July 24th, 2006

Mayor Larry Di Ianni
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

We thank you for meeting with us on July 20th and for hearing our concerns. We were most pleased with the way that you received our ideas and with your understanding and support.

We have attached a proposal and budget for moving forward with a ‘Truth Commission’ in Hamilton which will begin a healing process for suffering caused by the recent Caledonia Lands Claims issue. As you know, egregious hurts were experienced by Indigenous persons in the greater Hamilton area. We would be very grateful if the City of Hamilton can support this initiative which will send a valued message to Hamiltonians.

Our Research Assistant Andrea D'Souza will be the contact person for this process. However, your office should feel also free to contact Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill, or myself with questions or for additional information when necessary.

Many thanks in anticipation for this assistance.

Sincerely

Patricia Daenzer
Academic Chair
Indigenous Studies Program

Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill
Academic Director
Indigenous Studies Program
McMaster University
Project Proposal
Indigenous Land Rights Dispute

Title of Project: Truth Commission

Duration
September 1, 2006 to November 2006

Description of Project
This project seeks to provide a vehicle for the clarification and expression of grievances experienced by Indigenous Peoples in Hamilton as a result of the Caledonia Lands Claim Dispute.

Relevance

- Recent events in Caledonia between the Six Nations community and the residents of Caledonia have left deep wounds which not only exacerbate those from 200 years ago, but damaged relations between Caledonia and First Nations communities.
- An important concern for members of the Six Nations Community is that media aired the issues unfairly. Much of the pain and insults suffered by First Nations members was undocumented and thus unknown to wider publics.
- First Nations members continue to suffer repercussions from this issue in addition to their broader socio-economic estrangement and marginalization.

Objectives

- Start the healing process by embarking on a ‘truth commission’ in which members of the Six Nations community will be given a voice to express the experiences resulting from the lands claim dispute.

Action Plan

- Develop a panel of community experts in the hearings to be conducted in the following months.
- Document the experiences of Six Nations Members through legal hearings and recordings, compile affidavits that will then be submitted to the attorney general and the United Nations.
- Create a two-tiered set of forums; one of which will take place on the Six Nations Reserve and the second of which will be conducted in the Urban center for indigenous peoples in the city who have been affected by this dispute.
- That proceeds of the ‘peace commission’ be published for negotiation with all three levels of government and to be used as curricular matter in post secondary institutions.
Project Proposal
Indigenous Land Rights Dispute

**Title of Project:** Truth Commission

**Budget**

The minimum funding requirement for the Truth Commission is an estimated $15,000. We are requesting $5,500 from the City of Hamilton which will be earmarked for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental Space</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for Service</td>
<td>$1000 each for Urban and Six Nations Forum</td>
<td>$2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Services</td>
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<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Data Entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>$1000 for 4 days</td>
<td>$2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Approximately four days of employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Two lawyers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>- Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Beverages</td>
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Total $5500

The remaining funds for this project will be actively sought from our partners in the local community and other organizations associated with this issue.