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## **Statement on Lateral Violence and Bullying at Community Meetings**

It has recently come to our attention that public meetings set up to inform the community about the impacts of legislation imposed by the federal government are being unnecessarily disrupted through verbal attacks, shaming which are all forms of lateral violence. It is our position that lateral violence and bullying have no place in our public affairs and if they continue, we will have no choice but to look to other avenues to seek input from the community on these important matters.

We offer these public forums/information sessions so that community members can attend and receive relevant information and ask questions. We all have the right to know and understand about initiatives the Six Nation Elected Council is undertaking to safeguard the community against the imposition of Canadian Legislation and other threats. These meetings/forums are important to those in attendance especially to those who have made prior preparations on their own accord with the expectation of having a meaningful dialogue. We are asking everyone to be respectful and courteous of people's time and energies as every man, woman and child of Six Nations of the Grand River deserves respect and dignity.

We are calling on the community to help us in beginning the process by attending these meetings with a good mind, listening to the differing viewpoints and being respectful of everyone's time. We all have a right to be there, speak our minds and ask important questions. It is only through respectful dialogue that we will find collective solutions to build the foundation of a stronger Six Nations' position on the issues that impact each and everyone of our lives.

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Contact:  
Nathan Wright, Director of Policy & Communications  
519.445.2201