

F24

To Whom It May Concern:

As a home owner living in the Ipperwash area, the conflict that has arisen between the Natives and the Government in regards to the Army Camp Base, has had a direct impact on our family and those of us who live year round in the area. Our property value had declined significantly since this situation started and to try and sell my home now If I chose to, I would not be able to obtain a fair market price for it, let alone give the property away as no one in their right mind would consider purchasing a home in an area that is unsettled as this one is.

Ipperwash used to be a safe, comfortable area to live in and raise a family. However, since the take over and occupation of the Provincial Camp last Labour day and the subsequent death of Dudley George, the feelings of this family and numerous families in the area is one of outrage, that this sort of situation was even allowed to happen and that our family has to be constantly on guard as to further retaliation from the Natives residing there. We had planned to expand our house by adding an addition to the existing structure. However, since the area is so unsettled this is no longer a viable option open to us at the present time. Our lives has come to a remarkable standstill.

We have experienced first hand the stress associated with having to leave our home as we could not be guaranteed protection from the local O.P.P. detachment. Once back home again, this feeling of abandonment continued for several more weeks whereby if we called on the police their response time to our community was very slow or non-existent. How can we feel safe and protected when our own police department cannot or will not respond to calls and do the job we as tax payers are paying them to do. If they did the job they were supposed to do shortly after this crisis occurred then maybe the need to write this letter would not need to be done.

I have declined to sign this letter as I feel there might be repercussions should this letter get into the hands of the media, and our names and address made known. As a community our thoughts, concerns, and observations of what had occurred last Labour Day has never been taken seriously by the media, instead, it has been made to look like the Natives occupying the camp and the park were peaceful law abiding citizens. Our plight as a community never received as much air time and as a result was made out to look as though we were not having any difficulties dealing with the issues at hand. If the situation was handled differently by both the police and the media, then maybe we would not all be in the situation we are in today wondering if our homes and families are safe.