



Friday, April 26, 2013

THE COST OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ONTARIO

It is a blessing that I am able to compose the following words on an actual personal electronic device much less through an active internet connection. I am fortunate to finally afford some degree of stability. I write these words with great desire to prevent one single Canadian from enduring anything similar to my personal ordeal while pursuing social justice in Canada.

While being guaranteed my fundamental rights and freedoms as a Canadian, I have been systematically oppressed throughout my pursuit of genuine social justice. To say the very least, I have been thoroughly abused by my government and/or its agents to the point of financial, medical, and social demise. Though I will never stop pursuing a fair and just Canada for all, I must say that doing so certainly has come at a phenomenal personal cost to me and my children.

I once cared very little about politics and cared even less about the operations of our social systems. The day that the Children's Aid Society unjustly apprehended my children, my ignorance changed quickly and drastically! Today, it is safe to say that I care with an extreme and nearly obsessed intensity!

When my children were apprehended in October of 2000, I was forced to defend my God-given right to love, protect and nurture my own children through a very tedious and monotonous legal system. As a free Canadian, I was actually forced to defend my rights and freedoms, although I had never in my life hurt a child, put a child a risk, nor had I ever come remotely close to pondering such. Neglect was neither a factor as my children were well noted by ample professionals to be above average in development while being well groomed, happy, loving and loved.

My children were never apprehended in their best interests, and the last 13 years of CAS harassment and stress certainly hasn't served them any benefit, indeed much to the contrary. The fact is, my family was profiled and targeted by the CAS for 'service'. We were harassed and intimidated by the CAS for months, even cooperating at the onset of 'service', although we didn't agree with the need for such services. While I was trusting that a Children's Aid Society could, nor would ever act contrary to the best interest of children, I was absolutely walked into the gas chamber, if you will. Simply put, I was set up by the CAS.

It would take years for this truth to surface, though it did come at a further cost. I will cover that cost in a subsequent document as it is a separate issue related to innocent children who were sexually abused in particular foster homes in my area under the direct supervision of the CAS.

The point of this document is to make my government aware, though I suspect there is advanced indication, of the serious oppression of particular Canadian citizens seeking social justice. I have a certain degree of cautious optimism that an understanding of the presented issues stated herein could potentially lead to the attention and further action by my government to protect the alarming number of Canadians facing the said issue of oppression.

It is immediately imperative that the Canadian government halt the abuses perpetrated on Canadian families by particular social systems, however; just as importantly those exposing the serious issues within those social systems must have a satisfactory degree of protection while doing so. Concerned citizens with evidence against corrupt and/or scandalous governments and/or their agents cannot continue to be stifled and/or punished by the very government vowing to prevent such. Very little, if any, asylum is afforded to private citizens attempting to expose serious issues within Canada's discombobulated social systems.

I have personally witnessed an incredible amount of people who, in attempts to speak out against the wrongs committed against them and/or others, were systematically identified, attacked and further assaulted, often to the point of serious harm in one way, shape or form. To be assaulted with the very same tax dollars that you are trying to save your country is a very insulting gesture by the Canadian government. No longer should Canadians have to tolerate the juvenile finger pointing and blame shifting occurring within the Governments of Canada while the underlying issues remain ignored. It is well beyond time that public servants earn the paycheck signed by the collective hands of the Canadian People!

Since 2000, I have actively advocated for many families in my region who were and/or are being adversely affected by child protection agencies. I state here without one bit of exaggeration that I have been systematically targeted and attacked by a variety of government funded service providers for doing just that. Simple advocacy and concern for my fellow citizen has brought my children and I countless losses, though the experience did make us more sensitive to the suffering of others, hence the intent of this document.

I began working for taxed pay at 11 years old. I worked hard. I have a diverse resume citing employment as a secretary, cook, waitress, child care provider, nurses' aid, customer service agent, and industrial cleaner. I've worked in factories, fields & offices. I've roofed & sided houses, worked in truck stops, a recycling depot and a fitness club. I have always tried to give back through volunteer services. Over the years I have been a Sunday school teacher/Superintendent, a Girl Guide leader, a blood donor, a goodwill clothing distributor, a fundraiser coordinator, a member of the Board at a my church, a service coordinator, advocate and mentor to mention only a few of my direct experiences in the community. As a youngster I was a Girl Guide, air cadet, majorette, and I had 12 years of perfect attendance at my church.

