



# SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER 59th ELECTED CHIEF & COUNCIL

## Political Updates Newsletter • A Year in Review

### IN THIS EDITION:

#### Chief's Political Progress Report

- Priority: Community Health and Wellness
- Priority: Increase Financial Resources
- Priority: Accountability to Community
- Priority: Community Safety and Transportation,
- & MORE!

#### Updates from Elected Council

- Alaina VanEvery
- Amos Key Jr.
- Dean Hill
- Hazel Johnson
- Helen Miller
- Various Elected Council Committee Updates
- & MORE!

#### Administration Updates

- SNHS Rebrands to the Department of Well-Being
- Department of Well-Being Establishes New Integrated Care Model
- & MORE!



Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill hands out flowers to community members in acknowledgment of Random Acts of Kindness Day.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 59th ELECTED CHIEF

I am pleased to share the inaugural political newsletter of the 59th Elected Council with the Six Nations community. This issue summarizes some of the goals, undertakings, progress and achievements for the first 11 months of our four-year term.

The year has gone by so fast. Personally, I am honoured to have worked with so many people to advance issues and resolve matters that directly benefit members of Six Nations of the Grand River.

I hope you appreciate the hard work that members of the 59th Elected Council undertake to serve our community.

Nia:wen, stay safe, be well, and continue to be kind.

Elected Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill

**PRIORITY:**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

*"Being there for our loves ones"*

## CHIEF'S GOALS:

- INCREASE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS
- EXPAND SERVICES
- REDUCE RED TAPE
- ENSURE FACILITIES MEET COMMUNITY NEED

## WORK BEING DONE:

This past year, Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill has actively supported and advocated for new on-reserve facilities and services to support:

- Youth Wellness and programming
- Palliative / End of Life Care
- Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment
- Diagnostic Imaging
- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

Work supported by Members of Council and the newly established Mental Health & Well-Being Committee.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

**CHIEF HILL HAS BUILT A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS.**

His commitment and desire to assist Six Nations is appreciated. Red Tape reduction – Chief's advocacy efforts have contributed to the introduction of a single, consolidated funding agreement with the Ministry of Health for all Six Nations programming for fiscal 2025-2026.





On June 13, Elected Chief & Council address staff and dignitaries at the Chiefs of Ontario Annual Chiefs Assembly.

**PRIORITY:**

**INCREASE FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

*“Building financial independence to govern on our own terms”*

**CHIEF’S GOALS:**

- RECOVER EXCISE/FUEL/CARBON TAX REVENUES FROM THE GOVERNMENT
- SUPPORT INCREASED “OWN SOURCE” REVENUES

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Increased awareness of Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council’s consultation and accommodation process with many provincial Minister’s and opposition leaders.

Earned the support of the Chiefs of Ontario at the June 2024 Annual General Assembly (resolution 24/06A) which seeks to restore tax exemption for First Nation lands and property located within municipal boundaries.

**WORK BEING DONE:**

- Steps Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill actioned and/or undertook include:
- Commenced meetings with Six Nations business leaders to understand the impact of taxation on local business
  - Raised objections to taxation through meetings with several Members of Parliament and arranged to appear before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs House of Commons committee to testify against the government taxing our community (August 2024 appearance is being rescheduled)

Worked with the Consultation and Accommodation Policy (CAP) team to strengthen Six Nations’ consultation and accommodation processes.



## PRIORITY:

# COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION

*"Actively listening to make our community safer and more accessible"*

### CHIEF'S GOALS:

- CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS
- ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED SAFETY MEASURES
- IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

**A 'PILOT' BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO BRANTFORD (AND BACK TO COMMUNITY) IS IN THE PLANNING STAGES.**

Stay tuned for more information on how Elected Council is looking at ways to make our community safer.

### WORK BEING DONE:

A Year in Review:

- Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill continues to meet with, and support, community members to address concerns as best she can.
- Chief was extremely busy in-community. Chief met with more than 25 community members/groups to discuss issues and participated in nearly 60 community events!
- She also held multiple meetings with Metrolinx and advocated with the Ministry of Transportation for a permanent bus route.
- Keeping the community safe would not be possible without the dedication and close relationship with the Six Nations Police. Nia:wen for working with us to keep the community safe!

### NIA:WEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR VOICING YOUR CONCERNS!

*"I wish to thank everyone for reaching out to me and sharing your passion for our community and to bring to my attention areas in which we can better serve." – Chief Hill*



**PRIORITY:**

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITY

*"Improving our effectiveness by enhancing transparency"*

### CHIEF'S GOALS:

- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- DEVELOP SYSTEMS & PROCESSES TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING
- KEEP COMMUNITY INFORMED

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

Under the leadership of Chief Sherrilyn Hill, the 59th Elected Council implemented a new committee structure. An assessment to determine the effectiveness of the structure is underway; results will be shared in the coming months.

