

June 15, 2013

Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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Tel: 613-992-4211  
Email: [stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister Harper

**RE: Time has come to put an end to the harassment and intimidation of Canadians at our courts by court security officers**

Recently, I had a very terrifying and unpleasant experience at my local courthouse in Sault Ste Marie Ontario. During my attendance at the court, I was threatened, intimidated, humiliated and harassed to the point where the police officers ordered me to leave the courthouse property because I told them I was going to file a complaint against them. It was a blatant abuse of police power and authority and certainly not the type of environment that Justice officials should be providing for Canadians at their courts. Canadians should feel safe, secure and welcomed at their courts of justice.

For your reference, I have attached my letter send to the Manager of Court Services which will provide details of my experience.

What disturbs me and has motivated me to write this letter to you is that after speaking to other citizens and doing research over the social media I have come to learn that my experience is not isolated within the realm of the Canadian Justice System. I have come to learn that many others hold serious reservations and distrust about the Canadian Justice System and the manner in which justice is being served at our courts.

Not that long ago, some unknown person set fire to files in our own courthouse causing damage and closure of the courthouse. Below is a link to the story:

<http://www.saultstar.com/2011/09/01/inspector-wont-comment-on-courthouse-fire>

Of the hundreds of testimonials about abuse the courts, one that stood out to me was a letter from a war veteran, Maurice Conway to all Canadians. I have attached his letter for you to read.

About a month ago sometime tried to firebomb the front entrance of the Hamilton, Ontario courthouse. I verily believe these events are a warning sign of the growing resentment of the justice system by Canadians. Access to transcripts which have not been altered by judges has become almost impossible today to obtain today.

My research uncovered that the abuse of citizens at courthouses by court officials, lawyers and judges has been an ongoing problem for many years. It seems that many Canadians are seeing the judges, courts and lawyer as their enemy. This is not the way our courts should be viewed by the citizens of Canada. Canada's justice system should set an example for the world.

One very prominent lawyer with over 35 years on the bar spoke at a public event within the past week about the broken family court system. He talks about the citizens having "figured out" what

is going on in our family courts. Many agree with him. His testimony can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7d0AeS3oYQ>

While I am not writing this letter to deal with the multitude of serious problems facing Canada's Justice System, I would like to address the issue of abuse of citizens at the courthouses by over-zealous police officers whose duty is to provide security for the courts. The only way to put an end to this sort of abuse of members of the public is to enact legislation or to implement procedures at the courts which will required that ALL security officers at the courthouses who have the authority to detain or question members of the public be required to wear body worn video/audio recording devices and to have these devices operating at all times when dealing with the public.

Video/audio recording devices are used in many jurisdictions in the United States with great success. Costs of such equipment is comparable to equipment without audio/video recording capabilities built in. An example of one manufacture of such equipment can be seen at the link:

<http://www.martelelectronics.com/Police-Body-Wearable-Video-Camera.html>

Use of such equipment will not only protect members of the public from officers who abuse their power and authority but help provide protection to court officials who may find themselves the subject of assaults, threats and false allegations. The benefit of such technology to all parties is abundantly clear. The use of such equipment will significantly improve the respect for the courts and the administration of justice.

In response to my personal letter to you, I have only one very simply request. I simply ask that you confirm receipt of this mail by providing your response to the following question, "Do you, as the Prime Minister of Canada support the use of body mounted video/audio recording equipment by officers at courthouses as a reasonable measure to promote accountability and protection of the public." Your support of such technology at our courts will go a long way in making this goal a reality in the not to distant future.

Your response in support of recording technology would be greatly appreciated. It's about time that the one problem relating to the abuse of citizens at our courts be resolved with technology designed for this very purpose.

Yours truly,



Vincent Schiele  
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Attachments:

My letter to Manager of Court Services dated June 4, 2013  
Letter from Mr. Maurice Conway to all Canadians dated March 2001

June 4, 2013

Mr. Eric Pickard  
Manager of Court Operations  
Court Service Division  
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Tel: 945-8000 Ext 450  
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Dear Mr. Pickard

**RE: Harassment and obstruction of justice by court security officers**

I would like to file a formal complaint regarding being intimidated, harassed and denied entry to the Sault Ste Marie, Ontario family court by court security officers during my attempt to attend my Settlement Conference on Tuesday May 28, 2013. I was ordered to leave court property by an officer named Ron who would appear to have control and aggression issues. What I experienced on that day as well as the following day as a member of the public was nothing less than an abuse of power and authority by some over-zealous security officers at the courthouse.

