



## SNGREC Political Update for July 7, 2023

For some time, the Elected Council has wanted to provide a newsletter that shares the *political advocacy* work that we are engaged in. The plans, policies and regulations of other governments, businesses and organizations often conflict with and constraint our inherent and sovereign rights as Onkwehon:we people. Keeping up with and challenging new and changing legislation is an important part of the Elected Council's work.

Political advocacy is essential to ensure that our community members have continued and increased access to health care, affordable housing options, education and employment opportunities, safe roads as well as a safe community; to name just a few. We are making great efforts to enhance our external political advocacy efforts and to report on that work through a variety of means. We provide updates at the Political Liaison and General Council meetings; on social media, and now in this political newsletter.

The Elected Council also supports *community advocacy* to safeguard that you have continued access to quality programs and services within our community from our local service providers. Our Government, Governing Body, SNGR Council and Administration had delivered about 87,000 services to our people in the last fiscal year.

On behalf of the Elected Council I would like to say Nia:wen for your support. Together we can accomplish great things for our community.

- Elected Chief Mark B. Hill



## A Call to the Federal Government to fund the building of Kawenni:io/Gaweni:yo Private School (KGPS)

On Friday June 23, Brantford-Brant MP Larry Brock joined Chief Mark B. Hill and members of Kawenni:io/Gaweni:yo Private School (KGPS) as a sign of solidarity to call for funding from the Federal Government to build the Cayuga and Mohawk language immersion school.



“This school is a very important piece to preserve our present and future. Our language school needs to be a priority. We have fundraised and done our share,” Chief Hill said. “It is time for the Federal Government to do their part. We’re calling on Canada to write the cheque once and for all.”

KPGS recently received accreditation for its secondary school students. The private language immersion school has operated from the second floor of the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena for over a decade. It is the only school in Canada that offers Cayuga and Mohawk languages from kindergarten through Grade 12.

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) donated a piece of land on Tuscarora Road several years ago for the new school build. The cost of constructing the building was an estimated \$7 million in 2009. Because of the increase in costs and pricings the build is now estimated at \$32 million today. About \$3 million has been gathered through fundraising.

CHCH <https://www.chch.com/six-nations-calls-for-more-funding-for-language-immersion-school/>

Brantford Expositor <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/mp-demands-liberal-government-provide-funding-for-six-nations-language-school>



## Happy Indigenous Solidarity Day

On June 21, Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR) celebrated Indigenous Solidarity Day. Every year on June 21 every, Indigenous Solidarity Day, also called National Indigenous Peoples Day, is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about our rich heritage, our traditions, and our culture.



This is also a day we encourage our friends and neighbours to take the day to learn more about Indigenous peoples, our communities, our ways of life and our accomplishments.

On Indigenous Solidarity Day, SNGR celebrated with a number of activities. There were great musical performances, vendors, rides, games and of course the wonderful food shared thanks to Strodes BBQ & Deli, at the Community Hall and Six Nations Parks & Recreation grounds.

“What a great day,” Coun. Helen Miller said during an interview with CHCH News. “Today is a perfect day to celebrate with friends and family. It’s about gathering and sharing together.”

Chief Mark B. Hill said the day is a fantastic time for our community to gather and celebrate our culture and heritage.

“It is also an excellent opportunity to showcase our community and educate our neighbours,” Chief Hill said.

## Supreme Court of Ontario hands down litigation decision

On June 14, was the Superior Court of Justice handed down its conclusion on the litigation hearings by Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR), the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI), the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), and Men’s Fire of the Six Nations Grand River Territory (Men’s Fire).



The Six Nations of the Grand River Band of Indians is suing the governments of Canada and Ontario in a court case that started in 1995. Under the 1784 Haldimand Proclamation, which it considers a treaty, the Crown set aside about 950,000 acres of lands along the Grand River in Ontario which the Six Nations of the Grand River and their descendants were to enjoy. The Band is asking the court to make findings to the effect and seeking compensation from the government of Canada and Ontario for these historical wrongs.

After 1784, the Crown, and later the governments of Canada and Ontario, failed to set aside these lands, improperly sold most of them to settlers, and mismanaged the proceeds of sales from them. The Band is asking the court to make findings to this effect and seeking compensation from the governments of Canada and Ontario for these wrongs.

HDI, MCFN and Men's Fire also asked the court for permission to take part in the case. The parties were all heard in court May 8, 9, 10, and 12.

The Supreme Court of Ontario concluded that HDI and Men's Fire's motion was dismissed, while MCFN was granted.

"We are pleased with the court's decision not to include HDI in these proceedings," Chief Mark B. Hill said. "Though we are disappointed in the court's decision to include MCFN, we are pleased to know that their involvement is limited, that and all parties are being held to strict guardrails to keep the case moving towards its scheduled trial date."

## SNGR rallies around Brandon Montour during Stanley Cup

The community truly showed its spirit during the Stanley Cup finals, as they cheered on Brandon Montour and the Florida Panthers.

Although Montour and his Panthers teammates did not win the Stanley Cup, the community couldn't be prouder. And that great community spirit was shown during the viewing parties hosted by Six Nations of the Grand River.

"We are so proud of everything Brandon has accomplished," Chief Mark B. Hill said. "He is a fantastic individual on and off the ice. He represents Six Nations of the Grand River with pride. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to gather and support one of our own, as he pursues the most prestigious prize in all of hockey."



The viewing parties were a huge success. The community gathered, watched some amazing hockey and were treated to food and refreshments. SNGR were also selling cardboard Montour jerseys to put on community member's lawn. It was Brandon's wishes that all proceeds from the sale of these items go towards Six Nations youth sports.

"This is fantastic," Coun. Greg Frazer said. "It's great to see the community gather like this. People are really showing their spirit."

SNGR would like to congratulate to Vegas Golden Knights' Zach Whitecloud (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation) on winning the Stanley Cup. We are very happy that you will be able to bring the Cup back to your community.

CTV Kitchener <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/six-nations-hosting-stanley-cup-viewing-parties-for-brandon-montour-fans-1.6425403>

CityTV News <https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2023/06/03/six-nations-celebrates-hometown-hockey-hero/>

