

SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER CITIZENSHIP CODE

The members of the Six Nations of the Grand River will have an opportunity to vote in person on the proposed Citizenship Code on May 25th, June 1st, AND have the ability to vote electronically. Information sessions are scheduled for members to learn more about the Citizenship Code and the voting process in the coming weeks.

Important Dates

Daily Drop Ins Welcome – Monday to Friday Mornings Our Sustenance Log Cabin, 2676 4th Line, Ohsweken, On N0A 1M0		
May 13th - Community Information Session Six Nations Community Hall, 1738 4th Line 1pm - 3pm 5pm -8pm light food and refreshments being provided	May 14th, 15th, and 16th Community Awareness Week Drop In Sessions Our Sustenance Log Cabin, 2676 4th Line 11am - 2pm 5pm - 8pm light food and refreshments being provided	May 20th Off Territory Information Session Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, 34 Ottawa St. N., Hamilton, On L8H 3Y7 4-6 pm light food and refreshments being provided

The new Citizenship Code will return the decision-making authority over who is a Six Nations citizen back to the community. Currently, if a person with Six Nations ancestry successfully applies to Canada for their Indian Status, they are automatically added to the Six Nations membership list. If the community votes in favour of the Code, the Government of Canada will no longer determine who is a citizen of the Six Nations of the Grand River.

People that claim Six Nations ancestry can still apply to Canada for a status card, but whether they are included in the citizenship of our community will be decided by Six Nations of the Grand River. This will create in effect two lists. One that determines Indian status (Canada) and one that determines citizenship and access to local resources (Six Nations of the Grand River). In the event that the Code is not approved, the Government of Canada will continue to control the membership of Six Nations of the Grand River.

This is a result of Canada passing Bill S-3 that addresses gender-discrimination issues that impacted women who married non-Indian people. This law has the potential to add tens of thousands of people to the Six Nations of the Grand River member registrar who can demonstrate ancestry to Six Nations as far back as 1869.

The potential for tens of thousands of new members will create stress and increased demand on limited land, education and social services available to citizens of the Six Nations of the Grand River. Approving the Citizenship Code will enable the Six Nations of the Grand River Governing Council to plan for the needs of Six Nations citizens and #MakeSixNationsOurs more self-determining and less impacted by the policies and practices of the Government of Canada.

For more information join us at Our Sustenance Cabin any morning Monday to Friday, at the Open Houses and Community Info Sessions noted above, or contact Kaleb Hess, Community Educator (kaleb@onefeather.ca) to schedule a private discussion with you and/or your family at a time and place that works best for you.