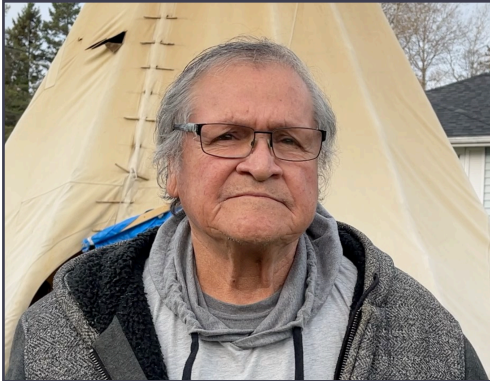


Treaty Council welcomes Crown with call to honour treaty obligations



FORMER NATIONAL CHIEF DEL RILEY REPRESENTS THE TREATY COUNCIL.

OTTAWA, ON – As King Charles III and Queen Camilla prepare to arrive in the nation's capital for a two-day visit, a coalition of Indigenous leaders and supporters will be gathering at key public events to deliver a message both respectful and firm: "Your Majesty, your servants are violating your treaties."

The Ottawa 1701 Treaty Trade Council, made up of Indigenous business owners, community leaders, and legal advocates, has organized a series of public appearances to coincide with the Royals' May 26–27 itinerary in Ottawa. The Council is using the occasion to shine a spotlight on what they describe as a campaign of harassment, intimidation, and unlawful enforcement actions by the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) against Indigenous businesses – particularly those operating in the legal cannabis trade.

"We're not here to protest," says former National Chief Delbert Riley, a hereditary Crane Clan Chief and spokesperson for the Council. "We're here to remind the King that the Crown is still bound by the treaties it entered into with our nations. The

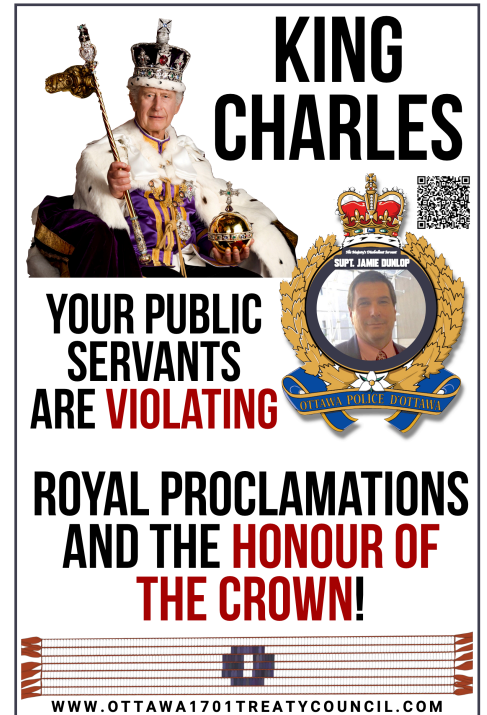
Ottawa Police cannot continue to operate in breach of the very constitutional and Royal obligations they are sworn to uphold."

ROYAL VISIT A TREATY REMINDER

Ottawa sits on the unceded lands of the Algonquin Nation and the broader territories of the Anishinaabe and Onkwehon:we peoples. These lands are protected under historic treaties such as the 1701 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the 1763 *Royal Proclamation* – a foundational document of Crown-Indigenous relations that recognizes Indigenous land ownership and prohibits settler intrusion onto lands not formally ceded.

The Proclamation, still part of Canadian constitutional law, explicitly states that Indigenous peoples should not be "molested or disturbed" in the possession of their lands and affirms their right to trade freely. It is this very principle that the Treaty Council says is being violated today by OPS actions.

Superintendent Jamie Dunlop of the OPS "Serious and Organized Crime Directorate" has been named repeatedly in complaints made by Indigenous business owners. Dunlop is accused of leading raids on Indigenous-owned cannabis dispensaries and intimidating landlords with threatening letters. These letters, citing fines up to \$250,000 under the Cannabis Control Act, have caused landlords to evict tenants without due process or formal charges.



SUPT. DUNLOP IS DISHONOURING THE CROWN.

