



## History MA Thesis Defence

**Student:** Ethan Coudenys

**Date:** Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Place:** In person - email  
[histacademic@uoguelph.ca](mailto:histacademic@uoguelph.ca) for room location.

### **“The Undaunted: Haudenosaunee Veterans, the Interwar Period, Political Activism and the Department of Indian Affairs, 1917-1930”**

#### **Abstract**

This thesis follows the development of political activism and division on the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve during the interwar period and argues that the treatment of the traditional form of government on the reserve, the Confederacy Council, by the Canadian Government led to the deposition of that council in 1924. Through studying the cultural, spiritual, social, and political contexts of the foundation of the Six Nations Confederacy; the diplomacy between settlers and the Haudenosaunee nations in the colonial era; the early imposition of the Indian Act, and the assimilationist agenda of the Canadian government; and the world-changing event of the Great War, this thesis argues that these events all culminated in a state-sponsored removal of one of the oldest governments in the world, and a state-sponsored appointment of a Westernized form of government on an Indigenous community.

**Advisor:**

Dr. Alex Souchen

**Committee:**

Dr. Susan Roy  
Dr. Susan Neylan  
Dr. Alan McDougall (Chair)