



CALEDONIA CITIZENS ALLIANCE
905.765.3993
www.caledoniacitizensalliance.com

November 7, 2006

McMaster University
Dr. Peter George
President, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L8

Re: McMaster University website notice soliciting donations for protesters at Douglas Creek Estates, Caledonia.

Dear Dr. George:

I am writing to seek clarification regarding a notice on the McMaster University website I recently encountered. On the web page for the University's Indigenous Studies Program, I found a notice that is soliciting donations for the protesters at the housing development known as Douglas Creek Estates in the town of Caledonia. Further, the notice advised that "donations such as food, water, monetary and misc. supplies" will be received by the University at the location of Hamilton Hall.

While I understand and support the concept of academic freedom, and I also believe one role of universities is to be a forum for open and frank discussion of ideas, I am concerned by this endorsement of this protest by the University. I believe that faculty and students have the right to express their personal views on this matter in the context of free speech and academic independence, however it appears that the University has endorsed the support of the protesters by virtue of the inclusion of the notice on the University's "official" website. As a resident of Caledonia, and taxpayer in the Province of Ontario, I am concerned that a publicly funded University would take such a position, given the position of the Provincial Government as articulated by Premier McGuinty is that the continued presence of the protesters through the winter is "unacceptable".

I appreciate, as I am sure you do, that the resolution of aboriginal land claims can be a long and complex process. As I'm sure you are also aware, there have been a number of incidents at the site between protesters at the site and those opposed to the protest. These confrontations have been a source of great distress to both the communities of Caledonia and Six Nations as a whole. I fail to see how the University's assistance in continuing this protest will either assist in the ongoing negotiations to resolve this land claim, or assist in reducing the tension at the site.

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Could you please confirm for me that the official position of McMaster University is one of support for this protest, and that the University has approved this notice? I would also appreciate clarification or confirmation that McMaster University is encouraging individuals to donate to this endeavour, and as such, has made available the resources and facilities of the University in its efforts to support this protest?

I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Sent Electronically – Signed copy to Dr. P. George to follow via Canada Post

Andre Gulabsingh
Caledonia Citizens Alliance
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Caledonia, ON
N3W
905 xxx-xxxx (res)

cc: Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians; the Honourable Diane Finley; Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs (Ontario); the Honourable Michael Bryant, Attorney General (Ontario); the Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services; the Honourable Christopher Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; the Honourable Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; Ms. Judy Marsales, M.P.P. Hamilton West; Mr. Toby Barrett, M.P.P. Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant; Mr. Tim Hudak - M.P.P. Erie-Lincoln and, Caledonia Citizens Alliance.