documents regarding the struggle at Six Nations...

June 2006
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To get involved with local organizing in Support of Indigenous Sovereignty:

put your group’s name & contact info. here!

These Websites Can Be Checked For More Up-To-Date Information

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<td>CKRZ FM</td>
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<td>Land Reclamation information site</td>
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<td>My Two Beads Worth</td>
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<td>Sketchy Thoughts</td>
<td><a href="http://sketchythoughts.blogspot.blogspot.com/">http://sketchythoughts.blogspot.blogspot.com/</a></td>
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<td>Voice of a Native Son</td>
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Letter and 11” x 17” versions of this booklet are available for free download in PDF format from www.lefrigovert.ca
Immediate action is needed:

- to support Haudenosaunee people in their struggle to affirm their inherent right to self-determination and sovereignty on the land
- to take a stand against the ongoing aggressive theft of First Nations land and the use of state violence against First Nations who respond to this theft
- to push the Canadian government to respect national and international law, and engage in nation-to-nation negotiations regarding disputed lands

1. Go to the Camp / Help Get Supplies to the Camp
If you can, go to the camp to stand in solidarity with Six Nations people and be witnesses to any further police aggression. Help bring medical supplies, personal hygiene products, food, and a variety of other products needed at the camp. Be prepared to look after your own needs and bring rain gear, a tent and tarps, blankets/sleeping bags, non-perishable food, a variety of other products needed at the camp. Be prepared for rainy and cold conditions. To assist in documentation, if possible bring still cameras, video cameras, and battery-operated tape recorders (with several sets of replacement batteries). Regular unleaded gas for the generator is also appreciated.

There is a rides message board at http://excoboard.com/exco/forum.php?forumid=91715 with detailed driving directions. People at the camp have asked that supporters arrive during daylight.

There is a detailed list of needed supplies at http://excoboard.com/exco/forum.php?forumid=91715.

2. Raise Public Awareness
Get the news out to as many people as possible. We know from the history at Kanehsatà:ke/Oka, Ts’peten/Gustafsen Lake, and Stoney Point/Ipperwash that public disinformation is a key state strategy. Use activist networks, personal networks, and media contacts to get the story out locally, nationally, and internationally. For daily updates, and links to several other sites monitoring the situation, go to: http://sisis.nativeweb.org/n the Six Nations reserve.

3. Solidarity Rallies and Demonstrations
Further actions are needed at Ontario government locations and at federal buildings in other areas to keep the pressure on. If you want to post a solidarity event announcement on the sisis website, email jgoldber@shaw.ca.

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Table of Contents

Forcibly Imposed Band Council System_2
Indians Revolt at St. Regis (Montreal Star March 28th, 1899)_3
This Country Needs A True History Lesson_4
How Much Land Did the Iroquois Possess_5
Six Nations Claim_6
Chronology Starts_7
Just A Few Stats_8
Statement By the Clan Mothers_9
Yellow Alert for Warrior Societies_11
Home On Native Land: The People of Six Nations are Repossessing Their Land_14
Report from the Camp on Police Raid_16
Protest Strands 3,500 Rail Travellers. Freight_18
Native Youth Movement International Statement_19
Are Military Forces Operating From Hamilton Airport in Six Nations Standoff?_20
Six Nations Does Not Stand Alone_21
More Dangerous Than Oka_25
Detoxing From Canada_27
“Over and Over, I’ll Be A Fool For You”_31
Caledonia’s Mohawks Have Plenty Of Reasons To Mistrust The Law_33
Canada is a Colonial Country_36
Natives Back Protests Polls __38
It’s the Federal Government Making a Land Claim, Not the Six Nations_39
Blockade Sparks Memories of Detroit Race Riots_43
In whose Interests are the “Residents Rallies” in Caledonia?_45
Sago from Grand River (May 25th)_47
Update from Hazel Hill (May 28th)_50
Clash Costs $12M, Caledonia blockade’s expenses spiral..._53
Law Demands Universal Respect_55
Negligence Costs,_57
Goodwill Brings Violent Response at Caledonia_58
In the pressure cooker... (June 9th)_60
Update from Grand River (June 10th)_61
Top Secrets in Native Hands!_62
Six Nations Haudenosaunee Confederacy Statement (June 11th)_64
June 12th Update from Hazel Hill__66
Railway Blockade Set For June 29!_67
Are the People Tired?_69
Take Action_72
“According to International law, every person is entitled to his or her own nationhood, language, religion and land base. Canada has been denying Aboriginal people these rights through its imposed system of governance and citizenship.... Band Councils cannot represent themselves as a nation as they are a creation of the government of Canada - designed originally to undermine the power of women and, consequently, the traditional form of government of the Iroquois Confederacy. This form of ignorance is, in essence, genocide”

- Ellen Gabriel, Testimony to Senate on Bill S-24, May 9, 2001

The most enduring and effective resistance against Canada’s colonial rule has been the traditional Longhouse Peoples’ refusal to participate in Canadian imposed governance systems, and to actively participate in their own governance and laws of the Kanien’eré:kwa of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Resistance to the imposition of foreign government models and laws have been documented since the Indian Advancement Act of 1884 was passed by Canadian Parliament. The Indian Advancement Act was created so the “more advanced bands of Indians of Canada” could elect their own councils to train them for the exercise of municipal powers.

There have been letters of protest filed by all member Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy to the Governor General and Minister of Indian Affairs. The following excerpts of these letters and petitions are just a few of the many gathered in the pamphlet, “The Best of Akwesasne Notes – How Democracy Came to St.Regis & The Thunderwater Movement” published by Akwesasne Notes, in 1974.

A petition from Tyendinaga to the Governor-General of Canada, October 29, 1888:

“Brother! As we understand that the majority must rule, and a very large majority of the Bay of Quinte Six Nations Mohawks have on the 13th day of October, 1887, renewed their Council Fire according to... they are working contrary to the welfare of the Bay of Quinte Six Nations, we have entirely lost confidence in them...”

From a second petition to the Governor-General, 1889:

“Brother! At the time of the formation of the treaties to be perpetuated, the Six Nations Indians were found and looked upon as a people, and had a systematic constitution. Therefore, they were enabled to form these very important and sound treaties with the English nation.... It was understood by both parties in their treaties that each should maintain their own constitutions, but in the present instance, it appears that the Silver Chain is now tarnished upon these points.... The Canadian Government which does not recognize us fully looks upon the Six Nations as minors and treats them as such... We will give you the statement made by Agent Hill on the 10th of November, saying that the Government are getting tired of us Indians, and they’d rather get rid of us, and also stated that we Indians will be paying taxes soon enough...”

In December, 1890 over a thousand Iroquois from Kanehsatake (Oka), Kahnawake (Caughnawaga) and Akwesasne (St. Regis) signed the following petition calling for a reuniting of the Confederacy and the dismantling of Band Councils:

“The Indian Act only breeds sorrow, contention, hatred, disrespect of family ties, spite against one another; and absence of unity among us Indians. It also creates two distinct parties at the elections. This law was never authorized in its adaptation among Indians....There is only one way to recover brotherly feelings, that of substituting the seven lords appointed by each of the seven totems according to the ancient customs which we know gave us peace, prosperity, friendship, and brotherly feelings in every cause, either for personal good, or for the benefit of the entire band.”

Wednesday, June 21, 2006:

Indigenous organizations and individuals interviewed by press for “National Aboriginal Day” discuss the impact of the land reclamation and the accompanying repression. Hamilton’s Committee Against Racism and the aboriginal youth advisor at a Hamilton high school describes a pervasive anti-native backlash, with multiple incidents of indigenous youth being the targets of racist verbal harassment. Despite the backlash, Pat Green, program coordinator at Healing of the Seven Generations in Kitchener, says the land reclamation is a source of strength and pride that has united indigenous people. “We do have a voice and we are exercising our voice. It’s about time.”

Ken Hill, a Six Nations man from Ohsweken, is arrested early in the morning in Cayuga. Hill faces two counts of assault in relation to the confrontation between non-indigenous people, Six Nations people, and supporters on June 4. Hill will be held in jail until he appears in the colonial court next month in Cayuga.

Audra Tailliefer, facing intimidation and robbery charges, was released on $10,000 cash bail. Ordered to stay away from the reclamation site, two CH... and supporters on June 4. Hill will be held in jail until he appears in the colonial court next month in Cayuga.

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Karl Walsh, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, says OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface should be “forced to answer” for her management of the OPP response to the reclamation — a situation he characterized as “anarchy”. Approximately 100 Caledonia residents bus in to the Ontario legislature to protest the province’s and OPP’s response to the Six Nations land reclamation, and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty meets with several members of the group “to hear their concerns”. In the ongoing distortion of the peaceful nature of the reclamation, press and non-indigenous Caledonia residents continue to whip up fear about violence, saying that there are rumours that “Six Nations members are prepared to use aggressive tactics to claim more land along the Grand River” and that non-indigenous people cannot rely on police for “protection”.

Thursday, June 22, 2006:

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty asks Six Nations people to leave the reclamation site, saying there’s “no need” for an ongoing presence as the colonial government is now paying attention to the issue of land theft. McGuinty also discloses that the province has agreed to pay $12.3 million to buy out Henco, with ongoing negotiations for “an additional amount to be paid for the loss of future profits”. 
In 1993, we had RCMP snipers in our fields when we tried to open a casino that could have brought in 100 million dollars a year for us. Once again our jurisdiction, our right to govern ourselves was denied by force of arms. We could not enjoy the same rights as our Anishinabe relatives in the States. We still have 77% unemployment. We are denied any recognition of our right to lease our 3 million acres of traditional lands and each year we receive less and less funding. It took us 125 years to get Treaty Land Entitlement recognized. Eight years we have waited to have our TLE land converted and still we have to wait, but it took the white farmers only 26 days to get an Order in Council taking our 12 sections of reservation lands away. Roseau River is owed at least 60 million dollars from the 1903 land claim. We have been peaceful, we have been patient, we have waited 103 years for justice but meanwhile in Caledonia the white people got compensation; millions of dollars have already been pledged by the government, yet the white people only had to wait 100 years, not a 100 years for the government to act.

Yes we believe that there are two sets of laws in Canada, one for whites and another for the Indians. The Supreme Court of Canada decided in Haida that “Knowledge of a credible but unproven claim is enough to trigger a duty to consult.” In spite of the law as decided in Mikisew, where Justice Binney of the Supreme Court of Canada accepted that it was illegal for government officials to be indifferent, it is exactly what the Government of Canada does, Liberal or Conservative, they ignore the law if it is in favor of the Indians. Why do you think that in 1982, Premier Lyons of Manitoba would absolutely refuse having the Right of Property recognized in the Charter? They tried to stack the law in their favor but it didn’t work so they ignore the law when it is convenient for them to ignore it.

Over five hundred murdered and missing First Nation women in Canada. Our people fill the jails and prisons in Canada. Over 50% of the people killed at the hands of police in Canada are First Nations people. Over 6000 land claims in limbo because Canada refuses to put in place a process that will deal with these matters. The Conservaties refused to do so because they were locked in the Treaty negotiations, three territories and the previous federal government had agreed to it. In Six Nations/Caledonia land claim, it was the people who took action, it was the people who finally had enough and decided not to be sidetracked by a useless Canadian government process, they, the people took direct action.

So I ask the question, are the people tired? Are you tired of watching hundreds of billions of dollars of resource wealth paid to the governments of Canada, while you, the original owners are denied a share of your own wealth. Are you tired of the housing problems, the lack of education opportunities, the denial of health coverage, the injustice, the brutality, are you tired of being the poorest of the poor in Canada. Are you tired of watching immigrants to our lands taking our resource wealth, while at the same time they call you down for not paying taxes to their government? We at Roseau River will stand up as we have always done. We will not be ignored. We will not obey any white court injunction that the railway companies might try and get imposed upon us, an injunction that will be unilaterally imposed, an injunction that would deny our right of property.

We signed a treaty with Canada. They are obligated by the terms and conditions of that treaty. The immigrant to our land gets their title from the Crown but the Crown got their rights from us, the indigenous people of these lands. We were here first, these are our lands. We hold the underlying title to all these lands including under the rail lines. At 3:30 p.m. vehicles will pull out of the reserve headed to the blockade sites. At exactly 4:00 p.m. cars will be driven onto the rail lines and we will stay exactly 24 hours to send a message to Canada, that we will no longer tolerate our rights being ignored. The Ohiija Society will provide security and will not tolerate any acts of violence from anyone. We will welcome all peaceful people to join us on June 29th and 30th 2006. We ask that you get there at noon in order to ensure everyone knows their responsibility.

Chief Terrance Nelson

The Inspector said the tribe be carried out according to law, the 43rd Battalion down to carry out a vote.

The Department of Indian Affairs took little notice of Kanien’keh:ka protest, so the women went ahead and appointed and confirmed their chiefs, and set up their own government just the same. They told Ottawa what they had done. Predictably, the Department of Indian Affairs responded with a bristle. The Secretary wrote the local agent, George Long:

“The Department is determined not to allow any of the Indians to set its authority at defiance.”

The war was on. Twice the Department called an election. Twice the people forcibly prevented the election from being held. The Department of Indian Affairs responded with a meeting, and he reported back directly to the Superintendent-General:

“They were informed in the most explicit terms that even if a return to what they consider their ancient system were allowed, of which no hope whatsoever could be held out, the relations of the Indians to the law would not be changed in any particular... They might as well look for the falling of the sky as to expect recognition of their claim to hold the position of a practically independent state.”

He got action from the Superintendent-General who exercised unusual executive authority:

“...I have decided that no return to another system of constituting chiefs than that provided by the Indian Act shall be permitted...the Indians be informed that no further representations will lead in any way to the modification of this decision...that the Indians be informed that as soon as they show their willingness to abide by the law and elect a council under the Indian Act, the interest money will be paid...that the Indians be informed that until a council is elected under the Act, the Department will administer as far as it may the affairs of the band.”

The election was again billed for Monday last, and Lieut. Colonel Sherwood, commissioner of Dominion Police, sent Inspector Logan and Constable Chamberlain to try their hand. At twelve o’clock, these two gentlemen with Indian Agent Long and assistants went to the Village School House where the election was to have taken place.

They found it surrounded by about 200 aborigines. They were refused admittance and a general riot took place. The police were badly assaulted, and Indian Agents Long was seized and locked up in the school house. Agent Long was placed over him, and the Dominion Police were driven away. At six o’clock in the evening, Mr. Long was still caged up.

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In 1835 Jacques Cartier observed the Iroquoian settlement at Hochelaga now the site of McGill University in Montreal. In 1809-10 Samuel de Champlain encountered the Haudenosaunee at the southern end of Lake Champlain near Lake George using firearms against the unarmed Mohawks.

As first the Dutch, then the French, followed by the English encountered and traded with the Haudenosaunee, relations developed and wampum treaties were offered to the Europeans.

The Two Row Wampum, offered in the spirit of peace, friendship, and good minds, demonstrated the two ways, native and European, existing side by side, and unique and independent of each other, on Turtle Island.

By the late 18th century the Haudenosaunee attempted to remain neutral as the British tried to hang on to the American colonies adjacent to their native homelands. The Anglo-assimilated, self-proclaimed Haudenosaunee warrior Thayendanega, Joseph Brant, convinced most Senecas, Mohawks, Cayugas, and Onondaga’s to align themselves with the British struggle, leaving the Oneidas and Tuscaroras to side with the American revolutionaries.

As the struggles favored the colonials, the Haudenosaunee were largely abandoned by their allies on both sides. George Washington ordered a three-pronged invasion and destruction of the Iroquoian homeland led by John Sullivan, James Clinton, and Daniel Brodhead.

Nearly 40 Haudenosaunee villages across the Finger Lakes region were obliterated. Amidst the killing and desolation many of the people headed north into unclaimed lands in what is now Canada. Sadly, the efforts of the Peacemaker were left to these survivors.

The Six Nations Reserve was granted to the survivors under Brant in 1784. The Haldimand Grant extended six miles either side of the Grand River from its source to its mouth at Lake Erie.

In 1793 British Governor John Simcoe forced the surrender of some of the source lands. Between 1798 and 1834, some monies from these sales were invested in the Grand River Navigation Company to open the river. The Six Nations Reserve was granted to the survivors under Brant in 1784. The Haldimand Grant extended six miles either side of the Grand River from its source to its mouth at Lake Erie.

Between 1798 and 1834, Brant, as leader, sold more than 140,000 hectares of the grant to raise money for the welfare of the people. These lands include present day Brantford. Later, between 1834 and 1844, some monies from these sales were invested in the Grand River Navigation Company to open the river to a link with the Welland Canal, and later to the founding funds for the founding of the University of Toronto, and other capital investments. (Note: this was done with- out the approval of the Nations).

The Six Nations Reserve took its present form between 1834 and 1844, some monies from these sales were invested in the Grand River Navigation Company to open the river to a link with the Welland Canal, and later to the founding funds for the founding of the University of Toronto, and other capital investments. (Note: this was done without the approval of the Nations).

Roseau River will peacefully blockade two railway lines for exactly 24 hours starting Thursday June 29th at 4:30 p.m. and ending Friday June 30th at 4:00 p.m. One of these railway line blockades will be north of Dominion City, four miles east and one and half miles west of the main Roseau River Reserve and the other railway line to be blockaded is north of Letellier, which is approximately two and half miles west of Roseau River and one mile north of Letellier. Both railway lines move goods and services into and from the United States and will affect business in North Dakota, Manitoba, and beyond. Both railway lines run on our traditional territory, we hold underlying title to those lands.

