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March 2, 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON KIA 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

This letter is to support "in principle" the letter introducing the report of the National Claims Research Directors from across Canada seeking justice for their Land Rights and related issues. Six Nations of the Grand River states that we support "in principle", as our experiences have concluded merely reporting on the failures and misleading information being promoted by Canada concerning its Specific Claims policy **does not go far enough!**

On February 21, 1991, Six Nations appeared before Parliaments Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs in response to the Oka Crisis of the summer of 1990, with positive recommendations on how to fix a broken Federal Claims Policy. Those recommendations for reform went unheeded.

In 1994, although having many of our claims deemed valid for negotiations, Six Nations concluded that Canada's Specific Claims Policy was a failure. This conclusion came after years of experience with Canada's grossly discounted "take it or leave it" offers with the prerequisite that we must extinguish our children's' right to those lands. In 1995 Six Nations commenced litigation for an accounting for all of our lands and the thousands of financial transactions associated with the nearly 950,000 acres within the Haldimand Tract. This litigation continues.

When Caledonia erupted in 2006, Canada quickly responded to the "claim" as filed in June 1987, which file laid closed since 1995, and had no counter research. Canada's official position being "although there is no surrender to sell the Hamilton - Port Dover Plank Road Lands we believe you intended to sell them". Chaos and confrontations grew. Promises made by the Crown(s) to have the barricades removed and roads opened remain unkept. Canada also confirmed on December 4, 2007, that the new Specific Claims Action Plan would not apply to these Six Nations negotiations. Unfortunately extinguishment was still on the table and negotiations broke down.

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Since 2009, Six Nations has lobbied all parties of the Federal Government to get negotiations restarted under a new revenue sharing scenario, with certainty and without the prerequisite of extinguishment. Our efforts have constantly been thwarted by your government and by your representatives as recent as December 2014.

Prime Minister Harper, like others, we also made presentations to the United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya taking issue with your Governments handling of our Land Rights. Six Nations has taken our Land Rights concerns, and the way Canada has treated this matter, to the United Nations consistently since 2011. We have made positive recommendations to resolve the deterrents and obstacles the Crown has placed before not only the Six Nations of the Grand River Peoples, but other First Nations across Canada.

A copy of our initial 2011 presentation and those recommendations are attached hereto. We have, and will continue to build on these efforts at the United Nations forums for a just and amicable Land Rights Forum and a just process meeting United Nations Standards that is acceptable to the Six Nations People and the People of Canada.

Prime Minister Harper, it is with the above noted reasons that we support "in principle" the referenced report, *In Bad Faith; Justice At Last and Canada's Failure to Resolve Specific Claims.* There is great room for an improved fair and just process, without the extinguishment of First Nations Land and Treaty Rights.

Yours truly,

G. Ava Hill

Chief G. Ava Hill
Six Nations Elected Council