



NATION
huronne-wendat

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GRAND CHIEF HURON WENDAT NATION

PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 2017

Wendake, July 5, 2017

To all members of the Huron-Wendat Nation, Kwe, Akwekon,

The great 2017 Pow Wow celebration has just ended on a perfect note! We are very delighted by its immense success. Everything was in place: our dancers in their magnificent ensembles, our traditional singers, our renowned musicians, well-run shows, dedicated support staff and our wonderful facilities, which are unique in Canada. Indeed, everything was set up to provide an unforgettable experience to thousands of visitors from all walks of life.

Even in bad weather, with our amphitheatre featuring a new formidable permanent roof, we could provide a colourful show. Huron-Wendat people came to Wendake from all over to participate in their Pow Wow and the various cultural activities intended for both adults and children. We took advantage of this opportunity to fraternize and it is always a great pleasure to reconnect with our common roots. Moreover, at any time this summer, I invite all members of our Nation to notify my office and let me know if you plan on visiting. It will be my great pleasure to meet and welcome you and spend some pleasant time with you.

SOUTH WENDAKE

After a long winter and a rainy spring, which was a tough test for many of our members, we have reached the heart of the summer season. It's about time! Aside from the various trips and family activities, we invite you to participate in an important ceremony for the reburial of our ancestors that will be taking place in South Wendake in Ontario. It is important to note that, after these four years of the current team's mandate, many developments have taken place with utmost transparency. More than 850 archaeological sites have been identified thanks to a mapping system and we currently have about ten Huron-Wendat supervisors for Huron-Wendat sites. To this end, on June 6th, we were given a full public presentation on the results and ever-evolving progress in this file.

CARRIED OUT AND UPCOMING WORK

Currently, there are many major projects taking place at the same time in Wendake. Like the beaver, our national emblem, we work hard and as a team. We share our achievements and we move forward together, always striving towards the best interests of our Nation. Since last spring, after several months of analysis and postings open to all, we can now enjoy a magnificent service station, complete with a fully-stocked convenience store featuring a drop-off point to allow on-reserve tax-free delivery, all of which is managed by a very dynamic Huron-Wendat member, Audrey Drolet. In addition to our own members, many other people from other First Nations and Quebec come to our service station seeking services. For our members who are passing through Wendake, do not hesitate to take advantage of the community pool which, annexed to the hotel-museum, will seduce you with its beauty and architecture. Its inauguration will be taking place in a few weeks and it will be available to all our members as well as our hotel clientele.

Development work on the new eastern sector of Wendake continues almost day and night and already the construction phase for the super multi-functional sports and recreation complex has begun. It will feature an arena and related facilities: a restaurant, a sharpening shop, etc., as well as a vast and ultra-modern community hall.

Major works will begin in July to completely replace the infrastructure on Grand Chef Max Gros-Louis street. Major investments will be made due to the obsolescence and advanced age of the equipment in the ground.

CULTURE AND TOURISM

We inaugurated the Place de la Nation under the theme of the creation of the world according to Huron-Wendat mythology and entitled “Onywahtehretsih”. Supported by our artists and artisans, its beauty and deep sense of interpretation render this western window to Wendake incomparable. Previously, a large bronze plaque decorated the place with wording that described us as immigrants and refugees. This shameful plaque was torn from its base and is now gone forever. Colonialism has no place among the Huron-Wendat people. We speak for ourselves!

For the museum, we continue to make significant investments which has made it possible to welcome tourists using state-of-the-art audio equipment allowing them to listen in six different languages to the interpretation of our history and contemporary culture. We have also rebuilt the entire time line wall which now expresses our own vision and the local version of the history of our people, while paying homage to all those who have forged the path for us; our valorous ancestors.

At the Port of Québec, we have now ensured the visibility of the social and cultural life of our Nation to encourage cruise passengers and many visitors to hop onto the shuttle destination Wendake featuring characteristic signs of the Huron-Wendat Nation. We are in the process of preparing the same scenario at Jean Lesage International Airport. These improvements aim to drive our entire

economic sector which is based on the tourism industry and benefits greatly from the influx of these many visitors.

