

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

### **The Need for an Environmental Policy:**

When the Haudenosaunee and the first colonists made the original agreement on our treaty relationship, it was about sharing the natural resources on this great land. By agreement we established a way to share, respect each other, and resolve disputes peacefully. Those principles still apply today.

However, when those first agreements were made, the waters were clean and healthy. All fish could be eaten. The birds, plants and animals were plentiful. Now we face an environmental holocaust that threatens human existence. This is not acceptable. Our land, water and biological systems have been polluted by unchecked growth. Endangered ecological communities and species are declining as a result of current land clearing and also as a consequence of the fragmentation and degradation resulting from the past clearings.

### **Our Goal:**

Our goal is to restore sanity to the use of the land, realizing that what we do today determines the well being of the future generations. It is with them in mind that we establish this environmental policy.

### **Policy Principles:**

Protection

Improvement

Sustainability

### **Protection**

- a. To protect and improve the condition of land, water (including groundwater) and vegetation resources that provide the ecosystem services that support sustainable resource use industries
- b. To protect our ecosystems and the Carolinian environment
- c. To protect and manage places and values of national environmental significance, including threatened species and communities, listed migratory species, heritage areas and heritage places
- d. To promote Haudenosaunee community participation in the planning and delivery of outcomes

### **Improvement**

- a. To improve water quality and environmental condition in surface and groundwater systems, including wetlands and estuaries, while maintaining the economic and social values derived from water use
- b. To reverse the decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation and maintain and restore habitat for flora and fauna

### **Sustainability**

- a. To promote sustainable resource use, particularly sustainable agriculture

### **Environmental Policy Scope – Areas of Concern**

- A. Heritage Sites
- B. Threatened Species

- C. Ecological Communities
- D. Migratory Species
- E. Wetlands
- F. "Green" Agenda

We seek to protect Haudenosaunee **heritage sites**. Our ability to access sacred sites, culturally-significant sites, traditional places for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering must not be infringed by any development. We want to work with developers and regional associations to identify such places well in advance of proposals.

We will seek to protect Native **threatened species** and **ecological communities** with their status in the landscape affected to the extent that their population viability is at risk. Specifically, we are concerned about nationally endangered or vulnerable species and ecological communities.

We will seek to protect **migratory species** and **wetlands**. Migratory species are recognized within international conventions to which Canada is a signatory. Wetlands, which help to clean the waters, are also important and we seek to protect the entire watershed that feeds into those wetlands. We are less inclined to consider 1 to 1 substitutions to wetlands, and prefer to avoid any disturbance.

Those proposals that provide a realistic and measurable **"green" agenda** associated with the nature of the project will be viewed most favourably. We are willing to work with developers on defining those green standards, strategies and approaches. While these may require additional expenditures on the part of the developer, it will be considered one of the "benefits" of the project to overall well-being.