

Native rowdies run amok

Last week's cowardly evacuation of Canadian Forces Camp Ipperwash by Canada's military after a few native rowdies broke the law is simply the latest example of Ottawa's cowardice when it comes to dealing with aboriginal problems.

The base was bought outright for \$50,000 in 1942 by taxpayers from a native group. Complaints by some natives led to the forking out of another \$2.1 million in 1980. Since then, considerable sums have been spent on maintenance and buildings because the base was used as a training facility for thousands of cadets, police, reservists and others each year.

But a handful of natives started making trouble. In 1993 an Armed Forces helicopter was hit by gunfire and training was suspended. Since then, the problems multiplied. Gunfire was commonplace. Fences were torn down. Trespassing occurred. Stolen cars were stored on the property. This year, a building was firebombed, military police and civilians were assaulted, weapons fired and vehicles damaged. The last straw was on July 29 when two kids drove a school bus right into the camp's drill hall and got into a fight with military personnel. Evacuation followed to avoid confrontation.

A spokesman for the defence minister said an evacuation was planned anyway.

But the question is why abandon Ipperwash when the taxpayers paid for it twice? Even worse, why abandon it because thugs not representative of the native community there are causing trouble? Why not arrest wrongdoers? Why is our federal government frightened of imposing law and order?

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case as governments refuse to live up to their responsibilities.

Another recent case involved natives from Merritt, B.C., who blocked the road in Douglas Lake Ranch's commercial sports fishing lakes on the spurious argument they were refused the right to fish. The ranch went to court, got an injunction commanding the na-

shenanigans



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tives to remove barricade and the RCMP wouldn't enforce the injunction because the provincial attorney general didn't want another Oka.

And the situation escalates — little wonder when you have wimps running governments.

We now have marijuana growing on a Mohawk reserve in Ontario in open defiance of laws. We have natives illegally blockading logging operations in B.C. without punishment. We have gun-running, gam-

bling and other forms of smuggling going on in some reserves.

And still it isn't enough. One native leader, Ovide Mercredi, is actually calling for illegal roadblocks along the Trans-Canada Highway to protest the gun control law. We have rampant tax evasion on reserves as natives get income and sales tax exemptions by pretending they live on a reserve or by selling tax free items to non-natives.

This despite the fact the Canadian government has given Canada's 565,351 aboriginals promises of self-government, massive amounts of land, gigantic cash settlements, tax-free privileges, gold-plated medical entitlements and on top of all that some \$9,750 for every man, woman and child annually.

Native Sen. Walter Twinn estimated in a recent interview that taxpayers are actually forking out \$16,450 per native person annually — or another \$3.6 billion — on top of the \$5.3 billion spent by the department of Indian and native affairs. These expenditures are buried in the budgets involving housing, heritage, secretary of state, health, education, law enforcement and other departments.

On top of that is the tax-free status. Revenue Canada and the department of finance admitted to me they do not have a clue as to how much forgone revenue the tax-free entitlement represents. Aboriginals with reserve addresses do not have to pay income or sales taxes.

All of this nonsense continues at the same time a useless royal commission studies what to do about aboriginal policy. This body has become another Indian Industry and has spent \$60 million for no valid reasons.

The answers are simple. Governments must impose the rule of law. Indian lands belong to the federal government and it must ensure there is law and order. Send in the army, for goodness sake, wherever there's trouble. Instead, Ottawa evacuates troops the minute a handful of rowdies breaks our laws.

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