



January 31, 2025

Adam Chamberlin
Project Manager, Forestry
Planning & Development Division
53 Thorburn Street South,
Cayuga ON N0A 1E0

Re: George Street, Dunville Minor Exception Application

Adam,

Thank you for providing notification on the above application.

Six Nations of the Grand River Territory is within the most highly urbanized land in Canada. Development has occurred on Six Nations' traditional territory without consultation or consent of our Nation. The cumulative effects of this intense development has contributed to significant environmental degradation and, as a result, Six Nations has experienced severe impacts on our ability to exercise our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights that are not only set out in the treaties themselves, but are also recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. These treaty lands are subject to unresolved litigation and any infringement upon our treaty rights must be fully mitigated by the proponent.

Six Nations of the Grand River completely opposes the proposed minor exception application to clear cut trees. This application should be subjected to a more rigorous planning application and a more holistic approach to the environment as well as archaeology. Six Nations has a 10:1 tree replacement ratio that we would like adhered to. A stage 1 archaeological assessment be sent to Tanya Hill-Montour for her review and comment, as well as participation of her monitors if a stage 2 is required.

The environment is of utmost importance to First Nations peoples, it is our duty to steward and protect these lands for future generations to enjoy. A mass clear cutting like this would directly infringe on the Six Nations of the Grand Rivers inherent treaty rights, and the ability to exercise these rights in the Haldimand Tract. Without a clear restoration plan set in place, allowing this would be jeopardizing the ability of our future generations to exercise these same rights. It is our preference that these environmental features on site remain untouched. Ontario's legislation may say these wetlands, swamps and thickets do not meet the criteria to be protected, we at Six Nations do. There is no hierarchy in our culture, we view everything as equal, we must honor the Dish with one Spoon Treaty and steward these lands so they will be better for future generations to enjoy.

Six Nations needs to be accommodated for any disturbances to the environment within our treaty Lands, regardless of the outcome of this application. We would expect a meeting with the property owner if application is approved prior to any removals.

Sincerely,

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