



Tables of Change

Since the first settlers stepped onto Wabanaki shores here in the east coast, the relationship between Our People and colonial settlers was not built on respect or honesty. The prominent goal for the settler population was to conquer Wabanaki land and people, plus search and reap resources that benefitted them and their country across the ocean. Still today, the relationship between our people and settlers continues to be a one-way street where the dominant colonial system over-powers the original peoples of Wabanaki Homeland. The “paternalistic relationship” must end for “Real Change” to occur.

In Wabanaki Traditional Democracy, Grandmothers were the original guides and decision makers. They gathered within their clans (families) to discuss issues and conclude what would be best for the whole Wabanaki Confederacy and not just for a clan or nation. Grandmothers would advise the clan chief to speak on their behalf and voice their ideas for further deliberations, resulting in a unified holistic conclusion.

I, Wolastoqewi Traditional Grand Chief, would like to put forward a sound suggestion that Wabanaki Grandmothers and myself as Wolastoqewi Traditional Grand Chief be participants in the police policy reform.

It's crucial to have individuals who have faced racism, gender inequality and discrimination at the “Table of Change”.

In order to amend the present imbalanced relationship and to guarantee a better promising future, I strongly request that there be Wabanaki Grandmothers and myself sitting at the “Table of Change” to assure a transparent, respectful and honest partnership. Wabanaki Grandmothers' solutions must be heard and their recommendations supported for implementation into policy changes. We will no longer be consulted or accommodated after the fact, we want to be at the “Table of Change” in-order to assure the protection and wellness of all Wabanaki People.

List of matters to be restructured:

- First and foremost an in-depth public inquiry on the murders of Chantel Moore and Rodney Levi and to re-open the case on Brady Francis
- Justice System needs to be revamped
- Body Cameras on every officer on patrol (monitory on – 3 strikes out system)
- Police Policy Reform
- Eliminating Systemic Racism: hiring practices and active recruitment of Indigenous People
- Ongoing training to include anti-racist training and cultural competency
- Developing a “Code of Respect” for Police and Government

- Reallocate Police Funding; allocating funds to hire Indigenous social-workers, to help defuse emergency situations dealing with people suffering from Mental Disorders, Homelessness, (much needed programs to support people who suffer from mental health and addictions)
- Implement Strict Hiring Practises (in-depth background check for applicant)
- Review Personnel Files of every Police Officer who has a record of racism, gender inequality and discrimination
- Review the entire Justice system – Judges – Courts believe cops who lie on depositions
- Police Officers should be trained in Marshall Arts to disarm and de-escalate situations
- Create Indigenous Peace Keepers for every Community (well trained and equipped)
- An in-depth investigation into Police involvement in the Drug racket and human trafficking
- Mandatory for Police to wear and turn on body cameras at all times
- Investigative Task force – with Indigenous peoples on the force (selected by Wabanaki Grandmothers)

We are aware that Canada does not have Indigenous People who sit on the Independent Inquiry Board. It is vital that Wabanaki Grandmothers and Traditional Government have representation on the Board to insure any future investigations dealing with cases relating to Indigenous people will be non-bias. According to the Daily Gleaner, Friday, June 10, 2020, "On June 8, Department of public safety spokesperson Coreen Enos said "the Department is actively working on the implementation of an independent police oversight body in NB. The model will be based on previous discussions with NB police forces and the NB Police Commission." We want to be at the "Table of Change", to be a part of the process in creating a fair and impartial model that protects the future of Wabanaki Children, Grandchildren and the next Seven Generations.

Kci-Woliwon – Great Thanks,

Wolastoqewi-Grand Chief spasaqsit possesom – Ron Tremblay

Wabanaki Grandmothers:

Alma Brooks
 Roseann Clark
 Ramona Nicholas
 Lisa Perley-Dutcher
 Maggie Paul
 Miigam'agan