

[REDACTED]
Ipperwash Beach.

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] we have lived in a permanent residence in Ipperwash Beach for 15 years and have had a family cottage here since 1973. We moved here full time in 1981 with the intent to raise our children and retire here, in a safe, quiet, but active little community.

We have had 15 yrs. of enjoyment, security, a quiet lifestyle, and an increasing investment in the value of our home. We have enjoyed the friendship of all nationalities in this area and spend countless hours in the Ipperwash Provincial Park, at the beach, and at neighbouring golf courses and marinas. Our daughters have helped fund their university education with various summer jobs related to the tourist trade and as a result have been instilled with a sense of pride and responsibility.

However, last summer that all changed with the Native takeover of the Ipperwash Army Base and the Provincial Park. I will not reiterate the horror of the summer and fall but would rather like to enlighten you as to the way our lives have changed and remain affected today.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The security and carefreeness that accompanied these walks is absent as well. We do not venture anywhere near the park area and often glance over the shoulder to see who is driving behind us. I was walking at the beach with a friend in the fall when a couple (not from our area) walked towards the river outlet in the park along the beach. They were very quickly confronted by several native men and told to get off their land and away from their beach. Needless to say one does not feel at ease under these circumstances, and no one walks alone.

2. My 18 yr. old daughter worked at the Ipperwash Provincial Park Store last summer and was looking forward to this job each year while going through university. As a result of the confrontation last fall, the store and some other buildings were destroyed by fire. My daughter not only had to witness this destruction but worked the entire summer under the increasing tension and threat of a confrontation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] But, because the Ipperwash Native situation has not been resolved and talks are stalled, after only one day of negotiation, it would be a summer of insecurity. Insecurity because of a threat of a takeover of the pinery as proposed last fall, insecurity of the job not lasting the entire summer due to confrontation, and the possibility of living through a summer of increasing tension and threat of possible hostile action. Needless to say, after 20 hours of being trapped in our home and told not to be visible last Sept., my daughter

is very apprehensive of being caught in this situation again. She felt physically ill making a decision. You must get this matter resolved, so we have a guarantee of security, and safety. This is our right as Canadian citizens. Life will not return to normal for residents here until the Army Base is returned, and the Government takes a firm stand on the Provincial Park Occupation. Residents must know that their rights will be protected and the park lands which belong to Ontarions will remain just that. We cannot sustain another summer of fear and unrest. A fair but firm foot must be put down and the situation resolved.

3. Each day I awake determined to not be upset and to have a happy resolve the whole day. I work in London and enjoy the commute except for the drive past the Army Camp. The increase daily in the destruction of buildings, abandoned cars, discarded stoves, tarps, trailers etc., and the increase in the amount of graffiti everywhere you look is so disconcerting. It pains me to see the land that the true Native owners hope to have returned is being devastated, not only before our eyes but before theirs as well, by a few individuals. This not just, and will only worsen if action is not taken immediately.

4. It is important to note that upon inquiring about sale of our home, we were advised that our property has absolutely no resale value and that our investment over the past 15 years is now worthless. The agent would not even put up a sign. Only three years ago our home was assessed at \$180,000.00. Now it is worth \$0.00. You can see how disconcerting it is to know that there is no retail value to our home, so we can't sell and move away from a bad situation even if we want to. Unless, a fair and equitable resolution is brought forth at Ipperwash, we have no retirement future, no equity in our homes, and no sense of peace to live here. The stress created in these times of financial restraint and an unsettled economy is enormous. Either a solution must be reached immediately so our property values return to the pre-seige state, or buy us out so we can relocate and live in peace!!!

5. It is also necessary to have you realize that a sense of security is now absent from our little community. We are aware from experiences of residents, that the OPP are unable to provide protection to the neighbourhood as prior to the occupation. There have been incidents after which the persons involved merely returned to the sanctuary of the Army Base where the OPP cannot take appropriate action. Thefts and break-ins in the area have increased dramatically. There are still vehicles being burned, buildings being damaged etc. without any repercussions. This select group feels they are protected by a reserve boundary (which they appear to be). You must be able to see how insecure this makes us feel as well as frustrated at the appearance of two laws. Whether the law is enforced by the Opp, the Native Police or the RCMP, the offenders must be told they will be prosecuted to the fullest and their activities will not be tolerated. Affirmative action must be taken by the Government, without hesitation, to return the Army Base to the appropriate Native Peoples. But in the meantime, it must be particularly clear, that the rights of the residents of Ipperwash, the rights of the Natives of Kettle and Stoney Point, and the rights of the Delegated descendants of the Stony Point land will be protected by the law. And anyone breaking these laws will be prosecuted to the fullest by the Ontario Provincial Police. We all have this right and it is not fulfilled at this time.

6. Of great concern as well, is the reopening of the Provincial Park. It was made public knowledge through Gov't documents that this land was legally sold.

It is important, I feel, that a memorial be placed and any burial site be fenced and designated as per the cemetery act. But, it is also important, not only for the morale of the people of the community, but also for the financial recovery of all the businesses in this district, that the park be reopened this May 24, 1996, buildings rebuilt, and a healing process begun. It is only through this action that I feel the tourist trade will have any chance of growth and revitalization of our businesses will have any chance to occur. It is of concern as well that the select members living at the base stop their open acts of aggression. Two weeks ago a vehicle on Matheson Drive was burned. This week a new barrier has been erected at the gate to Matheson Dr. with two old cars leaned up against the gate. This only reinforces the fear of growing tensions once again and I am totally certain that if prompt action is not taken by our government to bring about a prompt resolution (not 6 months from now- but weeks), the horrors of the summer and fall of 1995 will escalate and repeat themselves in the months to come.

I thank you Sir, for your time and consideration and hope that this information will shed some light on how any delays in negotiations directly affects us, the innocent third party. Your judgement and negotiations must be fair to all involved including the residents. You have the grave task of setting an example for our youth of today to live by. Thus your decisions on both sides must be honest, fair, and ethical, and must provide our youth with a mandate to move forward and to know that the system is just for ALL Canadians. I would appreciate a reply. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.