



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Office of Indian Nation Affairs

Peter Reuben, Director

August 12, 2023

New York State Conservation Council 2023 Fall Convention, Rome, NY

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

- NYSDEC established: April 22, 1970
- **Mission statement:** "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being."
- **Goal:** to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.



NYSDEC Office of Indian Nation Affairs

- OINA established in August of 2022.
- First Director hired on May 25, 2023.
- Located in Central Office (Albany) with staff in the R9 & R3 offices.
- OINA works with State recognized Indian Nations to address :
 - Mutual environmental concerns
 - Cultural Resources
 - Advancement of shared knowledge and understanding through consultation.

OINA combines cultural affairs, historic preservation, and consultation on to one team.

Indian Nations of New York State

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Nations

- Cayuga Nation
- Oneida Indian Nation
- Onondaga Nation
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Tonawanda Seneca Nation
- Tuscarora Nation

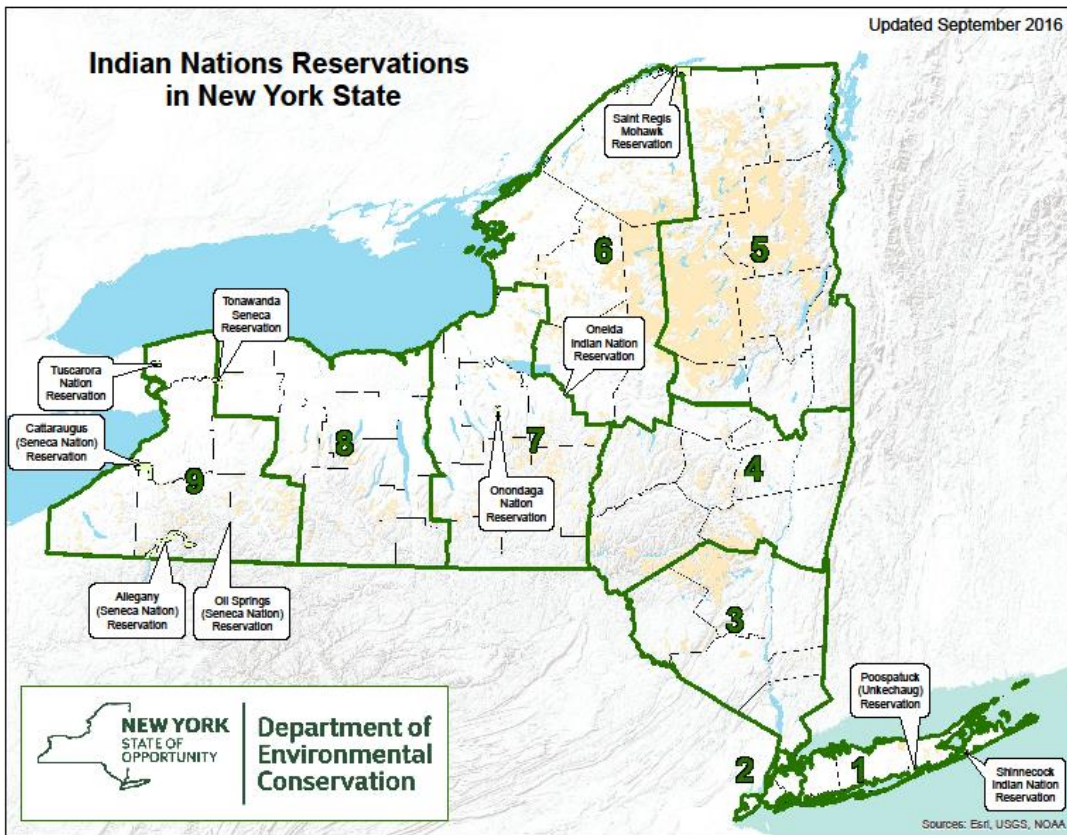
Algonquian Nations

- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Unkechaug Indian Nation

PLUS

- Delaware Nation (Relocated)
- Delaware Tribe (Relocated)
 - Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans (Relocated)

