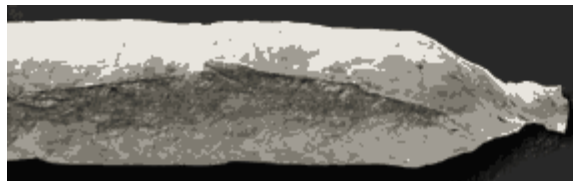


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## Caledonia militia a 'dumb idea,' minister says

Activist's plan to enforce law at site of aboriginal dispute 'shameful attempt' to divide residents, Duguid says

June 17, 2009

**MARIA BABBAGE**  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Forming a local militia to protect residents at the scene of a long-running aboriginal land claims dispute in Caledonia, Ont., is a "dumb idea," Community Safety Minister Rick Bartolucci said Wednesday.

Doug Fleming, a local activist, said he's planning to form a unarmed militia because provincial police aren't doing enough to enforce the law and protect property owners from trespassers.

"I don't want to do this. You think I want to form a militia? Are you kidding?" he said.

"This is something that, unfortunately, I feel needs to be done. Not because I want to, but because it's a last resort."

Homeowners and aboriginal protesters occupying a 40-hectare tract of land on the outskirts of the southwestern Ontario town have clashed violently in the past, and there are fears a militia could cause tensions to erupt once more.

Premier Dalton McGuinty called the idea "unhelpful" and urged that "cooler heads find a way to prevail."

But two of his ministers, Bartolucci and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid, were far more blunt and warned that a militia could tear the town apart.

"Allow policing issues to be handled by people who understand the complexities of the issue," Bartolucci said.

"I would suggest that the formation of a militia is a dumb

### Caught between natives, 'militia'

A Caledonia farmer upset that some natives have erected a smoke shack in his front yard is now furious that militant townfolk have proposed a militia in part to protect him.

"I drank a lot of coffee with the natives and we came to an agreement that they move off my land in a few days," said Ernie Palmer, who lives down the road from the former Douglas Creek Estates, a subdivision that was occupied by natives in 2006.

Then, on Sunday, local entrepreneur and activist Doug Fleming proposed forming a "Caledonia Militia" to "ensure the Criminal Code is upheld in Haldimand County."

"The agreement that the natives were going to leave was destroyed by Doug

idea."

Most Caledonia residents want to move forward and a militia is not helpful at all," Duguid said.

"We're trying to do everything we can as a government to help bring people together," he added.

"Efforts such as that – forming a militia – it's a shameful attempt to divide, and that's exactly what people should not be engaging in."

The word "militia" may conjure images of rifle-toting men, but the Caledonia group would not break the law and would operate more along the lines of the Guardian Angels, a citizen crime patrol organization based in New York, Fleming said.

He said he doesn't anticipate that the group would carry firearms.

Just talk of a militia has created discord in Caledonia, Bartolucci suggested.

He noted it's already threatened an agreement reached by Ernie Palmer, a Caledonia farmer, and an aboriginal group to remove a trailer from his property, which is near the disputed land.

"What was good in that discussion reverted to what was wrong," he said.

"The formation of a militia isn't supported by the police, it's not supported by the general public at large. And why? Because it's not effective. It's that simple."

There's "no truth" to claims that police aren't enforcing the law in Caledonia, said OPP spokesman Insp. Dave Ross.

Police have been investigated criminal wrongdoing stemming from the three-year aboriginal occupation and have laid about 148 charges against 61 people, he said.

Ross said police have spoken to Palmer about the trailer on his property, but weren't asked to do anything about it.

"I think there is some misinformation out there with regard to that particularly trailer on the property," he said.

"I don't know whether that's fuelled the idea for a militia, but certainly, we don't believe a militia is the answer."

Talk of a militia is resurfacing because residents are fed up with aboriginal groups setting up smoke shacks in Caledonia, said Marie Trainer, mayor of Haldimand County.

"I don't think these people are dangerous, but if it was a militia in the States, they'd come in with guns a-blazing. It would be rather violent," she said.

"We have to be concerned with everything. But remember, this is over three years long. All of Haldimand County has suffered."

Six Nations members started occupying the Douglas Creek Estates housing development in February 2006, claiming it belongs to them.

Fleming," Palmer said yesterday. "My problem is with Doug Fleming."

In a zone already simmering with distrust - but also hopeful compromise - between Six Nations natives, Caledonia residents and police, this new disturbance is threatening to become a flashpoint, with Palmer squarely in the middle.

[Read the full column by Paul Morse at thespec.com](#)

The province, which now owns the land in trust, has said protesters can remain there while all sides negotiate a resolution to the 200-year-old land claim.

Some residents have been pushing for a public inquiry into the actions of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino in Caledonia, complaining that police have mishandled the aboriginal occupation that's gone on for three years, with no end in sight.

Local residents drafted a petition in January that sharply criticized police, accusing Fantino of being biased in favour of protesters and using his position to support them in court against charges filed by his own police force.

