

Caledonia Victims Project

From: Barrett, Toby [toby.barrett@pc.ola.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:04 PM
Subject: Caledonia apology?
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Toby here, please find attached and below a news release and related Hansard regarding a call from the Opposition Aboriginal Affairs Critic for government to apologize to the people of Caledonia, "for the ineffective policy of this government."

For Immediate Release:
March 23, 2010

Opposition Critic for Aboriginal Affairs calls for apology to Caledonia

Queens Park – Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Toby Barrett says an apology to Caledonia would be one step in the right direction.

Barrett was referencing a call for an apology to Caledonia made by Opposition Critic for Aboriginal Affairs Ted Arnott during Throne Speech debate in the Legislature last night.

"I would suggest and implore the minister in his two-minute reply, the opportunity that he has forthcoming, to apologize to the people of Caledonia for the ineffective policy of this government," Arnott proposed. "And explain what, if anything, they are going to do as a government to respond to that problem in the coming weeks because certainly that is a huge issue for the province of Ontario, and I think that the Attorney General and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has an obligation to address it in his response."

While there was no apology forthcoming, Barrett commended his Caucus colleague for calling on government to recognize its obligations in Caledonia.

"Government may want to deny it, but there are clear impacts from its lack of action on the Caledonia land dispute and related justice issues," stated Barrett. "the very least government can offer is an apology – but they won't even do that."

In leading up to his call for apology Arnott noted that the throne speech failed to even once mention "Caledonia" and went on to detail the effects of now four years of government inaction.

"...the fear, the intimidation, the lawlessness at times, the economic loss that community has experienced as a result of what's happened," Arnott reported. "and the despair and loss of hope in that community that anything is going to be done to help because of this government's policy, quite frankly, which at best has been ineffective and at worst is an example of political hubris."

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For more information, please contact MPP Toby Barrett at

6/17/2010

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