

Subject: CNW Group Release Confirmation - Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs - Open Letter

Transmitted At: 2006-10-13 20:23

Attention News Editors:
Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs - Open Letter

TORONTO, Oct. 13 /CNW/ -
October 13, 2006

Dear Residents:

Events that have unfolded in Caledonia over the past months have caused great strain within your local communities. Over the past several months, all parties have worked hard to rebuild trust and mutual respect, and negotiations are underway.

I recognize that many local residents and leaders are not in support of the rally planned for this coming weekend. However, I also recognize the public has a right to engage in peaceful protest.

I am concerned that the proposed rally on Sunday, October 15, poses a potential risk to public safety. Should some parties feel the rally is the appropriate channel to express their views, in the interests of safety, I urge all participants to let this rally take place in a peaceful manner.

In addition, I have had discussions with and written to the chief representative of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations to ensure they understand that the province has not provided permission for additional persons to be on the Douglas Creek Estates site. I have urged the chief representative to find an alternate location for the planned Sunday picnic on the site.

I know that all affected communities share the principles of human decency, respect and neighbourliness. I am confident that when neighbours and concerned citizens abide by the principles of peace, respect and friendship, progress can continue to be achieved.

Ontario will continue to work with Canada and the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations to resolve this matter peacefully through dedication, perseverance and goodwill.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Ramsay

Minister

For further information: Anne-Marie Flanagan, Press Secretary to Minister

David Ramsay, tel. (416) 327-0654