

“FantinoGate”
Queen’s Park Media Studio
April 17/07
Police Service Complaint by Merlyn Kinrade

The second reason that I am here is because Mr. Fantino is attempting to control the voice of my elected Councilor member Mr. Craig Grice.

Today I will be filing a Police Service Complaint with Monte Kwinter to ask whether Mr. Fantino has the authority to intimidate and threaten elected officials in the Province of Ontario. There are 3 parts that I ask to be investigated:

1. Conspiracy to influence decisions & statements of my elected representatives
2. Attempt to interfere with Charter rights and duties of my elected representatives
3. Intimidation of my elected representatives

In my view the very heart of Democracy is under attack when the head of a 7500 member police force is permitted to believe that he has the right and authority to silence democratically elected people.

Every person who has ever ran for office should be outraged to think that they too may one day be targeted by Mr. Fantino or any police department in an attempt to silence the Voice of the People.

Until Mr. Fantino is removed as OPP Commissioner there will always be a cloud of suspicion that my elected council member's vote is influenced because of Mr. Fantino's threats. How do I, or anyone in Caledonia, know for sure that Mr. Grice will speak his mind and represent his riding when Mr. Fantino has been so clear about his secret 'mutual understanding' that he has with council.

What exactly is this 'mutual understanding' and just how long has Haldimand Council had such an 'understanding' with Mr. Fantino.

I served my Country in the Royal Canadian Navy for 5 years to preserve the Freedoms and the Values that Canadians hold so dear. Now, to see that in Ontario the Top Cop believes he can intimidate those who represent the People is completely unacceptable.

It already appears that Mr. Fantino's intimidation has worked because my elected council Mr. Grice has now publicly stated that he doesn't support the March for Freedom. However the fact is that Mr. Grice has been to each one and agreed with

Mr. McHale to be at the Jan. 20th Flag raising Event for moral support and also to be available for Media Interviews to help get the message out.

Mr. Grice did appear on Jan. 20th to the Flag raising Event and spoke with the residents on Chris Syrie's property as they tried to raise the Canadian Flag.

What suddenly happened to cause Mr. Grice to publicly state that he is against the Marches after taking part in the Jan. 20th march and making himself available to media?

This is truly a sad day for democracy in Ontario when it appears that my elected official has given in to Mr. Fantino's intimidation.

Where is my Voice now?

Who speaks for me in Haldimand County?

I believed it was Councilor Grice.

Because of this there will always be a cloud of suspicion on whether Councilor Grice is free to speak and free to vote his conscience.

I call upon Mr. McGuinty to ask for Mr. Fantino's immediate resignation.

Now I would like to introduce to you a young lady, who we call Dancer, who is demonstrating real courage today by appearing here to speak about the failure of the OPP to police 6th Line in Caledonia. She and her family live in fear because of the failures of the OPP & the McGuinty Government.

After hearing Dancer's story I just hope Mr. McGuinty has the compassion to finally take some steps to ensure policing on 6th Line.

I now hand it over to Dancer.