At noon on Thursday June 29 in front of the Roseau River Community Hall, two Roseau River drums will begin singing. People will gather to hear from the elders, the leadership and from the people themselves why First Nations are angry enough at Canada to initiate this action. Roseau River’s traditional territory was over 2000 square miles in south central Manitoba prior to the signing of Treaty # one on August 3rd 1871.

The Crown promised, that no white man would ever be allowed to set foot upon the reservation without our permission”. The Crown pledged on their honor that if we agreed to the treaty giving them access to our 3 million acres of land that the reserved lands would be ours forever. Just 32 years later on January 30th 1903, the government would force the surrender of 12 sections or 70% of our reserve. Mr. Atkinson would be shot and killed for refusing to leave his home. It takes the Minister of Indian Affairs, twelve days to recommend an Order in Council and in just 26 days by February 25 1903 the white farmers have full ownership of 12 sections of our reserve with a signed Order in Council.
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006: Six Nations reserve police arrest Audra Taileffer, one of seven indigenous people facing charges after a series of clashes last Friday, and turn her over to the OPP. Charged by the OPP with intimidation and robbery, Taileffer is being held pending a hearing at the colonial reserve court in Cayuga to set a date for trial. Six others with warrants pending remain at large.

At a Superior Court hearing called by Justice David Marshall to discuss progress in addressing the land dispute, the Ontario government announced that it (1) has signed an agreement-in-principle with Renzo for a buyout of “Douglas Creek Estates”, and will hold the land “in trust” until land agreement is reached between the Haudenosaunee and colonial governments, and (2) will be providing another $1 million to help Caledonia-area businesses affected by the dispute. Reclamation spokesperson Janie Jameson points out, “Title and jurisdiction isn’t placed back with Six Nations, is it? And that’s what the issue is…They haven’t begun to resolve anything with us, but as far as corporate Canada — they’ve done everything to appease them”.

At an evening community meeting at Six Nations Polytech to update Six Nations people on progress in land negotiations, Confederacy sub-chief Leroy Hill explains that the colonial government is being required to conduct an environmental assessment and clean-up before title on the Burtch lands is transferred (so Six Nations will not end up paying to restore lands damaged by the colonial government). In the interim, Six Nations farmers have planted 260 acres of soybeans on the land. Hill also confirms that Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson has been removed by the province and that Jane Stewart is now the primary negotiator for Ontario.

A 12-hour benefit concert to support the Six Nations reclamation of Kanenhsataton (“the protected place”) is attended by an estimated 8,000 indigenous and non-indigenous people. Organizers estimate that over $18,000 was raised to help with costs associated with the land reclamation. Confirming earlier reports by Six Nations people, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (commonly known as the “ATF”) admits it has been involved in surveillance at the reclamation site. According to ATF special agent Joseph Green, the ATF has been in Caledonia to “share best practices and information with the OPP”. The ATF is a specialized American force responsible for fighting terrorism and violent crime, and is best known for its raid on a religious compound in Waco, Texas, in the early 1990s that left dozens of people dead. “They’re trying to peg us as terrorists now,” says reclamation spokesperson Hazel Hill.

At the inquiry into the murder of Dudley George by a OPP officer in 1995, OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface apologizes to the family of Dudley George and states, “Land grievances must be addressed… Those grievances cannot and will not ever be resolved by police services”. According to Bonface, the approach taken by the OPP to the Six Nations land reclamation represents a “new framework”, adopted by the OPP in January, to guide police response to indigenous resistance to land theft. Ontario crisis negotiator David Peterson describes the siege as “very tough — as tough as things get… But this didn’t turn into an Oka or an Ipperwash and I don’t think it will.”

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006: Response to archeological assessment exposes racist stereotypes. The sensationalistic hysteria about “violent natives” promoted at Caledonia community meetings last week continues. In response to excavation relating to an archeological assessment of the reclamation site (agreed to by the Ontario government in negotiations with Six Nations representatives), non-indigenous residents state to press that holes are being dug to create bunkers and weapons caches.

How Much Land Did the Iroquois Possess?

Prior to European colonization the Iroquois exercised active dominion over most of what is now New York State. Of the 49,576 square miles of the state the Iroquois held title to about 4/5 of the total area (approximately 39,000 square miles). Traditional Iroquois boundary lines were quite specific as to which lands belonged to a particular nation. Mohawk territory extended from the Delaware River north to the St. Lawrence and included almost all of the Adirondack Mountains. Their boundaries to the east were Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Hudson River. By adding up the area of the current counties within this region the Mohawk Nation can lay claim to 15,534 square miles (or 9,941,760 acres) as having been alienated from their possession through various means, including fraudulent “treaties.”

Tobacco to Potatoes

Prior to European colonization the Iroquois hunted for food, fished along the lakeshore and cultivated a variety of crops on small plots of land. The Mohawks were able to cultivate potatoes for the first time in 1759 thanks to the Iroquois. By the end of the 17th century the Senecas had purchased potatoes from the Iroquois and were cultivating them as a food crop.

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Six Nations claim:

Lost lands

- On Oct. 25, 1784, Sir Frederick Haldimand, the Captain General and Governor-in-Chief for Upper Canada, signed a land deed for land in what would later become southern Ontario for the Five Nations. [Later Tuscawaras joined to create the Six Nations.] The Haldimand deed assigned land “six miles deep” on both sides of the Grand River from its source in south-central Ontario to its mouth at Lake Erie. The Haldimand Tract originally covered 955,000 acres.

- The land grant was made as compensation for the loss of the six-million-acre homeland taken by the United States in the Mohawk Valley in upstate New York after the American War of Independence. The Five Nations (Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Cayuga and Onondaga) had fought on the British side in the Revolutionary War, which led to the creation of the United States in 1776. The land was a reward for Five Nations’ loyalty to the Crown and a gesture of appreciation for the military support offered voluntarily by the Indigenous peoples in defense of the realm.

- Shortly after the Haldimand Proclamation was made, John Graves Simcoe, Governor General of Upper Canada, issued the Simcoe Patent that limited the Haldimand Tract to 275,000 acres, of the original 955,000 acres, for the exclusive use of the Six Nations. That meant the other 720,000 acres would be leased, surrendered or sold.

- About 302,000 acres were mortgaged for 999 years to create an annual source of income for the care and maintenance of the Six Nations. It’s been only 122 years since the proclamation.

- Another 49,800 acres were mortgaged for a similar length of time and a similar purpose. Under the current process, where the federal Crown decides which land claims against it are acceptable and which are not, the Crown accepts as valid the claim of only 30,800 acres of this transaction. The remaining 19,000 acres of Six Nations’ land are lost forever with no compensation.

- An additional 112,689 acres were surrendered by Six Nations for sale. Proceeds were to be accounted for and invested by the Indian Department and a Crown-appointed trustee for the benefit of Six Nations.

- 19,180 acres (including the Port Dover Plank Road lands, which are involved in the current dispute) were leased for short-terms. They were 21-year leases with seven-year renewals.

- In all, Six Nations lost at least 125,000 acres without a full record provided by the Crown.

Lost monies

Examples of investments by the Crown using Six Nations’ funds:

- 1834: $4,000 used to offset government’s debt. There is no record of repayment.
- 1845: $14,717.58 was used to offset government’s debt. Again, with no record of repayment.
- 1851: $8,000 used by municipal council of Haldimand. No repayment is recorded.
- 1847: $1,000 was transferred to Law Society of Upper Canada. No repayment recorded.

- Additional loans, with no repayment recorded, to McGill University, the City of Toronto, Simcoe District Council, Public Works Canada and additional Crown debts. Six Nations’ research suggests a number of large public projects were funded with money from their trust accounts, without repayment.

Legislated repression

In 1907, Six Nations hired lawyer A.G. Chisholm to pursue the Grand River Navigation Company for improper use of Six Nations’ monies. This company ran shipping traffic up and down the Grand River but eventually went broke. It accessed Six Nations’ funds held in trust by the Crown without Six Nations’ permission. The Crown interceded against Six Nations’ attempts to pursue legal means of redress and stalled until it passed Section 141 of the 1927 Indian Act. That amendment made it illegal for anyone to hire a lawyer, create a fund or provide money to a First Nation to pursue a claim. That Canadian law stayed in effect until the section was repealed in 1951. Since the Crown acknowledged an obligation to recognize claims, Six Nations has filed 29. Just one, the CNR settlement, has been finalized with 250 acres returned to the territory. Another 28 claims, recognized by the Crown as legitimate, remain. And more may be filed.

Sensationalistic hysteria about “a threat of native violence” continues to pervade Caledonia. Ignoring Six Nations’ repeated statements about a desire to live in peace with non-indigenous people, at the Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance’s second public information session non-indigenous individuals living close to the reclamation site say they are terrified that they will be attacked by people from the reclamation site.

A “resident response plan” created by Hamilton police officer David Hartless is circulated on Braesmar Avenue and Thistlemoor Drive urging homeowners to sound car alarms or horns “in the event a home or resident comes under attack”, so neighbours could rush to the area supposedly under attack and collectively “gather and confront native protesters, to force them” back onto the reclamation site. Hartless states, “The OPP response has been largely ineffectual and it is now apparent that in order to protect ourselves, our families and our homes, we must do so collectively and present a united front.” Despite OPP and city council’sAdditional statements that Hydro operations are normal and that there is a round-the-clock police presence at the Hydro transformer vandalized on May 22, Waterford Councilor Harold Sonnenberg tells Norfolk Council that the transformer is unguarded and “vulnerable to attack.”

From Windspeaker June 2006

Railway Blockade Set for June 29!

Roseau River Anishabe First Nation Government

June 13, 2006

Ultimatum meets Ultimatum! As Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice pull out of the Six Nations/Caledonia land claim with ultimatums that the “barricades must come down,” First Nations across Canada are issuing their own ultimatums. Last week, 100 Ontario Chiefs walked to the site of the land claim dispute and issued their own warning to Canada. Today Union of British Columbia Chiefs issued full support to Six Nations. In Manitoba, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, representing 64 First Nations, passed a resolution supporting a 24-hour railway blockade set for June 29th 2006, “to force the Canadian government to establish a reasonable time-frame for settlement of land claims.”

Chief Terrance Nelson moved the resolution to “send a message, that resource wealth of our lands are what supports every Canadian.” Canada is the third largest producer of diamonds, has 10 per cent of the world’s forests, and mines 60 metals and minerals. Oil is now over $72 a barrel, up from $10 a barrel in 1999, and there are 1.4 trillion barrels of oil in the tar sands plus hundreds of other oil and gas producing areas. Canada had eight straight federal government budget surpluses, a 2005 reported net worth of $4.5 trillion, and GDP over a trillion dollars. Today the federal government raises far more revenue from its share of resource royalties than it does from income taxes.

Roseau River will block two railway lines going into the United States. At least six other Manitoba First Nations have vowed to block railway lines at the same time. The financial cost of the railway blockades will be in the millions but the real impact is likely to be the international image of Canada. Canada was the United Nations choice as the “best country in the world to live in” for seven straight years, but while Canada was number one on the index, Canadian First Nations communities mired in extreme poverty were set at the 63rd level on the UN scale. Over 6,000 First Nations land claims are now in limbo.

What pisses me off when I watch the Caledonia violence” said an angry Chief Nelson, “is the immigrants to our lands didn’t bring the diamonds or other resources from Europe in their little boats, they have the gall to demand we, the owners of the land and resources, must now pay taxes to them on top of their theft.” Treaties 1 to 11 representatives went home last week from a Winnipeg conference to seek support in their regions to initiate railway blockades in traditional territories.

Railway Blockade Set for June 29!
Canada’s Ongoing Theft of Six Nations Land

1786: In recognition of Six Nations support of the British Crown during the American War of independence, the Crown issues the Haldimand Proclamation officially recognizes land on either side of the Grand River from Lake Erie to Dundalk (approx. 950,000 acres of land) as Six Nations land.

1793: Lieutenant-Governor John Simcoeermoises to reduce the area formally recognized as Six Nations land by the Crown to 275,000 acres.

1984: Department of Indian Affairs imposes band council system on Six Nations, to undermine hereditary systems of governance and facilitate land theft.

1990: The prov-ince of Ontario takes over the Land Cover Act.

February 28, 2006: Six Nations people and supporters hold an information picket at Douglas Creek to raise awareness of the ongoing theft of Six Nations land.

November 24, 2006: Ontario’s Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal releases the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Unneeded Six Nations land is part of this development plan.
it all barricades are removed, the rail line re-opened, and “all Native occupiers are re-
moved to a safe distance (to be determined by the County”).

The Ontario Provincial Police admit they have lost classi-
died documents and appeal to media who have been given copies to return them. The documents, which contain the identities and home phone numbers of undercover OPP and US officers, details of surveil-
ance operations, and information from informants, were taken by Six Nations people Friday from a seized US Border Patrol car, and re-
turned after copies were made. A copy was given to Lynda Powless, publisher of the weekly Turtle Island News, who then gave a copy to the Hamilton Spectator:

A Hamilton radio station reports that two unnamed Caledonia businesses have launched a class action law-
suit against the Corporation of Haldimand County, OPP Commissioner Gwen Boniface and the Cayuga Detachment Commander of the OPP. In ad-
dition, the plaintiffs have put the Government of Ontario on notice, and say they intend to add them as defendants to the action.

On this: On Tuesday, June 13, 2006: Six Nations people and support-
ers work throughout the night to remove the barricade on the Highway 6 bypass. Camp spokesperson Jamie Jamieson states to press, “In order to keep talking moving, the chiefs and clan mothers gave directions to have them opened”. After a highway in-
pection the road is re-opened shortly after 3 PM.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty responds in the morning by saying the re-
moval of the barricade of the Highway-6 overpass is a posi-
tive step but is not a safe distance to get the provincial govern-
ment to return to land nego-
tiations, and calls on Six Na-
tions to “cooperate with the OPP” to facilitate the arrest of the six people charged on Friday. Characterizing the situation as “a powder key that’s about to blow”, Federal NDF leader Jack Layton de-
mands that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper get personally involved to bring about a peaceful end to the land dispute.

Despite the colonial government’s aggressive stance, Six Nations people ex-
tend their goodwill and re-
move the last remaining bar-
racade, allowing access to the rail line. In the afternoon, commenting on the removal of both blockades, McGuinty says, “I think there has been a demonstration of good faith on the part of the First Na-
tion leadership. I think it’s time for us to get back to the table and finish this job.” Fed-\neral minister Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice states, “This goes a long way to re-
moving a huge source of ten-
sion in the community and to build trust. We are encour-
aged.”

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs announces they have passed a resolution support-
ing a 24-hour railway block-
ade set for June 29th 2006, “to force the Canadian government to establish a reason-
able time-frame for settlement of land claims.” Roseau River will block two railway lines going into the United States, and six other Manitoba First Nations have vowed to block railway lines at the same time.

continued from page 63

Monday, June 12, 2006: The Ontario and federal Canadian governments say they will not con-
continue negotiations as planned on Thursday unless the remaining barricades come down and Six Nations assists the OPP in investiga-
tion the incidents from the weekend. Tekarihokene (Kanyen’kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) states that the seven people facing charges from Friday will not be turned over to the OPP as they “remain under our laws and our jurisdiction.” The Ontario Conservative party says calling off negotiations is insufficient, and “there has to be a deaudline by which some action will be taken to make sure those barricades come down”. When asked by a re-
porter what he will do if the barricades do not come down, Ontario Premier Dalton Mc-
Guinty states, “It’s the responsibility of the Haldimand County passes a resolution requesting that negotiations be suspended un-

54% of 74,000 First Nations housing units do not meet basic standards.

The incidence of TB and diabetes is 17 times and 3 times higher, respectively, among the First Nations population - in 1991, 75% of the TB cases reported in Canada were of First Nations origin.

First Nations people make up 21% of the population but more than 10% of the prison population.

First Nations women represent only 2% of the women in Federal prisons (as of July 2003) - this breaks down to 46% of maximum security population; 35% medium security population and 23% minimum security population.

Indigenous women between the ages of 25 and 44, with status under the Indian Act, were five times more likely than all other women of the same age to die as the result of violence.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 70% of violent crimes - and 90% of sexual assaults - against Indigenous people are carried out by non-Indigenous.

Since 1988 over 500 First Nations women have “gone missing” across Canada.

Mcguinty “talks tough”, fanning the flames of racism

continued from page 18

Just A Few Stats...

Unemployment rate for First Nations people in the labour force rose from 15.4% in 1981 to 24.6% in 1991, despite advances in education - on some First Nations reserves rates are as high as 80% and 90%.

Earned income for the average First Nations individual in 1991 was $14,561 compared to $24,000 for all Canadians - a $1,000 decline since 1981.

The infant mortality rate among First Nations people is more than double the national rate. Among First Nations adults aged 15 to 34, the disability rate is three times

over 30% of First Nations adults reported a disability - more than double the national rate. Among First Nations adults aged 15 to 34, the disability rate is three times

most of these statistics were taken from a fact sheet by lisa altigauer presented to the national union’s 2005 equality leadership school. (source: http://www.nupge.ca/publications/equality/equality_fact_5.pdf)
The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have issued arrest warrants for seven (7) people from the Six Nations Reclamation site. Charges include attempted murder, robbery, intimidation and causing bodily harm.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy deliberated this issue during Council on Saturday June 10th, 2006. The individuals involved in these incidents were brought before the OPP and the Six Nations Police to ensure the safety of all people within our respective jurisdictions.

