

**From:** Zohra Zekria

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 12:29 PM

**To:** PSB Administration <psbadministration@haldimandcounty.on.ca>; Donna Chausse <DChausse@haldimandcounty.on.ca>; Ken Hewitt <KHewitt@haldimandcounty.on.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: WE DEFEND THE 1492 LAND BACK MOVEMENT & ITS PEOPLE

**Please be cautious.**

This email originates from outside of Haldimand County.

Date: Sat, Oct 10, 2020 at 12:01 AM

Subject: WE DEFEND THE 1492 LAND BACK MOVEMENT & ITS PEOPLE

To: <[info@gg.ca](mailto:info@gg.ca)>, <[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)>, <[francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca](mailto:francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca)>, <[carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca)>, <[marc.miller@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.miller@parl.gc.ca)>, <[doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)>, <[greg.rickford@pc.ola.org](mailto:greg.rickford@pc.ola.org)>

To those that this concerns,

My name is Zohra Zekria

I am staunchly against the violence committed by police against land defenders at the so-called Mackenzie Meadows construction site near Caledonia, Ontario. The land defenders from Six Nations are well within their rights to protest construction under land granted to them by the Haldimand Proclamation, and have been doing so since mid-June. In 1784, the Proclamation granted the Six Nations land 10 kilometres on either side of the Grand River, part of the Haldimand Tract. Due to constant theft and exploitation by colonial governments, the Six Nations have now been left with a tiny fraction of the lands to which they were granted in 1784. This is clearly shown by the federal government's closure of 28 out of 29 unresolved land claims in 1995 that were proposed by the Six Nations Land Claims Research Office. Despite the fact that the court date to resolve these land claims is not until 2022, the Crown unlawfully sold the disputed land to Ballantry Homes. The elected Band Council was in the early twentieth-century installed against the will of the community. It is not mentioned in the Haldimand Proclamation, nor is it the legitimate decision-making body for the Haudenosaunee. Any proposed land developments require the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Communities. Thus, community consultation meetings were held, which brought 79 people to their 3 meetings. Of those 79 community members, only 12 approved. Consent was clearly not given by the community, but nevertheless the deal went through for less than \$400 000- less than it would cost to buy one of the homes to be built on the land.

Ontario Provincial Police officers used unnecessary violence against peaceful demonstrators at so-called Mackenzie Meadows on August 5th. Nine arrests were made without fair justification, and rubber bullets and tasers were used against the unarmed land defenders. I find the criminalization of land defenders at 1492 Land Back Lane extremely upsetting and I demand that the Ontario Provincial Police immediately leave Six Nations territory. The current injunction to clear out areas with unresolved land claims must also be dropped immediately.

I also request that a representative from your office attend an open dialogue meeting with Six Nations land defenders, and that you implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in full. Now is the time to finally commit to meaningful action on truth and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Turtle Island. I highly recommend that you seize this opportunity.

Looking forward to your response, Zohra Zekria