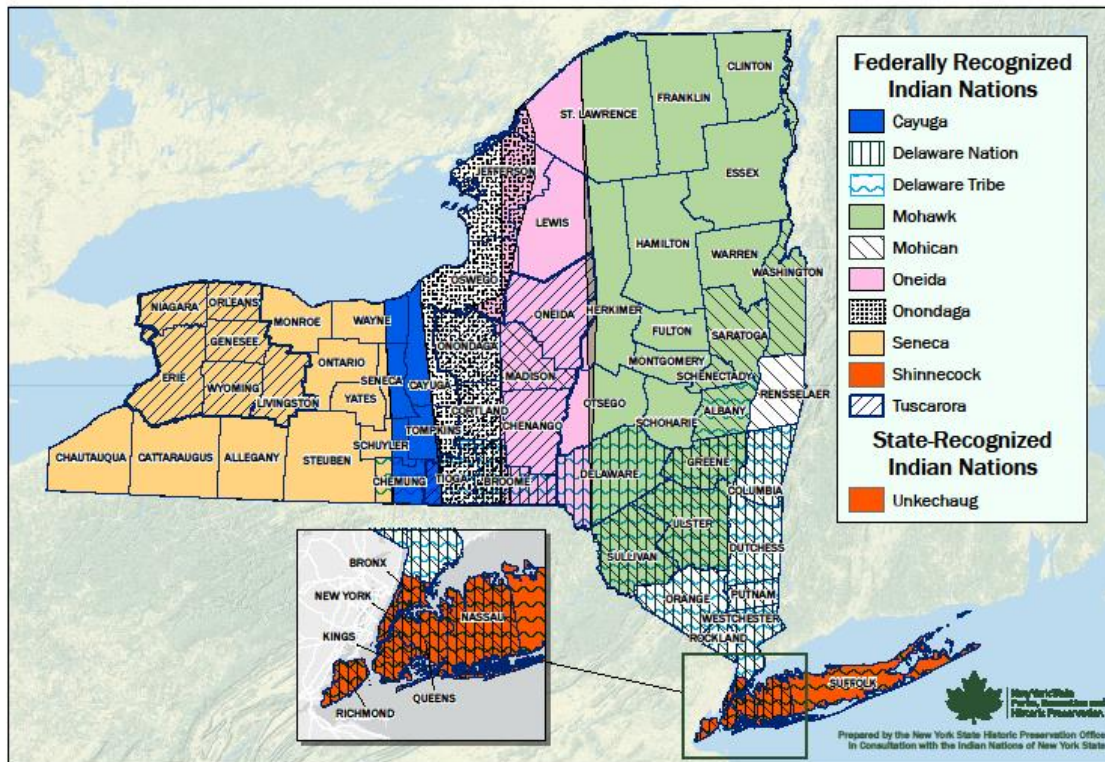




Indian Nation Areas of Interest

March 2022

For tribal consultation purposes only. If a project is located near a boundary, please consult the adjacent Indian Nation(s).



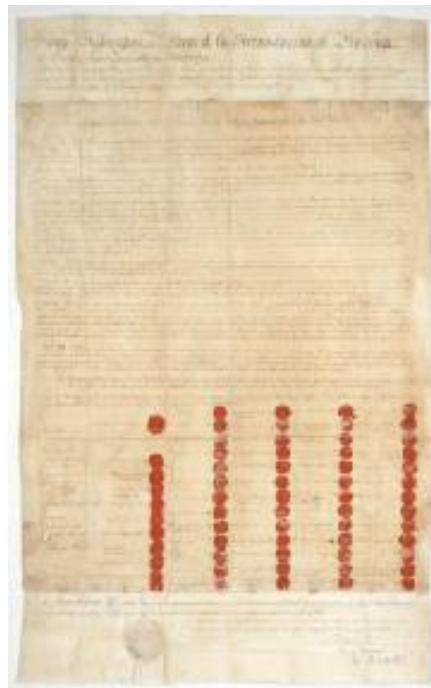
A Long History of Treaties

- Two Row Wampum (Guswenta) – 1613
- Treaty of Canandaigua – 1794
- Treaty of Big Tree – 1797

Plus many others....