Our investigation has indicated the “Border Security” vehicle being driven by the “police officer” was actually an Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) vehicle from the United States of America. Two officers in the vehicle were from the United States of America accompanied by an officer with the OPP. We have found evidence that indicates these officers were in the area since April 2, 2006 assisting in the current policing of the occupation of the Six Nations Reclamation site. This is particularly concerning due to the reputation of the ATF. The Haudenosaunee are dismayed that the OPP gave permission to these officers from the United States of America to assist in this situation without any prior communication to our people, this has incited an already tense situation. We are working with the OPP to clarify this situation.

The Haudenosaunee has legally binding treaties with the Crown. The Two Row Wampum belt and the Silver Covenant Chain affirms the parameters of the relationship between our two governments. These treaties acknowledge the Sovereignty of our people and Nation. The Silver Covenant Chain speaks of a relationship between our two governments based upon Respect, Peace and Friendship. To have a good strong Friendship, there needs to be a commitment to exercise “Kanihonkio:” that is the “Good Mind” which means equality, justice, and the Commitment to help each other in times of need. The Two Row Wampum Belt identifies the nations to nation basis which are people to deal with. The Two Row Wampum Belt depicts our governments operating within our own “canoes”. This means that each of our respective governments will continue to operate under their own laws and will not interfere with the affairs of the other governments.

Under our treaties the only issues which fall under the Crown’s jurisdiction are Murder, Rape and Theft. According to the Treaty of Fort Albany made with the Crown there is an extradition process which must be followed in order to address any of these three issues.

Our people follow the Great Law of Peace and are not a people of violence. The Haudenosaunee are committed to ensuring that the Great Law of Peace is respected and followed at the Reclamation Site.

Statement by the Clan Mothers
June 11, 2006

Objection to invasion of Kaianere'h:ko:wa Territory by the Foreign Governments of Canada and Ontario

STATEMENT

FROM: The Women Title Holders of the Rotinoshon'non:we

RE: Henco Industries is building a subdivision on the unsurrendered “Haldimand Tract” for sale to non-Indigenous people who may be unaware that this is illegal.

WHEREAS the Women are the “Title Holders” of the land of Rotinoshon’non:we as recalled by Wampum 44 of the Kaianere:h:ko:wa.

WHEREAS the “Title” held by the Women represents a trust obligation to maintain the land for the future generations of our Nations as recalled by Wampum 44.

WHEREAS the Canadian Government knows this land is subject to litigation resulting from fraudulent and dubious practices. Canada has allowed permits to be given out to Indian land it does not have title to. Gen. Haldimand confirmed that Britain would affirm the right of the Six Nations to a tract of land six miles deep on either side of the Grand River running from its mouth to its source. None of this land was ever legally surrendered. Most of this land was lost through a variety of frauds perpetrated or condoned by the colonial governments. Canada knows it violated the law when it deposed the traditional government in 1824. Canada is presently in negotiations to rectify these past injustices. Offering non-native people title to this land is a deliberate attempt to mislead and act in bad faith. Henco Industries is part of “sharp” practice on the part of the Crown in Right of Ontario and/or Canada which knows that it cannot grant legal title to these lands.

WHEREAS the elected Six Nations Council of Grand River set up under the Indian Act does not represent the Rotinoshon’non:we according to standards established under international law, including The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

WHEREAS Canada has ascribed to the internationally recognized standards for respecting political rights of the People as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international legal instruments.

WHEREAS the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination found on March 6, 2006 that the United States was denying the Western Shoshone people “their rights to own, develop, control and use their land and resources”; they warned the U.S. to respect the Convention; and to “freeze”, “desist” and “stop” their actions immediately and to abide by the Committee’s “Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure”. Canada’s encroachment violates “international human rights norms, principles and standards”. The Western Shoshone decision indicates that encroaching as a way to take over land has been formally rejected.

WHEREAS there has been no valid consultation with or consent by the constitutional Indigenous People according to the standards set by Canadian, U.S. and international law.

WHEREAS relations between Canada and the Rotinoshon’non:we continue to be governed by the Two Row Wampum.

WHEREAS the actions being taken by Canada, Ontario and its agencies were established in the colonial era according to procedures that violated international law.

WHEREAS General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XV) requires the informed consent of a people before they are included in another state.

WHEREAS the International Court of Justice affirmed Resolution 1541 in the Western Sahara case.

continued on next page
WHEREAS the courts of other colonial states like the Supreme Court of Australia in Mabo have formally repudiated past colonizing and practices.

WHEREAS the denial of a nation’s existence constitutes genocide according to the many international covenants that Canada has pledged to uphold.

WHEREAS Section 35 (1) of Canada’s Constitution Act 1982 has formally recognized and affirmed “existing Aboriginal and treaty rights”.

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada has stated that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights must now be respected.

WHEREAS Canada is required to respect our right to our lands and resources under Section 109 of its Constitution Act 1867.

WHEREAS the traditional laws of the Rotinoshon’non:we are still in effect.

WHEREAS the Women Title Holders have never been consulted concerning this proposal to violate the title of ourselves and the future generations by building subdivisions on our land which involves the alienation of our people’s Indigenous rights and lands.

We the women title holders accordingly remind the colonial governments and institutions involved in this project that:

1. The proposed construction is illegal; that Canada and Ontario have no authority to make political decisions on behalf of our People;
2. Rotinoshon’non:we land is inalienable. There can be no discussion of the possibility of a legitimate agreement alienating the land;
3. The procedures deny political power from the People;
4. The proper venue to discuss these matters is the traditional Rotinoshon’non:we process as set out in the Kaianereh’ko:wa.
5. The Canadian and U.S. Constitutions respect that relations with us shall be conducted on a nation-to-nation basis.
6. The Women Title Holders insist on an immediate end to this initiative, and to initiate a dialogue to work toward a solution acceptable to the Rotinoshon’non:we.

By: Rotinoshon’non:we Women Title Holders

Ayantwahas /s/ Gaayetweh /s/ Ayantwahas /s/ Gaayetweh /s/

The lands in question, being part of the Haldimand Trust according to the Injunction are listed as:

"Soehulata A.

FIRSTLY: Parts of Lots B and C, Range West of plank Road, geographic Township of Onata, in Haldimand County and being Parts 1 and 2 of Reference Plan 18B - 6217

SECONDLY: Part of Lot 18, Broken Front Donoosna on the Grand River, geographic Township of Onata, in Haldimand County, and being Parts 2 and 3 on Reference Plan 18B - 6217 AND THAT the said land is registered in the Land Registry Office for the land Titles Division of Haldimand as Parcel RC-18 in the Register for Section 2A of Plank Rd & BFC on OR (Onata)

continued from page 60

Remember: the Canadian State and its police guard dogs have been progressively militarizing the media, by seizing video and other materials in order to mount criminal cases against individuals. This occurred in the Caledonia standoff as recently as May 20th, when CH TV (the same station whose reporters were injured yesterday) had a tape seized by police who wanted to use it to identify individuals - the station had been given the tape (which was shot by a Caledonia resident) on condition of confidentiality and that the faces of individuals would be obscured.

As the group Canadian Journalists for Free Expression has noted, this is a reoccurring phenomenon in Canada. In June 2001 the RCMP seized videotaped belonging to Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) correspondent Todd Lamirande – the footage included part of a confrontation between indigenous people protesting the Sun Peaks ski resort development and local supporters of the project. Furthermore, “on 15 June 2000, Toronto police seized video footage of an anti-poverty protest at the Ontario legislature on the grounds that they needed media photographs and videotape to help identify participants, as media were able to get closer to the demonstrators than police. Similarly, on 5 April 2000, police in Montreal demanded that television stations Radio Canada and TVA hand over recordings of a protest at which violence had broken out, according to Reporters sans frontières (RSF).”

As the CJFE notes: as a result of such seizures “journalists risk being perceived as adjuncts of the state.”

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By: Rotinoshon’non:we Women Title Holders

Ayantwahas /s/ Gaayetweh /s/ Ayantwahas /s/ Gaayetweh /s/
Ontario Provincial Police are trying to recover classified documents containing the identities of undercover officers and operational details concerning the native occupation.

The documents were stolen last Friday during an altercation between natives and police in which an OPP officer was seriously injured.

Natives occupying the Douglas Creek Estates got the documents when they stole an unmarked U.S. Border Patrol vehicle, stuffed it back two U.S. border agents and an OPP officer had been riding.

The OPP have issued an arrest warrant for a 30-year-old Six Nations man who is wanted for attempted murder. He is accused of trying to run over the stolen OPP officer with the stolen SUV.

The documents contain the names of OPP officers and U.S. agents involved in the standoff, home phone numbers, details of surveillance operations and information from confidential informants dating back to the beginning of the standoff.

They also include notes of investigations into human smuggling across the Canada-U.S. border and the Niagara frontier.

The Spectator obtained a copy of the documents on the weekend from former Spectator reporter Lynda Powless, publisher of Turtle Island News, a national native weekly newspaper based on the Six Nations Reserve.

Late yesterday, the OPP appealed to The Spectator to immediately return the copied documents.

“That information is very important and we need to get it back. I can’t stress that enough,” said OPP Acting Detective Staff Sergeant Anthony Renton.

The OPP officer said the information in the documents “is very sensitive law enforcement information that places people at risk as police officers.”

Renton would not discuss the documents’ impact on officer safety, operations or negotiations to end the standoff.

Among the documents is a two-page contact list of many key players in the standoff, including natives and OPP staff. In some instances, the list provides cellphone and home phone numbers.

News that the confidential information had fallen into native hands sent shock waves through the OPP union and the Niagara frontier.

University of Western Ontario law professor Michael Coyle goes to the site to deliver a written communique from Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice to Six Nations people at the camp, stating that Coyle is on a “fact-finding” mission for the federal government to “investigate the nature of the grievances, identify the jurisdictional implications and explore the possibility for mediation.” This is the first action taken by the federal government since the land reclamation began.

The natives returned the documents and the SUV to police yesterday, which recently criticized OPP leaders for compromising the safety of their frontline officers.

“I’m speechless,” said Karl Walsh, president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

“I will immediately call command staff and ask them what they are doing to ensure the safety of the officers whose safety has been compromised as a result of the information that is now in the hands of the antigomists within the Six Nations Reserve,” Renton said.

Powless said natives found the documents in a blue SUV parked at the U.S. Border Patrol. OPP officials say the border agents were observing provincial police handling the standoff.

The documents “came into my possession, and I will not tell you how, and I photocopied it, and I returned it,” Powless said.

The SUV was first spotted on Argyle Street in Caledonia with someone leaning out of the vehicle taking photographs of the natives barricades, she said, then sped off when protesters approached them.

One of our men, I understand, then jumped into the vehicle and drove it back onto the site. They looked into the vehicle to see what was in it and it was full of sophisticated radio and high tech equipment and a bunch of documents,” Powless said.

The natives returned the documents and the SUV to police after several hours of negotiations with native liaison officers, but not before the documents were photographed.

The intelligence officer’s log includes details of an OPP operations post being set up in the Hamilton area, checks into the background of natives and Caledonia residents, and information from the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) that “white supremacist skinheads” were heading to Caledonia that “did not materialize.”

One note describes an interview with a Caledonia resident who complained the standoff frightened her children.

The officer’s log reads: “Her kids are on the school bus and they were told to do up the windows on the bus.”

February 28, 2006: In response to the March 17 judge’s order last week stating the site must be clear by 2 PM on March 22, over 200 people gathered at the nearby Unity Road School, three days, about 14 to 15 undercover cops, two cruisers side by side above the site and on the other side at Canadian Tire the cruisers face the site directly. We welcome our brothers, sisters, friends and allies with open arms to stand in solidarity with us against this illegal invasion of Six nations Land (Highway 6, Caledonia Ontario).”

In 1990, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation was the first non Mohawks to blockade to show their support. The warrior societies across Canada agreed to the following situations like this: 1. To stay in our home territory and monitor the situation. 2. That if bloodshed occurred we would take action in our territories that would include blockades but more importantly, we agreed that in the event of the Canadian army killing indigenous people, we would bring the Canadian economy to a halt. We have made it perfectly clear to Canada that the Treaties gave recognition to the whites to peaceful co-existence. We are warning the whites that the Treaty is a warning to Canada that the situation is being monitored.

As the Mohawks stated “The whole issue is jurisdiction and title and we’re allies, not subjects.” Canada must stop using guns to resolve its legal disputes with the Indigenous People. They know they stole it, they have to give it back. It will remain to be seen if the Conservatives who were in power in 1990 have learned anything from the Oka crisis.

March 22, 2006: In response to the March 17 judge’s order last week stating the site must be clear by 2 PM on March 22, over 200 people gather at the nearby Unity Road School, three days, about 14 to 15 undercover cops, two cruisers side by side above the site and on the other side at Canadian Tire the cruisers face the site directly. We welcome our brothers, sisters, friends and allies with open arms to stand in solidarity with us against this illegal invasion of Six nations Land (Highway 6, Caledonia Ontario).”

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June 13, 2006

Top secrets in Native hands!

Undercover officers’ names, classified CSIS information was in stolen SUV

(Paul Morse Hamilton Spectator, Jun 13, 2006)
Councillor Craig Ashbaugh says, “The land claim dispute is jeopardizing future development for Haldimand and a moratorium on development cannot be allowed.” Haldimand Mayor Marie Trainer tells reporters that she will be travelling to Ottawa, to meet with federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice and local cabinet minister Diane Finley to try to find a resolution.

April 5, 2006: At a community meeting to discuss the Indian Act band council’s progress on resolving land claims, band council leader Dave General says headway has been made with the Ontario and federal government since 2004, and expresses optimism that the land claim process “can make a difference in the future.” A Six Nations community member from the camp calls for General to be impeached.

April 6, 2006: The Department of Indian Affairs says the conflict “has nothing to do with the federal government,” that is a police matter and that police fall under provincial jurisdiction. The Ontario Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs says that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty “remains committed to further cooperation with Ontario’s First Nations but will not get involved in the standoff.”

April 7, 2006: Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer and other county officials meet with Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice in Ottawa. Prentice states that he “has a few ideas on how to resolve the standoff” but is “waiting for a report on the situation from a fact-finder.”

April 11-18, 2006: Solidarity actions are held in Oshawa, Montréal, North Battleford, Vancouver, Sault Ste. Marie, and London to express solidarity with Six Nations land defenders. The Solidarity Kit is distributed throughout the region.

April 13, 2006: A citizen from the camp calls for an immediate cessation of Henco’s activities, peaceful nation-to-nation negotiations and a withdrawal of police forces, and an end to the continued illegal expropriation of Indigenous lands and resources.

April 15, 2006: The federal government finally meets with traditional chiefs, Clan Mothers, and camp spokespeople. Henco, Six Nations Indian Act Band council members, senior OPP officers, Haldimand town council, and Ontario government representatives are also present. Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay says he wants to work with Henco to help them with their “financial pain.”

April 15, Provincial and federal government representatives continue to meet with Indian Act Band council and Henco’s lawyers to discuss the preservation for Henco’s losses. Federal money is suggested for Six Nations to “look at its own government funds” for housing, funding ways to continue paternalistic interference with Six Nations governance, rather than dealing with the theft of indigenous land. In a joint offer, federal and Ontario government offer to Henco Six Nations other land in the Haldimand Tract as “compensation” if the people at the camp leave. (Yes, they offered Six Nations their own land.)

April 16, 2006: At a meeting of the Indian Act Band council, the council vots 7 to 6 in favor of turning land matters over to the Haudenagon (Rotino’shon:ni)
The day before the cop union had announced “We need to take a tougher stand – we’re being prevented from doing our job – we need the tools to get the job done” and then voilà! On Friday two reporters get roughed up and the police are reported as “doing nothing”... some may say this sounds a tad stage-managed...

Later that day US ATF police (initially reported as Border Patrol) and OPP officers taking pictures of the reclamation site are dragged from their vehicle and the car driven toward a police officer who is injured as he is pulled from its path. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty threatens to cancel negotiations, and one OPP officer says to press it’s time to bring in the military. As camp spokesperson Hazel Hill points out, “What needs to be understood is that the incidents of today, are a direct result of the constant intimidation tactics of the OPP and others of the military, the continued racial discrimination being shown, not by us, but by the Caledonia people... all of which lead up to the ultimate goal of the government. To justify stopping the talks at the negotiating table... The violence that occurred is not something that we are proud of, but it is something that we completely understand knowing and understanding the underhanded and direct attempts at inciting the action required to justify another attack against our people, and to make it look like we are uncontrollable.” The Haudenonisco (Council of Chiefs) issue a statement saying they don’t condone violence in any form, that the indigenous individuals involved in the incidents have been removed from the reclamation site until Six Nations complete its own investigation, and that individuals involved “will be dealt with in a manner harmonious with the Great Law of Peace.”

At 6 PM 300-400 non-indigenous Caledonia residents gather near the Canadian Tire parking lot and confronted. Two CH-TV camera crew members who film the clash are beaten after they try to stop Six Nations people and supporters from taking the tape from the news camera. Subsequent media reports allege that OPP officers refused to intervene, further promoting the right-wing fantasy that the police are “powerless” and “siding with the Natives” while the opposite is obviously the case! (see photo for proof that this was a fabrication).

