

## 5,000 sign petition for Fantino and OPP inquiry

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Ken Hewitt has announced that 5,000 people have signed a petition asking for an inquiry into the actions of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino and the OPP in general.

Among those signatures are Haldimand Norfolk MP Diane Finley and Haldimand Norfolk MP Toby Barrett, stated Hewitt, who with Dave Brown, launched the petition.

Barrett told The Chronicle he only signed for the OPP inquiry.

Last week, Finley skilfully avoided answering 'yes' or 'no' when asked if she signed the petition.

For her first answer, she replied, "I share the frustration of the residents of Caledonia and the area and they are my number one priority."

Pursued for a yes or no response, Finley said, "My job is to stand up for them."

When asked if she signed for a general inquiry into the actions of the OPP but not for an inquiry into the actions of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino, she said, "It's just one petition question."

The federal minister of resources and skills development was interviewed while she was waiting to drop the puck for the Dunnville Terrier and Caledonia Corvair's Jan. 24 game in the Dunnville arena.

Four days later, Mohawk Chief Allen MacNaughton, who is a Confederacy negotiator working with provincial and federal counterparts, was told that Finley neither denied nor confirmed that she added her signature to the petition. He referred to newspaper stories that said she did sign it.

The issue was raised by Six Nations representatives at their Jan. 28 negotiation meeting.

"We're concerned and we will write a letter to her and the Prime Minister," said MacNaughton. "We are very concerned that a member of Parliament would take a position on our situation while we are in negotiations with the Crown." The petition will be presented in the Ontario legislature in April.



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