



SNGREC Political Update July 17, 2023

SNGREC lends Six Nations Fall Fair a helping hand

The Six Nations Fall Fair is getting a huge hand from Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC).

During the July 17 SNGREC General Finance Meeting, the agricultural society was asking for support for its annual fall fair. The committee was asking for \$69,000 to help offset the costs of the event, which includes prize money and various forms of entertainment.

The main piece presented to SNGREC was that the agricultural society wants to make the fall fair a self-sustainable event so they don't have to ask for money every year. They also want to bring the event back to its former glory.

After a healthy discussion, SNGREC unanimously voted in favour of the economic boost to the fair and rounded that number up to \$70,000.

“The fall fair is an important part of the fabric to our community,” Mark B hill said. “It takes a community to put on a fair. It's a continuation of wellness in our community. We need to continue those good things. I think it's important to support the fair.”

Coun. Helen Miller agreed and encouraged SNGREC to be part of the volunteer force during the fair.

Ontario consultations directives

The recent Superior Court of Justice decision against HDI's intervention motion will provide significant ammunition in our attempt to get the Ontario and Canadian governments to comply with Six Nations of the Grand River's consultations policy. We also recently received information on some of the internal aspects of this issue on the Ontario side that will help us to continue our efforts. The Premier's Office had told us they would be providing us with a copy of the long-rumoured legal advice they had received that contradicted what we have been asking them to change with respect to consultation directives. They never did come through however, and we have since learned a little more that sheds light on why that may be.

It seems that there are two documents floating around internally in the provincial government, one internal and one external. The internal one is a *draft* memo from an official in the AG's



department that was never finalized, signed off on by senior officials, or formally submitted to the government for unknown reasons. Apparently, someone decided in spite of that to make use of it in internal conversations to try to dissuade the government from following through on their proposed fix.

The external one is a legal note from Oslers that mostly answers the question of would there be any risk to changing the consultation directives. Oslers responded with a note saying there would be some risk, as there always is, but apparently neglected to fully address the underlying legal matter. It has also been confirmed that the City of Brantford has now provided the government with a note from Faskens that more tightly argues the main legal issue and asserts that the government not only can change the directives but is legally obliged to.

Six Nations has a significant opportunity here to help push the government over the line with a legal note of our own. Those in cabinet arguing on our behalf would be greatly helped if they had a couple stronger legal opinions they could wave back. Chief's office will continue working with our lawyers to craft materials useful in this effort, and we continue to receive indications from Queen's Park that things are moving in the right direction, albeit slowly.

Local athletes set for North American Indigenous Games

Beginning July 15, Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR) will be very-well represented at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

A large contingent of local athletes, coaches and volunteers will take part in the 10th annual NAIG in a variety of the 16 sports within 21 venues across Kijipuktuk (Halifax), Dartmouth, Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik. The event is from July 15 to 23.

SNGR is very proud to help support our young athletes, volunteers and coaches. This journey is more than just about winning medals. It is about participation, camaraderie, sportsmanship, connection, and so many life experiences.

NAIG 2023 will bring together more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and team staff from over 756 Indigenous Nations celebrating, sharing and reconnecting through sport and culture with the help of 3,000 volunteers.

"We can't say enough about how proud we are of our local athletes." said Chief Mark B. Hill. "To have this many participants in one of the largest Indigenous athletic events in the world says a lot about our community. It says a lot about how active our youth are. It shows how involved



our community members are. And it also shows how much pride we have here on Six Nations of the Grand River. Good luck, and most of all, enjoy the experience.”

Hamilton notice to sign agreement with Detlor

The City of Hamilton has now signed an archeological monitoring agreement with HDI, which is intended to compensate them in the amount of \$50,000. This is all the more reason why a provincial resolution is urgently needed that would impede the ability of municipalities to unilaterally cave to HDI’s demands. Hamilton has said they will be amending agreements with SNGR to increase the amount reimbursed to our officials to match or exceed that given to HDI. We have made it known to Hamilton that this is not an acceptable approach, given it violates requests made by Chief Hill, Councillors, and SNGR officials to Mayor Horwath and City Council.