maximum security population; 35% medium security population and 23% minimum security population

Indigenous women between the ages of 25 and 44, with status under the Indian Act, were five times more likely than all other women of the same age to die as the result of violence.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 70% of violent crimes - and 90% of sexual assaults - against Indigenous people are carried out by non-Indigenous.

Since 1988 over 500 First Nations women have "gone missing" across Canada.

Most of these statistics were taken from a Fact Sheet by Lisa Allgaier presented to the National Union's 2003 Equality Leadership School. (source: http://www.nupge.ca/publications/equality/equality_fact_5.pdf)

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Monday, June 12, 2006: The Ontario and federal Canadian governments say they will not continue negotiations as planned on Thursday unless the remaining barricades come down and Six Nations assists the OPP in investigation the incidents from the weekend. Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) states that the seven people facing charges from Friday will not be turned over to the OPP as they "remain under our laws and our jurisdiction". The Ontario Conservative party says calling off negotiations is insufficient, and "there has to be a deadline by which some action will be taken to make sure those barricades come down". When asked by a reporter what he will do if the barricades do not come down, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty says, "We'll see". Haldimand County passes a resolution requesting that negotiations be suspended un-



McGuinty "talks tough", fanning the flames of racism

til all barricades are removed, the rail line re-opened, and "all Native occupiers are removed to a safe distance (to be determined by the County)".

The Ontario Provincial Police admit they have lost classified documents and appeal to media who have been given copies to return them. The documents, which contain the identities and home phone numbers of undercover OPP and US officers, details of surveillance operations, and information from informants, were taken by Six Nations people Friday from a seized US Border Patrol car, and returned after copies were made. A copy was given to Lynda Powless, publisher of the weekly Turtle Island News, who then gave a copy to the Hamilton Spectator.

A Hamilton radio station reports that two unnamed Caledonia businesses have launched a class action lawsuit against the Corporation of Haldimand County, OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface and the Cayuga Detachment Commander of the OPP. In addition, the plaintiffs have put the Government of Ontario on notice, and say they intend to add them as defendants to the action.

Tuesday, June 13, 2006: Six Nations people and supporters work throughout the night to remove the barricade on the Highway 6 bypass. Camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson states to press, "In order to keep talks moving, the chiefs and clan mothers gave directions to have them opened". After a highway inspection the road is re-opened shortly after 3 PM.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty responds in the

morning by saying the removal of the barricade of the Highway-6 overpass is a positive step but is not enough to get the provincial government to return to land negotiations, and calls on Six Nations to "cooperate with the OPP" to facilitate the arrest of the six people charged on Friday. Characterizing the situation as "a powder key that's about to blow", Federal NDP leader Jack Layton demands that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper get personally involved to bring about a peaceful end to the land dispute.

Despite the colonial government's aggressive stance, Six Nations people extend their goodwill and remove the last remaining barricade, allowing access to the rail line. In the afternoon, commenting on the removal of both blockades, McGuinty says, "I think there has been a demonstration of good faith on the part of the First Nation leadership. I think it's time for us to get back to the table and finish this job." Federal minister Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice states, "This goes a long way to removing a huge source of tension in the community and to build trust. We are encouraged."

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs announces they have passed a resolution supporting a 24-hour railway blockade set for June 29th 2006, "to force the Canadian government to establish a reasonable time-frame for settlement of land claims." Roseau River will block two railway lines going into the United States, and six other Manitoba First Nations have vowed to block railway lines at the same time.

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Six Nations Haudenosaunee Confederacy statement

June 11, 2006

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have issued arrest warrants for seven (7) people from the Six Nations Reclamation site. Charges include attempted murder, robbery, intimidation and causing bodily harm.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy deliberated this issue during Council on Saturday June 10th, 2006. The individuals involved in these incidents were brought before the Confederacy Chiefs and Clan Mothers, on Sunday, June 11, 2006, to discuss and understand the incidents. The Confederacy Chiefs and Clan Mothers spoke with these individuals about the Great Law of Peace and how it is to guide our actions. Our investigation is continuing. It was decided that for the safety of all involved, these individuals would be removed from the site until our investigation is complete. We are working with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Six Nations Police to ensure the safety of all people within our respective jurisdictions.

Our investigation has indicated the "Border Security" vehicle being driven by the "police officer" was actually an Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearm (ATF) vehicle from the United States of America. Two officers in the vehicle were from the United States of America accompanied by an officer with the Ontario Provincial Police. We have found evidence that indicates these officers were in the area since April 2, 2006 assisting in the current policing of the occupation of the Six Nations Reclamation site. This is particularly concerning due to the reputation of the ATF. The Haudenosaunee are dismayed that the OPP gave permission to these officers from the United States

of America to assist in this situation without any prior communication to our people, this has incited an already tense situation. We are working with the Ontario Provincial Police to clarify this situation.

The Haudenosaunee has legally binding treaties with the Crown. The Two Row Wampum belt and the Silver Covenant Chain affirms the parameters of the relationship between our two governments. These treaties acknowledge the Sovereignty of our people and Nation. The Silver Covenant Chain speaks of a relationship between our two governments based upon Respect, Peace and Friendship. To have a good strong Friendship, there needs to be a commitment to exercise "Kanikonriio" that is the "Good Mind" which means equality, justice, and the Commitment to help each other in times of need. The Two Row Wampum Belt identifies the nation to nation basis which are people are to deal with. The Two Row Wampum Belt depicts our governments operating within our own "canoes". This means that each of our respective governments will continue to operate under their own laws and will not interfere with the affairs of the other governments.

Under our treaties the only issues which fall under the Crown's jurisdiction are Murder, Rape and Theft. According to the Treaty of Fort Albany made with the Crown there is an extradition process which must be followed in order to address any of these three issues.

Our people follow the Great Law of Peace and are not a people of violence. The Haudenosaunee are committed to ensuring that the Great Law of Peace is respected and followed at the Reclamation Site.



Statement by the Clan Mothers

Objection to invasion of Kaianereh'ko:wa Territory by the Foreign Governments of Canada and Ontario

FROM: The Women Title Holders of the Rotinoshon'non:we

RE: Henco Industries is building a subdivision on the unsundered "Haldimand Tract" for sale to non Indigenous people who may be unaware that this is illegal.

WHEREAS the Women are the "Title Holders" of the land of Rotinoshon'non:we as recalled by Wampum 44 of the Kaianereh'ko:wa.

WHEREAS the "Title" held by the Women represents a trust obligation to maintain the land for the future generations of our Nations as recalled by Wampum 44.

WHEREAS the Canadian Government knows this land is subject to litigation resulting from fraudulent and dubious practices. Canada has allowed permits to be given out to Indian land it does not have title to. Gen. Haldimand confirmed that Britain would affirm the right of the Six Nations to a tract of land six miles deep on either side of the Grand River running from its mouth to its source. None of this land was ever legally surrendered. Most of this land was lost through a variety of frauds perpetrated or condoned by the colonial governments. Canada knows it violated the law when it deposed the traditional government in 1924. Canada is presently in negotiations to rectify these past injustices. Offering non-native people title to this land is a deliberate attempt to mislead and act in bad faith. Henco Industries is part of "sharp" practice on the part of the Crown in Right of Ontario and/or Canada which knows that it cannot grant legal title to these lands.

WHEREAS the elected Six Nations Council of Grand River set up under the Indian Act does not represent the Rotinoshon'non:we according to standards established under international law, including The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

WHEREAS Canada has ascribed to the internationally recognized standards for respecting political rights of the People as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international legal instruments.

WHEREAS the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination found on March 6, 2006 that the United States was denying the Western Shoshone people "their rights to own, develop, control and use their land and resources"; they warned the U.S. to respect the Convention; and to "freeze", "desist" and "stop" their actions immediately and to abide by the Committee's "Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure". Canada's encroachment violates "international human rights norms, principles and standards". The Western Shoshone decision indicates that encroaching as a way to take over land has been formally rejected.

WHEREAS there has been no valid consultation with or consent by the constitutional Indigenous People according to the standards set by Canadian, U.S. and international law.

WHEREAS relations between Canada and the Rotinoshon'non:we continue to be governed by the Two Row Wampum.

WHEREAS the actions being taken by Canada, Ontario and its agencies were established in the colonial era according to procedures that violated international law.

WHEREAS General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XV) requires the informed consent of a people before they are included in another state.

WHEREAS the International Court of Justice affirmed Resolution 1541 in the Western Sahara case.

continued on next page

WHEREAS the courts of other colonial states like the Supreme Court of Australia in Mabo have formally repudiated past colonial reasoning and practices.

WHEREAS the denial of a nation’s existence constitutes genocide according to the many international covenants that Canada has pledged to uphold.

WHEREAS Section 35 (1) of Canada’s Constitution Act 1982 has formally recognized and affirmed “existing Aboriginal and treaty rights”.

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada has stated that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights must now be respected.

WHEREAS Canada is required to respect our right to our lands and resources under Section 109 of its Constitution Act 1867.

WHEREAS the traditional laws of the Rotinoshon’non:we are still in effect.

WHEREAS the Women Title Holders have never been consulted concerning this proposal to violate the title of ourselves and the future generations by building subdivisions on our land which involves the alienation of our people’s Indigenous rights and lands.

We the women title holders accordingly remind the colonial governments and institutions involved ni this project that:

1. The proposed construction is illegal; that Canada and Ontario have no authority to make political decisions on behalf of our People;
2. Rotinshon’non:we land is inalienable. There can be no discussion of the possibility of a legitimate agreement alienating the land.
3. The procedures deny political power from the People.
4. The proper venue to discuss these matters is the traditional Rotinshon’non:we process as set out in the Kaianereh’ko:wa.
5. The Canadian and U.S. Constitutions respect that relations with us shall be conducted on a nation-to nation basis.
6. The Women Title Holders insist on an immediate end to this initiative, and to initiate a dialogue to work toward a solution acceptable to the Rotinoshon’non:we.

By: Rotinshon’non:we Women Title Holders

Ayantwahs /s/ _____

Gaayetweh /s/ _____



The lands in question, being part of the Haldimand Tract according to the Injunction are listed as:
“Schedule A”
FIRSTLY: Parts of Lots B and C, Range West of Plank Road, geographic Township of Oneida, in Haldimand County and being Part 1 on 18R-6217
SECONDLY: Part of Lot 18, Broken Front Concession on the Grand River, geographic Township of Oneida, in Haldimand County, and being Parts 2, and 3 on Reference Plan 18R - 6217 AND THAT the said land is registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Haldimand as Parcel BC-18 in the Register for Section Rng W Plank Rd & BFC on GR (Oneida)

Remember: the Canadian State and its police guard dogs have been progressively *militarizing*the media, by seizing video and other material in order to mount criminal cases against individuals. This occurred in the Caledonia standoff as recently as May 20th, when CH TV (the same station whose reporters were injured yesterday) had a tape seized by police who wanted to use it to identify individuals - the station had been given the tape (which was shot by a Caledonia resident) on condition of confidentiality and that the faces of individuals would be obscured.

As the group Canadian Journalists for Free Expression has noted, this is a reoccurring phenomenon in Canada. In June 2001 the RCMP seized videotaped belonging to Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) correspondent Todd Lamirande – the footage included part of a confrontation between indigenous people protesting the Sun Peaks ski resort development and local supporters of the project. Furthermore, “on 15 June 2000, Toronto police seized video footage of an anti-poverty protest at the Ontario legislature on the grounds that they needed media photographs and videotape to help identify participants, as media were able to get closer to the demonstrators than police. Similarly, on 5 April 2000, police in Montreal demanded that television stations Radio Canada and TVA hand over recordings of a protest at which violence had broken out, according to Reporters sans frontières (RSF).”

As the CJFE notes: as a result of such seizures “journalists risk being perceived as adjuncts of the state.”

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parking lot, demanding the OPP explain their “inaction” earlier in the day. The crowd then moves to Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, where only a chainlink fence separates the mob from Six Nations people and supporters at the reclamation site.

At 9:30 PM, 60 OPP officers in riot gear move in, form a line across the road, and attempt to push residents back. Two mob participants are arrested by the OPP and a third is taken into custody.

The Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance holds the first of a series of public information sessions. Presenters state to participants that land negotiations are being held up because “the natives have been unable to find a representative” who the colonial government considers to have “legal” status (!), and that the Ontario government is

considering placing Kanenhstaton / “Douglas Creek Estates” in a land trust to be owned by Haldimand County.

Saturday, June 10, 2006: Deputy OPP commissioner Maurice Pilon announces that arrest warrants have been issued for six indigenous people who were allegedly involved in altercations on Friday, with a warrant pending for a seventh suspect. The charges include attempted murder, assault of a police officer, assault causing bodily harm, theft of a motor vehicle, robbery, forcible confinement, intimidation, and dangerous driving.

Following a speech to radio and TV news directors, Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada’s chief of defense staff for the Canadian Forces, says to press he doesn’t expect the military to get involved in the dispute any time soon. “We believe that’s

a police operation...Of course, having said that, in any instance in Canada, of course we stand by with generic plans to move to help Canadians if the government of Canada decides to use us, but in this case, we’re not doing any planning specifically for Caledonia.”

Sunday, June 11, 2006: In a press release the Haudenosaunee Confederacy states that the individuals named by the OPP as being suspects in Friday’s incidents were brought before the Confederacy Chiefs and Clan Mothers to assist in investigation of the events and that the investigation is continuing. The Confederacy reminds the OPP and Canadian governments that the relationships between Canada and Six Nations as described in the Two Row Wampum belt and the Silver Covenant Chain are based on respect for the sovereignty of each government, and an agreement to not interfere with the affairs of the other government.

Jim Prentice (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians) and David Ramsay (Ontario Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs) release a joint statement calling the two protective blockades “a continued threat to public safety”, and asking that the barricades be removed “as a matter of urgency” so “all involved can focus their resources and efforts to the task of resolving the outstanding issues at the table”. Camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson reaffirms the commitment to the land reclamation: “We’re still focused. We still know why we’re there.”

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Ontario Provincial Police are trying to recover classified documents containing the identities of undercover officers and operational details concerning the native occupation.

The documents were stolen last Friday during an altercation between natives and police in which an OPP officer was seriously injured.

Natives occupying the Douglas Creek Estates got the documents when they stole an unmarked U.S. Border Patrol SUV in which two U.S. border agents and an OPP officer had been riding.

The OPP have issued an arrest warrant for a 30-year-old Six Nations man who is wanted for attempted murder. He is accused of trying to run over the downed OPP officer with the stolen SUV.

The documents contain the names of OPP officers and U.S. agents involved in the standoff, home phone numbers, details of surveillance operations and information from confidential informants dating back to the beginning of the standoff.

They also include notes of investigations into human smuggling across the Canada-U.S. border along the Niagara frontier.

The Spectator obtained a copy of the documents on the weekend from former Spectator reporter Lynda Powless, publisher of Turtle Island News, a national native weekly newspaper based on the Six Nations Reserve.

Late yesterday, the OPP appealed to The Spectator to immediately return the copied documents.

“That information is very important and we need to get it back. I can’t stress that enough,” said OPP Acting Detective Staff Sergeant Anthony Renton.

The OPP officer said the information in the documents “is very sensitive law enforcement information that places people at risk as police officers.”

Renton would not discuss the documents’ impact on officer safety, operations or negotiations to end the standoff.

Among the documents is a two-page contact list of many key players in the standoff, including natives and OPP staff. In some instances, the list provides cellphone and home phone numbers.

News that the confidential information had fallen into native hands sent shock waves through the OPP union

Undercover officers’ names, classified CSIS information was in stolen SUV

(Paul Morse *Hamilton Spectator*, Jun 13, 2006)

yesterday, which recently criticized OPP leaders for compromising the safety of their frontline officers.

“I’m speechless,” said Karl Walsh, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

“I will immediately call command staff and ask them what they are doing to ensure the safety of the officers whose safety has been compromised as a result of the information that’s now in the hands of the antagonists within the Six Nations Reserve.”

Powless said natives found the documents in a blue SUV registered to the U.S. Border Patrol. OPP officials say the border agents were observing how provincial police are handling the standoff.

The documents “came into my possession, and I will not tell you how, and I photocopied it, and I returned it,” Powless said.

The SUV was first spotted on Argyle Street in Caledonia with someone leaning out of the vehicle taking

photographs of the natives’

barricades, she said, then sped off when protesters approached them.

Natives followed the vehicle, she said, and that an altercation occurred when it slowed down and one of its occupants jumped out.

“One of our men, I understand, then jumped into the vehicle and drove it back onto the site. They looked into the vehicle to see what was in it and it was full of sophisticated radio and high tech equipment and a bunch of documents,” Powless said.

The natives returned the documents and the SUV to police after several hours of negotiations with native liaison officers, but not before the documents were photocopied.

The intelligence officer’s log includes details of an OPP operations post being set up in the Hamilton area, checks into the background of natives and Caledonia residents, and information from the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) that “white supremacist skinheads” were heading to Caledonia that “did not materialize.”

One note describes an interview with a Caledonia resident who complained the standoff frightened her children.

The officer’s log reads: “Her kids are on the school bus and they were told to do up the windows on the bus.”

Yellow Alert for Warrior Societies

From (Mush-ko-dah-be-shik-eese) Terrance Nelson, Okijida Society Spokesman and Representative from Canada; National (US) Board of Directors: American Indian Movement

March 31, 2006

The Okijida Society is issuing a yellow alert for all Warrior Societies regarding the escalating situation between Mohawks at Six Nations and the Ontario Provincial Police. In 1990, most First Nations were in shock over the Oka crisis. Since 1990, warrior societies have meet regularly to plan out a strategy if a similar situation occurred. A yellow alert is a stand by alert issued by warrior societies to their membership on a particular situation. It is also a warning to Canada that the situation is being monitored.

Mohawks at Six Nations issued the following, “At noon, Wednesday, March 29th, four Ontario Provincial Police OPP cruisers were spotted at the nearby Unity Road School, three Jimmys, about 14 to 15 undercover cops, two cruisers side by side above the site and on the other side at Canadian Tire the cruisers face the site directly .We welcome our brothers, sisters, friends and allies with open arms to stand in solidarity with us against this illegal invasion of Six nations Land (Highway 6, Caledonia Ontario).”

In 1990, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation was the first non Mohawks to blockade to show their support. The warrior societies across Canada agreed to the following on situations like this. 1. To stay in our home territory and monitor the situation. 2. That if bloodshed occurred we would take action in our territories that would include blockades but more importantly, we agreed that in the event of the Canadian army killing indigenous people, we would bring the Canadian economy to a halt. We have made it perfectly clear to Canada that the Treaties gave recognition to the whites to peaceful co-existence, deliberate bloodshed by Canada is an end to that treaty right.

As the Mohawks stated “The whole issue is jurisdiction and title and we’re allies, not subjects,”. Canada must stop using guns to resolve its legal disputes with the Indigenous People. They know they stole it, they have to give it back.” It will remain to be seen if the Conservatives who were in power in 1990 have learned anything from the Oka crisis.

March 22, 2006: In response to the March 17 judge’s order last week stating the site must be clear by 2 PM on March 22, over 200 people gather in support of Haudenosaunee sovereignty. Women lead the way, with 50 women (including Clan Mothers) linking arms in a chain to block construction crews.

March 23, 2006: As the deadline passes for enforcement of the judge’s order, people at the camp brace for police action. “There’s a consensus that the people who are doing the protesting have a legitimate protest....The residents of Caledonia feel the federal government should step up and fix it — across Canada, not just here,” says

a longtime non-indigenous resident of Caledonia.

March 24, 2006: University of Western Ontario law professor Michael Coyle goes to the site to deliver a written communique from Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice to Six Nations people at the camp, stating that Coyle is on a “fact-finding” mission for the federal government to “investigate the nature of the grievances, identify the jurisdictional implications and explore the possibility for mediations”. This is the first action taken by the federal government since the land reclamation began.

March 27, 2006: Clan Mothers and Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) send federal

“fact-finder” Coyle back to Ottawa with a message to the federal government to send someone with proper authority to conduct nation-to-nation land negotiations. Haudenoniso announce their support of the camp and thank the Clan Mothers for keeping the peace.

March 29, 2006: In response to Crown concerns the existing injunction is “too vague for the OPP to enforce”, Ontario Superior Court Justice David Marshall changes the wording of the injunction to include fingerprinting and photographing of arrestees. Henco’s lawyer states, “We can expect to see an immediate response by the OPP”. People at the camp vow to hold

fast. “They’re still missing the whole issue of jurisdiction and title and that we’re allies, not subjects,” says camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson.

March 30, 2006: Sheriff John Dawson comes to the camp to read the latest version of the injunction. Dawson leaves after the proclamation Notice of Violation of the Law is read to remind the sheriff that he has no jurisdiction on Six Nations land and is in violation of international law by his acts of aggression.

March 31, 2006: Police keep their distance, with a lone cruiser monitoring the camp. Despite the day of relative calm, people continue to prepare for the possibility of police invasion. The Okijida Society issues a yellow alert for all Warrior Societies to monitor the situation and be prepared for possible action.

April 3, 2006: Police state that they will only use force after “every peaceful option is explored,” but continue to build up forces in Caledonia. At their command centre, a former elementary school, two dozen police vehicles and a uniformed officer guard the door; residents describe a tripling of visible forces in the last week.

April 4, 2006: Contractors and construction business owners organize a rally of several hundred non-indigenous Caledonia residents in front of the Caledonia Haldimand County office and the Caledonia OPP office to call for police action against Six Nations people. Notices distributed throughout town state, “If this situation is not resolved quickly, we could all be looking at significant decreases in property values.”

Councillor Craig Ashbaugh says, “The land claim dispute is jeopardizing future development for Haldimand and a moratorium on development cannot be allowed.” Haldimand Mayor Marie Trainer tells reporters that she will be travelling to Ottawa to meet with federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice and local cabinet minister Diane Finley to try to find a resolution.

