

Specific Goals of the Land Rights Action

To achieve a healing with our neighbors of the centuries of difficulties caused by the illegal taking of Onondaga and Haudenosaunee lands.

To restore to the Onondaga Nation recognition of title to its aboriginal territory.

To recover possession of portions of this territory from New York State and willing sellers for the use of the Onondaga people.

To secure a continuing source of revenue from the Nation's lands without displacing persons from the land.

To secure revenues and land sufficient to achieve economic self-sufficiency, including :

- An adequate supply of quality housing;
- A quality education system;
- Affordable, quality health care;
- Sound and sustainable agricultural programs;
- Programs for the proper care of elders and youth;
- A program for environmental restoration and protection;
- Employment opportunities for the Nation and its neighbors.



To protect and conserve the natural resources within and affecting the Nation's land, as a means of safeguarding all citizens' rights to a natural, healthy environment.

To obtain recognition of the basic rights of the Onondaga Nation, including those rights agreed upon in treaties with the United States.

To secure Onondaga rights to hunt, fish and gather for subsistence and cultural needs.

To secure adequate protection for the burial sites of our ancestors, as well as other important sacred and archeological sites.

To resolve all ongoing conflicts with the state and federal governments, particularly regarding taxation and jurisdiction.

To provide for the growth and perpetuation of Onondaga culture, language, laws, religion, and way of life.

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WHAT ARE THE CENTRAL GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE ONONDAGA LAND RIGHTS ACTION?

The ultimate purpose of the Onondaga Nation in the assertion of its land rights is to enable the Nation to maintain its culture and way of life, and to protect the earth and its environment for all inhabitants of central New York. Collectively and individually, the Onondaga people have a right to decent and productive lives with adequate food, shelter, medical care, and other necessities, as well as to a clean and healthful environment. The Nation has suffered enormously from the loss of their lands and resources. Its people have suffered culturally, socially, emotionally, and economically, an historical condition exacerbated by the persistent unfavorable economic conditions in Central and Upstate New York. Legal recognition of the Onondaga Nation's rights to its lands is essential to the preservation and strengthening of the Nation and the Haudenosaunee.

The Onondaga Nation hopes that the land rights action can be resolved in a just and fair way through negotiation, but is prepared to litigate in court should that prove necessary. The Nation is not seeking anything not already guaranteed by United States law.

The Nation believes that the successful reassertion of its land rights will help to improve the overall quality of life and the environmental health of the region. Achieving such results will require considerable cooperation between the Nation and other individuals, organizations, and communities in the region who share many of the Nation's goals. The Nation hopes to strengthen and develop relationships with supportive organizations and individuals that will increase the capacity of the communities in the region to address issues that are of regional concern, such as responsible, sustainable economic development and environmental protection.

