



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Iqaluit, April 17th, 2006

Six Nations "Iroquois" Confederacy
PO Box 1478
OHSWEKEN ON N0A 1A0

Dear Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy Council:

I would like to reiterate my acknowledgement of your letter dated March 27, 2006, addressed to Professor Michael Coyle, whom I appointed as an independent fact-finder to examine issues surrounding the occupation of Douglas Creek Estates near Caledonia, Ontario.

As mentioned in my April 13th letter to the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy, I have taken note of your concerns. The issues that you raise in your letter are important ones. I have addressed the areas which fall under federal jurisdiction in the *Joint Offer for a New Understanding Among Six Nations, Canada and Ontario*, a document which was prepared by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. This *Joint Offer* constitutes a comprehensive series of measures to achieve progress on the issues raised by the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Confederacy in the March 27th letter addressed to Michael Coyle.

I also wish to reiterate that I fully subscribe to the view that traditional beliefs, values, and practices of Six Nations need to be better understood by governments and local interests. I also believe that a community/public education campaign on the history of the Six Nations land interests will be beneficial. Under the *Joint Offer for a New Understanding* referred to earlier, we are prepared to fund processes to support these two objectives, as well as processes to address internal Six Nations governance issues.

I would also like to reaffirm the Government of Canada's commitment to addressing those claims currently being discussed jointly with Ontario and Six Nations. As outlined by my representative in the meetings held in the last few days in Brantford, ON, Canada is prepared to fast track other claims identified by the exploratory team as being potentially conducive to a negotiated outcome, which, upon ratification by the community, could result in settlement payments to Six Nations.

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I must add, however, that progress can only be made jointly by all parties. I have taken the proactive steps of addressing your concerns with my colleague, Minister David Ramsay of Ontario. We understand that you require a formal offer, which we are doing by jointly signing the *Joint Offer*, and my writing this letter of response is additional proof of our good faith. In order to bind this agreement, however, we must ask you to do your part by taking appropriate actions to end the protest at Douglas Creek Estates immediately, and to repudiate and assist in taking action to end any future occupations as long as we are negotiating with the Six Nations community the detailed agreement and work plan to implement the commitments made by governments in the *Joint Offer* presented to the Six Nations community.

This immediate action on your part will provide the means to ensure the safety of Six Nations community, and will strengthen the relationship between our governments and your community, and ensure that we move forward on these matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Prentice', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

CC: The Honourable David Ramsay
Chief David General, Six Nations Elected Council