April 5, 2006: At a community meeting to discuss the Indian Act band council’s progress on resolving land claims, band council leader Dave General says headway has been made with the Ontario and federal government since 2004, and expresses optimism that the land claim process “can make a difference in the future”. A Six Nations community member from the camp calls for General to be impeached.

April 6, 2006: The Department of Indian Affairs says the conflict “has nothing to do with the federal government”, that this is a police matter and that police fall under provincial jurisdiction. The Ontario Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs says that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty “remains committed to further co-operation with Ontario’s First Nations but will not get involved in the standoff”.

April 7, 2005: Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer and other county officials meet with Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice in Ottawa. Prentice states that he “has a few ideas on how to resolve the standoff” but is “waiting for a report on the situation from a fact-finder”.

April 11-12, 2005: Solidarity actions are held in Guelph, Montréal, North Battleford, Toronto, Saskatoon, Vancouver, and Victoria, calling for an immediate cessation of Henco’s activities, peaceful nation-to-nation negotiations and a withdrawal of police forces, and an end to the continued illegal expropriation of Indigenous lands and territories.

April 13, 2006: The federal government finally meets with traditional chiefs, Clan Mothers, and camp spokespeople. Henco, Six Nations Indian Act band council members, senior OPP officers, Haldimand town council, and Ontario government representatives are also present. Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay says he wants to work with Henco to help them with their “financial pain”.

April 15, 2006: Provincial and federal government representatives continue to meet with Indian Act band council and Henco’s lawyers to discuss compensation for Henco’s losses. Federal money is suggested for Six Nations to “look at its own governance structure” — funding ways to continue paternalistic interference with Six Nations governance, rather than dealing with the theft of indigenous land. In a joint offer, federal and Ontario governments offer to “give” Six Nations other land in the Haldimand Tract as “compensation” if the people at the camp leave. (Yes, they offered Six Nations their own land.)

April 16, 2006: At a meeting of the Indian Act band council, the council votes 7 to 6 in favor of turning land matters over to the Haudenoniso (Rotino’shon:ni

Update from Grand River - Saturday, June 10, 2006

Today has been a day of unrest at the land reclamation site. While I won’t go into great detail on what has happened today as a press release is being prepared, it is suffice to say that the intimidation tactics and pressure from the outside has worked to the point that 1000 opp officers are being dispatched to the area surrounding the reclamation site, and the Caledonia residents are up in arms, demanding the removal of our people from the site, and even going so far as to setting up a barricade on the recently opened plank road (argyle street) leading into Caledonia. It is important for all of you to understand that the intimidation tactics leading up to day were constant.... including army helicopters and others flying overhead all hours of the day and night; including hovering overhead between 2 and 4 in the morning with their lights off, and then on occasion, shining high powered lights down onto the people on the site. This has been going on constantly. Our people are being faced daily with people driving by, hollering racial remarks including “go home you f’n Indians”, “get a job”, “you’re gonna die” etc. Garbage is constantly being thrown at us, and besides the “flipping of the bird” there have been times where firecrackers are being thrown out the window toward us. These incidents however, are not followed up on by the opp because they are not breaking any laws.

today a united states border patrol vehicle was retrieved with high powered surveillance equipment in it. The first story from the opp was that the “A.T.F. Officer” was just visiting friends in the neighbourhood and was taking pictures “kinda like a tourist”, when spotted just down from the the front line barricade and then followed to the back door of the reclamation site. then later when we questioned further what the United States ATF was doing snooping around taking pictures of our people with the opp riding in the back with them, they changed the story saying that they had been invited in by the opp. Our question as to what they were doing there, what is their mandate, and the fact that obviously these people have gotten high government official clearance to be so far out of their jurisdiction was unanswered by the opp representatives. an opp officer was hospitalized as a result of this incident, and a ch tv. Newsperson/cameraman had to get stitches as a result of a previous run in with our people. This situation is not good.

What needs to be understood is that the incidents of today, are a direct result of the constant intimidation tactics of the opp and others of the military, the continued racial

discrimination being shown, not by us, but by the Caledonia people, including the recent blocking of our children from using the arena for lacrosse games; the back tracking by the provincial government at the negotiating table; all of which lead up to the ultimate goal of the government. To justify stopping the talks at the negotiating table. From what we have been told at the fire tonight, this is the position of the government at this point. Canada does not want to deal with the Onkwehonweh people because they know we are absolutely right in our position with respect to the land, our sovereignty and upholding our Law. The violence that occurred is not something that we are proud of, but it is something that we completely understand knowing and understanding the underhanded and direct attempts at inciting the action required to justify another attack against our people, and to make it look like we are uncontrollable. Why else have they been playing the “terrorists in Canada in court in Brampton” back to back with the “six nations land reclamation in Caledonia” on all of the news stations Canada with the help of corporate media, is making sure the mental brainwashing of its citizens against the Onkwehonweh people continues. How convenient that CHTV 11 was there even before this all started. How co-

incidentally that the couple who sparked the violence with their racial attacks drove straight to the Canadian Tire parking lot, and how convenient that a “by-stander” happened to have a video camera across the road at tim hortons video taping the whole scene and directly reporting to CHML radio who happens to be co-owned by chtv 11. Was it a co-incidence! or were these people already on standby knowing that a story was about to break. It is unfortunate that our people fell for it, and in hindsight we can all wish it didn’t happen, but the reality is, unless you are in the situation, dealing with the constant mental emotional and physical intimidation of the corrupt bureaucRATS; and the racial violence that has been directed at our people on a constant basis, none of us can truly say how we would have responded if in the situation ourselves.

The potential for violence occurring on the site in the next little while is tremendous. The Caledonia people are wanting to come in to take us out. The opp are maintaining a line between the Caledonia residents and the reclamation site. It is unknown how long this is going to continue. Our people need to be on alert. Again, we are on the site unarmed, we are trying to maintain the peace, and we are keeping the people toward the inner perimeter of the site. I will forward further updates as soon as I get them. Please forward to others. Stay Strong and keep the Peace.

Hazel Hill, camp spokesperson



In the pressure cooker...

Friday, June 9, 2006: In the morning, Canadian cabinet minister and Haldimand-Norfolk Conservative MP Diane Finley urges the Ontario government to send police in to remove Six Nations people from their land to "return the town to normalcy." Tom Bernard of the Caledonia Citizen's Alliance, who received the letter from Finley, states to press, "That was incredible when I saw that. That is totally out of line...That's not the solution. It's past that now." Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer, removed as spokesperson by her council in April after making racist comments, says to press she understands Finley's perspective as the reclamation is "so upsetting to everyone. It just seems a disrespect for the laws and Canada".

In the afternoon, a non-indigenous couple who make racist comments to people at the reclamation site are followed to the Canadian Tire parking lot and confronted. Two CH-TV camera crew members who film the clash are beaten after they try to stop Six Nations people and supporters from taking the tape from the news camera. Subsequent media reports allege that OPP officers refused to intervene, further promoting the right-wing fantasy that the police are "powerless" and "siding with the Natives" while the opposite is obviously the case! (see photo for proof that this was a fabrication)

The day before the cop union had announced "We need to take a tougher stand - we're being prevented from doing our job - we need the tools to get the job done" and then... *voilà!* on Friday two reporters get roughed up and the police are reported as "doing nothing"... some may say this sounds a tad stage-managed...

Later that day US ATF police (initially reported as Border Patrol) and OPP officers taking pictures of the reclamation site are dragged from their vehicle and the car driven toward a police officer who is injured as he is pulled from its path. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty threatens to cancel negotiations, and one OPP officer says to press it's time to bring in the military. As camp spokesperson Hazel Hill points out, "What needs to be understood is that the incidents of today, are a direct result of the constant intimidation tactics of the opp and others of the

military, the continued racial discrimination being shown, not by us, but by the Caledonia people...all of which lead up to the ultimate goal of the government. To justify stopping the talks at the negotiating table...The violence that occurred is not something that we are proud of, but it is something that we completely understand knowing and understanding the underhanded and direct attempts at inciting the action required to justify another attack against our people, and to make it look like we are uncontrollable." The Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) issue a statement saying they don't condone violence in any form, that the indigenous individuals involved in the incidents have been removed from the reclamation site until Six Nations complete its own investigation, and that individuals involved "will be dealt with in a manner harmonious with the Great Law of Peace."

At 6 PM 300-400 non-indigenous Caledonia residents gather near the Canadian Tire

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A photo from the Turtle Island News shows the OPP standing in to defuse an altercation between native protesters and CH-TV cameramen.

Confederacy Council of Chiefs). According to observer Kahentinetha Horn, from Mohawk Nation News, "The band council decision to hand matters concerning land over to the traditional Confederacy council that Canada violently deposed in 1924 is a political breakthrough. It suggests that Canada can no longer 'buy' enough support to keep up its pretense that their puppet government is legitimate. It shows that even those people who take part in the band council elections

are aware of the frauds that were perpetrated on the Six Nations people."

Apr 18, 2006: The Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) issues a release stating that talks held over the weekend and Monday night have been unsuccessful as the federal and Ontario governments have refused to acknowledge the issues raised by the Haudenoniso — an immediate moratorium on development by Henco of the lands in Caledonia that are under

reclamation, agreement not to criminalize Six Nations people who are reclaiming their lands, and an end to backroom dealing between federal and provincial representatives and the Indian Act Council on land issues.

Apr 19, 2006: Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty pledges that the dispute will be settled in a "peaceful manner", but the police presence continues.

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**"The band council decision to hand matters concerning land over to the traditional Confederacy council that Canada violently deposed in 1924 is a political breakthrough."
- Kahentinetha Horn**



Home On Native Land: The people of

April 19, 2006 According to the Six Nations Confederacy, women are the title holders of the land.

Sewatis has been at the Six Nations blockade since it began on February 28. "I was the first one to encounter your enforcement officer," he says. "I was peaceful and just explained the situation. [I said] 'I cannot follow your orders because I'm not Canadian. I'm Haudenosaunee.'"

The police officer he was speaking with didn't appear to know how to handle Sewatis' response to his order. Apparently, the fact that someone born and raised only a few miles from where they stood—just outside of Caledonia, Ontario—was not Canadian was a difficult concept to grasp. "So, I just told him 'You'll have to wait for my superiors to come,'" says Sewatis. "That's the kind of language they seem to understand."

I am sitting with Sewatis in his van. For over six weeks this is where he has slept. That is to say, when he has slept. Many nights he sits by the fire, keeping watch in case the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) chooses to invade the site.

From where we sit, we can see dozens of people gathered around the fire, singing, laughing and talking. To our left is a cookhouse that was recently built to feed the growing number of people that have come to support the repossession of Six Nations' land. There are several tents, a teepee and a couple of trailers scattered nearby.

It might feel like a camping trip except for the fact that we are in the middle of a construction site. There are no trees or grass and ten partially built suburban homes stand nearby. Henco Industries had hoped to build hundreds of houses here. Construction was halted on February 28 when the road to the site was blocked and Henco was informed that the land is not theirs to build on.

"We're here telling people that it's our land and it was illegally attained and it was illegally sold," says Sewatis. "That's just the plain and simple truth."

This is not "the kind of language they seem to understand."

On April 6, the Canadian government said that the Six Nations dispute is not about land rights. "This is not a lands-claim matter," said Deirdre McCracken, a spokesperson for the Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice. She also said that the blockade "has nothing to do with the federal government."

But according to a statement released on March 20 by the women of Rotinoshon'non:we (meaning

Iroquois or Haudenosaunee, depending on the language being spoken), the blockade has quite a lot to do with land—and with the Canadian government.

The statement outlines how "General Haldimand confirmed that Britain would affirm the right of the Six Nations to a tract of land six miles deep on either side of the Grand River, running from its mouth to its source." The piece of land immediately under dispute is only a small part of the much larger 'Haldimand Tract.'

This piece of history is not being debated. A plaque erected in Cayuga, Ontario by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board says much the same thing. The sign also notes that the land was awarded in 1784 in recognition of the Six Nations' help to the British Crown during the American Revolution. What the plaque says next is where the stories diverge. "In later years, large areas of this tract...were sold to white settlers."

According to the women of the Rotinoshon'non:we, however, "None of this land [the Haldimand tract] was ever legally surrendered." The women's statement carries a great deal of weight as, "Women are the 'Title Holders' of the land of Rotinoshon'non:we as recalled by Wampum 44 of the Kaianereh'ko:wa."

The significance of the previous sentence will be lost on most Canadians, who will have no idea what it means.

Indigenous nations have their own constitution (Kaianereh'ko:wa). "The idea that British Colonists or their descendents—like Canadians—were the only people who had 'law' is a legal fiction," says Kahentinetha Horn, a Mohawk elder from Kahnawake. Canada "has totally disrespected our laws and agreements to conduct a nation-to-nation relationship."

The Six Nations Confederacy has been called the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. Hazel Hill, one of the women active at the blockade describes how decisions are made: "There are fifty chiefs which represent the Confederacy Council and they have a clanmother with each chief. It is the people whose voice the chiefs and clanmothers carry. Any decision regarding land, comes first from the women, and then to their clans, and through the process of our council, when all are in agreement, or when consensus has been reached, only then does the decision stand," she says. "In our history of the Haldimand Tract, this has never been done."

In 1924, the Band Council system was imposed



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Wednesday, June 7, 2006:

On the night before the 100th day of the reclamation, 100 leaders from territories occupied by the Ontario government come to the reclamation site to show support and to remind the federal and provincial governments that land theft is an ongoing problem throughout "Canada" that can no longer be avoided or suppressed. Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) says that despite the Ontario government reneging on some of its promises over the last few weeks, with negotiations with Ontario and Canada delegates

scheduled to begin again today he is still "hopeful" that a peaceful resolution will happen.

Thursday, June 8, 2006 (Day 100):

The Ontario Provincial Police Association is holding a private meeting tonight in Caledonia to hear the concerns of OPP officers who say that their commanding officers are not following established standard training and operations policies and procedures. "Due to the political pressures and optics involved with this, the OPP seems to be bending their own rules, while sacrificing officer safety," states OPPA President Karl Walsh to press. The

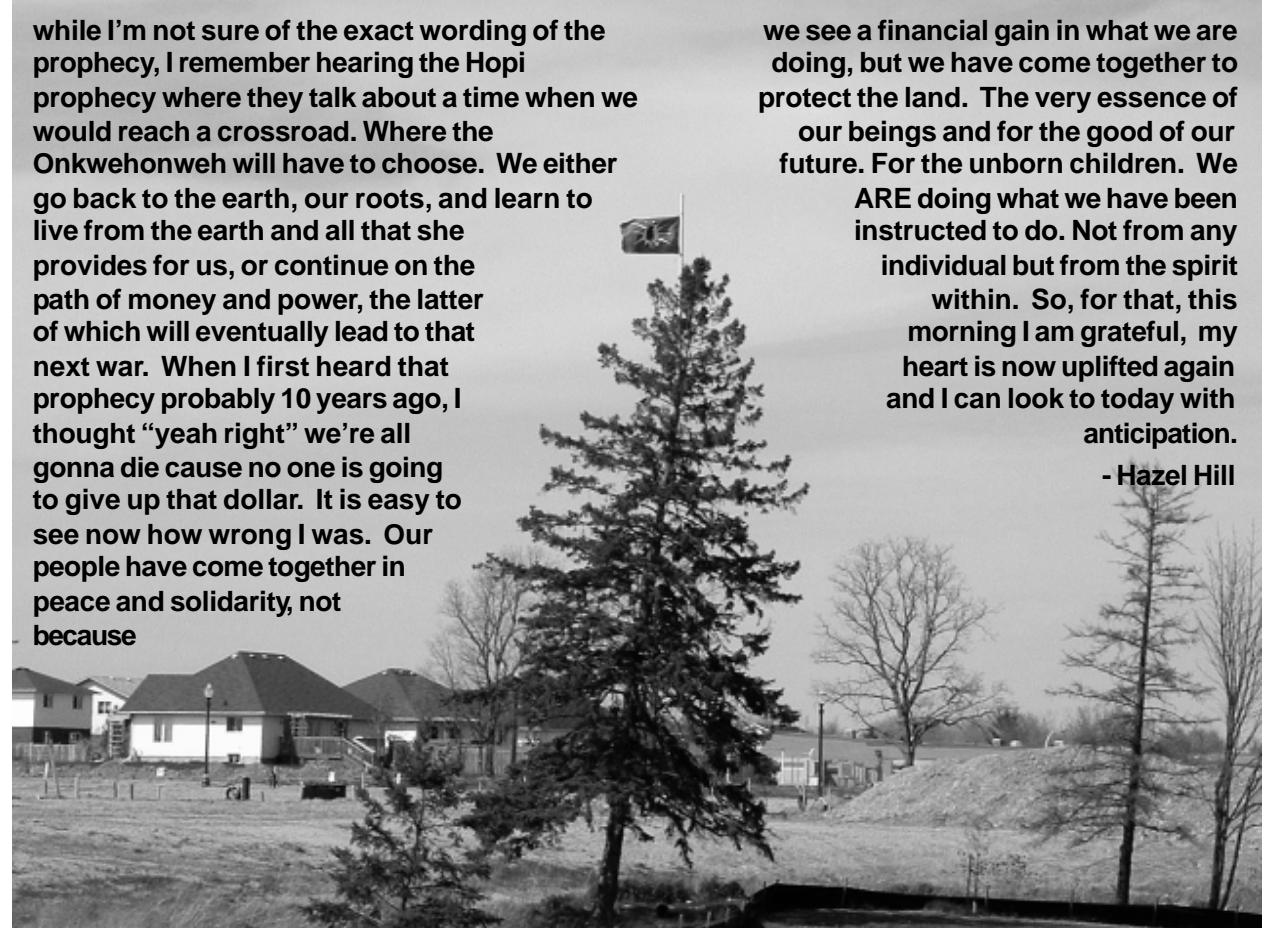
OPPA is angry that its officers are being held back from "doing their job" and feels "powerless" to enforce the law.

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs passes a resolution fully supporting the Clan Mothers and Traditional Chiefs, and call on Stephen Harper and Jim Prentice to intervene and act upon their responsibilities in this matter. In the event Canada fails to uphold its responsibility the UBCIC supports the intervention of the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.

while I'm not sure of the exact wording of the prophecy, I remember hearing the Hopi prophecy where they talk about a time when we would reach a crossroad. Where the Onkwehonweh will have to choose. We either go back to the earth, our roots, and learn to live from the earth and all that she provides for us, or continue on the path of money and power, the latter of which will eventually lead to that next war. When I first heard that prophecy probably 10 years ago, I thought "yeah right" we're all gonna die cause no one is going to give up that dollar. It is easy to see now how wrong I was. Our people have come together in peace and solidarity, not because

we see a financial gain in what we are doing, but we have come together to protect the land. The very essence of our beings and for the good of our future. For the unborn children. We ARE doing what we have been instructed to do. Not from any individual but from the spirit within. So, for that, this morning I am grateful, my heart is now uplifted again and I can look to today with anticipation.

- Hazel Hill



Goodwill brings violent response at Caledonia

Sam Hammond, *The People's Voice*, June 1-15, 2006

[...]

By the Victoria Day weekend [May 20-21], considerable progress had been made, although unfortunately this was not officially reported by the government. This progress included an apparent commitment to return land that houses a defunct and vacant Correctional Facility, originally taken illegally from Six Nations, after an environmental study to establish the condition of the land. It was widely rumoured that there would be a moratorium on the disputed Douglas Creek land and a third party archeological study for graves of Native people.

This led to a goodwill offer by the Six Nations to open Argyle Street. But on Friday evening, May 19, the anti-protests became more aggressive. When the Six Nations people started to dismantle their barricades on Monday, May 22, the rednecks could not stand the prospect of peaceful resolution without retribution. The baseball-bat armed mob put up their own barricade and the situation degenerated, complete

with physical engagements. The Native people threw up a new defensive barricade, dug up the road and prepared to defend themselves. A state of emergency was declared in Caledonia, and people worried that the Canadian Army would be called in.

Some facts must be stated for the record. During this protest no Native person has attacked a resident of Caledonia even when provoked with racist slurs. When the citizens of Caledonia had a rally at the Fair Grounds, the Native people applauded their right to congregate peacefully. A young Six Nations man was shot just under the eye with a pellet gun; the next day a young intruder was captured within their camp driving erratically and in possession of a pellet gun and military equipment, including a flack jacket. He was handed over unharmed to the OPP. Violence and the threat of violence have only come from the anti-native minority.

There is a problem in Ontario. It might be convenient to look at every phenomenon in isolation and to pretend awe,

ignorance and wonder when an oppressed people stand courageously on their own behalf. If ignorance is bliss, there are a lot of happy people in government here and they are trying to spread it around.

But there is a history, with its twists and turns, and also with a common thread. Remember the murder of Dudley George at Ipperwash by the OPP? Remember the lies and subterfuge to protect a red-neck premier and his cabinet cabal? Remember the OPP riot squad attack on OPSEU members right in front of the Ontario legislature? How about the legions of missing Native women who don't get media attention? How about water you can't drink? How about mercury poisoning? Where the hell is the conscience of the Canadian State? When the police become spectators, as they were when racists stoned Native people at Kahnasetake in 1990, they are supporting the attackers, carrying out state policy.

The cancer of right-wing, imperialist and racist thinking explodes around the Native people. Their struggle is a beacon that lights up the political environment and exposes the danger facing all of us. Will the social justice movement face similar violence and retribution when it escalates the very issues the Native people are dealing with now? The issues of water, environment, medicine, living space, the right to exist purely as a condition of birth and being?

I think the Native people are politically more advanced in many ways because they are forced to deal with these problems, not hide from them. As a student of history, a trade-unionist and a Hamilton worker, I am not surprised by the calm and peaceful determination of the Six Nations people. Throughout history, struggle develops its own dignity, its own unity. There is nobility in standing your ground, in fighting for justice. That's why Robin Hood is a folk hero and Hitler is not.

