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Illegal Smokeshops and Landclaim Lawlessness

Introduction by Merlyn Kinrade

Thank you for coming here to learn about a very important issue facing the People of Ontario – illegal smoke shops and landclaim lawlessness.

My name is Merlyn Kinrade, and I am a resident of Caledonia. We are here today because of the violent events this past Saturday where law-abiding Canadians peacefully demonstrating at an illegal native smoke shop were viciously assaulted and immediately accused by OPP Commissioner Fantino of being responsible for the attacks upon them before any investigation had even begun.

To my right is Doug Fleming... a resident of Caledonia... whose concern about the illegal smoke shops springing up in his community have caused him to organize several events in Caledonia to help restore Law & Order in Ontario.

To my left is Brian Hagan, also a respected member of the Caledonia community.

To my far left is civil rights activist Gary McHale who has been invited to Caledonia many times by residents, including by Doug Fleming...

The issues of illegal smoke shops are facing many Ontarians. The problem is, however, that the McGuinty Government doesn't seem to want the public to know the extent of the lawlessness that is occurring around the province, let alone act upon it.

On Oct. 6, 2007 a Dr. Schabas who works in the Health department in Belleville announced that he has tried – unsuccessfully - to get the OPP, RCMP and McGuinty government to address the 30 to 50 illegal smoke shops that have opened up near the illegal occupation in Deseronto.

On Nov. 30, 2007, Councilor Smith of Central Frontenac at Sharbot Lake asked the OPP about the illegal smoke shops that have opened up in his community. The OPP response is the same as in Caledonia, "It is under investigation"

As Mr. Fleming will now explain, despite his persistent efforts, the OPP has refused to uphold the laws of Canada in connection with illegal tobacco sales.