

Feb 6/00

(37)

Justice Robert Reid  
1132 Bay St., Suite 1401  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M5S2Z4

Dear Sir,

Thank you for responding to my letter of Jan.17/00

I regret that you feel somewhat taken aback by the contents of my recent correspondence, but it has been a very long time that this community has been tied up in this affair.

People here do not understand how the government's problems with aboriginal issues seem to entirely overshadow any concerns for the safety and well-being of those who are citizens of this country who thought they had the support of the government as well under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Although Ipperwash is, without any doubt, an ongoing embarrassment on an International scale, for the Federal Government, others who are innocent in these events should not be ignored or portrayed as whiners. Some very definite abnormal strategies have been and are still being used in this community giving the residents the perception that no matter what happens we are out of the equation and will never truly be heard. This type of feeling of hopelessness and stress is not conducive to a normal, happy lifestyle. Should we, on retrospect, have gone screaming "Foul" into the streets and into the Provincial Park and down to the OPP Office in Forest and to Rosemarie Ur's and Marcel Beaubien's as well. Is the government complacency over our concerns directly as a result of our behaving like civilized human beings during the events that occurred here? Many believe that had we taken the same approach as the aboriginals in protest, we would most definitely have been listened to by those who pull the strings. How sad that this country has become a place where unless you subscribe to civil disobedience no one in authority will listen or work in your best interest.

We would appreciate you returning to speak to the membership in April/2000.

Of course I am assuming that there will be no other problems between now and then.

There has been no announcement of the assessment and clean up yet at the base.

There has been no vote on the Agreement-in-Principle for the return.

The latest rumour is that the base is uninhabitable due to toxic waste buried there.

This is a good example of how the government could have allayed a lot of fears here and chose not to. There have been several inquiries as to what is buried at the base. Why does DND refuse to publicly declare what is there? Myself personally, I feel we have not reached the crest of the violence and discontent in this community. Confidentially, this is not just idle thought.

This came from a police officer in Professional Standards who quite frankly stated that "We haven't seen the end of this and it will get a lot worse before it even begins to get better"

These kind of things are said everyday. Would it make you feel safe Sir?

I don't believe if this was happening in your neighborhood, you would feel any different than the 4900 people in Bosanquet feel right now. How many years do you think is fair that we be patient and understanding while we live in this environment? I have lost 8 yrs of my life being afraid since the launching of the West Ipperwash Land Claim and the events of May/93 and Sept/95. When can you say Enough is Enough?

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Sincerely  
Mary-Lou LaPratte