Confederacy Council of Chiefs. According to observer Kahentinetha Horn, from Mohawk Nation News, “The band council decision to hand matters concerning land over to the traditional Confederacy council that Canada violently deposed in 1924 is a political breakthrough.” The Haudenonisco (Council of Chiefs) issues a release stating that talks held over the weekend and Monday night have been unsuccessful as the federal and Ontario governments have refused to acknowledge the issues raised by the Haudenonisco — an immediate moratorium on development by Henco of the lands in Caledonia that are under reclamation, agreement not to criminalize Six Nations people who are reclaiming their lands, and an end to backroom dealing between federal and provincial representatives and the Indian Act Council on land issues.

Apr 19, 2006: Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty pleads that the dispute will be settled in a “peaceful manner”, but the police presence continues.

“The band council decision to hand matters concerning land over to the traditional Confederacy council that Canada violently deposed in 1924 is a political breakthrough.”
- Kahentinetha Horn

continue on page 16...
April 19, 2006

According to the Six Nations Confederacy, women are the title holders of the land. Sewatis has been at the Six Nations blockade since it began on February 28. “I was the first one to encounter your enforcement officer,” he says. “I was peaceable and just explained the situation. [I said] ‘I cannot follow your orders because I’m not Canadian. I’m Haudenosaunee.’”

The police officer he was speaking with didn’t appear to know how to handle Sewatis’ response to his order. Apparently, the fact that someone born and raised only a few miles from where they stood—just outside of Caledonia, Ontario—was not Canadian was a difficult concept to grasp. “So, I just told him ‘You’ll have to wait for my superiors to come,’” says Sewatis. “That’s the kind of language they seem to understand.”

I am sitting with Sewatis in his van. For over six weeks this is where he has slept. That is to say, when he has slept. Many nights he sits by the fire, keeping watch in case the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) chooses to invade the site.

From where we sit, we can see dozens of people gathered around the fire, singing, laughing and talking. To our left is a cookhouse that was recently built to feed the growing number of people that have come to support the repossession of Six Nations’ land. There are several tents, a teepee and a couple of trailers scattered nearby.

It might feel like a camping trip except for the fact that we are in the middle of a construction site. There are no trees or grass and ten partially built suburban homes stand nearby. Henco Industries had hoped to build hundreds of houses here. Construction was halted on February 28 when the road to the site was blocked and Henco was informed that the land is not theirs to build on.

“We’re here telling people that it’s our land and it was illegally attained and it was illegally sold,” says Sewatis. “That’s just the plain and simple truth.”

This is not “the kind of language they seem to understand.”

On April 6, the Canadian government said that the Six Nations dispute is not about land rights. “This is not a lands-claim matter,” said Deirdre McCracken, a spokesperson for the Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice. She also said that the blockade “has nothing to do with land—and with the Canadian government.”

The statement outlines how “General Haldimand confirmed that Britain would affirm the right of the Six Nations to a tract of land six miles deep on either side of the Grand River, running from its mouth to its source.” The piece of land immediately under dispute is only a small part of the much larger ‘Haldimand Tract.’

This piece of history is not being debated. A plaque erected in Cayuga, Ontario by the Ontario Archeological and Historic Sites Board says much the same thing. The sign also notes that the land was awarded in 1764 in recognition of the Six Nations’ help to the British Crown during the American Revolution. What the plaque says next is where the stories diverge. “In later years, large areas of this tract...were sold to white settlers.”

According to the women of the Rotinoshon’non:we, however, “None of this land [the Haldimand tract] was ever legally surrendered.” The women’s statement carries a great deal of weight as, “Women are the ‘Title Holders’ of the land of Rotinoshon’non:we as recalled by Wampum 44 of the Kaianereh’ko:wa.”

The significance of the previous sentence will be lost on most Canadians, who will have no idea what it means.

 Indigenous nations have their own constitution (Kaianereh’ko:wa). “The idea that British Colonists or their descendents—like Canadians—were the only people who had ‘law’ is a legal fiction,” says Kahenteiohtha H实行 (Mohawk elder from Kahnawake). Canada “has totally disrespected our laws and agreements to conduct a nation-to-nation relationship.”

The Six Nations Confederacy has been called the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. Hazel Hill, one of the women active at the blockade describes how decisions are made: “There are fifty chiefs which represent the Confederacy Council and they have a clanmother with each chief. It is the people whose voice the chiefs and clanmothers carry. Any decision regarding land, comes first from the women, and then to their clans, and through the process of our council, when all are in agreement, or when consensus has been reached, only then does the decision stand,” she says. “In our history of the Haldimand Tract, this has never been done.”

In 1924, the Band Council system was imposed
Six Nations are repossessing their land

by force on Six Nations. In the place of the traditional government what critics refer to as “a puppet government” was installed using the Indian Act.

Since 1924, the Canadian government has done its negotiating with the Band Council, a system that is a part of and paid for by the federal government. “The Band Council,” says Horn, “does not represent the Six Nations peoples according to international law.”

In an open letter to local newspapers, Hill compares the government’s agreements with Band Council to finding a few people in Caledonia to agree to sell their town to the people Six Nations. “Would that be legal?” she asks.

The Band Council system does not allow the voice of the people to be heard, says Horn. If the Canadian government wants to seek legitimate discussions, negotiations must be undertaken on a nation-to-nation basis. “There could then be an orderly settlement based on an orderly investigation of the facts and an orderly identification of the laws that apply,” says Horn. “The reason Canada doesn’t want to do this is because it knows full well that when the process is complete, the facts will clearly show they have illegally invaded our land.”

There is a large sign at the Six Nations blockade that reads “Oh Canada, your home on native land.” The play on words from something as basic as the national anthem is appropriate for a standoff that could turn the meaning of Canada on its head.

Acknowledging Indigenous land rights will, of course, mean much more than establishing who lives where or who pays taxes to whom. Laughing says he’s at the blockade for the sake of his kids. Canada “has been standing on the back of an Indian for too long,” he says. “It’s time to get off and let us stand proud of who we are.”

It is not only First Nations people that stand to benefit from a just outcome to the Six Nations standoff, says Horn. Native and non-native people alike are suffering from a system that is destroying the environment. Horn believes that under Indigenous title, the land would be treated with far more respect. “According to our constitution, we have to take care of the land, in other words we’re ‘environmentalists,’” explains Horn. “That’s why it’s important [for non-native people] to help us assert our jurisdiction.”

People from across Canada and around the world have lent their support to the Six Nations’ struggle. Hundreds of people have gathered at the site each time there has been a threat of the OPP moving in.


If the OPP chooses to invade, many at the site feel that it is their duty to defend their land and defend their people. “We’re not seeking violence,” Sewatis says. “I seek peace first...but, I believe in what’s right.”

Sewatis has seen how standoffs over land rights have ended before. “They think they can make peace by having a gun and having it their way,” he observes. “We want to talk about peace and the laws and jurisdiction of the lands. We are going to utilize the great law of peace. We’re going to offer it one more time.”

At the time this article went to print, over 50 police cruisers were gathering in Caledonia and Six Nations was on “Red Alert.”

* For a complete version of this article see http://www.politicalcalibre.ca/article/articleview/58533/1/1/0/
At 5 A.M. over 150 heavily armed Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) invaded the camp, using Tasers, batons, tear gas, and pepper spray against unarmed Six Nations people and arresting 16 individuals (charges include assault with a weapon, mischief to public property, intimidation, resisting arrest, creating a disturbance, and assaulting police). The people at the camp courageously resisted and forced police to retreat. Supporters from across North America pledge to come to the camp to stand in solidarity. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty says the police action is “completely independent” and that his government didn’t learn of the raid until it was already in progress.

After the failed invasion, Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay calls on his federal counterpart Jim Prentice to appoint a personal envoy to take part in talks with the Haudenononic (Council of Chiefs). Deputy Commissioner Maurice Pillon says the OPP has no immediate plans to go in again, but that they intend to maintain a perimeter around the camp and continue their command post in a school near the area.

People at the camp maintain the peace throughout the night after the raid, despite provocation by a mob of 300 white residents who come to the camp to tell Six Nations people and their supporters to “go home” (!). continued on page 16...

Police Attack Reclamation...

Report from the camp on police raid

From: Hazel Hill

Hey to all of our friends and allies from Grand River Territory.

We upheld the law and we’re standing proud. This morning 15 people were arrested when the police moved in about 4:30 a.m. They had pepper sprayed some of the men and women, and forcibly removed our people from the site, including some of the non-Aboriginal supporters that have been on the site with us, for weeks.

My husband and I weren’t on the site at the time, but one of the women from the camp came and told us that the police had moved in and so we immediately headed back down. We happened to their lands and monies held in trust by their fiduciary Canada.

How much in lands and money? At the time, Six Nations officials refused to say publicly what they believed to be owed, but Windspeaker’s trip to Six Nations in May has revealed that at the time of the statement of claim the figure was $800 billion; yes, that’s with a ‘b’. Steve Williams, the elected leader at the time, said he has no doubt that number stands today at $1 trillion.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he believes in accountability. It is one of the five priorities established by the Conservative government for this Parliament. Can Six Nations then expect that under his watch, a voluntary and spontaneous effort at an accounting of Six Nations trusts will occur? If not, why not?

A similar case played out in the United States in a suit called Cobell and has led to charges of contempt against the secretary of the Interior; that country’s equivalent to Indian Affairs minister, for obstruction and delay. In Canada, nothing. In the U.S. it is generally acknowledged, as a result of the Cobell case, that the U.S. government plundered Indian trusts believing it would never be held accountable. Turns out the U.S. might have been wrong, especially if Judge Royce Lambert has his way. Is there no equivalent of Judge Lambert in Canada?

The one thing that had worked against Six Nations in the past was division in the community. What we saw at three separate public meetings at the Six Nations community hall between April 30 and May 3 was that those divisions are still there, but the outrage within the community over the continued frustration of its legitimate attempts to seek justice have united the Big Six like never before.

And that could mean big trouble for Canada. Especially if residents of Caledonia clue in to why this is happening to them.

If enough voters across this country at any time since 1867 had set their elected representatives know that they expected a fair and immediate settlement to all outstanding Aboriginal land issues, the MPs would have got it done. They haven’t so far because Canadians haven’t bothered to get informed and demand action. That was because of ignorance or because of complicity in the injustice. The good people of Caledonia are now seeing what that kind of negligence costs.

You saw the burning tires and the scenes of Ontario Provincial Police officers struggling with camouflaged “occupiers” at the site of development on the disputed lands of Douglas Creek Estates. You saw angry town residents spewing hatred across the divide between the police line and the edge of the occupation. But what you didn’t see could mark the beginning of a sea-change in Canada.

You didn’t see the non-Native women at the barricades arguing for cooler heads to prevail when a few townies got out of hand. You didn’t see the queries and the questioning from those regular Joes who thirst for information so they can understand the history of the conflict. You didn’t see Aboriginal clergy walking amongst the angry Caledonians, their mere presence in their vestments a plea for calm and rational behavior. These are considered non-stories by the media, but they could be at the heart of a new relationship that is developing between thinking non-Aboriginal people and their long-suffering Native neighbors.
of unity flags on hydro towers, the creation of self-defense barricades by Six Nations people and supporters suggest the OPP is targeting Six Nations people in its investigation. As camp spokesperson Janie Jamieson points out, “This is our territory. We do have the right to occupy our territory.”

Sunday, June 4, 2006: At 8 PM, an OPP cruiser is spotted on 6th Line near Cayuga Road, in breach of a mutual aid agreement between OPP and Six Nations Police that requires the OPP to seek permission before entering Six Nations territory. Six Nations people surround the car to stop it from further encroaching on Six Nations land, and Six Nations police are called to the scene. In response to rumours that a barricade has gone up again, non-indigenous people from Caledonia swarm towards the site, carrying placards reading “Rising in the Army”. Six Nations people move back onto the reclamation site at 11 PM. By 1 AM Monday morning press report that most people have dispersed, but also misreport that there is another blockade. Camp spokesperson Hazel Hill states, “There were concerns that a barricade may go back up, but we want to make it clear, that the incident involving the OPP officer had nothing to do with the reclamation site”. OPP Const. Paula Wright says authorities are investigating a car fire and two assaults stemming from the incident.

Press report that on Monday the Ontario legislature will debate an Opposition motion calling for an inquiry into the Liberal government’s response to the Six Nations land reclamation. Opposition Leader John Tory’s stance to press: “When you have a situation where you have land occupied, roads blocked for weeks on end, there’s a need for a commission to take a look at better ways to do things, and ways we can make sure the rule of law is upheld”.

Monday, June 5, 2006: The Ontario Conservative Party motion calling for an inquiry into the Ontario government’s response to the Six Nations land reclamation passes. The motion, which calls upon the government to “recognize that the premier’s procrastination and failure to show leadership when it was most needed allowed this situation to escalate into a public safety crisis,” does not bind the government to hold an inquiry.

Preliminary results of a survey conducted by the Ontario legislature’s tourism and economic development office estimate more than $825,000 in losses and damage to Norfolk businesses during the power outage caused by the damage to a hydro transformer tower in Caledonia. Diana Jardine, director of municipal programs and education branch with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, says the ministry wanted to know the cost incurred by Norfolk businesses because of the blackout but there are no immediate plans to offer financial assistance to affected businesses.

Tuesday, June 6, 2006: An anonymous email circulates encouraging non-indigenous Caledonia residents to rally at the Haldimand County Caledonia Centre Wednesday night to disrupt a lacrosse game staged by the Six Nations Minor Lacrosse Association. The email says the purpose of the rally is to “restrict access to the arena to people who are not welcome in our community.”

Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty dismisses the passing of a motion in the Ontario legislature criticizing his response to the land reclamation, portraying the Liberal party as peaceful, “patient”, and “responsible” (1), and states to press he will not convene an inquiry.

We continue to keep the Peace, we have many supporters from many territories coming in to our aid and we want to send a Big Nya Weh to all of you, who, while you might not be here physically, all of the efforts through e-mails, letters etc., the food and other donations that you have been bringing in have touched our hearts tremendously, and through your support, you have helped in keeping that spirit alive and in the forefront. Will talk to you soon, our prayers are with all of you tonight as well.

--Hazel

continued on page 59
Protest strands 3,500 rail travellers, freight

"We have an uncanny ability to defend ourselves" - Shawn Brant

TYENDINAGA, Ont. and TORONTO - A group of Mohawk protesters shut down a key railroad corridor yesterday — stranding passengers and freight across two provinces — to show support for aboriginals staging their own protest about 300 kilometres away.

Although demonstrators from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation Territory near Belleville agreed last night to dismantle the barricade, their day-long protest halted railroad traffic on a typically busy section of the Montreal-Toronto corridor and left about 3,500 VIA Rail passengers stuck across Ontario and Quebec.

Rail operator Canadian National went before a judge yesterday afternoon to get an injunction against the protesters in a bid to protect the $102-million worth of cargo shipped along the line daily.

Members of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation Territory began burning bonfires around 1 a.m. yesterday and parked themselves, too, and all of it.

"We have an uncanny ability to defend ourselves," said Mr. Brant, a Tyendinaga Mohawk and the de facto spokesman for the group, said earlier in the day — before protesters agreed to remove the blockade — that demonstrators would continue to block the railroad tracks despite the CN injunction.

The plan was to keep things peaceful and keep talking to police and CN, he said, but protesters were ready for anyone who would try to remove them.

"We have an uncanny ability to defend ourselves," Mr. Brant said, refusing to specify whether the group carried weapons.

Mr. Brant said there was a mutual understanding between the group and police that nothing would happen until protesters found out whether Six Nations representatives would get a chance to talk with government officials.

"We’ve got millions of dollars that we’re holding up and I think that if they took an aggressive action against us before the outcome of the talks was revealed, we’ll be ready to defend ourselves and respond in kind," he said. […]

Every car that drove along the gravel road toward the school bus drew protesters’ attention and they were quick to clear the roads. They restricted access to the tracks themselves.

A Transport Canada official would occasionally check in with the protesters to see whether there was any damage to the track.

Predicts the Tyendinaga Mohawk Nation protest left about a dozen CN freight trains, some carrying perishable goods, to sit idle across Ontario and Quebec, while several other trains never left the yard. […]

Malcolm Andrews, a Via spokesman, said about 3,500 passengers travelling on two dozen trains in the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal corridor were affected.

Highway buses seat about 47 people, Mr. Andrews said, adding that about 2,100 travellers booked for travel today would be accommodated.

The rail line runs about 22 trains between Toronto and Ottawa or Montreal each day. […]

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If you caught the news, our people went up the Brantford Charity Casino to hand out flyers and remind the Crown that the unceded territory is not just the one little piece that we have reclaimed near Caledonia. (Hazel Hill, June 1st)

women, threw tear gas at them and tasered some during the arrest but police retreated as Natives chased them off and more Natives arrived. KKCanada has called for massive police and military reinforcement. There is over 3000 OPP and RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Pigs) and 1000 military just waiting for KKCanada to give them word to move in for another assault.

STOP THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON NATIVE PEOPLES

KKKANADA CALLS FOR POLICE AND MILITARY REINFORCEMENT INTO NATIVE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND WARRIORS OCCUPYING DISPUTED INDIAN LAND

NYM TAKES SOLIDARITY ACTION TO SUPPORT SIX NATIONS

(Neskantaga Reserve, unceded Secwepemc Territory / Six Nations) has called for support and to let the World know that terrorist attacks are happening here in KKCanada against the Original Peoples of the Land.