The provincial police force has faced similar complaints that it's not doing enough to protect local residents.

In 2007, Sam Gualtieri suffered serious brain damage after he was attacked while attempting to clear native protesters from a home he was building for his daughter in Caledonia.

Three arrests were made, but Gualtieri launched a lawsuit against the Ontario government, claiming police were in the area and did nothing to prevent the assault.

Duguid said he shares the frustration of residents who say negotiations aimed at resolving the land claim dispute have dragged on far too long.

The negotiations – involving both levels of government and sparked by the Caledonia occupation – touch on dozens of claims in Haldimand County.

But the province is pushing Ottawa to speed up talks and find a way to resolve the dispute, he added.

"We've called on them to bring forward some form of a mediator or facilitator to try to invigorate the discussions, and they've agreed that they're looking at doing things like that," Duguid said.

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## It's not a Federal Issue

The Province makes me sick with its constant rhetoric about the Land Claims. The land in question for the latest smoke shack is on private land on what is called Plank Road by Six Nations. The Feds have rejected the Plank Road Claim because the 1844 Surrender by Six Nations is ruled by the Feds as valid. The Province is on their own with this problem as it is a law and order/land titles issue not a Land Claims Issue.

Submitted by Give\_me\_a\_break at 5:55 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 24    Disagree 1    Alert a Moderator

## Latest in a series of squatters

If the Mohawk logic is to be followed through with, then the British government had to right to sell or transfer ownership to anyone. The land was occupied (and "owned") by Huron aboriginals who were shoved aside by the British and Mohawks who relocated to Grand River.

Submitted by brianlf at 5:53 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 16    Disagree 2    Alert a moderator

## The Militia is....

...excellent idea. However, they SHOULD be armed and they should drive the natives off of land that DOES NOT belong to them. No mercy.

Submitted by Canada for Canadians at 5:50 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 30    Disagree 8    Alert a Moderator

## Not Just That

There is also a lot of crime being done there by the aboriginals i had my pickup stolen by them last year for my mag wheels and tires and found out how bad the problem .Over 400 trucks stolen in 1 year its costing us big bucks in insurance claims as well. When it went to court the guy was let off no charges laid what a crock if it was you or me we would be in jail.....

Submitted by 87072123 at 5:39 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 29    Disagree 1    Alert a moderator

## I'm a native

I was born in Canada. My father was born in Canada. His father was born in Canada as was his father and his father. In fact, I would have to go back to the mid 1700's to find the first foreign born ancestor. I despise the word "native" used to describe the criminals who feel they don't have to obey Canadian law. I wish McSquinty had the sack that Harris had and send in the troops to break hearts

and take names. I think the militia is a great idea. Perhaps if it becomes strong enough, they can take over OPP headquarters and put Fatony's desk in the parking lot.

Submitted by Prejeet Ubinderdersingh at 5:37 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 32      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

## **Some one has to uphold the law in Caledonia.**

Fantino's hands are tied by the McSquinty group.

Submitted by westender at 5:36 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 26      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **OPP ARE USELESS**

This situation should have ended ages ago if the law was enforced the same for all regardless of race or political correctness. There are idiots on both sides of this dispute. All the OPP are good at is taking over small town forces & dropping their level of policing service when they're not too busy trying to take over the functions of MNR & MTO officers. Perhaps the OPP should actually do their own jobs for a change rather than be the prima donnas of law enforcement.

Submitted by truecanadian777 at 5:23 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 25      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## **re aboriginal land claims**

We have had several judges and members of both houses of parliament in on these ongoing matters, is someone continuing to change the rules or demands?? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH !!!! Lets have a ultimatum put forth ONCE AND FOREVER,

Submitted by retiree at 5:18 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 11      Disagree 1      Alert a moderator

## **let's call a duck a duck shall we**

I'm not speaking of terrorists from some far off land, I'm speaking of the terrorists who are holding the town of Caledonia/ON hostage, sometimes at gun point, or with physical violence, or property destruction. The people of Caledonia have had to bare this hardship for over three years now, from armed terrorists sitting in tree stands, to acts of violence, threats, diminished property values, loss of employment, and worse. The unfortunate OPP officers who are stationed here seem to be under order to protect the terrorists from the residents, and not the residents from the looming threat of terrorism. The residents have been assaulted, arrested, charged and prosecuted, all the while the terrorists seem to have free rein to carry out their acts of blatant terrorism. Please before there is anymore violence, or any loss of life for either side, resolve this issue

Submitted by joe\_Kisonue at 5:17 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 25      Disagree 4      Alert a Moderator

## **The story behind the story**

The militia idea apparently stems from an incident a month ago, when a non-Native person walked along the side of the highway near the occupied site, carrying a Canadian flag. Two carloads of OPP showed up and piled out, demanding that he drop the flag. It appears now that Canadians are not allowed to carry a Canadian flag in Canada, as long as it's within the sight or proximity of Natives. If you're white, you might just as well all emigrate to a country where it's not a crime to march along with your own national flag.