A preliminary assessment tool was also developed to help support decision making and financial requests from community.

Creation of a new political newsletter which enables Chief and Council to share formal updates with the community.

### WORK BEING DONE:

Work led by the Chief with support from Council and administration:

- Completed extensive governance training and orientation to better understand the needs of community and the machinery of government
- Developed assessment tools to help prioritize community needs, financial requests, and evaluate the effectiveness of Council
- Created processes and templates to support knowledge mobilization and transfer; commenced a weekly radio show

The Chief worked with SNGR's Communications team to redesign a political newsletter to distribute to community members.



**PRIORITY:**

**PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

*"Sustaining gifts from the Creator and Mother Earth"*

**CHIEF'S GOALS:**

- STOP ILLEGAL SOIL DUMPING
- PROTECT SIX NATIONS INTERESTS



**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT:**

**ONTARIO OFFICIALS NOW UNDERSTAND THE NATURE AND MAGNITUDE OF ILLEGAL DUMPING AT SIX NATIONS.**

MECP is working, collaboratively with Chief and Six Nations, to stop illegal soil dumping.

**WORK BEING DONE:**

Work actioned this past year:

- Ongoing collaboration with Six Nations Police about enforcement needs to protect the Territory from environmental offences
- Advocacy: held meetings with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding regulation changes that are negatively impacting Six Nations
- Outreach to local politicians and the Solicitor General to seek commitments to help with enforcement measures
- Keep The Glebe Lands protected

This work is supported by 2 council committees and the SNGR Consultation and Accommodation team.



## PRIORITY:

# BUILD ALLIES AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

*"We are stronger in numbers"*

## CHIEF'S GOALS:

- BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS
- INCREASE AWARENESS OF SIX NATIONS & OUR SHARED HISTORY



## ACHIEVEMENTS:

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill is creating heightened awareness of Six Nations issues and is creating support for collaborative work with and among First Nation leadership, neighbouring communities, and other willing partners to advance common issues and needs.

## WORK BEING DONE:

- Facilitated a lobby day at Queen's Park; 18 Provincial Cabinet Ministers and with 45 Member's of Provincial Parliament they stopped by to learn about Six Nations, our Haudenosaunee Health Model and the Haldimand Tract litigation
- In addition, Chief met with 5 Mayors, 9 Members of parliament and provincial parliament, 2 provincial opposition leaders, and 2 federal Ministers to advance Six Nations issues
- Organized meet & greets for the 59th Elected Council to meet with the City of Brantford and Norfolk County
- Participation in Iroquois Caucus, Chiefs of Ontario leadership meetings and the Assembly of First Nations to advocate for our collective rights and issues

This work is supported by the Unity Building and External Government Relations committee of council.



## PRIORITY:

# UPHOLD MEMBERS' BORDER CROSSING RIGHTS

*"Making sure you can return to Canada without hassles"*

### CHIEF'S GOALS:

- RESPOND TO COMMUNITY MEMBER CONCERNS ABOUT BORDER ISSUES
- ADVOCATE FOR OUR BORDER CROSSING RIGHTS

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT:

#### **CHIEF GETS GUARANTEE FROM CBSA THAT CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED AT BORDER**

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill learned that community members were having trouble entering Canada as payment options were changed to "card only options". Chief met with officials from the Canada Border Services Agency who have provided assurances that cash will continue to be accepted at the border.

### WORK BEING DONE:

- Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill has found interim solutions for community members who experienced difficulties crossing the Canada/USA border
- Chief is participating in Jay Treaty Border Alliance meetings to promote SNGR members' rights to cross the border without impediment or harassment
- The Chief has written to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to oppose a DHS proposal that could see our members that live in the USA for extended periods being recognized as 'aliens, immigrants or foreign entrants'.

This work is supported by the Lands and Membership committee.





**PRIORITY:**

## ADVOCATE FOR OUR COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

*"The Status Quo is unacceptable"*

### CHIEF'S GOALS:

- OPPOSE FALSE CLAIMS (LAND, IDENTITY)
- ADVOCATE FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT:

On a world stage at the International Water Association World Congress, and before the Indigenous and Northern Affairs, **CHIEF CHALLENGES STANDING COMMITTEE ON BILL C-61** (it's an Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, waste-water, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands) that: 'access to safe, clean drinking water is a human right'.

### WORK BEING DONE:

A Year at a Glance:

- The Chief has worked hard to oppose the federal legislation Bill C-53 as well as the Métis Nation of Ontario framework agreements that it would entrench. Her work included requesting Ontario announce a formal review of the 2017 findings of "new historic" Metis communities and to rescind the decision; informing two Métis groups that they do not have any claim to lands within the Haldimand Tract and participating in forums that oppose Bill C-53
- Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill makes it clear that 'access to safe, clean drinking water is a human right'
- Strong leadership and advocacy to uphold the Crown's duty to fully and properly consult with Six Nations



**PRIORITY:**

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY**

*"We have different needs, but we are one people"*

**CHIEF'S GOALS:**

- BEING ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY
- SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS AND SENIORS
- SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT:**

While Chief's schedule often takes her away from the community, Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill continues to put community first. She is a visible, approachable leader and helper in our community.