STOP THE TERRORISM—OPP OUT OF SIX NATIONS—NATIVE LAND

On Thursday, April 20, 2006 over 150 people marched to Brantford to show solidarity with the people of Six Nations. The Secwepemc Native Youth Movement has set up an information picket along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy #1) at Neskonlith Reserve, 5KM west of Chase, BC to show solidarity with people at Six Nations. In addition to a billboard reading: "Put an end to the OPP terrorism on our land."

Haldimand County confirms that the state of emergency will remain “for monitoring purposes” until Hydro One crews have completed repairs on the backup transformer — likely June 5 or 6.

The hearing called by Ontario Superior Court Justice David Marshall to discuss why the OPP remove Six Nations people from the reclamation site are not being enforced, the OPP and Ontario government call for negotiations rather than police force. OPP lawyer Denise Dwyer criticizes the Haldimand Law Association for comparing negotiations with Six Nations to appeasement of Hitler (!), stating another injunction would “threaten public and officer safety”, and, “the protest is a symptom of the underlying problem” of Canadian governments’ failure to deal with land issues. Gwen Young, representing the Ontario government, tells the court that “given the history of aboriginal relations in Canada, we should not be surprised by upheaval,” and that negotiations are “an expression of the maintenance of the rule of law.” Judge Marshall states he will contact the minister of Indian Affairs and the attorney general to “bring the federal government on board” with negotiations, and orders all parties to reappear on June 16 to discuss progress.

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Marshall warns that if Henco or Ratline do not have a ruling from the OPP enforce his earlier orders, “the court will do that if necessary.” Michael Bruder, lawyer for Henco, says that if the Ontario government does not buy out Henco in the next two weeks, the company will “have to consider applying to Judge Marshall for an order that the injunction be enforced”.

As Hazel Hill wrote: “today, judge marshall probably surprised everyone, including me. well, at least a bit. i was certain there was going to be an ultimatum tied to whatever he did today, but unless i am hearing it wrong, he did quite well by giving the responsibility back to the federal government. his rulings today, with new instructions, show the prime minister of indian affairs mr. prentice, as well as the attorney general to attend the june 16th date, he has given two weeks of preparation time for this.”

If you caught the news, our people went up the Brantford Charity Casino to hand out flyers and remind the Crown that the unceded territory is not just the one little piece that we have reclaimed near Caledonia”, (Hazel Hill, June 1st)

STOP POLICE TERRORISM—OPP OUT OF SIX NATIONS—NATIVE LAND

On Thursday, April 20, 2006 over 150 heavily armed Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) with M-16’s and riot gear moved in to try and end the 52-day occupation at Six Nations. The Six Nations have been occupying the land of disputed Douglas Creek Estates luxury housing development since Feb 28th. This Land has always belonged to Six Nations but KKCanada and Ontario have made land deals without true ownership, with stolen Land.

The OPP arrested 16 Natives, assaulted women, threw tear gas at them and tasered some during the arrest but police retreated as Natives chased them off and more Natives arrived. KKCanada has called for massive police and military reinforcement.
A military force of unknown size and capacity seems to be operating out of the Hamilton airport, according to information gathered by the Dominion. The deployment of military forces would mark the involvement of the Canadian military in the standoff between native protesters and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The OPP has tried, once unsuccessfully, to remove demonstrators occupying a highway in development that Six Nations Kanienkehake (Mohawks) say is illegal under Canadian, Haudenosaunee and international law.

In an interview, an Airport official initially confirmed that Canadian Forces were at the airport in a "back up support" capacity. Mary Beth Horvath, Marketing/Communications Coordinator for the Hamilton airport, first told the Dominion that Canadian Forces were not "using it [the airport] as a staging ground. I haven't heard it regarded in that term."

Asked later to confirm, Horvath repeated that "there is some backup support there." When asked to specifically confirm that Canadian Forces were on site, Horvath responded that "I don't know if, again, I don't know to what extent or to what, so I'm not, I really don't want to be quoted on that because I'm not there to actually see it physically."

[Update: A resident of Caledonia who asked not to be identified told the Dominion he saw an unmarked grey van travelling in his neighborhood, blocks away from the standoff, with eight Canadian Forces personnel aboard. "They looked like Rangers," the source said.]

The deployment of military would mark the involvement of the Federal Government, marking a departure from what officials have repeatedly insisted is a Provincial matter.

The last time Canadian Forces were deployed against native demonstrators was during the 1990 Oka crisis, when Kanienkehake citizens occupied land that was slated for a golf course development. The land had been stolen a century earlier by the Catholic Church, and a century of Kanienkehake protests had not changed the situation. Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa invoked the National Defense Act, requesting "military aid to the civil power."

[...] Reports of torture and unjustified tactics earned Canada the condemnation of the International Federation of Human Rights and a place on Amnesty International's list of violators of human rights.

The government has also been accused of using "gum-laden tear gas" and "rubber bullets" to disperse protesters.

Provincial officials requested the deployment of Canadian Forces—specifically, the elite Joint Task Force Two—during the 1995 Gustafson lake standoff, officially denied. According to court testimony by police officers, police took flack jackets to a firing range and fired guns at them in order to create the appearance that police had been shot by the small group of natives occupying the site. Internal police video showed commandos stating the need for a "disinformation and smear campaign" against the native occupiers. With 77,000 rounds of ammunition shot by police, the deployment of armored vehicles, and the use of a land mine against a truck driven by one of the demonstrators, Gustafson Lake has been cited as the largest paramilitary deployment in Canadian history.

Ottawa Citizen reporter David Pugliese, in his book Canada's Secret Commandos: The Unauthorized Story of Joint Task Force Two, wrote that officially, JTF2 "wasn't deployed to the standoff."

"But civilian police officers privately confirm that JTF2 operators were at the siege, helping them in covert intelligence gathering as well as determining the lay of the land in case the entire unit was needed for an assault on the native encampment," Pugliese wrote. "Some of the native protesters also insist that it was members of JTF2, and not the RCMP, who engaged them in a gun battle in early September."

Federal officials have denied that the current stand-off at Six Nations has anything to do with JTF2. The chief of the Federal police, Chief Commissioner Bob Paulsen has said, "The police are dealing with a group of people who are blocking a road and we are asking them to come out of the way."

The presence of Canadian Forces on the ground, if confirmed, will be a stark change from the government's stated policy.

Paul Choi Hamilton Spectator May 29, 2006

Costs of the Caledonia blockade have reportedly exceeded $12 million and the bills aren't all in. Policeman costs alone are estimated at $10 million, with more for property damage and losses for businesses in the town and other expenses. "This whole thing has not been cheap," said Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer. "All our senior staff are keeping a record of what the departments are spending."

It's three months since Six Nations protesters began occupying a 40-hectare subdivision at Douglas Creek Estates. Ontario Provincial Police have been involved from the start, and costs are spiralling.

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On Thursday April 20, Hazel Hill, one of the Six Nations Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) leaders on the blockade at the Douglas Creek Estates near Caledonia, told me about her beating at the hands of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hours before. Early that morning, at 5am, the OPP came out in force. Exact numbers are unknown, but eyewitnesses said there were over 100 police knocking people down and clearing them out, guns drawn. They arrested 15, including a 14-year old child. The police were acting on an injunction on March 10 by a real estate developer, Henoc Industries Limited, to clear the native people— who had been holding the blockade since the beginning of March—and facilitate Henoc’s scheme to build a few more blocks of suburban houses on the site. When Provincial Court Judge Marshall issued an order to the indigenous people to leave the blockade, 630 people reportedly asked the Clan Mothers: “What’s the matter with you people? Why don’t you forget all about the past and listen to me?” Judge Marshall was evidently uncompromising, and the indigenous people remained on the blockade. The Clan Mothers, who have led the action, made the decision that the blockade would be unarmed. “The men are here to defend us,” Hazel Hill told me, “but there are no helicopters and other surveillance of the site, that the blockade was unarmed. This did not prevent them from engaging in a violent, disproportionate predawn raid on the site. Victims reported police use of pepper spray, lasers, and batons.

Pick-up Driven Through The Locked Gates and Set on Fire

On Thursday April 20, Hazel Hill, one of the Six Nations Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) leaders on the blockade at the Douglas Creek Estates near Caledonia, told me about her beating at the hands of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) hours before. Early that morning, at 5am, the OPP came out in force. Exact numbers are unknown, but eyewitnesses said there were over 100 police knocking people down and clearing them out, guns drawn. They arrested 15, including a 14-year old child. The police were acting on an injunction on March 10 by a real estate developer, Henoc Industries Limited, to clear the native people— who had been holding the blockade since the beginning of March—and facilitate Henoc’s scheme to build a few more blocks of suburban houses on the site. When Provincial Court Judge Marshall issued an order to the indigenous people to leave the blockade, 630 people reportedly asked the Clan Mothers: “What’s the matter with you people? Why don’t you forget all about the past and listen to me?” Judge Marshall was evidently uncompromising, and the indigenous people remained on the blockade. The Clan Mothers, who have led the action, made the decision that the blockade would be unarmed. “The men are here to defend us,” Hazel Hill told me, “but there are no helicopters and other surveillance of the site, that the blockade was unarmed. This did not prevent them from engaging in a violent, disproportionate predawn raid on the site. Victims reported police use of pepper spray, lasers, and batons.

The OPP got more than they bargained for that morning. Within hours of their raid, the indigenous returned. At around 5am on April 20, they evicted the police—who, after the raid, had reduced their presence significantly—returning with twice the number that had been removed. Like by March 22, blockade, this was an unarmed action by the indigenous: “We started moving in on them,” Hill said, “and coaxed them to leave... then we just walked them out.” At one point, however, Hazel Hill found herself alone with a few police officers. One officer threatened her with arrest, citing the injunction that protesters leave the territory. Hill replied that it was, instead, the officer who was in violation of the law of the land—Six Nations territory—and also, for that matter, international law. At that point, the officer physically attacked— and other police joined in. Hill was quickly rescued by others from the blockade, however, and the police withdrew, though not before using a taser on Hill’s rescuers and pointing their guns at them.

Provincial and Federal
The OPP’s 2-hour coup, and the government’s handling of the blockade, reveals something about Canada. The OPP are the police for the Canadian province of Ontario. Those on the blockade at Six Nations assert national rights and demand to be treated as such. The Canadian government refuses to treat the indigenous as nations. It would rather treat them as second-class citizens of municipalities and curtail the represssion of the inevitable resistance to the provinces. But the Liberal provincial government, through Ontario’s premier Dalton McGuinty, had said the day before the raid (April 19) that the government was going to take the time to resolve the issue peacefully.
In saying so, McGuinty was probably trying to distance himself from the previous provincial government, the Conservative government of Mike Harris, which had ordered the OPP to attack another native demonstration at Ipperwash in 1985. At that demonstration, an OPP sniper killed an unarmed indigenous man named Dudley George. An inquiry into that murder is still ongoing.

The afternoon after the April 20 2006 raid, McGuinty said “This police action comes completely independently of me, my office and my government.” But if he hadn’t ordered it, who had? Unless the OPP acted on their own, the obvious candidate is the federal government, with its new Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper and its militaristic pretensions. But if Harper gave the order, he hasn’t said so (and indeed, the Canadian media don’t seem to have asked). In any case, the federal government can’t give orders to the provincial police (can it?) And the federal government’s line is that it is a provincial matter. And yet, if this unarmed blockade is really a provincial matter, according to the federal government, who sent the Canadian military now operating just off site at the airport in the nearby city of Hamilton?

The Settler Problem

The land where the Six Nations reserve sits, with its 21,000 people, and where the blockade holds, was granted to the Six Nations in 1784 by Lieutenant Governor Haldimand. The land had been alienated from the Mississauga Nation. The Haldimand Grant was a bit different from other treaties with the British colonial government and indigenous nations. The Six Nations were granted an area six miles deep from the Grand River (an area far larger than the current Six Nations reserves) in exchange for their military service to the British during the American Revolutionary War. Many whites (the Loyalists) who fought in the same war and lost their lands (as the Six Nations had lost their lands to the Americans) were given similar grants by the British at the same time.

The double standard related to the problem of settlers. These were whites – often Americans – who decided to take a piece of indigenous land for themselves and start to farm it. When they did so, they put the indigenous in a dilemma. The indigenous could appeal to the government to protect their land rights, as they repeatedly did, for example in a resolution in 1809 that named specific settlers and violations (White Man’s Law: Native People in Nineteenth-Century Canadian Jurisprudence, Sidney L. Harring University of Toronto Press 1998, pg. 42). Against these settlers and their depredations, the government pleaded a lack of capacity, while the settlers relied “on the unwillingness of the Canadian government to remove them and believed ultimately that they would get legal title to their lands.” (Harring pg. 45). When settlers encroached on the lands of other whites, however, they were removed. When indigenous people, recognizing that the law wouldn’t protect them, took matters into their own hands and attacked settlers, the government did act – to prosecute and punish them (Harring pg. 45 describes a case from the 1850s). The message was clear: the government would protect settlers against indigenous, but not the reverse, whatever the law said.

In 1841, the government came up with a solution for the settler problem: “If the Indians would give up most of their lands, the depredations would cease.” (Harring pg. 51) And even though, lacking any recourse, the chiefs did surrender the lands, the settlers did not stop, nor did the government punish
Hello from Grand River Things are pretty quiet around the site these days. Maybe too quiet.

I’ve been reading alot in the surrounding newspapers. Caledonia mayor marie trainer was quoted this week as saying the army should be brought in. One of her councillors thinks that the government should just cut off all of the funding that comes into the territory. “cut off the tax exempt cards, cut off the monthly cheque...” (I still wonder where they get the idea that monthly cheques come to our people.)

Her response to those types of suggestions is “you’re absolutely right”, but first the crown should pay the billions and billions of dollars owed on land leases, the taxes collected on our land, the resources taken from our land and compensations for the destruction of the lands stolen and abused etc. If the crown paid her debt to our people there would be no need for the scraps that come to our people through their government structure. and then there is the interest monies on top of all that. when canada pays her debt we’ll gladly get rid of all of those other things.

wonder if Canadians realize they’ve been duped? they talk as if we are a burden to them. like they’re supporting us. does it not occur to them that they are the burden. they have been freeloading off our lands and resources for thousands of years. even if, and i say if because we know that the land “surrenders” are fraudulent, but if the 1841 surrender was real, where is the money???????? they have never paid for one single lease that they have obtained throughout history (to my knowledge anyway). when you lease a car and don’t pay for it what happens...they take it back. that’s exactly what we did with our lands. in fact, we should be ready to repossess the whole haldimand and then let PM Harper say that it’s not a federal matter.

and as far as mayor trainer’s irresponsible remarks about bringing in the army....guess she doesn’t think much of her citizens in caledonia if she really wants a rant comments like “just because your ancestors sold the land in 1995. But as Henco Industries and Six Nations understands, as settlers and indigenous people the world over understand, the law and the facts on the ground are two different things.

“Our job is to be able to kill people” And as the police attack on Hazel Hill reported illustrates, governments on the losing end of legal arguments often get violent. The Canadian government has moved in more violent directions in recent months. This is attested to by Canada’s changing of its voting pattern at the UN to unconditional support for Israel, including its right to murder and dispossess the Palestinians with impunity. It is attested to by its deepening engagement in aggressive military operations with the US in Afghanistan, which were announced by Canada’s Chief of Defence Staff General Hillier in July 2005 with the words: “We are the Canadian forces, and our job is to be able to kill people.” What Canada’s government must consider is whether its appetite for violence is matched by the population. It seems unlikely. Settler states always hope the indigenous can be contained, made invisible, and disappeared. But the indigenous have different ideas, and the police raid of April 20 had the opposite effect, with more attention on the situation now than ever. Other indigenous nations have taken action in solidarity. Across the country, in British Columbia on the West Coast, Secwemps are marching in support. Re-serve struck an information picket in support of Six Nations. The Secwemps are in their own fight with the Sun Peaks Resort, built on their land in violation of their rights. Closer to Caledonia, the Mohawks of Tyendinaga, who had themselves been expecting some sort of attack on their lands, blocked a CN rail line and the Mohawks of Kahnawake stopped traffic on the Mercier Bridge to Montreal on April 20. In their press release, the Mohawks wrote: “We anticipate similar action will be taken in First Nations communities across the country and will encourage those communities not taking action of their own to make their way to Six Nations or join us here. Six Nations does not stand alone.”

Kahentinetha Horn of the Mohawk News Network wrote: “Supporters, if you want to send us a flag from your country to show your support, we will be honored to hoist it...sign it and send it to Hazel Hill, RR#6, Hagersville, Ontario Canada NOA 1H0. Deliver it in person. We’d be glad to meet you.”
...continued from page 19

camp, there are billboards, banners, and signs to get the message out to the 10,000+ travellers per day that drive this highway.

Over 100 concerned members of the Vancouver Native community meet at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to discuss solidarity with the Six Nations, and decide to hold a peaceful rally on Tuesday April 25. Near Winnipeg, at a sacred spot at the Red River and Assiniboine River fork, people come together to burn tobacco and pray for people at Six Nations.

Apr 25, 2006: Ontario Provincial Police and RCMP are still in place around the camp, and one media outlet has raised questions about possible federal military forces in Hamilton. People inside the camp affirm that they will remain for at least two weeks while talks take place between the Ontario government (through Chiefs) and the Ontario and federal governments.

