

de France et de Navarre. Tous ceux qui ces présentes
de Jean vendra au vic pays de la nouvelle France. Nous ont très humblement fait remontrer que les
cop humides pour être aisément et pourvoir à la subsistance des François qui y sont établis, il s'en est vu à grand
nombre dans les lieux de pays de from à commun au duc point qui en va à va la rapidité. S. Louis
se trouvant au milieu, à joignant aux rives de l'ad. prairie de la Magdelaine, Ce qui leur donne le lieu
suffisant par ce moyen la lumière de la foi et de l'évangile. Ces causes devraient contribuer à la conversion
à faire don par ces présentes signées de notre main de la terre nommée le Saulx contenant deux lieues de pays
du Lac des parcs profonds avec deux îles, solitaires, et autres qui se trouvent au milieu, à joignant aux rives de
attendant toute défiance lorsque l'ad. François l'abandonneront. L'union à tous ceux qui voudront porter au d. François
à express prohibition à défendre aux Français qui s'habitueront par l'ad. François, à autres nations Sauvages qui
établir aucun cabare dans le bourg de l'ad. François qui sera basty dans l'ad. terre. Si donnons en mandement

SEIGNEURY OF SAULT ST. LOUIS

ont été enregistrés au greffe du Conseil souverain
suivant son Arrêt de ce jour, Pour jouir et user
par les Impetrans du contenu en ces lettres
A Québec le vingt quatrième Octobre. Mil
six Cent quatrevingt.

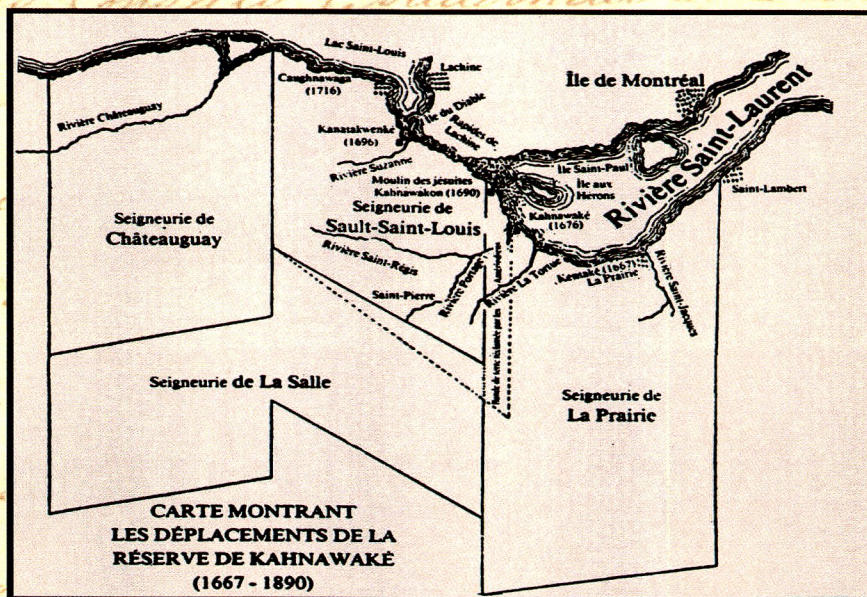
Fenurez

SEIGNEURY OF SAULT ST. LOUIS

The Seigneurie of Sault St. Louis gives rise to a historic grievance involving lands granted by the French Crown in 1680 to the Jesuits for setting up a mission and for the use, occupation and enjoyment of the Iroquois of the Sault (now the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke).

On May 29, 1680, King Louis XIV granted the first concession of land. On October 31, 1680, a second concession was made. The two grants consisted of approximately 45 thousand acres and included 2 islands, islets and shoals.

When the land grants were made in 1680, other seigneuries had already been granted; the Seigneurie of La Prairie de la Madeleine in 1647 and the Seigneurie of Chateauguay in 1673, the Seigneurie of Sault of St. Louis was situated between these two existing seigneuries.



Map from " History of Delson "

A "seigneurie" was a land tenure system that was used by the French Crown. Under this system, a Lord (or Seigneur) was granted land by the Crown and in turn conceded lands to settlers, who worked the land and were obliged to pay the Seigneur a yearly form of dues known as "rentes seigneuriales."

