

How new HST affects Status Indian exemptions

By Jim Windle
SIX NATIONS

The provincial Liberals plan for a new "harmonized" tax which combines both the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Provincial Sales Tax into one HST is getting harsh reviews from economists but even worse response from Ontario's Onkwehon:weh Nations, including Six Nations and New Credit.

Elected Chief Bill Montour spoke with Provincial Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid Thursday about his concerns over how that is going to

affect the use of status cards exemptions on PST.

It appears the province did not think this through before announcing it and certainly did not consult with First Nations about it either, because Duguid has agreed to convene a meeting, after the fact, with Ontario First Nations leaders to investigate how or if the new HST will affect Natives.

"Six Nations Council is fully aware of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland HST/Status Indian Exemption practices and we know what impact it has had on Status Indians re-

Continued on page 4