Six Nations are repossessing their land

by force on Six Nations. In the place of the traditional government what critics refer to as "a puppet government" was installed using the Indian Act.

Since 1924, the Canadian government has done its negotiating with the Band Council, a system that is a part of and paid for by the federal government. "The Band Council," says Horn, "does not represent the Six Nations peoples according to international law."

In an open letter to local newspapers, Hill compares the government's agreements with Band Council to finding a few people in Caledonia to agree to sell their town to the people Six Nations. "Would that be legal?" she asks.

The Band Council system does not allow the voice of the people to be heard, says Horn. If the Canadian government wants to seek legitimate discussions, negotiations must be undertaken on a nation-to-nation basis. "There could then be an orderly settlement based on an orderly investigation of the facts and an orderly identification of the laws that apply," says Horn. "The reason Canada doesn't want to do this is because it knows full well that when the process is complete, the facts will clearly show they have illegally invaded our land."

There is a large sign at the Six Nations blockade that reads "Oh Canada, your home on native land." The play on words from something as basic as the national anthem is appropriate for a standoff that could turn the meaning of Canada on its head.

"A lot of people have squatted on our land," observes Carol Bomberry. Pointing to Caledonia she continues, "This is one of the towns that is on our land."

Most Caledonians probably don't consider themselves squatters. Chances are they consider Caledonia home. What does it mean if Caledonia is not Canada?

Mike Laughing, one of the men manning the blockade, responds matter-of-factly. "Look at it this way: just imagine if all those people got to live on native land. Instead of paying taxes to the government they could be giving it to the true landlords, back to this nation," says Laughing. "If they didn't want to do that then they'd have to move. But we're not saying move away."

As for the small piece of land immediately under dispute, Bomberry has a similarly straightforward suggestion: she'd like to see the Canadian government buy the houses back from Henco Industries and restore the land to Six Nations.

The Six Nations Reserve, the most populous reserve in Canada, is currently less than five per cent the size of the original Haldimand Tract. "There's a ten year waiting list for houses," Bomberry points out. "Our population is growing every year. We need more room."

Acknowledging Indigenous land rights will, of course, mean much more than establishing who lives where or who pays taxes to whom. Laughing says he's at the blockade for the sake of his kids. Canada "has been standing on the back of an Indian for too long," he says. "It's time to get off and let us stand proud of who we are."

It is not only First Nations people that stand to benefit from a just outcome to the Six Nations standoff, says Horn. Native and non-native people alike are suffering from a system that is destroying the environment. Horn believes that under Indigenous title, the land would be treated with far more respect. "According to our constitution, we have to take care of the land, in other words we're environmentalists," explains Horn. "That's why it's important [for non-native people] to help us assert our jurisdiction."

People from across Canada and around the world have lent their support to the Six Nations' struggle. Hundreds of people have gathered at the site each time there has been a threat of the OPP moving in.

"The Canadian government calls themselves peaceful," says Sewatis. "I hope that they live what they say."

If the OPP chooses to invade, many at the site feel that it is their duty to defend their land and defend their people. "We're not seeking violence," Sewatis says. "I seek peace first...but, I believe in what's right."

Sewatis has seen how standoffs over land rights have ended before. "They think they can make peace by having a gun and having it their way," he observes. "We want to talk about peace and the laws and jurisdiction of the lands. We are going to utilize the great law of peace. We're going to offer it one more time."

At the time this article went to print, over 50 police cruisers were gathering in Caledonia and Six Nations was on "Red Alert."

Hillary Bain Lindsay
The Dominion
<http://dominionpaper.ca>



* for a complete version of this article see
<http://www.politicalaffairs.net/article/articleview/3533/1/189/>

April 20, 2006:

At 5 AM over 150 heavily armed Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) invade the camp, using Tasers, batons, tear gas, and pepper spray against unarmed Six Nations people and arresting 16 individuals (charges include assault with a weapon, mischief to public property, intimidation, resisting arrest, creating a disturbance, and assaulting police). The people at the camp courageously resist and force police to retreat. Supporters from across North America pledge to come to the camp to stand in solidarity. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty says the police action is "completely independent" and that his government didn't learn of the raid until it was already in progress.

After the failed invasion, Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay calls on his federal counterpart Jim Prentice to appoint a personal envoy to take part in talks with the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs). Deputy Commissioner Maurice Pilon says the OPP has no immediate plans to go in again, but that they intend to maintain a perimeter around the camp and continue their command post in a school near the area.

People at the camp maintain the peace throughout the night after the raid, despite provocation by a mob of 300 white residents who come to the camp to tell Six Nations people and their supporters to "go home"(!).

continued on page 16...

Police Attack Reclamation...

Report from the camp on police raid

From: Hazel Hill

Hey to all of our friends and allies from Grand River Territory.

We upheld the law and we're standing proud. this morning 15 people were arrested when the police moved in about 4:30 am. they had pepper sprayed some of the men and women, and forcibly removed our people from the site, including some of the non-native supporters that have been on the site with us, some for weeks.

My husband and I weren't on the site at the time, but one of the women from the camp came and told us that the police had moved in and so we immediately headed back down. the people had congregated at the back gate and when we arrived on the scene there were police around each corner of our lands, probably about 200 total. the people were still on the lands and had never completely left. we continued to gather and the numbers continued to grow. the people continued to tell the police to leave, women & men

elders & youth, we stood together in unity.

When the police continued to resist our peaceful request to leave our territory, the caledonia by-pass was closed down, traffic was backing up in both directions, and only then did they realize that our people were not small in numbers, and perhaps they had underestimated the support that we did have. we had hundreds of Six Nations people gathered at the site within the hour, and had the police surrounded at the back gate; and finally, the police agreed to withdraw. we marched them off of the back gate, many women linking arms together walking the police off our land followed by the rest, we then went to the corner gate, again, marching them off of the lands. the police continued to file out of the lands onto hwy 6 in front of the disputed land area. the people then gathered to



Negligence costs

Windspeaker Editorial June 2006

June - 2006 Forget what you've read in the mainstream papers or have seen on the national news: we're here to tell you there are plenty of good people on both sides of the barricades at Caledonia. A mere handful of knuckleheads are getting most of the attention and, while that may feed the media beast, it does nothing to get to the truth of this critically important matter.

Here's what you need to know: Ten years ago, the elected council of Six Nations asked the federal government for an accounting of its lands and monies held in trust by the Crown. Since then, Canada's departments of Justice and Indian Affairs, under the guidance of the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office, have done everything in their considerable power to avoid providing said accounting.

Ten years ago, Six Nations stated it was not interested in displacing third parties. It acknowledged that Canada could never pay what it owed to the community after a century of plunder and injustice. All it wanted was information, to know what happened to their lands and monies held in trust by their fiduciary Canada.

How much in lands and money? At the time, Six Nations officials refused to say publicly what they believed to be owed, but Windspeaker's trip to Six Nations in May has revealed that at the time of the statement of claim the figure was \$800 billion; yes, that's with a 'b'. Steve Williams, the elected leader at the time, said he has no doubt that number stands today at \$1 trillion.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he believes in accountability. It's one of the five priorities established by the Conservative government for this Parliament. Can Six Nations then expect that under his watch, a voluntary and spontaneous effort at an accounting of Six Nations trusts will occur? If not, why not?

A similar case played out in the United States in a suit called Cobell and has led to charges of contempt against the secretary of the Interior, that country's equivalent to Indian Affairs minister, for obfuscation and delay. But in Canada, nothing. In the U.S. it is generally acknowledged, as a result of the Cobell case, that the U.S. government plundered Indian trusts believing it would never be held accountable. Turns out the U.S. might have been wrong, especially if Judge Royce Lambert has his way. Is there no equivalent of Judge Lambert in Canada?

The one thing that had worked against Six Nations in the past was division in the community. What we saw at three separate public meetings at the Six Nations community hall between April 30 and May 3 was that those divisions are still there, but the out-

rage within the community over the continued frustration of its legitimate attempts to seek justice have united the Big Six like never before.

And that could mean big trouble for Canada. Especially if residents of Caledonia clue in to why this is happening to them.

If enough voters across this country at any time since 1867 had let their elected representatives know that they expected a fair and immediate settlement to all outstanding Aboriginal land issues, the MPs would have got it done. They haven't so far because Canadians haven't bothered to get informed and demand action. That was because of ignorance or because of complicity in the injustice. The good people of Caledonia are now seeing what that kind of negligence costs.

You saw the burning tires and the scenes of Ontario Provincial Police officers struggling with camouflaged "occupiers" at the site of development on the disputed lands of Douglas Creek Estates. You saw angry town residents spewing hatred across the divide between the police line and the edge of the occupation. But what you didn't see could mark the beginning of a sea-change in Canada.

You didn't see the non-Native women at the barricades arguing for cooler heads to prevail when a few townsfolk got out of hand. You didn't see the queries and the questioning from those regular Joes who thirst for information so they can understand the history of the conflict. You didn't see Aboriginal clergy walking amongst the angry Calidonians, their mere presence in their vestments a plea for calm and rational behavior. These are considered non-stories by the media, but they could be at the heart of a new relationship that is developing between thinking non-Aboriginal people and their long-suffering Native neighbors.

Can Six Nations then expect that under his watch, a voluntary and spontaneous effort at an accounting of Six Nations trusts will occur? If not, why not?



Because I can only count to five?

of unity flags on hydro towers, the creation of self-defense barricades by Six Nations people and supporters) suggest the OPP is targeting Six Nations people in its investigation. As camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson points out, "This is our territory. We do have the right to occupy our territory."

Sunday, June 4, 2006: At 8 PM, an OPP cruiser is spotted on 6th Line near Cayuga Road, in breach of a mutual aid agreement between OPP and Six Nations Police that requires the OPP to seek permission before entering Six Nations territory. Six Nations people surround the car to stop it from further encroaching on Six Nations land, and Six Nations police are called to the scene. In response to rumours that a barricade has gone up again, non-indigenous people from Caledonia swarm towards the site, carrying placards reading "Bring in the Army". Six Nations people move back onto the reclamation site at 11PM. By 1 AM Monday morning press report that most people have dispersed, but also misreport that there

is another blockade. Camp spokesperson Hazel Hill states, "There were concerns that a barricade may go back up, but we want to make it clear, that the incident involving the OPP officer had nothing to do with the reclamation site". OPP Const. Paula Wright says authorities are investigating a car fire and two assaults stemming from the incident.

Press report that on Monday the Ontario legislature will debate an Opposition motion calling for an inquiry into the Liberal government's response to the Six Nations land reclamation. Opposition Leader John Tory's states to press: "When you have a situation where you have land occupied, roads blocked for weeks on end, there's a need for a commission to take a look at better ways to do things, and ways we can make sure the rule of law is upheld".

Monday, June 5, 2006: The Ontario Conservative Party motion calling for an inquiry into the Ontario government's response to the Six Nations land reclamation passes. The motion, which

calls upon the government to "recognize that the premier's procrastination and failure to show leadership when it was most needed allowed this situation to escalate into a public safety crisis," does not bind the government to hold an inquiry.

Preliminary results of a survey conducted by Norfolk County's tourism and economic development office estimate more than \$823,000 in losses and damage to Norfolk businesses during the power outage caused by the damage to a hydro transformer tower in Caledonia. Diana Jardine, director of municipal programs and education branch with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, says the ministry wanted to know the cost incurred by Norfolk businesses because of the blackout but there are no immediate plans to offer financial assistance to affected businesses.

Tuesday, June 6, 2006: An anonymous email circulates encouraging non-indigenous Caledonia residents to rally at the Haldimand County Caledonia Centre Wednesday night to disrupt a lacrosse game staged by the Six Nations Minor Lacrosse Association. The email says the purpose of the rally is to "restrict access to the arena to people who are not welcome in our community."

Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty dismisses the passing of a motion in the Ontario legislature criticizing his response to the land reclamation, portraying the Liberal party as peaceful, "patient", and "responsible" (!), and states to press he will not convene an inquiry.

the front gate and continued to uphold our Kaierenekowah, removing the police from the site.

I attended toward the back of the property to inform the remaining officers on site that they were pulling out and asked them to leave. A female officer informed me that i was in violation of a court injunction and that if i didn't leave the property i would be arrested. i informed her that SHE was in violation of the Supreme Law of the Land, our Kaierenekowah, and in violation of international law and that she should leave. i again informed them that their officers were leaving the site and that they should leave. She again told me that if I didn't leave that I would be arrested, I told her again that she should leave, at which point she said, that's it mam your un-

Six Nations Expel Police!

der arrest and tried to grab ahold of me. She was unable to get me down, at which point about 4 other male officers came to her assistance wrestling me to the ground. I had hollered for help and at that point several of our people had headed in my direction, they began to knee or kick me in my left thigh, I did try to defend myself and at one point kicked an officer square in the chest to get him away from me (sorry to my friends who asked me not to fight, but my instincts kicked in and my reaction was immediate to defend myself) my eldest son tried to pull the police off of me and he was shot in the back with a tazer gun, but as soon as several others arrived on the scene, the police immediately withdrew off of me, people helped me and my son over to a vehicle where they pulled the darts out of his back.

The police then got into their vehicles and on their way out I seen the female officer in the middle of the van with a big gun in her hands obviously ready to use it. Everyone followed their vans to the front gate and the people walked the opp straight down argyle street south of the main gate and when they were far enough away, we pulled in a transport truck and shut the road down. We then blocked the road just north of the 6th line leading into our community.

The OPP have been continuously reporting that they did not use any weapons other than pepper spray, that our people were armed etc., but when they moved in, the people were resting, some of them awakened

from sleep and told to move out. We maintain that we did not break the Peace, the opp crossed the line and came into our lands fully packed with guns and other weapons with the intent to use them. The situation was very tense but as I have told many many reporters today during interviews, "we upheld the Law that the Creator gave to us and are standing strong in front of Creation, honouring our Creator, our responsibilities according to the Kaierenekowah and Our Spirits and our hearts swelled with Pride".

We continue to keep the Peace, we have many supporters from many territories coming in to our aid and we want to send a Big Nya Weh to all of you, who, while you might not be here physically, all of the efforts through e-mails, letters etc., the food and other donations that you have been bringing in have touched our hearts tremendously, and through your support, you have helped in keeping that spirit alive and in the forefront. will talk to you soon. our prayers are with all of you tonight as well.

--Hazel



Apr 21, 2006: By morning there are reports of solidarity actions from many communities. Tyendinaga Mohawks block CN rail tracks on their territory, stopping freight and passenger trains for the entire day. Mohawks of Kahnawake seize the Mercier Bridge for a short time and place flags as a show of solidarity. In Montréal the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement (IPSM) holds an emergency demonstration in solidarity with Six Nations

people, denouncing OPP violence.

Talks continue, but so does the police build-up. RCMP state to press that they have joined forces with the OPP near Six Nations, saying their presence was requested by the OPP.

After today’s bail hearing for people arrested during the police invasion, lawyer Chris Reid states that his six clients are from the sovereign Mohawk nation and take the

position that they are not subject to Canadian laws. Kahehti:io, a 20-year-old Mohawk from Kahnawake, refuses to give a colonial name or to be photographed and fingerprinted. Justice of the Peace Paul Welsh orders Kahehti:io held until a bail hearing Monday and authorizes police to use “as much force as necessary” to obtain his fingerprints and photo.

Protest strands 3,500 rail travellers, freight



*“We have an uncanny ability to defend ourselves”
- Shawn Brant*

TYENDINAGA, Ont. and TORONTO - A group of Mohawk protesters shut down a key railroad corridor yesterday — stranding passengers and freight across two provinces — to show support for aboriginals staging their own protest about 300 kilometres away.

Although demonstrators from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation Territory near Belleville agreed last night to dismantle the barricade, their day-long protest halted railroad traffic on a typically busy section of the Montreal-Toronto corridor and left about 3,500 VIA Rail passengers stuck across Ontario and Quebec.

Rail operator Canadian National went before a judge yesterday afternoon to get an injunction against the protesters in a bid to protect the \$102-million worth of cargo shipped along the line daily.

Members of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation Territory began burning bonfires around 1 a.m. yesterday and parked themselves, their cars and a brown school bus at a railroad crossing about 20 kilometres east of Belleville [...]

Yesterday, the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation protest left about a dozen CN freight trains, some carrying perishable goods, to sit

idle across Ontario and Quebec, while several other trains never left the yard. [...]

Malcolm Andrews, a Via spokesman, said about 3,500 passengers travelling on two dozen trains in the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal corridor were affected.

Highway buses seat about 47 people, Mr. Andrews said, adding that 2,100 travellers booked for travel today would be accommodated.

The rail line runs about 22 trains between Toronto and Ottawa or Montreal each day. [...]

Shawn Brant, a Tyendinaga Mohawk and the de facto spokesman for the group, said earlier in the day — before protesters agreed to remove the blockade — that demonstrators would continue to block the railroad tracks despite the CN injunction. The plan was to keep things peaceful and keep talking to police and CN, he said, but protesters were ready for anyone who would try to remove them.

“We have an uncanny ability to defend ourselves,” Mr. Brant said, refusing to specify whether the group carried weapons.

Mr. Brant said there was a mutual understanding between the group and police that nothing would happen until protesters found out whether Six Nations representatives would get a chance to talk with government officials.

“We’ve got millions of dollars that we’re holding up and I think that if they took an aggressive action against us before the outcome of the talks was revealed, we’ll be ready to defend ourselves and respond in kind,” he said. [...]

Every car that drove along the gravel road toward the school bus drew protesters’ attention and they were quick to clear the roadway. They restricted access to the tracks themselves.

A Transport Canada official would occasionally check in with the protesters to see whether there was any damage to the track.

Joel Kom and Peter Brieger, with files from Katie Rook and Natalie Alcoba, National Post and CanWest News Service; Published: Saturday, April 22, 2006

Friday, June 2, 2006: Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs David Ramsay states to press that the province “has done all it can to solve the problem in Caledonia” and that the federal government must get involved. While the Ontario government’s initial position was that the blockades and land issues were separate, Ramsay says they “now realize the two are connected” and that the issue of stolen lands “involves more than Douglas Creek”.

Henco Industries demands that the Ontario government sign an agreement to purchase Douglas Creek Estates at “fair market value” — which Henco’s lawyer estimates is \$45 million. Henco states that if the government signs an agreement to purchase the property quickly, the company will drop a court injunction ordering Six Nations people and supporters to leave the site.

Saturday, June 3, 2006: The OPP states to press that numerous criminal investigations relating to the land reclamation are underway, and that “a variety of criminal charges could result,” including kidnapping; assault with a weapon; break, enter and theft; arson; and mischief endangering human life, and trespassing. OPP spokesperson Constable Paula Wright would not say if suspects are indigenous or not, but the incidents mentioned (placement

Law demands universal respect

By Andrew Orkin, barrister and solicitor, Hamilton Spectator (May 12, 2006)

Re: ‘Natives are subject to the law’ (letter, May 9)

Indeed. But there is much more to “the law” applicable in Caledonia than traffic laws or the terms of an injunction arising out of a one-sided quickie hearing. And while governments know this, it appears they aren’t telling people in Caledonia.

The Crown’s treaties with the Iroquois, including those of Albany and Montreal in 1701, the Silver Covenant Chain and the Two Row Wampum, are part of applicable law. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 is part of the Canadian Constitution. So is Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982, which recognizes and affirms aboriginal and treaty rights.

These laws bind the governments of Canada and Ontario, and the rest of us. Our own Supreme Court repeats that they must be upheld, because “the honour of the Crown is at stake.”

The Haldimand Grant is part of this law. Its “surrender” or “sale” in whole or part by the Iroquois may well be non-existent, fraudulent or invalid, even according to non-native Canadian law.

I suspect the federal Crown knows this, but had simply planned over the intervening 160 years that the Iroquois would be assimilated and disappear.

The Iroquois Confederacy is centuries or millennia old. Its leaders, clan mothers and members (all reasserting their nation in Caledonia) are still telling us that in their view their own Iroquois structures and laws have never been legitimately displaced by Euro-Canadian ones.

They are reminding us of solemn nation-to-nation treaties that are no older or less important than the Treaty of Paris between England and France of 1763 (the ongoing basis for Quebec being part of Canada).

It is far from clear that the Iroquois Confederacy members re-occupying their lands are legally in the wrong.

If they are, why has the federal government spent the last 20 years or so frantically evading having to account to the Six Nations Band council in court for the Crown’s (mis)handling of the vast Haldimand Grant that it holds in trust for the Iroquois people?

It is time that Canadians remind themselves of all the applicable law, not just the bits that seem to justify our occupation and taking of others’ lands.

The only alternative is the use of overwhelming military force against the Iroquois, to conquer them.

But Canada’s legitimacy and reputation would take a severe beating if the colonial and oppressive nature of its relationship with aboriginal peoples was thus laid bare.

Respect for the law is not a one-way, natives-only street. Non-natives and their governments must respect the law, too, and all of it.

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The Brantford Expositor reports that Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) representatives attended a Brant County planning meeting last week, stating that as the area is part of the Haldimand Tract it is Six Nations land and requesting that four planning matters be delayed to June 3, to give time for Six Nations people to consider the proposals. The planning committee agreed to the request. The proposals involve creating estate lots on land that is currently zoned for agricultural purposes.

Wednesday, May 31, 2006: Land talks restart, with meetings between Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and Canada and Ontario government representatives. To highlight the extent of theft of Six Nations land and support Haudenoniso delegates involved in negotiations, more than two dozen Six Nations people hold an information picket outside the Brantford Charity Casino, waving flags and handing out leaflets about the history of land theft — including the site the casino is built on. Information sheets state: “the time has come to respectfully, honestly and faithfully deal with the cen-

turies old theft of our land.” Haldimand County confirms that the state of emergency will remain “for monitoring purposes” until Hydro One crews have completed repairs on the backup transformer — likely June 5 or 6.