The Council has called on King Charles to instruct his public servants – including local police – to uphold, not ignore, their legal obligations to the Original people of these lands.

NOT ABOUT CONFRONTATION

"This isn't about confrontation – it's about diplomacy," says Anthony (AJ) Tenasco, an Algonquin business owner from Kitigan Zibi and founder of Red Roots Trading Co. "We're welcoming the Royals with respect, but also with a clear message: This is our land. We have the right to build our economy and to take care of our people in our own way."

CONTINUED INSIDE

RISING TENSIONS, LEGAL PUSHBACK

The Treaty Council's campaign comes on the heels of a growing movement across Canada in which Indigenous entrepreneurs are asserting their right to operate sovereign cannabis businesses under the protection of their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

At a May 14 protest outside the Ottawa Police headquarters, over 75 people gathered to denounce OPS raids. Former Chief Riley, Tenasco, and Mohawk entrepreneur Robert Fisher of Tyendinaga were among the speakers who described these actions as a form of "economic genocide."

"You know, from 1876 to 1951, we were not even considered persons under Canadian law," said Chief Riley. "The whole setup has always been racist. We're still fighting for the right to build a basic economy for our people, and we're doing it in the framework of our treaties."

"No charges have been laid in these raids, but thousands of dollars in Indigenous goods have been seized," said Tenasco. "They're trying to shut us down without giving us the chance to defend our rights."

A BROADER STRUGGLE

The stories shared by Indigenous entrepreneurs aren't just about cannabis. They speak to a larger issue – the ongoing denial of Indigenous



SUPT. JAMIE DUNLOP HAS BEEN LEADING THE ATTACKS ON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN OTTAWA.

jurisdiction and economic self-termination on unceded land.

Robert Fisher, who operates My Legacy Cannabis Dispensary, asked why Indigenous people are being forced to obtain provincial licenses to operate on their own territory. "We're not the law breakers," he said. "They are the law breakers. They've abandoned their own treaties, their own Royal Proclamations."

Another speaker, Audrey Redman of Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation, shared her experience as a survivor of residential school and the Sixties Scoop. She credits cannabis with helping her heal from trauma and

severe seizures. "We have intelligent people. We have leaders. We have elders," she said. "The only way we're going to reclaim our rights is if we come together and organize."

That organizing is happening. At a public meeting held after the police headquarters rally, over 50 people gathered to strategize their next steps. Ironically, while the protest was underway, OPS conducted yet another raid – this time on a closed Indigenous store whose staff had joined the demonstration.

A CALL TO THE CROWN

As King Charles prepares to deliver the speech from the Throne in Ottawa, the members of the 1701 Treaty Trade Council will be there, not in opposition but in continuity with the ancient protocols of diplomacy between their nations and the Crown.

They call it "polishing the Covenant Chain" – renewing the bonds of peace, friendship, and mutual respect between the Crown and the First Peoples. "The treaties are not broken," said Chief Riley. "They are being ignored. That's a problem that only the Crown can fix."

For the Indigenous peoples of Ottawa and beyond, the hope is that the King will listen and that his "disobedient servants" such as Supt. Jamie Dunlop will begin obeying His Majesty's laws and proclamations land which protect and uphold the Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples.

OTTAWA 1701 TREATY TRADE COUNCIL STORES

- **RED ROOTS TRADING COMPANY** (Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation of Kitigan Zibi)
- **MY LEGACY CANNABIS DISPENSARY** (Mohawk of the Six Nations, Tyendinaga)
- **NATIVE SMOKE ON THE WATER** (Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn)
- **NATIVE GRASSLANDS** (Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn)
- **AKI WELLNESS** (Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn)
- **INDIGENOUS CANNABIS CULTURE, NATIVE CANNABIS DEPOT, INDIGENOUS CANNA + WELLNESS, and TRIBAL** (Cree, Mohawk of the Six Nations, Tyendinaga and Algonquin Anishinaabe.)
- **MOHAWK FLOWER** (Mohawk of the Six Nations, Tyendinaga and Mi'kmaq)



“We are not the law-breakers” Indigenous store owners protest OPS



SUPPORTERS OF INDIGENOUS TREATY RIGHTS GATHERED IN PROTEST OUTSIDE OF THE OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES HQ ON MAY 14 2025.

