Large Gatherings Within the Territory
Statement from the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council

The Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council have received reports of a number of large gatherings that took place last night and unequivocally condemn these actions.

One of the gatherings is a key focus for the community today and we would like to state that any large gathering further endangers the lives of our residents and community and creates unnecessary risk for our frontline workers. These gatherings demonstrate a complete disregard for the procedures and directives put in place by the Emergency Control Group to keep our community safe and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Given the serious nature of one of these questionable gatherings, Councillor Nathan Wright, will be speaking on behalf of the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council on this matter only, to avoid any conflict of interest. If you have any further questions on the Elected Council’s response to these large gatherings, please call Councillor Wright at (519) 761-7058 or by email at nathanwright@sixnations.ca. Any directives from the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council in regards to police conduct or enforcement will come from Elected Chief Mark B. Hill or his designate.

Based on the unfortunate incidents of April 18, 2020, the Elected Council will work with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council of Chiefs and the security checkpoint management to further investigate and make recommendations to keep our community safe.

Based on the Six Nations Police service press release on April 15, 2020; the Six Nations Police state they are:

“Committed to working with other community First Responders, the Emergency Control Group, Medical and Social Services and our Community Governing Bodies to keep all members of our community safe.

The current state of emergency in Ontario has been extended to May 12, 2020. Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act (EMCPA) organized Public Events and Social Gatherings of more than “5” people are prohibited. Punishment for offences under the EMCPA, range from one year imprisonment or fines up to One Hundred Thousand dollars ($100,000.00).

To date – our community’s response to the current crisis has been excellent. The Six Nations Police Service will work closely with our Community Partners to provide education, awareness and encourage compliance for the purpose of keeping everyone in our community safe from COVID-19. Laying charges would be our last resort.”
To date, full Council has not received communication from the Six Nations Police on approving the use of the Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act, how it will apply, or how they will address large gatherings like the ones that occurred over the weekend in a fair, accountable and transparent manner. These discussions will take place to mitigate risks on all levels and put measures into place that will assist in the prevention of COVID-19 transmission within our borders.

In closing, we remind everyone residing in Six Nations of the Grand River community that COVID-19 is a deadly virus and we must take every measure to continue social distancing; stay in our own homes and reach out to family and friends through social media, phone calls and other online platform measures. We are doing well but the situation with COVID-19 is not over and we must keep our diligence for the protection of everyone.

Public Health Officials are reminding everyone in our community to:

- Take every measure to stay at home, especially if you feel ill;
- Practice physical distancing if you must go out in public, including wearing a mask;
- Keep your bodies and surroundings clean and disinfected, especially your hands by washing them often and for at least 20 seconds;
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve, elbow or tissue; throw the tissue in a lined waste paper basket and wash your hands.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms that include a new or worse cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, nasal congestion or a hoarse voice and report any signs immediately to the Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909

**Six Nations COVID-19 Information and Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909.**

Those requiring urgent medical attention should call 911.

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Media: Please direct them to: Communications Officer at clickers@sixnations.ca