Thursday, June 1, 2006: At the hearing called by Ontario Superior Court Justice David Marshall to discuss why his orders that the OPP remove Six Nations people from the reclamation site are not being enforced, the OPP and Ontario government call for negotiations rather than police force. OPP lawyer Denise Dwyer criticizes the Haldimand Law Association for comparing negotiations with Six Nations to appeasement of Hitler (!), stating another injunction would “threaten public and officer safety”, and, “the protest is a symptom of the underlying problem” of Canadian governments’ failure to deal with land issues. Owen Young, representing the Ontario government, tells the court that “given the history of aboriginal relations in Canada, we should not be surprised by upheaval,” and that negotiations are “an expression of the maintenance of the rule of

law.” Judge Marshall states he will contact the minister of Indian Affairs and the attorney general of Canada to “bring the federal government on board” with negotiations, and orders all parties to reappear on June 16 to discuss progress. Marshall warns that if Henco or Railink were to seek a ruling that the OPP enforce his earlier orders, “the court will do that if necessary.” Michael Bruder, lawyer for Henco, says that if the Ontario government does not buy out Henco in the next two weeks, the company “will have to consider applying to Judge Marshall for an order that the injunction be enforced”.

As Hazel Hill wrote: “today, judge marshall probably surprised everyone, including me! well, at least a bit. i was certain there was going to be an ultimatum tied to whatever he did today, but unless i am hearing it wrong, he did quite well by giving the responsibility back to the federal government. his rulings today, were that he asked the prime minister of indian affairs mr. prentice, as well as the attorney general to attend the june 16th court date, he has given two weeks of preparation time for this.”

Apr 22, 2006: Representatives of the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments sign an agreement to continue talks. A short announcement released this morning states each party will appoint a representative within two weeks who will develop a detailed work plan and agreement that will provide for the implementation of constructive and effective ways to address and resolve the various outstanding issues.” The Haudenoniso has consistently said that the talks are about the underlying issues of sovereignty and land rights, not ending the blockades — the people at the camp will decide for themselves whether enough progress has been made in stopping the ongoing theft of Six Nations land to end the blockade. Although some media are reporting the talks as though an agreement has already been reached, it is im-

portant to be clear that the situation on the ground is unchanged, with the OPP and RCMP still surrounding the camp.

The Secwepemc Native Youth Movement sets up an information picket along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy #1) at Neskonlith Reserve, 5 KM west of Chase, BC to show solidarity with people at Six Nations. In addition to a

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NATIVE YOUTH MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

STOP THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON NATIVE PEOPLES

KKKANADA CALLS FOR POLICE AND MILITARY REINFORCEMENT ONTO NATIVE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND WARRIORS OCCUPYING DISPUTED INDIAN LAND

NYM TAKES SOLIDARITY ACTION TO SUPPORT SIX NATIONS

(Neskonlith Reserve, unceded Secwepemc Territory/Saturday April 22, 2006) — The Secwepemc Native Youth Movement has set up an information picket along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy #1) at Neskonlith Reserve, 5 KM west of Chase, BC to show solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters at Six Nations, near Caledonia, Ontario. We have set up camp and posted billboards, banners and Warrior flags to get the message out to the 10,000+ travellers per day that drive this highway. The billboards read: “Stop OPP Terrorism” “OPP out of SIX NATIONS”

On Thursday, April 20, 2006 over 150 heavily armed Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) with M-16’s and riot gear moved in to try and end the 52-day occupation at Six Nations. The Six Nations have been occupying the land of disputed Douglas Creek Estates luxury housing development since Feb. 28th. This Land has always belonged to Six Nations but KKKanada and Ontario have made land deals without true ownership, with stolen Land.

The OPP arrested 16 Natives, assaulted women, threw tear gas at them and tasered some during the arrest but police retreated as Natives chased them off and more Natives arrived. KKKanada has

called for massive police and military reinforcement. There is over 3000 OPP and RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Pigs) and 1000 military just waiting for KKKanada to give them word to move in for another assault.

The Six Nations (sovereign Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora Nations) has called for support and to let the World know that terrorist attacks are happening here in KKKanada against the Original Peoples of the Land.

This land is all Indian Land. We have a common struggle with our Brothers and Sisters at Six Nations; we never surrendered our land to anyone. We claim jurisdiction throughout our whole territory.

STOP POLICE TERRORISM—OPP OUT OF SIX NATIONS—NATIVE LAND



Secwepemc Picket Trans-Canada Highway, April 25
(Source: <http://sisis.nativeweb.org/actionalert/updates/060425secwepemc.html>)



If you caught the news, our people went up the Brantford Charity Casino to hand out flyers and remind the Crown that the land the Casino is on is our land too. That the haldimand tract runs from its' mouth to its source six miles on either side and that Brantford was told before they even began any construction there that the Six Nations maintain that as unceded territory. Naturally the press wanted to know if we were saying that we should have a share in the revenues from the casino. I told them that we were not there because of the money. We were there to make a point. To educate the Canadian people that the land was ours and that the unceded territory is not just the one little piece that we have reclaimed near 'caledonia'. (Hazel Hill, June 1st)

Are Military Forces Operating From Hamilton Airport in Six Nations Standoff?

The Dominion Newspaper April 22nd 2006, By Anthony Fenton and Dru Oja Jay

A military force of unknown size and capacity seems to be operating out of the Hamilton airport, according to information gathered by the Dominion. The deployment of military forces would be a major escalation in the standoff between native protesters and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The OPP has tried once, unsuccessfully, to remove demonstrators occupying a housing development that Six Nations Kanienkehake (Mohawks) say is illegal under Canadian, Haudenosaunee and international law.

In an interview, an Airport official initially confirmed that Canadian Forces were at the airport in a “back up support” capacity. Mary Beth Horvath, Marketing/Communications Coordinator for the Hamilton Airport, first told the Dominion that Canadian Forces were not “using it [the airport] as a staging ground. I haven’t heard it regarded in that term.”

Asked later to confirm, Horvath repeated that “there is some backup support there.” When asked to specifically to confirm if Canadian Forces were on site, Horvath responded that “I don’t know if, again, I don’t know to what extent or to what, so I’m not, I really don’t want to be quoted on that because I’m not there to actually see it, physically.”

[Update: A resident of Caledonia who asked not to be identified told the Dominion he saw an unmarked grey van travelling in his neighborhood, blocks away from the standoff, with eight Canadian Forces personnel aboard. “They looked like Rangers,” the source said.]

Horvath referred the Dominion to two other officials, neither of which denied that Canadian Forces were operating from the Hamilton Airport.

“I know nothing about that,” said Haldiman County official Bill Pierce when asked about a military staging ground at the airport.

Dave Rector, a spokesperson for the Ontario Provincial Police, said “I am not aware of the presence of any Canadian armed forces.”

Eyewitness and press reports have confirmed that RCMP are assisting the OPP, and some reports cite the Airport as the Federal police force’s staging area. An RCMP spokesperson confirmed that RCMP are playing a supporting role, but would not comment on any specific locations or activities.

As of this writing, the Dominion could not find any officials willing to deny the deployment of military to the airport.

The deployment of military would mark the involvement of the Federal Government, marking a departure from what officials have repeatedly insisted is a Provincial matter.

The last time Canadian Forces were deployed against native demonstrators was during the 1990 Oka crisis, when Kanienkehake citizens occupied land that was slated for a golf course development. The land had been stolen a century earlier by the Catholic Church, and a century of Kanienkehake protests had not changed the situation. Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa invoked the National Defense Act, requesting “military aid to the civil power”. [...] Reports of torture and unjustified tactics earned Canada the condemnation of the International Federation of Human Rights and a place on Amnesty International’s list of violators of human rights.

Provincial officials requested the deployment of Canadian Forces—specifically, the elite Joint Task Force Two—during the 1995 Gustafsen Lake standoff, but were officially denied. According to court testimony by police officers, police took flack jackets to a firing range and fired guns at them in order to create the appearance that police had been shot by the small group of natives occupying the site. Internal police video showed commanders stating the need for a “disinformation and smear campaign” against the native occupiers. With 77,000 rounds of ammunition shot by police, the deployment of armoured vehicles, and the use of a land mine against a truck driven by one of the demonstrators, Gustafsen Lake has been cited as the largest paramilitary deployment in Canadian history.

Ottawa Citizen reporter David Pugliese, in his book Canada’s Secret Commandos: The Unauthorized Story of Joint Task Force Two, wrote that officially, JTF2 “wasn’t deployed to the standoff.”

“But civilian police officers privately confirm that JTF2 operators were at the siege, helping them in covert intelligence gathering as well as determining the lay of the land in case the entire unit was needed for an assault on the native encampment,” Pugliese wrote. “Some of the native protesters also insist that it was members of JTF2, and not the RCMP, who engaged them in a gun battle in early September.”

Federal officials have denied that the current standoff at Six Nations has anything to do with land. “This is not a lands-claim matter,” Deirdre McCracken, a spokesperson for the Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice told reporters. McCracken also said that the blockade “has nothing to do with the federal government.”

The presence of Canadian Forces on the ground, if confirmed, will be a stark change from the government’s stated policy.

Clash costs reach \$12M Caledonia blockade’s expenses spiral in policing, damage, business loss

Paul Choi
Hamilton Spectator
May 29, 2006

Costs of the Caledonia blockade have already exceeded \$12 million and the bills aren’t all in.

Policing costs alone are estimated at \$10 million, with more for property damage and losses for businesses in the town and other expenses.

“This whole thing has not been cheap,” said Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer. “All our senior staff are keeping a record of what the departments are spending.”

It’s three months since Six Nations protesters began occupying a 40-hectare subdivision at Douglas Creek Estates. Ontario Provincial Police have been involved from the start, and costs are spiralling.

Tory justice critic Garfield Dunlop estimates \$10 million has been spent to date to deploy the approximately 200 OPP police officers into the area.

OPP helicopters, which have occasionally been dispatched, are especially expensive as it takes an estimated \$600 an hour to put an OPP helicopter in the air, Dunlop said.

“If you have 200 officers, you have to take in the fact they’ve got vehicles, they need food, they have to be there 24 hours a day,” he said. “It’s been a huge drain on the OPP budget.”

OPP has not disclosed how much the dispute has cost. There are fears costs will only continue to escalate the longer both sides remain at loggerheads.

Damage to property has been smaller but significant. According to Trainer, the Stirling Street bridge that was burned down April 20 will cost about \$1.2 million to repair.

Hydro One spokesperson Daffyd Roderick said it also cost \$1.5 million to repair the transformer on Argyle Street that was damaged after a vehicle was driven into the station and set on fire last week.

Elsewhere, minor repairs to a stretch of Argyle Street that was dug up by a front-end loader, as well as other spots of road damaged by burning tires, have been less expensive, Trainer said.

But costs could escalate in other ways. The integrity of several bridges along the Highway 6 bypass, which has been occupied by native protesters, will likely have to be inspected by the Ministry of Transportation when barricades come down. Vehicles and wooden logs set on fire below the bridges may have damaged the structures, Trainer said.

And as long as roads and highways continue to be blocked, the city will continue spending on extra signs.

“Signs have been a tremendous expense,” Trainer said. “Extra stop signs, extra detours — those things add up when you need hundreds of them.”

All this excludes the undisclosed salaries of mediators David Peterson, Barbara McDougall and Jane Stewart, as well as costs incurred by Henco Industries Ltd., owner of the occupied land.

“When you take into account the policing costs, the costs that are going to be absorbed with respect to the developers, the hydro situation and all sorts of other things ... the people of the province will absorb this astronomical cost that continues to grow,” said Ken Hewitt, of Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance.

There are also costs for the occupiers. The Six Nations Confederacy

has been tallying up its own list of expenses throughout the months-long standoff. Many native protesters have quit their jobs and spent months at the occupied subdivision, said native spokesperson Janie Jamieson.

About \$400 a day is needed to feed everyone at the site, she said. And expenses such as fuel, toilet rentals, wood, water and batteries add up. In total, it takes an estimated \$18,000 a month to operate at the site every day.

“A big chunk has been taken out of our economy,” Jamieson said.

The provincial and federal governments have already promised to supply \$800,000 to repair the Stirling Street bridge, which had been used only by pedestrians recently, but Trainer is unsure whether the city can afford the additional \$400,000 to rebuild it.

The Southern Ontario Railway, whose rail line in Caledonia was cut off after debris fell from the torched bridge, continues to face halted service. Yesterday, trainmaster Doug MacKenzie wouldn’t disclose costs they’ve incurred as a result of the blockade, but Imperial Oil, served by the railway, said its costs are minimal.

“It’s an inconvenience because without the railway we have to use ships or trucks. But it’s not a major thing,” said Robert Theberge, spokesperson for Imperial Oil.

Last week, the province announced \$500,000 in aid for local businesses.



Stirling Street Bridge... \$1.2 million
Hydro transformer... \$1.5 million
Pigs... \$10 million
& their choppers... \$600/hour
Extra stop signs... “it adds up”

The struggle against colonialism...

Priceless

Thursday, May 25, 2006: Local companies who are investors in Henco's planned Douglas Creek Estates say the Six Nations land reclamation is causing them financial harm, demand compensation by the Ontario government, and warn that future development in the Haldimand Tract is in question. Larger development companies, apparently unconcerned about building on stolen land, say they are "forging ahead with plans for new settlements".

After a meeting with the "community liaison group" (Haldimand County officials, the OPP, non indigenous residents of Caledonia, and representatives of various Ontario ministries), Ontario Economic Development Minister Joe Cordiano the province will give \$500,000 to Haldimand County to distribute to Caledonia businesses that have been so financially affected by the barricades (but not by the recent power outage) that they are at risk of closure. According to Cordiano, "We're looking at longer term funding for other types of relief and assistance".

Haldimand County confirms that the state of emergency will remain "for monitoring purposes" until Hydro One crews have fully stabilized the power supply.

Friday, May 26, 2006: Electricity has been restored to all homes and businesses, but repairs continue over the weekend on a backup transformer. According to Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer, the state of emergency will remain until repairs are complete, but could be lifted Monday during a special council meeting if the second transformer has been fixed. Trainer demonstrates again why she was removed as council spokesperson, stating to press that "it was definitely natives" who caused the damage to the power station despite statements by Norfolk Power that there is no evidence yet of who damaged the transformer.

Saturday, May 27, 2006: Electricity has been restored to all homes and businesses, but repairs continue over the weekend on a backup transformer. According to Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer, the state of

emergency will remain until repairs are complete, but could be lifted Monday during a special council meeting if the second transformer has been fixed. Trainer demonstrates again why she was removed as council spokesperson, stating to press that "it was definitely natives" who caused the damage to the power station despite statements by Norfolk Power that there is no evidence yet of who damaged the transformer.

Tuesday, May 30, 2006: \$500,000 from the Ontario government disbursements start to business owners who file applications for emergency assistance at the Haldimand Caledonia Community Centre. Independently-owned businesses in the Caledonia to Hagersville Highway 6 corridor are eligible for help with overhead expenses if they can show they are so negatively affected by the barricades that they are at risk of closure. According to Brant MPP Dave Levac, this is a first step and Caledonia business owners can expect further assistance above and beyond the \$500,000 already pledged by the provincial government. Haldimand County is requesting another \$160,000 from the province for a business recovery plan.

Camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson states to press that the colonial government should provide compensation because "it is their fault this has happened and they should be accountable," and points out that businesses on the Six Nations reserve have also been financially struggling since the reclamation began but are not being compensated.

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Six Nations does not stand alone!

On Thursday April 20, Hazel Hill, one of the Six Nations Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) leaders on the blockade at the Douglas Creek Estates near Caledonia, told me about her beating at the hands of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hours before. Early that morning, at 5am, the blockade – not a protest, as Hill emphasized, but a reclamation – of about 100 people from the Six Nations Reserve had been assaulted by heavily armed police. The police came out in force. Exact numbers are unknown, but eyewitnesses said there were over 100 police knocking people down and clearing them out, guns drawn. They arrested 15, including a 14-year old child. The police were acting on an injunction filed on March 10 by a real estate developer, Henco Industries Limited, to clear the native people – who had been holding the blockade since the beginning of March – and facilitate Henco's scheme to build a few more blocks of suburban houses on the site. When Provincial Court Judge David Marshall issued an order to the indigenous people to leave their land by March 22, he reportedly asked the Clan Mothers: "What's the matter with you people? Why don't you forget all about the past and listen to me?" Judge Marshall was evidently unconvincing, and the indigenous people remained on the blockade. The Clan Mothers, who have led the action, made the decision that the blockade would be unarmed. "The men are here to defend us", Hazel Hill told me, "but there are no weapons here. We told them no weapons and they respect our decision." The OPP had to know, both from the announcements of the Clan Mothers and, no doubt, their helicopter and other surveillance of the site, that the blockade was unarmed. This did not prevent them from engaging in a violent, disproportionate pre-dawn raid on the site. Victims reported police use of pepper spray, tasers, and batons.

But the OPP got more than they bargained for that morning. Within hours of their raid, the indigenous returned. At around 8am on April 20, they evicted the police – who, after the raid, had reduced their presence significantly – returning with twice the number that had been removed. Like the original blockade, this was an unarmed action by the indigenous:

"We started moving in on them," Hill said, "and asked them to leave... then we just walked them out."

At one point, however, Hazel Hill found herself alone with a few police officers. One officer threatened her with arrest, citing the injunction that protesters leave the territory. Hill replied that it was, instead, the officer who was in violation of the law of the land – Six Nations territory – and also, for that matter, international law. At that point, the officer physically attacked – and other police joined in. Hill was quickly

rescued by others from the blockade, however, and the police withdrew, though not before using a taser on Hill's rescuers and pointing their guns at them.

Provincial and Federal

The OPP's 2-hour coup, and the government's handling of the blockade, reveals something about Canada.

The OPP are the police for the Canadian province of Ontario. Those on the blockade at Six Nations assert national rights and demand to be treated as such. The Canadian government refuses to treat the indigenous as nations. It would rather treat them as second-class citizens of municipalities and outsource the repression of the inevitable resistance to the provinces. But the Liberal provincial government, through Ontario's premier Dalton McGuinty, had said the day before the raid (April 19) that the government was going to take the time to resolve the issue peacefully.



Hazel Hill



In saying so, McGuinty was probably trying to distance himself from the previous provincial government, the Conservative government of Mike Harris, which had ordered the OPP to attack another native demonstration at Ipperwash in 1995. At that demonstration, an OPP sniper killed an unarmed indigenous man named Dudley George. An inquiry into that murder is still ongoing.

The afternoon after the April 20 2006 raid, McGuinty said “This police action comes completely independent of me, my office and my government.” But if he hadn’t ordered it, who had? Unless the OPP acted on their own, the obvious candidate is the Federal government, with its new Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper and its militaristic pretensions. But if Harper gave the order, he hasn’t said so (and indeed, the Canadian media don’t seem to have asked). In any case, the federal government can’t give orders to the provincial police (can it?) And the federal government’s line is that it is a provincial matter. And yet, if this unarmed blockade is really a provincial matter, according to the federal government, who sent the Canadian military, now operating just off site at the airport in the nearby city of Hamilton?



source: <http://sisis.nativeweb.org/actionalert/updates/060425kanehsatake.html>

The Settler Problem

The land where the Six Nations reserve sits, with its 21,000 people, and where the blockade holds, was granted to Six Nations in 1784 by Lieutenant Governor Haldimand. The land had been alienated from the Mississauga Nation. The Haldimand Grant was a bit different from other treaties between the British colonial government and indigenous nations. The Six Nations were granted an area six miles deep from the Grand River (an area far larger than the current Six Nations reserve) in exchange for their military service to the British during the American Revolutionary War. Many whites (the Loyalists) who fought in the same war and lost their lands (as the Six Nations had lost their lands to the Americans) were given similar grants by the British at the same time.

The double standard related to the problem of settlers. These were whites – often Americans – who decided to take a piece of indigenous land for themselves and start to farm it. When they did so, they put the indigenous in a dilemma. The indigenous could appeal to the government to protect their land rights, as they repeatedly did, for example in a resolution in 1809 that named specific settlers and violations (White Man’s Law: Native People in Nineteenth-Century Canadian Jurisprudence, Sidney L. Harring University of Toronto Press 1998, pg. 42). Against these settlers and their depredations, the government pleaded a lack of capacity, while the settlers relied “on the unwillingness of the Canadian government to remove them and believed ultimately that they would get legal title to their lands.” (Harring pg. 45). When settlers encroached on the lands of other whites, however, they were removed. When indigenous people, recognizing that the law wouldn’t protect them, took matters into their own hands and attacked settlers, the government did act – to prosecute and punish them (Harring pg. 45 describes a case from the 1830s). The message was clear: the government would protect settlers against indigenous, but not the reverse, whatever the law said.

