

FY-2024 2nd (Jan - Mar) Quarter Report

ONEIDA LAND CLAIMS COMMISSION (OLCC)

Approved by official entity action on: April 18, 2024

Submitted by: Chris Cornelius, Chair OLCC

OBC Liaison: Brandon Yellowbird-Stevens

OBC Liaison: Lisa Liggins

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

AUTHORITY

Created by the Business Committee as directed by the membership. The OLCC shall inform and educate the membership on the issues pertaining to Oneida Nation land claims, seek participation of the membership, and be further responsible for carrying out the following duties:

(a) Bring forward concerns and suggestions of the membership regarding the Nation's land claims to the Oneida Business Committee. (b) As part of its advisory procedures, to hold public meetings and undergo outreach to provide an opportunity for the membership to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding the Nation's land claims settlement efforts and to share those concerns/suggestions with the Oneida Business Committee. (c) Study other Indian land claim settlements achieved between tribal, state, and federal governments and disseminate the

information to the membership and the Oneida Business Committee. (d) Manage the budget that the Oneida Business Committee provides to the OLCC in accordance with governing laws and policies of the Nation. (e) Assist the Oneida Business Committee with any land claims arising out of natural resource issues/disputes as requested by the Oneida Business Committee. (f) Carry out all other powers and/or duties delegated to the OLCC through any laws, policies, rules and/or resolutions of the Nation.

BCC MEMBERS

Chris Cornelius
Chair
July 31, 2024

Michael S King
Commissioner
July 31, 2025

Donald McLester
Vice-Chair
July 31, 2024

Candace House
Commissioner
July 31, 2024

Kerry Kennedy
Secretary
July 31, 2026

MEETINGS

The first and third Thursday of each month.

5:00 P.M.

Norbert Hill Center, Room 338, N7210 Seminary Road, Oneida WI. In Person and Microsoft Teams

Emergency Meetings: Zero (0)

Work Meetings¹: 7

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT: Chris Cornelius
TITLE: Oneida Land Claims Commission Chair
PHONE NUMBER: (920) 869-4430
E-MAIL: LandClaims_Comm@oneidanation.org

¹ Work meeting are not paid

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

Summary:

The Commission held a special work meeting to plan our large annual outreach event. We set our date and time, agenda, set-up, food, budget, etc. We also discussed the 2023 event and ways we could improve.

Impact:

To foster a system in which the public feels they are part of the decision-making process, including freedom of expression and assiduous concern for the best interests of the Nation and community in general.

Accomplishment #2

Summary:

Approved a research project to interview key stakeholders from our land claims; to help educate ourselves and the community; and to capture historical information surrounding our land claims and to gather input and recommendations for our land claims, from our elders and other key stakeholders.

Impact:

These materials will be utilized to inform and educate the community and the Commission about historic events and timelines.

Accomplishment #3

Summary:

Approved a new OLCC appointment, Candace House, to the Commission, filling a vacancy

Impact:

Candace brings a new perspective, diversity, and added value to our commission. She participated in the educational Homeland Tours sponsored by a previous OLCC. She volunteered to help improve our new member onboarding training and shared suggestions on improving the NY Homeland Tours for future community education outreach.

GOALS

Long-term Goal #1

Conduct outreach to our membership. We seek participation from our members. Provide education on all Oneida land Claims, past and present.

This supports the Nation's vision by including the membership in the decision-making process and it also supports the Nation's mission statement to, "strengthen and protect our people, reclaim our land and enhance the environment by exercising our sovereignty.

Update on Goal:

The Commission conducted some community outreach by posting articles and videos on social media and posting information in the Kalihwisaks. The Commission approved extra spending for social media expenses. A questionnaire was developed to interview all the people who have history or firsthand knowledge of our land claims history. One interview was conducted and recorded. This captured history will be utilized in creating educational materials and collect recommendations to go forward.

Long-term Goal #2

Compile and forward membership recommendations, Land Claims research, and the Commissions' recommendations to the Oneida Business Committee on behalf of the membership, as directed by the membership

This supports the Nation's vision by including the membership in the decision-making process and it also supports the Nation's mission statement to, "To strengthen and protect our people, reclaim our land and enhance the environment by exercising our sovereignty."

Update on Goal:

The Commission requested to meet with the newly elected Oneida Business Committee; and requested annual standing meetings to meet and discuss the Oneida land Claims, our research, and membership recommendations, along with our recommendations. The joint meeting scheduled in the 2nd quarter has been rescheduled by the Business Committee. A new date and time were rescheduled for the 3rd Quarter. We are currently considering other methods of communication to share information in a timelier manner, such as including some of our recommendations in the quarterly reports (See 'Requests' and 'Other' sections below).

Quarterly Goal #1

Gather input from the Oneida membership regarding Oneida Land Claims.

This supports the Nation's vision by including the membership in the decision-making process and it also supports the Nation's mission statement to, "To strengthen and protect our people,

reclaim our land and enhance the environment by exercising our sovereignty."

Update on Goal:

During the 2nd quarter, we continued to review all surveys, past and present, to improve them; to gather community input/recommendations, and consensus on our land claims. Land Claims Commissioners worked outside of regular paid meetings, researching survey methods, and consulting with personnel at the CEC (Community Education Center) to create a new survey. The OLCC approved the purchasing of IPADS to improve the community survey process at outreach events.

STIPENDS

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

	Total dollar amount paid	Number of stipend type		
		Regular Mtg	Emergency Mtg	Hearings/Other
January 2024	\$700.00	2	0	0
February 2024	\$400.00	1	0	0
March 2024	\$800.00	2	0	0

BUDGET

FY-2024 BUDGET: #99,160.00

FY-2024 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING PERIOD: \$18,417.00

Continue to expand outreach events, to include SEOTS and other Oneida communities; and seek input from other Tribal Nations.

REQUESTS

We request the OBC to make the unresolved New York Land Claims a priority; and to immediately resume talks with our brothers and sisters of the Thames.

We recommend land title searches be completed on all allotted lands, and to cloud land titles on all land determined to have been illegally taken or not returned by the government.

We are requesting a part time administrative assistant to help with all day-to-day activities, projects, and all other job duties, responsibilities, and tasks listed on the previous OLCC Executive Assistant job description that the BCC office cannot do or complete in a timely manner.

Quarterly updates from the Nation's negotiators regarding all settlement efforts is requested.

We request the Business Committee and Land Claims negotiators to review and include our Land Claims recommendations, along with the memberships' recommendations in any land negotiations or settlement efforts.

OTHER

Land Claims Recommendations: As a way, to reclaim our land, we support: 1) the direct purchasing of all land within our original treaty territories in New York and Wisconsin, 2) Sending annual letters to the governor of New York, the president of the United States, the Senate on Indian Affairs, the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs), the DOI (Department of Interior), and all other lawmakers (i.e. Congressional representatives, both state and federal), regarding our unresolved land claims; in order to lobby the United States that they have a "moral and legal responsibility to provide the Oneidas an alternative remedy" and to give notice we still have unresolved land claims and to request meetings to discuss reparations, an alternative legislative remedy, and a just resolution to the unjust court ruling of laches.