While most seigneurial grants provided the Seigneur with the right to concede land to settlers, the Sault St. Louis grant was unique from other grants in that it was: set aside for the exclusive use and occupation of the Iroquois of the Sault; the French could not settle within the boundaries and if the land was abandoned it would revert back to the Crown.

Despite these special conditions, the Jesuits began conceding lands around 1703. Over time, two-thirds of the land originally granted was either conceded or lost through inaccurate boundary lines and seigneurial dues were not properly collected. Today, the land base of Kahnawá:ke encompasses less than 13,000 acres.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Kanienkeh - The Land of the Flint - 1500-1650

The traditional lands of the Kanien'kehaka or "the people of the Flint" cover a vast territory ranging from north of the Island of Montreal to the Mohawk River Valley in the South.

This vast tract of land was accessible through a wide ring of rivers, known today as the St. Lawrence, the Richelieu, the Hudson, and the Mohawk, and acknowledged by early explorers as the great rivers of the Iroquois. The Richelieu River, Lake Champlain, and the Hudson River bound its eastern border, while on the west it is bordered by the territory of the Oneida people.

The Kanien'keháka controlled and occupied their territory throughout history. Their wide-ranging and diverse land base allowed the people to grow crops, hunt, fish, trap and gather and the communities prospered greatly from the vast resources.

After European contact, the Kanien'keháka formed alliances and signed peace and trade treaties with the Dutch, English and the French based on the Two Row Wampum principles of respect, sharing, partnership and peaceful co-existence.



Kanienkeh Territory
Map from Historic Kahnawake Series #6
Kanien'keháka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa
Cultural Center

Evolution of the Seigneury of Sault St. Louis Land Grievance

French Regime - 1647-1760

- 1647 - The Jesuits missionaries were granted the Seigneury of La Prairie for the purposes of starting a Catholic mission in the area. It was built as a place of rest for the Jesuit missionaries and "to attract the Indians". La Prairie, however, was not settled for another twenty years (1667) due to the ongoing conflict between the Iroquois and the French.
- 1666 -1667 - After almost sixty years of conflict between the French and its Native Allies and the Five Nations, a Treaty of Peace between the Iroquois and the French is signed. The Seigneury of La Prairie and areas westward are opened to settlement. Increasing numbers of Iroquoian peoples along with people from other Nations moved to the Northern part of the Kanien'keháka territory. They settled at Kentake and over the next several decades moved four times to the present day site of Kahnawá:ke in 1716.
- 1680 - The Seigneury of Sault St. Louis (SSSL) is granted by King Louis XIV on May 29, 1680. The second grant by Governor Frontenac and Intendant Duchesneau is granted on October 31, 1680.
- 1701 - The Great Peace of Montreal is signed in August. The treaty ended almost a century of warfare between the French and their Native Allies on one side and the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) on the other. Thirty-nine Aboriginal Nations sent representatives to Montreal. The treaty brought peace to a vast territory, opened up trade and diplomatic ties and allowed for the development of the French colony.
- 1703 - 762 - The Jesuits conceded Seigneury of Sault St. Louis (SSSL) lands to French settlers - deeds were issued.
- 1717 - The Jesuits asked the French Crown to unify the two deeds of the SSSL and that it be granted to them in perpetuity. In February 1718, the Regent's Council (French Crown) decreed that the SSSL Lands were not to be granted in perpetuity to the Jesuits and united the two grants into one with the same conditions as the original grants in 1680.
- 1750 - In July, the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke lodged a formal complaint against the Jesuits and the Marquis De La Jonquiere, then Governor of New France sent the matter to the French King. In 1754, the new Governor Duquesne came to Kahnawá:ke to give the Crown's response. He reaffirmed that the lands were not to be conceded by the Jesuits, since they could not concede what they did not own.

British Regime - 1760-1867

- 1760 - In August, the Treaty of Oswegatchie was signed at Kahnawá:ke between the British and the Indian Nations in the vicinity of Montreal, including Kahnawá:ke. Historically, the treaty refers to Seven Nations, sometimes referred to as nine nations (communities), who promised to remain neutral through the end of the war between France and Britain. One Treaty promise made to the Seven Nations was that they were to be protected in their lands.
- 1760 - At the conclusion of the Seven Years' War between the French and the British, Article 40 of the Capitulation at Montreal signed in September, stated that the "Indian allies of His Most Christian Majesty (King of France) shall be maintained in the lands they inhabit."
- 1762 - On March 22, 1762, the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke brought the matter of the Jesuits illegally conceding their lands to a military tribunal. General Gage, Governor of Montreal, heard the case. In his judgment, Gage dispossessed the Jesuits and put the Mohawks of Kahnawá:ke in full possession of the Seigneury; ordered that deeds be reissued to non-natives in possession of lands before 1760; appointed a Receiver of Rents and ordered that the boundaries between the Seigneuries of La Prairie and Sault St. Louis be surveyed.

