



STATEMENT

Ohsweken (May 31, 2017) – In April 2017 Six Nations Elected Council issued a release informing the community of Six Nations that the Province of Ontario has transferred the title of approximately 381 acres known as the “Burtch Land” to a federal corporation directed by the Elected Council, with no affiliation to Six Nations Development Corporation.

At this point in time, all costs associated with the transfer of the land have been incurred by the Province of Ontario. The Province has agreed to incur all taxes on the property until it has been deemed “reserve land,” at which time the land will become tax-exempt. The Province has also provided additional funding to tile the lands for proper drainage.

With the best interests of the community at heart, all acreage will remain in-trust with the corporation until it can be officially added to Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in accordance with the Federal Government’s Additions to Reserve Policy.

Recently the Elected Council was forced to issue a Notice to Vacate to a community member who had begun farming the land without permission.

On Tuesday, May 23 the Elected Council met with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy at the Six Nations Tourism building to discuss the current use of the lands. Prior to the meeting the Elected Council offered a spot to the Confederacy on the Board of the corporation currently holding the lands in-trust. To date a response has not been received.

Unable to come to a resolution Six Nations Elected Council will be proceeding with further legal action against the community member, obtaining an injunction, laying charges for damages incurred and seeking legal costs.

The Elected Council will also be engaging the community of Six Nations for input on the future use of the Burtch lands.

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For more information on Six Nations Lands and Resources, visit: www.sixnations.ca/LandsResources/

Six Nations of the Grand River is the most populated First Nation in Canada, with more than 26,000 members. Located in Southwestern Ontario, between Brantford, Caledonia, and Hagersville, it is the only First Nation in North America wherein all six Haudenosaunee Nations – Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga and Tuscarora – live together. Six Nations Elected Council is committed to building a strong, prosperous and healthy community through key investments in community priorities, including infrastructure, education, health, culture and land rights. Follow Six Nations Elected Council on Facebook or Twitter @SixNationsEC