Submitted by sciencguy at 5:12 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 34      Disagree 3      Alert a moderator

## **Obviously referring to the aboriginals**

"Allow policing issues to be handled by people who understand the complexities of the issue," Bartolucci said.

Submitted by dew at 5:05 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 7      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

## **Jumping on the band wagon**

It's hard for me to believe that all you so called experts on the law aren't just using this as an excuse to hammer the police, and the Native people of Caledonia. When did YOU last research the land claims from that area, or are you just attaching your caboose to the fellow you know who said...or the thing you read in the paper...or the popular red neck stance..Yadda yadda. I for one will travel to Calendonias and stand with the Native people. Get off your high horses and take a look at what the actual historical facts are - and saying it ain't so cause it's not convenient to you financially doesn't wash!

Submitted by twinks at 5:04 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 5      Disagree 33      Alert a moderator

## **It is a dumb idea.**

The residents of Caledonia don't have any rights in the eyes of the OPP and the government, so what is this militia supposed to protect?

Submitted by Joe R at 5:01 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 3      Disagree 10      Alert a Moderator

## **No support from Provincial Government**

We ALL remember the support Kenneth Deane received after he did his job at Ipperwash. The natives, as do the O.P.P. know without ever having seen an Xray that Dalton has no spine and will hang the police out to dry.

Submitted by jimk2000 at 5:01 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 16      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **if The Sate Won't Protect you, Who Should?**

We seem to be constantly reading about bullies harassing students over and over and over again. And after the student learns that the authorities are basically impotent in terms of offering protection or a resolution, the bullied student snaps and does something rational but illegal and often lands in jail. On a larger scale is Caledonia where McGuinty interfered, defanged the legal authorities and left the community high and dry. So what should people do when the state can't help them or won't help them?

Submitted by Dr. Strangelove at 5:00 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 16      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## **And while you're at it finally resolving matters....**

.... we should form another group to take Ipperwash Provincial Park back for the enjoyment of all Ontarians. Waiting for McGuinty to do it will prove idiotic and idealistic. Same with eseronto and other places where lawlessness gets rewarded

Submitted by Pet at 4:59 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 13      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **Send in the army**

Never mind militia. Return soldiers from Afghanistan, send them to Caledonia and kick trespassers off land they are occupying regardless of who they are. One law for all.

Submitted by etobicoke\_taxpayer at 4:53 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 17      Disagree 4      Alert a Moderator

## **When oh when**

This is now and always has been a Federal issue. When can we expect the feds to do their jobs and protect the rights of all citizens, not just those in Alberta? The Feds have sat on this for 3 years. The laws of the land need to be applied to everyone. Get in there and fix this already.

Submitted by circuitman at 4:49 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 6      Disagree 9      Alert a moderator

## **My comment regarding the oath taken....**

I should make it abundantly clear that I live no where near any area's where the illegal activity of Native groups has taken place. So keep in mind that my comments are based entirely on morals. Now, I should also mention I am a card carrying Federal Conservative, and have been involved in helping out during campaigns. Unless the Federal government gets off its butt, and stops putting up with situations such as the native protesters taking control of land, highways etc. Negotiate, settle disputes, but arrest the criminals when these acts occur! Just as should have been done when the Tamils took the Q.E.W. No one is above the law. And if local forces are afraid of the political masters, then send in the R.C.M.P. If I don't see action in this area, I will not just tear up my card and provide no more funds and help, but I will attempt to sway others from the party as well.

Submitted by landscape at 4:48 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 7      Disagree 7      Alert a Moderator

If the natives really wanted to move off the property they would have done so. This is just an excuse.

Submitted by J. H.'s opinion at 4:48 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 9      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **3 years and counting. Who's 'dumb idea' is ineffective?**

Maybe they are frustrated with the limp wristed approach taken by the government!

Submitted by Rolo at 4:46 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 15      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## **If the Feds would settle**

the Plank Road claim, all this foolishness in Caledonia could stop. However, as usual when the Feds get to the point of realizing they 'lost' the claim, they go off on another tangent to delay settlement for 5 or 10 years.

Submitted by grannysaga at 4:44 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 3      Disagree 12      Alert a moderator

## **Double standard**

If, for some reason, protesters had taken over a portion of a native reservation, do you think the government and OPP would have let it run on for years and years? Why in the world are they allowing this town to be held hostage to the whims of illegal protesters? Grow a backbone McGuinty, and push for a resolution now! These residents have long ago reached their breaking point and this militia just shows how little trust they have left in the authorities ever solving the crisis.

Submitted by CeeReeUs at 4:44 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 19      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## Funny

Funny how the Indians weren't making a big fuss about the disputed land until a developer improved it and built homes on it. Looks like a free home was too tempting to pass up by using a bit of imported muscle from across Canada.

