

# Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

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## Chronology of Events at Caledonia

### Notice

This website will change as a result of the dissolution of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. During this transformation, you may wish to consult the updated [Indigenous and Northern Affairs home page](#) or the newly-created [Indigenous Services Canada home page](#).

**October 2005:** Chief David General of Six Nations elected Band Council writes to Henco Industries, the developer of Douglas Creek Estates, highlighting his concerns over proceeding with the subdivision alleging that it is on disputed lands.

**February 28, 2006:** A small group of individuals linked to Six Nations and Mohawk traditionalists occupy the Douglas Creek Estates (DCE) construction site.

**March 10, 2006:** Henco Industries obtains an injunction ordering the DCE occupiers off the site.

**March 24, 2006:** Canada appoints Michael Coyle to undertake a fact-finding initiative to assess the situation in Caledonia.

**April 20, 2006:** OPP officers conduct a raid on the site and arrest 16 DCE occupiers. Some individuals from the neighbouring Six Nations First Nation join the DCE occupiers and construct a blockade.

**April 21, 2006:** Talks begin between the Six Nations/Haudenosonee, the Federal Government, and the Ontario Government. The structure of the current negotiations mark a milestone. For the first time since 1924, the federal government entered into discussions with both the elected Band Council and Confederacy Chiefs. It is understood that both the elected Council and the Confederacy are making strides in moving forward to resolve their governance issues internally.

**April 22, 2006:** Representatives from all sides agree to talk about settling the DCE/Plank Road claim and to appoint 'principal' representatives for each party.

**April 24, 2006:** About 3,000 Caledonia residents hold a rally in the evening. Later that night, about 500 Caledonia residents confront Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and DCE occupiers at the blockade.

**April 30, 2006:** Former Ontario Premier, David Peterson, is appointed by the Ontario Government to help resolve the standoff.

**May 3, 2006:** Canada announces that the Honorable Barbara McDougall will represent the Federal Government in longer term negotiations with the aide of Ronald Doering as Senior Federal Negotiator. Ontario announces that its representative will be the Honorable Jane Stewart, a former Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs.

**May 16, 2006:** DCE occupiers take down part of the barrier to enable the flow of local traffic along only one lane of Highway 6.

**May 19, 2006:** A small group of Caledonia residents set up their own blockade across Highway 6 to prevent the entry of Six Nations occupiers on to the DCE site.

**May 22, 2006:** DCE occupiers remove their blockade after which Caledonia residents block Highway (which abuts DCE site) to prevent the entry of DCE occupiers. DCE occupiers respond with another blockade. The blockades results in physical and verbal confrontation and an act of vandalism on a transformer which blacks-out much of Caledonia. Power is restored to most residents by May 24.

**May 23, 2006:** DCE occupiers continue their blockade of the DCE site. Confrontation between Caledonia residents and the DCE occupiers over the Victoria Day weekend result in the barricades coming down, but

occupation continues.

**June 9, 2006:** OPP arrests three people on charges of disturbing the peace and begin to seek others on other charges.

**June 12, 2006:** The acts of violence prompt Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Canada to suspend all negotiations until the barricades are removed. As a result, barricades are removed.

**June 15, 2006:** Negotiations resume.

**June 16, 2006:** The Ontario government purchases the DCE land from developers.

**August 7, 2006:** There is a confrontation between DCE occupiers and an estimated 100 Caledonia residents.

**August 8, 2006:** A judge orders that all negotiations between the Six Nations/Haudenosaunee and both levels of government be suspended until land-claims activists stop occupying the Caledonia site.

**August 9, 2006:** OPP breaks up an early morning confrontation between DCE occupiers and Caledonia residents.

**October 15, 2006:** A rally near the DCE site is organized by a non-resident and is entitled: "March for Freedom". Approximately 400 people attend. In response, DCE occupiers and supporters gather for a "Potluck for Peace" on the occupied site.

There were no acts of violence at these gatherings. By this date, ongoing discussions between all three parties at the negotiation table helped to mitigate negative impacts of public gathering organized by non-resident.

**October 20, 2006:** Ontario Premier McGuinty states publicly that he intends to ask Ottawa to compensate the province for costs arising from the dispute.

**December 14, 2006:** The Ontario Court of Appeal released its finding that Superior Court Justice T. David Marshall had erred in calling for enforcement of an injunction to remove protestors from the DCE lands. It also ruled that any new contempt proceedings brought by the Attorney General for Ontario or police could apply only to occupation of the lands between April 21 and July 4, 2006.

The Confederacy issued a news release stating it supports and "respects" the ruling, but noting some concerns and stating that the Haudenosaunee are governed by the Great Law of Peace. Discussions at the main table continue.

**December 16, 2006:** A house immediately adjacent the DCE site is burglarized and vandalized. It is understood that no links to DCE occupiers have been made by OPP.

Organizer of the October "March for Freedom" organizes another protest at the DCE site. Two individuals are arrested and charged with disrupting the peace. They are released the next day without charge.

**January 1, 2007:** The Six Nations' elected Band Council turns over keys to long-house, the traditional place of the Confederacy meetings, to the Confederacy chiefs signaling progress on governance structures within Six Nations.

**January 20, 2007:** Another non-resident rally is organized and led by same individual.

**March 29, 2007:** Minister Jim Prentice announces efforts to advance negotiations with Six Nations and bring peace and stability to the Caledonia area. The twofold announcement includes \$26.4 million toward Ontario's extraordinary costs incurred as a result of the occupation near Caledonia. In addition, the Government of Canada expands its negotiations mandate to allow more flexibility in moving these historical claims forward. Minister Prentice was joined by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Federal Representative in discussions with the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations.

**May 30, 2007:** Canada makes an [offer of \\$125 million](#) in respect to four outstanding claims: Grand River Navigation Company investment; Block 5 (Moulton Township); Welland Canal flooding, and the Burtch Tract.

**December 12, 2007:** Canada makes a subsequent offer to the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations. This offer of \$26 million relates to the [Welland Canal flooding of Six Nations lands in 1829 and 1830](#). In developing this offer, Canada carefully considers the history behind the claim and relevant law.

**June 12, 2008:** Main Table Meeting.

**August 29, 2008:** Canada receives a formal counteroffer of \$500 million from HSN in response to Canada \$26 million offer relating to the Welland Canal flooding of Six Nations lands in 1829 and 1830.

**January 28, 2009:** At the Lands Side Table, Canada formally responds to the HSN counteroffer. After looking at the offer through the fall, Canada confirms that it believes that the original offer of \$26 million to settle this claim is fair. Talks at the table resume.

**February 25, 2009:** Parties agree to meet again at the Lands Side Table to continue discussion on the Welland Canal Flooding Claim and other relevant issues.

February 2009

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