

Signs of the times

Community rally banners spell out support for changes to Six Nations governance

by Paul Baswick

OHSWEKEN — A parade of brightly coloured placards swept across the front lawn of the Band Administration Building Thursday morning, as over 100 community members joined in a rally to voice concerns over recent band council decisions and to promote changes to the local system of governance.

The rally, which began at 11 a.m. with a winding street procession down Fourth Line Road and Chiefswood Roads, converged outside the band council offices, where a lockout spurred by the dismissal of Six Nations Director of Operations Cynthia Jamieson took place just two days before.

While the lockout of the Band Administration Building lasted less than a day, reaction to Jamieson's dismissal maintained its strong momentum among the gathered community members, as evidenced in the many signs created and carried by rally participants.



Participants in Thursday's rally supporting changes to local governance begin the march from Six Nations Community Hall to the Band Administration Building in Ohsweken.

"Cynthia Jamieson for Chief" — "Kick out Council! Honesty is the best policy" — "Do us Justice: Resign" — "Six Nations Population: 13, 1 Chief, 12 councillors." — While the subjects of the signs often changed from one placard to the next, their collective message, that of a need for change in Six Nations governance, was uniform.

Dave General, who followed Alva Lickers in

addressing the rally outside the council offices, said that the purpose of the rally was to help community members encourage each other to bring about positive change within the community.

"It is now time for you to take all of your anger and your frustration and channel it into

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