



March 6, 2023

The Hon. David Piccini, MPP  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
[minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

*She:kon* Minister,

A deep and abiding respect for the environment has always been a core value of the Haudenosaunee culture of Six Nations of the Grand River. We strive to uphold the principle of good stewardship in all of our undertakings related to the natural environment.

I'm sure you can understand then why the ongoing sewage spill in Hamilton's Chedoke Creek is of so much concern to our people, and why we are so keen to see the environmental cleanup operation finally get underway without any further delays.

This crucial cleanup project cannot be put off any more. The longer it is delayed, the more polluted the creek and the local environment becomes.

While some obstructions have been created by individuals that may not have the Six Nations community's interest in mind, we are glad that the Government of Ontario has acknowledged the need to respect the official, accountable, and transparent consultation processes of Six Nations and intends to reflect those processes in government policy more fully in the future. As I have relayed to you in recent discussions, our Lands and Resources Department personnel report that the City of Hamilton conducted all requisite consultations and Six Nations of the Grand River's full approval for the environmental cleanup was given months ago.

We are therefore asking you, as Minister of the Environment for the Province of Ontario, to take steps necessary to expedite the cleaning up of Chedoke Creek, including but not limited to revising your ministry's previous instructions to the City of Hamilton extending their timelines for the project. Obstruction delays cannot be tolerated at the expense of both the environment and due process.

Six Nations asks that you take these steps so that the Creek and its surrounding environment may be cleaned up as soon as possible; this action will benefit all involved, but most importantly the environment.

*Nya:weh,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Hill".

Chief Mark B. Hill  
Six Nations of the Grand River



March 9, 2023

Andrea Horwath  
Mayor of Hamilton  
[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)

*She:kon* Your Worship,

I have been encouraged by your positive relationship with Six Nations of the Grand River and your engagement with our community's official consultations protocol. Such collaboration makes important environmental projects like the long-overdue cleanup of Chedoke Creek much easier to undertake.

As you know, Six Nations is the largest Haudenosaunee jurisdiction and the only territory home to all six Haudenosaunee nations. As the elected Chief and Council, we govern for all of our people without discrimination. In that spirit of equity, we have a lawfully established Consultations and Accommodations Process (CAP) office that works with partners to protect our people's environmental, archeological, cultural and land-use interests.

Engagement with unofficial and unaccountable groups or individuals is not acceptable and undermines the processes that are designed to benefit our people collectively. We know that Hamilton is well acquainted with our community's official policies, having collaborated with Six Nations previously.

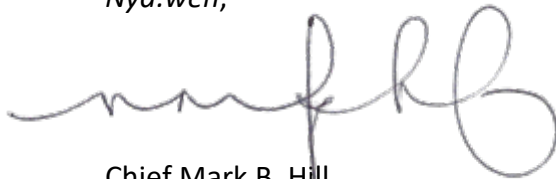
You and your officials are likewise familiar with our deep and abiding respect for the environment, which has always been a core value of our Haudenosaunee culture. Good stewardship of our natural environment underpins all we do. This is why the ongoing sewage spill in Chedoke Creek is of so much concern to our people, and why we are so keen to see the environmental cleanup operation finally get underway.

The cleanup is crucial and cannot be put off any more. The longer it is delayed, the more polluted

the creek and the local environment becomes. While some obstructions have been created by unaccountable individuals looking after their own self-interest, we know you share our concern to fulfill our duties to the environment as our common priority. Our Lands and Resources Department personnel report that the City of Hamilton conducted all requisite consultations in the early stages of this project many months ago and Six Nations of the Grand River's full approval for the environmental cleanup was granted.

We are therefore asking that the cleaning up of Chedoke Creek be put back on track and expedited without any further delay. We have written to the Minister of the Environment to request that Ontario support swift action, and you can find that letter attached. As I have told him, acts of obstruction cannot be tolerated at the expense of both the environment and due process. We look forward to continuing our collaborative relationship with you, Mayor Horwath, with your municipal councillors, and with the City of Hamilton. Together we can build up our communities and protect the natural environment we all cherish.

*Nya:weh,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Hill', written in a cursive style.

Chief Mark B. Hill  
Six Nations of the Grand River