**Details of the first incident of intimidation and harassment by court security officers on Tuesday, May 28, 2013**

At about 1:40 pm on Tuesday May 28, 2013 I entered the front entrance of the courthouse to appear at a Settlement Conference at 2 pm in courtroom #6. Just inside the entrance door, there were two security guards sitting at a desk chatting to each other. As I approached the security screening area, the officers turned and looked at me. The one security officer with glasses knew me by sight as I had been to the court on a number of similar occasions. While still sitting, the one security guard with glasses at the desk said "Hey" as if to greet me.

Having a lot on my mind as family court is very stressful and being heavily in thought about my upcoming Settlement Conference proceedings I did not take any significance in the officer saying "Hey" to me so I said nothing in reply. I just got my metal keys out of my pocket and ready to put in the plastic tray in preparation of going through the metal detector. The guard with the glasses at the desk then said, "How are we today?.....You not talking?" in a condescending manner as if to be insulted for not answering his question about how I was doing that day.

Again, with my mind being focussed on my upcoming family court matter, I simply replied, "Do I have to talk?" I simply was not in the mood to engage in general conversation with the officers. I simply wanted to enter the court and go about my business in the court as I have done many times in the past.

I placed my car keys and my phone into the plastic basket. The officer with the glasses took my carrying case to inspect it. Instead of just looking in the case to see that there were no metal objects as has been done on previous times, he disturbed the papers in a very sloppy and uncaring manner.

Anyone with any sense could have easily seen that there were only papers in my very small case without having to disturb the papers. There was only one compartment holding my papers. Some of my papers were bent and not in their original condition after the officer had messed them up. There was really no need for the officer to reach in and to move papers. Below is a photo of the very simple case I had with me that day.



I was then told to walk through the metal detector. The metal detector alarm went off and I was told to take my coat off and return for a second pass. I went back and gave my coat to the guard with glasses and returned to the metal detector for a second pass. I walked through and the metal detector went off again. The only thing on me that was metal was my belt buckle which was clearly visible above my shirt. Having a bit of a belly, anyone could see my stomach tight to my belt. I told the officer that it was my belt setting off the alarm. At this point I would have expected one of the officers to scan me with a hand held detector to confirm that it was my belt. Instead of doing what should have been common sense and to use the hand wand, the guard with the glasses asked me to walk back to go through the walk through scanner and to take my belt off before going through this time. I am a tall person and my belt was the only thing holding my pants up.

As I had been through the same security system at this court before and allowed to enter with belt buckles on my pants, I simply asked, "Is this really necessary?" The officer then responded by telling me that they make everyone remove their belts. I knew what the officer was telling me was not true at all.

I have gone through the metal detectors on three previous occasions with a metal belt buckle since the implementation of security measures at this court. On previous occasions security officers simply used their hand metal detection wand to confirm the belt buckle. It was very evident at that point from his tone of voice and body language that the officer with the glasses was insisting on these "extra" measures to have me take my belt off was for the purpose just to harass me and to abuse his power and authority over me for some unknown reason.

The officer with the glasses told me in a very aggressive and arrogant manner that I either take my belt off or be denied entry to the building. This put me in a embarrassing situation as my pants would surely fall down if I removed my belt. I found it very demeaning the way I was being treated

and did not take my belt off. I decided to go next door to the Services Ontario building to seek assistance and to file a complaint.

I did not want to create a confrontation with the one officer in charge and turned and left the court building. I then proceeded next door to the Services Ontario building looking for help and to file a complaint. Staff at the Services Ontario building were familiar with me and I asked for assistance to get back into the courthouse. The one lady I knew told me to wait and that she would call the manager of the court operations to assist me.

While waiting to meet the manager three security guards come out of the west staff entrance of the courthouse. One of the officers spotted me and gestured for me to come towards him. I thought that these officers were gesturing me to come over in response to my request to meet with the courthouse manager. The three officers walked up the ramp and stopped me just at the outside of the entrance door to the Services Ontario building as I came out of the building. The officers then surrounded me and blocked me.

