

# 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report

## Oneida Land Claims Commission-OLCC

Approved by official entity action on: January 26, 2023

Submitted by: Chris Cornelius, Chairwoman

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

Donald McLester<sup>1</sup>  
Commissioner  
December 14, 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**

Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday; via Microsoft Teams<sup>2</sup>.

Time: 5:30 PM

**Emergency Meetings: 0**

**Joint Meeting with the OBC: 2** (1 Joint meeting / 1 Executive Session meeting)

**Work Meetings<sup>3</sup>: 9** The OLCC held several work meetings to work on various projects and prepare for OBC joint meetings.

**Community Meetings<sup>3</sup>: 1** (Commissioners attempted to attend November virtual GTC meeting)

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<sup>1</sup> Donald McLester took his oath at the end of 1st quarter; he participated in his official capacity at OLCC work meetings and a joint meeting with OBC on December 27, 2022.

<sup>2</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 the Commission, their meetings and committee communication.

<sup>3</sup> These meetings are not paid in accordance with BC approved Oneida Laws

## Contact Info

CONTACT: Kerry Kennedy

TITLE: Secretary Oneida Land Claims Commission

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E-MAIL: LandClaims\_Comm@oneidanation.org

MAIN WEBSITE: <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/boards-committees-andcommissions/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<sup>1</sup> and membership aware of past and present litigations pertaining to Indian Land Claims.*

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Commission handed out educational material to the Business Committee during a joint meeting in November and during an executive session on December 27, 2022. 10 other educational books were distributed to Nation employees.

The OLCC has a Facebook page where information regarding the Oneida Land Claims is being shared to help educate the membership<sup>2</sup>. The OLCC will continue to work on

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<sup>1</sup> The OLCC is unable to give the community members an update on the current status of the NY Land Claims at this time. The Commission was provided an update from the BC during executive session; it is unclear what the Commission can shared at this time.

<sup>2</sup> Please note the OLCC lacks human resource help to monitor and populate this page, along with our official website.

community education through this 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.

The Commission is also working on updating hand out materials. This goal is on-going.

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>1</sup>. The Commission will continue to update and distribute reading materials, 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. The Goal is ongoing.

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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 GTC directed the OLCC to gather input from the membership to ensure their input is included in any settlement action. 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 resolution to the Oneida land claim.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

No community outreach events took place during this quarter. The OBC submitted a recommendation to the GTC on November 15, 2022, to dissolve the Oneida Land Claims Commission. It is difficult to work on goals and objects when the Commission has to continuously respond to this action.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC plans to conduct outreach events for FY 2023, to gather community input from the Oneida membership. The OLCC will seek settlement recommendations from the membership for a potential congressional fix or other alternative fix.

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<sup>1</sup> When the OLCC receives updates from the OBC or the Legal Office.

### 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 compiled and submitted land claims recommendations from the membership. A total of 16 different community outreach events were compiled and submitted to the Oneida Business Committee in a comprehensive report, during a special joint meeting held on November 17, 2022. This report also included research on how many other tribal nations are reclaiming land back. The Commission requested the community's recommendations to be included in any negotiations regarding land claims.

#### EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The OLCC will continue to work on the directives outlined by the membership in 1986, which is to provide support and assistance in resolving our land claim; by providing community input and recommendations from community meetings. The Commission will continue to search and research other land claims and search for new information or evidence of Oneida Land Claims here in Wisconsin and New York State. The Commission will study recent and past outcomes from other tribal nations. The OLCC is committed to gathering relevant information from other tribal nations, State courts cases, Federal courts cases, and other Indigenous nations around the world pertaining to Land Claims. The OLCC will continue to gather, compile, and report all community recommendations to the Business Committee ((i.e. the Negotiating Team).

#### **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-2023 BUDGET: \$68,360.00

FY-2023 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING

PERIOD: December 31, 2022 \$6,206.00

## Requests

1. The OLCC requests the OBC to table their recommendation to dissolve the OLCC from any upcoming GTC meetings until the Oneida land claims have been resolved. In 1986 the GTC requested OBC to create a Commission to ensure community input and participation was included in negotiations for a settlement of Oneida land claims in the state of New York. The Commission was created to work for and meet with the Negotiating Team. The OLCC is an elected body, dedicated to work on Land Claims matters; to advocate on behalf of the membership and work with the Nation and the Business Committee's Negotiation Team on any unresolved Land Claim.
2. The Commission requests the Business Committee to review and include the memberships' recommendation in any negotiations for a land claims settlement.
3. The Commission requests to be noticed and included in all negotiations pertaining to land claims matters, as directed by the membership on September 19, 1986.
4. The Commission is required to report to the GTC. On November 17, 2022 the Commission requested a special GTC meeting to provide updates.

## Other

1. The OLCC 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. The Commission was created to work for and meet with the negotiating team during negotiations.
2. The Commissions supports the direct purchasing of all lands within its original treaty territory as a way to reclaim original Oneida Land.