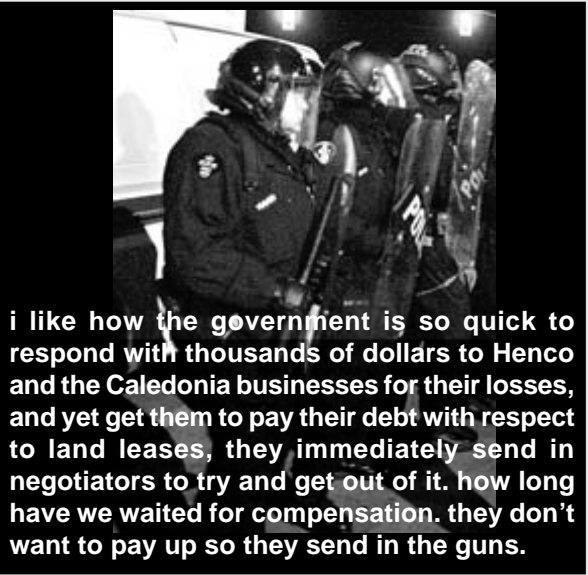
In 1841, the government came up with a solution for the settler problem: “if the Indians would give up most of their lands, the depredations would cease.” (Harring pg. 51) And even though, lacking any recourse, the chiefs did surrender the lands, the settlers did not stop, nor did the government punish

marie trainer realize that we are beyond kindergarten and this ain’t no playground.

and in answer to all of those who wonder or like marie trainer “know that the natives did it”, all i can say is that it wasn’t something that we did. our people were on the front line wondering why caledonia didn’t want the plank road opened, and the first realization that the hydro was out was when we noticed that the street lights were off and then someone noticed the black smoke. so as far as i’m concerned anyone could have done the damage.

and i like how the government is so quick to respond with thousands of dollars to Henco and the Caledonia businesses for their losses, and yet get them to pay their debt with respect to land leases, they immediately send in negotiators to try and get out of it. how long have we waited for compensation. they don’t want to pay up so they send in the guns. that’s exactly what they did in 1924. our confederacy had asked for an accounting of the lease monies and rather than give the accounting (because they had already embezzled the money), they used the RCMP to bring in the guns and establish a form of government that they new they could control. and then they set up a process that requires big money to fight them and hundreds of years to get it into their courts. it is the biggest fraud going and the only reason they get away with it is because we let them.

and as far as the people who say that we wanted the band council system, the families that went and asked for this new form of government, is the same as it is today, a handful of people who didn’t like the way things were going and rather than council and have their voices heard through the process, they went behind the back of our people and sold us out. those same families still



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are in existence today. only this time, there is no way we are going to let them sell us out. we have our delegates at the table and the people are making the decisions just as it should be. and we are no longer going to let them hide behind their fictitious justice system. it is all a fraud based on unilateral decisions of the crown and that IS illegal.

then we have others who believe that they are the title-holders and that only they will make the decision. sorry to bust your bubble, but the few of you who meet are NOT a nation. you are like the rest of us. only a small number of people when standing alone. only together in Unity and Solidarity will we get through this and it is ALL OF THE ONKWEHONWEH who are affected by this. not just the Mohawks and not just Six Nations. the Onkwehonweh are the title holders to the world, and we have a responsibility to the onkwehonweh nations of the world to protect our land for the future of our people, in honesty, in peace and with integrity. setting up barriers to divide and conquer is the game the crown has played and by continually creating the divisions within, you are playing right along side of the crown and into their hands. perhaps you should look at who is guiding you and question their motives. the people at the site are doing what we are obligated to do according to the Law. We are working together with all of the Six Nations, including those from the other territories because yes they have a voice in our circle and yes they have an interest in what we are doing. it is not for self-ish gain and it certainly isn’t about money. i pray that you will come to an understanding and continue to work WITH the people and not against them. it is only you who can decide this.

finally, so that everyone is clear, Mr. Peterson has given the time frame of May 31st to have dealt with the barricades. i don’t know exactly what his plan is, but i understand that is his goal. to have all of the barricades down by the 31st of May. the people need to be aware of this, because between the media using polls to suggest bringing in the army or using the opp to remove us, marie trainer and other’s calling for the army to come in, and the history of our people and the way the government on behalf of the crown has always “dealt with” our people during any kind of “occupation”, you need to be aware of the reality of the situation.

Keep the Peace, Keep Strong, and Keep getting the word out. As soon as we know of any further developments, we will let you know. talks are to resume on the 31st and we are having a people’s council tomorrow. all are welcome.

hazel

UPDATE FROM HAZEL HILL

Sunday, May 28, 2006

Hello from Grand River Things are pretty quiet around the site these days. Maybe too quiet.

I've been reading alot in the surrounding newspapers. Caledonia mayor marie trainer was quoted this week as saying the army should be brought in. one of her councillors thinks that the government should just cut off all of the funding that comes into the territory. "cut off the tax exempt cards, cut off the monthly cheques, cut off the food banks..." (I still wonder where they get the idea that monthly cheques come to our people.) my response to those types of suggestions is "you're absolutely right!", but first the crown should pay the billions and billions of dollars owed on land leases, the taxes collected on our land, the resources taken from our land and compensations for the destruction of the lands stolen and abused etc. etc. If the crown paid her debt to our people there would be no need for the scraps that come to our people through their government structure. and then there is the interest monies on top of all that. when canada pays her debt we'll gladly get rid of all of those other things.

wonder if canadians realize they've been duped? they talk as if we are a burden to them. like they're supporting us. does it not occur to them that they are the burden. they have been freeloading off our lands and resources for thousands of years. even IF, and i say if because we know that the land "surrenders" are fraudulent, but IF the 1841 surrender was real, where is the money????????? they have never paid for one single lease that they have obtained throughout history (to my knowledge anyway). when you lease a car and don't pay for it what happens.....they take it back. that's exactly what we did with our lands. in fact, we should be ready to re-possess the whole haldimand and then let PM Harper say that it's not a federal matter.

and as far as mayor trainer's irresponsible remarks about bringing in the army.....guess she doesn't think much of her citizens in caledonia if she really wants a war zone in her back yard. and they call us terrorists! then she was quoted as saying that the natives damaged the hydro station causing the power outage in caledonia, six nations, hagersville etc. "it was definitely natives" trainer said friday (quoted from the Brantford Expositor) The fact of the matter is that there is no way anyone will no for certain whether it was natives or non-natives who did the damage because all of our people were up on the front line, and ANYONE could have done the damage. we had removed the barricade at #6

hwy and 6th line the night before, and the opp were the only ones at the end of #6 (argyle st) and #6 bypass. we had opened up the road for pete's sake and she is trying to say that she knows it was natives.

all throughout this reclamation we have had non-native shit disturbers sneaking into the camp for one purpose and one purpose only, to try to discredit and disrupt the peace. we have had the army dude who admitted to shooting one of our men in the face a few day's before he was caught. we have the idiots in camouflauge on four wheelers taunting our men and the opp trying to incite the war. they brought their video camera with them and proudly turned it over to tv 11 but for some reason were ashamed enough to want to have their faces hidden. and they are the jackasses who threw rocks over the bi-pass and could have potentially killed someone but blamed it on our men because their camera caught one of our men throwing something back at them. look at the direction of the throw and look at where the barricade was. we were over half way over the #54 hwy so there is no way we caused any damage to any vehicles. it was all a set-up. and then there was the fire at the barn across the road the night after the police raid on April 20th. even the farmer believes it was non-natives who were trying to make it look like we were vandalizing the neighbourhood. and yet our men are the ones who went to put out the fire even before the fire trucks arrived. on thursday nite we were accused of shining laser lights and shooting off firecrackers and rattling the nerves of the opp. next night they caught 3 non-native punks with their firecrackers and bottle rockets after having fired off a few, again to try and incite the war.

we are continuously having to deal with this type of action and yet do we retaliate? no. we keep the peace. we turn over the idiots when we catch them in our camp. we could beat the crap out of them and teach them a lesson and i'll tell you, i give our men the deepest respect and credit for NOT doing it! and why shouldn't we? do you see us going into caledonia and acting like idiots? do we sneak around trying to incite a war? we have kept the peace. we are upholding our Law and yet we are criminalized for it. to me the criminals are the ones who refuse to look at the truth. they make ignorant comments like "just because your ancestors sold the land for beads and now you're crying about it" and other stupid remarks that a kindergarten child would say in a playground fight. i hope stephen harper and

the settlers for breaking the laws. Harring summarizes the history as follows (pg. 61): "With no recognition of their legal rights, the Six Nations were forced to accept repeated reductions of their lands, the last occurring as their reserves were occupied by as many settlers as Indians. While the process took a different form in other Indian land cessions, similar dishonesty and coercion was employed."

It was in the context of this 1841 surrender that the 1992 acquisition of the Douglas Creek Estates by Henco Industries Ltd., the counterpart of the settlers of the 19th century, took place. Six Nations launched a lawsuit over the land in 1995. But as Henco Industries and Six Nations understands, as settlers and indigenous people the world over understand, the law and the facts on the ground are two different things.

"Our job is to be able to kill people"

And as the police attack on Hazel Hill reported illustrates, governments on the losing end of legal arguments often get violent. The Canadian government has moved in more violent directions in recent months. This is attested to by Canada's changing of its voting pattern at the UN to unconditional support for Israel, including its right to murder and dispossess the Palestinians with impu-

nity. It is attested to by its deepening engagement in aggressive military operations with the US in Afghanistan, which were announced by Canada's Chief of Defence Staff General Hillier in July 2005 with the words: "We are the Canadian Forces, and our job is to be able to kill people."

What Canada's government must consider is whether its appetite for violence is matched by the population. It seems unlikely. Settler states always hope the indigenous can be contained, made invisible, and disappeared. But the indigenous have different ideas, and the police raid of April 20 had the opposite effect, with more attention on the situation now than ever. Other indigenous nations have taken action in solidarity. Across the country, in British Columbia on the West Coast, Secwempec people from the Neskonlith Reserve struck an information picket in support of Six Nations. The Secwempec are in their own fight with the Sun Peaks Resort, built on their land in violation of their rights. Closer to Caledonia, the Mohawks of Tyendinaga, who had themselves been expecting some sort of attack on their lands, blocked a CN rail line and the Mohawks of Kahnawake stopped traffic on the Mercier Bridge to Montreal on April 20. In their press release, the Mohawks wrote: "We anticipate similar action will be taken in First Nations communities across the country and would encourage those communities not taking action of their own to make their way to Six Nations or join us here. Six Nations does not stand alone."

Kahentinetha Horn of the Mohawk News Network wrote: "Supporters, if you want to send us a flag from your country to show your

support, we will be honored to hoist it.... sign it and send it to Hazel Hill, RR#6, Hagersville, Ontario Canada NOA 1H0. Deliver it in person. We'd be glad to meet you."



Akwesasne Solidarity Walk on the International Bridge, April 21st 2006
(source: http://www.akwesasnephoenix.com/index_files/Page3165.html)

April 24, 2006
Justin Podur
on ZNet:
www.zmag.org

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camp, there are billboards, banners, and Warrior flags to get the message out to the 10,000+ travellers per day that drive this highway.

Over 100 concerned members of the Vancouver Native community meet at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to discuss solidarity with the Six Nations, and decide to hold a peaceful rally on Tuesday April 25. Near Winnipeg, at a sacred spot at the Red River and Assiniboine River fork, people come together to burn tobacco and pray for people at Six Nations.

Apr 23, 2006: Ontario Provincial Police and RCMP are still in place around the camp, and one media outlet has raised questions about possible federal military forces in Hamilton. People inside the camp affirm that they will remain for at least two weeks while talks take place between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the Ontario and federal governments.

Apr 24, 2006: Kahehti:io, a 20-year-old Mohawk from Kahnawake who was arrested during the police invasion on April 20 and held over the weekend for refusing to give a colonial name, is released with no charges.

Two non-indigenous residents of Caledonia organize an evening rally calling on the governments for quick and peaceful resolution. As a crowd of 3,000 people come, arguments between residents break out and 500 participants move toward the camp, shouting insults at the Six Nations people and supporters. Police stop the non-indigenous demonstrators before

they could reach the blockade, and arrest one man. The crowd then takes out its anger by attacking a police vehicle. People in the camp continue to maintain their peaceful presence, stating that any violence will not come from inside the camp. By midnight (EDT) the mob disperses.

One week after visiting Six Nations people and supporters at the camp, NDP Aboriginal Affairs critic Jean Crowder (MP for Cowichan-Ladysmith) calls for action by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice to deal with outstanding land disputes. "There was no one else in the House asking about it and that was surprising," she said. "Caledonia is only one situation in this country and it's a flashpoint."



Apr 25, 2006: Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty says talks will restart on April 26. At a press conference in Hamilton, the owners of Henco Industries express frustration with the provincial and federal governments' inaction, and state that they want a peaceful solution and are willing to "consider all options".

After making comments to CBC that people in the camp are all on welfare, Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer is confronted at the camp by Six Nations, censured by her own council, and replaced by deputy mayor Tom Patterson as the council's spokesperson.

In the Ontario government's discussion of the Budget Measures Act, Tory head of the Opposition Toby Barrett (MP for Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant) calls for action to stop indigenous people from trading tobacco, saying "That kind of tobacco money helps finance the lawlessness we're seeing at the occupation site at Six Nations in Caledonia. That kind of money also helps finance the blocking of railroads that was mentioned earlier this evening." Barrett also states there is "obviously" a link between Six Nations people and organized crime.

Solidarity actions continue. In Vancouver, 300-400 people gather at 12:30 at a rally organized by local indigenous communities. After rallying at the Vancouver Art Gallery, people blockaded the Lion's Gate Bridge for one hour. According to organizer Annita McPhee from the Tahltan Nation, "We want to send a clear message to the federal and provincial governments that they must stop criminalizing our people who are standing up for our land and against injustices that been brought upon by the colonizers."

May 25th Update from Hazel Hill continued from previous page

tion of its citizens, has sucked the land of all of the resources to the tune of billions and billions of dollars being embezzled through the intentional fraudulent acts. and they call us criminals!! to me, an admittance of guilt would be appropriate, then we can begin working on righting the wrongs that they have committed. perhaps that is what should be put to mr. peterson at the negotiating table. as representative of the crown, his mandate should be first to accept responsibility. stop playing us for the fools he believes us to be and start being accountable for the actions of the crown. they have yet to provide anything that shows they understand the depth of the crime that they have committed.

if peterson really believes that sitting at a table to discuss when the barricades are coming down will see the results that he anticipates, perhaps her majesty better begin preparing the next delegate mandated to speak to our people. the barricades are not the issue. theft, fraud, misappropriation of our lease monies and molestation and intercourse of the Holy Grail is what we are talking about! let's get real peterson! the crown has usurped her authority through trickery lies and deceit and the Onkwehonweh have their eyes open and we are standing at the head. we are the Holy Grail and we are ready to defend the Peace through any means necessary.

do i think caledonia and canadians have a right to be angry? absolutely! but they should direct the anger at where it is justified. the crown. they bought land that they hold no title to, they have been paying taxes to a government that has no authority to collect taxes, and they have been taught a history of lies and deception in an attempt to cover up the biggest crime of mankind since they killed the peacemaker. they should be angry because they are continually played to be the fools all the while her majesty reaps the benefits of her ultimate fraud.

definitely we are ready to talk. definitely we are ready to send in our delegates to the table and begin resolving the situation. we are ready and armed with the truth, and we are not afraid to use it. the haldimand itself was used to undermine the authority of the Original League of Nations, our Confederacy, and the crown used it to get her foothold into our land in north america. now the haldimand has come back to haunt them, and they will be answerable to the fraudulent actions that they have committed.

Justice for Creation will Prevail. Keep the Peace, keep up the support and keep the momentum going. the crowns representatives want this to go away. they even have major newspapers like the globe and mail, and tv stations putting out leading polls such as "How do you think the government should deal with the situation with Six Nations in Caledonia, bring in more opp, or bring in the army" those my friends are the beginning stages of justifying another attack, and we want all of our supporters to be ready, because if anything happens here, canada will have declared war against all of the Onkwehonweh Nations of the world and we must defend by any means necessary.....

Hazel

Hydro crews work through the night and by morning less than 200 homes and businesses are without power. According to Hydro One, full repairs to the damaged station will take a few days to complete. Haldimand County announces that the state of emergency will remain in place until the power supply is stable, and that the emergency shelter is closed (although the emergency phone line will remain).

Michael Bruder, lawyer for Henco Industries, says to press, "If we're not satisfied with the process and the progress in our discussions with the government then ultimately our recourse is to take legal action".


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I still wonder where they get the idea that monthly cheques come to our people [but] my response to [that] is "you're absolutely right!", but first the crown should pay the billions and billions of dollars owed on land leases, the taxes collected on our land, the resources taken from our land and compensations for the destruction of the lands stolen and abused etc.

- Hazel Hill

A closed-door meeting is held between Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer and two county councillors, members of the OPP, Ontario land negotiator Jane Stewart, and local residents. According to Stewart, the purpose is to provide government information to the community and to hear concerns from them. Speaking loudly enough to be heard by press outside the door, Caledonia councillor Craig Ashbaugh suggests the Canadian government cut off funding for the Six Nations band council until Six Nations people leave the land reclamation site. After the meeting Trainer says she “couldn’t say” if this would further inflame the situation; “that is something the federal government would have to look into, the repercussions”. Local businesses are told to compile a case proving that they suffered “as a result of the blockade” and to show their need for financial aid to stay in business for the next three months.



“Why has not anyone said, ‘Fellows, as long as you’re occupying the land, we’re terminating the monthly payments?’”

**- Craig Ashbaugh
Caledonia Councillor**

May 25th Update from Hazel Hill continued from previous page

by determining the conditions of the policing etc; and upholding our responsibilities and obligations to our people and allowing the process that has been established between the crowns representatives and the delegates of the people to continue.

I had one caledonia resident ask if it was David Peterson who helped negotiate bringing down the barricade or if the Six Nations people who did it themselves. I told him absolutely mr. peterson played no role in the barricade coming down and that it was all the six nations people who did it. he was quite happy to hear that. another caledonian thanked me and shook my hand. and while the main gate to the site is blocked by the hydro tower and manned by the men, the atmosphere is almost as it was before the opp invaded on april 20th. many supporters are once again honking and stopping by to show their support. bringing coffee and stopping to talk. it is a good feeling and far outweighs the angry outbursts of a few individuals who probably don’t even live in or near caledonia. the “paid protesters” is what i call them. we all know that the government’s plan when dealing with “native land occupations” is to make the negotiations fail, and they have every intention of making sure this one does as well. we still have the idiots who try to come into the camp, try to steal our flags, and try to incite trouble, but the rotiskenrekethe are right on top of everything and when a situation arises, they deal with it.

i am very proud of the men who have put their own personal lives on hold to uphold their obligations to the Kaierenekowah, and to all of the Six Nations Territories and families whose men have come to help and support, as well as other Onkwehonweh Nations; Nya Weh Kowah to you too!

the scepticism and doubt still exists among many of our people as to whether we made the right choice. even one of the clanmothers shared her concerns with respect to the safety of our people, but she applauded everyone for their efforts and good minds at having come to the decision and standing by it. but we are a long way from having the peaceful resolution we are all seeking. we have yet the barricade on the railway as well as the #6 hwy by-pass which peterson expects to have managed to resolve by may 31st. in fact, that is david peterson’s only mandate. to “get the barricades down and then we’ll talk” he continues to use the rule that they won’t talk while the barricades are up. yet they expect us to talk while threats of court injunctions being enforced through violent actions of opp still hang over our head. i guess maybe he does understand us a little. our people are not intimidated by threats of violence and court injunctions. they mean nothing to us.

in an interview today i was asked the question of what it would take to see some resolve. i told them that for me, it would be for canada to admit to the world that they are guilty of the biggest white collar crime in the history of their people. since the so-called existance of corporate canada, the crown has knowingly committed land theft not only of the haldimand tract, but for the whole of turtle island; and reaped the benefits of the land through fraudulent taxa-

In other locations: Terrance Nelson, elected chief of Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, spokesman for Anishinabe Warrior Society and Board of Director for the American Indian Movement, issues a statement of solidarity with the people at the Six Nations reclamation, saying this situation has implications for all First Nations and is “more dangerous than Oka”. The Secwepemc Native Youth Movement continues an information picket (set up April 22) on the Trans Canada Highway in solidarity with Six Nations; in addition to a camp, there are billboards, banners, and Warrior flags to get the message out to the 10,000+ travellers per day that drive this highway. Okanagan people set up a Six Nations solidarity information picket at the intersection of Highway 97 and Westside Road, and committed to continued support through direct political action until resolution is reached. Flags and a sign reading “Six Nations you are not alone” stand at Kanehsatà:ke. In Toronto, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) is organizing a solidarity rally on Friday

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More Dangerous Than Oka

Chief Terrance Nelson
April 25, 2006

The potential flashpoint at Caledonia Ontario with the Six Nations land blockade is more dangerous than the 1990 Oka crisis.

In 1990 the town of Oka, Quebec, wanted to expand their nine hole golf course to eighteen holes over a known Mohawk gravesite. A police officer died to defend the right of the townspeople to tee off over grandma’s grave and 4,000 Canadian soldiers squared off against the Mohawks.

In 1990 most Canadian Indians were in shock that Canada would use the army against our people. In 2006 there is no longer any shock value, thereby allowing Indian people to be better prepared to respond to bloodshed and also Indian youth in Canada have more anger today than they did in 1990. Not only are Indian people better prepared, the strategy is much clearer.

Had then Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney carried out his threat to send in the army to take out the last 25 barricaded Mohawks regardless of the consequences, it was very likely that burning cars would have blocked every railway line in Canada.

The protest at Caledonia has already caused a railway blockade with huge economic impact. Multiple that one railway blockade by 30 and you have economic paralysis in all of Canada.

Canada is America’s largest trading partner and of vital economic interest to every American. Canada is America’s largest supplier of oil with 97 per cent of all Canadian energy exported to the United States. Canada is also the leading buyer of American exports. Think about the Mayan uprising of 1994, multiply that by 10 and you have some idea of the economic impact of a similar crisis in Canada. American multi-national corporations, financed in the open market, with heavy investment in Canada, may not yet have realized the danger.

[...] With well over 50 per cent of the Canadian Indian population under the age of 25, what you have in Caledonia is a potential flashpoint that could cripple Canada.

Canada has had eight straight federal government budget surpluses. It has a 2005 reported net worth of \$4.5 trillion, and a GDP well over a trillion dollars.

In 2003 the federal government raised \$125 billion in taxes but took in \$141.8 billion in its share of resource royalties. This does not include the provincial royalties or corporate resource sales profits. With oil now over \$75 a barrel, up from \$10 a barrel in 1999, and Canada claiming 1.4 trillion barrels of oil in the Alberta tar sands plus hundreds of other oil and gas producing areas, this makes for a resource driven economy.

