

REMAIN CALM AND LET POLICE DO THEIR JOB

Hamilton/Burlington became part of a growing network of towns and cities drawn into the largest wave of civil unrest Canada has seen in years when a blockade was set up in late February.

Indigenous protesters and their supporters blockaded the busy rail junction near Highway 6 and York Boulevard near the border of Hamilton and Burlington not long after a Belleville blockade came down. Protesters were not only supporting the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs in B.C., they were also protesting the removal of that blockade.

It's not simply a matter of donning riot gear and moving in, nor should it be.

Similarly, protesters from the Six Nations area seized and closed the Highway 6 bypass near Caledonia.

The group — one of multiple popping up across the country in support of Wet'suwet'en land defenders protesting the planned Coastal GasLink pipeline on their traditional territory — camped out on the tracks between the Hamilton and Aldershot GO stations. They had tarps, ropes and campfires.

The tracks were shut down, wreaking havoc for many travelers.

The protesters were served with a court injunction to leave the property by CN Rail on Monday, Feb. 24, several hours after the protest began. However, the group said they burned the injunction and remained on the tracks, with supporters bringing food and firewood throughout the next day.

The group left around 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Three people were later arrested.

In the end, the situation was resolved peacefully.

Yes, the blockades are illegal. People have a right to protest legally, but they don't have a right to take over public or private property or block public infrastructure, like rail and transit services.

But it's important to remember there is a process in place. First, the people or entity being blockaded need to request an injunction from a court. Once it is granted, responsibility for implementing the injunction moves to law enforcement authorities.

When you are feeling impatient about blockades, it might help to remember that police need to follow their own processes and exercise their training and discipline.

It's not simply a matter of donning riot gear and moving in, nor should it be. We don't need a Wild West approach; we need one that optimizes safety for everyone involved.

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DO YOU BUY MUTUAL FUNDS?

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEW COMPENSATION CHANGES WHEN MAKING YOUR INVESTMENT, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

Changes are coming to how those selling mutual funds are compensated.

This affects funds sold using the Deferred Sales Charge (DSC) method. Let's review the DSC basics.

A mutual fund company pays a selling commission at the time of a sale. Exit fees are paid if the investor sells the fund within seven years. The Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) issued a press release outlin-

ing a public proposal to gather input before making any final decision. Sale of DSC mutual funds would be prohibited to those aged 60 and older, or who have an investment time horizon shorter than the DSC schedule.

A DSC fund cannot be used to purchase an investment with borrowed money, or an amount above \$50,000. Liquidity is being enhanced for investors.

The maximum DSC schedule is limited to three years, allowing investors to withdraw 10 per cent of the value of the fund every calendar year.

Investor circumstances can change, and the DSC schedule reduction from seven years to three years addresses regulator-considered weaknesses in the current system. If a client suffers hardship like losing full-time employment, becoming ill or disabled, then withdraws from a mutual fund, they would pay no exit fee.

The proposed date to implement these rules is June 1, 2022. DSC mutual fund

sales have been a point of discussion for many years.

The Canadian Securities Administrator was proposing all DSC sales be banned.

Ontario previously was in agreement to the ban, but after the last provincial election this position was reversed.

Investors, however, still have a choice. Many funds are sold on a front end, low load, fee-based and with a DSC option.

Individuals should educate themselves on the most suitable options for their needs.

Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Peter Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments.

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