

Extortion: McGuinty Fails Big Time

**By Christine McHale
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Things in Brantford were just ratcheted up by Six Nations, according to a developer of a small housing development. Mike Quattrociocchi said Six Nations demanded he pay them \$48,000.00, or 4% of the cost of his development for him to be allowed to continue developing. Mr. Quattrociocchi said this is extortion and he will not pay a penny. On top of the \$48,000.00, he was told he would also have to pay \$7,000.00 for a development application fee. In Mr. Quattrociocchi's own words, he said, "If a bunch of Italians asked for \$48,000 and then said you can go ahead with your project, it would be called the Mafia. What I experienced was not negotiating. It was extortion."

The developer says he will not pay and will continue building his houses. He fully expects the police to enforce the law and for the provincial and federal governments to deal with this the way it should be dealt with.

Those familiar with this story will already realize that McGuinty has failed. He failed to deal with the issue in Caledonia, in Hagersville, in Dunnville, in Desoronto and at a mining site near Sharbot Lake.

Yes the federal government is responsible for land claims issues involving aboriginal groups, but the provincial government is solely responsible for policing in Ontario. The McGuinty government failed when they refused to obey two court orders, the one in Caledonia and the one for the mining company near Sharbot Lake, ordering natives off land they are occupying, thereby preventing work from continuing on the land.

McGuinty even went so far as to buy the DCE land in Caledonia to get around the court order. Justice Marshall said, of the flaunting of his court order in Caledonia, that this doesn't just weaken the court, it destroys it. Now the same thing is happening near Sharbot Lake.

McGuinty hasn't just weakened courts in Ontario, he is well on his way to destroying their authority by ignoring court orders and allowing police to do the same.

And if all this isn't bad enough, now the McGuinty government is saying it will not help developers who are caught in the middle of aboriginal land disputes. Developers will have to find their own solutions.

What a cop out! And how typically irresponsible and downright stupid of McGuinty.

In the case of the developer in Brantford, he did everything he was supposed to do. Filled out all the right papers, paid all the fees he was supposed to pay and now he's being told he's on his own. McGuinty won't even help with respect to making sure law and order is being enforced. This, in itself, would go a long, long, long way to helping builders.

The Brantford developer in question here hasn't even asked for monetary help, yet. All he wants right now is for the law to be upheld, enforced so he doesn't have to put up with extortion. And to be sure, extortion is a **CRIMINAL OFFENCE**. In Mr. Quattrociocchi's words, what he's being subjected to by Six Nations would be called the Mafia, and we all know the government has dealt with the Mafia before and will continue to deal with them again in the enforcement of law and order. So why not do the same with Six Nations?

For McGuinty to expect developers to find their own solutions is downright dangerous. When people become desperate they do desperate things. When private citizens feel they have no other recourse but to take the law into their own hands things can quickly get out of hand and people can get seriously hurt, even killed.

Lars Eddy of the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs said developers facing heat from natives for building on disputed land "should proceed" with their projects. In response to the event of a confrontation, he said, "That's between the developers, it's their property ..."

Between the developers and who?

"The Six Nations."

So is this what we can expect from the McGuinty government? A total ignorance of the rule of law when it comes to aboriginal land claims, and for developers caught in the middle to start taking the law into their own hands because the government refuses to uphold the rule of law?

Since conservative governments generally take law and order issues more seriously than liberal governments, it's time John Tory takes a firm stand in the election campaign, on this issue specifically, and on law and order in general.

So far, this election campaign has produced one predominant issue, that of faith based school funding, but if you can't even build a school or housing around a school because a land claim by aboriginals has taken over and has been allowed to flaunt the rule of law, all the faith based funding pales in comparison.

The primary role of government is to protect its people. This is done by having a military to protect from invasion by hostile forces. It is also done by having police forces to protect law abiding people from those who break laws and thereby, harm law abiding people.

The people of Ontario have a very important decision to make before October 10. They must decide if they want to continue having a government that not only flaunts the court but allows police, who are under the jurisdiction of the government to do the same, or they must elect a government that will not be afraid to deal with law breakers. A government who will enforce the Rule of Law equally for all people in Ontario. In order to be able to do this, the people of Ontario must know that there is a better choice than to re-elect the McGuinty government.

Mr. John Tory, please step up and tell us, the voters of Ontario, what you will do when developers are threatened, even though they have done everything right, when they are told to pay extortion money in order to be allowed to continue doing what they have been told by the government to do in the first place.

We're waiting to hear from you.