I've lived an extremely diverse life and gained tremendous life experience and skills as a result. I obtained and have maintained serious credibility as a Canadian citizen. Regardless of any credibility I obtained over the years, it served me no justice whatsoever when the system colluded against me. In the last decade I have been charged with several serious criminal charges.

Each time I chose to proceed to trial. On the trial date, each time, the charges were either dropped or successfully defended. I have no convictions for any of those charges, however, I have served jail time, and been assaulted by police where I made many complains supported by OPP forensic evidence in vain.

I have been pepper sprayed, washed down with a power hose, been taken to hospital once by police from jail and another time an ambulance had to be called to collect me from the jail. My personal property has been destroyed by the police. The police have intentionally caused stress for my children with threats of criminal charges for absolutely no reason, and have failed to act appropriately when my children were bullied in the community. It has been a very absurd experience with my regional police while they helped to stifle me and my truth(s).

Any help my children were 'supposed' to receive from children's mental help was thwarted. We live in a very small community where all of the workers of the social programs collude in major ways. The CMH worker assigned to our case refused to stand up for my children, though she had strong evidence from my doctor and other service providers, not to mention the children themselves that the children were being stressed to the maximum by the CAS harassment and violations. The treatment we received at the only school my children had ever attended changed drastically where I was treated like an abuser and my children suffered serious social issues among their teachers and/or peers. Our family fell apart, I won't get into the details of that as it is quite personal, however; the relationships that have been affected are direct results of CAS lies, deceit and malicious actions.

What I share here details only a fraction of my issues and fails to effectively demonstrate the extreme harm that has been caused to me and/or my family. My situation is not unique. I communicate regularly with people in the very same situation as myself. It's shameful! I have personally corresponded with the federal and provincial governments for several different issues over the years and not once have I received a satisfactory reply with regards to my information. Other people I am in touch with report the same frustrating results.

I have lost a good portion of family, friends and supports and have lost my house, my vehicle, my bank accounts, insurances & investments, my good health as well as my social standing for merely defending my rights and those of others. Personally knowing many others from across the nation who are in the very same situation and barely 'hanging on' leaves me to wonder how many more Canadians are out there silently struggling after they've been systemically silenced and consequently left with no resources or credibility. I therefore offer this document to my government to speak on behalf of those people as well as my self and all the other vigilant citizens of Canada.

Yours truly
Ms. Brenda Everall
2-131 Main Street
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
beverall31@hotmail.com
Phone: 613-645-2103

1. Dear Brenda Everall,

Thank you for engaging with our office, your grievances have been brought to the attention of Mr. Singh. It is clear that you have had a very difficult relationship with the

Children's Aid Society in your hometown. With that in mind, the New Democratic Party have introduced legislation aimed at providing a solution for this problem.

The experience you describe is by no means uncommon. The need for enhanced independent oversight over all of the province's Children's Aid Societies has been a reoccurring issue raised by constituents across the province. A solution addressing these problems has consistently been a part of the NDP platform. With proposed NDP legislation such as Bill 42, all 47 of Ontario's Private Children's Aid Societies would be open to investigation by the Ontario Ombudsman, providing additional recourse for citizens such as yourself.

With efforts such as Bill 42, the NDP is committed to ensuring the protection of citizens dealing with the province's many Children's Aid Societies. Our office has forwarded your email to the NDP's critic for the Ministry of Children & Youth Services (Monique Smith), who will better address your concerns. Please don't hesitate to keep our office informed of all relevant developments related to your grievance.

Regards,
Nader Mohamed
Legislative Staff
Office of Jagmeet Singh, MPP
Bramalea Gore-Malton

2. Brenda,

Our office has received many copies of the email you have forwarded to other MPP's. As you may be aware the Ombudsman oversight bills was being brought forth in the legislation last fall and then the government was prorogued. The legislation has been brought forth again and I can advise that Mr. Smith does intend to vote for it, as he discussed with you during your meeting last year.