**WORK BEING DONE:**

Work undertaken:

- Chief has attended all major community events. From Awards Banquets to Bread and Cheese; Community breakfasts to Tim Horton's Camp Day dunk tank; the Tom Longboat Walk to the Stanley Cup Celebration; and paddling in the Two-Row on the Grand.
- Chief has provided welcome and opening remarks at 'grand openings', groundbreaking events, celebrations, funding announcements, and sporting events
- Chief continues to advocate for increased mental health supports, youth programming, and services for seniors
- Advocating for and with community organizations in their pursuit of needed or increased funding
- Facilitated a volunteer appreciation lunch for those that worked so very hard to make hosting of the Chiefs of Ontario and Stanley Cup celebration events so incredibly successful



## PRIORITY:

# CRISIS MANAGEMENT

*"Responding to emerging needs"*

### CHIEF'S GOALS:

- SUPPORT COMMUNITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS
- ADVOCATE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OUTCOMES:

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill, through regular communications with community agencies and leadership, has gained a deeper understanding of the resources needed in community and targeted advocacy efforts needed at the provincial and federal levels.

### WORK BEING DONE:

Steps Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill undertook include:

- Regular communication with community agencies and the leadership at Six Nations of the Grand River to understand the depth of crisis situations
- Close collaboration with the Interim Chief Executive Officer to enhance communication and facilitate information sharing
- Participation on two Incident Management System response teams tasked with keeping community safe
- Advocacy for emergency shelter and affordable homes at Six Nations of the Grand River
- Working with leadership to re-establish in-community medical services and advocacy for a new health centre (due to the closure of Gané Yohs)





## UPDATE: 59TH ELECTED CHIEF SHERRI-LYN HILL

She:kon community members! It's been a full year since you elected us at the 59th Chief and Council of our Six Nations community. As your Chief and Council, we work hard to serve our community, promote the interests of Six Nations, and meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

We got down to work right away, building the structure and processes that will let us operate in the best way possible, effectively and efficiently. Communicating clearly and regularly with you is part of that work, and so we are pleased to present our new political newsletter, featuring a year-in-review political progress report.

I am honoured to have worked on so many files to benefit this community I love, and we have achievements and progress to show for it too! I am proud to have built supports for mental health, which is so close to my heart. I have spoken out against the Government's aggressive taxation. I have met with cabinet ministers to put in place better protections for the environment. And there is so much more, as you'll see.

New furniture was secured for our seniors at 37 Sunrise Court and recently, and we hosted a luncheon on National Seniors Day where those in attendance received free groceries. I am working on expanding initiatives for seniors; watch for more updates in our next report.

In this issue you'll find photos and reports on Council activities as well as my own work as Chief. All of this is about building up our people as a nation, establishing our sovereign self-governance, and empowering our self-reliance. This update, along with all of our work, is for you!



*To raise funds for this year's Tim Hortons Camp Day, Councillor Greg Frazer prepares to dunk fellow Councillor, Alaina VanEvery.*



## COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

### Alaina VanEvery

Shé:kon Six Nations community members, both near and far. My name is Alaina VanEvery, and I am honored to be one of your newly Elected Council members, serving a four-year term on the 59th Elected Council. **Kanien'kehá:ka niwakonhwentsiö:ten, okwáho niwa-ki'tarò:ten.**

This first year has been incredibly busy, informative, and rewarding. We began with an intensive orientation schedule that included presentations from various departments and interactive training on topics ranging from governance to trauma-informed approaches — something that had not been done before. With new voices in the process, council members and the senior administration team continued to build on the restructuring initiated by the 58th Elected Council. This restructuring has evolved into the current model of seven working committees, each with its own mandate to maximize resources, efficiently address community needs, and streamline advocacy efforts.

I know this process has not been easy. Some community members have felt that progress has slowed, and staff have been overwhelmed managing daily tasks as the organization grows to meet the needs of our population. I am deeply grateful for the patience and grace the community has shown to the 59th Elected Council as we work towards our shared goals of accountability, safer and healthier environments, and positive changes to better serve you.

Like any new journey, there will be obstacles to overcome, mountains to climb, and milestones to reach. As Chair of the Internal Systems Committee and a member of the Built Environment & Climate Adaptation and Wealth & Economy committees, I sincerely hope that my involvement helps eliminate those obstacles, provides support as we climb together, and celebrates with you as we reach our milestones.

Until next time, I am always at your service.



