



# Ontario Provincial Police Police provinciale de l'Ontario

Caledonia Incident Command

Unity Road  
Caledonia, Ontario

A/Superintendent Douglas Babbitt

news  
release  
communiqué

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## **Key To Successful Negotiations and Community Safety** **Understanding, Mutual Respect and Meaningful Dialogue**

Caledonia ON - Commanders responsible for providing Community Safety and Order remind all residents of the importance of working together conscientiously while those dealing with negotiating resolutions progress further.

This is a challenging time for everyone involved, but it's also a time for the positive attributes of humanity to shine through in a meaningful way. Sadly there are always some who take advantage of a fragile situation to further their personal causes or beliefs. The spreading of rumours or outsiders coming into the community to advance their own agenda by attaching it to this issue is counter productive towards a peaceful resolution. The efforts of those working tirelessly to promote peace and harmony in the Communities affected by this issue are set back by these activities and will prolong the resolution process not shorten it.

O.P.P. members are committed to providing Community Safety and Order while negotiations proceed. We have seen a greater willingness by all to allow the natural process of negotiations to take it's course. The number of incidents investigated by police has subsided and a fragile peace appears to be stabilizing over time.

We will continue to investigate citizen's complaints. Incidents that afford evidence of criminality will be dealt with accordingly by police and those responsible will be charged appropriately and held accountable for their actions. To date 27 people have been charged with a total of 57 offences. Police continue to go over video tapes and statements and additional charges are anticipated.

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The O.P.P. recognize that the majority of citizens involved in the Douglas Creek Land Claim issue realize the complexity of the issues at hand and have an understanding of the sensitivities involved. To that end they have remained respectful to others and worked within their community to facilitate Community Safety and order.

Next weekend the Caledonia Fall Fair will take place. This is an historic tradition in which friends and family have met since 1873.

Superintendent Babbitt states “the O.P.P. will have a presence at the Fair as in past years to assist in ensuring order is maintained. This is a family event for all to enjoy. O.P.P. members will not tolerate anyone’s actions that will deprive citizens and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the community.”

As negotiations continue, the O.P.P. continues to maintain a significant presence in the Caledonia area. The O.P.P. are cognizant of the importance of allowing persons to express their feelings and frustrations. With emotions running high from time to time, the O.P.P. remind everyone of the importance of remaining respectful to each other and not partaking in events that are counterproductive to community peace.

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