

March 6, 1996

R.R. #2,
Forest, Ontario
NON IJO

To Whom It May Concern:

We purchased income property at Centre Ipperwash 34 years ago in the hope that it would be a supplementary income in the future years. We have enjoyed thirty-two out of the thirty-four years we have resided here. The unrest during the past few years has been very stressful and costly for all residents in the Ipperwash area. The number of beach users has dropped dramatically, and property values have decreased. This decrease has not been reflected equally in tax assessments.

During the last few years we have undertaken extensive renovations to our three rental properties with the intention to extend the rental season into the spring and fall. Inquiries about off-season rentals were not as high as expected, due in part to the highly publicized disturbances and unrest in the area. The renters we did have, during September of last year, encountered a roadblock when they were returning to their cottage from a visit to Bayfield. I had to go into Forest and escort them back to their lodging. Needless to say, their holiday memories were not quite what they anticipated.

We are very disappointed with the way the Federal government has handled the return of Camp Ipperwash, and the dispute over Ipperwash Provincial Park. The whole process could have been handled in a more expediate fashion.

We are thoroughly disgusted with the riff-raff occupying Camp Ipperwash. The condition of the camp is an eyesore to all traveling Highway 21. The negative effects on tourism are hurting everyone in the area. The destruction of publicly funded property and our tax dollars being used to pay the water and hydro for these illegal squatters, the majority having no relationship to the original Stoney Point residents, are both issues of great concern.

Apparently occupiers in Camp Ipperwash can leave the Camp, cause problems such as harassment and vandalism, and can not be pursued by the police beyond the fences and gate surrounding the Camp. This, in our opinion, is disgusting and unjust. There seem to be two laws: one for whites and one for Natives.

While dining in Forest this weekend, there were two inebriated, obnoxious, battered non-local Natives who caused a disturbance and left the premises without paying. The owner and patrons felt intimidated by their conduct and speech. The owner felt her hands were tied when it came to handling situations like this because she could be accused of discrimination.

We feel that the Prime Minister made a very poor choice when he assigned Collonette and Irwin to the portfolios that they presently hold. They are not aware of the facts that are actually taking place due to: the biased reporting by the media and the lack of discussion with residents in the area. The Kettle Pointers and the Stoney Pointers have had friction from the time the Stoney Pointers were placed on Kettle Point. The probability that it will get any better is unlikely.

We agree that Camp Ipperwash should be returned to the descendants of the original Stoney Point residents. However, the Provincial Park and the beach at Ipperwash are for all the people, not for one race or group.