Apr 4, 2006: Kahehkitio, a 20-year-old Mohawk from Kahnawake who was arrested during the police invasion on April 20 and held over the weekend for refusing to give a colonial name, is released with no charges.

Two non-indigenous residents of Caledonia organize an evening rally calling on the governments for quick and peaceful resolution. As a crowd of 3,000 people come, arguments between residents break out and 500 participants move toward the camp, shouting insults at the Six Nations people and supporters.

Police stop the non-indigenous demonstrators before they could reach the blockade, and arrest one man. The crowd then takes out its anger by attacking a police vehicle. People in the camp continue to maintain their peaceful presence, saying that any violence will not come from inside the camp. By midnight (EDT) the mob disperses.

One week after visiting Six Nations people and supporters at the camp, NDP Aboriginal Affairs critic Jean Crowder (MP for Cowichan-Ladysmith) calls for action by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jim Prentice to deal with outstanding land disputes. “There was no one else in the House asking about it and that was surprising,” she said. “Caledonia is only one situation in this country and it’s a flashpoint.”

After making comments to CBC that people in the camp are all on welfare, Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer is confronted at the camp by Six Nations, censured by her own council, and replaced by deputy mayor Tom Patterson as the council’s spokesperson.

In the Ontario government’s discussion of the Budget Measures Act, Tony head of the Opposition Toby Barrett (MP for Haldimand-North Norfolk-Bronte) calls for action to stop indigenous people from trading tobacco, saying “That kind of tobacco money helps finance the lawlessness we’re seeing at the occupation site at Six Nations in Caledonia. That kind of money also helps finance the blocking of railroads that was mentioned earlier this evening.” Barrett also states there is “obviously” a link between Six Nations people and organized crime.

Solidarity actions continue. In Vancouver, 200-400 people gather at 12:30 at a rally organized by local indigenous communities. After registering at the Vancouver Art Gallery, people blockaded the Lion’s Gate Bridge for one hour. According to organizer Kimata McPhee from the Tahltan Nation, “We want to send a clear message to the federal and provincial governments that they must stop criminalizing our people who are standing up for our land and against injustices that have been brought upon by the colonizers.”

Hydro crews work through the night and by morning less than 200 homes and businesses are without power. According to Hydro One, full repairs to the damaged station will take a few days to complete. Haldimand County announces that the state of emergency will remain in place until the power supply is stable, and that the emergency shelter is closed (although the emergency phone line will remain).

Michael Bruder, lawyer for Henco Industries, says to press, “If we’re not satisfied with the process and the progress in our discussions with the government then ultimately our recourse is to take legal action.”

I still wonder where they get the idea that monthly cheques come to our people [but my response to that is] ‘you’re absolutely right!’ but first the crown should pay the billions and billions of dollars owed on land leases, the taxes collected on our land, the resources taken from our land and compensations for the destruction of the lands stolen and abused etc.

- Hazel Hill
May 25th Update from Haci Hill continued from previous page

by determining the conditions of the policing etc; and upholding our responsibilities and obligations to our people and allowing the process that has been established between the crowns representa-
tives and the delegates of the people to continue.
I had one caledonia resident ask if it was David Peterson who helped negotiate bringing down the barricade or if the Six Nations people who did it themselves. I told him absolutely no, it was the people who were involved in the barricade coming down and that it was all the six na-
tions people who did it. he was quite happy to hear that another caledonian thanked me and shook my hand. while the main gate to the site is blocked by the hydro tower and manned by the men, the atmosphere is almost as it was before the opp invaded on april 20th. many supporters are once again honking and stopping by to show their support. bringing coffee and stopping to talk, it is a good feeling and far outweighs the angry outbursts of a few individuals who probably don’t even live in or near caledonia, the “paid pro-
testers” is what i call them. we all know that the government’s plan when dealing with “native land occupations” is to make the nego-
tiations fail, and they have every intention of making sure this one does as well. we still have the idiots who try to come into the camp, try to steal our flags, and try to incite trouble, but the rotiskenrekethe are right on top of everything and when a situation arises, they deal with it.

i am very proud of the men who have put their own personal lives on hold to uphold their obligations to the Kaienerokew, and to all of the Six Nations Territories and families whose men have come to help and support, as well as other Onkwehonweh Nations; Nya Weh Kowah to you too!
the scepticism and doubt still exists among many of our people as to whether we made the right choice, even one of the clannomthers shared her concerns with respect to the safety of our people, but she applauded everyone for their efforts and good minds coming to the decision and standing by it, but we are a long way from having the peaceful resolution we are all seeking, we have yet the barricade on the railway as well as the #6 hwy by-pass which peterson expects to have managed to resolve by may 31st. in fact, that is david peterson’s only mandate. to “get the barricades down and then we’ll talk” he continues to use the rule that they won’t talk while the barricades are up, yet they expect us to talk while threats of court injunctions are being enforced through violent actions of OPP still hang over our head. i guess may he does understand us a little. our people are not intimidated by threats of violence and court injunctions, they mean nothing to us.

in an interview today i was asked the question of what it would take to see some resolve, i told them that for me, it would be for canada to admit to the world that they are guilty of the biggest white

The potential flashpoint at Caledonia Ontario with the Six Nations land blockade is more dangerous than the 1990 Oka crisis.

In 1990 the town of Oka, Quebec, wanted to expand their nine hole golf course to eighteen holes over a known Mohawk gravesite. A police officer died to defend the right of the townspeople to tee off over grandma’s grave and 4,000 Canadian soldiers squared off against the Mohawks.

In 1990 most Canadian Indians were in shock that Canada would use the army against our people. In 2006 there is no longer any shock value, thereby allowing Indian people to be better prepared to respond to bloodshed and also Indian youth in Canada have more anger today than they did in 1990. Not only are Indian people better prepared, the strategy is much clearer.

Had then Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney carried out his threat to send in the army to take out the last 25 barricaded Mohawks regardless of the consequences, it was very likely that burning cars would have blocked every railway line in Canada.
The protest at Caledonia has already caused a railway blockade with huge economic impact. Multiple that one railway blockade by 30 and you have economic paralysis in all Canada.

Canada is America’s largest trading partner and of vital economic interest to every American. Canada is America’s largest supplier of oil with 97 per cent of all Canadian energy exported to the United States. Canada is also the leading buyer of American exports. Think about the Mayan uprising of 1994, multiply that by 10 and you have some idea of the economic impact of a similar crisis in Canada. American multi-national corporations, financed in the open market, with heavy investment in Canada, may not yet have realized the danger.

[...] With well over 50 per cent of the Canadian Indian population under the age of 25, what you have in Caledonia is a potential flashpoint that could cripple Canada.

Canada has had eight straight federal government budget surpluses. It has a 2005 reported net worth of $4.5 trillion, and a GDP well over a trillion dollars.

In 2003 the federal government raised $125 billion in taxes but took in $141.8 billion in its share of resource royalties. This does not include the provincial royalties or corporate resource sales profits. With oil now over $75 a barrel, up from $10 a barrel in 1999, and Canada claiming 1.4 trillion barrels of oil in the Alberta tar sands plus hundreds of other oil and gas producing areas, this makes for a resource driven economy.
continued from page 44

As a result of overnight work by crews of Hydro One and Haldimand Hydro, power is restored to parts of Caledonia, with Hagersville and Cayuga having low voltage. Residents with power are asked to conserve electricity to prevent overloading the system. An estimated 2,000 homes and businesses are still without power.

Wednesday, May 24, 2006: Grassroots groups organize a “People’s Alternative Lunch” at a London Chamber of Commerce event with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper as a guest speaker. Dan Hilton, of London Solidary for Six Nations, says, “The Harper government is insensitive to this issue, but (aboriginal affairs) is a federal jurisdiction. He has to show some leadership.” Harper later states that the situation is a “provincial land use matter and a provincial law enforcement issue.”

As the third largest producer of diamonds, with 10 per cent of the world forests, and over 60 metals and minerals, there is little doubt why Indian land claims are a big issue in Canada. The fact that there are over 6,000 land claims in limbo and that progress is so slow is not surprising given the numbers and the revenue generated for government coffers.

Canada was the United Nations choice as the “best country in the world to live in” for seven straight years, but while Canada was number one on the index, Canadian First Nations communities mired in extreme poverty were set at the 63rd level on the UN scale.

Amnesty International has written several reports citing Canada for human rights violations. In the case of the Lubicons of northern Alberta, Amnesty has forced the appearance of Canada before the United Nations for a hearing set for May 5th.

While Canada can laugh off the United Nations and weather international shame, it cannot ignore or laugh off the economics of a national blockade of rail lines that is potentially the result of the land dispute at Caledonia.

To understand the issue of land claims in Canada, one must see the numbers. Canada is the second largest country in the world, larger than China and larger than the United States. Canada is 3.83 million square miles of vast land mass, but the population is only 33 million, giving Canada the largest per capita land base of any nation in the world. Given the resource base, it is little wonder that net worth is $137,000 per man, woman, and child.

In 1969, Canada issued the appropriately named “white paper” on Indians, which identified that Indian reservation lands accounted for approximately one quarter of one per cent of the Canadian land mass. To state this more clearly, 99.73 per cent of Canada was not reservation lands. Since then it has been a battle zone of land claims and frustration for indigenous people.

It is hard to even consider sitting at the fire and once again discussing showing “good faith” and continuing with our plan to re-open plank road. Many people were angry at the display of racism and violence instigated by the non-native’s, especially when the media made it out to be the native’s who were at fault. Nothing that should be new to us however, the remarks at calling for the army to come in, the one-sided reporting of some of the larger media portraying Caledonia citizens of the victims of terrorist acts and the 30 or so of our people who were pepper-sprayed compared to maybe 3 or 4 of the non-natives showed exactly what we have been saying all along.

When it comes to the Onkwehonwah and the issue of land rights, there is no justice. We get labelled terrorists because we continue to work under the Great Law of Peace, and trying to maintain peace while being met with acts of war is hard to swallow. Many of our supporters and e-mails suggested that forget it, keep up the barricades, don’t open them up because of the safety of our people was threatened. and to be honest with you, it continues to be threatened whether the barricades are there or not, the non-native’s who have fear and anger in their hearts continue to use intimidation, continue to show their ignorance, and continue to refuse to look at the truth regardless.

The people chose to trust, trust in each other, trust in the people, trust in the Kairenerekawah and trust in the process of our Law as well as ultimately in our Creator. The people made a decision to go ahead and open the barricade again, and this time we made it very clear to the OPP that they are responsible for their people and that should anything occur again that threatens the safety of our people, if anyone violates the peace that we have extended, the barricade on argyle street will be put up immediately and there will be no more chances. It was decided that ONE MORE TIME we will show that good faith.

Many people believe we have shown that “one more time” too many times, but we did it, and while there was uncertainty, it was definitely an empowering decision. We were upholding our Law. We were maintaining our authority on our land, including plank road.

continued on next page
Mind-Altering Parasitism

Canada is a parasitic society. It is a nation built on other people’s land, with labour stolen from workers here and around the world. Those who identify as proud Canadian citizens are really identifying as proud parasites. And parasitism is like a drug — it is both mind-altering and addictive. It can leave you unable to see the truth when it’s staring you in the face, or hearing it when it’s right in front of you.

Let’s look at the forms these deceptions can take.

Take a look at the Hennings, the two brothers generally described as upstanding citizens and pillars of their community. They’re the ones who sunk their money into a housing development on Six Nations land, and who are now facing bankruptcy. Don Hennings was quoted as follows: “I didn’t sign up for this, I’m afraid. I guess I haven’t got much choice to try to continue doing what I can.”

Or then there is the unnamed Caledonia resident who spoke to the media, explaining that “I’m not against native rights, but what about my right to go about my life, and drive down the road without getting turned back at a roadblock?”

The way in which parasitism makes some people lose touch with reality, or flip it around in their posture by moving the “middle of the road” away from the indigenous and towards the government’s position.

While “praying and working”, Peterson was also able to present the very useful idea of “two warring sides” and “tensions in the community” to the public, equating two sides that are not at all equal. Indigenous peoples are not represented by Canadian governments. They have their own ideas and structures. The “angry residents”, by contrast, are represented by the governments they voted for and participate in. They are represented by the police who mingled with them at their rallies. To give them a seat at the negotiating table would be to give them double representation.

Despite this, the provincial government does have an interest in a peaceful resolution. It is headed by Liberals who want to distance themselves from the previous Conservative government of Mike Harris, which was responsible for “something ugly” in 1995 — the murder of indigenous man Dudley George by a police sniper at Ipperwash. The real estate developers have an interest in a resolution as well. The developers of the Douglas Creek Estates, Henco Industries, have repeatedly and publicly stated their desire to be bought out by the government. This points to a very simple potential resolution to this particular conflict: the government can compensate Henco and turn the land over to Six Nations. Progress towards such a resolution was expressed in a document called “Compendium of Commitments, Ontario and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Six Nations Council, May 10, 2006”.

With some success in the negotiations, the indigenous opened the road on May 22, removing the greatest grievance of the “angry residents”. But the “angry residents” responded by creating a blockade of their own, preventing native people from crossing. Six Nations spokesperson Janie Jamieson described it to the CBC as “colonialism at its finest.”

If the provincial government and the developers both have an interest in a peaceful resolution, why did the “angry residents” act so irresponsibly to try to scuttle it? It cannot be because they want to see more suburban homes built — they have no reason to be more keen on home-building than the developers’ own company. Nor can they claim any longer to want freedom for the road — the minute they had it, they ruined it, for every resident, angry or otherwise.

So, in whose interests are these “angry residents” really acting? Perhaps the Conservative federal government. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s party is full of people who are contemptuous of indigenous peoples. The same sorts were responsible for what happened at Ipperwash. Though Six Nations has expressed a desire to talk to the federal government from the beginning, on a nation-to-nation basis, the federal government has said nothing publicly. Perhaps the “angry residents” really do represent the federal government? It is easy to speculate and difficult to prove. But Canadians who want to express their desire to talk to the federal government have so far “something ugly” happens.

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people at “Douglas Creek Estates” are reclaiming their land, not mine. Indigenous culture is not multicultural. Their struggle is their struggle, and they will take the lead and set their terms and define their own strategies. This is just normal.

Nevertheless, as must be obvious from the past weeks on this blog (sketchythoughts.blogspot.com), I am not neutral or disinterested about what happens in Caledonia. I see the Haudenosaunee struggle as an inspiring front in the war for a better world.

While thousands of settlers may have rallied against the Land Reclamation in Caledonia on April 24th, there is no genetic rule which forces non-natives to take such a bigoted stand. It’s a choice.

What follows is an explanation for why I think even settlers should choose to support the Six Nations Land Reclamation.

Detoxing From Canada

April 25, 2006
By: Karl (Kersplebedeb)

Justin Podur writes frequently for ZNet and can be reached at justin@killingtrain.com

continued from previous page
a “normal” society looks like, and creates unrealistic expectations about the nature of that power and privilege and wealth and safety which every settler is taught can be theirs.

If we are ever to free ourselves from these delusions, Canadians must be taught certain hard truths. But instead we are lied to – and more often than not we lie to ourselves, for being addicted to parasitism makes a person scared to learn what’s real.

Canadians are not taught that we live on land which is still owned by First Nations. Canadians are not told that our society’s wealth – stored in its infrastructure, institutions and land – was just recently stolen from other nations. (Is still being stolen, even as I write these words!) Most importantly, Canadians are not taught that colonialism did not “win” and the indigenous nations did not “lose”… how can we talk in such final terms when the war is not over and people are still resisting the colonial monster in communities across this continent and around the world?

Choosing Sides

Watching tv yesterday i thought Caledonia was beginning to look like Chateauguay did back during the Oka crisis. Back in 1990 white folk in that Montreal suburb were inconvenienced by the Mohawk barricades on the Mercier bridge, so they responded as settlers so often do: with race riots and attacks on any Mohawk (or suspected Mohawk!) they could find.

The truth is, though, that the people of Caledonia (like those of Chateauguay) are no more racist than settlers across Canada. Like those Israelis who think the Middle East belongs to them, like those Afrikaaners who still insist they arrived in South Africa at the same time as Black Africans, most Canadians believe the land belongs to “us” now.

“Whatever bad stuff might have happened to the Indians happened centuries ago, and how can we be blamed for that?” So goes the reasoning of the delusional. This ignorance, this fantasy belief that imperialism “won” and the game is over now, is fostered by all sectors of settler society. It is a mechanism whereby anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism are relegated to the dustbin of history and resistance becomes as palatable as beating a dead horse in the blinkered view of the oppressor society.

So let’s be clear, both to the Hennings and to the “good folk” of Caledonia, and to our neighbours and to ourselves – because, as the Native Youth Movement reminds us, “this land is all Indian Land” – so let’s be clear: colonialism is war, and the war is not over. The Canadian and American States both exist on other people’s land, and looking to the government to guarantee that your home, your neighbourhood, your community be “protected” from First Nations peoples makes you complicit with the whole kit and caboodle, right back to those infected blankets and the residential rape schools. So you see, Mr Hennig, when you turned to the colonial State to protect your business investment, when you demanded that the police attack the Clan Mothers’ reclamation, that’s when you “signed up” for this…

In whose interests are the “residents” rallies in Caledonia?

On May 22, 2006 - after holding a blockade of the Highway 6 at Caledonia, Ontario (Canada) since February - the indigenous of Six Nations unblocked the highway.

