

McGuinty's Government – Corruption at its Best

Or How to Chip Away at Democracy Until it Doesn't Exist Anymore

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By Christine McHale

The McGuinty Government has come out with a front pager of an announcement this week, just in time for Christmas don't you know.

Ipperwash Provincial Park will be handed over to First Nations in keeping with recommendations in the Ipperwash Inquiry. And to be sure, if the land in question was in fact taken away from the natives with a promise that it would be returned then this would be the right thing to do.

Too bad McGuinty didn't make that promise, but then again, if he did, the natives wouldn't have had a hope in hell since we all know McGuinty can't keep his promises.

So what's the latest promise to be broken by McGuinty?

Remember that oh so famous promise made way back in 2003, during the election campaign, where McGuinty looked us all right in our eyes (through the magic of TV of course) and promised he would NOT raise our taxes?

Well faster than you can say "your bum's out the window", (old Irish saying) – McGuinty broke his promise and brought in the infamous health tax, one of the single biggest tax hikes in the history of Ontario.

To appease the disgruntled tax payer of Ontario McGuinty switched to the appeasement platform and promised to review the health tax. And to be sure, he went one step further by passing a law that would make sure he reviewed the health tax.

Feeling appeased and safe yet?

Well don't hold your breath. McGuinty is now saying that..... wait for it..... reviewing the health tax would be a redundant thing to do since he needs the \$2.7 billion the health tax brings in, and even if the review were to go ahead it would be voted down and the health tax would be kept.

And what's even worse, yes it does get worse, is that although McGuinty says he knows it is law that the health tax is to be reviewed, he will simply change that law, or rather, pass a new law voiding and nullifying the first law.

Sound familiar?

Remember the court ordered injunction issued by Justice Marshall in Cayuga, way back in March of 2006, ordering native protesters off land they occupied in Caledonia (the Douglas Creek Estates or DCE for short)?

Remember how McGuinty bought out the DCE in order to get around having to obey a court order?

Remember the warnings that were given by legal experts that this could set a dangerous legal precedent in that anyone facing an injunction against their property would simply sell said property to get around having to comply with a court ruling?

And remember the words of Justice Marshall when he said that disobeying the court doesn't just weaken the court, it destroys it?

Since that little fiasco, court ordered injunctions have been ignored at the native occupation of a uranium mining site near Sharbot Lake in Ontario and most recently, in Cayuga, at a land fill sight to the point where the owner of the site is trying to sell the land and just get out of there.

This latest proposed move by McGuinty does even further damage. By passing laws that are never intended to be obeyed and later passing more laws to get around the first set of laws doesn't just weaken democracy, it destroys it.

Our courts and our parliamentary system are the backbone of our democracy. By circumventing court orders and laws, the very foundations of our democracy are chipped away until we will, one day, suddenly wake up and find we no longer have a democracy.

Remember, the definition of democracy is government of the people, for the people, by the people. We the people are in fact the democracy. Which is why democracy can never be relegated to a spectator even. We all have to be involved and not just at election time.

Democracy is not simply defined as having elections. China, North Korea, Iran all have elections, yet no one would call these countries democracies. Not by the wildest stretch of the imagination.

Democracy is also not, "Vote me into power so I can stick my fingers in my ears, saying I can't hear you and I go on doing what I want – Screw You!"

But in the McGuinty Government way of doing things that is what we have.

Ontarians had a chance to turf the corrupt, lying McGuinty Government out on October 10, 2007, but we were fixated on faith based school funding so much, a proposal that was meant to make things fair and square, (even the United Nations decried Ontario's school funding system), we re-elected a government that has, and continues to demolish democracy.

And one final thing to remember. When a government introduces a new tax, it never gets rid of it. It might rename the tax, change it around a bit, but you can bet your bottom dollar you will be stuck with paying that tax till the day you die. Which is why in life, there are only two things that are 100% for sure, Death and Taxes!