

## **Kenora: Beware Fantino bearing gifts**

April 15, 2008

For those of us in the South, we are unaware that the Kenora City Council is currently thinking of heading down a path of no return. Last week OPP Commissioner Fantino visited this community northwest of Thunder Bay to sell them on the idea of switching from local policing to the OPP. As such we would like to send the residents of Kenora one strong message:

### **DON'T DO IT.**

Sure, the OPP may tell you they will save you a few bucks and claim to provide a better service but the dangers of allowing yourself to be controlled by Fantino and his Police State mentality will cost you far more than a few dollars.

### **Mr. Fantino Threatens Elected Officials:**

Let's start with your local council members for example. Once the OPP are in charge all local council members will have to accept the OPP Party line and be subject to Mr. Fantino's absolute control over them. You may say that this cannot be true in Canada but just ask Mayor Trainer of Haldimand County: Mayor Trainer has appeared on radio and TV publicly stating how Mr. Fantino threatened her council via an email dated April 7, 2007. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation called upon Mr. Fantino to be fired as did NDP Justice Critic Peter Kormos.

No longer will your council members be allowed to speak on behalf of those who voted them into office if Mr. Fantino becomes the head of your police force. Mr. Fantino is on public record stating he is willing to threaten lawsuits against individual council members who speak out against OPP policies. He has no problem threatening to remove all police services from any community because he doesn't like a council member's political views. Also, the direct threat of downloading millions of dollars of police expenses onto local councils keeps all the other council members in line.

Read Mr. Fantino's threatening Email to Haldimand Council – [Link](#)

April 13, 2007 – Mayor Trainer on AM640 – [Link](#)

Apr 19, 2007 – MPP Peter Kormos on CHML states Fantino should be fired - [Link](#)

Apr 13, 2007 – Canadian Taxpayers Federation Press Release - [Link](#)

Public views of Residents in response to Mr. Fantino's Email – [Link](#), [Link](#), [Link](#)

To contact Mayor Trainer: 905 318 5932 ext 202, email: [mayor@haldimandcounty.on.ca](mailto:mayor@haldimandcounty.on.ca)

### **Mr. Fantino bullies other Police Forces:**

Mr. Fantino doesn't limit himself just to trying to control elected officials but also every member of society. This includes attempting to bully police officers from other departments into being silent.

In February 2007 Mr. Fantino attempted to have a Hamilton Police Officer disciplined because this officer exercised his right to Free Speech. In Mr. Fantino's world view the idea of Free Speech has little value to him. This Hamilton Police Officer had to hire a lawyer to defend his right to Free Speech in a country where we believe we have a Charter Right to speak out. In the end the Hamilton Police Department cleared this officer of any wrong doing but it became clear that in Ontario, Free Speech is only what Commissioner Fantino will allow. The public rallied to support this Hamilton Police Officer - [Link](#) To this day Mr. Fantino publicly states this officer was wrong even after being cleared which only demonstrates his contempt for other Police Forces' investigational skills and for the decision making ability of the Chief of Police in Hamilton.

For more information see - [Link](#).

Here is a quote that was released to the public at the time by the officer's sister:

**I am truly saddened by the OPP Commissioner's attempts to bully my brother into submission. As his sister I would like you to know that this will never happen. David is true to his word and his beliefs and will deal with whatever comes his way with honour.**

Mr. Fantino is currently facing a lawsuit by a Toronto Police Officer alleging that he was a victim of negligent investigation and malicious prosecution by Fantino - [Link](#). You can read the actual lawsuit here: [Link](#)

A former RCMP Staff Sergeant publicly states that Mr. Fantino is a bully and abuses his position of power. The following words are from this ex-RCMP Officer, which he sent to me to be released publicly regarding his direct knowledge of the actions of Mr. Fantino.

**I am a former RCMP Staff Sergeant presently living in Edmonton Alberta. My name is Bob Stenhouse and I was dismissed from the RCMP in 2002 for being a whistleblower, and then re-instated by the Federal Court of Canada in 2004 due to the abuse of process on my disciplinary case. While I do not know of your politics or position but I did want you to be aware of how Mr. Fantino's apparent inappropriate abuse of power seems to be a part of his personal make-up, which I am deeply concerned may border on the psychological make-up of what experts in the field would call a chronic bully. [Link to full text](#)**

### **Mr. Fantino treats the public with the same bully tactics:**

It is hard to track the number of lawsuits filed against Mr. Fantino directly due to his inability to understand that in Canada we have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that police departments are not permitted to violate.

Mr. Fantino's record of violating people's rights is growing by the month. Currently Mr. Fantino has been requested to appear before the Ontario Human Rights Commission because of his role, and that of his officers, in the illegal arrest of Mark Vandermaas. As one media outlet stated it, "Vandermaas is a former United Nations peacekeeper and full-time activist working to stop violence and OPP civil rights violations during native land claims." [Link to news story](#), [Link to Human Rights Complaint](#). This is not the only Human Rights complaint that the OHRC is investigating regarding Mr. Fantino's actions in the past 2 years.