Submitted by sailor at 4:39 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 22      Disagree 3      Alert a moderator

## Our Federal and provincial governments are a joke.

Both governments are a joke regarding this mater. And my comment for the Ontario Provincial Police is simply this.. "All of you took an oath when you were assigned active duty on the force." Part of that oath was to uphold the law. Part of your training was to uphold the law in a fair and tolerant manner. You are all suposed to follow this criteria regardless of what the political masters have to say. Non of them have taken any such oath nor are most of them trustworthy in most peoples eyes. Do you folks on the force want to remain trustworthy in the eyes of the public? If so, do something when these illeagle activities occur. Make arrests. Do your job! If you won't do it, then the public will have to do it for you.

Submitted by landscape at 4:35 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 13      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## This is the result of our do nothing government

This is what happens when the government sits on their hands hoping the issue just goes away. To be honest I'm surprised there isn't more vigilante justice with the weak justice system in this country.

Submitted by jsvez67 at 4:33 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 15      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## Don't Blame People

I don't blame people for wanting to go this route. Flip-Flop McGuinty and his Liberals have made a mockery of the law in this province. They have created a double standard where native "protesters" are allowed to occupy public land, tresspass on private land, block roads, vandalize hydro towers, roads and telephone polls and hold an entire town hostage with impunity. Where is the equality? If the townspeople did even a fraction of what these native terrorists have done they'd be arrested at gun point. It's time to put an end to this sort of behavior. Roll in the police or the army and use whatever force is necessary to remove the natives from their barricades and to arrest the ringleaders. Of course McGuinty doesn't have the courage and fortitude to do what needs to be done. It's past time that we replaced him with someone who does.

Submitted by Mantis at 4:32 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 14 Disagree 3 Alert a Moderator

## wrong and right

This is and always been native land. The culprit here is whoever signed off th

Submitted by valp at 4:29 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 4 Disagree 16 Alert a moderator

## wrong and right

This is and always been native land. The culprit here is whoever signed off the sale of the land and allowed development on it. The desperation the natives feel is wrongly directed but what's the alternative? sitting back, feeling sorry for themselves and watch another thievery after all they been through? I'm not native but I support their rights and if people there think a militia is the solution, then they should brace for more violence and hate while the makers of all this are golfing somewhere on our tax dollars.

Submitted by valp at 4:29 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 5 Disagree 18 Alert a Moderator

## Saying it could tear the town apart.

Really. And where we these loud, mouth breathing politicians when Toronto was paralyzed last month by Tamil protesters who stopped all traffic in the bid to get attention. Apparently, you're only an agitator if your skin is white.

Submitted by JackR at 4:27 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 19 Disagree 2 Alert a moderator

## There Land

The natives are fighting for there future generations. This land is rightfully theirs. The courts were still in the process of making a decision on this dispute but still allowed the contractors to continue to build. The natives moved in because they knew if they did not, it would be taken away. We do not own the land, we borrow it from our children!

Submitted by anthonyhawk at 4:26 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 6 Disagree 22 Alert a Moderator

## murmeister

The Ipperwash Inquiry has totally handcuffed police officers in dealing with FN occupations, actions, etc. What police officer in his/her right mind would even risk a physical confrontation when at best he/she will be hurt and a worst they will be convicted of a criminal code offence. The Inquiry granted

the Aboriginals immunity or why else would they still be there? Get Sidney Linden out or retirement to lead the charge! He created this legal quagmire.

Submitted by 7thGenCanadian at 4:23 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 6      Disagree 6      Alert a moderator

## **Farmer and the indian smoke shop**

Just to clarify, this was all brought about because a 6N resident decided to build a smoke shop at the end of a driveway owned by a Caledonia farmer without the farmers permission. When the elderly owner asked him to leave, he was threatened. This is the new Ontario where the OPP choose what laws to enforce and what not to when it comes to their own faulty Ipperwash policy. The people of Caledonia have been forsaken and are close to reaching the boiling point. The McGuinty government has been stalling and waiting for this issue to become the issue of the next Provincial leader and the OPP are simply failing the taxpayers of that region.

Submitted by KitchenerChuck at 4:23 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 17      Disagree 5      Alert a Moderator

## **Check the voting.**

All anyone has to do is to look at the votes to the comments that have been made here to know what the public opinion is. I don't see Bartolucci saying that the native's militia is a "dumb idea". The residents should do this and occupy a piece of land and THEN we'll see a double standard in action won't we. If nothing else, the residents will see whose side the police and the government are on. Bartolucci says "The formation of a militia isn't supported by the .....general public at large." Bullfeathers. Go ASK the public.

