

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:
Indian Time
Editor:
Joyce Mitchell

Dear Joyce,

In keeping with reading of the Indian Time, for the past month or so, I thought it newsworthy that the public be made aware of certain misinformation that you have espoused on the public that blatantly misinforms and misrepresents the facts.

As in reference to the [Indian Time] article Vol. 18#9, "The Tables Turn: Faithkeeper/Tribal Council Chief, Paul Thompson, and other members of the People's Government use Tribal Police to Block Fuel Trucks". It's sad to see that you would use direct quotes from renegade businessman, Eli Tarbell who has blatant disregard for our community and which are false and libelous, without also going to the people he slandered.

Let's go back to 1979, and the encampment. It was Julius D. Herne, and his YACC (Young Adult Conservation Corp.) group who started the whole incident at Racquette Point. Speed began cutting down trees on the property of Loran Thompson. Thompson in turn confiscated equipment which led to the arrest of Loran by members of the State Police, and to the 1979 Encampment and Stand Off.

There is no "Gus-stop-o" here in Akwesasne. At present there is only one government, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. And I have seen the hardworking efforts of seven individuals (Paul, Alma, Hilda, John, Harry, Rick, and Pat) to make the government work for the past three + years, over the displeasure and hatred of a few people who have been beaten, but still continue to pretend that they are a government. It's also sad to add that Alma, Paul, Hilda, and John had to spend the majority of their incumbency fighting the other so-called faction.

And at the center of the fairy tale is a greedy businessman named Eli Tarbell. A person who owns several businesses, his own church and one who wants his own government. Also, there is no Constitutional Government at Akwesasne. That monster which had been continually attempted to be shoved down our throats was defeated by the people in a referendum voted for on June 3, 1995. It did not receive the required 51% for passage. On June 1, 1996 in another referendum, the community again reaffirmed by a 2-1 margin that the Constitution never passed.

One of the greatest victories won by the People who voted in the past referenda was the September 30th, 1999 decision of Federal Judge Kollar-Kotelly.

Kotelly in essence reaffirms the people's votes, referendums and dissolved the Constitution and the Tribal Court System.

As for the situation with the de-deputization of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department, we know that the situation arose due to the dissatisfaction of Malone District Attorney Schrader that Wesley Benedict who had been Tribal Chief of Police had been demoted, not fired as has been repeatedly stated in your newspaper.

We all know that there are certain factions out there that are presently attempting to disrupt the present government of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. We know that the so-called constitutional outlaws had their hands in it, and that they played a significant part of having the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police de-deputized.

Sad thing, is, do the members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police realize what laws they are able to enforce, and what had the police force done prior to their deputization?

You also have one member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Commission, Monica Jacobs, who has been raked over the coals in this matter so that the Constitutional Outlaws may continue their vengeance at misinforming the community so that they are able to continue their contemptuous affairs which only create further dissension and disharmony.

What government do these people (Constitutional Outlaws) really feel they have sworn their allegiance to? Why do they think for one minute that they are able to call themselves the Constitutional Government when we have no constitution? And what is it that makes them "above the law"? They have and continue to violate a federal court order, they have taken records, and other materials belonging to members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

And, now I read in your latest issue that Carol Herne and the constitutional Outlaws plan an election for June. That is the biggest fairy tale to be told for the millennium.

Carol Herne was fired by both governments as the supporting documents included in this letter show. The Constitutional group have no backing, they have no authority, worse of all they have no respect for the will of the people as demonstrated by their actions against members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

And what is it that these people are "attempting to hold out for", most assuredly it's for their hidden agendas, with Land Claims, Monticello, and more.

As far as I am concerned the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will hold it's 2000 election at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on June 3rd at the Community Building as scheduled.

Thank you for allowing me to get this off my chest! Niawen.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Smoke

April 5, 2000

As one drives on the roads in Akwesasne, one cannot help but notice the tremendous amount of litter in the ditches. As Akwesasne who care about mother earth and our community, we need to do something about the garbage sitting along our roads.

