

# St. Regis Tribe Land Settlement Facts & Figures

A group of concerned citizens in St. Lawrence County have come to the conclusion that county leaders are making decisions that are not in the best interest of the residents of this county. This group has formed a committee to present to the citizens of St. Lawrence County alternate views on decisions that our county leaders are making. This committee will present facts and figures to the residents of St. Lawrence County as well as alternative suggestions and ideas. The members of this committee have no political agenda or any intention of financial gain. Our soul commitment is for the betterment of the residents of this County.

The per person capita income in St. Lawrence County is \$21,851.00, compared to the rest of the State of New York of \$32,104.00. St. Lawrence County per capita income ranks 59th out of 62 Counties. Governor Cuomo's home County of Westchester, has a per person capita income of \$48,385.00. The state with the lowest per person capita income in the country is Mississippi, with a per person capita of \$20,670.00. Ontario, Canada has a per person capita of \$36,445.00. These figures clearly show that decisions by the County and for the County by New York State have not created any real wealth for the average person in St. Lawrence County, as compared to other locations.

The first St. Lawrence County decision that the committee wants to discuss is the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of St. Lawrence, and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and the State of New York. This agreement was signed by the Chairman of the County Board of Legislators on the 28th of May 2014, and was affirmed by the Board of Legislators on August 21th 2014. The committee has reviewed this agreement and has determined that it is not in the best interest of the county. We are going to present facts and figures that will leave the residents of St. Lawrence County in complete bewilderment.

This agreement guarantees the County very little money. However, the tribe is guaranteed substantial sums of money, an exclusive Casino arrangement, an allocation of low cost power, and 4800 acres of St. Lawrence County land. This agreement also will prevent St. Lawrence County from reacquiring the Long Sault Island and the Croil Island from the New York Power Authority for future development.

This committee wants to present to the people of St. Lawrence County the real facts and figures that are contained within this Memorandum of Understanding. The memorandum requires some immediate payments to the County and to the towns of Brasher and Massena, these amounts total \$5,249,000.00. This money is the only amount that is guaranteed to St. Lawrence County. In the guaranteed money \$1,500,000.00 is coming directly from the tribe. The additional money is the past due Compact money owed by the tribe that has never been paid. The real question is what are we really getting from this agreement?

All the figures that we are now going to present are based on documented data and any estimates that we present will be very conservative.

## THE TRIBE IS GOING TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING

4800 acres of land from St. Lawrence County with tax abatement and perpetuity, the value of this tax abatement based on a average of \$2,000.00 per acre the total assessment is \$9,600,000.00, savings of \$384,000.00 per year, 35 years total of \$13,440,000.00.

2 Million Dollars per year from the New York Power Authority for a 35-year total of \$70 Million Dollars.

9 Megawatts of Power at the lowest rate available for the New York Power Authority, estimated savings of 3 cents per kWh, or 2 Million Dollars per year, 70 Million Dollars for the 35 year period.

Exclusive right to run a Class 3 Casino, which includes St. Lawrence County.

This right with the current revenue at almost 75 Million and confirmed on their website generates 9 Million on the Casino and 6 Million from the Bingo Games 15 Million in profits or 525 Million profits over a 35-year period.

First option to purchase all land that comes up on a tax sale in St. Lawrence County, in their designated map area, which consists of the 4800 acres.

First option to attain ownership of Long Sault and Coil Islands in St. Lawrence County, if they obtain title to those islands, the estimated land assessment for the property is 5.5 Million, and the tax abatement savings is 220 thousand dollars or 7.7 Million Dollars over 35 year period.

**TOTAL VALUE \$686,100,000.00 GUARANTEED**

## NON GUARANTEED AMOUNT THAT ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY RECEIVES

Annual payment of 1.450 Million per year or 43.5 Million over 35-year period.

1.450 Million to be split between Brasher and Massena or 43.5 Million over the 35-year period.

A one-time payment of 2 Million Dollars.