I know I share his sympathies as to what you have experienced. Currently I can tell you that the Ombudmen Amendment Act (Children's Aid Societies) 2013 Bill 42 brought forward by Monique Taylor has passed second reading and is now before the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. This legislation is an important place to start in helping families such as yours. We appreciate you sharing your story in hopes that it can make a difference for other families as well.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Regards;

Jennifer Kyte
Constituency Assistant
Todd Smith MPP
Prince Edward-Hastings
Unit #3 - 81 Millennium Parkway
P.O. Box 575
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5B2
T: 613.962.1144
T: 877.536.6248
F: 613.969.6381

3. Dear Brenda Overall,

Thank you for taking the time to share your story with Mr. Flynn. Your concerns and experience have been shared with him.

As your local MPP is Todd Smith, MPP for Prince Edward—Hastings I would suggest that you also contact his office. I have provide his contact details below.

Ellen Kuschnik
Constituency Office Manager
Office of Kevin Flynn, M.P.P. Oakville
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
2-2318 Lakeshore Road West
Oakville, ON L6L 1H3
T - (905) 827-5141
F - (905) 827-3786
E - kflynn.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
www.kevinflynn.onmpp.ca

4. Hi Brenda,

Thanks for sending this highly personal email.

As you are not a constituent of ours I can only accept it as information, and I would refer you to your own MPP for the purpose of any follow-up. I can also tell you that MPPs are not permitted to get involved in any matter that is before the courts, or in direct intervention of specific CAS cases.

I can say that the NDP MPP from Hamilton Mountain, Monique Taylor, has put forth a Private Member's bill calling for Ombudsman oversight of the CAS. That bill recently passed second reading and has all-party support.

I hope you find this information helpful, and wish you the best of the luck in the future.

Regards,

Jody Percy
Constituency Assistant
Taras Natyshak MPP Essex
316 Talbot St., N.
Essex, ON
N9M 2E1
519-776-6420
1-800-265-3909
tnatyshak-co@ndp.on.ca
www.tarasnatyshak.com

5. Dear Ms. Overall,

Thank you for bringing your concern forward to Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North.

As you live in the riding of Prince Edward-Hastings, you should be contacting your MPP, Todd Smith. We did not want to forward your letter without your permission, but we do suggest you send it to Mr. Smith at todd.smith@pc.ola.org

Kindest regards,
Sue Baker, Constituency Assistant

6. Good afternoon:

Thank you for contacting the Constituency Office of MPP John Yakabuski. I am forwarding your message to John Yakabuski's Queen's Park office (john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org) for them to address this issue/concern as this is a political issue. You may also contact the MPP for your riding, MPP Todd Smith. I hope this information is helpful.

Best regards,

Mary Ann Taman
Constituency Assistant to
JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Tel: 613-735-6627 Fax: 613-735-6692

7. Thank you for contacting our office.

Since your correspondence is in regards to Teresa's role as Ontario's Minister of Children & Youth Services, I'm forwarding it to Matt Caron's attention in our Toronto Office for him to advise.

Should you require assistance with another provincial matter, please contact us again.

Thank you,
Patricia
Office of Teresa Piruzza
MPP Windsor West
519-977-7191 (office)
519-977-7029 (fax)

8. Hello Brenda,

I would like to commend you first of all, for your amazing work with the community and all of your efforts in various matters in which you have engaged this concern. I am also very sorry to hear about the hardships you have had to endure through this ordeal and your passion in fighting for what you believe in.

Madame Gèlinas is the MPP for Nickel Belt and Health Critic for Long Term care. Let me please find out from you, what is your main area of concern which we can assist with?

Perhaps you can clarify in a few questions for specifically.

Thank you

Fatema Gafur Hossain
Legislative Assistant
France Gèlinas
MPP Nickel Belt

416-325-2507
gafurf@ndp.on.ca

9. Dear Ms. Everall,

Thank you for your correspondence to Bob Chiarelli, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean. Your comments are best directed to your local MPP. The MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings is Todd Smith, and he may be reached at todd.smithco@pc.ola.org.