Chief Terrance Nelson is Elected chief of Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, spokesman for Anishinabe Warrior Society and on the Board of Director for American Indian Movement

As the third largest producer of diamonds, with 10 per cent of the world forests, and over 60 metals and minerals, there is little doubt why Indian land claims are a big issue in Canada. The fact that there are over 6,000 land claims in limbo and that progress is so slow is not surprising given the numbers and the revenue generated for government coffers.

Canada was the United Nations choice as the “best country in the world to live in” for seven straight years, but while Canada was number one on the index, Canadian First Nations communities mired in extreme poverty were set at the 63rd level on the UN scale.

Amnesty International has written several reports citing Canada for human rights violations. In the case of the Lubicons of northern Alberta, Amnesty has forced the appearance of Canada before the United Nations for a hearing set for May 5th.

While Canada can laugh off the United Nations and weather international shame, it cannot ignore or laugh off the economics of a national blockade of rail lines that is potentially the result of the land dispute at Caledonia.

To understand the issue of land claims in Canada, one must see the numbers. Canada is the second largest country in the world, larger than China and larger than the United States. Canada is 3.83 million square miles of vast land mass, but the population is only 33 million, giving Canada the largest per capita land base of any nation in the world. Given the resource base, it is little wonder that net worth is \$137,000 per man, woman, and child.

In 1969, Canada issued the appropriately named “white paper” on Indians, which identified that Indian reservation lands accounted for approximately one quarter of one per cent of the Canadian land mass. To state this more clearly, 99.73 per cent of Canada was not reservation lands. Since then it has been a battle zone of land claims and frustration for indigenous people.

[...]How Canadian media handles the situation at Caledonia can make or break the confrontation. In the Ipperwash situation where unarmed native activist Dudley George was killed by an Ontario Provincial Police officer and the Premier of Ontario allegedly shouting to “get the fucking Indians out”, the issue of land claims couldn’t be clearer. Stoney Point First Nation lost land to Canada during WWII for an artillery range, with the promise to return the land after the war.

In over 50 years of Liberal and Conservative federal governments, none delivered on that commitment. Hence, there was direct action by Ojibway Indians to occupy the land, with the resulting killing of Dudley George. The same court injunctions issued by white courts and the public outcry to march the police and army into battle are now occurring in Caledonia.

As an elected Chief, I stand behind Mohawk people at Six Nations in the use of direct action regardless of the consequences. My community spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to settle a land claim from 103 years ago; we hold the record of the longest file in the Indian Claims Commission process. We understand the need for direct action.

Elected native leadership risk their creditability in Caledonia. It is the people who suffer the housing crisis, the 80 per cent average unemployment, the health problems, the lack of educational opportunities, and every other form of extreme poverty while we as chiefs are paid for our work from government of Canada dollars.

To issue a call to our people not to attend the blockade and to question their right to protest is nonsense. To blame our unarmed people for the increase in tension is absolutely ridiculous.

It has always been the whites who first bring guns and the threat of violence into any confrontation. To declare that Dudley George got himself killed because he grew tired of ineffectual politicians is historically incorrect.

Hope is the only medicine for angry youth who see no other way but to take action. If it takes a national blockade to bring the world’s attention to the issues in Canada, we should be prepared to take that responsibility.

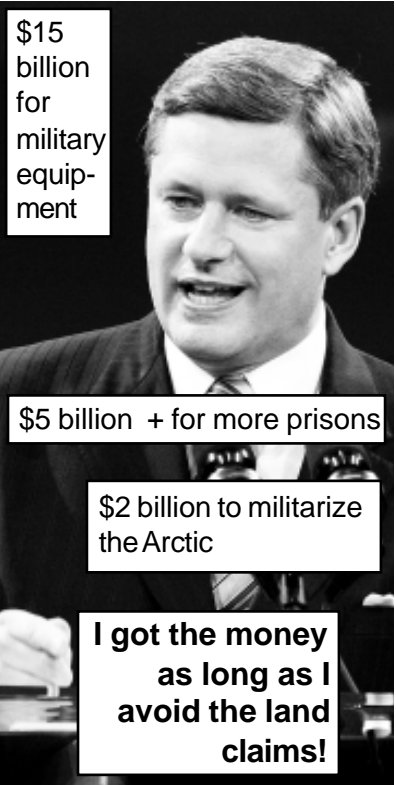
We must end the 80 per cent average unemployment in our communities. It is no longer enough to make empty promises, or to take the word of a government that will only delay settlement of long standing issues.

Now is the time we must stand together and take whatever consequences are necessary to ensure a chance for our future generations, in this, one of the wealthiest nations in the world. It is time to force Canada to the table and negotiate some real settlements of land claims instead of holding out for more false hope promises while we collect our pay from the government.

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As a result of overnight work by crews of Hydro One and Haldimand Hydro, power is restored to parts of Caledonia, with Hagersville and Cayuga having low voltage. Residents with power are asked to conserve electricity to prevent overloading the system. An estimated 2,000 homes and business are still without power.

Wednesday, May 24, 2006: Grassroots groups organize a “People’s Alternative Lunch” at a London Chamber of Commerce event with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper as a guest speaker. Dan Hilton, of London Solidary for Six Nations, says, “The Harper government is invisible on this issue, but (aboriginal affairs) is a federal jurisdiction. He has to show some leadership.” Harper later states to press that the situation is a “provincial land use matter and a provincial law enforcement issue”.



SAGO FROM GRAND RIVER

update from camp spokesperson Hazel Hill

Thursday, May 25, 2006

It’s been a few days since my last update and the atmosphere at the camp has been a dramatic change since then. When the events unfolded on Monday after our original attempt at keeping the PEACE and opening the first barricade on Plank Road (Argyle St) i wondered if we’d ever be able to come to consensus again to continue with our original agreement and open up the barricade. The tension was very high and with the continued attempts by the instigators among the Caledonians to fuel the fire and taunt our people, it left many with hardened and heavy hearts, including my own. it was hard to even consider sitting at the fire and once again discussion showing “good faith” and continuing with our plan to re-open plank road. many people were angry at the display of racism and violence instigated by the non-native’s, especially when the media made it out to be the native’s who were at fault. nothing that should be news to us however. the remarks at calling for the army to come in, the one-sided reporting of some of the larger media portraying caledonia citizens of the victims of terrorist acts and the 30 or so of our people who were pepper-sprayed compared to maybe 3 or 4 of the non-natives showed exactly what we have been saying all along. when it comes to the Onkwehonweh and the issue of land rights, there is no justice. we get labelled terrorists because we continue to work under the Great Law of Peace, and trying to maintain peace while being met with acts of war is hard to swallow.

many of our supporters and e-mails suggested that forget it, keep up the barricades. don’t open them up because of the safety of our people was threatened. and to be honest with you, it continues to be threatened whether the barricades are there or not. the non-native people who have fear and anger in their hearts continue to try to intimidate, continue to show their ignorance, and continue to refuse to look at the truth regardless.

but the people chose to trust. trust in each other, trust in the people, trust in the Kaierenekowah and trust in the process of our Law as well as ultimately in our Creator. The people made a decision to go ahead and open the barricade again, and this time we made it very clear to the opp that they are responsible for their people and that should anything occur again that threatens the safety of our people, if anyone violates the peace that we have extended, the barricade on argyle street will be put up immediately and there will be no more chances. it was decided that ONE MORE TIME we will show that good faith.

many people believe we have shown that “one more time” too many times, but we did it. and while there was uncertainty, it was definitely an empowering decision. We were upholding our Law. We were maintaining our authority on our land, including plank road,

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– told news cameras of a plan the angry residents had to block the native people in. This was contradictory. If all of the anger had to do with opening the road, surely besieging the indigenous would not help matters?

I also heard residents complain about the ‘lawlessness’ of the indigenous. But the legal struggle was, and is, ongoing, and the law is favorable to the indigenous claim. The problem for the indigenous has been the ‘facts on the ground’, and the willingness of settlers (in the 19th century) and governments and corporations (today) to take a piece of indigenous land illegally, and have the laws changed in their favor later. That is the problem that forces indigenous people to blockades and direct action to protect their interests even though the law is often on their side. Now, here were the residents, threatening siege and extralegal action themselves, in the name of protesting native ‘lawlessness’. This, too, is contradictory.

A factor in negotiations?

The ‘angry residents’ have made themselves a factor in the negotiations between the various levels of government and the indigenous over the Douglas Creek Estates, the piece of land being reclaimed by Six Nations. Provincial negotiator David Peterson has talked numerous times to the press about how important it is to reduce “tensions in the community,” and the need to open the road to accomplish this. “All of us were praying and working hard to ensure that something ugly didn’t develop out of this,” he said to the CBC. The “angry residents” help Peterson’s negotiating posture by moving the “middle of the road” away from the indigenous

and towards the government’s position.

While “praying and working”, Peterson was also able to present the very useful idea of “two warring sides” and “tensions in the community” to the public, equating two sides that are not at all equal. Indigenous peoples are not represented by Canadian governments. They have their own ideas and structures. The “angry residents”, by contrast, are represented by the governments they voted for and participate in. They are represented by the police who mingled with them at their rallies. To give them a seat at the negotiating table would be to give them double representation.

Despite this, the provincial government does have an interest in a peaceful resolution. It is headed by Liberals who want to distance themselves from the previous Conservative government of Mike Harris, which was responsible for “something ugly” in 1995 – the murder of indigenous man Dudley George by a police sniper at Ipperwash. The real estate developers have an interest in a resolution as well. The developers of the Douglas Creek Estates, Henco Industries, have repeatedly and publicly stated their desire to be bought out by the government. This points to a very simple potential resolution to this particular conflict: the government can compensate Henco and turn the land over to Six Nations. Progress towards such a resolution was expressed in a document called “Compendium of Commitments, Ontario and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Six Nations Council, May 10, 2006”.

With some success in the negotiations, the indigenous opened the road on May 22, removing the greatest grievance of the ‘angry

residents’. But the ‘angry residents’ responded by creating a blockade of their own, preventing native people from crossing. Six Nations spokesperson Janie Jamieson described it to the CBC as “colonialism at its finest.”

If the provincial government and the developers both have an interest in a peaceful resolution, why did the “angry residents” act so irresponsibly to try to scuttle it? It cannot be because they want to see more suburban homes built – they have no reason to be more keen on home-building than the developers’ own corporation. Nor can they claim any longer to want freedom for the road – the minute they had it, they ruined it, for every resident, angry or otherwise.

So, in whose interests are these “angry residents” really acting? Perhaps the Conservative federal government. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s party is full of people who are contemptuous of indigenous rights and indigenous people. The same sorts were responsible for what happened at Ipperwash. Though Six Nations has expressed desire to talk to the federal government from the beginning, on a nation-to-nation basis, the federal government has said nothing publicly. Perhaps the “angry residents” really do represent the federal government? It is easy to speculate and difficult to prove. But Canadians who want to express that neither Harper’s people nor the “angry residents” represent them should speak, and move, now, before “something ugly” happens.

Justin Podur writes frequently for ZNet and can be reached at justin@killingtrain.com

★ Detoxing From Canada ★

April 25, 2006
By: Karl (Kersplebedeb)



artwork: Gord Hill Kwakwaka'wakw

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people at “Douglas Creek Estates” are reclaiming their land, not mine. Indigenous culture is not my culture. Their struggle is their struggle, and they will take the lead and set their terms and define their own strategies. This is just normal.

Nevertheless, as must be obvious from the past weeks on this blog (sketchythoughts.blogspot.com), i am not neutral or disinterested about what happens in Caledonia. I see the Haudenosaunee struggle as an inspiring front in the war for a better world.

While thousands of settlers may have rallied against the Land Reclamation in Caledonia on April 24th, there is no genetic rule which forces non-natives to take such a bigoted stand. It’s a choice.

What follows is an explanation for why i think even settlers should choose to support the Six Nations Land Reclamation.

Mind-Altering Parasitism

Canada is a parasitic society. It is a nation built on other people’s land, with labour stolen from workers here and around the world. Those who identify as proud Canadian citizens are really identifying as proud parasites. And parasitism is like a drug – it is both mind-altering and addictive. It can leave you unable to see the truth when it’s staring you in the face, or have you seeing things that aren’t even there.

Let’s look at the forms these delusions can take.

Take a look at the Hennings, the two brothers generally described as upstanding citizens and pillars of their community. They’re the ones who sunk their money into a housing development on Six Nations land, and who are now facing bankruptcy. Don Henning was quoted as follows: “I didn’t sign up for this, I’m afraid. I guess I haven’t got much choice to try to continue doing what I can.”

Or then there is the unnamed Caledonia resident who spoke to the media, explaining that “I’m not against native rights, but what about my right to go about my life, and drive down the road without getting turned back at a roadblock?”

The way in which parasitism makes some people lose touch with reality, or flip it around in a guilty conscience induced projection, was most clear when that sorry white woman was shown on tv worrying about how far the natives might go. “Are they going to try and take your land? That’s the big issue,” she said.

Geez... maybe they’re going to put white folks in reservations and steal their kids away in residential schools? *You think?*

This “forgetting who you are”, this loss of any sense of reality, was also present during the April 24th rally in Caledonia, where settlers shouted “Go home!” to the Onkwehonwe (original people) on the other side of the police line.

As these examples show, being the citizen of a parasitic society sometimes means becoming oblivious to irony itself. Not surprising as my internet encyclopedia tells me that “Irony involves the perception that things are not what they are said to be or what they seem.”

How can a delusional person be trusted to recognize such a thing?

The delusions and psychoses these people are suffering from are all caused by Canada and colonialism. Being citizens of a parasitic society creates distorted expectations about what

a “normal” society looks like, and creates unrealistic expectations about the nature of that power and privilege and wealth and safety which every settler is taught can be theirs.

If we are ever to free ourselves from these delusions, Canadians must be taught certain hard truths. But instead we are lied to – and more often than not we lie to ourselves, for being addicted to parasitism makes a person scared to learn what’s real.

Canadians are not taught that we live on land which is still owned by First Nations. Canadians are not told that our society’s wealth – stored in its infrastructure, institutions and land – was just recently stolen from other nations. (Is still being stolen, even as i write these words!)

Most importantly, Canadians are not taught that colonialism did not “win” and the indigenous nations did not “lose”... how can we talk in such final terms when the war is not over and people are still resisting the colonial monster in communities across this continent and around the world?

Choosing Sides

Watching tv yesterday i thought Caledonia was beginning to look like Chateauguay did back during the Oka crisis. Back in 1990 white folk in that Montreal suburb were inconvenienced by the Mohawk barricades on the Mercier bridge, so they responded as settlers so often do: with race riots and attacks on any Mohawk (or suspected Mohawk!) they could find.

The truth is, though, that the people of Caledonia (like those of Chateauguay) are no more racist than settlers across Canada. Like those Israelis who think the Middle East belongs to them, like those Afrikaaners who still insist they arrived in South Africa at the same time as Black Africans, most Canadians believe the land belongs to “us” now.

“Whatever bad stuff might have happened to the Indians happened centuries ago, and how can we be blamed for that?” So goes the reasoning of the delusional.

This ignorance, this fantasy belief that imperialism “won” and the game is over now, is fostered by all sectors of settler society. It is a mechanism whereby anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism are relegated to the dustbin of history and resistance becomes as pathetic as beating a dead horse in the blinkered view of the oppressor society.

So let’s be clear, both to the Hennings and to the “good volk” of Caledonia, and to our neighbours and to ourselves – because, as the Native Youth Movement reminds us, “*this land is all Indian Land*” – so let’s be clear: colonialism is war, and the war is not over. The Canadian and American States both exist on other people’s land, and looking to the government to guarantee that your home, your neighbourhood, your community be “protected” from First Nations peoples makes you complicit with the whole kit and caboodle, right back to those infected blankets and the residential rape schools. So you see, Mr Henning, when you turned to the colonial State to protect your business investment, when you demanded that the police attack the Clan Mothers’ reclamation, that’s when you “signed up” for this...



In whose interests are the “residents” rallies in Caledonia?

by Justin Podur
May 23, 2006

On May 22, 2006 - after holding a blockade of the Highway 6 at Caledonia, Ontario (Canada) since February - the indigenous of Six Nations unblocked the highway. The dismantling of the blockade - initially erected by the indigenous to enforce their claim to a piece of land called the Douglas Creek Estates - was a gesture of goodwill on the part of Six Nations after they made headway in their negotiations with the provincial government. The gesture was probably to help defuse the organized “angry residents”, who had been rallying at the blockade weekly to demand the road be opened.

But the “angry residents” responded by striking a blockade of their own, preventing native people from getting from the Six Nations reserve to the area they have reclaimed.

Six Nations responded by putting their own blockades back up, and on the afternoon of May 22, there was a tense standoff, with hundreds of “angry residents”, hundreds of indigenous people, and the Ontario police, all present. The standoff continued through May 23. With this action, the “angry residents” have become the most significant impediment to a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The angry resident rallies

Three weeks ago, when I went to Caledonia to see the “angry residents” protest against the Six Nations blockade, I admittedly had a preconceived notion about what the Caledonian rally would be like. I

had feared the presence of open white supremacist organizations like the KKK. Not only were there no KKK costumes or signs, but indeed the angry residents were angry at the very implication that they would allow KKK among them. Indeed, the angry residents suggested that the rumors of KKK presence were Six Nations disinformation.

The demonstration of angry residents that took place on May 5, 2006, however, was interesting to me in a number of ways.

First, the protesters did not have an adversarial relationship with the police, which is the norm at most protests. There were a few moments when angry residents yelled at police officers – but these were quickly calmed down by other residents who reminded them that the police were on the residents’ side. And the police were on the residents’ side, quite literally – in addition to the police on the line, there were police interspersed with the residents, conversing and mingling. At one point, an angry resident tried to lead others straight to the police line and past it towards the Six Nations blockade and force open the road. But he was stopped, not by the police, but by another angry resident who argued that a violent incident with the police would not be in the interests of the protesters.

Second, I felt there was a lack of proportion demonstrated by the angry residents. It is true that the Six Nations blockade disrupted traffic. The detour, however, allowed everyone to get to their destinations, despite taking longer. The indigenous were not preventing

anyone from reaching their homes, even if they lived within the blockaded areas. Even the angriest residents had to admit this, and qualified their angry claims accordingly, saying: “We can’t get to the hospital – quickly,” and “People can’t get to their homes – without being questioned first.”

I traveled in the Occupied Palestinian territories in 2002, and I saw the effects of real checkpoints, Israeli checkpoints, on Palestinians’ lives. At the time, Palestinians were dying in ambulances because they are not allowed through Israeli checkpoints. Checkpoints turned what would be a 15-minute drive into day-long ordeals of waiting and humiliation. Palestinians really did lose access to their homes, and their families.

Of course, there are few inconveniences that do not seem insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Palestinians. But even by Ontario standards, I found it difficult to understand the rage behind the residents’ cries to open the road. Yes, any delays in getting to the hospital are potentially very dangerous. But is there as much rage at the increasing wait times at the hospitals themselves, traceable to both federal and provincial government funding cuts, used to fund tax cuts? These cuts have been responsible for many unnecessary deaths over the years, in Ontario and throughout Canada.

Third, I was struck by the contradictory nature of the demands and the tactics of the residents. At that rally three weeks ago, a resident – who refused to give his full name

continued on next page



Six Nations defend themselves...



...and the next day...



peace?

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Tuesday, May 23, 2006: Morning is tense as Caledonia residents who took part in yesterday's mob attack, the Caledonia Citizens Alliance, and members of Haldimand County council call for military intervention. The Ontario Provincial Police says, "we're prepared...We've got lots of bodies here." Schools are closed in Caledonia, Waterford and Simcoe. David Peterson, the former premier of Ontario who was brought in by the current government to work on "short term" issues, says to press that Monday's events have "complicated the situation by a large measure" and that it is uncertain when land talks can resume.

Many of the media reports focus on racist, inflammatory statements by Caledonia politicians and residents, whipping up fear and portraying a military "solution" as the only option. However, there are dissenting voices within Caledonia.

Six Nations people meet in the morning and decide to once again extend an offer to remove the blockade. After extended phone meetings between Six Nations people and the Caledonia Citizens' Alliance to discuss safety, in the early afternoon a Six Nations man and a non-indigenous Caledonia resident shake hands and walk together down Argyle Road extending a lilac branch. "We've held out an olive branch," says Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton). "It's a good beginning." A spokesperson for the Caledonia Citizens' Alliance picks up the branch and the 300 non-indigenous residents and media move off the roadway. Shortly afterward the hydro tower lying across the road is moved by Six Nations people off the roadway and across the entrance to the land reclamation site, as protection for the camp. By 3:30 PM traffic is moving along the road. Camp spokesperson Hazel Hill confirms that Six Nations people and supporters will maintain a presence until resolution is reached in land negotiations.

After the road is re-opened, Ontario representative David Peterson says talks between Haudenoniso and the Ontario and Canadian governments can progress. Tekarihoken states to press, "We remain committed to securing our land rights and restoring our tradition of respect, trust and friendship with our neighbours". Commenting to press on the removal of the barricade, camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson says, "We are doing it in good faith that negotiations will move forward. The ball is now in the government's court."

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Choosing To Break With Our History

So what's the way forward? What's the solution?

There is news both bad and good.

The bad news (at least so far as those who cling to their delusions are concerned) is that Canada does not hold title to this land. Regardless of where you live, there's no guarantee you won't some day be faced with a conflict at your doorstep, barricades and angry people and cops and tough choices to make.

Because those maps you studied in school lie and you can't rely on the colonial State to tell you the truth about who owns what. It would be like asking Chretien who was guilty in the sponsorship scandal, or asking Bush who was to blame for Abu Ghraib.