Treaties Between Nations

Two Row Wampum Treaty of Canandaigua



Treaty Among Indian Nations: Hiawatha Belt

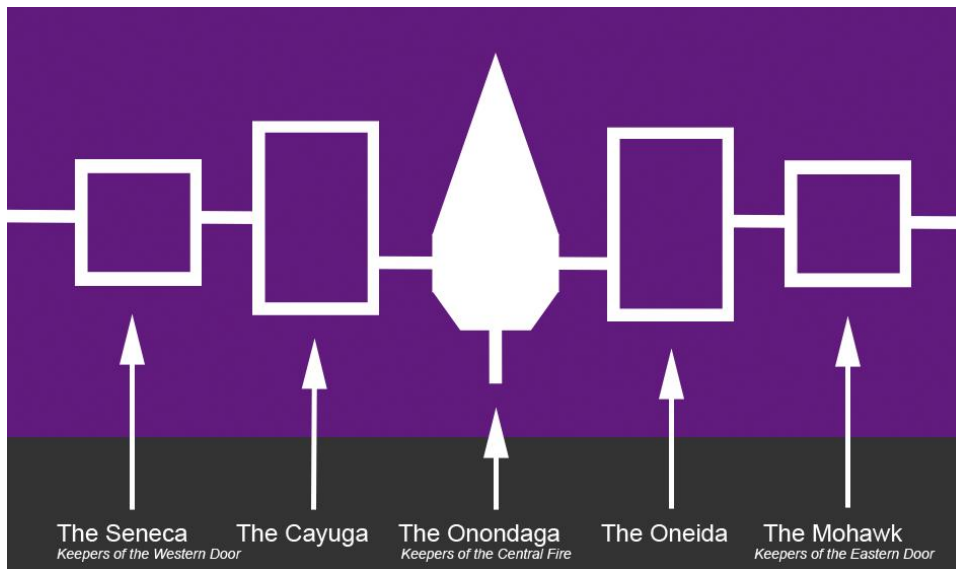


Photo credit: Kanhiote Tyendingaga Territory public library



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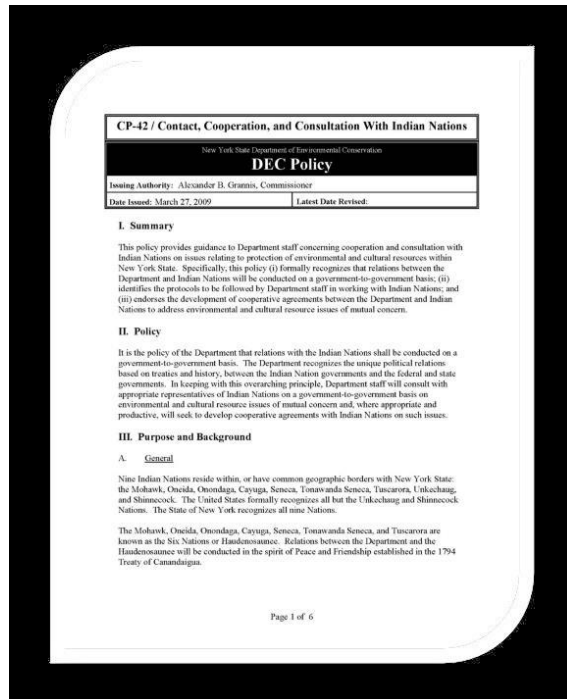
CP-42 / Contact, Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

Issued: March 27, 2009

Purpose: Relations with Indian Nations must be govt. to govt.

Policy Summary

- (1) Formally recognizes govt. to govt. relations
- (2) Identifies protocols to be followed by Dept. staff.
- (3) Endorses development of cooperative agreements to address environmental and cultural resource issues of mutual concern.



CP-42 / Contact, Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

The DEC interacts with Indian Nations on three broad categories

- **Natural resources** - lands, water quality, air quality.
- **Cultural resources** – archaeological sites, burials, permit review for projects that include land disturbances.
- **Subsistence resources** – hunting, fishing and gathering



CP-42 / Contact, Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

Consultation: Is as process, and not a guarantee of agreement on outcomes.

- Government-to-government
- Open and effective communications
- Work toward consensus before a decision is made or action taken
- Applied broadly to achieve mutually beneficial priorities

CP-42 / Contact, Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

Consultation: General consultation subjects (CP-42).

- Environmental Resources – air, water, land, trees (Ash tree).
- Cultural resources – sacred objects, sacred sites, burials sites
- Hunting, fishing, and gathering



Photo credit: invasive species centre

CP-42 / Contact, Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

Consultation: Hunting, fishing, and gathering CP-42

“The Department recognizes that hunting, fishing, and gathering are activities of cultural and spiritual significance to the Indian Nations. The Department is committed to collaborating with Indian Nations to develop written cooperative agreements that protect the rights of such Nations to engage in these activities consistent with the Department’s interest in protection and management of the State’s natural resources.”



One Bowl One Spoon Wampum Belt

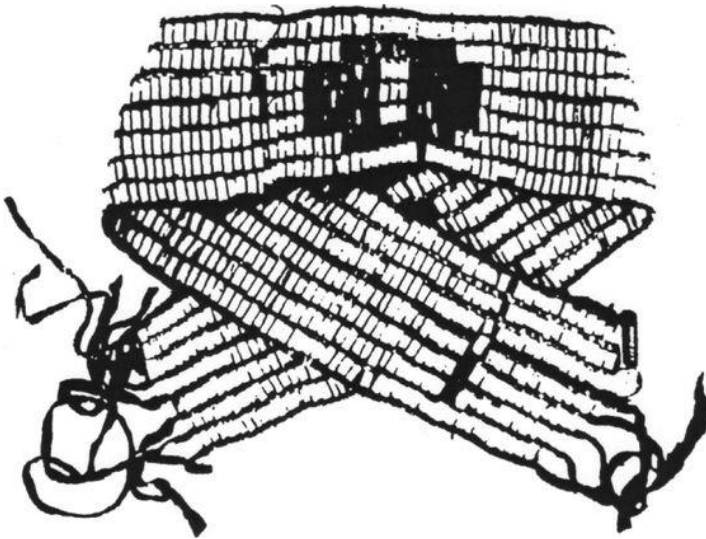


Photo credit: Indian Time newspaper

Great Law: good stewardship

- Take only what you need
- Leave something for others
- Keep the dish clean



St. Francis Assisi Parish



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Examples of Cooperation with Indian Nations

Grasse River (SRMT)

CWD (SNI)

Fish hatchery (SNI)

Solid waste dumping (Tuscarora Nation)

Tire dumping (Tuscarora Nation)

Tully Farm (Onondaga Nation)



Nya:weh (Thank You)

For more information:

Google: NYSDEC office of Indian Nation Affairs

OINA public website [Indian Nation Affairs - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)

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Thank you: **New York State Conservation Council**