Gage said..."we order that the said Indians of the Sault be put in possession of and do enjoy peaceably for themselves, their heirs and other Indians who would like to join them, the whole land and revenue which the said concession can produce."
- 1763 - The Royal Proclamation signed October 7, 1763, states the lands of Indian Nations are reserved for the Indians; colonial governors are forbidden to make grants of Indian lands; the Crown's consent is required prior to purchasing lands; settlers are ordered to vacate.
- 1807 and 1830 - The Chiefs of Kahnawá:ke made representations to the British Crown to seek redress for the Seigneury lands.
- 1854 - A Seigneurial Act is passed abolishing the seigneurial system in Quebec. The Act is applied to the conceded SSSL lands. The Act eroded Mohawk interest in the land and size of the Seigneury.

Canadian Regime - 1867- Present

- 1867 - The British North America Act is passed on July 1, 1867. Section 91(24) gives the Parliament of Canada exclusive jurisdiction to make laws concerning Indians and lands reserved for Indians.
- 1876 - The Indian Act is passed April 12, 1876.
- 1890 - On March 10, 1890, Mr. Doyon, Member of Parliament, brought the matter of an indemnity for the Iroquois of Caughnawaga before the House of Commons. Mr. Doyon asserted that the Iroquois had been dispossessed of their lands. He addressed the issue of legitimate title to the seignery, loss of lands and lost revenues suffered by the Iroquois.
- 1935 - Seignorial Rent Abolition Act is applied to conceded SSSL lands.
- 1948 - The Band Council of Caughnawaga passed two Resolutions stating that the matter of the Seignery "rent" collection be dealt with.
- 1955 - The Band Council votes against the acceptance of \$3,000.00 from the Seaway Project for payment of arrears and actual rent for a portion of the SSSL lands. Despite the negative vote, the Federal Government passed an Order-in-Council on June 2, 1955 approving the payment.
- 1974 - Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs, the Honourable Jean Chretien replies to a letter from Chief Ron Kirby concerning the Seignery "...the Department concluded that the amount of revenue involved (rents) would not justify the cost of recreating records and collecting dues..." The Band Council disagreed with the Department's conclusion and continued to pursue the claim.
- 1988 - The Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK) issues a notice to the surrounding municipalities of Kahnawá:ke's ownership of SSSL Lands. Indian Affairs responds to Mayors of the municipalities that there was no claim filed by Kahnawá:ke.

A Fair and Just Settlement

In 1994, a joint process between the Federal Government and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawá:ke (MCK) was established to clarify and resolve the historic land dispute. On June 16, 2003, the Government sent a letter of offer to negotiate the SSSL to the MCK. On June 24, 2003, the MCK accepted the offer to negotiate. Since that time, Canada and Kahnawá:ke have met and will decide, at a later date, when to begin the negotiation process.

lettres patentes pour la concession
de la terre du Sault au faucon
des Indes de la Comp.
Jesue Kardens en
Canada.

17. May 1660.

Donné par la grace de Dieu Roy
lettres verront. Salut. Nous chava a bien amez les Religieux de la Compagnie
hivers de la prairie de la Magdelaine qui l'ont ou de oydaient conceder otant
qu'ils ne se retournent s'il ne nous plaiton l'ont accordé la terre nommée le Sault co
en montrant le long du Lac du travail profond au deux jstas, jstas, a batture qui
non seulement de retenu l'édifice fréquente, mais même d'en augmenter le nombre, a d
a instruction de d. Jroquois, a l'avis favorablement l'éd. Exposant Nous l'ont auons fa
de from. a commencer a l'ame point qui est via a via les rapides d. Louie en montrant le lo
lad. prairie de la Magdelaine. Et la charge que lad. terre nommée le Sault nous ay
des bagues, contaux, et autres manes manes a chose semblable de le faire, faisons tr

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