And the good news? Well, the good news is really great. The good news is that we don't have to side with Canada. You see, the indigenous nations are *nations* not bigoted constructs like the European "races". Time after time the First Nations have welcomed allies from the settler society who were willing to struggle against the colonial monster.

This open-mindedness, this non-racist approach to anti-colonialism, is particularly obvious in the current standoff. While the people of Caledonia have held demonstrations where they have talked about "killing Indians" and bringing in the army, the people at the reclamation site have time after time expressed their concern for the people of Caledonia and their view that they are fighting against the Canadian State, not against their neighbours who may claim Canadian citizenship. They even put themselves at risk to allow settlers to go to their church services on Sunday!

(Indeed, these constant displays of goodwill coming from the Haudenosaunee side make the deranged hostility of some settlers all the more disgusting to see...)

So my advice to my fellow settlers is to disconnect your identity from Canada. The Onkwehonwe are not asking you to "go back to Europe" (or wherever you came from), nobody is arguing that you should become second class citizens, so you should just calm down and take a deep breath. This is a serious situation, incredible injustices have been done, genocide on an unparalleled scale, but you don't have to remain complicit. You have a choice.

And if you make that choice, if you see the justice of the Onkwehonwe struggles, and if you see that it is not a threat to you... well, you may notice some other things too.

You may notice that the system Canada is a part of – global capitalism – is not a particularly great way for people to live. It gives us war and superstition, and with every passing year it brings humanity to new lows. It gives us a woman-hating culture, with rape as the fastest growing form of male entertainment. It gives us global warming and skyrocketing cancer rates and news that we're about to experience a species die-off of geological/historical proportions. It gives constant insecurity and (for the lucky middle classes) lives defined by mind-numbing work and even more mind-numbing shopping... and for the rest of the planet it gives lives of back-breaking labour and an existence just a step away from starvation and homelessness and watching your kids die of easily preventable illnesses.

Haven't you noticed that this is what capitalism gives? It's written clearly enough even in the lying daily news...

What we can see at the Six Nations land reclamation is people keeping alive a struggle for their sovereignty, for a renewal of their better way of life that existed before colonialism swept this land, and has never been extinguished. The First Nations have survived centuries of genocide inflicted upon them by euro-capitalism - their resistance struggle is only threatening to those who identify with this death system.

For those of us who dream of a better world, their struggle serves as an inspiration, a glimmer of hope and a reminder that all is not lost. Far from it.

So take the plunge. Say goodbye to your illusions, to your addiction to colonialism and genocide. Life can be better than this.

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April 28. Winnipeg organizers are holding a meeting today to organize a public solidarity event. A member of the Squamish Nation is flying a Mohawk flag in solidarity.

Apr 26, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments restart. Chief Allen McNaughton tells press that the negotiators “are making progress”, and that, “the parties are moving toward achieving disengagement”.

People at the camp continue a security check on vehicles approaching the safety barricade established after last week’s OPP invasion. Another rally of non-indigenous residents is organized to demand that the road be opened, but the numbers drop — only 100 gather.

Apr 27, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments continue today. Six Nations Clan Mothers are drafting a statement about the land reclamation for the United Nations, to be delivered to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva next week.

Apr 28, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments continue today and are expected to extend over the weekend. Negotiators have broken off into working groups to deal with specific issues and will continue meeting on Saturday; “main table” talks will restart on May 5. The Ontario government confirms that an offer for interim financial as-

sistance has been made to Henco Industries. A new government toll-free information line has been set up to “keep the public informed about the province’s efforts to resolve the Caledonia situation”.

Five hundred non-indigenous people gather in response to an anonymously produced leaflet urging Caledonia residents to come to an evening rally near the blockade. Although news reports depict the rally as “peaceful”, racist harassment and calls for violence against people in the camp continue, including KKK flyers. The article by Mohawk Nation News on the opposite page is strongly recommended as it provides insightful analysis of the exploitation of community tensions by media and the state to increase fear, hatred, and justification for an ongoing police presence.

Solidarity actions continue in many regions. Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, scheduled to speak on “aboriginal self-government” in Toronto, cancels after a call to protest is announced. In Ottawa and Winnipeg, an estimated 50 people gather to show solidarity with Six Na-

tions. The Winnipeg information picket partially blocks the Midtown bridge before being removed by police.

Apr 29, 2006: The Ontario government announces that former Liberal premier David Peterson has been appointed to work with Six Nations, Henco Industries, and municipality and business leaders to address immediate concerns. Peterson is not addressing long-term concerns: the province will appoint a representative to address the long-term issues (i.e., land theft) within one week, as per the agreement signed on April 21. Peterson will be reporting directly to Ontario’s Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay. The provincial government also announces provision of an undisclosed amount of bridge financing for Henco Industries to prevent their bankruptcy.

Apr 30, 2006: David Peterson, appointed by the Ontario government to address “immediate issues” in the Six Nations land reclamation and resulting siege, meets with provincial officials and then heads to Caledonia in the hopes of meeting Six

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police “keep the peace”...



...by pepper spraying Natives



give them an inch
they’ll take a mile

Blockade sparks memories of Detroit race riots

Richard Brennan
Toronto Star May 24, 2006

Six Nations resident Sandra Muse hasn’t been so scared since the 1967 race riots in Detroit.

The tensions over the Six Nations blockades here, which boiled over Monday in a pitched battle between Indians and local residents, have brought back bad memories of racism for the Cherokee native, whose family was originally from Georgia.

“I grew up in Detroit, but was married to a Six Nations band member,” explained the 49-year-old Muse, who had 12 brothers and sisters.

When she got jostled in Monday’s melee and had racial slurs tossed her way, Muse said it reminded her of a local race riot in 1974 when she was in her senior years at high school in Detroit.

“I lived in a black neighbourhood and was bused with the black kids into an all-white school. I remember being called a n—— lover, Pocahontas and squaw ... and when the race riot happened my sister had a chair broken over her head, and I was chased by white guys with bricks calling me a f—— Indian. I haven’t felt that kind of racial tension until now.”

Muse said she isn’t painting everyone with the same brush, but concedes she feels uncomfortable and a tiny bit afraid when she goes into Caledonia.

“I have begun to be afraid to go into stores in Caledonia or even drive into Caledonia,” she said. “Just last week I came over for physio and everything was fine. But then you get out of your car and you have people staring at you, there is this feeling of subtle racism,” she said.

Muse said the tension had been building between the local and native communities for weeks and simply boiled over on Victoria Day.

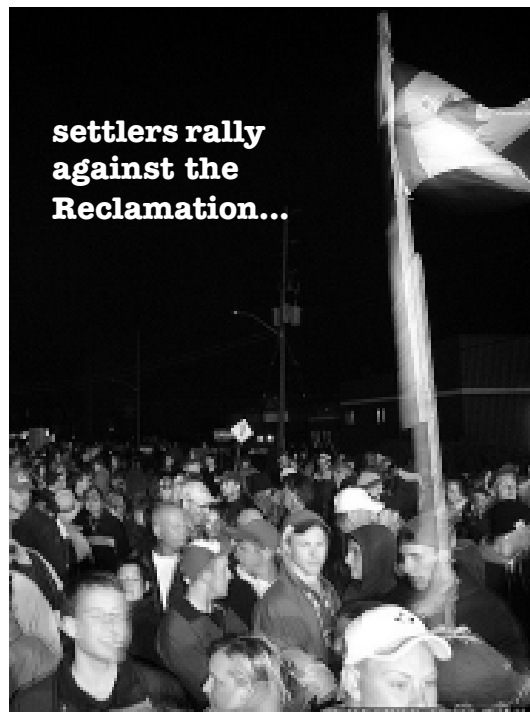
“It is kind of weird as a native person to be yelled at and told to go back home. Where should I go?” she said.

Canadians...

through Caledonia) at 6 AM. Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) issues a statement to the press that the barricades have come down as a goodwill gesture now that progress is being made in negotiations, and that "As the world has seen, our protest has been firm but peaceful. Our people are responding without weapons, using only their bodies to assert that we are a sovereign people with a long history and that we cannot be intimidated." The non-indigenous Caledonia residents who set up a counter-blockade on Friday continue blocking the road, not letting Six Nations people through. "What they don't realize is if they continuously threaten our safety, that barricade can go right back up again, so it's entirely their decision," says Janie Jamieson.

Non-indigenous blockers surround a car with a reporter and Six Nations women and then attack Six Nations people coming to the aid of those in the car. Chiefs bring a cedar branch to the front of the line and tell the mob it is their choice, saying Six Nations people and supporters will leave the road if the mob disperses. When the mob does not back down Haldimand councillor Lorne Boyko begs the mob to accept the offer of peace, saying, "It's in your hands. Not only are your chil-

dren watching here in Caledonia but all of Canada is watching. For the future of the community we have to move back. This has to end." As the mob presses forward people at the reclamation site dig up the road pavement, creating a trench across Argyle Road to stop the mob from



swarming the camp. By mid-afternoon press report that Ontario Provincial Police officers have established two lines between the mob and Six Nations people on Highway 6. Mohawk Nation News reports that the OPP is pepper-spraying Six Nations people. Ontario negotiator David Peterson is taunted, pushed, and shoved by non-indigenous Caledonia residents when he tries to walk through the mob after meeting with

people in the camp shortly after 6 PM EST. Shortly before 8 PM, two non-indigenous Caledonia residents who walk to the barricade carrying a lilac branch as a gesture of peace are jeered and condemned as traitors by other residents in the mob. By late evening, municipal officials in Haldimand County declare an official state of emergency and police wearing riot gear gather around the site.

The Caledonia transformer station (the main source of power for the surrounding Norfolk and Haldimand counties) is damaged, leaving thousands of area residents without electricity. According to Hydro One, it will likely be three days before service is fully restored.

Indigenous people near North Battleford block the Yellowhead Highway for two hours in an emergency gesture of solidarity, backing up traffic for three kilometres. The Seaway International Bridge (linking Cornwall/Akwesasne and Massena, New York) is closed for several hours after two vehicles are lit on fire. In Vancouver the Six Nations Solidarity Network meets to discuss emergency actions.

"Over and over, I'll be a fool for you"

Kahentinetha Horn

MNN. May 2, 2006. Things are on schedule! The flyers in the hands of Caledonia residents, Ontario Provincial Police and a few Six Nations people reads:

Citizens of Caledonia - Meeting tonight - 7:00 Sharp! (no location, no date)

Agenda: Discussion of the "Indian Problem". "What is the final solution?"

Full dress meeting. Wear your sheets. (This is no joke. This is what the flyer actually says. This ain't the movies, folks. This is real life).

Special Speaker - all the way from Burning Cross Mississippi, Bobby Lee Raspmas, Veteran of the 50's, 60's, 70's.

Hear about the "Final Solution". (How come Canada is letting him in and they won't let Indians cross the border to support us?)

Three-fourths of the flyer has a picture of a KKK meeting with sheets on.

We were waiting for this one! This flyer was given out for last Friday's rally and march onto the barricades at the site of the illegal housing project that the Six Nations People are trying to stop. It's being given out again for the Friday, May 5th rally at 7:00 right at the barricades this time.

The press has been asking Caledonians where the flyer came from and nobody seems to know. Janie Jamieson said, "If the non-native rioters come here and it gets out of hand, the OPP will declare they can't handle it. Then the army will be brought in". Based on past experience we suspect that even putting this flyer out is supposed to create a panic. We've seen it all before. The same thing happened in the Mohawk Oka Crisis of 1990.

We have given no reason for the army or the RCMP to come in. If these rioters create chaos, the Caledonians will be screaming for the big guns to come in. In 1990 the people of Chateauguay were incited to riot night after night at the boundary of Kahnawake. It was exactly exactly the same kind of threats, screaming, insults, trying to rush the barricades and yelling for the army to come in. It split the community up and gave it a "red neck" label that still taints its reputation 16 years later. What can be done? How do the people of Caledonia feel about being identified with the Ku Klux Klan? Hey, neighbors, can't you see it? You are being set up to get a bad name.

David Peterson, the Ontario negotiator, has probably been given orders to demand that the barricades be taken down before talks can begin. They want to create a situation so they don't have to negotiate. "Remove your barricades and then we will talk", it says on the colonial script. Every time we object to oppression, this is the same procedure that has been followed. Peterson is probably going to try to make it look like the Indigenous people are being stubborn, belligerent and non-compromising. That's what Bernard Roy and Alex Patterson did in Kanehsatake in 1990. They were getting angry because we kept on wanting to talk about the land issue. Throughout we were peaceful and non-violent. They got impatient and suddenly cut off negotiations. Then the army closed the perimeter around us and kept us there under siege for almost another month.

The term "final solution to the Indian problem" was coined first by Indian Affairs superintendent, Duncan Campbell Scott, to describe his genocidal policies in the 1920's. It's not surprising to find the KKK has taken up the banner of his cause. So they're not the first in line. Remember Hitler? He found Canadian and U.S. Indian policies very inspiring. Unfortunately, World War II was not enough to end such disgusting initiatives.

Has Canada no sense of pride? Aren't they ashamed to be doing this again? This tired out old tactic is digging a hole for Canada's reputation. Rather than settling with the Indigenous people, Canada would prefer to use scare tactics to get a little bit instead of settling the big issues.

Take a stand against the KKK. Take a stand against police and military solutions to legal problems. Ask your Member of Parliament how it is that the KKK is able to import speakers to incite racist violence. This flyer was put out a week ago and nothing's been done since then. We still need people to stand with us. Any help is appreciated. Keep writing the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Queen and everybody in the world. Tell them what's happening to us.

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Nations representatives at the camp, as well as non-indigenous Caledonia residents.

Monday, May 1, 2006: People in the camp express skepticism about provincial representative David Peterson's role in resolving the standoff, pointing out that the issue of land theft is a federal matter, not a provincial one. After a visit to Caledonia, Peterson, appointed several two days ago by the Ontario government to address "immediate issues" in the Six Nations land reclamation and resulting siege, states to the press that he "can't guarantee timelines, can't guarantee success, and can't guarantee what the resolution will be". In a rather remarkable analogy given the internationally recognized brutality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Peterson likens the standoff to "the Israeli issue".

An undisclosed amount of "bridge funding" from the Ontario government is accepted by Henco Industries. In statements to the press Henco says the money is not a buyout and that they still hope to go back to building "Douglas Creek Estates". It is announced that Caledonia will be getting \$100,000 from the provincial government: \$50,000 to hire a marketing consultant to work with the local Chamber of Commerce on strategies to "encourage people to return to Caledonia to shop", and \$50,000 to hire a consultant to "improve communication with the residents". With apparently no hint of irony, in debate on the Ontario government budget, MLA Garfield Dunlop calls for increased funding to the OPP to compensate for the costs incurred by the siege of Six

Nations people and supporters.

Tuesday, May 2, 2006: In today's budget announcement, the Canadian Tory government announces that it will not keep the agreement made in the Kelowna Accord, reducing the promised \$5.1-billion to \$450 million to "improve education programs, provide clean water, and repair crumbling housing stocks" in Aboriginal communities. Although the Kelowna Accord did not address land or sovereignty issues so is not directly relevant to the Six Nations land reclamation, the federal government's breach of the agreement underscores the need for impartial, international monitoring of negotiations and agreements between Canada and Six Nations, as requested by the Clan Mothers from the UN.

The reporting of the Tory, Liberal, and NDP positions on the Kelowna Accord also illustrates the way that the colonial government and the media distort colonialism as being a problem of "economic inequity" — suggesting the poverty in Aboriginal communities is a lack of (colonially-structured) social programs, rather than a result of the ongoing theft of indigenous lands and resources, the attempted destruction of indigenous cultures, and repression of indigenous people who resist colonial government interests. One Liberal MP even went so far as to say "Kasechewan and water, Caledonia and land claims, Garden Hill and health care, all of these incidents of aboriginals being worse off than their fellow Canadians will be alleviated if the Kelowna accord is implemented in full". The issues be-

hind the Six Nations land reclamation cannot be solved by putting money into social programs, no matter what the dollar amount is.

Wednesday, May 3, 2006: Doreen Silversmith, from Six Nations, continues lobbying members of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assist by sending an impartial international mediator to oversee negotiations between Six Nations and the Canadian government.

Federal and provincial colonial governments announce their representatives for "main table" talks scheduled to begin May 5. In a statement to press, Ontario's Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay makes the provincial government's position clear: "This is more of an accounting of the land...Were they properly credited for the land as it was disposed of?" David Peterson, appointed by the Ontario government to address "immediate issues" in the Six Nations land reclamation and resulting siege, leaves Caledonia promising to request that the province drop charges against Six Nations people who were arrested during the April 20 police invasion, halt all development on the property, and assure Six Nations people that there will be no action from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Thursday, May 4, 2006: Henco Industries issues a press release alleging that Six Nations people and supporters are building onto houses at the construction site, but produces no evidence to substantiate their allegation. When asked by press to comment, camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson points out that give the constant flight

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Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson attends a meeting to give Six Nations an update on negotiations. The Ontario government tables two documents, one promising an immediate moratorium on construction and one promising a return of the Burtch lands. David Ramsay, Ontario Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, states "In order for talks on Douglas Creek Estates and the long-term land grievance to proceed, we must see continued progress on removal of the barricades on the transportation corridors."

Haldimand County council releases a detailed list of actions taken by council since March 4, to counter criticism by some non-indigenous residents that the council has not been doing enough to respond to the land reclamation.

The Caledonia Citizens' Alliance issues a news release blaming Six Nations people and supporters for two car accidents that occurred on roads being used by people to detour around the barricades.

Thursday, May 18, 2006: Don and John Henning, the owners of Henco Industries, file a protest with the Ontario government over the government's assurance to the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) of an immediate moratorium on development of the Douglas Creek Estates. Henco lawyer Michael Bruder says the brothers have "a strategy" about what to do if the government does not respond to their concerns about the freeze.

Ron Desroches, an 18-year-old military reservist, speeds and swerves through the reclamation site, narrowly miss-

ing hitting Six Nations people and supporters. Six Nations security personnel stop him and find an unloaded pellet gun and camouflage gear in the car. OPP detain him but release him without charges. Desroches states to press, "I'm somebody who's more than willing to go and defend the rights of this country and mine were just violated".

Friday, May 19, 2006: Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) issues a statement to the press praising the people at the reclamation site, saying, "the protesters have taken the high road in showing that public safety is paramount, but they haven't backed off their position at all. Their actions reflect what was discussed at the bargaining table and bodes well for the future".

Non-indigenous Caledonia residents set up a counter-blockade Friday near the Argyle Street barricade, preventing Six Nations people and supporters' vehicles from coming and going to the site. Eight Caledonia residents claim they were attacked by people from the camp; OPP state they are investigating the allegations.

The owners of Henco Industries state that with the Ontario government imposing an indefinite moratorium on construction they can no longer wait for resolution, and send a letter to the Ontario government demanding compensation for "the value of the land itself plus the revenues we would have received had our development proceeded as planned." David Ramsay, Ontario Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, responds that a buyout

of Henco will not be discussed until the "short-term issues" being addressed in talks between Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson and Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) are resolved.

Saturday, May 20, 2006: Six Nations people continue to meet to discuss whether to remove the Argyle Street South checkpoint and barricade. Linda Powless, a reporter with Turtle Island News, tells CBC Newsworld that a decision is reached to remove road barricades on Monday as significant progress has been made in ensuring safety of Six Nations people on the site, stopping construction, conducting an archeological survey, and addressing the longstanding land theft.

Sunday, May 21, 2006: Camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson states to press the barricade across Argyle Road may not be removed as announced earlier, due to the counter-blockade set up by non-indigenous Caledonia residents on Friday. According to Jamieson, police are allowing the counter-blockaders to selectively bar indigenous people from crossing their line. Six Nations people and supporters are building another road to the land reclamation site, to go around the counter-blockade.

Six school buses carrying several hundred people from Toronto come to the camp to celebrate the reclamation, stand in solidarity with Six Nations people, and bring supplies to the site.

Monday, May 22, 2006: Six Nations people and supporters remove the blockade on Argyle Street (the main road

reducing the Six Nations Confederacy population to one per cent of its former count. To the Western world's surprise, a delegation from Kanawake arrived at the doorsteps of the newly formed League of Nations in 1924, asking for admittance to the organization modeled on the Six Nations Confederacy. Canada's response was to send an armed force of RCMP to Kanawake to arrest the Longhouse leaders, impose an Indian Act-recognized Chief and Council system, and amend the Indian Act to make it illegal for Indian Bands to hire Canadian lawyers to defend their interest in Canadian or other courts.

Astonishingly, in 2006, the Six Nations Confederacy still exists. The people have their language, their constitution—in English called the Great Law of Peace—their original peaceful co-existence agreement with Europeans, the Two Row Wampum Belt agreement, an understanding of

their territorial boundaries and of their way of life based on a Clan Mother system that recognizes women as the titleholders of the land, protecting it for the “faces to come” who are the true owners.

The Six Nations Confederacy calls themselves the Eastern Door People. They are strategically located on the entrance to the northern portion of Turtle Island. Passing through their territory one can travel to the geographical center of Turtle Island by water. Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Boston, and New York are all located on Six Nations Confederacy lands.

The Six Nations Confederacy was part of the way through a unification process using the Great Law of Peace, which is not only the basis of first, the League of Nations and now, the United Nations, but also of modern democracy. The colonial experience is just a hiccup in this unification process. It's possible that, in

spite of several hundred years of genocide, the Six Nations may wish to extend an invitation to Canada to join in unity under the Great Law of Peace. Canada could become a nation in law, could even possibly become a nation of peace. Modern Canadians could possibly enter into a new relationship with the original human inhabitants of the northern portion of Turtle Island, a relationship that the original Peoples have been patiently waiting for, for hundreds of years.

Lastly, the facts: The Six Nations Confederacy cannot be eradicated by any means. The offer to join them under the Great Law of Peace will probably remain on the table. Canadians can accept the offer now, or continue with their attempted eradication for another unknown amount of time.

As a modern Canadian, what would you like to choose?

