

# The Role of Amphibious Architecture in the Future Development of Caledonia and the Six Nations of the Grand River

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## Abstract

The Six Nations of the Grand River is Canada's most populous reserve and the only place all Six Nations (Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca, Mohawk, Cayuga and Tuscarora) live together. However, on the eve of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, its oldest inhabitants are facing a severe shortage of land and their social and economic growth is often given the short end of the stick against matters of development and urban growth. Urbanization along the Grand River has slowly appropriated land on the Haldimand Tract, a 950,000-acre area that rightly belongs to the Six Nations. Today, 48,000-acres remain, composing the Six Nations of the Grand River reserve south of the river, adjacent to Caledonia in Haldimand County, Ontario

Land disputes in Caledonia began in 2006 when a 1995 litigation against Canada and Ontario was reactivated by the Six Nations, where they highlighted their claim to a 40-hectare parcel of land in Caledonia, Ontario, which was proposed to be a residential development. The disputes of 2006 resulted in over millions of dollars in repairs, along with violence from both sides. A development was proposed once again in 2016, however this time, the developer involved the Six Nations elected council in a negotiation to provide 200-hectares of land in exchange for proceeding with the development.

This paper and presentation will discuss the history and relationship between land, water and the Six Nations community. It will examine First Nation's adaptive values and building principles in comparison with current methods of building in development projects in Caledonia. The Grand River and is facing increased water levels and flow that increase in southern portions like Caledonia, causing seasonal flooding. Amphibious architecture will be shown to be in tandem with First Nation's environmental values of building with respect towards a changing landscape and dwelling lightly on land and water.

*Keywords: Six Nations of the Grand River; First Nations, Caledonia; Urban Development; Amphibious Architecture; Living with Water; Flood Mitigation; Community Resilience; Environmental Values; Flood Plains; Climate Change Adaptation; Grand River Watershed*

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