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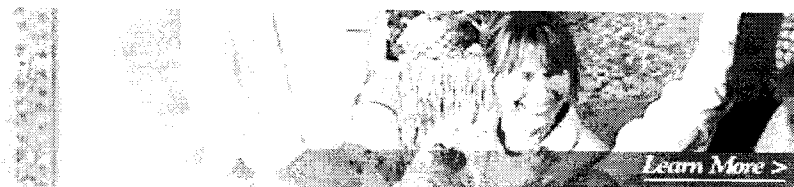


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PC leader commends Brantford for court injunction against aboriginal protesters

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What's this

TORONTO - A southern Ontario city's decision to seek an injunction against protesting aboriginals should serve as "an example of leadership" to the province's Liberal government, Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory said Thursday.

The injunction, among other things, is seeking \$110 million in damages for the economic impact the ongoing protest has had on Brantford.

A separate injunction brought by Kingspan Group PLC orders protesters to vacate a property under development by Kingspan. It was posted outside the contested land on Wednesday.

In a statement issued Thursday, Tory commended Brantford Mayor Mike Hancock for taking "appropriate action through the courts," when neither Premier Dalton McGuinty nor his ministers have "had the courage" to do it themselves.

"While we support the negotiation process, our party has consistently maintained that the rule of law in Ontario must be upheld and that the provincial government should take all available steps to address any incidents of lawlessness through our court system," he said.

"As such... we were pleased to hear of the decision by the City of Brantford to pursue this avenue in the absence of any meaningful action or resolution from Mr. McGuinty or his government."

A spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister Michael Bryant said the government does not

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The injunction sought names the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, protesters Floyd and Ruby Montour and various other people.

The move follows a unanimous decision by council to pass two city bylaws that prohibit demands for unauthorized payments, or other conditions of development, and prohibit interfering with a development approved by the city.

Hancock told the Brantford Expositor that he's repeatedly met with developers who have put work on hold or backed off on projects because of the aboriginal dispute.

"I'm not terribly happy about doing this but we're doing what council believes is necessary to protect the city of Brantford," he said.

The ongoing occupation of a former housing development in Caledonia - which has cost the province more than \$50 million to police and has turned violent at times - began with a similar injunction.

Protesters involved in the Brantford occupation vowed to continue fighting, suggesting the problem won't be resolved unless "concrete steps" are taken by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

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