Caledonia's Mohawks Have Plenty of Reasons To Mistrust The Law

Kenneth Deer
The Montreal Gazette April 25th 2006

The editorial in Saturday's Gazette, “Enforce the law for natives, too,” deserves a response.

To be blunt, natives who have followed the law, given in to Canadian jurisdiction and meekly turned the other cheek are the ones who have suffered the most, are generally impoverished and have lost hope for the future. Many have just disappeared or succumbed.

The healthiest natives are those who resist assimilation, remember their history, practise their culture and fight for what is theirs.

The history of North America is built on the destruction of indigenous peoples. Laws were made to remove and disempower the first peoples of this continent. Historically, the justice system has been unjust to Canada's indigenous peoples.

Now to ask natives to respect the laws of the society that has benefited the most from this unjust treatment is asking too much.

Canada's land-claim system is patently unjust and biased. Why should native peoples who have lived here for centuries have to prove they were here first? The onus should be on Canada to prove it owns the land, and justify how it obtained title.

The issue in Caledonia is not frivolous. The claim that “there's not much real evidence” of a legitimate complaint is incorrect. There is a long and well-documented history of questionable land transactions that would never have been allowed if the transactions were between non-natives.

Your statement that Dudley George was killed by a police bullet “under circumstances that still remain unclear” is quite remarkable because the police sergeant who fired the gun was convicted of a crime. The circumstances were clear to the judge; why not to The Gazette?



It seems that Canadians love their justice system except when, on occasion and not too often, it sides with natives. Then the justice system is flawed, according to many. You write that “courts have been consistently generous — many say too generous — in accepting native arguments.” Obviously, the author of those words has little experience with the court system in Canada. Natives have lost far more cases than they have won, and some of these losses reek of bias, racism and discrimination.

Some courts are finally listening to native voices and that should be a good thing.

Finally, let us return to the issue of law and order and the rights of native peoples.

The relationship between the Mohawks and the Canadian government is a political one — a relationship that now spans more than a century, preceded by a century of relations with the British.

The Mohawks at Six Nations were allied with the British in the American War of Independence, and again during the War of 1812. One could argue that without the help of the Mohawks and other nations in the Iroquois Confederacy (the Haudenosaunee in our language), Canada would be part of the United States today.

As an ally, the Mohawks fought like brothers side by side with the British. The British made commitments to the Mohawks, which the Canadian government inherited in 1867. Canada has not lived up to these commitments, and that is a violation of law and order - a violation that lies at the root of the confrontation in Caledonia today.

You cannot enforce law and order on one nation of people and not the other. The issues are political in nature and must be settled politically. The occupation at Caledonia is a symptom of a breakdown in the political process. Canada cannot continue to ignore its trust relationship with the Mohawks; if it continues to do so, there will be more confrontations.

Mohawks have the high moral ground on these issues. Canada's justice system does not.



of police planes over the site, if there really is damage to the construction on the site it shouldn't be hard to provide photo evidence.

The OPP Hate Crime Unit is investigating a KKK flyer handed out at the April 28 rally of non indigenous Caledonia residents. OPP Constable Dave Meyer states to press that the poster is likely a hoax, and that "there is no evidence" that a KKK meeting took place or was planned in Caledonia.

Friday, May 5, 2006: It is announced that regional and provincial government plans to build new bridges over the Grand River near Kitchener-Waterloo have been delayed until the dispute over lands in the Haldimand Tract is resolved. Ken Seiling, chair of Waterloo Region, states that Six Nations must make way for increased settler presence. "This is the growth area of Canada...This needs to be resolved so we can plan accordingly."

Flyers signed "Caledonia Resistance" circulate throughout the town urging residents to gather tonight to "stand up and be noticed", but the crowd is noticeably smaller than previous similar rallies. Supporters from many nations continue to come to the camp to show solidarity with Six Nations and to help protect people inside the camp.

Canadian officials will be questioned at the United Nations today and Monday about Canada's human rights record. The General Assembly of the UN is to vote on May 9 on which states will sit on the new 47-member UN Human Rights Council. Representatives of Six Nations and the Lubicon Nation have lobbied in Geneva throughout

the week to send the message that Canada should be held to account for its genocidal practices and ongoing colonialism.

In a further attempt to criminalize the land reclamation, Henco alleges that Six Nations people involved in the reclamation stole property during the police raid on April 20 and are demanding payment for return of the goods. According to Henco's lawyer, files, computers, furniture and construction equipment worth an estimated \$200,000 were looted from an office and model home on the site, and that someone acting "on behalf of the protesters" called demanding \$20,000 for their return. In a press release, the owners of Henco say they are "extremely angry and frustrated that the protesters are holding our possessions for ransom and in effect holding the town of Caledonia hostage." Camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson says Henco's press release is the first news she has heard of this, and OPP Sergeant Dave Rektor says he is also not aware of any extortion attempt.

For additional security, a new barrier has gone up on the north side of the Highway 6 Bypass bridge over the Grand River. This does not affect people driving to the camp or people in Caledonia, as the bridge has been blocked on the south side since the police invasion on April 20.

Saturday, May 6, 2006: Grand council is held to discuss Six Nations positions in negotiations with the Canadian government.

In Courtenay, 35 people responded to a call for solidarity with Six Nations and after a brief gathering walked through the streets of down-

town. The walk was followed by group discussion of the realities of local indigenous people and the strength of solidarity in resistance.

Tuesday, May 9, 2006: The OPP increases its presence at the north end of the Highway 6 bypass bridge. Press report six uniformed offices and four cruisers parked at the bridge, with another officer at the base of the bridge off Highway 54. A police spokesperson says the buildup is necessary to keep a "mutual boundary of respect" between non-indigenous people in Caledonia and Six Nations. In the Ontario legislature, Tory justice critic Tory Dunlop estimates the cost of the extra OPP presence in Caledonia is \$8 million thus far.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights criticizes Canada "for its failure to live up to its commitments under an international treaty that protects people's economic, social and cultural rights". Members of the committee specifically mentioned Canada's expropriation of Six Nations and Lubicon land, the disproportionately high rates of sexual assault and murder of Aboriginal women, and discrimination against women under the Indian Act. The delegation of Canadian government representatives countered the criticisms by saying Canada "recognized and affirmed land and treaty rights" and "the inherent right of Aboriginals to self-government."

Wednesday, May 10, 2006: Talks continue at the Best Western Inn in Brantford, with colonial government representatives meeting Six Nations representatives for the first time.

IT'S THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAKING A LAND CLAIM, NOT THE SIX NATIONS

The Great Law of Peace is being offered to Canada

Stewart Steinhauer
The Dominion
May 13, 2006

First the facts: Canada is a settler state located in the northern portion of Turtle Island, formed out of two European colonies established here in the seventeenth century, one by Great Britain and one by France. These colonies were established on the basis of the Doctrine Of Discovery—an outgrowth of the European decision to disassemble the original Peoples of Turtle Island as both individual human beings, and as collections of human beings living together in societies governed by the rule of law—and to re-construct these erased people and Peoples as a monolithic dependent population known henceforth as "Indians," "Natives," and "Aborigines," in need of civilizing. Modern Canadians will say: "What does the actions of my ancestors in the seventeenth century have to do with me today?"

Modern indigenous people and Peoples are living trapped inside nations based on the Doctrine of Discovery—a legal doctrine now routinely overturned whenever it comes to trial in the international arena—leading tortured lives as "Indians", "Natives", and "Aborigines." This, while modern Canadians, and modern euro-ancestry citizens of every other nation on Turtle Island and in other places around the globe—Australia and New Zealand for in-

stance—enjoy the highest standard of living in the world.

If this was not the case, then one could respond: "Why, nothing at all."

This brings us to the Haldimand Tract in southern Ontario, running from the Grand River's mouth on the northern shore of Lake Erie in a twelve mile wide swath up the Grand River to its headwater basin. In current mainstream discourse, the Six Nations land dispute is framed in the context of "indian land claims." Reports mention up to 29 separate claims being made by Six Nations against the Crown's assertion of title. The Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Ontario are establishing a panel to settle these "indian land claims".

The reality, obscured by three unrelenting centuries of the European invention of "Indians," is that—at least in law—it is the federal and provincial governments of Canada who are trying to make a claim to land, a claim based on the Doctrine of Discovery. The same objection raised at the Henco development site by Six Nations people can be legally raised by various indigenous Peoples, throughout the entire territory currently called Canada. Instead of a panel whose every chair is occupied by a federal or provincial representative, either pale-faced or brown, seeking resolution to "indian land claims," there should be a

panel of non-European, non-Canadian adjudicators seeking resolution to "Canadian land claims".

A panel made up of well-respected international figures like Rigoberta Menchu from Guatemala, Arundahti Roy from India, Linda Smith from New Zealand, and so on across Africa and Asia, would be able to listen to Canada's claims with an open mind and a willing heart. It's not a question of whether the indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island want to share the land with settler populations from around the globe. If that were the case, then there would be no settler nations present on Turtle Island, just as there are no settler nations present in China. The seventeenth century European decision to manufacture "Indians" was based on the European observations of the sixteenth century: The people and Peoples of Turtle Island, while fierce in protection of their way of life, were committed to rule-of-law societies rather than rule-of force societies, held sharing as a core value, and eschewed murder as a dispute resolution mechanism.

At Six Nations we see the outline of this older form of society still intact in spite of three centuries of investment by first European, now Canadian interests into the complete elimination of this distinct society. Twice, European colonial forces attempted a total eradication of Six Nations Peoples, at one point

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group, “They’re hoping and waiting for us to break that treaty of peace and we refuse to. We’re peaceful, we’re united and we’re unarmed.”

Monday, May 15, 2006: OPP arrive at the Hamilton office of CH Television with a search warrant for a homemade tape, filmed by a Caledonia resident and aired by CH on May 10, showing Caledonia residents trying to dismantle the barricade at the Highway 6 bypass. The tape was given to CH by a source on condition of confidentiality and that the faces of those who tried to take apart the barricade be obscured. CH contests the seizure of the tape, stating that revelation of the identity of the source “violates Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms”. No date has been set for a court hearing to address CH’s complaint.

Tuesday, May 16, 2006: Bar-

ricades have been moved to open up one lane of Argyle Street for free travel by local traffic. The previous stop and check of emergency vehicles (other than OPP) has also been lifted to allow quicker passage along the road. According to camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson, the road was partially opened to “help keep things moving along. We didn’t want things to sit at a stalemate and repeat the history of Ipperwash and Oka.” Six Nations people and supporters say they will be remaining at the site, and that the road will be closed again if there are threats or violence. If the Canadian and Ontario governments address four key demands (moratorium on development, drop charges against people involved in reclamation, assure safety of Six Nations people, educate non-indigenous people in Caledonia and Ontario about First Nations) consideration will be given to

opening Argyle Street South to all traffic. OPP tells the press they will remain at the site.

There are conflicting reports about possible participation of the Caledonia Citizen’s Alliance in negotiations. Canadian Press reports the Alliance as saying they will soon be joining talks between Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson and Tekarihoken (Kanyen’kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton); an Alliance press statement refers to getting a seat at land issue negotiations involving Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and Canadian and Ontario governments.

Wednesday, May 17, 2006: Four of the people arrested in the police invasion on April 20 refuse to respond to summons to come before a colonial court judge, stating that the colonial court has no jurisdiction over them. An additional charge of “failing to appear” is laid and arrest warrants issued.

Natives back protests poll: Civil disobedience to increase, majority of respondents say

62% support the Land Reclamation

27% refused to answer
+ unsure
+ sitting on the fence

12% are opposed

Canada’s Aboriginals overwhelmingly back the long-running Six Nations demonstration in Caledonia and predict the number of similar

land-claims protests is about to rise, a new survey has found.

According to a poll conducted for the National Post, 62% of natives believe protesters in the Hamilton bedroom community and in eastern Ontario — where natives briefly blocked a rail line in sympathy last month — were right to demonstrate. That compares with just 12% who said the demonstrators were wrong.

“We’re talking about a margin of 5-1 and civil disobedience is involved,” said Conrad Winn, president of polling firm Compas Inc., which conducted the survey this month.

“A 5-1 ratio of support tells us there is a real strong sense of land grievance that continues among Aboriginal communities that won’t go away that readily.”

The nationwide poll of 295 First Nations, Metis and Inuit respondents also found 61% predicted more land-claims protests ahead. Only 18% foresaw fewer protests [...]

Kelly Patrick National Post Monday, May 15, 2006

David Peterson, appointed by Ontario to address short-term “crisis” issues, suggests an independent archeological survey to check for burial sites, a buyout of Henco, and having Haldimand County and Six Nations develop a joint community centre to “bring the whole community back together.”

Friday, May 12, 2006: Talks between colonial government representatives and Six Nations representatives to address long-term land issues will restart on Tuesday. The mainstream media are reporting that the situation is “close to resolution”, with Tekarihoken (Kanyen’kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) stating that he is “very happy with the way things are going” and expecting that the blockade of the main road may be removed next week.

A new group calling itself the Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance announces its formation and demands to be included in negotiations. The Alliance, made up of the Caledonia Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Caledonia BIA, Real Estate representatives, local businesses, and “a variety of community citizens groups”, states that its purpose is “to ensure a strong citizens voice expressing concerns for residents of Caledonia”.

Economic stresses continue for Six Nations people behind the barricades. The railway that operates the line between Caledonia and Nanticoke announces it has laid off nine train engineers and conductors as the line is blocked by debris from the wooden pe-

destrian bridge that burned April 20 after the failed OPP invasion, but the industrial companies that use the rail line say there has been “minimal impact” on their businesses as the rail line is not the main means of transport.



Saturday, May 13, 2006: In response to mainstream media reports that “the stand-off will be over soon”, camp spokesperson Hazel Hill reports that whatever decisions are made about the barricades, Six Nations are not leaving their lands. Further, “if Canada chooses to use war like measures to continually get what they want, than we as Onkwehonweh People, have no alternative but to meet them with that same mentality...if we choose to open a road or partially open a road, should anyone; police, army, citizens or anything interfere with the Peace we are trying to maintain, those roads would be immediately

closed again, as would other territories and nations across the world do so in our support... it is no longer acceptable that they enter into agreements and treaties as their ancestors did all the while planning how to get out of them and how to avoid being honest and forthright in their dealings”.

In solidarity with the people of Six Nations and all First Nations across Turtle Island, Ottawa organizers call for a march to the Queen’s representative to demand an immediate solution to land rights disputes.

Sunday, May 14, 2006: Six Nations people meet over the weekend to discuss whether to remove the Argyle Street South checkpoint and barricade. As of late Sunday night no decision is reached. According to camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson, removal of the barricade blocking the Highway 6 bypass is not up for discussion at

this time. Clyde Powless warns that removal of the blockade relies on confidence that police and townspeople will act responsibly and not threaten the safety of Six Nations people and supporters: “One irresponsible person could jeopardize the barricades staying down.”

Thirty people take part in a rally and bus trip from Kitchener to the camp to celebrate Mother’s Day and learn more about the history behind the Six Nations land reclamation. Jacqueline House, a camp spokesperson and mother of four, tells the

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Canada is a colonial country



by Andrew Orkin, *The Ottawa Citizen*
Wednesday, May 10, 2006

This time the Indians are occupying a new non-native subdivision on land they say is theirs in Caledonia, Ont. A court injunction issued by a non-native judge is being defied. Citing signs of Warrior involvement or the influx of Indians from other communities, the OPP raided the occupation and arrested the occupiers “without violence.” Many more Indians then barricaded Highway 6.

Six Nations Band Council says the occupiers are renegades and there is no recognized land claim involved. The Haudenosaunee blockaders have allegiance only to their ancient Six Nations confederacy traditional government. They are demanding nation-to-nation discussions with the federal Crown.

Frustration grows among local non-natives. Some are claiming that Caledonia is theirs by virtue of “conquest.” Ministers and the provincial and federal governments say the occupiers are “illegals” because the Indians “sold or surrendered” their land in the 1800s and now have only a reserve. At the same time, these ministers call repeatedly for a peaceful outcome.

Ironically, a judicial inquiry into the shooting death of Dudley George at Ipperwash a decade ago grinds on in Forest, dissecting that Indian land occupation and its own ex parte (only one side appeared in court) injunction, renegades, police raid, arrests, ministerial pro-

nouncements of illegality, and the state use of force.

It may be beneficial, and maybe even save some lives, if we explore the meaning of some of the key terms here.

Illegals: An injunction means the Indian occupiers are “illegals,” right? The mayor of Oka said so in 1990; Mike Harris said so in 1995; and Ontario government officials say so now.

Wrong. It means only that a court, usually on the basis of a summary ex parte injunction hearing, has ordered the occupiers to leave or face arrest. The municipality in Oka in 1990, the Ministry of Natural Resources at Ipperwash in 1995, the City of Hamilton in the Red Hill Valley in 2005, all had injunctions, as does the developer at Caledonia.

At Ipperwash for example, other courts found later that aboriginals had acted with “colour of right” because of their genuine and well-founded belief that the land was rightfully theirs. At Oka, Burnt Church and Ipperwash, occupier-arrestees were mostly or all later acquitted of all charges.

Conquest: Here I will quote the globally important 4,500-page 1996 final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) authored by (among others) Supreme Court Justice Bertha Wilson and Quebec Court of Appeal Justice Rene Dussault (which unfortunately sank unread like a stone soon after it was released): “There was no conquest. Early in the con-

tact 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. No one asked them whether they wanted to be British subjects or Canadian citizens. They were simply herded into small reserves to make way for development and at Confederation were assigned to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada.”

Indians from other communities: In October 1995, the federal government invited and sponsored Canadians from every direction to converge on Montreal for a giant demonstration to help defeat the secessionists and save the nation. Ahem ... Indians can’t do that too, to assist their ancient nation?

Land claims: Here again I’ll quote Wilson and Dussault et al: “Opinion is virtually unanimous that the present system does not work. The system is generally inequitable, inefficient, time consuming and far too expensive. And it places the Department of Indian Affairs in a clear conflict of interest as funding agent, defence counsel, judge and jury.

“... One of the most significant weaknesses of comprehensive land-claims policy is the lack of any provision for interim measures before submission of a comprehensive claim and during negotiations.

Governments are free to create new third-party interests on the traditional lands of aboriginal claimants right up until the moment a claims agreement is signed. It should not be necessary for aboriginal people to mount blockades to obtain interim measures while their assertions of title are being dealt with.”

The Caledonia occupiers are explicitly not asserting a “land claim.” They are simply taking back their land because they state it has been stolen from them by the Crown and they have no faith that it will be returned through a land claim, especially once it has had subdivisions built on it.

Surrender or sale: RCAP found that “Land reserved for aboriginal people was steadily whittled away after its original allocation. Almost two-thirds of it has ‘disappeared’ by various means since Confederation. In some cases, the government failed to deliver as much land as specified in a treaty. In other cases, it expropriated or sold reserved land, rarely with First Nations as willing vendors. Once in a while, outright fraud took place.

“Even when First Nations were able to keep hold of reserved land, the government sometimes sold its resources to outsiders.

“... The history of these losses includes the abject failure of the Indian Affairs department’s stewardship of reserves and other aboriginal assets. As a result,” RCAP found, “aboriginal people have been impoverished, deprived of the tools necessary for self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It is hardly surprising that the most intense conflicts between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people centre on the use and control of land.”

Blockades: As native frustration inevitably grows at the uselessness of official processes, they resort to blockades. It surprises me there are

so few of them, because at the current rate the many thousands of outstanding land claims will take many centuries to be addressed.

More important, is it not high time for the dominant society — the non-native “rest of us” — to realize that the corrosive, transcontinental 200-year-old legal and physical blockade and siege by the Crown and its settlers of entire aboriginal societies and their people, governments, economies, legal systems, territories and resources is still under way?

From my study of history in such contexts as minority-rule Rhodesia, apartheid South Africa, Czarist Russia, Nazi Germany or colonial India, it seems to me that dominant societies are not particularly good at recognizing the essential structure of systemic injustices being maintained or perpetrated in respect of subjugated peoples while it’s all under way.

They are also not particularly attentive to or comprehending of victims’ contemporaneous entreaties that what’s being done to, or with them, is fundamentally wrong, and why.

That’s all left for much later, if ever, when the monuments and museums of regret get built, or the truth and reconciliation commissions get staged, or occasionally when things just go seriously wrong.

In the 30 years I have lived in Canada, I have heard indigenous populations cry out that they they are experiencing unjust impoverishment, displacement, dispossession, racist oppression and abuse, neglect, state violence or even cultural genocide at the hands of the Crown.

We may disagree with their various characterizations, but it seems to me that our dominant society is determinedly incapable of really

hearing, understanding and acting swiftly, broadly and generously upon the elements of native grievances and complaints that are demonstrably true.

I have also heard some remarkable non-native expressions of sympathy, understanding and solidarity, but much more frequently and consistently, and sometimes from surprising sources, I have heard strong skepticism, rejection, dismissal, hostility and mean-spiritedness, and ongoing insistence on policies of assimilation, extinguishment and renewed coercion.

I have lived through numerous aboriginal blockades and occupations, and have even come to represent some of their players and victims as legal counsel.

Canada, it now seems to me, is a colonial country that is still insistently in the very depths of its colonial experience. It is not meaningfully discussing or commencing its long-overdue decolonization any more readily. Rather, it is still engaged in ignoring, perpetuating and entrenching, or even denying it.

Wilson, Dussault and their fellow RCAP commissioners reported a decade ago that “We have before us an agenda of decolonizing the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada — an agenda that the experience in other societies demonstrates is not an easy road to follow.”

A good place to start attending to all this — remembering that colonialism is a violation of human rights that harms and stunts present and future generations — might be to discuss and clarify the terminology we all use, and to start taking to heart some of the many clarion commission reports and court judgments from recent decades that warn that the path we are on is fundamentally wrong.