



## COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT

For Immediate Release:

Ohiarí:ha/June 24, 2025

### **AKWESASNE REPRESENTATION AT BILL C-5 RALLY** ***CHIEF LACEY PIERCE***

On June 17, 2025, Kawehno:ke District Chief Lacey Pierce and Kana:takon District Chief Theresa Jacobs joined members of the Akwesasne Youth Council — Cayde Lazore, Starlyn Mason, Taylor Day, and Kayanna Cook-Jackson — at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Bill C-5 Rally held on June 17, 2025 at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario.

The rally, organized by the Chiefs of Ontario, brought together First Nations leadership, elders, youth, and community members from across Turtle Island in collective opposition to **Bill C-5: *The One Canadian Economy Act***. The bill has sparked widespread concern for its potential to undermine Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and responsibilities.

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#### **CONCERNS RAISED AT THE RALLY:**

Speakers and participants raised awareness about the numerous harmful implications of Bill C-5, including:

- The removal of environmental and archaeological protections, threatening sacred sites and cultural heritage.
- Development projects in the “national best interest” being allowed to bypass full environmental assessments.
- Violation of the Duty to Consult under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- Contradiction of key Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).
- Bypassing of protections enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Undermining of Haudenosaunee land title and governance, enabling development on lands never ceded or surrendered.

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#### **UNITY & CALLS TO ACTION:**

The rally served as a powerful act of resistance and unity, with leadership, Elders, and youth across Nations calling for the immediate withdrawal of Bill C-5 and for meaningful consultation with First Nations. Participation by Akwesasne leadership and youth underscored our community’s dedication to protecting our lands, rights, and future generations.

# MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE

*Sustaining our inherent rights, facing challenges together to build a strong and healthy future.*



## **KEY TAKEAWAYS & NEXT STEPS:**

- Akwesasne representatives will continue to monitor developments around Bill C-5 and update the community on further actions.
- Continued advocacy efforts will be made to ensure federal policy aligns with Indigenous rights and legal obligations.
- The rally reinforced the importance of intergenerational leadership and community solidarity in defending Haudenosaunee sovereignty.

