

Pledge of the Crown Wampum Belt



This wampum belt was created by the British to represent the ongoing relationship after the war. The pattern may have been derived from an ancient design called the meander, or Greek Key. It often was used to represent the interwoven bonds of love and friendship. Col. Claus stated:

This Belt which I now hand to you I ask in compliance with your Customs be sent by you with these my words in his behalf to all the Nations in friendship with your Great Father the King of England. . . I am further instructed to inform you that in making Peace with the Government of the United States of America, your interests were not neglected, nor would Peace have been made with them had they not consented to include you in the Treaty, which they at first refused to listen to. I will now repeat to you one of the Articles of the Treaty of Peace which secures to you the Peaceable Possession of all the Country which you possessed before the late War, and the Road is now open for you to pass and repass without interruption.

In 1877 Onondaga Chief John Buck, the Wampum Keeper at the time, stated that this belt represented a pledge by the Canadian government to never force the Haudenosaunee to change their customs.