

# 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report

Approved by official entity action on: October 20, 2022

Submitted by: Chris Cornelius, Chairperson

OBC Liaison: Daniel Guzman, OBC Primary

OBC Liaison: Cristina Danforth, OBC Alternate

## ONEIDA LAND CLAIMS COMMISSION

### **Purpose:**

The Oneida Land Claims Commission (OLCC) purpose is to supervise all activities involving the New York Land Claims, including post settlement; and to develop strategies, provide direction and recommendations, for litigation, negotiation and/or settlement to the Oneida Business Committee (OBC) and the Oneida General Tribal Council (GTC). The OLCC will inform and educate the membership on issues pertaining to the Oneida Nation land claims, and seek participation from the membership, and carrying out the following duties:

- (a) Report membership concerns and suggestions to the OBC.
- (b) Hold public meetings and conduct outreach to provide an opportunity for the membership to participate in recommendations for all Oneida Nation land claims and settlement efforts.
- (c) Study other Indian land claim settlements and disseminate that information to the membership and the OBC.
- (d) Manage the OLCC budget
- (e) Assist the OBC with any land claims arising out of natural resource issues/disputes as requested by the OBC.
- (f) Carry out all other duties delegated by the GTC

### **BCC Members**

Chris J Cornelius

Chair

July 31, 2024

Sheila Shawanokasic

Vice-Chair

Term July 31, 2023

Kerry Kennedy  
Secretary  
July 31, 2025

Michael S. King  
Commissioner  
July 31, 2025

Vacant  
Commissioner  
July 31, 2024

### **Substantiated Complaints (if applicable)**

Per § 105.12-4.(a) of the Boards, Committees and Commissions law, annual and semi-annual reports shall contain information on the number of substantiated complaints against all members of the entity.

Per § 105.3-1.(q) a "Substantiated complaint" means a complaint or allegation in a complaint that was found to be valid by clear and convincing evidence.

NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS:                      Zero (0)

### **Meetings**

Held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, via Microsoft Teams<sup>1</sup>.

5:30 PM

**Emergency Meetings: 0**

**Work Meetings<sup>2</sup>:** The OLCC held several work meetings to work on various projects and prepare for the community meeting/input session.

**Community Meetings<sup>3</sup>: 1**

### **Contact Info**

CONTACT:                      Oneida Land Claims Commissioners

TITLE:                              Oneida Land Claims Commissioners

PHONE NUMBER:              920-869-4430

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<sup>1</sup> The OLCC connects by computer or phone. Some Oneida Land Claims Commissioners do not have access, means or capabilities to connect online, with a computer, during regular meetings. Some Commissioners have slow, poor, or no internet service. The OLCC has restrictions that limits their use of their office, materials, and workspace. Commissioners are not permitted to utilize the office after 4:30 pm or on weekends. This impacts the effectiveness of meetings and committee communication.

<sup>2</sup> These meetings are not paid in accordance with BC approved Oneida Laws

<sup>3</sup> This meeting was not paid in accordance with BC approved Oneida Laws

E-MAIL: LandClaims\_Comm@oneidanation.org

MAIN WEBSITE: <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/boards-committees-and-commissions/elected/#Oneida-Land-Claims-Commission>

## Status report of Three-Year Outcomes/Goals

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### Outcome/Goal # 1

Educate the Membership and the General Tribal Council on all Oneida Land Claims pertaining to land claims here in Wisconsin and New York State.

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Transparency - Open communication about actions taken and decisions made ensuring access to information is clear.

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

*The outcome of this goal supports the good governance principle; it keeps the General Tribal Council and membership aware of past and present litigations pertaining to Indian Land Claims.*

Enter how the Three-year outcome/goal supports the Good Governance Principle.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC held a Community Outreach event at the Oneida VFW. The Commissioners met one on one with several community members to share educational information regarding our Land Claims; then gathered membership input for a Land Claims settlement. There was an educational video presentation on the New York homelands. There was open discussion with all community member attendees. The OLCC conducted surveys and handed out educational materials, such as flyers, frequently asked questions, (25) educational books, and brochures on, "The Story of the Oneida Nation Land Claims".<sup>4</sup> The OLCC is preparing a comprehensive report for all key stakeholders (the community membership, the GTC, and the OBC) which will include community input and recommendations, both verbal and written that was gathered during open discussion.

The OLCC had a Facebook page created this quarter. Some educational material has been shared on this social media page to include a video presentation from Attorney Arlinda Lochlear.<sup>5</sup> The OLCC will continue to work on community education through this

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<sup>4</sup> The OLCC was unable to give the community members an update on the current status of the NY Land Claims, the Commission has not been provided any update from the BC on this matter (i.e. Congressional Fix, meeting with the Senate on Indian Affairs, or other resolutions being sought)

<sup>5</sup> Please note the OLCC lacks human resources to help monitor and populate this page, along with our official website.

media, and we are working on a direct mail out to the membership to ensure all members see some form of educational material from the OLCC. This goal is on-going.