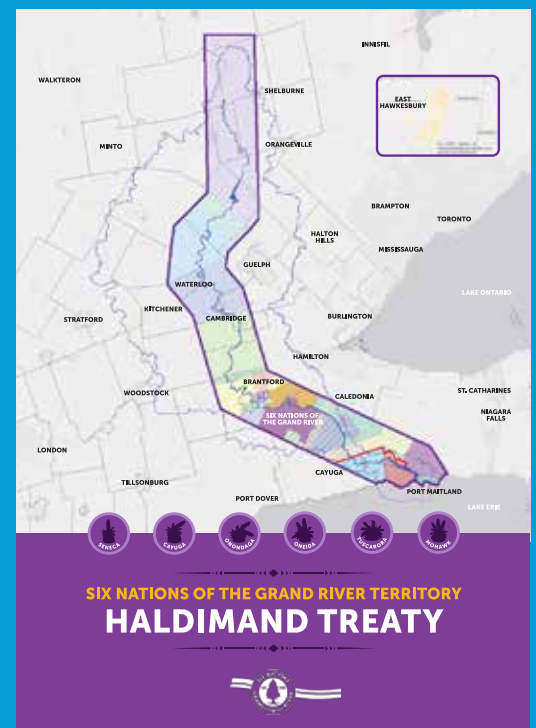
Councillor Alaina VanEvery hands out an Every Child Matters-branded goodie bag at this year's Orange Shirt Day: Drive-Thru Event on September 27, 2024.

# LETTER PRESENTED TO PREMIER FORD

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council and Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill wait for a response from Premier Doug Ford after hand delivering a letter to his office.

Following the reception Six Nations of the Grand River hosted on May 15, the Chief's office confirmed a face-to-face meeting with the Premier. However, the Premier's office canceled the morning of the scheduled meeting, citing an urgent matter requiring immediate attention.

In response, Chief Hill personally visited the Premier's office to deliver a framed depiction of the Haldimand Tract, a significant symbol of their land rights, along with a letter addressing the consultation issue. The letter, which outlines the extensive efforts and engagements made by SNGR with the Province over the past three years, highlights the delays and lack of satisfactory response from the government.





## SNGR WELCOMES THE HONOURABLE EDITH DUMONT

On Friday May 24, Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council and Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill had the opportunity to welcome Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Hon. Edith Dumont to the council chambers.

“Her Hon. Dumont requested to visit with us because she was going to be in the area,” Chief Hill said. *“She was on an educational quest to learn more about Six Nations of the Grand River. We answered various questions about Six Nations. She was interested about the community and didn’t want to leave.”*

As a result of the brief positive meeting, the Lieutenant Governor wants to return to Six Nations.

## ELECTED COUNCIL DAY AT QUEEN’S PARK

On Wednesday May 15, the 59th Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council hosted a successful reception at Queen’s Park.

The event provided an opportunity to meet with Members of Provincial Parliament, Provincial Cabinet Ministers, and leaders of the opposition. The council’s goal was to build new and stronger relationships, increase awareness about Six Nations, and share messages on important matters impacting the community.

Also during their time in Toronto, Chief Hill and a delegation from Elected Council were recognized in the Ontario Legislature by the Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford. This event marks an important recognition of Six Nations within the provincial government.

“The goal is to create strong relationships,” Chief Hill said. “I think this time with Elected Council was a success. We had leadership on hand to address questions related to our court case and to promote the new model of care being implemented by Six Nations Health Services which is rooted in our Haudenosaunee ways of knowing and being.”

# COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

## Amos Key Jr.

I am deeply honoured and filled with gratitude to continue serving as a Councillor for the 59th Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council, especially with the acceptance and approval of three “shovel-ready” projects for funding. These initiatives are a reflection of our community’s needs and priorities, and I am committed to seeing them through:

From the Education and Language Portfolio, which I co-chair, I am proud to announce that the **Kawenni:io/Gaweni:yo project has been approved at \$26.8 million**. This investment will go a long way in strengthening and preserving our language and education systems for future generations.

From the Health and Well-Being Portfolio, where I serve as chair, we have secured **\$5.5 million for the Hospice**. This will ensure that we have the necessary resources and facilities to provide compassionate care for our community members at the end of their journey.

Additionally, **\$47 million has been approved for a new Iroquois Lodge nursing home** that will support our elders, ensuring they receive the highest level of care in a safe and respectful environment.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to share my entire resolution for a **Sovereign Holiday that Elected Council is currently working on:**

The 59th Elected Council of Six Nations of the Grand River is proud to announce a historic decision:

**Beginning October 25, 2025, and every year thereafter, October 25th will officially be celebrated and commemorated as the Sovereign Holiday of the Ogewho/ Onkwehoweh Haudenosaunee at Six Nations of the Grand River. This date marks the anniversary of the Haldimand Deed**

**Treaty of 1784**, which established the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory—240 years ago on that day.

