



Canada Court Watch Report



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Officials at Barrie, Ontario court block seniors access to public washrooms!

More mean-spirited antics by those who administer our courts as elderly seniors told that they are labelled “gang members” for helping in efforts to bring greater public awareness to the problems plaguing our court system

By Mike March, Justice Reporter

Aug 28, 2006

Canada is supposed to be a country in which free speech of the citizens, peaceful assembly and freedom of the press is welcomed as part of protecting our rights and freedoms in Canada.

During the great wars, many fought and gave their lives so that those who are alive today could enjoy these basic rights.

However, it appears that officials at the Barrie, Ontario, courthouse are somewhat opposed to free speech and peaceful assembly if it has anything to do with them mismanaging the justice system.

While the courts are supposed to be serving the interests of the public in the interest of justice and a better society, it appears as if the court in Barrie has turned away from this concept and is more concerned with hiding wrongdoing of those within the system such as judges, even if it goes against the public's interest.

On August 25, 2006, senior citizens who had been peacefully standing at the entrance to the court handing out information leaflets to members of the public, were stopped by security staff and told that they could not enter to use the public washroom.

The seniors were standing at the entrance to the court as part of a public awareness campaign to bring attention to the oppressive and arbitrary actions of one particular judge, Madame Justice Lydia Olah, who was a judge from that court.

Ms. Currie, one of the seniors who approached the court entrance to take a bathroom break, was immediately confronted by three officers and told that she could not enter the public court building because she was wearing a T shirt with the words “Canada Court Watch” printed on it along with that organization's internet website address, www.canadacourtwatch.com

Ms. Currie was intending to be respectful of the court and was not going to hand any flyers inside the

building.

Her only intent was to use the public washroom and to simply come back outside to hand out more fliers. She was even willing to be accompanied to the washroom entrance.

According to one of the senior officers blocking her, Constable Borneman, staff had decided that those wearing these shirts were labelled as “gang” members because more than one person was wearing the same Court Watch T shirt.

Borneman indicated that officers were instructed to keep out any “gang members” wearing the same shirts and that they were acting under the authority of the Ontario Public Work Protection Act.



Ms. Currie, 70-years-old, shown here in Barrie wearing a Court Watch T shirt which got her labelled by court officials as a “gang member” and a threat to the court

The officers made it clear that if Ms. Currie attempted to enter to use the public washroom with the T shirt on that there would be trouble for her.

Ms. Currie told Court Watch, “The cop was serious

and threatening. If I had objected to leaving I would have been arrested. This guy was flexing his muscle and he didn't care who saw the result. I've looked enough authorities in the eye during my lifetime to know when a threat is real...when he told me to leave he meant it."

Ms. Currie said that she had come to the court to quietly and peacefully exercise her lawful right to inform her fellow citizens, not create a disturbance.

She said that she was really disappointed at the uncaring attitude of the court to stop her from simply wanting to go to the washroom.

All that officers had to do was to escort the senior back and forth from the washroom.

"I had been peacefully standing outside of the court building, handing flyers out to members of the public for about 2 hours and just needed to use the washroom. I don't think this officer really considered me to be any threat to the court. It was clearly an attempt by those who run the court to use whatever lame excuses they could to harass and intimidate those citizens who were exercising their civic duty to expose injustices and judicial incompetence within our justice system."

The washroom incident was typical of the questionable logic being used by many of those who are in charge of our courtrooms.

On one hand, this harmless senior citizen was considered a threat to the court and deemed to be a member of a "gang" because she was wearing the same T shirt as other members of the public but if she took it off she would not be a threat to the court anymore.

It was not the senior who the court feared but the T shirt and the fear of other members of the public getting information from the Court Watch organization.

After hearing about how the court staff treated the senior, the kids said that they did not even want to use the washroom and called the workers "mean".

Did these big, burly armed police officers consider the children who were participating to be a threat to the court as well just because the children were wearing Court Watch T shirts?

The whole incident was obviously a misguided attempt by administrators at the Barrie court to keep staff and judges inside the court building unaware of the growing public resentment to the court system.

Rather than promoting an environment of cooperation and openly deal with issues of concern to the public, court workers made the choice to harass the citizens in an effort to fortify the barriers which separate the public from those inside the court system.

Attempts to scare the citizens away from the entrance to the court seemed almost comical at times.

Another officer told the seniors that their presence at the outside of the court may prejudice cases being heard in the court.

Members of one family who were in their car with

their children and getting ready to leave reported that a security officer pulled up beside their car and then asked those in the car to identify themselves.

It was clear that someone had ordered the police to harass anyone who appeared to be with Court Watch, even if it was children and seniors.

The National Chairman of Court Watch, the Archbishop Dorian A. Baxter said that it was unfortunate that the citizens of Ontario have to be harassed and intimidated like this by those who are supposed to be serving the taxpayers of Ontario.

It seems that the tactics of fear and intimidation, once used only in places like Communist Russia and China are now being employed to silence Canadians who only want to make Canada's system of justice better than it is now.

Understandably, Madame Justice Lydia Olah, who was the focus of the public awareness event in Barrie will not be pleased with the public attention being brought on her. However, even some seasoned lawyers agree that she needs to mend her tyrannical ways.

Clearly, the winners at the courthouse were the citizens of Ontario who peacefully and quietly stood outside the courthouse to inform their fellow citizens.

The losers were the courts, who looked foolish trying to scare off the citizens with their threats and intimidation, backed up by police.

A number of children also wearing T shirts had their first brush with the judicial system and a rude awakening that Canada may not be the free country that they are being led to believe by their teachers at school.

The citizens of Court Watch are attempting to expose what many Canadians see as an out of control court system that has lost touch with the people.

It appears that court workers, lawyers and judges have put their interests above children and families in the community and could not care less that Ontario's Attorney General, Michael Bryant, wants more open and transparent courts system.

The judges and court workers seem to be ignoring the Attorney General and just do what they want.

It's about time that the Attorney General put some teeth into his words and start taking some action to bring the judges, lawyers and court workers back into line and to remind them that the Attorney General is the one who sets the rules for the employees to follow, not the other way around.

It's also about time that the Parliament of Canada introduce some mechanism in which the people of Canada can get rid of judges who ignore our laws and our parliament and act against Canadians such as been recently demonstrated by Madame Justice Olah.

Canadians courts must be transparent and those who work for the system, including the judges, must be held truly accountable to the people of Canada.