Annual payment to St. Lawrence County of 4 Million Dollars, which comes to 140 Million Dollars over 35 years.

Brasher and Massena and St. Lawrence County is to receive payments for losses due to the tax abatement on the 4800 acres, and that amounts to 13.40 Million Dollars over the 35 year period.

**TOTAL VALUE \$242,400,000.00 NOT GUARANTEED  
\$5,249,000.00 GUARANTEED**

## COSTS TO ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY FROM THE EXCLUSIVE CASINO COMPACT

The Mohawk Canadian Tribe is proposing a new casino to be built on the Long Sault Island in Canada, with Chinese partners. The proposal calls for a 500 Million-Dollar mega resort. The assessed value of this resort would be 200 Million Dollars. If this new casino were built in St. Lawrence County instead it would have an assessed value of 200 Million Dollars, annual payments to the town, county and school system would be 8 Million Dollars a year. If this current proposal moves forward St. Lawrence County would lose 280 Million Dollars in tax revenue over the 35- year period.

Assuming the new Canadian casino generates 100 Million Dollars a year in revenue. If this casino were built in St. Lawrence County it would generate 10 million Dollars a year or 350 Million Dollars over 35 years in direct tax revenue. The estimated job loss is over 1000 jobs. The exclusive casino agreement will cost St. Lawrence County in combined tax revenue 630 Million over the 35-year period.

The Saint Regis Tribe casino customer base is almost 80% Canadian, if the Canadian casino is built on Long Sault Island the tribe would lose a big share of their revenues. The compact funds to pay St. Lawrence County would not be available.

**TOTAL LOSS \$630,000,000.00**

"Indian Tribes: The Seneca, Oneida and St. Regis Mohawks will have exclusive rights to their regional casino territories in Western New York, Central New York, and the North Country respectively. This is a huge coup since the tribes would have been one of the major opponents to the ballot referendum voters will still have to approve to legalize full " Las Vegas" style gambling in New York State. These three tribes spent nearly \$2 Million combined on lobbying and campaign contributions from 2011 to April 2013." COMMON CAUSE/NY RELEASE JUNE 21ST. 2013

## PAST HISTORY'S A LEAP OF FAITH

The only amount guaranteed by the Land Settlement Agreement to St. Lawrence County is a \$1.5 Million Dollar payment from the tribe. The other payments that are guaranteed are past due compact funds. All the payments that are supposed to be made to St. Lawrence County will come exclusively through New York State from the Compact funds that are paid to the state from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. Why this is of great concern? The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe does not have a great history of making payments to New York State. They stopped making payments in 2010 without any consequences. Prior to 2010 the casino, which was built by Ivan Kaufman, a Long Island businessman, who invested 30 Million Dollars in the project; the tribe stopped making payments to Mr. Kaufman with little or no consequences. The Memorandum of Understanding does not make New York State responsible for the payments. If the tribe stops making payments like they have done in the past, St. Lawrence County would lose all the land and be guaranteed nothing beyond the initial past due payments. Obviously, based on the tribes past history our leaders have taken a great leap of faith. Governor Cuomo and the State of New York are not willing to guarantee these funds because they are not willing take that leap!

## THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING

The County should immediately rescind the vote on the Land Settlement Agreement; this should be done before Franklin County approves the same agreement.

The agreement should be changed to have New York State take on the full financial obligation to make the payments if the tribe does not honor the agreement. The State of New York would then have an incentive to enforce the agreement.

The County and the tribe should explore ways to discourage a new casino from being built on the Canadian side.

The County and the tribe should also consider a second casino in St. Lawrence County. This new casino would benefit the Canadian side of the Indian Tribe and make direct payments to the members of the St. Regis Tribe on the U.S. side. This option could prevent a second casino being built on the Canadian side and provide substantial, guaranteed tax revenue for the towns of Massena, Brasher and St. Lawrence County.

**TO FIND AND VIEW THE SIGNED LAND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND VARIOUS DOCUMENTS**

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