

Inter-Nation Trade Protocol

Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways
Caldwell First Nation
Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit
Hiawatha First Nation
Oneida Nation of the Thames
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga)
Wahta Mohawks

Foreword

We, as Indigenous peoples, have inherited the responsibility to ensure that we preserve and protect Mother Earth and uphold the spiritual laws that govern the interdependent relationships between nature and humankind.

This inalienable and sacred connection to all Creation; land, air, water, sun, plants, and animals, is the spiritual basis of our existence. Based on our spiritual ways, passed down through the generations within our ancient peoples, our trading relationships are based on respect, kindness, and sharing.

Purpose

This protocol provides a binding foundation for generously sharing ideas, building capacity, and accessing information and knowledge regarding the elements of negotiation and decision-making, as First Nations affiliated with AIAI are planning to enter diplomatic relations on tobacco growth, manufacturing, and sales.

We, as Indigenous peoples who are members of First Nations, know that there is strength in numbers when negotiating with Crown governments. Our central motivation is for peace and harmony for our communities and prosperity for our businesses.

Governance

1. We are exercising our inherent responsibilities and moving together under our respective jurisdictions.
2. We are advancing our respective inherent jurisdictions as immediately enforceable and absent any process to “recognize” or negotiate contingent authority from Crown governments.
3. Our accountability rests directly with our citizens, and we shall build their understanding, meet their concerns, and seek their final approval and consent.

Principles of Trade and Commerce

Trade and commerce have been mainstays for Indigenous Nations prior to any contact with European peoples. Our trade and commerce relationships were based on spiritual ceremonies and activities to maintain peace and harmony. Our Indigenous trading routes were both water and land-based, and evidence of these natural trading routes are still visible and viable today. Indigenous Nations possess our own inherent responsibilities for international trade. We continue these responsibilities through exercise of our jurisdiction and treaty relationships with other Indigenous Nations, other Nations, including the Crown.

The following Principles of Trade and Commerce are based on the original relationships through which our Indigenous Nations thrived. These principles are founded on the notions of peaceful co-existence and mutual respect embodied in the spirit of covenants such as the Two Row Wampum.

1. Reciprocity

- It is a process of cultivating relationships between governments where all parties feel respected and enriched by the formal agreement. This will ensure that our First Nations will mutually benefit from being parties to a trade agreement.

2. Noninterference

- There must be understanding of, respect for, and internal resources provided for each jurisdiction to make independent decisions within their own sphere of jurisdiction.

3. Capacity

- All trade agreements include a provision for capacity transfer to economically disadvantaged Indigenous, or Indigenous-partnered producers.

4. Respect for the Environment

- Each party agrees to ensure and indemnify that there is no significant impact to the environment.

5. Duty Free

- AIAI member Nations acknowledge that they have relatives across North America and have freely traded across North America. Imposed boundaries do not impede our ongoing trade with are relatives.

Communications

1. The Parties agree to regular and timely communications. They also agree that any public or media communications will only be done through the consent of all parties involved.

2. The following are the designated contact people for each of the Parties of this protocol:

Chief Dean Sayers	Tele: 705-759-0914 Fax: 705-759-9171 chiefdeansayers@batchewana.ca
Chief Mary Duckworth	Tel: 519-322-1766 Fax: 519-322-1533 chief@caldwellfirstnation.ca
Chief Denise Stonefish	Tel: 519-692-3936 Fax: 519-692-5522 denise.stonefish@delawarenation.on.ca
Chief Laurie Carr	Tel: 705-295-4421 Fax: 705-295-1124 chiefcarr@hiawathafn.ca
Chief Adrian Chrisjohn	Tel: 519-652-6161 Fax: 519-652-2174 adrian.chrisjohn@oneida.on.ca
Chief R. Donald Maracle	Tel: 613-396-3424 Fax: 613-396-3627 rdonm@mbq-tmt.org
Chief Philip Franks	Tel: 705-762-2354 Fax: 705-762-2376 philip.franks@wahtamohawksCouncil.ca

3. All communications will be made with as inclusive a process as possible, at a minimum, including the contact people in any electronic communications between the parties.

Solidifying the Relationship

1. It is the intention of the parties to conduct a pipe ceremony and/or other ceremonies and a feast for the purpose of solidifying our important relationships when this protocol is formally signed between the parties.
2. Regular ceremonies will be conducted in each territory to maintain the spiritual connection of this process within our spiritual world for guidance and sustainability.

We, as the member Nations of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians agree to stand as a united front and agree to work together with regards to entering diplomatic relations on tobacco growth, manufacturing, and sales with external governments including the Crown.

Chief Dean Sayers for Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways

Chief Mary Duckworth for Caldwell First Nation

Chief Denise Stonefish for Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit

Chief Laurie Carr for Hiawatha First Nation

Chief Adrian Chrisjohn for Oneida Nation of the Thames

Chief R. Donald Maracle for Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga)

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