Regards,

Office of Bob Chiarelli
MPP, Ottawa West-Nepean

10. Hello Brenda,

This email is to let you know that MPP Albanese has received your email and will be reviewing it.

Thank you for taking the time to put your concerns and experience in writing.

Andrew Robertson
Office of Laura Albanese, MPP

11. Good morning Brenda,

Thank you for taking the time to email our office. With MPP Todd Smith being your representative and for your convenience, I have cc'd his office in this reply. Should you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact MPP Todd Smith's office directly at 1-613-962-1144.

Thank you again for emailing our office.

Kind Regards,
Tina Stephens
Constituency Assistant to
Rob Milligan, MPP
Northumberland-Quinte West
86 Dundas St. West, Trenton
K8V 3P3

t:613-392-3038
f:613-392-2241
rob.milligan2@pc.ola.org
www.robmilliganmpp.com

12. Dear Brenda,

Thank you for contacting the constituency office of Dr. Eric Hoskins, Member of Provincial Parliament for St. Paul's.

We appreciate that you have brought this matter to the attention of Eric Hoskins. However, as you are a resident of Prince Edward Hastings I have taken the liberty of c'cing your MPP to this response, MPP Todd Smith. It is a custom and a courtesy to allow each Member of Provincial Parliament the opportunity to assist their constituents. We are certain that MPP Smith will do everything possible to assist you.

I have also taken the liberty of c'cing the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to this response. Please note that Dr. Hoskins is no longer the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the new Minister is Minister Teresa Piruzza.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services
900 Bay Street
M-1B114, Macdonald Block
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Canada
mcsinfo@mcys.gov.on.ca
416-212-7432

13. Brenda

We appreciate that you took the time to voice your thoughts regarding this matter and encourage you to contact the Ministry office should you require assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Mark Tishman
Constituency Assistant
Office of Eric Hoskins,
MPP St. Paul's
803 St. Clair Ave. W.

Toronto Ontario,
M6C 1B9
Tel (416) 656-0943
Fax (416) 656-0875

14. Good morning Brenda

I am sorry to hear about the issues you are having to deal with.

I am forwarding your email to the MPP for your riding.

I have also taken the liberty of providing you with the name and contact information for your MPP.

Kind regards
Terri-Lynne Robinson
Senior Constituency Assistant
Office of Hon. Dalton McGuinty/MPP/MPP Ottawa South
1795 Kilborn Avenue
Ottawa, ON.
K1H 6N1
Tel:613-736-9573
Fax:613-736-7374

15. Dear Ms. Overall,

Thank you for contacting our office with your concerns.

I have forwarded your email onto your local MPP Todd Smith and MP Daryl Kramp for them to review and respond.

For your information, I have also included their contact details below:

MPP Todd Smith
Picton Office
Unit C
The Armory 206 Main Street
Picton , Ontario K0K 2T0
Tel: 613-476-9616
MP Daryl Kramp
Picton Office

280 Main Street
Suite 103
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
613-476-7901 x210
krampd@parl.gc.ca
Best regards,
Kelly
Barrie Constituency Office

16. Thank you for your correspondence, I will pass it on to Mr. Barrett

Jeff
Office of MPP Toby Barrett

Ms. Brenda Everall
2-131 Main Street
Picton ON K0K 2T0

Dear Brenda

Thank you for your e-mail of April 26, 2013, regarding your experiences with the Children's Aid Society. I'm sorry to hear of the difficulties your family has encountered. As a mother myself I understand how important these issues are to you; and can imagine your anguish.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) is the lead ministry for child and youth services, which includes child welfare issues and jurisdiction over the children's aid societies. While privacy laws prevent me from referring your e-mail to MCYC, you are encouraged, if you have not already done so, to share your concerns with my colleague the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister, so that they may be brought to her staff's attention. If you wish to contact Minister Piruzza directly you can reach her at:

Ministry of Children and Youth Services
14th floor
56 Wellesley St. West
Toronto ON M5S 2S3
Tel: 416-212-7432
Toll Free: 1-866-821-7770
Email: mcsmin@mcys.gov.on.ca
www.children.gov.on.ca/

Thank you again for writing. I wish you and your family well.

Sincerely, Deb Mathews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care