One of the three officers by the name of Ron came up very close to me and stood within a half an arm's length from me. From where I was standing, I was unable to move in any direction without my body physically contacting one of the three officers surrounding me. In a very demanding manner, Ron then demanded as to what my business was. Very clearly, he was acting in a very aggressive and threatening manner. By his tone of voice and body language, Ron was ready to create an incident. I felt very intimidated.

The Assistant Manager of Court Operations, Chantal Corriveau, came out the same door the officers had come from and walked up to where I was standing with the officers. I did not know who she was. She said that she was here to see me. The officer, Ron, who was threatening me, became quite once Chantal appeared.

I told her about my problems being denied entry to the courthouse and that I wanted information on how to file a complaint about my experience. I was told that her boss was not available that day to make a complaint.

When officer Ron heard me say that I wanted to file a complaint, he stated in a very loud voice that I would not be filing any complaint against anyone. Mentioning that I wanted to file a complaint against the officers at the security entrance clearly made him angry. He was clearly angry, confrontational and looking to instigate some sort of incident.

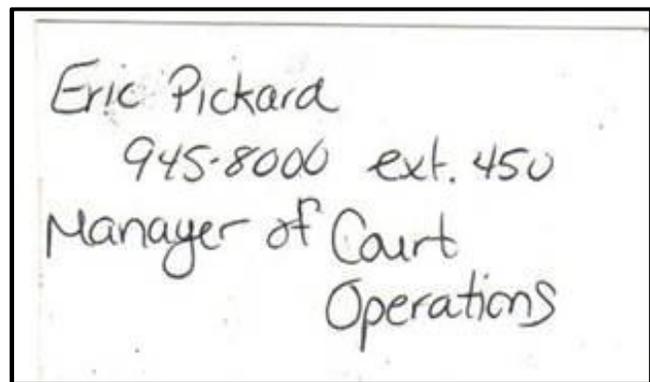
Ron said I was being "aggressive" and then ordered that I was to leave the grounds immediately. The use of the word "aggressive" clearly frightened me as I was not being aggressive at all. I was being labeled as being aggressive for simply questioning as to why it was necessary to take off my belt. If anyone was being aggressive, it was officer Ron. I backed away and moved away from the front of the Services Ontario building in an attempt to put some space between myself and the officers and to show my compliance to his order to remove myself from the property. The officers followed me down the ramp. The officers, led by Ron, were clearly trying to provoke and intimidate me. I moved down and got behind a car so that the officers were not so close. Chantal stood at the top of the ramp near the entrance to the Services Ontario building while the officers

continued to follow me. I am sure that if it was not for the presence of Chantal that officers would have done something to provoke an incident.

When I reached the bottom of the ramp I asked Chantal if she could provide me with her name and the name of the manager of court operations before I left so that I could file a complaint. The officers were near to me on the other side of a car. Chantal told me to wait where I was and she would return with the information. I stood where I was to wait for her to return. She walked into the Services Ontario Building.

As soon as Chantal entered the Services Ontario building and out of earshot, Ron again began to harass me. Ron started asking more questions. He wanted to know my name and where my car was parked. One of the officers knew my name and told it to Ron. Clearly, officer Ron was very aggressive and at that point I sensed that anything I said would only cause them to become more aggressive. I told the officers I did not want to talk and asked them to leave me alone while I waited for Chantal to provide me with the information I requested. I just wanted to get the information from Chantal and then to leave the property as I had been ordered by Officer Ron. At this point I felt very scared and bullied by the officers.

About three minutes later Chantal came back out and gave me a business card with her name and the name of the Eric Pickard, Manager of Court Operations on the back. Below is a copy of the card.



After receiving the card, Chantal took my name and phone number and after this I started walking away from the officers and towards the parking lot. I was scared at that point and felt that the officers were looking for some reason to arrest me. I believe that if had not been for the presence of Chantal to witness what was going on, that officer Ron would have found some reason to have escalated the already tense situation. I ended up being ordered by officer Ron to leave the court property and as a result of his order I was unable to attend my scheduled court appearance.

