



MP Finley defends her signing of petition

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Federal Human Resources Minister Diane Finley responded yesterday to criticisms about signing a petition criticizing provincial police over their handling of the aboriginal land dispute in Caledonia. The petition calls for a public inquiry into the actions of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino in Caledonia, which is in Finley's riding of Haldimand-Norfolk.

Critics say that Finley has muddied the government's position on the dispute, which could undermine talks between aboriginal and federal negotiators.

Asked to respond to such criticism, she said, "The negotiations have nothing to do with the policing." Talks are a federal responsibility and policing a provincial one.

The petition suggests Fantino is biased in favour of the protesters and not doing enough to protect local residents. Finley said she has "always supported one rule of law for Caledonia."

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