

“FantinoGate”
Queen’s Park Media Studio
April 17/07
Road of Hope - Cry for Help by Dancer

For 14 years I have been living on this road, and that's how long I have been alive! But only 13 years have been happy years. Ever since February 28th, 2006 my whole life changed. Having to be almost literally locked inside my own home, I was terrified to even look out my own window. Close your eyes and imagine. You're looking out your own laundry room window and you see the tall beautiful oak trees on your neighbours property, but when you look higher up you see the darkest biggest plume of smoke you have ever seen. You run into the living room to look out that widow and find almost 50 cars lining up and down your street and Natives walking everywhere.

They're pulling in your driveway, not even on the right side of the road, you even see a 12 year old driving a car past, but you can't do anything. You can't call the police because they can't help you. You're locked in your own home. A few days later, when it calms down, you have to go to school.

But you can't get to school by bus anymore so you have to drive a 30 min. ride to school when it only took 2 minutes unless you went through the blockade. But you could only do this if you had a pass, but even when we got one, it was whether they felt like letting you go through or not. If they did let you go, it was like you're in prison, gates everywhere, men with masks over their faces only to see their eyes. Men holding bats some even with guns, it was a living hell. I had to live through that. You don't know what life is like until you have lived through it. I'm a competitive dancer, and love to dance outside on the side lawn, but I wasn't able to unless I could take the pressure of getting stares or firecrackers thrown at me. Now I take medication and go to counseling because of all of this. A 14 year old should not be doing that!

Its these things that hurt, because its not just my family in pain its all of ours on the 6th line. There are 7 children on this road ranging from 10 months to 15 years old.

It's very sad when the 14 and 15 year old are told that if ever a native came into OUR house and tried hurting us and we defended ourselves by fighting back, we would be the ones being arrested! Not the native!

People in Caledonia think its quiet on the sixth line but they have it all wrong! It's nothing like it! People on the 6th line have not had a good night's sleep for over a year now!!! That's sad! This is why we need your help! I'm 14 years old and I will fight with as much power as I have to get police and justice back on my road! I know Mr. Peterson made the mistake of taking it away and it's sad when he can't fix his own mistakes and that I am, a 14 year old girl trying!