### **Second incident of intimidation and harassment at the Services Ontario building by the same three officers on Wednesday May 29 2013**

The following morning on Wednesday May 29, 2013, at approximately 10 am, I contacted Chantal again in regards to how to proceed further with my complaint regarding being harassed and intimidated at the courthouse the previous day which preventing me from attending my court session. At the end of our conversation, I told Chantal that I would be at the Services Ontario

building within the half hour to obtain a copy of the endorsement that had been issued by the judge against me the previous day in my absence.

I went into Service Ontario building with my partner Hilary. In light of the incident involving the three officers the day before, I was afraid to attend the Services Ontario building on my own without having a witness with me. Hilary and I entered the Services Ontario Building without incident and while inside reviewed the endorsement of Madam Justice M. Dunn.

As Hilary and I exited the Services Ontario building with the intent of simply returning to the parking lot and returning home, the same three guards that confronted me the day before were now standing a short distance from the Services Ontario building. As soon as the three officers saw Hilary and I, they rushed towards us. We attempted to walk down the steps but were surrounded by the three officers.

Hilary asked the guards politely if we had done something wrong and their reply was "no, just making sure everything was safe". Ron had a very intimidating presence. Officer Ron left the other officers and then walked into the Service Ontario building on his own. Taking into consideration officer Ron's comment from the day before where he threatened me by stating that I would not be allowed to file any complaint, I suspect that officer Ron went into the Services Ontario building to ask if I had made a complaint. I verily believe that the only reason why matters did not escalate on this day was because I had a witness with me which I had brought for this very reason.

I continued to walk back to my car and Hilary went back and spoke to the two officers and asked why I was being harassed. The officers told her that all they had been told was that I had refused to take my belt off for the security at the courthouse. Clearly from their response, I was being targeted just because of the situation involving my belt. She then returned to our car and we drove home.

Without a doubt I will have other court appearances to be addressed in the future at the Sault Ste. Marie Court House as my ex-spouse has created a lot of conflict attempting to deny access and alienate me from my daughter using the court system. I now feel my safety and freedom is at risk supported by the fact of now being twice harassed and bullied by the officers. Staff at our courts should be providing services to the public, not acting like thugs to bully members of the public.

In summary, there is no doubt in my mind that my experience with officers at the courthouse nothing less than an abuse of power and authority by some specific officers. The one older officer named Ron who aggressively confronted me on two separate days clearly abused his power and authority.

I verily believe that officer Ron should not be working in a position of authority where he is expected to deal with members of the public who in many cases are emotionally distraught when they come to the courthouse. The officer at the security desk who I do not know the name of should not have insisted I take the belt off my pants as the officers have metal detection wands for detecting such items. What I find concerning is that both officer Ron and the officer with glasses are working with younger officers who I believe will ultimately learn such aggressive behaviours of the more senior officers they are working under.

Our courts are supposed to be places where the people of Ontario should feel safe and be treated with respect. As a member of the public, my respect for the administration of justice has been

greatly eroded and it seems that I am not alone. Many other Canadians I speak to are saying as well that they have lost a lot of respect for the justice system as a result of the system becoming too adversarial, especially the family court system.

The bottom line is that the citizens of Canada should not have to feel compelled to bring a witness with them in order to feel protected from abuse of power by police officers at the courthouses. To help put an end to this sort of abuse of power and authority by officers at the court, I would strongly recommend that all court officers who are expected to have dealings with members of the public be required to wear body mounted video/audio recording devices to record all interactions with members of the public. The technology is inexpensive and readily available and will significantly improve confidence in services at the courthouse. The public feels safer when there are steps implemented to ensure transparency and accountability of court security staff. Such technology would help protect both citizens and staff at the courthouses.

I would kindly ask that officer Ron be asked to not approach me anymore. In light of his apparent inability to control his anger and aggression and in light of this complaint which he said I could not make, it very likely he will be angry and may attempt to fabricate an incident to justify my arrest. I have read stories and reports of malicious arrests being used against citizens at other courthouses in Ontario to harass them.

