Historical association returns wampum belt

The Onondaga Historical Association Tuesday returned a wampum belt to the Haudenosaunee, the latest in a series of moves by the museum to return Native American items.

Onondaga Nation leaders described the return of the wampum as historical, unprecedented and an act of friendship. Earlier this year, the museum returned four ceremonial masks, known as “false faces,” and bones.

“There are still a lot of our masks and our remains out there,” said Tadodaho Sid Hill, a spiritual leader for the Onondaga Nation. “We see some of our belts being auctioned off on the Internet and our people just don’t understand. Those are our sacred objects.”  

SEAN KIRST A-2, STORY A-3