

RR#2 Forest Ontario
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March 11/96

To Whom it May Concern:

I as a resident of Ipperwash in the Town of Bosanquet have been asked to describe the aftermath of the Labour Day takeover of the Provincial Park in September 1995.

Although I agree that the Military Base should have been returned to the natives of Kettle and Stony Point years ago, I cannot agree with the violent and lawless takeover of the base or the violence that erupted during the illegal occupation by these same natives in the park. No special interest group has the right to break the laws of this province or country to further their own agenda.

I find it difficult to explain the aura of fear and mistrust that has evolved in this community and rules uppermost my daily life. I have endured four years of stress, anxiety and financial burden over the West Ipperwash land claim, which is still not settled and will not be for years to come. This occupation of the Provincial Park and the fighting amongst themselves (The Natives) has produced an ...

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... to live elsewhere indefinitely. Our insurance didn't cover this expense. My car was stolen and turned up trashed on the Munsie Reserve near London.

I lost three weeks work because my nerves were so bad. We couldn't sleep for weeks because of natives watching us right in our own yard. We have deeds to our properties but we don't have peaceful enjoyment and occupation of our homes. My grandchildren are kept away in case another confrontation arises. My life has been turned upside down through no fault of my own. Prior to these last four years at Ipperwash, I never would have believed that innocent people in any community of Canada would be expected to endure so much stress, fear and total chaos in their lives. We are being compromised to appease law breakers. Why? At some point these dissidents have to be held accountable for planning and carrying out their own violent, unlawful agenda to further their own cause. We as innocent citizens of this country should not have to lose all we've worked for when a group...[cut off text]... over the legal approach...

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... to rectify this state of affairs.

I do not want to start my retirement years with nothing after years of toil. I do not want to believe my government would allow this to happen. I would like to know for sure that this whole community will be treated justly and fairly in this time of strife both native and non native. So far this has not happened. This community needs to know that we will be safe, that our livelihood will be protected, and that our losses will be considered for reimbursement. We have no control in this situation, but someone in this government should have and should exercise that control now.

Respectfully Submitted,

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