

'Truth & Reconciliation Rally in Caledonia' News Conference  
Queens Park Media Studio, Feb 23, 2011

**Truth and Reconciliation Rally**  
Gary McHale, Executive Director  
(Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality)

**Introduction**

Hello, my name is Gary McHale, Executive Director of CANACE - Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality.

I would like to thank Toby Barrett, Conservative MPP for Haldimand/Norfolk, for booking this room which allows us an opportunity to share with the media a very important event that will be occurring this Sunday in Caledonia starting at 1 pm outside the Lion's Hall.

This Feb. 28th, Monday, will mark the five year anniversary of the failed McGuinty policies in experimental justice in Haldimand that has left both police officers and residents with long term trauma. In fact, OPP officers were so victimized that some were unable to return to duty. One resident has permanent brain damage and many more are left emotionally scarred.

We are here today to announce the next stage of our continued efforts to start the healing and reconciliation process by holding the first of several events to promote Truth and Reconciliation.

It is our hope that those in authority who played a role in creating the problems in Caledonia will now be willing to step forward and play instead a meaningful role in restoring the community. The Federal Government created a standard for addressing systemic injustices when they apologized to Aboriginals for residential schools and creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to deal with the human lives affected by those injustices.

While it is true the Federal Government ignored their duty in this area for many years, governments can no longer demand or expect people simply forget the past and move forward while our leaders refuse to accept *their* responsibilities.

Today, it is the McGuinty Government that must decide whether to ignore its duty to apologize for the injustice that occurred or to step forward and help in the healing and reconciliation process between Six Nations and Caledonia.

I now introduce to you Mr. Merlyn Kinrade, a resident of Caledonia.

Gary McHale, Co-Founder  
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