The dismantling of the blockade - initially erected by the indigenous to enforce their claim to a piece of land called the Douglas Creek Estates - was a gesture of goodwill on the part of the Six Nations after they had made headway in their negotiations with the provincial government. The gesture was probably to help defuse the organized “angry residents”, who had been rallying at the blockade weekly to demand the road be opened.

But the “angry residents” responded by striking a blockade of their own, preventing native people from getting from the Six Nations reserve to the area they have reclaimed.

Six Nations responded by putting their own blockades back up, and on the afternoon of May 22, there was a tense standoff, with hundreds of “angry residents”, hundreds of indigenous people, and the Ontario police, all present. The standoff continued through May 23. With this action, the “angry residents” have become the most significant impediment to a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The angry resident rallies

Three weeks ago, when I went to Caledonia to see the “angry residents” protest against the Six Nations blockade, I admittedly had a preconceived notion about what the Caledonian rally would be like. I had feared the presence of open white supremacist organizations like the KKK. Not only were there no KKK costumes or signs, but indeed the angry residents were angry at the very implication that they would allow KKK among them. Indeed, the angry residents suggested that the rumors of KKK presence were Six Nations disinformation.

The demonstration of angry residents that took place on May 5, 2006, however, was interesting to me in a number of ways. First, the protesters did not have an adversarial relationship with the police, which is the norm at most protests. There were a few moments when angry residents yelled at police officers – but these were quickly calmed down by other residents who reminded them that the police were on the residents’ side. And the police were on the residents’ side, quite literally – in addition to the police on the line, there were police interspersed with the residents, conversing and mingling. At one point, an angry resident tried to lead others straight to the police line and past it towards the Six Nations blockade and force open the road. But he was stopped, not by the police, but by another angry resident who argued that a violent incident with the police would not be in the interests of the protesters.

Second, I felt there was a lack of proportion demonstrated by the angry residents. It is true that the Six Nations blockade disrupted traffic. The detour, however, allowed everyone to get to their destinations, despite taking longer. The indigenous were not preventing anyone from reaching their homes, even if they lived within the blocked areas. Even the angriest resident did not want to admit this, and qualified their angry claims accordingly, saying: “We can’t get to the hospital – quickly,” and “People can’t get to their homes – without being questioned first.”

I traveled in the Occupied Palestinian territories in 2002, and I saw the effects of real checkpoints, Israeli checkpoints, on Palestinians’ lives. At the time, Palestinians were dying in ambulances because they are not allowed through Israeli checkpoints. Checkpoints turned what would be a 15-minute drive into day-long ordeals of waiting and humiliation. Palestinians really did lose access to their homes, and their families.

Of course, there are few inconveniences that do not seem insigniﬁcant when compared to the sufferings of the Palestinians. But even by Ontario standards, I found it diﬃcult to understand the rage behind the residents’ cries to open the road. Yes, any delays in getting to the hospital are potentially very dangerous. But is there as much rage at the increasing wait times at the hospitals themselves, traceable to both federal and provincial government funding cuts, used to fund tax cuts? These cuts have been responsible for many unnecessary deaths over the years, in Ontario and throughout Canada.

Third, I was struck by the contradictory nature of the demands and the tactics of the residents. At that rally three weeks ago, a resident – who refused to give his full name

continued on next page
Choosing To Break With Our History

So what’s the way forward? What’s the solution? The bad news (at least so far as those who cling to their delusions are concerned) is that Canada does not hold title to this land. Regardless of where you live, there’s no guarantee you won’t some day be faced with a conflict at your doorstep, barricades and angry people and cops and tough choices to make.

Because those maps you studied in school lie and you can’t rely on the colonial State to tell you the truth about who owns what. It would be like asking Chretien who was guilty in the sponsorship scandal, or asking Bush who was to blame for Abu Ghraib.

And the good news? Well, the good news is really great. The good news is that we don’t have to side with Canada. You see, the indigenous nations are nations not bigoted constructs like the European “races”. Time after time the First Nations have welcomed allies from the settler society who were willing to struggle against the colonial monster.

This open-mindedness, this non-racist approach to anti-colonialism, is particularly obvious in the current standoff. While the people of Caledonia have held demonstrations where they have talked about “killing... Canadian citizenship. They even put themselves at risk to allow settlers to go to their church services on Sunday!

(Indeed, these constant displays of goodwill coming from the Haudenosaunee side make the deranged hostility of some settlers all the more disgusting to see…)

So my advice to my fellow settlers is to disconnect your identity from Canada. The Onkwehonwe are not asking you to “go back to Europe” (or wherever you came from), nobody is arguing that you should become second… injustices have been done, genocide on an unparalleled scale, but you don’t have to remain complicit. You have a choice.

And if you make that choice, if you see the justice of the Onkwehonwe struggles, and if you see that it is not a threat to you… well, you may notice some other things too.

You may notice that the system Canada is a part of – global capitalism – is not a particularly great way for people to live. It gives us war and superstition, and with every passing year it brings humanity to new... an existence just a step away from starvation and homelessness and watching your kids die of easily preventable illnesses.

Haven’t you noticed that this is what capitalism gives? It’s written clearly enough even in the lying daily news…

What we can see at the Six Nations land reclamation is people keeping alive a struggle for their sovereignty, for a renewal of their better way of life that existed before colonialism swept this land, and has never been extinguished. The First Nations have survived centuries of genocide inflicted upon them by euro-capitalism - their resistance struggle is only threatening to those who identify with this death system.

For those of us who dream of a better world, their struggle serves as an inspiration, a glimmer of hope and a reminder that all is not lost. Far from it.

So take the plunge. Say goodbye to your illusions, to your addiction to colonialism and genocide. Life can be better than this.
continued from page 25...

April 23, 2006: Winnipeg organizers are holding a meeting today to organize a public solidarity event. A member of the Squamish Nation is flying a Mohawk flag in solidarity.

April 26, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments restart. Chief Allen McNaughton tells press that the negotiators “are making progress”, and that, “the parties are moving toward achieving disengagement”.

People at the camp continue a security check on vehicles approaching the safety barricade established after last week’s OPP invasion. Another rally of non-indigenous residents is organized to demand that the road be opened, but the numbers drop — only 100 gather.

April 27, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments continue today. Six Nations Clan Mothers are drafting a statement about the land declaration for the United Nations, to be delivered to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva next week.

April 28, 2006: Talks between the Haudenoniso (Council of Chiefs) and the federal and Ontario governments continue today and are expected to extend over the weekend. Negotiators have broken off into working groups to deal with specific issues and will continue meeting on Saturday; “main table” talks will restart on May 8. The Ontario government confirms that an offer for interim financial assistance has been made to Henco Industries. A new government toll-free information line has been set up to “keep the public informed about the province’s efforts to resolve the Caledonia situation”.

Five hundred non-indigenous people gather in response to an anonymously produced leaflet urging Caledonia residents to come to an evening rally near the blockade. Although news reports depict the rally as “peaceful”, racist harassment and calls for violence against people in the camp continue, including KKK flyers. The article by Mohawk Nation News on the opposite page is strongly recommended as it provides insightful analysis of the exploitation of community tensions by media and the state to increase fear, hatred, and justification for an ongoing police presence.

Solidarity actions continue in many regions. Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, scheduled to speak on “aboriginal self-government” in Toronto, cancels after a call to protest is announced. In Ottawa and Winnipeg, an estimated 50 people gather to show solidarity with Six Nations. The Winnipeg information picket partially blocks the Midtown bridge before being removed by police.

April 29, 2006: The Ontario government announces that former Liberal premier David Peterson has been appointed to work with Six Nations, Henco Industries, and municipal and business leaders to address immediate concerns.

Peterson is not addressing long-term concerns: the province will appoint a representative to address the long-term issues (i.e., land theft) within one week, as per the agreement signed on April 21.

Peterson will be reporting directly to Ontario’s Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay. The provincial government also announces provision of an undisclosed amount of bridge financing for Henco Industries to prevent their bankruptcy.

April 30, 2006: David Peterson, appointed by the Ontario government to address “immediate issues” in the Six Nations land declaration and resulting siege, meets with provincial officials and then heads to Caledonia in the hopes of meeting Six Nations resident Sandra Muse hasn’t been so scared since the 1967 race riots in Detroit.

The tensions over the Six Nations blockades here, which boiled over Monday in a pitched battle between Indians and local residents, have brought back bad memories of racism for the Cherokee native, whose family was originally from Georgia.

“I grew up in Detroit, but was married to a Six Nations band member,” explained the 49-year-old Muse, who had 12 brothers and sisters.

When she got jostled in Monday’s melee and had racial slurs tossed her way, Muse said it reminded her of a local race riot in 1974 when she was in her senior years at high school in Detroit.

“I lived in a black neighbourhood and was bused with the black kids into an all-white school. I remember being called a n—— lover, Pocahontas and squaw — and when the race riot happened my sister had a chair broken over her head, and I was chased by white guys with bricks calling me a f—— Indian. I haven’t felt that kind of racial tension until now.”

Muse said she isn’t painting everyone with the same brush, but concede she feels uncomfortable and a tiny bit afraid when she goes into Caledonia.

“I have begun to be afraid to go into stores in Caledonia or even drive into Caledonia,” she said. “Just last week I came over for physio and everything was fine. But then you get out of your car and you have people staring at you, there is this feeling of subtle racism,” she said.

Muse said the tension had been building between the local and native communities for weeks and simply boiled over on Victoria Day.

“The kind of weird as a native person to be yelled at and told to go back home. Where should I go?” she said.

Blockade sparks memories of Detroit race riots

Richard Brennan
Toronto Star May 24, 2006

Six Nations resident Sandra Muse hasn’t been so scared since the 1967 race riots in Detroit.

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Canadians...

through Caledonia) at 6 AM. Tekarihoken (Kanyen'kehaka Royaunen Allan McNaughton) issues a statement to the press that the barricades have come down as a goodwill gesture now that progress is being made in negotiations, and that “As the world has seen, our protest has been firm but peaceful. Our people are responding without weapons, using only their bodies to assert that we are a sovereign people with a long history and that we cannot be intimidated.” The nonindigenous Caledonia residents who set up a counterblockade on Friday continue blocking the road, not letting Six Nations people through. “What they don’t realize is if they continuously threaten our safety, barricade can go right back up again, so it’s entirely their decision,” says Janie Jamieson.

Non-indigenous blockaders surround a car with a reporter and Six Nations women and then attack Six Nations people coming to the aid of those in the car. Chiefs bring a cedar branch to the front of the line and tell the mob it is their choice, saying Six Nations people and supporters will leave the road if the mob disperses. When the mob does not back down Haldimand councillor Lorrie Boyko begs the mob to accept the offer of peace, saying, “It’s in your hands. Not only are you children watching here in Caledonia but all of Canada is watching. For the future of the community we have to move back. This has to end.” As the mob presses forward people at the reclamation site dig up the road pavement, creating a trench across Argyle Road to stop the mob from entering. The press has been asking Caledonians where the flyer came from and nobody seems to know. Janie Jamieson said, “If the non-native rioters come here and it gets out of hand, the OPP will declare they can’t handle it. Then the army will be brought in.” Based on past experience we suspect that even putting this flyer out is supposed to create a panic. We’ve seen it all before. The same thing happened in the Mohawk Oka Crisis of 1990.

We have given no reason for the army or the RCMP to come in. If these rioters create chaos, the Caledonians will be screaming for the big guns to come in. In 1990 the people of Chateauguay were incited to riot night after night at the boundary of Kahnawake. It was exactly the same kind of threats, screaming, insults, trying to rush the barricades and yelling for the army to come in. It split the community up and gave it a “red neck” label that still taints its reputation 16 years later. What can be done? How do the people of Caledonia feel about being identified with the Ku Klux Klan? Hey, neighbors, can’t you see it? You are being set up to get a bad name.

David Peterson, the Ontario negotiator, has probably been given orders to demand that the barricades be taken down before talks can begin. They want to create a situation so they don’t have to negotiate. “Remove your barricades and then we will talk”, it says on the colonial script. Every time we object to oppression, this is the same procedure that has been followed. Peterson is probably going to try to make it look like the Indigenous people are being stubborn, belligerent and non-compromising. That’s what Bernard Roy and Alex Patterson did in Kanesatake in 1990. They were getting angry because we kept on wanting to talk about the land issue. Throughout we were peaceful and nonviolent. They got impatient and suddenly cut off negotiations. Then the army closed the perimeter around us and kept us there under siege for almost another month.

The term “final solution to the Indian problem” was coined first by Indian Affairs superintendent, Duncan Campbell Scott, to describe his genocidal policies in the 1920’s. It’s not surprising to find the KKK has taken up the banner of his cause. So they’re not the first in line. Remember Hitler? He found Canadian and U.S. Indian policies very inspiring. Unfortunately, World War II was not enough to end such disgusting initiatives.

Has Canada no sense of pride? Aren’t they ashamed to be doing this again? This tired out old tactic is digging a hole through Caledonia but all of Canada is watching. For the future of the community we have to move back. This has to end. As the mob presses forward people at the reclamation site dig up the road pavement, creating a trench across Argyle Road to stop the mob from entering.

The Caledonia transformer station (the main source of power for the surrounding Norfolk and Haldimand counties) is damaged, leaving thousands of area residents without electricity. According to Hydro One, it will likely be three days before service is fully restored.

Individuals near North Battleford block the Yellowhead Highway for two hours in an emergency gesture of solidarity, backing up traffic for three kilometres. The Seaway International Bridge (linking Cornwall/Akwesasne and Massena, New York) is closed for several hours after two vehicles are lit on fire. In Vancouver the Six Nations Solidarity Network meets to discuss emergency actions.

“Over and over, I’ll be a fool for you” Kahentinhorn Horn

MNN, May 2, 2006. Things are on schedule! The flyers in the hands of Caledonia residents, Ontario Provincial Police and a few Six Nations people reads:

Citizens of Caledonia - Meeting tonight - 7:00 Sharp! (no location, no date)

Agenda: Discussion of the “Indian Problem”. “What is the final solution?”

Full dress meeting. Wear your sheets. (This is no joke. This is what the flyer actually says. This ain’t the movies, folks. This is real life.)

Special Speaker - all the way from Burning Cross Mississippi, Bobby Lee Raspmas, Veteran of the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s.

Hear about the “Final Solution”. (How come Canada is letting him in and they won’t let Indians cross the border to support us?)

Three-fourths of the flyer has a picture of a KKK meeting with sheets on.

We were waiting for this one! This flyer was given out for last Friday’s rally and march onto the barricades at the site of the illegal housing project that the Six Nations People are trying to stop. It’s being given out again for the Friday, May 5th rally at 7:00 right at the barricades this time.

The press has been asking Caledonians where the flyer came from and nobody seems to know. Janie Jamieson said, “If the non-native rioters come here and it gets out of hand, the OPP will declare they can’t handle it. Then the army will be brought in.” Based on past experience we suspect that even putting this flyer out is supposed to create a panic. We’ve seen it all before. The same thing happened in the Mohawk Oka Crisis of 1990.

We have given no reason for the army or the RCMP to come in. If these rioters create chaos, the Caledonians will be screaming for the big guns to come in. In 1990 the people of Chateauguay were incited to riot night after night at the boundary of Kahnawake. It was exactly the same kind of threats, screaming, insults, trying to rush the barricades and yelling for the army to come in. It split the community up and gave it a “red neck” label that still taints its reputation 16 years later. What can be done? How do the people of Caledonia feel about being identified with the Ku Klux Klan? Hey, neighbors, can’t you see it? You are being set up to get a bad name.

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Has Canada no sense of pride? Aren’t they ashamed to be doing this again? This tired out old tactic is digging a hole...
On Monday, May 1, 2006: People in the camp express skepticism about provincial representative David Peterson’s role in resolving the conflict. They doubt that the issue of land theft is a federal matter, not a provincial one. Peterson, appointed several days ago by the Ontario government to address “immediate issues” in the Six Nations land reclama- tion and resulting siege, states to the press that he “can’t guarantee success, and can’t guarantee what the resolution will be.” In a rather remarkable analogy given the internationally recognized brutality of the Israeli occupa- tion of Palestine, Peterson likens the standoff to “the Israeli issue.”

An undisclosed amount of “bridge funding” from the Ontario government is accepted by Henco Industries. In statements to the press Henco says the money is not a buyout and that they still hope to go back to building “Douglas Creek Estates.” It is annonced today that Don and John Henning, the owners of Henco Industries, are hoping to get $100,000 from the provincial government: $50,000 to hire a marketing consultant to work with the local Chamber of Commerce on strategies to “encourage people to come out and shop,” and $50,000 to hire a consultant to “improve communication with the resi- dents.” With apparently no hint of irony, in debate on the Ontario government budget, MLA Garfield Dunlop calls for increased funding to the OPP to compensate for the costs incurred by the siege of Six Nations people and support- ers.

Tuesday, May 2, 2006: In today’s budget announce- ment, the Canadian Tory gov- ernment announces that it will not keep the agreement made in the Kelowna Accord, reduc- ing the promised $5.1 billion in provin- cial and federal funding to $4.5 million to “improve education programs, provide clean water, and repair crumbling housing stocks” in Ab- original communities. Al- though the Kelowna Accord did not address land or sov-ereignty issues so is not di- rectly relevant to the Six Na- tions land reclamation, the news of the federal government’s breach of the agreement underscores the need for impartial, inter- national monitoring of negoti- ations and agreements be- tween Canada and Six Na- tions, as requested by the Clan Mothers from the UN.