But Mr. Fantino is no stranger to various groups pointing out his habit of violating people's rights based on their Race. In 2004 Toronto media were covering the stories regarding Mr. Fantino's actions in the Black community. In a story by Toronto Now Magazine we find two headers in the story of great interest - "*A law under himself*" and "*Two tier policing*" with the following words as part of the story: [Link](#)

**Fantino's disdain for civilian oversight is well documented. While at the helm, he tried to slip changes through the police services board that would have seen him unilaterally decide when and under what circumstances the police watchdog special investigation unit (SIU) is called in to probe incidents involving police.**

### **Mr. Fantino's disrespect for the Courts:**

In the past two years only Mr. Fantino has shown a complete disregard for Court Injunctions, Supreme Court rulings and standard procedures when arresting and charging Canadian Citizens.

Not only has Mr. Fantino refused to enforce court injunctions throughout the Province (CN Rail in Deseronto and Frontenac Ventures near Kingston), but in court testimony it was revealed that OPP officers directly encouraged Native Protesters to barricade and occupy privately owned land.

This has been seen in Caledonia as well, where OPP officers tell people Native Protesters have 'colour of right' to occupy title deeded land that is in private ownership. The problem Mr. Fantino and the OPP officers have is that the courts have repeatedly rejected this falsehood because in Canada we have laws that uphold the land deed system.

Not only does Mr. Fantino fail to uphold deeded land even when the courts have issued an order, he targets individual Canadians for illegal arrests and imprisonment which has become the basis of two Human Rights investigations.

In December 2006, OPP officers arrested a resident in Caledonia claiming the local Baptist Church complained that he was trespassing. This turned out to be a lie. They placed this resident in jail and issued a press release that appears more as a statement of defamation than a police report. A year later an OPP officer in court would deny the whole event and give a completely different story than what the Press Release states. [See notice of lawsuit filed by this resident](#)

Also in December 2006 Mr. Fantino himself contacted the Attorney General's office to set in motion events that would lead to the false arrest and imprisonment of two people. For two weeks senior OPP officers and lawyers planned out how they could arrest a Canadian citizen without charge and forcing that person into court to attempt to place bail conditions on him.

Both the Crown and the Judge in Hamilton rejected the OPP's authority to do this and the Canadian citizen was ordered released. An OPP Police Complaint Report outlines step by step how Mr. Fantino and senior OPP officers conspired for two weeks to do what later they would report using the following words:

“The unconventional approach on the detention and bail without charge on an arrest following a breach of the peace is not commonly known or used by the police community.” [Full Report](#)

Quite the understatement since both the Crown and Judge rejected the OPP's authority to do what they did. In fact, in the same OPP report there are five OPP Officers who question what authority they had to imprison this person without any criminal charges. Despite the seedy practices used against this man, OPP investigators cleared all officers of any wrongdoing.

A year later, on December 01, 2007, while media were running a video clip showing a person being attacked which resulted in him and one other being sent to the hospital, it was Mr. Fantino who issued a press release – before any investigation had even begun - telling the public that the victim of this attack would be the person that the full weight of the law would come down upon. No word in the press release about the attackers. While the victim was still bleeding the OPP were reading him his rights claiming he was going to be charged with assault even though he had assaulted no one, unlike the thugs who attacked at least 5 OPP officers they fought their way through the police line to attack the victim man.

Once the OPP realized the media was running the video of the attack they quickly changed their mind and charged the victim with 'counseling mischief not committed' instead. This is like charging a woman who has been raped with trespassing because she is in the wrong part of town.

Under Mr. Fantino's leadership the OPP lay criminal charges and target Canadian Citizens for arrest because of their Race. Virtually everyone has publicly acknowledged this except Mr. Fantino himself and the McGuinty Government that employs him.

Below is a motion put before the Haldimand Council by the local MPP Toby Barrett titled "*HALDIMAND PROCLAMATION FOR PEACE, ORDER AND GOOD GOVERNMENT*"

**February 2008**

**WHEREAS, since February 28, 2006, people across Haldimand County and beyond have been subjected to arson, extortion, barricades, land seizures, occupations, militant protests, and related harassment, intimidation, mob violence and threats to public safety.**

**AND WHEREAS, the community safety, social and economic life, of Haldimand and neighbouring residents, has declined because of the climate of fear, chaos and uncertainty generated by various acts of lawlessness and related intimidation.**

**AND WHEREAS, there is a perception, and evidence, of two categories of law, of justice, of police protection, and government action based on one's race and geographical location within Haldimand County and beyond.**

**AND WHEREAS, the lawlessness, and the less than adequate prevention and response on the part of police and other government authorities regarding these illegal acts appears to be tolerated, and perhaps condoned, by provincial and federal government policy.**

**AND WHEREAS, both the provincial and federal governments have legislative, regulatory, enforcement, decision-making and policy-making capability beyond the mandate and scope of Haldimand County.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Haldimand County, in support of all of its residents, proclaim and request, with utmost urgency, that the following actions be taken where mandated at the provincial and federal level:**

**(1) Restore police patrol, response and enforcement as well as justice, order and the rule of law, including court injunctions, throughout Haldimand County regardless of one's race or geographical location.**

**(2) Cease all land dispute negotiations and related actions until extortion, and illegal occupations and protests are terminated.**

**(3) Budget and publicly set timelines and deadlines to continue to resolve legitimate land disputes expeditiously within a climate of openness, mutual respect, and justice for all affected.**

**(4) Compensate individuals, businesses and the municipality for loss, insecurity, economic decline, and any other collateral damage stemming from provincial and federal decisions and policy, or lack thereof, that have eroded peace, order and good government in Haldimand County and beyond.**

**How does Commissioner Fantino get away with turning Ontario into a Police State?**

The answer to this question is quite simply the fact that the OPP are no longer a police force. Even Mr. Fantino has informed the public that the OPP are peacekeepers, not police officers.

