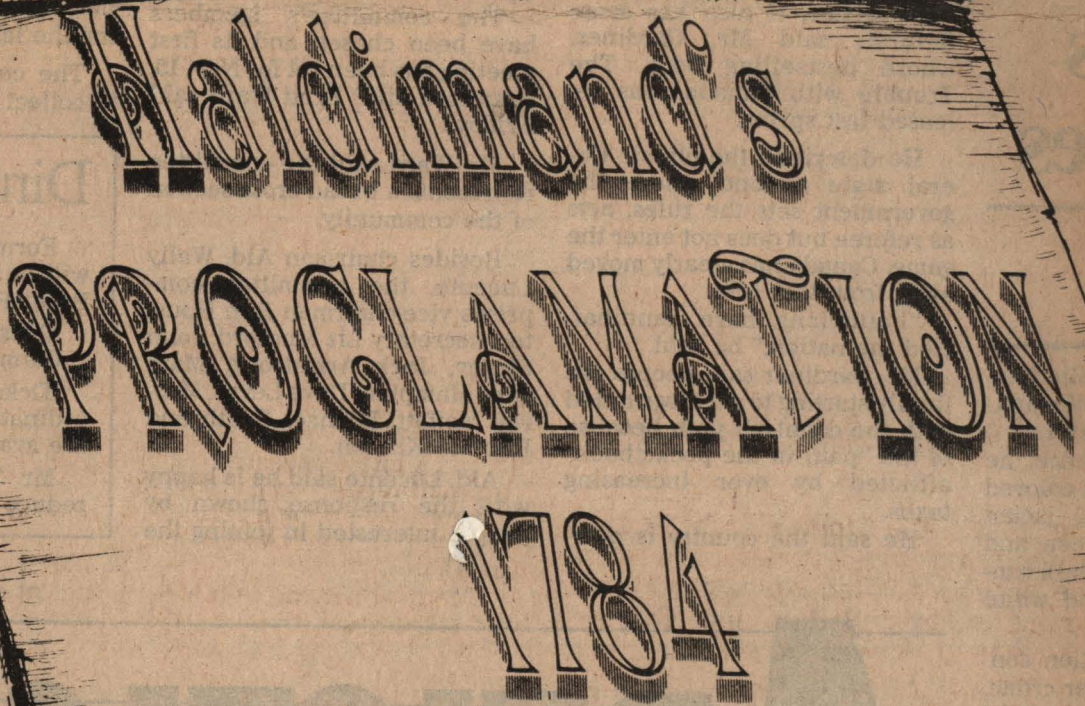


Six Nations land?

to Six Nations by Sir Frederick Haldimand



Haldimand's PROCLAMATION 1784

He wants the federal and provincial governments to help reimburse the parties who now hold title to the land. After that, he believes arrangements could be made to allow people to continue living on the property.

"We have the capability of building roads. Why can't these people, if they're not too concerned who they pay their taxes to, just pay them to us instead."

Few believe the land claims will be settled quickly, but the Six Nations officials are willing to stick with the government process until they have lost all hope of reaching a fair, negotiated settlement.

They say the courts are a last resort.

"Everyone wants our land base increased, and the only way that is going to happen is through negotiated settlements. Court decisions will only give you a financial settlement," said Mr. Monture.

With some financial compensation added to the money coming in from the leased lands, Mr. Monture sees a different future for his community.

"We would have our financial resources. We wouldn't need the (federal) government. We wouldn't have to ask anyone whether we can take down a rat-infested building, or take asbestos out of our schools.

"We'd be one of the most secure governments in the world — and we'd be an Indian government."