

Natives occupying an island in the Grand River may step up their protest after Mayor Bob Taylor cancelled talks Thursday with representatives of the Six Nations confederacy about a city sewer project planned to cross the river.

"Perhaps there was a chance to resolve this, but now — not soon," said Arnie General, an Onondaga chief of the traditional confederacy.

He added that an escalation of the standoff "is a possibility . . . There has to be some stand somewhere."

Mayor cancels

Mayor Taylor said he cancelled the meeting Thursday morning after he received information that the group protesters were a "splinter group" and did not represent the full confederacy council.

The mayor said he has been told the proper protocol is to meet with the Six Nations elected band council and let them inform the confederacy chiefs of the situation.

The confederacy, made up of hereditary chiefs, does not recognize the authority of the elected band council. Mayor Taylor said the dispute is an internal issue.

Mr. General called cancelling the meeting a "cop out" and said other communities are watching the situation to see how things develop.

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*'There has to be
some stand
somewhere.'*

Chief Arnie General

Brant Conservation Area on Jan. 5.

A second tent has been erected and is kept warm by a camp stove.

The protesters said they are in good spirits and have no plans to leave until ordered by the confederacy chiefs.

In addition to the land claims issue, the protesters are concerned about the environmental ramifications of the project.

Protester John Hanselman said he is concerned about the damage to rare plant species resulting from the project and the potential danger of a sewer upstream from where 100,000 people — including Brantford residents — get their water.

INSIDE

Effects of giant store

A giant Sobeys grocery