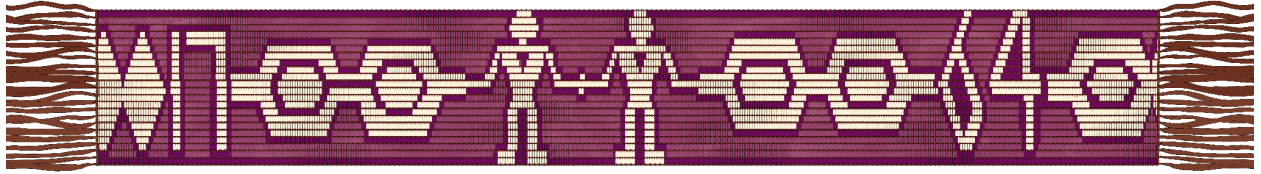


Covenant Chain Wampum Belt-Jumblies 86-91 foldout

THE 1764 GREAT COVENANT CHAIN

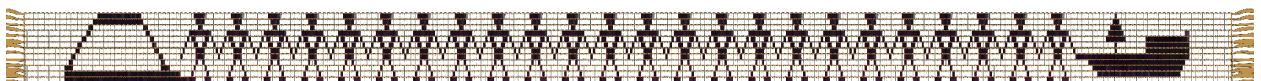


WAMPUM BELT

Two men, hearts visible, hold hands in the centre of the belt. The hexagons on either side of them include images that represent the links of a chain or the “strong hills” or British forts where Council Fires will be maintained so Chiefs can meet, negotiate with colonial officials, and receive presents. This imagery represents the promise to return to talk.

Diamond shapes at the edge of the belt may represent Indigenous Council Fires of the nations to the west and east. At the left end of the belt, the diamond is incomplete, perhaps suggesting the existence of prior treaties. At the right end, an unfinished diamond may suggest that the treaty relationship will continue. When the two ends of the belt are joined to form a circle, the incomplete diamonds form two diamonds, representing two Council Fires or nations – the British and Western Confederacy – united by treaty.

THE 24 NATIONS WAMPUM BELT



This Wampum represents Britain’s promise to ensure the sustenance of life (symbolized through the delivery of presents) to the Haudenosaunee and Western Confederacies forever. At the right end, a ship – representing the British – is loaded with goods for the twenty-four nations, who are bound together by the cord

of friendship secured to the boat. The mountain or rock at the left end of the belt represents North America, Indigenous Territory. The belt conveys that the British presence on Indigenous Territory is subject to Indigenous Peoples' permission and must be accompanied by a pledge for mutual benefit.

