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# Natives may have to fight to protect their treaty rights

Two American natives, Greg Agawa and James Goulais, were recently convicted of fishing without a fishing licence by Mr. Justice Duncan Blair in a Toronto court, although the judge admitted a treaty made in 1850, the Robinson Huron Treaty, allows native Americans to be able to fish and hunt forever.

This treaty is being broken by the government as they are doing with many other treaties. How can anyone ever trust the Canadian government in any further agreements, when they break the ones they already have now?

If these treaties are not written in stone they may be written in blood. Even a worm will turn to protect itself if you keep stepping on it. The provincial government is not recognized by the native American nations, nor are Canadian laws recognized on native territories. They are independent nations and not part of Canada. These treaties were made long before there ever was a Canada or Ontario.

The natives do not fear the Canadian governments or anyone else. They will defend themselves, if need be, from a corrupt, greedy, lying group of people trying to take advantage of them. The native people have never had a fair deal from any Canadian government for over 200 years. Don't you think it's about time they did? The natives obey all Canadian laws when they are in Canada, but not on their own land or territories. They will make their own rules and laws for their own nations, natives will make laws for the natives, not the government of Canada.

In 1924 the mounted police raided the Six Nations and drove the hereditary chiefs out of government at gun point, and brought in their own form of government, the so-called elected council. This group swore allegiance to the Queen of England and the Canadian government, not their own people — a government puppet force doing what the Canadian government wants them to do.

The children were strapped at school by the white teachers if they spoke their own language in the school yard. My mother was

one of these children. The natives were forced to speak only English. I was never taught my mother's language. Also, at this time, any native who married someone other than another native lost their native rights. They could no longer live on the native territories. They were not even allowed to be buried on the land where they were born.

Again in 1959 the natives had an uprising and tried to gain their independence once more. The hereditary chiefs, with the help of other natives, such as Kahn Tine-ta Horn and Mad Bear from the United States, proclaimed themselves the new government of the Six Nations territories. The elected council was sent packing out of the long house and the real chiefs took over. Once again the Mounties raided the native people while the natives were having a dance. The Mounties came with about 40 men, armed with clubs, and beat several natives, including several women. The Mounties took the native territories over once more and turned the control back to the elected council, who are still in control to this day.

Later on in 1987 a native, Reg Hill, was charged with having an illegal bingo game on his own property. At this time it was the provincial police who came marching down the road, 40 strong, in full riot gear with clubs. There could have been a real battle this time as they were met by the same amount of the Iroquois warriors who were ready for the police. The warriors never backed down, and when the police saw they would be in for a hard time they changed their tune and just watched from a distance.

Later, the police came back when the warriors were not there and stole all Reg Hill's bingo equipment. He was charged and convicted, although the Mohawk chief said it was all right to have a bingo game.

Next was a school teacher, Louise Hill, a native also, charged for having an illegal lottery draw. She was raising the money to send a young native hockey team over to Europe to compete against European hockey teams. There was no other way they could have gone without the lottery draw. She only

sold tickets to other native people.

No one else is helping the native people, except themselves, but the Canadian governments keep sending their armed troops onto native land to stop them from helping themselves.

In 1988 the mounted police again raided the native people, this time in Quebec (part of the Iroquois Nation, same as Six Nations.) This time 200 troops stole \$250,000 of the natives cigarettes and charged several natives with illegal sale of cigarettes. The Iroquois warriors blocked a section of highway that ran across native territory. They were armed and ready to fight.

The police left and later the highway was opened again. Now after waiting almost a full year and six trips to court Louise Hill is finally going to have her case heard. On Monday, Nov. 21 she will start her trial on the illegal lottery game. This is not a case of lottery, it is a test of provincial interference into native people's affairs, on native land, where they have no business to be.

The native people will be watching this case very closely to see if a native person will ever get fair treatment in a Canadian court of law, without any backroom deals. This case should never have come to court, and there is only one fair and honest verdict — not guilty. If there is any other verdict, then the natives will know there is no justice for them in a Canadian court of law.

I have great respect for Reg Hill who has given other people free hay and paid for the trucks to deliver it to farmers in Manitoba for livestock to eat. I also have great respect for Louise Hill, a woman who helped her people, when others would not.

It's too bad there's not more people around like them.