Submitted by WheelBoy at 4:19 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 19      Disagree 4      Alert a moderator

## **Here's the Problem**

..People are still crying about the fact that the former Premier[Harris]tried to take action. The bleeding hearts prefer to allow the terrorist activities,that some of these Native protesters have displayed. If there is no political will,or support from the avg. Canadian,then these Native protesters do whatever they like with impunity. So far,they've burned down an historic wooden bridge,dug up roads with a backhoe,demolished 2 police cruisers,downed the hydro source for days,to thousands of Caledonia residents...beat a man to near death,attacked a CHCH camera crew,crippled business,shut down roadways...and on and on.. All while the OPP satnd by and do almost nothing!

Submitted by Mary Ewen at 4:17 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 20      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

## **Occupiers...**

IS this how the Palestinians feel about the Israeli's squatting on there land?

Submitted by floresma at 4:16 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 5      Disagree 12      Alert a moderator

## **Disgusting situation**

If non-natives pulled this kind of crap the OPP would certainly do their job.

Submitted by northofpelee at 4:12 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 18      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## **60 million dollars**

the OPP charged tax payers 60 million dollars over 2 years (how many natives are there anyway?)to moderate this confrontation yet it still exists and the landowners have to adopt this stance-let us ask for this money back because they failed to do anything

Submitted by soso at 4:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 17      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **Fantino**

If the OPP had been doing their job,in protecting the citisens of Caledonia,then this would not be necessary. Too often,they stood up for the violent thugs,due to "political correctness"and left the citisens to fend for themselves. The man beaten into a coma,and suffering brain damage is a prime example of how the police and Govt.fear these protesters,due to fears of the "racist" card. Do your job,regardless of race,and these citisens will have no reason to form a militia.

Submitted by Mary Ewen at 4:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 20      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## **Vigilanties? Terrorists?**

Wow. Better get some pitchforks and guns and chains- get on down to Caledonia. The OPP is out there, pretend they are not- get some BLOOD flowing. Is this AN ANSWER in ANY WAY???

Submitted by larrb at 3:58 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 7      Disagree 7      Alert a moderator

## **If you ignore something it will go away..**

That's the mentality of our federal politicians of all parties. I've lost count of how many times they use this approach. The funny thing is that the militia activists have finally gotten tired of doing nothing

themselves and decided to act. But rather than focus their energy on the real problem, the government (because if you're a sheep the government can do no wrong), they've focused on the natives. Hey, the natives are breaking the law ok. But they wouldn't be doing this if the feds and OPP got off the "ignore" strategy. People get hurt? Doesn't matter the gov isn't accountable. Oh that. The activists should fight the real problem, the people who let this happen in the feds and OPP. Boot out their MPs. Bring Fantino(who obviously has political aspirations) that negative PR he's so frightened of. Problem solved.

Submitted by Nerd at 3:51 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 13      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## **OPP aren't doing their job but why??**

Pretty simple actually. The politicians as well Gwen Boniface and her successor, Julian Fantino don't have the guts to deal with this. They are deathly afraid of turning this into something worse than it already is. Just look at the Sri Lankan protestors in Toronto and you'll see a similar mentality at work, but in a smaller size. The rank and file OPP officer that works at Caledonia wishes they could do more. Its an embarrassment, and a sad state of affairs when the politicians, and the wannabe politicians running the OPP permit a situation like this to fester for years. A militia although "dumb", is perhaps a way to shake up the people in charge and get them to act.

Submitted by GrinBarrie at 3:51 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 18      Disagree 1      Alert a moderator

## **federal responsibility**

First nations issues are FEDERAL. It's not McGuinty's problem, it's not the OPP's problem. This should fall directly on the sagging shoulders of our soon to be ousted Prime Minister, Mr. Steven Harper. He should have taken care of this in 2006.

Submitted by bluesmike at 3:46 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 8      Disagree 19      Alert a Moderator

## **Common sense says**

this may not be the best idea. But common sense also wonders what would drive "ordinary" people to explore this idea in the first place. Could it be a double standard in the application of rule of law?

Submitted by orestes04 at 3:41 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 21      Disagree 1      Alert a moderator

## **Future Generations**

The government claims that the land was "surrendered" by Six Nations in the early 1800's. The land comprising the current development was sold to George Marlot Ryckman for 57 pounds and 10 shillings, a Crown deed was then issued to him. Six Nations knew that this unlawful act of building on

this property before it could be decided in a court of law. If what they were saying is the truth, and the natives no longer hold title to the land. Then the people of Six Nations want the proof that they did in fact surrender the land. This is where the problem is, the government has NO proof at all. That's why nothing has been done, they know that the land does not belong to these developers. The people of Six Nations will no longer stand by and be taken advantage of anymore. They are not the violent savages they are made out to be by the media. They are fighting for there future generations to come. For we do not own the land, we borrow it from our children...

Submitted by anthonyhawk at 3:39 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 3      Disagree 23      Alert a Moderator

## **Goodness, we would not want to tear the town apart**

This should never have got past Day 1. You don't negotiate with a gun at your head.

