



## POLITICAL UPDATE: MAY 29, 2024

### **Lieutenant Governor visits SNGR**

On Friday May 24, Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council and Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill had the opportunity to welcome Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Hon. Edith Dumont to the council chambers.

“Her Hon Dumont requested to visit with us because she was going to be in the area,” Chief Hill said.

“She was on an educational quest to learn more about Six Nations of

the Grand River. We answered various questions about Six Nations. She was interested about the community and didn’t want to leave.”



As a result of the brief positive meeting, the Lieutenant Governor wants to return to Six Nations.

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### **Elected Council Day at Queen’s Park**

On Wednesday May 15, the 59th Six Nations of the Grand River Elected hosted a successful reception at Queen’s Park.

The event provided an opportunity to meet with Members of Provincial Parliament, Provincial Cabinet Ministers, and leaders of the opposition. The council's goal was to build new and stronger relationships, increase awareness about Six Nations, and share messages on important matters impacting the community.

In addition, Elected Council and Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill have been invited back to the Legislature to witness a historic event, where MPP Sol Mamakwa will address the Speaker of the House in Oji-Cree during Question Period.

Also during their time in Toronto, Chief Hill and a delegation from Elected Council were recognized in the Ontario Legislature by the Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford. This event marks an important recognition of Six Nations within the provincial government.

“The goal is to create strong relationships,” Chief Hill said. “I think this time with Elected Council was a success. We had leadership on hand to address questions related to our court case and to promote the new model of care being implemented by Six Nations Health Services which is rooted in our Haudenosaunee ways of knowing and being.”

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### **Chief Hill presents letter to Premier Ford**

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council and Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill wait for a response from Premier Doug Ford after hand delivering a letter to his office.

Following the reception Six Nations of the Grand River hosted on May 15, the Chief's office confirmed a face-to-face meeting with the Premier. However, the Premier's office canceled the morning of the scheduled meeting, citing an urgent matter requiring immediate attention.

In response, Chief Hill personally visited the Premier's office to deliver a framed depiction of the Haldimand Tract, a significant symbol of their land rights, along with a letter addressing the consultation issue. The letter, which outlines the extensive efforts and engagements made by SNGR with the Province over the past three years, highlights the delays and lack of satisfactory response from the government.

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### **Elected Council meets with local politicians from Brant and Norfolk**

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill and Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) have been busy meeting with politicians and dignitaries. Over a two-day span SNGREC hosted a pair of neighbouring politicians in the council chambers.

On May 21, Chief and Council hosted Mayor Amy Martin and Councillors from Norfolk County for a meet and greet session.

Despite Norfolk County being adjacent to the Haldimand Tract, it is a neighboring jurisdiction to SNGR and is situated in the Nanfan treaty's beaver hunting lands. The county is an important ally in the Government Relations work.

Both Chief Hill and Mayor Martin emphasized the importance of collaboration on projects such as the Nanticoke water project. The councillors expressed their appreciation for relationship-building, highlighting that this gathering was the latest in the current series of meet-and-greets with nearby jurisdictions.

The next day, Chief and Elected Council hosted Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma, along with his political staff.

They thanked MPP Bouma for his assistance with the lobby day reception at Queen's Park the previous week. This meet and greet allowed for personal relationships to be formed, which are expected to be helpful as they navigate the complex political dynamics on the provincial level.

MPP Bouma expressed his continued support for Chief and Council's work to fix consultation issues.

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### **Chief Hill and members of Elected Council on hand as NDP MPP makes history with Oji-Cree speech in Ontario Legislature**

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill, and several members of Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council were at Queen's Park Tuesday to see NDP MPP Sol Mamakwa address the Ontario Legislature in Oji-Cree.

"It was moving watching that," Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill said. "When he first saw us, he hugged me. He thought his own riding was just going to be there. He thanked Six Nations for being there to support him on this day."

Chief Hill said MPP Mamakwa's mom was in attendance, and after the ceremony, Parliament sung happy birthday to her.

A recent change to the standing orders — the rules that govern proceedings at the legislature — means MPPs no longer have to ask permission to speak a First Nations language in the house.

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