North of Wendake, we have confirmed the establishment of a nature conservation and interpretation park. The Harry Gros-Louis Jr. Nature Park will have, among other things, an educational mission aiming to transmit cultural and environmental knowledge related to the ancestral way of life with an authentic Huron-Wendat touch. It is also worth noting that this great hunter, Mr. Harry Gros-Louis Jr., kept all his notes and notebooks which guided his steps on the Nionwentsïo, which is a priceless treasure for our research and proof of occupation endeavours.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

We are also continuing our negotiations with various consulting firms involved in the field of renewable energy with the objective of carrying out projects on the Nionwentsïo in such a way as to be beneficial to our entire Nation, while creating good jobs for our members and business opportunities for our expert firms and contractors. To date, Wendake Construction, our national construction company, has collectively brought in over \$2 million which was reinvested in our economy.

HEALTH

In the spring, we met with the Minister of Health, Mr. Gaétan Barrette, regarding our priority project focused on the development of phases 2 and 3 of the Yändia'wich Turtle project. He confirmed that we now have the financial latitude to be able to implement phase 3 of the project, which consists of building a CHSLD or a long-term residential care facility for our seniors who are faced with a loss of autonomy. As for phase 2 which consists of building a block of 40 community-based supportive housing units, we are currently negotiating with representatives of the federal government. To that end, we will be welcoming the federal Minister of Health, Jane Philpot, in mid-August. The three complexes must form the entire Yändia'wich Turtle project. It has become imperative for both levels of government to cease their squabbles and align their programs to meet the pressing needs of our Nation. Our seniors are and shall remain the Council's priority.

NATIONALISM

Every year, I make it my duty to go and meet with the Premier of Quebec to give him our best national holiday wishes on behalf of our Nation. This year, at the Domaine Catarauqui on our Seigneurie de Sillery, I asked Mr. Couillard if he could begin his speech by first recognizing that he is on the Nionwentsïo, the ancestral land of the Huron-Wendat Nation. I told him that this would allow him to join other Premiers in Canada as well as mayors of major cities who, like Mayor Denis Coderre, do not miss an opportunity to highlight these situations. Now we must wait and see what will happen. At the very least, one way or another, we will be able to gain some insight into his genuine political will.

As for our legal process with the Superior Court, we are moving forward with confidence and determination. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that our collective action is not directed at the three Innu communities who want to negotiate a final agreement on the basis of the federal comprehensive land claims policy. It is directed specifically at the Federal Crown and the Provincial Crown, both of which, in a reprehensible manner in 2004, gifted to these three Innu communities the northern part of our Nionwentsïo, without our consent, let alone our knowledge. In a diplomatic fashion, I sent a letter to the new Chief of Lac Saint-Jean, Mr. Clifford Moar, offering to pick up where we left off in 2012 with the moose-hunting agreement and thus participate in a pre-mediation process, without any preconditions, with Judge Louise Otis. The targeted objective would be to arrive at a definitive agreement as to the respective boundaries of our distinct territories. I understood that Chief Moar first wanted to try to bring about unity within his community before undertaking more formal discussions. In the meantime, we are vigorously continuing to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves against any governmental decisions or actions aimed at unilaterally appropriating our collective heritage.

DESCHENEAUX CASE – correction of discriminatory measures

On August 3, 2015, the Superior Court of Québec, as part of the Descheneaux case, made an important decision that will certainly have a great impact on our Nation and its members.

Indeed, the Superior Court declared that the provisions of the Indian Act relating to Indian registration and band membership were unconstitutional because they were contrary to section 15 of the Charter. It must be recognized that real injustices are always present in the admission of new members who therefore suffer from discrimination, even within the same family. This is unfortunately the case for some of our members but only the federal government can take the necessary steps to remedy this situation.

The Court therefore ordered the federal government to amend the discriminatory provisions. These amendments must be adopted by July 3, 2017. If this does not happen, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will no longer have the authority to conduct new registrations.

