

**“FantinoGate”**  
**Queen’s Park Media Studio**  
**April 17/07**  
**Police Service Complaint by Mark Vandermaas**

We have gone to Caledonia simply to defend the civil rights of fellow Canadians, and we have done so legally, peacefully, and non-violently. Our struggle is against Two Tier Justice that the OPP has imposed upon the Resident of Caledonia through Racial Profiling.

Personal I am a former member of the Canadian Forces and United Nations peacekeeper, that I have an obligation to defend the Rule of Law and equality before that law, just as Gary McHale has done, and just as Merlyn Kinrade and 14 year old ‘Dancer’ have done by coming here today.

- We have never committed a single crime in Caledonia.
- We have never encouraged anyone to commit crimes in Caledonia.
- We have never incited hatred against anyone.
- We have never incited violence against anyone.
- Not a single person – police officer or civilian – has ever been hurt at a March for Freedom protest event. Never.

Yet, Mr. Fantino and 3 other officers of the OPP would have you believe otherwise. Between December 16, 2006 and March 17, 2007 these officers have used their positions to make repeated public attacks on our characters with statements they knew or ought to have known were false, including the following:

- disrupting the peace
- agitating residents
- coming in to stir things up
- escalating the situation into what some people wish it would become – a violent confrontation
- escalating potential violence
- totally unhelpful
- mischief-making
- [We have] another agenda
- inciting a breach of the peace
- spewing hate
- committing offences
- abusing your rights
- entering a darkened room where there’s a gas leak & looking for it with a match
- pushing an aggressive political agenda
- promoting hatred
- flaunting the justice system
- inciting violence
- 32 officers have sustained injuries
- irresponsible

- provocative
- [We are] persons with self-centred agendas
- undermining our [OPP] efforts
- legitimate stakeholders do not want “mischief makers” in Caledonia
- [We are] clearly a group that wants to antagonize another group and create mischief
- We wish they would just stay home.
- We have people that don’t live there and their whole interest is to cause trouble.
- We’re prepared to deal with these people in a way that will preserve public safety...and officer safety.

In summary, the OPP and the Ontario Provincial Police Association – the OPPA - have falsely accused us of everything except being co-conspirators in the Kennedy assassination - and not a single bit of it is true.

What IS true is that the OPP have repeatedly violated our Constitutional rights and those of hundreds of other Canadian citizens, rights that are guaranteed by two separate Supreme Court decisions: First, *Ramsden v. Peterborough* of 1993 says we have a right to place items on public utility poles. *Haida Nation v. British Columbia* of 2004 says that the province must find a remedy to Aboriginal land claims without affecting or compromising third party interests.

What IS true is that Commissioner Fantino knows his officers are violating our rights, but seems quite unconcerned – as evidenced by his statement in his recent email to Haldimand Council in which he says,

“I have no intentions of entering into a debate...about Charter rights and freedoms of speech and the like...”

What IS true is that the OPP arrested law-abiding citizens despite knowing they had committed no crimes and intended to commit no crimes.

What IS true is that the OPP have abandoned the people who live on Sixth Line in Caledonia, leaving them with no policing, and afraid in their own homes.

The problem in Caledonia is not that law-abiding, peaceful protesters are provoking trouble; the problem is that the OPP believes – at its very core - that it can override the Charter of Rights at will, and then slander those who speak and protest against their actions.

There have been recent news reports that a complaint has been filed with the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services against Mr. Fantino. I can confirm that on March 21st I filed a complaint through the office of the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services (OCCPS) against four officers of the OPP – including Commissioner Fantino - with respect to their public statements about me.

Since complaints against the Commissioner must be investigated by the Solicitor General, the OCCPS requested a second copy for use by Minister Kwinter’s office, which I submitted on April 2nd. A copy of this complaint is included on your information disk.

I was not planning to release a copy of my complaint to the public, however, Mr. Fantino’s April 7th email to Haldimand Council concerned me greatly.

I was very concerned when I realized that Mr. Fantino had again repeated his false innuendo that we were responsible for injuries to his officers.

I was very concerned when I saw that Commissioner Fantino was prepared to use threats and intimidation against the elected officials of Haldimand County to preserve the fiction that law-abiding Canadians like us who peacefully speak out against injustice are a danger to our fellow citizens. That the head of a police force could think he has the authority to influence elected officials in an attempt to discredit law-abiding citizens is simply beyond the pale in the democracy I thought I lived in.

Lastly, I was very concerned that Commissioner Fantino felt comfortable enough to share his defamatory statements about us, not only with Haldimand Council, but with eleven other government employees – including high-ranking officials inside the Premier’s office.

Tony Dean (CAB) Secretary of the Cabinet  
Chris Morley (OPO) Premier’s Office (press secretary)  
Peter Wilkinson (OPO) Chief of Staff to the Premier

It has become clear to me that Commissioner Fantino has no intention of restraining himself or his officers from spreading misinformation and scurrilous innuendo about those who choose to join Mr. McHale in lawful protests against the OPP. It is for this reason I felt compelled to release my complaint to you today, so that you may know – and hopefully – share the truth about who is “flaunting the justice system” and who is not.

**Mark Vandermaas, Editor**  
**VoiceofCanada**  
**info@voiceofcanada.ca**  
**519.457.0709**