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he said. Also, the scope of the search warrant will be broadened. If a search warrant is issued under this new Bill, police officers will be allowed to issue it at anytime, and not just within 'reasonable hours.' Dubbed a 'No Knock Warrant' or 'No Notice Warrant', Leitold said officers will be permitted to kick down doors and confiscate whatever they claim are the proceeds of such a including: houses, trucks and boats.

The goal of the RCMP Anti Tobacco Force is to target organized crime groups and Leitold said that there are continuous references being made by

police and politicians that organized crime is linked to First Nations tobacco despite the fact that there has never been any factual evidence to back up this claim. In 2008, the RCMP estimated that 105 organized crime groups were involved in the trade. Leitold referred to a study conducted by the McDonald-Laurier Institute and said that out of a thousand cases examined, only 5 were from the Quebec-Akwesasne border and out of that, none were linked to organized crime.

Leitold stated that Bill C-10 is an interference of Section 35 of the Constitution Act of Can-

ada, 1982, which protects 'Aboriginal' treaty rights and 'Aboriginal' self-government and also suggested that it can be deemed as cruel and unusual punishment. He also referred to R. v. Gladue and how Natives have been disproportionately put in jail unnecessarily. In this historic court decision, the Supreme Court of Canada told the government to stop jailing Native people, which it blatantly ignored and continues to do so at disproportionate rates to this day.

According to the Legislative Summary on Bill C-10, "Chiefs from Akwesasne have been quoted in the media voicing concerns about the

impact that mandatory minimum sentences may have on their communities, particularly their youth. In particular, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne District Chief Brian David is concerned that large fines and incarceration will turn some youth, who are only involved in contraband tobacco due to lack of legal employment opportunities, into 'hardened criminals' and force them further into illegal activity. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne also recently issued a press release announcing the receipt of a grant from the Government of Ontario to assist in developing an Akwesasne Tobacco Law and... calling on the fed-

eral government to work with them to address tobacco concerns rather than increasing sentences and the enforcement presence around their community."

Stephen John Ford is a Kanienkehaka lawyer from Tyendinaga. Ford described a few things that First Nations people can do to prepare for this proposed legislation of Bill C-10. In regards to the Bill, Ford stated, "It's about denying First Nations people their own sources of income. It's about federal control of First Nations people and continued colonial oppression. They don't want us to make money."

Ford said that good business practices are

about making alliances and that a possible option for First Nations administrations is to create their own regulations concerning their own tobacco. In doing so, Ford explained, "As a First Nation, you are expressing your own jurisdiction and advancing your own sovereignty and that is what it's all about." Ford said that if First Nations band councils pass their own legislation in regards to taxing tobacco on reserves, then the provincial government would likely say, "You can't do that! But, that's the fight we want to have because now the onus is on them to prove they have sovereignty over us."