Mr. Fantino was appointed by McGuinty and the OPP have become the enforcement arm of a political party instead of upholders of the Criminal Code and Charter of Rights.

For the first time in Ontario's history people filed police service complaints against a Commissioner of the OPP. In fact, in the spring of 2007 six complaints were filed against Mr. Fantino for various abuses of his power. Of course, McGuinty's Government cleared Mr. Fantino of all wrongdoing without performing any investigation into the complaints.

Monte Kwinter, then the Attorney General of Ontario, hired a consultant to advise how to go about handling complaints against a Commissioner. Since Ontario had never had any such complaints, the process of what to do was untested.

The consultant's task was solely to inform Mr. Kwinter on how to proceed with the complaints. Prior to any report being written Mr. Kwinter informed the media that he had reviewed the evidence and studied the reports and cleared Mr. Fantino of any wrong doing. Even the consultant was surprised that Mr. Fantino had been publicly cleared since he was still gathering information. In fact, the consultant phoned Mayor Trainer to ask her more questions, and it was Mayor Trainer who informed the consultant that Mr. Fantino had already been cleared. Later the same day Mayor Trainer received a phone call from the consultant informing her that he 'had to write the report as instructed' and that there was no further reason for him to gather evidence.

Mayor Trainer appeared before the Ontario Ombudsman to provide evidence that showed the facts above. Unfortunately, by law, the Ombudsman's office cannot review police matters but that did not stop the Ombudsman from letting the public know how unhappy he was over how Mr. Kwinter had privately investigated the whole event.

The following news stories speak about the Ombudsman's displeasure with this whole affair – [CBC](#), [Toronto Star](#), [Hamilton Spectator](#).

This is why Mr. Fantino operates without fear - because his political masters are well aware of his abuses of people's Charter Rights and Human Rights. Any review of the past 15 months would show how Mr. Fantino has become the mouthpiece and 'enforcer' for the McGuinty government. It was Mr. Fantino who spent weeks blaming the Federal Government for Caledonia after McGuinty's public statement on the issue.

The OPP has become the public arm to enforce the political will of the McGuinty Government. This is clearly seen in the fact that the Commissioner felt it important to send copies of his threatening email to Haldimand Council to senior members of McGuinty's Government including Tony Dean (Secretary of the Cabinet), Chris Morley (McGuinty's Press Secretary), and Peter Wilkinson (McGuinty's Chief of Staff). Exactly why did the Commissioner feel these people needed to know he was threatening Haldimand Council and more importantly, how did they react?

### **Conclusions:**

The people of Kenora are free to decide anything they want regarding their police service. That is the great thing about democracy. However, once Mr. Fantino is in charge of policing, you may as well forfeit your Charter Rights because as soon as anyone speaks out you will see the full weight of the police force used to silence you.

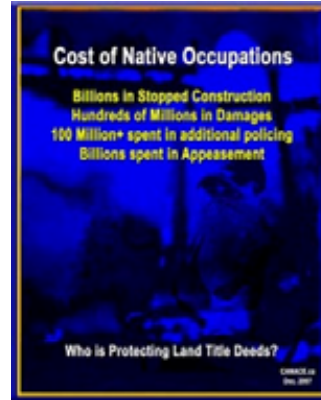
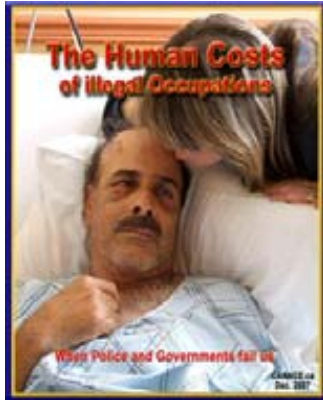
Mr. Fantino has built a record on threatening elected officials, other police officers and the rights of individual Canadian Citizens. In short, Mr. Fantino rejects the whole idea of accountability, the freedoms guaranteed by the Charter of Rights, and the fundamentals of Human Rights. If you

welcome the OPP into your town in order to save a few dollars, you may well realize – too late – that the price of those savings has come at too high a price.

All I can say is...Beware Fantino bearing gifts.

For more information see [Link](#).

The following reports will provide information regarding the failures of the OPP – just click on the photos:



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**Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality**

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News Report of Fantino's visit to Kenora - [Link](#)  
Link to Kenora City Council - [Link](#)

#### **KENORA CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFO**

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