



## **SNGREC Political Update Aug 11, 2023**

### **SNGREC hears Cannabis Commission quarterly report**

During the July 24 SNGREC Political Liaison Meeting, council heard from Six Nations Cannabis Commission (SNCC) Chief commissioner Kathy Mair, who presented her quarterly report.

During the report, she spoke about several topics, from using social media to educate and guide customers and the public, to teaming up with local partners for employee training. In her report, Mair said that they are hoping to team up with Grand River Employment and Training when it comes to job training.

Mair also spoke about where money is being used in a positive way for the SNGR community, supporting housing, language, culture, food banks and education.

But the big topic for discussion was trying to find a way for the local cannabis business to thrive despite having to deal exclusively with cash because the banks won't allow the SNCC or any other cannabis retailer or producer who operate on First Nations land to have an account.

"When we talk about cannabis or economic development we're losing out without a bank," Coun. Helen Miller said.

SNGREC Chief Mark B. Hill said that they are doing what they can to advocate for change. He and the rest of council have spoke on several occasions about the need for a bank to help alleviate these challenges.

"This is an ongoing solution to have our own bank. It's not happening as quickly as we would like. We knew it wouldn't happen overnight," Chief Hill said. "But we are working hard to get the ball going on this. We are asking the right questions and advocating for our community."

### **SNGREC wants to take a stand on development in Brantford**

When it comes to the fast and large developments in Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council wants to keep a close eye on things.

During the July 24 SNGREC Political Liaison Meeting, the topic came up when the Consultation and Accommodation Process Team (CAP Team) provided its monthly report as information.

"We need to make a stand on all the development, especially in Brantford," Coun. Sherri-Lynn Hill said. "There is so much money being made on our land."

One thought from Coun. Helen Miller was to try and stop some of the developments until the litigation case is over.

Council had a spirited and united discussion about keeping close tabs on developments, and informing the public about what is going on as far as the litigation case.

“We should let the developers know that there is a court case going on,” Coun. Greg Frazer said.

Chief Mark B. Hill said that he has spoken to Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis, and that they are aware of the court case.

### **Coun. Miller appointed to ETWG board**

Coun. Helen Miller volunteered to be the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) representative on the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Employment Table Working Group (ETWG).

“This is right up my alley,” Coun. Miller said.

Before she retired, Coun. Miller worked in employment and training. As a result, Coun. Miller can draw on her lived experience to contribute solutions and recommendations.

Coun. Miller was unanimously voted in as the representative.

The ETWG was formed as a result of a series of resolutions passed at the Chiefs in Assembly and on the demand of First Nations that the Employment Transformation Services, Social Service Managers (SSMs) shall not have employment service delivery or deliver management responsibility on reserve, and will further commit to expanding this exclusion to the ODSP.

The Chiefs of Ontario strongly urge Political Territorial Organizations and Independent First Nations that have not nominated a political representatives to the ETWG.

### **New Cannabis Commissioner appointed**

Jami-Lee Baxter will be the new Commissioner for the Six Nations Cannabis Commission (SNCC).

During the August 8, 2023 SNGREC General Council Meeting, council was asked to accept the recommendation of Baxter as the SNCC Commissioner.

SNGREC unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and Baxter would begin her role immediately.

Baxter has worked in the Six Nations Community for numerous years, and has a good networking relationship with many agencies in the community, and is passionate about keeping our community safe with regulated cannabis products.

She has had a number of roles at Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services since 2008. Her latest position with the organization was the Gaodwiya: Noh Supervisor.



### **Chief Hill, Coun. Frazer meet with Jagmeet Singh**

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) Chief Mark B. Hill and Coun. Greg Frazer travelled to Toronto Friday to meet with New Democrat Party Federal leader Jagmeet Singh.