

Setting the Stage

**Taking our Place:
Resistance & Recovery**

AIAI Summit
October 26 & 27, 2021



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Taking Our Rightful Place

- As Indigenous Nations, we have long trade histories with one another vastly pre-dating European's arrival on Turtle Island.
- European trading partners and allies decided that they had unfettered power and tried to force us out of the trade and commerce world.
- Today, we are trying to re-establish balance in our world. We are determining an approach re-building trade and commerce relationships so we may once again take our rightful places as Indigenous Nations.



Project Origins

- In 2017, Ontario came to the table offering price parity and tax parity in exchange for resource revenue sharing on tobacco.
- This offer was immediately & completely rejected.
- A proposal was sent to Ontario for First Nations to undertake work on tobacco, trade, and commerce based in First Nation jurisdiction.



Capacity Building

- Research around Tobacco economics
 - tobacco tax and retail tax
 - unjust enrichment
 - tobacco pricing
- Legal research
 - tobacco agreements
 - regulatory issues
 - analysis of existing models
 - regulatory components
 - inter-Nation trade



- Spiritual and cultural work around tobacco and governance
- Discussions & presentations around rebuilding & restructuring what is ours
 - Cultural foundations
 - Creation stories & legalities
 - Community decision-making models
 - Governance structures
 - Sharon Venn, Tuma Young, Okimaw Lewis
- Workshops and exercises to build capacity around community decision-making and governance models
 - Haudenosaunee model
 - Anishinaabe model





February 2019
Nottawasaga

January 2020- Rama Indigenous Transformation Summit





March 2021 - Virtual Session

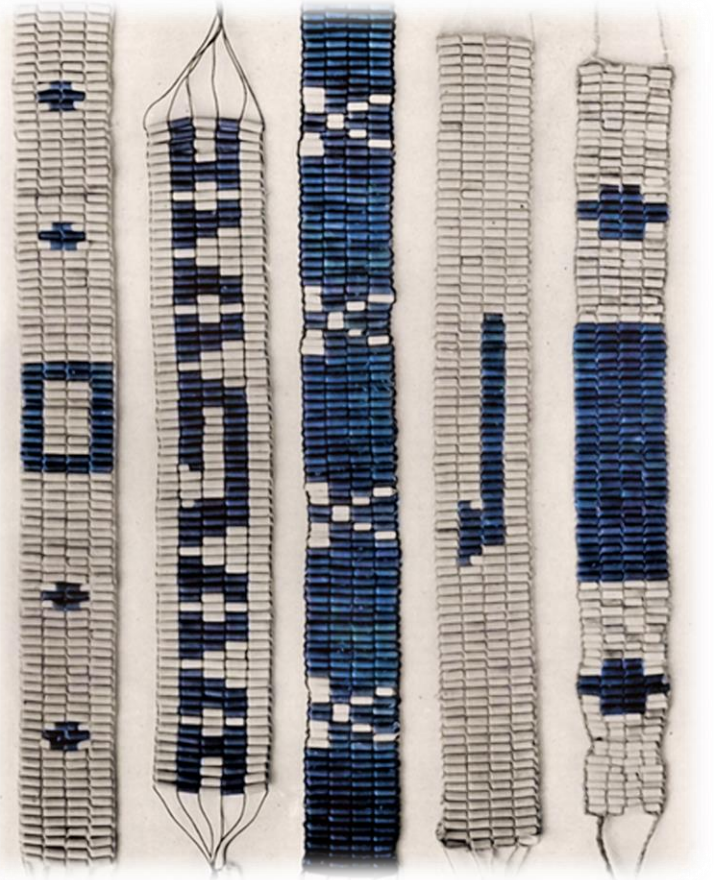
Community Findings

- There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit within the communities.
- Businesses want protection and support.
- Dialogue and capacity building are required to explore possibilities.
- Educational and communication materials are needed.



Positions

- Our jurisdiction is not up for debate.
- First Nation tax immunity is a collective right.
- Tobacco is a gift given by Creation. We have the responsibility and authority to control trade from seed to sale.
- We have Treaty relationships with one another that have existed prior to contact
- Indigenous Nations have Treaty relationships with the Crown in the right of Canada



AIAI Tobacco Task Force

In January 2020, the Chiefs directed the establishment of a Tobacco Task Force

- Technical working group comprised of one rep per First Nation
- Responsibility to advance tasks to develop potential solutions around tobacco, trade, & commerce
- Communication and community education role



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Inter-Nation Trade Protocol

- Developed with AIAI Tobacco Task Force
- Adopted at the AIAI Annual General Assembly in November 2020
- Establishes relationship between the First Nations & sets foundation for information/knowledge sharing and adopts the AIAI Principles of Trade & Commerce.



AIAI Resolution 004/2021:

- In June 2021, the AIAI General Assembly passed resolution *004/2021: Tobacco & Law-Making Initiatives*:
 - Continue developmental work with the Province of Ontario on tobacco in preparation for potential Chiefs Council negotiations
 - The jurisdiction of the AIAI member First Nations is not subject for debate in any negotiations
 - All final decisions remain in the hands of the AIAI member First Nations
 - Facilitate activities that support capacity building for Tobacco and Indigenous Law-Making
 - Provide regular updates pertaining to this work

Community-Based Solutions

- There are solutions that can be generated should an ongoing dialogue with the community take place.
- There are ways that the Communities can provide support to businesses that they do not already. Businesses and Communities can mutually strengthen, support, and protect to balance the cost/benefits of First Nation participation in the market economy.



Mutual Benefit – Community & Business

Businesses:

- Increased stability and security for First Nations entrepreneurs
- Protection from external enforcement regimes
- Increased economic and market sophistication
- First Nation control of supply
- Safe and marketable products for First Nation and non-FN consumers
- Increased profitability for existing First Nation manufacturers and potential
- Increased tobacco manufacturing by First Nations

Community:

- Increased health, safety, harm reduction
- Improved community safety
- Community investment
- Community values & standards



Developing Work

- Strategic Plan
- Tobacco, Trade & Commerce: Discussion Paper (Draft)
- Commission Components Dialogue
- Skills Training
- Legal Research



Education & Communication Materials

- The work of developing materials will continue and expand.
- All existing materials are hosted on the new AIAI Tobacco & Law-Making Website:
 - Videos
 - Presentations
 - General info & resources
 - Project documents & Task Force meeting materials (password protected)



CHECK OUT THE

AIAI TOBACCO & LAW-MAKING WEBSITE

TOBACCO.AIAI.ON.CA

- Project info
- Educational & community resources
- Upcoming events
- Contact info

Building community capacity for Indigenous law-making, trade and commerce.

Brought to you by
The AIAI Tobacco Task Force.
For more info visit the site
Or contact:
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Thank you!

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