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From: Fantino, Julian (JUS) [Julian.Fantino@ontario.ca]

Sent: Thu 12/4/2008 5:44 PM

To: Joseph Di Luca

Cc:

Subject: Clyde Powless

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To the Honourable Court:

In my capacity as the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police I have known Mr. Powless for the past two years.

As well, since taking office I have become directly involved in a number of meetings and dialogue with members of the Six Nations Confederacy in mutual effort to keep the peace in Caledonia where many flare-ups have taken place resulting from historical land claim disputes that have necessitated the deployment of an extraordinary amount of OPP resources when flare-ups and conflict has erupted.

Much of the conflict, confrontation and provocation has occurred during the times that Mr. Gary McHale and his followers have converged on Caledonia that invariably resulted in heightened tensions and conflict that has required an extraordinary deployment of police resources in our efforts to preserve the peace.

Although I am not in a position to address the specific circumstances that resulted in criminal charges being brought against Mr. Powless, I do feel that but for Mr. McHale's mischief-making forays into Caledonia, the very volatile situation that exists there would not have escalated time and again as it has virtually every time Mr. McHale came to town.

I am not making excuses or apologies for Mr. Powless's actions about which he is accused, however, and with respect, the Honourable Court may wish to consider the volatility of the situation and provocation that simply could have been avoided but for the presence of Mr. McHale and his like minded followers.

As well, I wish to advise the Honourable Court that on a number of occasions Mr. Powless has been instrumental in diffusing serious conflict and confrontation during which times he has actually been the peace-maker.

Respectfully submitted.

J. Fantino, Commissioner
Ontario Provincial Police

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