

McGuinty's "Blue Helmet" Comment

May 08, 2007

**The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of the Province of Ontario**

Dear Mr. Premier

On May 2, 2007 you joked about having to issue “blue helmets” to the OPP because of the growing pressure on the force to begin enforcing the law equally for natives and non-natives alike in connection with the Caledonia occupation of the Douglas Creek Estates:

“Some days I feel like issuing the OPP blue helmets. They are peacekeepers caught up in a difficult, protracted dispute which predates Confederation.”

You returned to the concept of the OPP as ‘peacekeepers’ later in your remarks:

“We will continue to assume responsibility, continue to mitigate the stresses and strains associated with this protracted dispute and will do our role as best we can as peacekeepers on the ground. At the end of the day resolution of this will only come about when the federal government decides that they want to bring it to an end.”

As former members of the Canadian Forces who have actually served in United Nations peacekeeping missions, we would like to explain the difference between ‘peacekeeping’ and ‘law enforcement’ to you and Commissioner Fantino:

‘Law Enforcement’ is a role performed by police officers in a functioning, vibrant, healthy, First World democracy in order to preserve the Rule of Law and protect law-abiding citizens from criminals irrespective of their race, religion, national origin or grievance. It requires that citizens respect both the law and the willingness of police officers to enforce it justly.

‘Peacekeeping’ is a role performed mainly by soldiers trained to kill, and is used as a deterrent to prevent warring factions from killing one another and/or innocent civilians during civil war in failed states where the Rule of Law has broken down, or in the aftermath of international warfare to prevent further hostilities.

Mr. McGuinty, any Premier who jokes about issuing blue helmets to an Ontario police force should stop and carefully consider the rationale behind such a statement. It implies that you are acknowledging the breakdown of law and order in Ontario while at the same time your Solicitor General refuses to intervene by replacing Commissioner Fantino with a leader who will order his officers to enforce the law equally, and respect the Constitutional rights of Ontario’s citizens and the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Your statement further implies that the Rule of Law and the rights of law-abiding citizens are to be suspended whenever or wherever natives utter the words, ‘land claim.’ This is completely

unacceptable in a free and democratic society. The police must enforce the law and they must do it fairly without regard to race or grievance. To do otherwise is madness. The alternative to the Rule of Law is eventual civil war, something we are certain that you do not wish to be part of your legacy as Premier of Ontario.

If our governments and our police do not enforce the law as we wait for the federal government to resolve land claims, we may well find soldiers with blue helmets in our midst one day, and the Premier of the day will not be joking about it. Of that you can be quite sure.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to provide additional information regarding the role of police forces vs. peacekeepers. In the meantime, may we suggest that you review an article found at VoiceofCanada entitled, “[Federal civil rights law would protect us from OPP.](#)”

Respectfully,

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