Submitted by TO725 at 3:35 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 17      Disagree 1      Alert a moderator

## **talks what talks?**

how can they be serious about telling us they are talking and after all these yrs ? come on they treat both sides like we are idiots and how much are these talks costing us what would happen if a bunch of icelanders laid claim to the idian land they were here long before them would they wants talks hell no and how do they know any agreement made by previous deals were illegal now down the road yet another group 100 yrs from now will say these agreements were illegal as well maybe giving that pacel of land was illegal in the first place ..time to settle this crap but if they still want to "talk" do it all pro bono and cost the taxpayers nothing .and indians as well .

Submitted by spider41 at 3:34 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 10      Disagree 1      Alert a Moderator

## **A Blockade is needed**

If Aboriginals have the "right" to blockade properties in Caladonia then why not blockade the reserve. If they are kept bottled up on the reserve they will not be able to interfere with the lives of tax paying Canadian citizens.

Submitted by phoneguy at 3:33 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 23      Disagree 3      Alert a moderator

## **Congratulation Julian Fantino for your re-appointed as Ontario's top cop .....**

Now do your blood job or the people of Caledonia will do it for you.....

Submitted by Mr Mr at 3:28 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 26 Disagree 1 Alert a Moderator

## **Caledonia Militia**

This sounds like a great idea since it's been three years and neither provincial or federal governments has done anything. I would suggest setting up a Facebook group and see how many volunteers they can get to help straighten out this mess.

Submitted by Zak Attack at 3:24 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 22 Disagree 1 Alert a moderator

## **Enforce the law**

Natives live in Canada and should act if they were citizens of the country, following its laws. Instead they act as if they don't have to obey any laws....but at the same time are always the very first to demand more government money. There is one solution to the native problem; abolish the Indian Act and stop the preferential treatment of this one group of people who are pampered from cradle to grave. Let natives actually have to work, buy a house, and pay taxes. Many Indian leaders agree in fact that the Indian Act is a remnant of colonialism. Those who live in Caledonia who are negatively affected by this dispute are fed up with the natives and government inaction.

Submitted by Marching On at 3:21 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 26 Disagree 3 Alert a Moderator

## **Perhaps if the Gov't & Police protected tax paying citizens?**

This wouldn't even have been suggested by Doug Fleming if they did. These land claims are wearing thin and will continue to go on with no serious, lawful solutions. In the meantime, law-abiding homeowners live in fear of cowardly acts perpetrated on them which the police do not/cannot adequately investigate. Ernie Palmer (farmer) hoped that a sitdown, drink some coffee and a gentlemen's agreement with these bandits would have solved his problem - Wake up! Police and government - do your jobs. Protect the taxpayers. The last line of this article says it all for the government - "...they've agreed that they're looking at doing things like that," Duguid said." Just another political "do nothing" statement.

Submitted by Reasonable Canadian at 3:20 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 19 Disagree 4 Alert a moderator

## **On the other hand...**

not enforcing the law and dismantling this ridiculous protest is also a "dumb idea"!!

Submitted by project52 at 3:17 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 13 Disagree 6 Alert a Moderator

## Where to begin....

I suppose we could go back 200 years to the 'agreements' and 'treaties', but since very little documented proof exists about the original deals and the amendments over the years, that's why these issues are not resolved quickly. The historic government mismanagement of aboriginal affairs has led to these protests. I'm not aboriginal and YES - I am fed up with the protests too, but our government is dragging it's proverbial butt on these issues and they need to be addressed NOW! I'm surprised the residents in Caledonia have tempered the anger as much as they have. Sooner or later, somethings going to cause it to boil over into something ugly. Then what? Blame the victims? You bet.

Submitted by gawg\_you\_r\_ignant at 3:16 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 13      Disagree 4      Alert a moderator

## Keep in mind that a Liberal said this.....

Give it a few days for some friend of a Liberal to realize that they can make good buck off of this and next thing you know, it turns into a good idea and the Liberals will probably fund it, without any bids of course.

Submitted by Straight Shooter at 3:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 19      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## Flemming is right and its time to stop this mess

I live 600 feet off the grand river at Caledonia. Mr Flemming is right and the politician who comments about his attempt is the joke...we should go sit on the politicians lawns and threaten them...see how long it would take for OPP to come and arrest us?! I've told my children to trust no politician and no OPP to really do the right thing...because in the end, Caledonia was left to hang...for that matter so were most on the six nations reserve. But in TO who can see that far away???

Submitted by Anton at 3:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 23      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## Time to finish unfinished business

I say get at it.let`s roll back the clock,get down to the nitty gritty and get at it.if it`s war required,then have the damn war and be done with it.winner take all.you CERTAINLY can`t depend on gutless poloticians to defend the tax payers.they`ll have to defend themselves.and it`s about time.i hope Dalton and the gang are happy they`ve forced vigilantiasm onto the working people there.the ones who pay his salary !

