

# Matrimonial Property Legislation UPDATE

April 16, 2008

# Federal Legislation

- The federal Bill C-47 is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading but waiting for C-30, Specific Claims Bill
- C-30 Committee hearings wrap up this week – another 3-4 weeks to move to Senate
- Six Nations & Iroquois Caucus presented on April 14 – opposed the C-30 Bill
- Only after C30 moves to Senate then can C-47 advance - we need to be ready to fight it

# What Six Nations is Doing

- We have formed a Matrimonial Real Property Committee of Council, involving staff experts, lawyer Lonny Bomberry & invited Confederacy
- We have had three Community Meetings and we are on Rolling Draft 3.
- We are going to move into focus groups, smaller meetings in the community, large family meetings and any clubs or associations etc.
- We are developing a Community Consultation Document to get more detail and also a survey document to get peoples thoughts.

# Expand Community Meetings

- Target a Youth Focus Group & Elder Focus Group, but we need someone in the community to host it. We would be prepared to come out to any of those groups.
- Public relations - we are calling it a communications plan, but it is essentially to target different communications outlets & different audiences.
- Our first concern is with our community and getting accurate and timely information out to the community - we want to begin doing that using the local media, the Newspapers and Local Radio and we are refining it to a bigger audience as we go along.

# Work with Other First Nations

- Part of Public Relations is what the Chief talked about in terms to our lobby, we want to go to Parliament and to inform MP's about what our position is, on what Canada is doing.
- Also, get a broader base by working with the Chiefs of Ontario - hopefully all 133 First Nations communities in Ontario will get engaged with fighting it & the AFN - hoping that all 633 First Nations across Canada will get engaged in fighting it.
- If we can get Chiefs of Ontario and AFN to invest their budgets, because they have Communications Budgets & expertise, to develop position papers or take out ads and hopefully we can make a larger impact that way.

# Oppose C-47

- While we continue to develop our own law we will oppose C-47 in Ottawa
- Met with Iroquois Caucus this week about joint lobby against it
- Planning to lobby as many MPs over 2 week period & again appear before Standing Committee
- Will also launch Court Action for failure on federal Duty to Consult