OTTAWA – Over 75 people gathered outside the Ottawa Police Services headquarters at 474 Elgin St. to protest the actions of Supt. Jamie Dunlop of the “Serious and Organized Crime Directorate” on May 14th, 2025. Supt. Dunlop has been leading an Ottawa Police campaign to shut down Indigenous cannabis dispensaries in Ottawa by intimidating their landlords. In April of 2025, multiple store owners had undated letters signed by Dunlop delivered to their landlords threatening fines under the *Cannabis Control Act* of “at least \$10,000 and not more than \$250,000.”

In response, Indigenous store owners who assert a constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty right to trade on unceded Indigenous lands, have joined together and created a 1701 Treaty Trade Council to organize themselves and collectively assert their right to an Indigenous economy. Former National Chief Del Riley has been actively representing the store owners and over the last two years has sent over a dozen letters seeking meetings with the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Police Services.

While the Ottawa Police Service publicly recognizes that “Algonquin

Anishinaabe people have lived on this land since time immemorial, and that this area, including the City of Ottawa, is part of unceded Algonquin territory,” the OPS press releases documenting their raids make no mention of the fact the two stores they raided are Indigenous stores exercising constitutionally protected rights.

STORE OWNERS DECRY “ECONOMIC GENOCIDE”

After Covid-19 “lockdowns” in 2020 and 2021 disrupted the Indigenous economy by closing down on-reserve shopping, off-reserve Indigenous stores began opening in cities like Toronto, Halifax and Moncton asserting an economic right to operate on unceded traditional territories.

AJ Tensasco, the owner of the Red Roots trading company has been the public face of this initiative in Ottawa. Speaking at the rally, Tensasco noted that “We’ve tried to communicate with the government officials here and the police... numerous times. They came and kicked in our door when they tried to get the landlords to do their dirty work for them and tried to terminate our leases. Instead of them choosing to sit down with us and dis-

cuss our treaty rights, and honour the City of Ottawa reconciliation agreement or honour our treaties, they chose to steal \$94,000 of inventory from my store.”

Tensasco, who donates 16% of the profits from his stores back to his home community of Kitigan Zibi, pointed out the damage that the police raids did to Indigenous peoples. “That inventory that they stole from my stores could have bought 25 water filtration systems for 25 homes in Kitigan Zibi. I can’t even go home and drink my water. I bet Jamie Dunlop doesn’t know what that’s about. He doesn’t know what it’s like to not be able to walk into your home to drink the water out of the faucet. He makes \$215,000 a year here to commit economic genocide on Indigenous people.”

Referring to the incentives behind the police actions, Mohawk entrepreneur and owner of the My Legacy Cannabis Dispensary, Robert Fishert stated in reference to the Ontario licensed cannabis retailers “All of those guys [operating the OCS stores] are ex-police... and they’re all friends with these guys here, who keep raiding us.”

1701 TREATY TRADE COUNCIL

OTTAWA

WWW.OTTAWA1701TREATYCOUNCIL.COM

**PUBLIC
MEETING**

INDIGENOUS REACTION TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

**2PM TUES.
MAY 27**

WITH FORMER NATIONAL

CHIEF DEL RILEY

AND OTHER SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED
IN THE RENNAISSANCE ROOM OF THE FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAURIER



1 RIDEAU ST, OTTAWA

SCHEDULE OF TREATY COUNCIL EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 26

12:00 PM: Gathering at Macdonald-Cartier International Airport, Ottawa.

1:00 PM: Gathering at Lansdowne Park for community engagement with the Royals.

2:15 PM: Presence at Rideau Hall for ceremonial tree planting.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

9:45 AM Treaty Council members will attend the royal procession to the Senate.

11:00 AM Gathering at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial

2:00 PM: Public meeting convened by the Treaty Council at Chateau Laurier.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN SUPPORT
OF ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS!**

SIGN THE PETITION AT WWW.OTTAWA1701TREATYCOUNCIL.COM