In order to comply with the court order, the federal government submitted Bill S-3 in the fall of 2016. This bill raises many concerns that have been brought to the attention of the federal government by our Nation as well as several other Aboriginal organizations across the country. These concerns are mainly related to the adjustment of funding to deal with the arrival of new members, the fact that the granting of status is still under the responsibility of the federal government and finally, the fact that Bill S-3 will not be enough to address the inequities created by the Indian Act.

At the beginning of June, the Senate passed Bill S-3 with a major amendment to grant status to all direct descendants of persons born before April 17, 1985 who previously held the right to be considered Indians under previous versions of the Indian Act (also referred to as the “continuity

clause”). The House of Commons passed the bill without the continuity clause. Bill S-3 was returned to the Senate for consideration. The study of Bill S-3 is likely to continue in the fall.

It is important to keep in mind that INAC is opposed to the continuity clause mainly because it considers that it causes considerable uncertainty with regard to the funding that will be required and in terms of demographics.

Rest assured that the Council is monitoring this issue very closely and will ensure that the federal government assumes its responsibilities regarding new members of our Nation in terms of funding, program and service delivery and housing.

ADMINISTRATION

From an administrative perspective, as part of our public service to be more specific, we have continued our approach focused on reducing our payroll which is too high according to our financial auditors. Therefore, in keeping with the agreements reached with the employees' union and in line with the Nation's ability to pay, various proposals are being sent to our employees who have accumulated sufficient years of service to voluntarily accept a severance package. The same applies to managers. I would also like to emphasize that we have excellent employees who are dedicated to serving all members of our Nation. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the honorary awards received by two of our police officers recognizing their fifteenth years of service with our police department: Officers Jean Duchesneau and Marc Duchesneau.

EDUCATION

I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our elected officials, to congratulate all our valued students, from all academic levels, for their efforts and well-deserved successes. They are already leaders and I encourage them to continue along the path they have set out. No matter where they live, the doors of their Nation are open to them and their talents and expertise are very important to us, as a matter of priority. In this sense, we have prioritized implementing an increase in the amounts allocated to all our post-secondary students with new monthly allowances:

- Student staying with their parents \$400
- Student staying with a parent on income security \$545
- Independent student \$850
- Student with one child \$1,150
- Student with two children \$1,275
- Student with three children \$1,450
- \$50 more per additional child

For educational materials:

- \$50 per general Diploma of College Studies (DCS) course
- \$55 per technical Diploma of College Studies (DCS) course

- \$75 per university course

The Council also offers bonuses and incentives for academic success:

- General DCS \$700
- Technical DCS \$1,500
- Bachelor's degree \$1,500

HUNTING

The hunting zone draw took place on April 10th at the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations. More than 225 Hurons-Wendat people participated in the event. With the addition of the new members, there were 25 additional hunting groups. The hunting weeks for the 2017 season are scheduled for the following dates:

- **Laurentides Wildlife Reserve:**
September 23rd-29th, September 30th-October 6th, October 7th-13th
- **Tourilli Sector:**
October 6th-12th, October 13th-19th
- **Portneuf Wildlife Reserve:**
October 7th-13th, October 14th-20th

EPILOGUE

I would be remiss to complete this progress report without mentioning the fact that a significant number of our members have recently left Mother Earth. On behalf of all the Chiefs, I wish to convey our heartfelt sympathies and most sincere condolences to the families in mourning. Regardless of whether it is for someone who is not as well known or for someone whose reputation goes beyond our borders, as is the case recently for Mr. Gilles Sioui, such a loss affects the great circle of our Nation.

Finally, on behalf of all our elected representatives, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer filled with warm sunshine and beautiful country evenings that keep us united and together as members of the most wonderful nation, the Huron-Wendat Nation. Allow me to reiterate my invitation to those of you who will be coming to Wendake to feel free to contact the Council office. I will be very pleased to welcome and spend some pleasant time with you. I also refer you to our website for useful information relating to the various activities in progress and the different programs and services being provided.

See you soon, Onenh!



Konrad Sioui
Grand Chief