Elected Council reaffirms that the Haldimand Deed Treaty remains an agreement between the Six Nations of the Grand River and the British Crown, its agents, and successors. We call upon all local businesses, government agencies, institutions, and civil services to honor and celebrate this Sovereign State Holiday, recognizing our history, heritage, and the continued strength of our people.

This holiday serves as a moment of unity and reflection for the entire community, acknowledging the foundation of our territory and reaffirming our sovereign rights.

I look forward to the continued journey of building and strengthening our community together.



*Councillor Amos Key Jr. poses with fellow dancer and two members of the SNGR Communications team after the election of the new Ontario Regional Chief at the Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly, hosted at the Six Nations Sports & Cultural Memorial Centre in June.*



## 59TH ELECTED CHIEF AND COUNCIL ON HAND AS NDP MPP MAKES HISTORY WITH OJI-CREE SPEECH IN ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill, and several members of Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council were at Queen’s Park on Tuesday, May 28 to see NDP MPP Sol Mamakwa address the Ontario Legislature in Oji-Cree.

“It was moving watching that,” Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill said. “When he first saw us, he hugged me. He thought his own riding was just going to be there. He thanked Six Nations for being there to support him on this day.”

Chief Hill said MPP Mamakwa’s mom was in attendance, and after the ceremony, Parliament sung happy birthday to her.

A recent change to the standing orders — the rules that govern proceedings at the legislature — means MPPs no longer have to ask permission to speak a First Nations language in the house.



## COMMITTEE UPDATE: Community Political Committee

The Community Political Committee is a key component of the governance structure being trialled for the Six Nations of the Grand River 59th Elected Council. This structure facilitates clear communication between external organizations, departments, and elected councillors, enabling political sup-

port for issues affecting community members both within and outside the Six Nations territory.

The committee comprises 2-4 councillors who have volunteered to participate. Currently, three councillors have been appointed to the Community Political Committee: Dean Hill (Chair), C. Lesley Greene, and Melba Thomas. As Chair, Councillor Hill serves as the spokesperson to the elected council, presenting recommendations from the committee.

The Community Political Committee includes Directors and Senior Managers from various Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR) departments. These departments include Social Services, Parks and Recreation, Ontario Works, and Six Nations Fire & Emergency Services. Additionally, the committee collaborates with organizations such as the Survivor’s Secretariat, Ojwadeni:deo (OGD), Grand River Employment and Training (GREAT), Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services, and Community Living (Ronatahskats).

Some of the significant political work undertaken by the committee includes:

- The First Nation Child Family Service Long Term Reform Final Settlement Agreement within the Chiefs Committee on Social
- Collaborating with community members on a potential community pool project
- Ongoing support for groundwork searches led by the Survivor’s Secretariat
- Emergency housing planning and strategy development
- Public parks and office space planning
- Studies on a mental health facility and a feasibility study for a new, modern arena

Although the Community Political Committee is still in its early stages, it is dedicated to ensuring that Six Nations community members have access to the necessary programs and services. Its efforts aim to support individuals, strengthen families, create a safe environment, and promote the restoration of Haudenosaunee culture, values, and traditions.



# COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

## Dean Hill

Hello, Six Nations Community! My name is Dean Hill, and I am honored to serve as an Elected Councillor on the 59th Council. At 26 years old, I am a proud Mohawk, born and raised right here in the Six Nations of the Grand River community. My passion lies in fitness and health, and I have been a personal trainer for nine years.

My journey has always been about service and commitment to our community. I've held leadership roles on various boards, supporting youth leadership, community development, and small business growth. These experiences have guided me to serve on the elected council, where I believe that change must happen swiftly as our community evolves. The modern world is moving rapidly, and we need to prepare future generations with the tools and resources to ensure every member of our community thrives.



*Councillor Dean Hill providing updates to community members in attendance at the Six Nations Sports & Cultural Memorial Centre for the Brandon Montour Celebration on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.*

In my role as councillor, I have quickly gained valuable insights and knowledge, learning from my fellow councillors and the community itself. I am eager to continue growing and serving in this capacity. I have been appointed as Chair of the Community Political Committee, which oversees updates and collaborates with departments like Social Services, Parks and Recreation, Ontario Works, Six Nations Fire & Emergency Services, and others. Additionally, I serve on the Unity Building and External Relations Committee and the Wealth and Economy Committee.

