



CALEDONIA CITIZENS ALLIANCE

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ALLIANCE APPEALS FOR END TO OCCUPATION

The Ontario Court of Appeals found yesterday that Judge David Marshall's apparent order to halt negotiations relating to the ongoing land dispute at the Douglas Creek Estates in Caledonia, was merely a suggestion and therefore, not a binding order.

The Alliance is pleased that the negotiations will continue but stresses the end of the occupation must be the first priority at the table. Ken Hewitt, spokesperson for the Alliance stated, "The Alliance believes that the first order of business for negotiators is to deal with the occupation before any other conversations take place, the ongoing occupation continues to pose fears and uncertainty among the citizens of Caledonia."

Following a meeting last night that was attended by the parents of students attending Notre Dame School, which backs on the site, the local school board and government representatives it was very evident that the ongoing occupation was the main concern for parents. The school board and government officials have suggested building a wooden fence around the school yard however parents feel this would simply act as a band-aid as opposed to dealing with the real problem; the occupation and the perceived threat of the occupiers.

The Alliance has always been concerned with the threat of violence stemming from the occupation of DCE. And therefore, believes it is in the best interest of both communities that the occupation be addressed immediately.

Meanwhile, the Alliance feels that throughout these negotiations it is paramount that the interests of the community be represented at the negotiating table and that the process be transparent for all to see the progress being made.

The Appeal court will rule Friday on whether to grant a stay of Judge Marshall's order until it hears a government appeal on September 25.

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Contact information: 905.765.3993