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Ryerson Review of Journalism: *Disputed Land, Failed Coverage*

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The Ryerson Review of Journalism is a prestigious publication recognized as an authority on Canadian journalism. Their Summer 2008 edition commends coverage by CANACE co-founders Gary McHale and Mark Vandermaas, and quotes Mr. McHale on the failure of media to speak out against injustice:

"I'm only involved because the media failed. That's my fundamental statement I have made to the public many times," says McHale. "I would not exist if the media had done their job. In a democracy, it's the media that finally puts the pressure on governments - and it's not happening in Caledonia."



When local media fail to cover important issues, or cover only one side of them, readers inevitably have to look elsewhere. In Caledonia, many go to Caledoniawakeupcall.com, created by Gary McHale. He has taken it upon himself to fight a perceived lack of law and order, subjecting himself to hatred, ridicule and near bankruptcy in a debate he can't tear himself away from..

And even reporters are impressed. "I think he's done a really, really good job of putting any information that he can get his hands on out there for people to read," say Dawson [Sachem Reporter]. "Really, if people didn't have that they'd be in the dark even more than they are."

McHale and his friend Mark Vandermaas, who runs a site called Voiceofcanada.ca, don't live in Caledonia, but are well-known figures in the community. Both sites link to hundreds of stories about the conflict, and they are opposed to the way protesters behave and how the dispute is policed.

We would like to thank the Ryerson Review of Journalism for covering the important topic of how the media have failed the people of Caledonia. The Review calls us 'citizen journalists' for doing what media have failed to do – provide the public with information. It has been our stated position all along that the Mainstream Media in Toronto refuse to cover the stories which in turn has allowed the OPP to institutionalize Two Tier Justice, and allowed McGuinty to remain unaccountable for permitting lawlessness to exist in the province of Ontario.

After over a year of repeated attempts by Commissioner Fantino to defame us, it is nice to have such a prestigious journal give us the credit for doing what paid media failed to do. This is why McGuinty has allowed Fantino to attack us for so long – out of fear the public would become informed about the truth of Two Tier Justice. An informed public is dangerous to politicians who lie and cover up for themselves.

The problems in Caledonia have certainly been exacerbated due to the failure of Toronto media but the problems run much deeper. Two Tier Justice is institutionalized within all levels of Government and is firmly within both the Liberal and Conservative parties. Neither party is innocent of violating the basic Charter of Rights tenet that ALL are equal before the law regardless of race. This is why you rarely hear anything from the Conservatives federally or provincially, and this is why the battle is so important to win. Racist policies have no place in the OPP or in the Government.