I've had the opportunity to attend significant events such as:

- The AMO 2024 conference, where I met with provincial cabinet ministers
- Chiefs of Ontario assemblies, where I connected with other surrounding First Nations
- The Assembly of First Nations, engaging with other First Nations across Turtle Island
- Iroquois Caucus gatherings, fostering relationships with our fellow Haudenosaunee

Furthermore, I am the political lead on the First Nation Child Family Service Long Term Reform Final Settlement Agreement within the Chiefs Committee on Social and have been actively working in the economic development sector through the Chiefs of Ontario. A few other key initiatives I am passionate about include establishing elders and youth councils, providing a platform for our elders to pass on their wisdom and for our youth to prepare for leadership. I am also deeply committed to supporting the Survivor's Secretariat and the Two Row on the Grand initiatives.

We are just at the beginning of this term, and much more is on the horizon. I am dedicated to leading our community toward a future of prosperity and unity. I will continue to demonstrate strong leadership and professionalism by pursuing innovative initiatives, even those that may not have been explored before within Elected Council. This is the change I believe in and the change I am committed to bringing forward.





## COMMITTEE UPDATE:

### Internal Systems

The Internal Systems Committee, chaired by Councillor Alaina VanEvery, continues its dedicated efforts to strengthen Six Nations’ organizational frameworks in alignment with Haudenosaunee values.

Working alongside co-chairs Councillors Cynthia Jamieson and Dayle Bomberry, the committee meets monthly to support departments (Policy, Human Resources, Technical Innovation, and Finance) in building efficient and community-responsive systems.

Key recent achievements include progress on the Donation, Grant & Sponsorship Policy, which was presented to the full council on September 10, 2024. Ongoing efforts focus on policy reviews, with upcoming discussions planned for Attendance, Code of Conduct, and Employment policies.

Additionally, the committee is addressing reporting and grievance procedures in collaboration with the HR team to ensure fair and equitable workplace practices.

The Planning, Performance, and Evaluation team has supported these policy updates by streamlining the review framework, and the committee recently confirmed plans for the winter holiday schedule, ensuring essential services remain covered.

For inquiries or suggestions, Councillor VanEvery welcomes community members to reach out to her directly: [alainavanevery@sixnations.ca](mailto:alainavanevery@sixnations.ca) (226) 387-8087

## COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

### Hazel Johnson

I am pleased to announce that our Elected Council has made significant progress in advancing the Kawennio/Gaweni;yo School project.

After years of effort to secure funding, we are finally seeing movement toward building this long-awaited Immersion School. While it is unfortunate that it has taken this long — despite the Truth & Reconciliation promises from the government and the school being a vital part of restoring our Language and Culture — we are now on the path to making it a reality.

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council is currently working on securing the necessary funding, and the KG Building Committee will ensure the project is completed.

Everyone is aware of the historical challenges and setbacks that have delayed this school for over 35 years. However, the resilience of the school board, principals, teachers, parents, grandparents, and all the students who have graduated has been unwavering. Their dedication has kept the dream alive, and now it is closer than ever to becoming a reality. This persistence demonstrates the determination, commitment, and resiliency that defines the Six Nations of the Grand River community.

As a member of the Wellbeing Health Committee, I am excited about the promising developments in our community. Our plans for growth, particularly in health, are designed to address our infrastructure needs and bring a state-of-the-art health facility to our people.

Serving as an Elected Councillor or Chief requires thoughtfulness, dedication, and commitment. One of our greatest challenges is the lack of adequate funding from the government, which bases its support on a population of 12,000, while our actual population is 30,000. Despite this, I remain optimistic about the future. I believe that our Land Claims settlement will give us the resources needed to expand and meet our community’s needs.

Stay optimistic and stay positive!





Councillor Hazel Johnson and Dean Hill handing out Bread and Cheese at the Territory's annual event.



## COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

### Helen Miller

This past year has been a busy one for me, full of leadership and advocacy for our Six Nations of the Grand River community.

As the councillor holding the Lands Membership Portfolio and Chair of the Lands & Membership Committee, I've had the opportunity to address both local and broader concerns. In addition to handling issues like water, roads, and individual community concerns, I'm involved in several important committees.

I serve as a member of the Consultation and Accommodation Committee (CAP), which operates through the Lands & Resources Department. I'm also part of two committees under the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). One of these is the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI), which focuses on transitioning housing care and control to First Nations. I've recommended that Six Nations develop its own housing authority to better meet our community's needs. Another critical committee I'm involved in is the Land Policy Reform Task Force (LPRTF), where we're working on changes to the federal Additions to Reserve Policy. I continue to advocate for Six Nations to establish its own land registry system, independent of the Indian Act.

I'm also part of the Jay Treaty Border Alliance (JTBA), where we address border issues affecting First Nations in Canada and Native American tribes in the U.S. I serve on the JTBA Governance Committee and occasion-

ally participate in the technical committees. Additionally, I attend the COO Leadership Council and have had meetings with Development Directors of Ontario to discuss housing and infrastructure solutions.