Submitted by skyhawk20002 at 3:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 16      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## **I'm so tired of this crap**

Feds fork over \$40 billion a year to native reserves. And on and on. You don't get it both ways, people. Keep the land or take the cash. It's disgusting. Sure you were screwed in the past. Who wasn't. I can't grow potatoes or tap dance but you don't see me screaming for money cause my Irish ancestors were "done wrong". This needs to stop now.

Submitted by superpeach at 3:09 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 20      Disagree 4      Alert a moderator

## **Not much change in 172 yrs**

So "forming a local militia to protect residents at the scene of a long-running aboriginal dispute in Caledonia, Ont., is a 'dumb idea,' Community Safety Minister Rick Bartolucci said today." Lieutenant-Governor Francis Bond Head considered that the radical Reformers prior to the Farmers' Rebellion of 1837 as, "idle, the profligate and the unprincipled." Not much has changed in 172 years. Governments continue to ignore the legitimate grievances of its citizens. At least in 1837 you didn't get arrested and charged for walking down a public road carrying a Canadian flag. I can hardly wait for the Minister's comments on aboriginal militias.

Submitted by G. Cooke at 3:03 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 18      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## **Easy to see now.**

Deflection is one of McGuinty's biggest assets. He and his government have been misleading the GTA electorate for three years claiming Caledonia is a Federal Government problem. The Federal Government have stated Caledonia is not a legit land claim and these problems are a provincial and policing responsibility. When will they start acting like government and enforce laws?

Submitted by bravehart at 3:00 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 22      Disagree 2      Alert a moderator

## **Unarmed Militia?**

It won't stay unarmed for long. Wait until the first rock gets thrown and see what happens!!

Submitted by PSYBERSPACE at 2:47 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 20      Disagree 2      Alert a Moderator

## **This situation is McGuinty's doing..**

Quote: "Minister of Community Safety Rick Bartolucci calls it a "dumb idea" and says Caledonia residents should allow the Ontario provincial police to do their job." Here's the big problem Dick, the OPP are not doing their job thanks to you and McGuinty and your 'do nothing to the so-called natives'

orders. Quote: "Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid says it's a "shameful attempt" to divide a town that has seen violence erupt between local residents and aboriginal protesters." Hey dummy, in case you didn't notice there is already a great big bloody divide!!!!

Submitted by TruthMaster at 2:34 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 29      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **Quit fighting eachother**

and start to put the pressure on Ottawa to bring forth a resolution! Reunite and fight Ottawa!

Submitted by quietstorm2 at 2:13 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 23      Disagree 13      Alert a Moderator

## **Let Ontario provincial police to do their job...**

Gee, obviously if police (and politicians) had done their jobs, the local residents wouldn't have thought about forming a militia...

Submitted by Michelt at 2:11 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 34      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **Gee, Rick**

I wonder if you are trying to prevent history from repeating itself...Like when you showcased a two year, multi million dollar inquisition over the Iperwash incident and did so for no other reason than to bury your political opposition.

Submitted by toady at 2:09 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 22      Disagree 4      Alert a Moderator

## **He May Be Right**

Yes, forming a militia may not be a good idea, given that Canadian law is intolerant of vigilantism. However, the police should be doing their job: there should be zero tolerance of illegal activity by protesters; then, people would not be driven to this sort of temptation.

Submitted by quadibloc at 2:01 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 29      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **The Problem Is**

that the OPP are not doing their job. They are allowing the Aboriginals to hold the population hostage while a cowardly Government waffles and is afraid to be called racist for enforcing the law - exactly

the same scenario when the Tamils occupied the streets of Toronto and illegally when any Caucasians who did the same thing would have been beaten into the ground by the Police and the Courts just as they are planning to do now. The citizens want to protect themselves and you can see the beginning of an armed assault by the Government against the citizens but not against the real criminals.

Submitted by murmeister at 1:52 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 35      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

## **Let the police do continue to do their jobs?**

If they were doing their jobs and applying the law equally without regards to race then this wouldn't be a problem. If you read the story from The Spec this guy had problems with the Indians setting up a smoke stand on his property and they wouldn't leave. I understand he was able to negotiate something with them but where were the police to help out this guy? When will the Indians decide to do something else like this and who will do something about it then? The condition exists in Caledonia exactly because the police won't do their jobs. This lack of inaction is another we can add to Dalton's legacy. People having their land annexed by the Indians.

Submitted by Danoh at 1:47 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 31      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **Not a dumb idea at all**

Natives in the area have proven just how good an idea it is - they've organized themselves into a militia of sorts, and the police are afraid to lay a finger on them. What is shameful is that citizens of Caledonia are being forced into this position by the provincial government, which has no interest in upholding the law and protecting their rights.

Submitted by Jonathan L at 1:21 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 39      Disagree 4      Alert a Moderator

## **Liberals out of touch**

FYI: the town has already been divided when the natives moved in. The OPP there are not doing there job now or ever. How else are the people going to defend themselves against terrorist if the OPP will not.