I look forward to your response. A receipt by email would be appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Schiele". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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cc: Attorney General of Ontario  
Attorney General of Canada



M. Conway 1945

*From the personal desk of:*  
**Mr. Maurice Conway**  
**6040 Bathurst St. Suite 808**  
**Toronto, Ont. Canada M2R 2A1**

**"1939-1945 I fought for democracy"**  
**"To-day I fight for JUSTICE"**

March 2001

To all Canadians

I am an 86-year-old veteran of the Second World War who served in the war as a member of the British Royal Marines. In recognition of my service during the bombing of London, I received a citation from the Lord Mayor of London. Ten years after the war, in 1955, I moved from Britain to Canada, where I currently reside.

During the war effort, my comrades and I sacrificed our way of life, as we knew it then, in order to defend Great Britain and its allies (including Canada) from an evil that was sweeping over Europe. We fought to ensure freedom and democracy with the hope and expectation that the generations that followed us would have a better and more prosperous way of life. Many of my comrades gave their lives to this end. I am one of the few of my generation who still remain alive today. Although I may be old in body, I am young in mind and spirit, and I still believe in those same principles that my comrades and I fought for during the war.

Unfortunately, today, another very terrible evil is sweeping over our land. It is an evil that comes not from outside of our country but from within it. It comes not from people of other nations but from our own people right here at home. It is an evil that my comrades, if they were alive today, would fight along side of me just as valiantly as they fought against those who tried to enslave the free nations of the world and to take away our freedom and democracy back during the Second World War.

The evil of which I speak about now is our family justice system. It seems to have no mercy on children or their parents, especially good loving fathers who seem to be taking the brunt of the abuse by the family justice system. Many of the fathers being destroyed today in the family courts are the sons and grandsons of the many brave men who fought and died for Great Britain and its allies during the war. Many of the fathers who died during the war did so, not only for the cause of Democracy and Freedom but also a desire to give their descendants a better and more secure way of life.

If my comrades and many of those Canadian soldiers who fought in the war were alive today, they would be utterly shattered by what they would see is being done to their children and grandchildren today by those in the justice system. None of us who were part of the war effort would have imagined the sons and grandsons of those who fought in the war to be victims of the very system of justice they defended.

It would appear that too many within the legal system have chosen to misuse their privileged position as custodians of the law for purposes other than justice, and too many others have chosen to sit silently on the sidelines by and allow this to happen. It seems that in just my own lifetime, the principles that many men and good fathers gave their lives for have been

forgotten to the principles of money, greed and politics. It seems that too many of the judges and lawyers in the justice system are abusing their privileged position to the detriment of their fellow citizens. I find this situation a disgrace to all people who believe in freedom, democracy and justice. When I make this statement, I am sure I am speaking for many of my comrades who are not with me today.

It is time that all, not just a few, stand up and do something to stop this needless destruction of children and families by our justice system. In many ways, what is being done to children and their families by our courts is no less horrific than some of the crimes committed by our enemies during the war. Families today are being led into courts to be financially and emotionally destroyed just as families were being led into the gas chambers during the war.

I urge all Canadians to take the time to help end these injustices. If I, at 86 years of age can take up this cause, then those of you who are younger than myself, especially those of you with children, surely should be able to do better than I. I urge you to speak up and to help expose and put an end to the injustices occurring every day in our family courts. I urge all of you good people to stand up and become more active in helping end the madness in our family courts today. My comrades, if they were alive today, would support you fully in this endeavor.

From a soldier who knows from real life experience what it means to suffer and to truly fight for a just cause, I ask all of you to take a good look at what you are doing to help others in your community whose families have been engulfed by the family justice system. Many of you already know, as you may have friends, neighbors, or relatives who have been affected. I ask that all of you make the effort to do something to stop this needless destruction of families in your community.

The family is the foundation of any nation and once this foundation is destroyed all will perish, including your children. If those who are responsible for the destruction of families through the legal system continue to spread their destruction while hiding behind the veil of the law, there will be nothing left of the way of life that your forefathers hoped to leave as their legacy.

It is time for this madness to end. For the future of Canada and its children, it is time for all good Canadians to rise up and take action against our biased and incompetent family court system and all those who support the evil and destruction that it spreads.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurice Conway". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Maurice Conway (d.o.b. Dec. 26, 1914)