

**New Directions in Aboriginal Policy
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<http://blogs.mtroyal.ca/fwiddowson/new-directions-forums/>

Gary McHale (Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality)

info@canace.ca
289.286.0423

BIO

In 2006, Gary created CaledoniaWakeUpCall.com in response to the failure of mainstream media to accurately report the facts of Caledonia. The site has more than 14,000 news stories and documents related to the rule of law during aboriginal land claim disputes which have been read by over 1.1 million visitors.

Gary formed CANACE (Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality) in 2007 as a grassroots movement to restore the rule of law in Ontario based on the principles that all citizens are deserving of equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination. Elections Canada registered Gary's occupation as a Civil Rights Activist for his independent candidacy in the 2008 Federal election in which he received 5000 votes - primarily from Caledonia and Haldimand County.

Gary has been: jailed overnight without charge for attempting to raise a Canadian flag; assaulted and hospitalized; the victim of baseless character attacks in news releases and public statements by Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Fantino and other government officials; received numerous death threats; denied legal counsel and rental accommodations out of fear of reprisals by aboriginal protesters and, since December 2007 has faced criminal prosecution on a charge that the arresting officers, Crown attorney and pre-trial judge all stated they have never heard of.

He is also being sued for \$7.1 million by officers of the Ontario Provincial Police because he publicly accused them of failing to uphold their oath of office.

Despite some media outlets having been threatened by the Ontario Government for publishing interviews with him, Gary has been interviewed more than 700 times, and has been featured nationally by the CBC, National Post, Globe and Mail as well as conducting interviews with radio and print journalists from almost every province in Canada. Gary has authored the *Cost of Native Occupations*, and co-authored *Legalized Myths of Illegal Occupations and The Human Cost of Illegal Occupations*, these reports have been downloaded more than 86,000 times.

OUTLINE

The Face of Aboriginal Sovereignty vs the Rule of Law in Caledonia (245 words)

The romantic vision of Aboriginal sovereignty has been shattered by the reality of the events in both Caledonia and Ipperwash where the rule of law was subordinated to ad hoc Aboriginal demands based not on the concept of equality and due process, but on cultural superiority and criminal behaviour. The end result has been chaos, violence, destruction, and disruption of economic development.

The United Nations states, "Establishing respect for the rule of law is fundamental to achieving a durable peace in the aftermath of conflict, to the effective protection of human rights, and to sustained economic progress and development. The principle that everyone – from the individual right up to the State itself – is accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, is a fundamental concept which drives much of the United Nations work."

Unfortunately, governments have acted out of fear of Aboriginal extremism, and out of guilt for past wrongs, replacing the rule of law with appeasement to ensure peace at any cost. This ensures that future violence will occur, and guarantees communities will live in fear and resentment instead of co-existing in peace and co-operation.

Gone are the days of people being a law unto themselves such as we have seen in Caledonia and Ipperwash. If Aboriginal communities who seek more autonomy wish to be taken seriously then they need to accept the responsibility of establishing written laws and enforcing them – for their own protection and those of their neighbours.