

# 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report

## Oneida Land Claims Commission-OLCC

Approved by official entity action on: May 1, 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 allow 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

Don McLester

Vice-Chair

Term July 31, 2024

Kerry Kennedy  
Secretary  
July 31, 2023

Michael S. King  
Commissioner  
July 31, 2025

Vacant  
Commissioner  
July 31, 2023

Administrative Assistant  
(Position eliminated by  
OBC)

### **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; At OLCC Office Norbert Hill Center & Online, via Microsoft Teams<sup>2</sup>.

Time: 5:30 PM <sup>3</sup>

**Emergency Meetings: 0**

**Work Meetings<sup>3</sup> 4**

**Community Meetings: 0**

---

<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

<sup>3</sup> Please note our meeting times have changed to 3:00 pm; effective April 20, 2023

## Contact Info

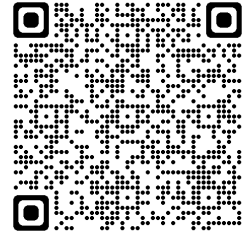
CONTACT: Kerry Kennedy

TITLE: Secretary Oneida Land Claims Commission

PHONE NUMBER: 920-869-4430

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

### 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>4</sup> and membership aware of past and present litigations pertaining to Indian Land Claims.*

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The Commission handed out educational materials to Oneida Community members between regular meetings. We are continuing to share information through social media outlets. The Commission is updating outdated hand out materials. This goal is on-going. The OLCC (Oneida Land Claims Commission) requested a Special GTC (General Tribal Council) meeting to provide the GTC with an update during the first quarter, but this was denied during a joint meeting with the BC. The OLCC submitted a Land Claims PowerPoint for the GTC to preview before their meeting.

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

---

<sup>4</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 share at this time.

The OLCC will continue to conduct educational outreach events to our community members when restrictions are lifted. The Commission is working to update flyers, brochures, other reading materials, and videos. The OLCC is waiting for OBC updates on the Oneida Land Claims that can be shared with this commission and 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. These goals are ongoing. Please note, covid restrictions prevented this body from conducting interactive outreach at all GTC meetings.

## 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 to gather input. Covid restrictions prevented us from conducting interactive outreach at community events, like GTC meetings.

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

The Commission is creating a new survey and working with internal and external departments. We are researching alternative ways to gather input from our membership. This Commission will continue to gather settlement recommendations from our membership. Future lifted covid restrictions will allow us to meet with the membership, one on one, and gather their input and recommendations to our Land Claim.

## 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:

Covid restrictions prevented the Commission from gathering input at GTC meetings. We are working on alternative ways to gather community feedback and input. We are creating a new survey and researching different ways to get community recommendations.

The Commission continues to conduct research on our Land Claims and other Tribal Land Claims. All research conducted by the Commission can be located in our meeting agendas and minutes. We had an unpaid work meeting with a UWGB First Nations professor to discuss retrocession, public law 280 and its potential impact on the Oneida 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.

**Stipends**

*Per the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law, stipends are set via OBC resolution. BC resolution # 04-13-22-B sets the stipend amounts.*

**Budget Information**

FY-2023 BUDGET: \$68,360.00

FY-2023 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING PERIOD: March 31, 2023 \$9,102.00

**Requests**

1. 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 (Oneida Business Committee) 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, per the 1986 Special Meeting when the OLCC was created.
2. The Commissions supports the direct purchasing of all land within its original treaty territories.
3. The OLCC recommends sending an annual letter to the Governor of NY and the President of the United States regarding our unresolved land claim.