

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

Six Nations Must Apologize (2:30)
Merlyn Kinrade, Caledonia Resident
(Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality)

The Ontario government and the OPP call what they did to us 'peacekeeping,' but they have never explained what lawful authority they had to substitute a peacekeeping mission for the Charter of Rights and Ontario's Police Services Act.

Peacekeepers are sent to wartorn countries to restore the rule of law – not destroy it in stable democracies by serving as security guards for criminals wreaking havoc on innocent civilians. I know because I am a former member of the Royal Canadian Navy and served on one of the most famous ships in Canadian naval history, HMCS Haida. My service included a tour of duty in Port Said, Egypt on a United Nations peacekeeping mission during the 1956 Suez Crisis.

I have lived more than sixty years of my life in Caledonia, the last four of which I have devoted to ending the despicable race-based policing they call 'peacekeeping' that devastated my community and alienated so many of my friends and neighbours. Friends that include people from Six Nations, some of whom were former Navy comrades.

I used to own the Riverview Dairy in Caledonia and was a steadfast contributor to the community, including playing a key role in making construction of our original arena possible for the town. I sponsored and coached various sports teams and always made a special effort to include children from Six Nations by providing transportation to and from practices and games, purchasing skates and other equipment for them and ensuring they were well fed during their time with the team. Now, they pretend not to remember that kindness.

I was once an invited and very proud guest at the graduation party for a Six Nations man who graduated law school and went on to become an aide to former Chief David General. Now, he won't eat in my home because I dared to stand with a good man named Gary McHale who was willing to come to my community to help people he didn't even know.

I want my Six Nations friends back in my life, but not at the expense of justice or the loss of the precious rule of law in my country that protects native and non-native alike. I desperately want to experience healing and reconciliation with my native friends, but these are nothing more than empty, meaningless words until Six Nations officially declares its commitment to renounce violence and intimidation against innocents by apologizing for their role in Caledonia's misery.

Thank you.

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