



NEWS RELEASE

**From The Council Of The Corporation Of Haldimand County
For Immediate Release**

Dated: July 9, 2007

Haldimand County has become an innocent victim of circumstances created by the Federal Government. For well over a year, Caledonia, and recently other communities in the County have become the lightning rods for First Nations frustrations over land claim inaction by the Federal Government.

The result is a climate where the many development opportunities in Haldimand County are not being realized because of fear of occupations or demonstrations - occupations and demonstrations that the Ontario Provincial Police cannot or will not intervene in, other than to keep the peace. This is grievously affecting the County's economy and if allowed to continue much longer, will result in permanent damage because of lost opportunities.

Haldimand County Council has tried to be patient and understanding about these events that have overwhelmed the County. Haldimand County Council will no longer accept being treated as an insignificant player in this event that is so crucial to the future of the County. We cannot stand on the sidelines and watch this municipality's economy fail. We can no longer tolerate a situation that inhibits any future planning to realize this County's potential.

The only solution to this problem is an accelerated process for land claims in Haldimand County. To that end, Haldimand County Council representatives will be requesting a meeting with Prime Minister Harper and Member of Parliament Diane Finley, as soon as possible. The County's expectation will be that Prime Minister Harper will assign M.P. Finley as the Federal Government's person on the ground, or if you will, Minister responsible for Haldimand County, to ensure that claims settlements are given the highest priority.

Haldimand's goal is to be able to again function as a normal municipality seeking stability and prosperity for its residents as well as maintaining strong, healthy relationships with its neighbouring communities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact Bill Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer for Haldimand County at (905) 318-5932 extension #220.