



## SNGREC Political Update – January 18, 2024

### **No:yah Happy New Year!**

Welcome back.

This organization, and the work we do, would not exist without you and we want to thank you. Let's have a great 2024!

### **Linda Parker named new Chief of Staff**

As the new year began, Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill's office announced the hiring of Linda Parker as the new Chief of Staff.

Parker was born and raised at Six Nations, is Mohawk, Bear clan, and a familiar face to many in the community. With a background in strategic planning and a master's degree in public administration, Parker brings a wealth of experience in governance, education, environment, and information systems to her new role.

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill expressed enthusiasm about having Linda on board.

### **SNGREC doing its part to improve border mobility**

During Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGREC) Political Liaison and General Council meetings, Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill addressed border mobility issues for community members, focusing on facilitating smoother crossings between the US and Canada.

Chief Sherri-Lyn mentioned that several community members have conveyed that the Peace Bridge is currently exclusively accepting visas as a valid form of payment.

The Chief's office is working on getting a meeting with representatives at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to discuss improving border mobility for our people.

### **Chief Hill meets with Haldimand and Norfolk Mayors about water**

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill alongside Mayors Shelley Ann Bentley of Haldimand and Amy Martin of Norfolk Counties, discussed the pressing need for the water infrastructure project.

The objective of this project is to address the infrastructure gap in the community, as approximately 8,600 people on reserve continue to face water insecurity.

The leaders will continue to explore advocating for the project, engaging the public, and rallying support to overcome provincial resistance.

Chief Hill said it was a preliminary talk, with many more discussions to come.

### **Promoting healthcare at Six Nations**

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill and her office has scheduled a crucial meeting with Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones to discuss strategies for bringing healthcare closer to home, starting with a focus on improving medical and diagnostics imaging services.

One essential agenda item for this meeting is to ensure that the Minister of Health grasps the needs of the community in the delivery of health and wellness programs and services.

As we engage in discussions with provincial authorities, we will keep the community informed of our progress and key developments.

### **Update Regarding the Drinking Water Class Action Lawsuit**

The Canadian government has settled a class action lawsuit related to the lack of clean and safe drinking water on First Nations' lands.

Despite Six Nations not being eligible because it is not an "Impacted First Nation" as per the settlement agreement, members can make their own decision to apply.

For more information on applying for an Individual Claims please see the following link:

[Making a Claim - First Nations Drinking Water %](#)

If you belong to a First Nation, lived on the lands of an Impacted First Nation for at least one year during the eligibility period when a drinking water advisory was in place, and did not pass away before November 20, 2017, you are eligible to apply for compensation by joining the class action. Applications are due on March 7, 2024.

SNGR leadership continues to explore options to address the community's drinking water needs and the associated harms.