The reporting of the Tory, Liberal, and NDP positions on the Kelowna Accord also illus- trates the way that the colo- nial government and the me- dia distort colonialism as be- ing a problem of “economic inequity” and forget about the structural colonialism and the issues of underlying poverty in Aboriginal communi- ties is a lack of (colonially-structured) social programs, rather than a result of the on-going theft of indigenous lands and resources, the at- tempted destruction of indige- nous cultures, and repres- sion of indigenous people who resist colonial government in- terests. One Liberal MP even went so far as to say “Kasechewan and water, Caledonia and land claims, Garden Hill and health care, all of these incidents of aboriginals being worse off than their fellow Canadians speak for themselves” if the Kelowna accord is imple- mented in full”. The issues be- hind the Six Nations land rec- lamation cannot be solved by putting money into social pro- grams and finding an unloaded pit to what the dollar amount is.

Wednesday, May 3, 2006: Doreen Silversmith, from Six Nations, continues lobbying the provin- cial government on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to address the immor- tal international mediator to oversee negotiations between Six Nations and the Canadian government.

Federal and provincial colo- nial governments announce their representatives for “main table” talks scheduled to begin May 8. In a statement to press, Ontario’s Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay makes the provincial government’s position clear: “This is more of an accounting of the land...Were they properly credited for the land as it was disposed of?” David Peterson, appointed by the Ontario government to ad- dress “immediate issues” in the Six Nations land reclama- tion and resulting siege, said in a press release requesting that the province drop charges against Six Na- tions people who were ar- rested during the recent police invasion, halt all develop- ment on the property, and as- sure Six Nations people that there will be no action from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Thursday, May 4, 2006: Henco Industries issues a press release alleging that Six Nations people and support- ers are building onto houses at the construction site, but no action from the government about the freeze. Ron Desroches, an 18-year-old military reservist, speeds and swerves through the reclamation site, narrowly miss- ing hitting Six Nations people and supporters. Six Nations security personnel stop him and find an unloaded pellet gun and camouflage gear in the car; OPP detain him but release him without charging. Desroches states to press, “I’m somebody who’s more than willing to go and defend the rights of this country and mine were just violated.”

Friday, May 5, 2006: Tekarihoken (Kanyen’kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) issues a statement to the press praising the people at the reclamation site, saying, “the protesters have taken the high road in showing that public safety is paramount, but they haven’t backed off their position at all. Their actions reflect what was dis- cussed at the bargaining table and bodes well for the fu- ture.”

Non-indigenous Caledonia residents set up a counter-blockade Friday near the Ar- gyle Street barricade, pre- venting Six Nations people and supporters’ vehicles from coming and going to the site. Right Caledonia residents claim they were attacked by people from the camp; OPP state they are investigating the allegations.

The owners of Henco Indus- tries state that with the Ontario government impos- ing an indefinite moratorium on construction they can no longer wait for resolution to the “short-term issues” being addressed in talks be- tween Ontario crisis negotia- tor David Peterson and Tekarihoken (Kanyen’kehaka Royaner Allan McNaughton) are resolved.

Saturday, May 20, 2006: Six Nations people continue to meet to discuss whether to try and remove the South checkpoint and barri- cade. Linda Powless, a re- porter with Turtle Island News, tells CBC News that a decision is reached to remove road barricades on Monday by as significant progress has been made in en- suring safety of Six Nations people on the site, stopping construction, conducting an archeological survey, and ad- dressing the longstanding land theft.

Sunday, May 21, 2006: Caledonia Citizens’ Alliance issues a news release blaming Six Nations people and supporters for two car accidents that occurred on roads being used by people to detour around the barri- cades.

Monday, May 22, 2006: Several hundred people from Toronto come to the camp to celebrate the reclamation, stand in solidarity with Six Nations people, and bring supplies to the site.
Mohawks have the high moral ground on these issues. Canada’s justice system does not. The occupation at Caledonia is a symptom of a breakdown in the political process. Canada cannot continue to ignore its trust relationship with the Mohawks; if it continues to do so, there will be more confrontations. You cannot enforce law and order on one nation of people and not the other. The issues are political in nature and span more than a century, preceded by a century of relations with the British.

Finally, let us return to the issue of law and order and the rights of native peoples. Some courts are finally listening to native voices and that should be a good thing. The justice system is flawed, according to many. You write that “courts have been consistently generous — many say too generous — in accepting native arguments.” Obviously, the author of those words has little experience with the court system in Canada. Natives have lost far more cases than they have won, and some of these losses reek of bias, racism and discrimination. Your statement that Dudley George was killed by a police bullet “under circumstances that still remain unclear” is quite remarkable because the police sergeant who fired the gun was convicted of a crime. The circumstances were clear to the judge; why not to The Gazette?

The issue in Caledonia is not frivolous. The claim that “there’s not much real land at stake” is quite absurd. One could argue that without the help of the Mohawks and other nations in the Iroquois Confederacy (the Haudenosaunee in our language), Canada would be part of the United States today. The Mohawks at Six Nations Confederacy still exists. The people have their language, their constitution—in English called the Great Law of Peace—their original peaceful co-existence agreement with Europeans, the Two Row Wampum Belt agreement, an understanding of their territorial boundaries and of their way of life based on a Clan Mother system that recognizes women as the title-holders of the land, protecting it for the “faces to come” who are the true owners.

The Six Nations Confederacy calls themselves the Eastern Door People. They are strategically located on the entrance to the northern portion of Turtle Island. Passing through their territory one can travel to the geographical center of Turtle Island by water. Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Boston, and New York are all located on Six Nations Confederacy lands. The Six Nations Confederacy was part of the way through a unification process using the Great Law of Peace, which is not only the basis of first, the League of Nations and now, the United Nations, but also of modern democracy. The colonial experience is just a hiccup in this unification process. It’s possible that, in spite of several hundred years of genocide, the Six Nations may wish to extend an invitation to Canada to join in unity under the Great Law of Peace. Canada could become a nation in law, could even possibly become a nation of peace. Modern Canadians could possibly enter into a new relationship with the original human inhabitants of the northern portion of Turtle Island, a relationship that the original Peoples have been patiently waiting for for hundreds of years.

Lastly, the facts: The Six Nations Confederacy cannot be eradicated by any means. The offer to join them under the Great Law of Peace will probably remain on the table. Canadians can accept the offer now, or continue with their attempted eradication for an unknown amount of time. As a modern Canadian, what would you like to choose?
of police planes over the site, if there really is damage to the construction on the site it is likely to be hard to pro-
vide photo evidence.

The OPP Hate Crime Unit is investigating a KKK flyer handed out at the April 28 rally by indigenous Caledonia residents. OPP Con-
stable Dave Meyer states to press that the poster is likely a hoax, and that “there is no evidence” that a KKK meet-
ing took place or was planned in Caledonia.

Friday, May 5, 2006: It is an-
ounced that regional and provincial government plans to build new bridges over the Grand River near Kitchener-
Waterloo have been delayed until the dispute over lands in the Haldimand Tract is re-
solved. Ken Seiling, chair of Waterloo Region, states that Six Nations must make way for the increased set-
tlement. “This is the growth area of Canada...This needs to be resolved so we can plan ac-
ccordingly.”

Flyers signed “Caledonia Re-
sistance” circulate throughout the town urging residents to gather tonight to “stand up and be noticed”, but the crowd is noticeably smaller than pre-
vious similar rallies. Support-
ers from Six Nations continue to come to the camp to show solidarity with Six Na-
tions and to help protect people inside the camp.

Canadian officials will be questioned at the Un-
ited Nations today and Monday about Canada’s human rights record. The General As-
sembly of the UN is to vote on May 9 on which states will sit on the new 47-member UN Human Rights Council. Representa-
tives of Six Nations and the Lubicon Nation have lobbied in Geneva throughout the week to send the message that Canada should be held to account for its genocidal prac-
tices and ongoing colonialism.

In a further attempt to or-
criminalize the land re-
clamations, Henco alleges that Six Na-
tions people involved in the re-
clamations stole property from six uniformed officers and four cruisers parked at the bridge, with another officer at the base of the bridge off High-
way 84. A police spokes-
person says the building is ne-
cessary to keep a “mutual boundary of respect” be-
tween non-indigenous people in Caledonia and Six Nations. In the Ontario Courts, the Ontario Torts lawyer says the cost of the extra OPP presence in Caledonia is $2 million thus far.

The UN Committee on Eco-
nomic, Social and Cultural Rights criticizes Canada “for its failure to live up to commitments under an interna-
tional treaty that protects people’s economic, social and cultural rights”. Members of the committee specifically mentioned Canada’s expro-
piation of Six Nations and Lubicon land, the dispro-
portionately high rates of sexual assault and murder of Ab-
original women, and discrimi-
nation against women under the Indian Act. The delegation of Canadian government rep-
resentatives countered at the criticisms by saying Canada “recognized and affirmed land and treaty rights and the inherent right of Aboriginals to self-government.”

Wednesday, May 10, 2006: Talks continue at the Best Western Inn in Brantford, with colonial government rep-
resentatives meeting Six Na-
tions representatives for the first time.

The Great Law of Peace is being offered to Canada.

Stewart Steinhauer
The Dominion
May 13, 2006

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First the facts: Canada is a settler state located in the northern portion of Turtle Island, formed out of two European colonies estab-
lished here in the seventeenth century, one by Great Britain and one by France. These two colonies, based on the doctrine of the Doctrine Of Discovery—an outgrowth of the European decision to dis-
assemble the original Peoples of Turtle Island as both indi-
vidual human beings, and as collections of lineages, became living together in societies governed by the rule of law—
and to re-construct these peoples as elements of a new “monolithic” dependent popu-
lation known henceforth as “Indians”, “Natives”, and “Aboriginals”. It is the rule of civ-
ilizing. Modern Canadians will say: “What does the actions of my ancestors in the seven-
teenth century have to do with me today?”

Modern indigenous people and Peoples are living trapped inside nations based on the Doctrine of Discovery—a le-
gal doctrine now routinely overturned whenever it comes to trial in the international arena—leading tortured lives as “Indians”, “Natives”, and “Aboriginals”. This, while modern Canadians, and mod-
ern euro-ancestry citizens of every other nation on Turtle Island and in other places, around the globe—Australia and New Zealand for in-
stance—enjoy the highest standard of living in the world.

If this was not the case, then one could respond: “Why, nothing at all.”

This brings us to the Haldimand Tract in southern Ontario, running from the Grand River’s mouth on the northern shore of Lake Erie in a twelve mile wide swath up the Grand River to its headwater basin. In current mainstream discourse, the Six Nations land dispute is framed in the context of “indian land claims.” Reports mention up to 39 separate claims being made by Six Nations against the Crown’s assertion of title. The Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Ontario are es-
ablishing a panel to settle these “indian land claims”.

The reality, obscured by three unrepresenting centuries of the invention of “Indians”, is that—at least in law— it is the federal and provin-
cial governments of Canada who are trying to claim a land claim, a claim based on the Doctrine of Discovery.

The same week at the Henco development site, the Six Nations Grand Council is to establish a land reserve.

IT’S THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAKING A LAND CLAIM, NOT THE SIX NATIONS

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IT’S THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAKING A LAND CLAIM, NOT THE SIX NATIONS
continued from page 38

Natives back protests poll: Civil disobedience to increase, majority of respondents say

62% support the Land Reclamation

27% I refuse to answer this question

12% I am opposed

Canada’s Aboriginals overwhelming-ly back the long-running Six Na-tions demonstration in Caledonia and predict the number of similar land-claims protests is about to rise, a new survey has found. According to a poll conducted for the National Post, 62% of na-tives believe protesters in the Hamilton bedroom community and in eastern Ontario — where natives briefly blocked a rail line in sympathy last month — were right to demonstrate. That com-pares with just 18% who said the demonstrators were wrong.

“We’re talking about a margin of 5-1 and civil disobedience is involved,” said Conrad Winn, president of polling firm CompaInc., which conducted the survey this month.

“A 5-1 ratio of support tells us there is a real strong sense of land grievance that continues among Aboriginal communities that won’t go away that readily.”

The nationwide poll of 590 First Nations, Metis and Inuit respondents also found 61% predicted more land-claims protests ahead. Only 18% foresaw fewer protests [...]
This time the Indians are occupying a new non-native subdivision on land they say is theirs in Caledonia, Ont. A court injunction issued by a non-native judge is being defied. Citing signs of Warrior involvement or the influx of Indians from other communities, the OPP raided the occupation and arrested the occupiers “without violence.” Many more Indians then barricaded Highway 6.

Six Nations Band Council says the occupiers are renegades and there is no recognized land claim involved. The Haudenosaunee blockaders have allegiance only to their ancient Six Nations confederation traditional government. They are demanding nation-to-nation discussions with the federal Crown.

Frustration grows among local non-natives. Some are claiming that Caledonia is theirs by virtue of “conquest.” Ministers and the provincial and federal governments say the occupiers are “illegal” because the Indians “sold or surrendered” their land in the 1800s and now have only a reserve. At the same time, these ministries call it “self-reliance.” It is hardly surprising that the most intense conflicts between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples.

Ironically, a judicial inquiry into “conquest” was halted for a peaceful outcome. The municipality of Oka in 1990, the Ministry of Natural Resources at Ipperwash in 1995, the City of Hamilton in the Red Hill Valley in 2005, all had injunctions, as does the developer at Caledonia. At Ipperwash for example, other courts found later that aboriginals had acted with “colour of right” because of their genuine and well-founded belief that the land was rightfully theirs. At Oka, Burnt Church and Ipperwash, occupier-arrestees were mostly or all later acquitted of all charges.

Conquest: Here I will quote the globally important 4,500-page 1996 final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), authored by (among others) Supreme Court Justice Bertha Wilson and Quebec Court of Appeal Justice Rene Dussault (which unfortunately sank unread like a stone soon after it was released): “There was no conquest. Early in the context the relationship was one of peaceful coexistence and non-interference. It was only after Confederation that Canada began to appropriate large tracts of land to house the ever-increasing influx of settlers and that the process of colonization and domination of the aboriginal population began. No one asked them whether they wanted to be British subjects or Canadian citizens. They were simply herded into small reserves to make way for development and at Confederation were assigned to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada.”

Indians from other communities: In October 1995, the federal government invited and sponsored Canadians from every direction to converge on Montreal for a giant demonstration to help defeat the secessionists and save the nation. Ahem … Indians can’t do that too, to assist their ancient nation?

Land claims: Here again I’ll quote Wilson and Dussault et al: “Opinion is virtually unanimous that the present system does not work. The system is generally inequitable, inefficient, time consuming and too expensive. And it places the Department of Indian Affairs in a clear conflict of interest as funding agent, defence counsel, judge and jury.”

 “…One of the most significant weaknesses of comprehensive land-claims policy is the lack of any provision for interim measures before submission of a comprehensive claim and during negotiations. Governments are free to create new third-party interests on the traditional lands of aboriginal claimants right up until the moment a claims agreement is signed. It should not be necessary for aboriginal people to mount blockades to obtain interim measures while their assertions of title are being dealt with.”

The Caledonia occupiers are explicitly not asserting a “land claim.” They are simply taking back their land because they state it has been stolen from them by the Crown and they have no faith that it will be returned through a land claim, especially once it has had subdivisions built on it.

Surrender or sale: RCAP found that “Land reserved for aboriginal people was steadily whittled away after its original allocation. Almost two-thirds of it has ‘disappeared’ by various means since Confederation. In some cases, the government failed to deliver as much land as specified in a treaty. In other cases, it expropriated or sold reserved land, rarely with First Nations as willing vendors. Once in a while, outright fraud took place.”

“Even when First Nations were able to keep hold of reserved land, the government sometimes sold its resources to outsiders.”

…”The history of these losses includes the abject failure of the Indian Affairs department’s stewardship of reserves and other aboriginal assets. As a result,” RCAP found, “aboriginal peoples have been impoverished, deprived of the tools necessary for self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It is hardly surprising that there are intense conflicts between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people on the use and control of land.”

Blockades: As native frustration inevitably grows at the uselessness of official processes, they resort to mounting a new non-native subdivision and seize by the Crown and its settlers of entire aboriginal peoples and their people, governments, economies, legal systems, territories and resources is still under way?

From my study of history in such contexts as minority-rule Rhodesia, apartheid South Africa, Czarist Russia, Nazi Germany or colonial India, it seems to me that dominant societies are not particularly good at recognizing the essential structure of systemic injustices being maintained or perpetrated in recent decades of subjugated peoples while it’s all under way.

They are also not particularly attuned to or comprehending of victims’ contemporaneous entreaties that what’s been done to, or with them, is fundamentally wrong, and why.

That’s all left for much later, if ever, when the monuments and museums of regret get built, or the truth and reconciliation commissions get staged, or occasionally when things just go seriously wrong.

In the 30 years I have lived in Canada, I have heard indigenous populations cry out that they are experiencing unjust impoverishment, displacement, dispossession, racist oppression and abuse, neglect, state violence or even cultural genocide at the hands of the Crown.

If they are demanding a new non-native subdivision, then it is understandable that they are also not particularly atuned to or comprehending of victims’ contemporaneous entreaties that what’s been done to, or with them, is fundamentally wrong, and why.

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