Throughout the year, I've made it a priority to keep the council updated by submitting reports on these ongoing efforts. Despite my busy schedule, I've always made time to connect with the community. I've attended events like the Santa Claus Parade, Bread & Cheese Day, Tim Horton's Camp Day, and Brandon Montour's Stanley Cup celebration. I also had the honor of contributing to a tribute event for Robbie Robertson.

It's been a year of hard work across multiple committees, but it's all been worth it. My presence at community events and my involvement in these key committees reflect my ongoing dedication to advancing the interests of Six Nations. There's much more to be done, and I remain committed to continuing this work.

## IN THE NEXT EDITION:

Watch for updates from more of our councillors and committees!



Councillor Greg Frazer invites community members to the 2024 watch parties to support Brandon Montour and local minor sports.



## ELECTED COUNCIL MEETS WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS FROM BRANT AND NORFOLK

Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill and Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council (SNGREC) have been busy meeting with politicians and dignitaries. Over a two-day span SNGREC hosted a pair of neighbouring politicians in the council chambers.

On May 21, Chief and Council hosted Mayor Amy Martin and Councillors from Norfolk County for a meet and greet session.

Despite Norfolk County being adjacent to the Haldimand Tract, it is a neighboring jurisdiction to SNGR and is situated in the Nanfan treaty's beaver hunting lands. The county is an important ally in the Government Relations work.

Both Chief Hill and Mayor Martin emphasized the importance of collaboration on projects such as the Nanticoke water project. The councillors expressed their appreciation for relationship-building, highlighting that this gathering was the latest in the current series of meet-and-greets with nearby jurisdictions.

The next day, Chief and Elected Council hosted Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma, along with his political staff.

They thanked MPP Bouma for his assistance with the lobby day reception at Queen's Park the previous week. This meet and greet allowed for personal relationships to be formed, which are expected to be helpful as they navigate the complex political dynamics on the provincial level.

MPP Bouma expressed his continued support for Chief and Council's work to fix consultation issues.

## COMMITTEE UPDATE:

### Lands & Membership

Under a newly implemented organizational structure at Six Nations of the Grand River, the Lands & Membership Committee has been established to address the growing complexities of land-related concerns.

The committee is chaired by Councillor Helen Miller, with Councillor Hazel Johnson serving as co-chair. The team includes Laurie Miller, Senior Manager of Lands & Membership, staff as needed, and Executive Director Trevor Bomberry. Natasha Longboat has been appointed as the committee's secretary.

The committee will be dealing with issues ranging from land encroachment (whether on private or band land) to problems arising from land surveys that were either incorrectly conducted or ignored by landowners.

Estates management, overseen by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), has also presented challenges, particularly around delays in the finalization of wills by assigned executors. The Lands & Membership team has taken an advocacy role in this area, and Laurie Miller recently secured an agreement for ISC staff to visit Six Nations monthly to address estate-related concerns.

In addition, Laurie Miller has developed a Land Set Aside Policy, currently under review, to help resolve the increasing requests from various departments for land to be allocated for specific projects.

The committee plans to provide regular updates to keep the community informed on these important matters. This report marks the first in what will be a monthly series aimed at assisting the community.



*Councillor Alaina VanEvery taking photos of attendees visiting Brandon Montour and the Stanley Cup.*

## COMMITTEE UPDATE:

### Unity Building & External Government Relations

The Unity Building and External Government Relations Committee has co-drafted a Mandate and Terms of Reference that outlines our purpose, vision statement, mandate, and responsibilities. Our primary purpose is to address issues related to the establishment, formalization, and fostering of relationships with community-driven bodies and external governments.

In line with this purpose, our vision is to foster and maintain strong, allied relationships that assist in pursuing the goals and political positions of the Six Nations of the Grand River community. I am honored to serve as the Chair of this committee, supported by Councillors Greg Frazer, Amos Key Jr., Dean Hill, and Cynthia Jamieson.

To facilitate our work, we meet on the first Thursday of each month in the afternoon. If an urgent political need arises, special meetings may be called in between our regularly scheduled gatherings. It's important to note that while the committee does not make final decisions, we engage in thorough deliberations on various items and make recommendations to the full Council. Additionally, we provide updates to both the full Council and the community at General Council meetings on a rotating basis.

Given our role, we place significant emphasis on building relationships with external parties. Recently, we have focused on engaging with the Iroquois Caucus, Chiefs of Ontario, Assembly of First Nations, representatives from the Ontario provincial government, the Canadian federal government, and multiple municipal governments along the Haldimand Tract.

Moreover, a priority area for the committee has been highlighting the importance of the Six Nations of the Grand River within the Greater Toronto Area. To this end, we are actively strategizing to increase our community's presence and awareness in this region.

In support of our many efforts, Trevor Bomberry, the Executive Director of Nation Building, attends each meeting to provide

updates on his work and explore enhancing our collective initiatives.