On Saturday, April 15, 2000, The Akwesasne Task Force On the Environment, working in conjunction with MCA and SRMT Environment Departments will be sponsoring our annual Roadside Clean Up day in honor of Earth Day.

Get the message out to the families to pick up trash along their roads in the ditches. Someone needs to call Dave Arquette at 518-358-9513 so we can come and pick up the trash and take it to the drop off point. People will need to put the trash in orange bags which they can be picked up at the Fire Station on the Island or Snye or call Adrian McDonald at 518-358-5937 or pick up bags and gloves at the Akwesasne Library on the day of the event. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. Niah Wen.

NOTICE:

Cooking Helpers needed for the Condolence Ceremony

Anyone interested in assisting with the cooking for the Condolence Ceremony is invited to attend an organization meeting. This will be held at the Mohawk Nation Cookhouse this Friday, April 7th at 4:00 p.m. Please bring your smiles and willingness to help.

Rights continued

Affirmation of the aboriginal rights of the Haudenosaunee is inferred in the 1794 Canandaigua Treaty which states in Article 2 the United States will never claim or disturb the Iroquois in the free use and enjoyment of their lands, territory which were then held to be under the exclusive governmental and judicial domain of the various Iroquois nations.

For generations the Iroquois have waged an intense political and legal campaign to convince both federal and state officials they must comply with the law by acknowledging the validity of Canandaigua while respecting the aboriginal rights of the Haudenosaunee.

The Haudenosaunee must also be aware of New York's efforts to divide the Iroquois by negotiating each land claim separately. Under Haudenosaunee law, no one nation has the authority to engage in actions which put the other Iroquois in jeopardy. As bitter as the internal factions might have been 200 years ago, the Iroquois nonetheless managed to take a united stand at Canandaigua. The leaders then may well have realized those negotiations represented the last and best opportunity for the Confederacy to protect its political and territorial integrity.

There is, of course, a genuine risk the Haudenosaunee will lose their claims to aboriginal and/or treaty rights if either privilege is not actively exercised. For example, if any Iroquois citizen has a legitimate claim to hunt within their indigenous boundaries they must be willing to challenge the restrictions state officials have sought to impose on that action. Likewise, if the Iroquois elect to engage in trade that activity should not be left for external agencies to define or regulate but should be the prerogative of the Iroquois nations themselves.

With aboriginal rights comes responsibility. The Iroquois nations must have the courage and will to enforce their own rules while insuring communal stability. They must also accept the difficult task of vigorously opposing any and all actions which place their aboriginal rights at risk.

It is because our ancestors were tenacious in their defense of our aboriginal rights that we exist as a distinct people; any compromise of those rights, however tempting at the moment, may well mean the demise of the Haudenosaunee as sovereign nations.

MCA General Election

The following is a schedule for the upcoming General Elections for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne:

Nominations Saturday, May 13, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Nominations for Grand Chief and District Chiefs for all 3 District within the Territory of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Advance Poll Voting Saturday, June 10, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Advance Poll Voting will be held at the St. Regis Recreation Centre for all districts of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

According to section 10(4) of the Akwesasne Election and Voting Custom Regulations any person wishing to vote at the advance poll must apply to the Chief Electoral Officer and receive consent before being permitted to vote at the advance poll.

Section 10(5) provides the following list for consideration by the CEO in approving advance poll voting, hospitalization, education, training, employment or travel commitments and physical incapacity.

Therefore, any person wishing to vote at the advance poll should submit their application, giving reasons for the request, to the Chief Electoral Officer.

General Election Saturday, June 24, 2000 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

General Election voting for the districts of Kanatakon, Kawenoke and Tsi Snaihne.

If any person has any questions please contact:

Clifford Sunday, Chief
Electoral Officer
Administration Building II
St. Regis, Quebec H0M 1A0
613-575-2348



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