Enter the BCC's accomplishments related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC will continue to conduct educational outreach events to our community members on all land claims activity<sup>6</sup>. The Commission will continue to distribute reading material, videos, and hand-outs. The Commission is working on educational material to mail out to our membership. The Commission will continue to use social media pages to help disseminate educational materials to the membership. The Commission is working to recreate a children's activity book, on Oneida land claims and land rights, for our young generation.

Enter what the membership can expect in the future from the BCC related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

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## Outcome/Goal # 2

Gather input from the Oneida membership regarding Oneida land claims

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Responsiveness - Availability to the public and timeous reaction to the needs and opinions of the public

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

The OLCC has a duty and goal to gather input from the membership. This supports the good governance principle of responsiveness by including the membership, gathering their feedback, input, and recommendations for the Nation to move forward (with a land claim, through the courts, congress, or other alternative means).

Enter how the Three-year outcome/goal supports the Good Governance Principle.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

A Community Outreach event was held at the Oneida VFW. The Commissioners met one on one with several community members regarding Oneida Land Claims. The Commission gathered membership input, feedback and suggestions for a Land Claims settlement. There was a lot of open discussion with all community member attendees. Attendees completed surveys. The OLCC is preparing a comprehensive report for all key stakeholders (the

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<sup>6</sup> When the OLCC receives updates from the OBC or Legal Office.

community membership, the GTC, and the OBC) which will include community input and recommendations, both verbal and written that was gathered during this event.

Enter the BCC's accomplishments related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC plans to conduct more outreach events and conduct more surveys to gather input from the Nation's membership for the BC and Legal Counsel, on the Oneida Land Claims. This will include settlement recommendations from the membership for a potential congressional fix or other alternative fix.

Enter what the membership can expect in the future from the BCC related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

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### Outcome/Goal # 3

Compile and forward all community recommendations, and research on Oneida Land Claims to the OBC and GTC.

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Accountability - The acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for decisions and actions as well as the applicable rules of law

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

This goal supports the good governance principle of accountability by informing the OBC and GTC of the membership's recommendations, needs, and wants. Reporting this information, on behalf of our membership, provides them with an opportunity to share open and honest, transparent dialog regarding all Oneida Land Claims.

Enter how the Three-year outcome/goal supports the Good Governance Principle.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC is in the process of locating and compiling community recommendations from all surveys which were conducted prior to the pandemic. The OLCC office was closed in accordance with Oneida Laws. During closure, the OLCC office was relocated from the basement of Norbert Hill Center up to the vacant 3rd floor wing of the Norbert Hill Center. Our working papers, files, and documents were comingled and placed in unlabeled / mislabeled boxes. Records and files were removed from numerous filing cabinets. We are still in the process of locating, organizing, and refiling our records, files, and documents. We have limited access to our office, and we do not have an administrator to assist us with this and many other day-to-day projects. Some of our Oneida Land Claim Commissioners work full-time and cannot work or visit our office Monday - Friday, before 4:30pm.

Enter the BCC's accomplishments related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC hopes to uncover new information/evidence of new Land Claims here in Wisconsin and New York State. The OLCC plans to study recent outcomes from other tribal nations to see if any of our situations may apply. The OLCC is committed to gathering relevant information from other tribal nations, State courts cases, Federal courts cases, and from Indigenous nations around the world pertaining to Land Claims. The OLCC is working to compile and report community input and recommendations from the previous OLCC member records prior to the Covid shut down. The OLCC will continue to work on gathering more input from the community and complete an annual report with this data.

Enter what the membership can expect in the future from the BCC related to the Three-year outcome/goal.

### **Stipends**

*Per the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law, stipends are set via OBC resolution. BC resolution # 08-12-20-C sets the stipend amounts.*

### **Budget Information**

FY-2022 BUDGET: \$43,360.00

FY-2022 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING  
PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 \$8,428.00

Enter budget utilization information, if needed.

### **Requests**

Respectfully the OLCC requests the OBC permanently table their recommendation to dissolve the OLCC from any upcoming GTC meeting. Any discussion or recommendation by the OBC should be tabled until there is a resolve to any previous or future Land Claim, whether from the U.S. Court System, the World Court System, a Congressional fix, or other alternative means. The OLCC is an elected body, by the membership, dedicated to work on Land Claims matters; to advocate on behalf of the membership and work with the Nation and the Business Committee on any unresolved Land Claim. The OLCC would like an opportunity to submit paperwork and time to prepare for any and all meetings; if placed on any agenda within the Nation. We respectfully request the Secretaries office to contact OLCC immediately. The OLCC needs at least a 30-day window to submit and prepare for meeting.

Enter request(s), if needed.

### **Other**

The OLCC respectfully requests to be notified by the OBC Secretary or Chairman when there is any discussion or work on or about any, and all Oneida Land Claims, to include discussion or work on or for a Congressional Fix or any other alternative fix.