

Draft tobacco law calls for Haudenosaunee ownership

By Donna Durie
Writer

A proposed Haudenosaunee Tobacco Law calls for the banishment of non-Haudenosaunee owners of tobacco manufacturing plants, wholesaler or retail outlets at Six Nations.

The draft law says only Haudenosaunee citizens who can trace their lineage to the Grand River will be allowed to manufacture tobacco products here or own a manufacturing plant, wholesale or retail outlet.

The Six Nations community got its first look at a draft Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council tobacco law last Wednesday and it takes aim at cleaning up the local industry.

Haudenosaunee Trade Delegation and industry representative Kris Green said, "If you're not us,

then you shouldn't be doing business here," said Green. "If you look at the way the law is written, it's written so that it's 100 per cent Haudenosaunee businesses within our territory. That's the expectation that we have. We know right now that's an issue and what we want is the law to be able to deal with that issue."

The draft Haudenosaunee Tobacco Law has been in the works for the past year to protect the Haudenosaunee tobacco industry from the federal government's impending Tackling Contraband Tobacco Act.

Community members learned the details of the draft law for the first time at Six Nations Polytechnic last Wednesday, but some confusion arose when it came to the question of



Haudenosaunee Trade Delegation includes Confederacy rep Gary Johnson, industry rep Kris Green. Lawyer Kim Thomas explains the "law". (Photo by Donna Durie)

how to identify a person as Haudenosaunee and eligible for protection under the law.

"It is a working draft," said Green, a member of the Confederacy council's delegation drafting the law. "That's very important for everybody to understand." The law allows for only Haudenosaunee people to obtain licenses and get protection from the consequences of the Tackling Contraband Tobacco Act, also known as Bill C-10, but confusion arose as Green tried to explain how the draft law defines a person as Haudenosaunee.

"We know there may be some difficulty with that for some people," she said. "There are other ways you can prove who you are. We want to go back to who we are in the fire, in

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