

# FY-2025 1st (Oct - Dec) Quarter Report

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*Text in orange provides instruction in accordance with the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law section 105.12-3. Quarterly Reports to the Oneida Business Committee.*

*Provide the name of the entity, the member submitting the report, and the Oneida Business Committee liaison.*

## ONEIDA LAND CLAIMS COMMISSION

Approved by official entity action on: January 16, 2025

Submitted by: Chris Cornelius, Chairwoman 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**

*Provide a list of the members and their titles, term expiration dates and contact information.*

Chris Cornelius  
Chairwoman  
lcc-ccor@oneidanation.org  
July 31, 2028

Deborah Thundercloud  
Vice-Chairwoman  
lcc-dthu@oneidanation.org  
July 31, 2027

Kerry Kennedy  
Secretary  
lcc-kken@oneidanation.org  
July 31, 2026

Michael S King  
Commissioner  
lcc-mkin@oneidanation.org  
July 31, 2025

Candace House  
Commissioner  
lcc-chou@oneidanation.org  
July 31, 2026

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Provide contact information for the entity.*

CONTACT: Chris Cornelius  
TITLE: Oneida Land Claims Commission Chairwoman  
PHONE NUMBER: (920) 869-4430  
E-MAIL: LandClaims\_Com@oneidanation.org  
MAIN WEBSITE: <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/land-claims/>

## MEETINGS

*List when and how often the entity is holding meetings and whether any emergency meetings have been held. If an emergency meeting was held, indicate the basis of the emergency meeting for each meeting.*

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)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Provide details of what the entity has accomplished that quarter, including any special events held during the reporting period and any travel by the members and/or staff.*

### ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

Summary:

Oneida Land Claims Commission held a work meeting October 7, 2024, to work on FY 2025 outreach events.

Impact:

To educate and update the community on Land Claims.

### ACCOMPLISHMENT #2

Summary:

Work meeting held November 7, 2024, at the regular Oneida Land Claims Commission meeting on the FY 2025 event planning items.

Impact:

This supports the Oneida Land Claims Commission plan to educate and update the community on land claims.

### ACCOMPLISHMENT #3

Summary:

Held planning discussion, contacted SEOTS to obtain dates for hosting events. Need to discuss/firm up event dates to provide a response to Trisha Patton (SEOTS Director). Worked on Farmers Market events and Activity Book.

Impact:

Supports the Oneida Land Claims Commission's plan to educate the community at large.

## **GOALS**

*Provide details of the entity's long-term goals, the entity's goals for the next quarter, and projected quarterly activities.*

### **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 continues to gather input from the membership and conduct research on other Tribal Land Claim settlements. We send this information, along with our Land Claim recommendations to the Oneida Business Committee through quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports.

### **LONG-TERM GOAL #3**

In 2023-24 the Community requested the Oneida Land Claims Commission to bring back the New York Homeland Tour. To educate the membership about our homeland and our Land Claims. In 2025 our goal is to revisit the homeland, and to bring two (2) community members to assist with research and development; and improve our homeland tours from the past, determine what worked, and what didn't work, and implement a new homeland tour for our membership.

## Promoting Positive Community Relations

### Update on Goal:

The Commission has conducted research on previous homeland tour events and are strategically planning an exploratory home tour visit.

### 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:

The OLCC will continue 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 purchased IPADS to improve the community survey process at outreach events.

## BUDGET

*Provide the amount of the entities budget and the status of the budget at that quarter.*

FY-2025 BUDGET: \$110,850.00

FY-2025 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING PERIOD: \$3,203

*List how your BCC is utilizing your budget and projected budgetary uses for the next quarter.*

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

## Stipends

*List the amount of each stipend a member may be eligible to receive.*

*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
October 2024	\$900.00	2	0	0
November 2024	\$900.00	2	0	0
December 2024	\$900.00	2	0	0

## **REQUESTS**

*List details of any requests to the Oneida Business Committee.*

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 and New York Oneida.

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**

*List any other information deemed appropriate by the entity, as well as any other information required by a law or policy of the Nation.*

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.