



47th annual
conference on
The Law of
Borders

Indigenous
Sovereignty and
Borders

Presented by:
Bonnie M. Cole, B.A., LL.B.

October 27, 2023

Who is affected?

Haudenosaunee –also know as the Iroquois Confederacy

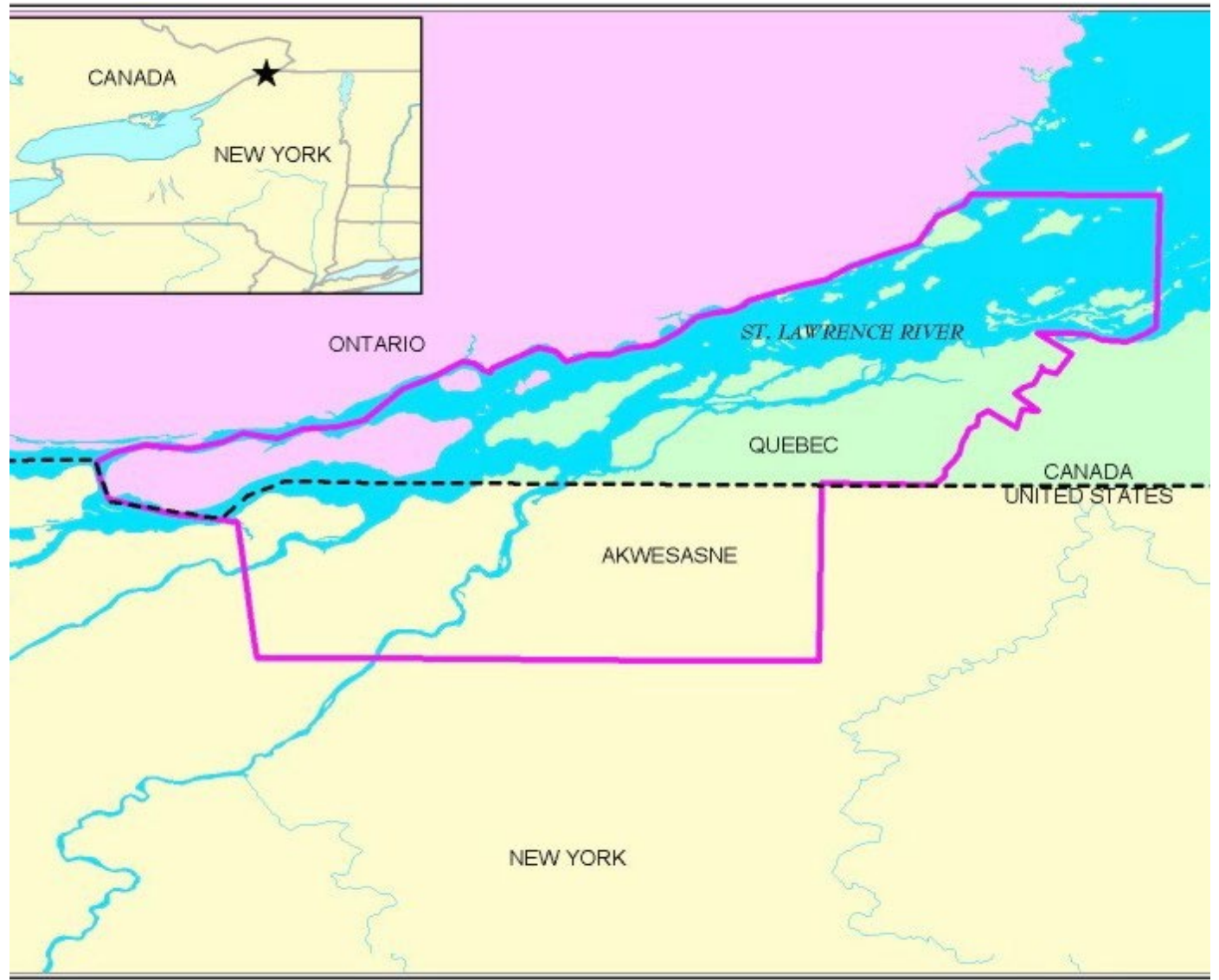
Comprised of the Mohawk, Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida and the Tuscarora

Mohawks live in several communities at Akwesasne, Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Tyendinega, and Wahta

Akwesasne is located between Ottawa and Montreal at Cornwall and is 6 hours north of New York City.

The Mohawks at Akwesasne are known as Akwesasronon

A Community Divided



Haudenosaunee World View

- Creation Story - (Tsi kiontonhwentsison)
- Great Law of Peace
- Thanksgiving address- (Ohenten Kariwatekwon)
- Aided foreigners in their time of need
- Two Row Wampum – Nation to Nation
- Never surrendered Sovereignty to any foreign or domestic entity



The Canada & United States Border

Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation of 1794 -Article III

It is agreed that it shall at all times be free to His Majesty's subjects and to the citizens of the United States, and also to the Indians dwelling on either side of the said boundry line, freely to pass and repass by land or inland navigation into the respective territories, and countries of the two parties, on the continent of North America (the country within the limits of the Hud-son's Bay Company only excepted), and to navigate all the lakes, rivers, and waters thereof, and freely to carry on trade and commerce with each other.

Living with the Border

Borders create laws that adversely affect Akwesasronon:

Example 1: Akwesasne Membership Code and Canadian law

Example 2: Immigration Law and Akwesasronon

Example 3: Limitation of laws

“The border now costs you time and money, weighs on your mental health, and impacts you in so many ways that you can scarcely untangle them all. The border is everywhere; seen and unseen.”

Amelia Philpott, *The Ship is Not the Only Vessel on the River: Revisiting First Nations' Mobility Rights under Article III of the 1794 Jay Treaty*, 2019 24 *Appeal: Review of Current Law and Law Reform* 157, 2019 CanLII Docs 373, <<https://canlii.ca/t/sfdb>>, retrieved on 2023-10-24 at pg 159



*Thank you, Merci, Niawen:kowa
and Miigwetch*

bonniecole64@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 28
Akwasasne, Que
H0M 1A0