



June 7, 2019
Update – Summary of Events

On Monday May 27, 2019, a group of protestors barricaded the entrances to the Six Nations Elected Council Administration Building. When initially speaking with the protestors the understanding was that the demonstration was in response to the “National Day of Action”, a Canadian wide response to the proposed suite of federal legislation. On the second day of the building being blocked, it was revealed that the protest was in response to various different issues and concerns within the community.

Throughout Monday and Tuesday, several councilors attended the protest site to speak with protestors to understand what the issues were and to attempt to find a solution that would allow the staff to enter the building.

On May 28, 2019, SNEC requested a meeting with the HCCC to discuss moving forward on community issues. The two councils met at the Sour Springs longhouse on May 30. It was acknowledged that unity was needed in order for the community to move forward in a healthy way. At this meeting, spokespeople from the protest were asked to deliver a message to the site to take down the barricades to allow the employees to return to work. All community members rely on the services provided by the SNEC staff, and it is essential for the well-being of the community that these services are allowed to function. The barricades did not come down.

On Tuesday June 4, SNEC and the HCCC met to discuss two proposed actions from the last meeting; a joint community meeting and a community farming initiative at Burtch lands. Both SNEC and HCCC agreed to both proposed actions. Moving forward, the HCCC would like to begin discussing the Burtch lands and the Eight Points of Jurisdiction. Both councils agreed to establish a working group to create a Memorandum of Understanding on a path forward.

A message was delivered on behalf of the protestors that the protest will remain until:

- 1) *SNEC signs a letter stating that the HCCC is the governing body of Six Nations.*
- 2) *Set a date for the joint community meeting with HCCC and SNEC.*
- 3) *Establish a meeting process to keep people in the loop with how things are moving forward.*

SNEC has made it clear that the decision to recognize the HCCC as the governing body needs to be made by the community as a whole, with a clear transition plan to minimize any impact on community services and agreements. This is a conversation and decision that needs to be made by the community as a whole, not up to sitting council.



This is not the first incident that the Administration building has been blocked. In 1969, the Confederacy Chiefs and their supporters took control of the old Council Building. The Elected Council of the day brought an injunction proceeding in the Supreme Court of Ontario at Brantford restraining them from occupying the Council House. The legal counsel for the Confederacy Chiefs argued that the Elected Council did not have a right to possess the building because the Indian Act did not apply on Six Nations Reserve, due to the fact that the Haldimand Tract was a free and clear granting of the lands. The result led to the Isaac vs Davey case ruling within the Supreme Court of Canada, which identified that the Elected Council did have a right and the injunction was applicable. If you would like to read a summary or the full record of decision please visit the SNEC website at www.sixnations.ca or contact the number below for a printed copy.

SNEC has been meeting regularly to ensure the safety and peacefulness within the community. We are proceeding with the mind that any action taken is done so with the safety of all community members in mind, and will not enflame the situation. The operations of the central administration staff are resuming but staff have been relocated to other buildings. All calls and requests can still be directed through 519-445-2201.

We will provide daily updates until the issue is resolved. Please be sure to watch for these updates on our website and on SNEC Social Media. For more information please call (519) 717-5662 or info@sixnations.ca.

There are resources available to help you. Please reach out Six Nations Mental Health and Addictions Services (519-445-2143), Six Nations Crisis Line (519-445-2204 or 866-445-2204) or your Employee and Family Assistance Program (1-844-880-9142).