Finally, in an important recent decision, the committee has chosen to declare October 25th as our own Sovereign State Holiday, starting in 2025, to commemorate the Haldimand Treaty of 1784. This decision underscores our commitment to honoring our history while fostering strong relationships moving forward.



*On Friday, October 4, Councillors Greg Frazer and Lesley Greene accompanied Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill on a private tour of the new homes on Harold Road, constructed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Following the private tour, Chief delivered a message to Habitat for Humanity staff and executives in celebration and appreciation of the completed Ohsweken homes.*



*Councillor Dayle Bomberry attending one of the Chiefs of Ontario Annual General Assembly events, hosted by Six Nations of the Grand River in June.*

# SIX NATIONS HEALTH SERVICES REBRANDS TO DEPARTMENT OF WELL-BEING

The change in name is in accordance with the organization's plan to align their departments with the Six Nations 2021 Community Plan.

The department looks to showcase a shift in mindset through this rebrand, focusing on all aspects of a person's well-being. Though the terms "Health" and "Well-being" are often used interchangeably, Well-being emphasizes nurturing a person's physical, social, emotional, intellectual, cultural, environmental, and occupational needs.

Well-being is about finding and maintaining this state of balance, made through a person's own choices to achieve a state of contentment that has a direct impact on an individual's health.

There will be no changes to existing services or programs because of this name change.



2019  
**SIX NATIONS  
COMMUNITY PLAN**  
Tseḡ Niyggwadrihwihsa'nho?

## CONNECT WITH SNGR!

### VISIT US:



1695 Chiefswood Road  
Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0

### CONTACT US:



(519) 445-2201



(519) 445-4208

### SOCIAL MEDIA:



@sixnationsgr

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.sixnations.ca](http://www.sixnations.ca)



## DEPARTMENT OF WELL-BEING ESTABLISHES NEW INTEGRATED CARE MODEL



The Department of Well-being looks to improve operations and services to the community by shifting to a new set of fundamental principles of operation.

These principles center around giving the best possible service to patients. There is a focus on providing care that is catered to a person/family's specific needs, providing culturally appropriate services that align with our Haudenosaunee values, and increasing cooperation and collaboration amongst healthcare providers to en-

sure that our services work together effectively as a team.

Patients will experience significant improvement to their care, with increased access to streamlined services and the removal of barriers or obstacles. This will eliminate the need to repeat histories or undergo the same health tests for different health providers, and ensure those with chronic diseases are regularly contacted for preventative care, aiming to handle problems before they arise.

The Department of Well-being is focused on building stronger relationships with the community by enhancing community engagement and ensuring patients feel their voices are being heard. This

approach allows for more involvement from the community when it comes to designing or implementing programming suited to their needs.

There is also an intention to improve staff satisfaction and retention. The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of the model will allow staff to work in team-based, inclusive work environments while being given a chance to progress professionally, as this will help lead to higher staff satisfaction and prevent burnout among workers. The department seeks to operate at an increased level of transparency and accountability while working closely with our community to strengthen the overall impact of our services.



## SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER

### 59th ELECTED CHIEF & COUNCILLORS

#### Elected Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill

(519) 445-2201

**Dayle Bomberry**

(226) 387-8096

**Dean Hill**

(226) 387-8093

**Helen Miller**

(519) 717-2565

**Kerry Bomberry**

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**Cynthia Jamieson**

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**A. Powless-Bomberry**

(519) 717-2721

**Greg Frazer**

(226) 387-9112

**Hazel Johnson**

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**Melba Thomas**

(519) 732-2869

**Carole Lesley Greene**

(519) 761-7058

**Amos Key Jr.**

(226) 387-8089

**Alaina VanEvery**

(226) 387-8087

Decisions are made by members of Council. The Elected Chief is the tiebreaking vote when a majority cannot be reached.

## POLITICAL COMMITTEES

### Built Environment & Climate Adaptation

Chair: D. Bomberry

Co-Chairs: K. Bomberry & A. VanEvery

### Lands & Membership Committee

Chair: H. Miller

Co-Chair: H. Johnson

### Community Committee

Chair: D. Hill

Co-Chairs: L. Greene & M. Thomas

### Wealth & Economy

Chair: G. Frazer

Co-Chairs: A. VanEvery & D. Hill

### Education, Language & Culture

Chair: A. Key Jr.

Co-Chair: A. Powless-Bomberry

### Well-Being Committee

Chair: A. Key Jr.

Co-Chairs: G. Frazer, A. Powless-Bomberry, H. Johnson, L. Greene & M. Thomas

### Internal Systems Committee

Chair: A. VanEvery

Co-Chairs: C. Jamieson & D. Bomberry

### Unity Building & External Relations

Chair: Chief Hill

Co-Chairs: G. Frazer, D. Hill, C. Jamieson & A. Key Jr.

### Justice Committee

Chair: D. Bomberry

Co-Chairs: C. Jamieson, L. Greene & M. Thomas