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Minister

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FEB 23 1996

Messieurs David Pugh and  
Jack Lasenby  
Bosanquet Councillors  
Port Franks and  
Ipperwash Wards  
2 Louisa Street  
Thedford ON N0M 2N0

*written after snowmobile  
incident & negotiation  
for theft / vandalism  
instead of charges  
Poussure  
DAMAGE  
GOV'T DOCUMENT  
DEFEND AND KNEW*

Dear Messieurs Pugh and Lasenby:

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 1996, regarding criminal occurrences in the area of Ipperwash and Port Franks.

*DAMAGE*

Both Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner Thomas B. O'Grady and I appreciate the concern of local residents as a result of these occurrences and the uncertainty associated with the occupation of Canadian Forces Camp Ipperwash and Ipperwash Provincial Park. I assure you that the OPP is doing everything possible to apprehend those responsible for these offences while also endeavouring to maintain the peace and ensure the safety of all area residents.

Commissioner O'Grady advises me that the incidents noted in your letter were investigated by the OPP. The incident which occurred on December 27, 1995, involving Mr. Rob McClung, was resolved to the satisfaction of the victims involved who were interested in retrieving their snowmobiles but did not wish to pursue charges under the Criminal Code. Although no suspects have yet been identified, investigations into the other occurrences are ongoing. Since Labour Day week-end in September 1995, no further acts of violence have occurred. The OPP conducts regular patrols of the area.

*Police left Sept to Oct 15/95 -*

Messieurs David Pugh and Jack Lasenby  
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It is my understanding that OPP Superintendent A.G. Parkin, Western Region Headquarters, has kept you apprised of the ongoing situation involving Ipperwash Provincial Park. The OPP is continuing to meet with representatives from the First Nations communities at Kettle and Stoney Point, as well as the occupants of the park and the military camp. It is the desire of both the federal and provincial governments, including the OPP, that these land use issues be resolved in a peaceful manner. To this end, the federal government has assigned a negotiator to facilitate the return of the military base to the First Nations people and all concerned parties are actively involved in this process.

The OPP will continue to enforce the law in a just and equitable manner.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Runciman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert W. Runciman, MPP  
Leeds-Grenville  
Solicitor General and  
Minister of Correctional Services