

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Claim: Repatriation of a wampum belt.
- Claim Received: Claim letter dated September 17, 2002
- Consultation: September 5–6, 2006
- Research Initiated: August 2008
- Claim Status: The wampum belt identified as NMAI 008386.000 is part of a claim made by the Haudenosaunee Standing Committee on Burial Rules and Regulations (HSCBRR) for human remains, funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony potentially associated with the Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, and Tuscarora communities represented by the HSCBRR. Other reports written in response to this claim include *Medicine Mask Addendum* by former Associate Director James Pepper Henry and *Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects Associated with the Seneca Nation of Indians (Red Jacket)* by Research Specialist Carrie Feldman. The report, *Medicine Mask Addendum*, resulted in the repatriation of ninety masks from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to the HSCBRR. The report, *Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects Associated with the Seneca Nation of Indians (Red Jacket)* resulted in the repatriation of a lock of hair and a piece of coat removed from the grave of Red Jacket (*Sagoyewatha*) to the Seneca Nation of Indians (Allegany and Cattaraugus) that opted to represent themselves in that matter. The remainder of this claim is currently on hold pending updated letters of support from the federally recognized tribes represented by the HSCBRR.
- Claim Category: Object of cultural patrimony
- Cultural Affiliation: Six Nations of the Grand River
- Recommendation: The archival, photographic, and provenance evidence associated with this wampum belt demonstrate that it is a Confederacy (or National) belt of the Grand Council of the Haudenosaunee that was formerly under the stewardship of Grand River wampum keeper. This belt represents a political agreement between the British Crown and the Haudenosaunee of the Six Nations Reserve. It consequently has ongoing historical, traditional, and cultural importance central to the Haudenosaunee of Grand River, Ontario. Confederacy belts are considered communal property and therefore cannot be owned by an individual or an organization. This belt was