Submitted by GSXRMyers at 1:10 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 37      Disagree 9      Alert a moderator

## **Equality for ALL**

the police and government have shown that they do not have the guts to solve the problem. So why not allow the residents to take the lead. What I cannot understand is why a certain section of people

are allowed to get away with squatting on land they do not own. The Government and the Police need to enforce the law equally. And if they don't then perhaps we do need to have a militia.

Submitted by Jimg1948 at 1:07 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 34      Disagree 7      Alert a Moderator

## Poor Residents

The OPP cannot nore will they do thei9r job. They have sat and watch as the residents have been terrorized. If they will not act the the civilian population must act to protect themselves

Submitted by tired at 12:55 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 38      Disagree 6      Alert a moderator

## Doing their job?

If the OPP were doing the job they would already have arrested all those people trespassing on other people's land. This is politically motivated by ideologically extreme native groups, who don't care for the rule of law.

Submitted by FactsStraight at 12:32 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 46      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

.Does anyone really think the OPP have done a good job with this? From the start its been a political hot potato. , "Minister of Community Safety Rick Bartolucci calls it a "dumb idea" and says Caledonia residents should allow the Ontario provincial police to do their job." ."Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid says it's a "shameful attempt" to divide a town that has seen violence erupt between local residents and aboriginal protesters." I think he's a few years too late.

Submitted by Rivett at 12:27 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 42      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## Ya but....

If the OPP did their job, there would be no need.

Submitted by confused at 12:26 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 45      Disagree 6      Alert a Moderator

## Both sides

Need to start talking on this one. I think the natives have gone far too long with this and if they truly want it settled need to get the people of Caledonia on board. If Mr. Palmer can get somewhere with them then maybe there is hope. But both sides will have to give something to get something.

Submitted by buster013 at 12:21 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 31      Disagree 10      Alert a moderator

## **This is what happens when the lawful authority...**

...abdicates its role. McGuinty has sent the wrong signal for years and now he (and all of hte rest of us) will reap the headache.

Submitted by 1967PontiacGTO at 12:18 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 46      Disagree 3      Alert a Moderator

## **You have the wrong town listed!!**

Its not Caledon, which is 50 miles away, its Caledonia, Dont mix up our safe, green neighbourhood with the thugs of Caledonia

Submitted by lango1 at 12:17 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 37      Disagree      Alert a moderator

## **"Let them do their jobs" eh?**

And just when do you and the provincial government plan to start doing your jobs Mr. Bartolucci? You're a little late to the party I'd say. It's pretty clear to everyone, including myself who doesn't even live in Caladonia that the government has totally dropped the ball. This whole situation is a JOKE.

Submitted by Brain\_User at 12:00 PM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 44      Disagree 4      Alert a Moderator

## **do something**

I have to admit, when this whole mess started, I fully supported the natives in their quest for determining the rightful ownership of the disputed land. But once the Prov. government bought the property and is holding it in trust, to ensure the natives claim was protected ,the natives no longer had a legitimate reason for being there. Our government has a obligation to protect the citizens of Caledonia from any criminal activity our harassment. The government and the Police have proven time and time again they are unwilling to live up to their obligations.Unfortunately when people feel abandoned they will resort to vigilante style methods , to protect them and their families. Now is the time for our government to assume it's responsibility and evict the occupiers.

Submitted by JERKY at 11:54 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 41      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **Divided?**

The town became divided when the OPP & McGuinty decided that the law only applies to non natives. Who would of thought that putting up a Canadian Flag on your property would result in a disturbing the peace charge?

Submitted by turbo at 11:49 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 47      Disagree 5      Alert a Moderator

## **Taking the Law Into Their Own Hands**

This is what the people of Caledonia are doing, they've had enough, nothing is being done about the situation, it has gone on long enough. Now there is talk about the aboriginals putting a toll on Highway 6, give me a break. Things will get worse before it gets better.

Submitted by smart kitty at 11:47 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 41      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **Justice for all .... when?**

"Bartolluci .... says Caledonia residents should allow the Ontario provincial police to do their job." And when can we expect that to begin? Aboriginal militias have been allowed to run roughshod over the rights of townfolks for over three years now, with little or no intervention by the OPP. Somebody has to defend the rights of ordinary people, and it's sure not Bartolluci. The provincial government has done a miserable job of resolving this ongoing dispute, and another hot summer looms ahead.

Submitted by sciencguy at 11:46 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 47      Disagree 5      Alert a Moderator

## **Good for Mr. Fleming**

Typical response from a politician. Congrats to Mr. Fleming. Residents have had to endure this BS. for too long. This is the kind of action needed these days. Talk just doesn't work.

Submitted by Smoothy at 11:44 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 43      Disagree 5      Alert a moderator

## **this sounds like something**

julian fantino would support.

Submitted by gonzo at 11:43 AM Wednesday, June 17 2009

- Agree 7      Disagree 25      Alert a Moderator