

Introduction to Lands and Estates

The Oneida Nation of the Thames is a very unique First Nation within Canada . Our Ancestors emigrated to this area , from Upper New York State , around 1840 and purchased the Settlement Lands which we inhabit to this day .

Oneida has maintained and exercised internal management over our Land matters , unlike most other First Nations in Ontario who are bound by the provisions of the Indian Act .

Oneida exercises autonomy in matters of Probate , Approving Wills , Land Transfers and maintenance of a Land Registry system . This is with the knowledge and concurrence of the Department of Indian Affairs who leave the management of our lands and estates to ourselves .

This autonomy and freedom from the confines of the Indian Act , allows us a greater amount of freedom to design a Custom Land Code specifically for Oneida .

The focus of our department over the next few years will be to settle outstanding estates and to develop a system of landholding and land registry to ensure fair and properly documented land transactions .

Conversion of the Acquired Lands (Prior and Cotterill) will also be a focus for our Department over the next few years . Currently a Capital Planning Study is being conducted so we can plan for development over the next 20 years in respect of Infrastructure and Housing needs.

We will be looking to our Members in the future to guide the process of developing Lands and Estates Rules and Policies and to plan for our future generations .

Our Department has an Open Door Policy and Members are invited to drop in .

Regards ,

Martin Powless - B.A., LL.B.

**Lands and Estates Administrator
Oneida Nation of the Thames**

