

ONTARIO DESERVES A FULL AND FAIR INQUIRY INTO LANDCLAIM LAWLESSNESS

Michael Bryant named Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in new Provincial Cabinet

Chiefs of Ontario media release, October 30, 2007

“The Regional Chief pointed out that it is significant to note that it was Minister Bryant, in his role at the time as Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, who announced on behalf of Ontario the establishment of the Ipperwash Inquiry in November 2003.”

Dudley George’s brother applauds Bryant appointment

CTV.ca – October 31, 2007

“[Sam] George [Dudley George’s brother] met with Bryant for a morning cup of coffee, and the two discussed implementing some of the 100 recommendations from the Ipperwash inquiry.”

“Best Practices” used by OPP in Caledonia

Ipperwash Inquiry Commissioner Sidney Linden – May 31, 2007

“The OPP’s ‘Framework for Police Preparedness for Aboriginal Critical Incidents’ is one element of a comprehensive OPP strategy to improve the policing of Aboriginal occupations and protests. It is an operational policy, intended to guide incident commanders and officers before, during and after such incidents. The OPP has been applying the Framework at Caledonia. I consider the Framework and related programs to be best practices.” Volume 4 - Executive Summary: Policy Analysis, Volume 2 – Executive Summary, p87

The Ipperwash Inquiry – does this sound fair to you?

From 1992 onward, residents of Ipperwash were victims of crime, vandalism, intimidation and violence during 3 separate land claims, including one against their own homes they were forced to defend to the Supreme Court of Canada, yet the Ipperwash Inquiry deliberately excluded residents and all evidence of the crimes against them:

- Out of 139 witnesses, not a single full time resident was allowed to testify. Not one frontline military police officer was called to testify. We also know of at least one member of the OPP Tactical Response Unit in Ipperwash who was not allowed to testify.
- In 1996 hundreds of residents wrote victim impact statements to Federal Liaison Robert Reid. No one knows what was done with them. None were admitted as evidence to the Inquiry.
- On March 13, 1996 the township wrote a letter blaming the death of Dudley George and the “terrorization of a municipality” on the “failure to remove illegal occupiers” and the “failure to permit the law to be upheld.” The letter also said they had warned every level of government for two years prior to Mr. George’s death that someone was going to be seriously injured or killed. Unfortunately, the role that the failure to enforce the law against native lawlessness may have played in Mr. George’s death was never explored by the Inquiry because residents and their evidence were deliberately excluded.
- The Inquiry did not publish projects related to the suffering of residents, one of which was a 29 -page chronological summary submitted in July 2004 by Ipperwash resident/community leader, Mary -Lou LaPratte.
- During the 3 years the Ipperwash Inquiry was in progress, the residents were allotted a total of ninety (90) minutes to meet with the Commissioner during a townhall meeting on June 21, 2006. The minutes of that meeting give the false impression there were no serious problems between natives and residents.
- The lead counsel of the Ipperwash Inquiry successfully defended the West Ipperwash Property Owners Association all the way to the Supreme Court against an invalid land claim. He was, therefore, well aware of the concerns of residents regarding their victimization by native lawlessness, yet refused to allow them to testify or otherwise allow their stories to be told.
- The Inquiry did not hold a single symposium related to the preservation of the rule of law or the prevention of violence against innocent residents.
- In its closing submission, Ontario’s Attorney General told the Inquiry: “There is no jurisprudence, even as it has evolved to date, that supports the view that the concept of “colour of right” entitled the Aazhoodena to act as they did in occupying Ipperwash Provincial Park in September, 1995. ”
- The Inquiry’s final report contained 100 recommendations. Not a single one of them is specifically directed at preventing violence against innocent residents.

On March 14, 2007 we held a news conference at Queen's Park media studio to release 'The Ipperwash Papers,' a collection of over 400 pages of documents that were not published or admitted as evidence to the Inquiry. We supplied the Premier and leaders of the other parties with copies of our press kit which included Mary-Lou LaPratte's chronological history of events in Ipperwash. The government knows the truth – that the Ipperwash Inquiry is a flawed, incomplete and utterly unfair report that covered up the fact that, just as in Caledonia, innocent residents were badly victimized by landclaim lawlessness and the refusal by authorities to enforce the law.

The Liberals are knowingly using a tragically -flawed inquiry to justify the suffering of innocent people caught up in landclaim lawlessness. It's time to expose the Ipperwash cover-up for the good of Ontario and for Canada.

Soldier of Fortune – Protection Racket
An Ontario Judge glosses over illegal Aboriginal acts at Ipperwash
Western Standard magazine – July 02, 2007

“One conclusion, then, is that [Ipperwash Inquiry Commissioner] Linden was selective with the historical record and ignored potentially important testimony, thereby exonerating the protesters. But then, McGuinty's government stands accused of creating pretty much the same conditions in ongoing problem areas such as Caledonia, where Indian protesters have occupied a subdivision since April of 2006.”

Ipperwash Inquiry a shameful cover-up
Joint CaledoniaWakeUpCall/VoiceofCanada media release – September 20, 2007

“Imagine if the government invested \$20M and 3 years on an inquiry into Caledonia, but refused to allow a single resident to testify, and went out of its way to exclude every shred of evidence of native crimes against them? What if this inquiry was then used to justify a ‘hands off’ policy against native lawlessness in another Ontario town? That's the legacy of the Ipperwash Inquiry for Caledonians.”

The people of Caledonia want a full and fair inquiry into the impact of native lawlessness on innocent residents in both Ipperwash and Caledonia. Ontario deserves nothing less.

Additional Information

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Ipperwash Inquiry, Volume 2 – Policy Analysis, Chapter 2, page 29
quoting Gary McHale of CaledoniaWakeUpCall.com, September 14, 2006

“Is it a question that the OPP are completely inept? Is it a question that the OPP are completely clueless? Or is it just that they don't care about the safety of people? Whichever it is, it is time to talk about disbanding the whole OPP force.”