

Yo Fantino! What Ya Been Smokin Man?

**By Christine McHale
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It was with much tongue biting that I read the news story about the arrest of the Greenpeace demonstrators, by the OPP, for chaining themselves to the coal ship trying to deliver coal to Nanticoke.

I had a real struggle with whether I should laugh or cry. I finally decided to treat this with a logical approach.

Why on earth would OPP Commish Julian Fantino make such utterly hypocritical statements as the following in regards to the Greenpeace incident:

"This was dangerous," he said. "It's using young people and putting them at risk. It terrorized the people on the coal ship, put our officers in harm's way and put the very foundation of the province's power supply at risk."

Any "sabotage" of the power supply, he said, is not acceptable."

Fantino also stated, "Just think of all of the resources at great cost we have had to pull in from elsewhere in the province to deal with this nonsense."

Wow! Strong words. Too bad they were uttered by the province's biggest hypocrite. That might be second biggest since McGuinty is probably a bigger hypocrite.

Why hypocrite you ask? Well, let's see. According to Fantino, the people on the coal ship were "terrorized". Guess the residents in Caledonia were NOT terrorized by renegade native protesters occupying the Douglas Creek Estates since February 2006.

Fantino claims his officers were put in harm's way by the Greenpeace protesters and bemoaned "all of the resources at great cost we have had to pull in from elsewhere in the province to deal with this nonsense." Guess his officers were NOT put in harm's way by renegade native protesters when they burned a bridge, destroyed a power sub-station, dug up a road, blockaded roads and the railway in Caledonia, attempted to run over an OPP officer with an SUV, attacked US border patrol officers a news camera crew and a senior couple.

Oh wait a minute, Fantino may be right that his officers were NOT put in harm's way by the renegade native protesters since they just stood by and watched the criminal goings on. With the Greenpeace incident, his officers moved right in and got the job of upholding rule of law done. Right away even. No "we'll warn you first before we move in and remove you."

As for "all the resources at great cost" comment, yes Fantino, we ARE thinking of the \$80 million plus cost to pull in resources into Caledonia to NOT [properly] deal with that nonsense.

Fantino went on to say the Greenpeace protesters "put the very foundation of the province's power supply at risk", and "Any "sabotage" of the power supply is not acceptable."

Well then, the logical conclusion here is that if you're a native and you put the very foundation of the province's power supply at risk by stopping construction of a windmill farm, by

occupying a uranium mining site which would supply uranium to power our nuclear power plants, then the "sabotage" of the power supply IS acceptable. Must be, since, after all no natives have been arrested for these activities.

Certainly the destruction of the power sub-station in Caledonia must have been acceptable since no strong words of condemnation issued forth from Fantino's flapping lips.

What's even more astounding, is that even with a court injunction to remove the native occupiers on the Frontenac Ventures mining site near Sharbot Lake, the OPP did the following instead, they participated in a First Nations pipe ceremony, passed around an eagle feather and participated in a telling circle.

Me thinks what this really means is they smoked something and talked in circles.

Could it be that Fantino sneaked in and smoked something too? Maybe THAT'S the REAL explanation for his bizarre behaviour?

Fantino's been smoking something, we're not sure what though, but it must be some real cool stuff to send him into such a hallucinatory ramble.

Maybe it's the eagle feather? Got bird flu virus on it or something and it's affected his brain.

Maybe it's the telling circle. You know what starts to happen after you talk in circles long enough? You start to believe your own B.S.

No matter whether you agree or disagree with what Greenpeace did, if they broke the law, which they did when they boarded the coal ship (that's trespassing at the very least), they should have been arrested. No one should be above the law. The rule of law must prevail, but it must prevail for all, not just non-native protesters.

If Fantino and the OPP wanted to show that they know how to enforce the rule of law with respect to protesters, they did that, to be sure, when they arrested the Greenpeace protesters. But, by so doing, they showed us clearly that they believe in and practice Two Tier Justice.

Wonder what would have happened if the protesters who chained themselves to the coal ship were native protesters? Wonder what harsh, condemning words Fantino would have had for them and their organizers after his officers arrested them?

Now I'm dreaming, or smoke has been drifting in from someplace and it's affected by brain!