

We tried repeatedly to arrive at a consensus on how to achieve our objective, but to no avail. Finally, at a meeting in The Pines on or about July 5, when we realized the futility of our efforts, we decided to leave The Pines and continue to lobby through peaceful means. (Issue No. 53:55, 56)

This testimony reveals some individuals within the Longhouse at Kanesatake took a decision to use armed resistance sometime around July 5, 1990. These people often known as the "People of The Pines" or the "Longhouse People of The Pines" have carefully insisted they were not and are not a "breakaway" Longhouse. The testimony of Allen Gabriel reveals the presence of "supporters" who were present in The Pines at the time of the July 11 raid. By "supporters", Mr. Gabriel was presumably referring to persons who were not members of the Longhouse at Kanesatake but were supportive of Kanesatake land rights.

In answer to a question about the relationship between the People of The Pines and the Longhouse headed by Chief Samson Gabriel, Mr. Allen Gabriel stated:

I guess there could be some confusion and an impression that there are two Longhouses in Kanesatake. Previous witnesses stated that there is a Longhouse in Kanesatake. There is a condoled chief and he [Samson Gabriel] is sitting before you today. At the time of the raid there were people in The Pines who are members of the Longhouse. There were also people in The Pines who are supporters of the whole stand this summer, so that may be where some of the confusion is coming from. The name The Longhouse People of The Pines—I am guessing here— but I imagine it came up so that when the media is there and people are talking to them, it is automatically related back to the issue of The Pines. To be quite brief there is one Longhouse in Kanesatake. Some of the people who testified here were the ones who were there that morning [July 11, 1990] and they presented their perspectives on what they saw, what they were involved in. (Issue No. 53:70)

It appears that while the People of The Pines recognize Samson Gabriel as the legitimate Chief of the Longhouse of Kanesatake, there was a difference of opinion within the Longhouse over the critical issue of armed confrontation: The People of The Pines supported the use of arms and Chief Samson Gabriel and others did not.

A meeting between the Municipality and the Honourable Tom Siddon occurred on the 28th of June. Another injunction was obtained by the Municipality on June 29th and the judge compared the situation at the barricades to a state of anarchy.

From July 2 to July 6, 1990 there were public announcements by the Municipality and the provincial Minister of Public Security warning the Mohawks to take down the barricades. On July 8th, La Presse newspaper carried a story on the front page "Resistance Hardens At Oka" with photographs showing armed and masked warriors.

On July 9, 1990 Mr. Ciaccia sent a letter to the mayor, which he publicly released the following day. The letter requested an indefinite suspension of the golf course project to allow the Mohawk people to take down their barricades. The Minister tried to explain that