



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Tabled anti-terrorist laws are a good start

Anti-terrorist legislation tabled by Justice Minister Anne McLellan in the House of Commons last week is a good start to giving police the tools needed to help keep track of and prosecute terrorists and the groups in which they operate.

Most of it is pretty straightforward stuff such as detaining suspected terrorists without charges for up to 24 hours before facing a judge and a further 48 hours with permission from a judge.

But buried in the 171-page omnibus bill is a disturbing section concerning the implication of enacting the legislation.

If the bill is to go forward, and there seems little doubt that it will be passed quickly, the government will add up to 13 new trial judges and two appeal court judges.

We're constantly told of how backed-up our court system gets but to think that we'd need that many more judges to deal with terrorist cases is bizarre on a number of fronts.

For example, if we deduce that this number wasn't pulled from a hat, the police must be aware of a huge number of potential terrorists or terrorist cells operating in this country. If that's the case now, why weren't these individuals thrown out of the country before and their groups disbanded? Even the current laws shouldn't have acted as a deterrent to the authorities monitoring the movements of these people.

## Council can't play favourites in new funding policy

This week a proposal was brought forward by Councillor John Challinor that would see the Town provide funding for community groups involved with legal action in support of Milton planning issues.

The proposal, Mr. Challinor said, is designed to make the process of appearing at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) more democratic.

Expertise and legal representation are virtual necessities when appearing in front of the OMB, he said, and the cost of those services is rising. The cost itself may be enough to convince people not to move forward with their concerns.

The Friends of E.C. Drury Park, for example, piled up bills nearing \$50,000 in its fight to preserve the park.

But how can a government only provide funding to groups who support that government's position?

While the intent of the proposed policy may be beneficial in nature to the community, it does raise issues of fairness.

If the proposed policy is implemented, what will become of the community groups who oppose Milton planning procedures? Would they not also be deserving of funds to pay for expertise and legal representation? Should they be left on the hook for thousands of dollars while other groups see municipal relief?

I raised this issue with Mr. Challinor following the Milton administration and planning committee meeting Monday, when I first heard of the matter.

His response was bothersome. He said the issue has never been raised because there haven't been any such groups opposing Milton's planning policies.

Public input in the planning process has pre-



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Reader offers criticism to recent cartoon of Taliban; wonders how anyone can enjoy it

Dear Editor:

What a clever cartoon in The Champion's October 12 edition. If you look carefully you can see bombs raining down on the people who have enjoyed the rule of the Taliban.

We surely aren't expected to take joy from such a depiction. Those of us who can read are well aware of the horror these people are living under.

No milk and cookies for the little children this afternoon, they have to pack up and make their way through the minefields to get to the piece and quiet of

the nice refugee camps across the border.

The picture doesn't even do justice to the allied pilots, who return and land with a full load of bombs under them, when they can't find a legitimate target.

This whole conflict is a nightmare. People who we believe to be in error are being made to suffer even more than they normally do every day of their lives.

I know of no one who can take pleasure in seeing such a miserable cartoon.

James E. Detlor  
Milton

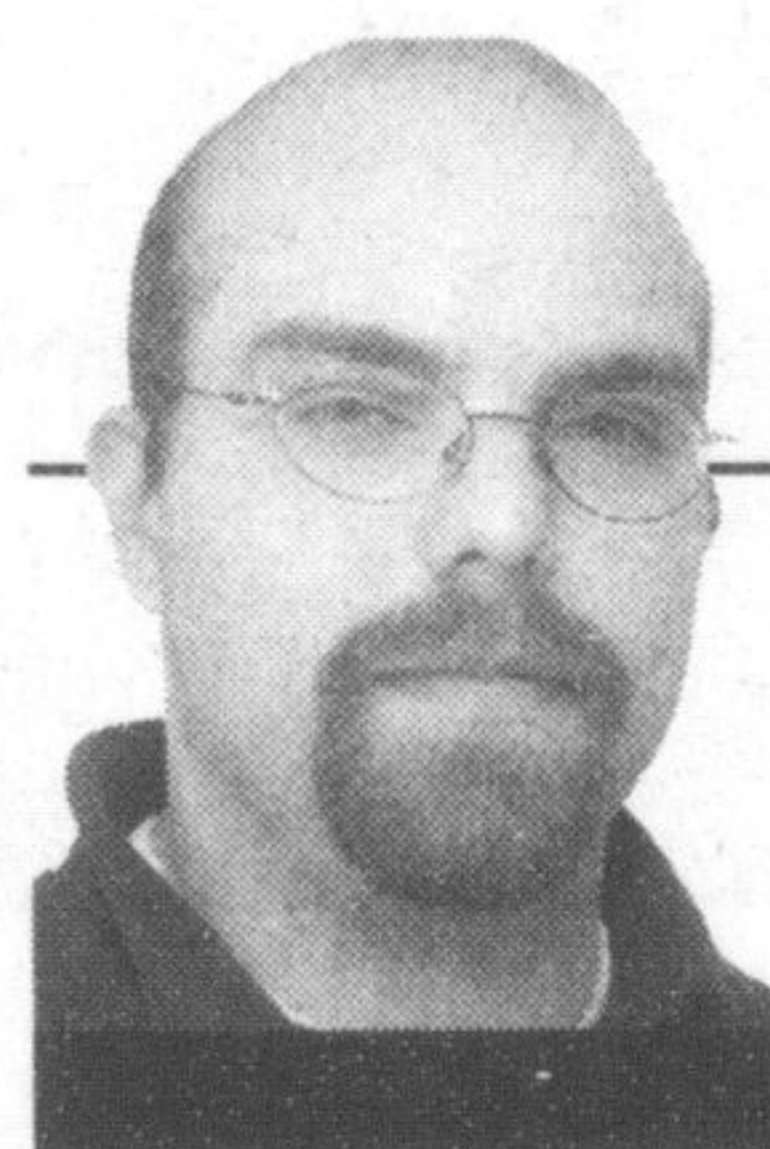
### Terry's Teammate thanks community for its support

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to all the people that donated money for me to be able to run in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope.

Thanks very much for supporting the Terry Fox Run. Your donations were greatly appreciated.

Steven Anderson  
Terry's Teammate



### From my perspective

with RICHARD VIVIAN

vented community opposition to planning issues. To fund such groups, should they exist, he said, would make no sense.

Why then, I ask, does it make sense to fund groups on the flip side of that coin?

This policy would give financial advantages to groups who wouldn't dare to challenge the Town in its planning wisdom.

I'm not suggesting that opposition to Milton planning policies is forthcoming, but that must be considered when preparing a policy such as the one proposed.

I'm sympathetic to the people behind such groups as the Friends of E.C. Drury Park and Residents Affected by Intermodal Lines and the cost they have, or will, incur during their fights. But municipal government has no place funding their fights if they're not willing to see it go the other way as well.

And that opens the door — and taxpayers' wallets — to any number of other groups seeking financial compensation, no matter whose side they're on.

Council can't play favourites. Any policy they approve must be applied equally down the line and this policy presents a clear advantage to its planning allies.