

# OPINION

Stouffville  
**Sun-Tribune**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Nobody wins with cancellation of rural mail delivery

*Re: Rural mail fight goes national, June 3.*

Being affected by this unusual decision of Canada Post to discontinue home delivery because of alleged hazards to mail deliverers, I trust the concerned authorities are seriously examining the situation and the inconvenience to rural residents.

To think rural residents have to drive six to 40 kilometres round trip to reach their mailboxes should itself inform Mary Traversy, Lawrence Cannon and Kevin Burt how very frustrating this situation has become for them.

It is no use, Mr. Burt, making the observation that complaints have lessened because, let's face it, we are waiting for action from our representatives in Parliament to take this up.

Historically, union leaders are quick to create issues to establish their leadership, whether it be by generating increases in wages and/or perks, or by reducing workloads.

They could not care less that while initially they may get away with reduced workloads, good management will ultimately require the workforce be reduced or the workers be paid proportionately less. After all, it is always the rank and file who will suffer, not the alleged leaders.

Winter driving is always hazardous, more so on the highways. Does that mean we should stop constructing highways?

How many accidents to mail carriers have been reported on the rural roads over the past years? Between Aurora and Vivian Road, there have been no accidents involving mail carriers

on Warden Avenue for the past 25 years.

Municipalities restrict rural residents and, as a consequence, the homes are few and far between — say 20 per kilometre. The rural roads have speed limits up to 70 km/h, which can be reduced if necessary. Most residents have mailboxes at the end of their driveways, which have enough driving area for mail carriers to stop. Those who may not have such access can be asked to move their mailboxes to areas where such access is facilitated.

These are some suggestions which I would urge our representatives to consider.

N. MECKLAI

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### Event raised more than \$13,000

On June 11, more than 150 residents walked, rolled and ran at the fourth annual Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event. Stouffville helped raise more than \$13,000.

Fifty per cent of the net proceeds will come back into our community to help an individual with a spinal cord injury or be put toward an accessibility project. This year, we hope to put money toward accessible picnic tables and possibly a playground in Memorial Park.

This event couldn't have happened without the support of our local sponsors, the Lions, firefighters and volunteers who helped make this event a success.

As Rick would say, "Never give up on your dreams. Anything is possible."

BRENDA LOBRAICO

STOUFFVILLE EVENT COMMITTEE LEADER



## Taxing question: will discrimination ever end?

Are you getting tired of discrimination in Canada? Are you tired of paying for it?

Imagine a group of Richmond Hill residents blockading Yonge Street to demand money from the government. If they wore bandanas over their faces, dug up the roadway, attacked photographers and police vehicles and sheltered criminals in their midst, how do you think officials would react?

Would the OPP be ordered to show restraint? Would the province send a team of negotiators to secretly settle their grievances with a whopping cash settlement and let the law-breakers go free?

Or would our hypothetical "protesters" be carted off to jail in a matter of minutes?

Substitute Caledonia for Richmond Hill and consider the protesters are aboriginal and the law no longer applies. For more than three months, Six Nations members have held hostage a community near Hamilton, perpetrating acts of violence while

blocking a main highway in pursuit of their land claims.

Your provincial government will give Caledonia business owners \$2 million in compensation and has cut a secret deal with the developers who legally own the land — valued at \$45 million — claimed by the natives.

Further, local businesses and residents have launched a class action suit against the government, which may entail further financial compensation.

Who will pay for this discriminatory treatment? You and I.

Imagine Markham passing a bylaw that requires all commercial signage to be in Chinese first and in English secondarily. Employing inspectors to roam the town, fining shopkeepers if their 100-year-old family business happens to have an English name and dares to use it.

Imagine Markham declaring all newcomers must send their children to Chinese-language schools rather than be educated in English. Think that would drive companies out of town, alienate



Bruce Annan

English-speaking residents and cripple the economy?

Substitute Quebec for Markham and French for Chinese, and that's exactly what has happened. Most Canadians are huge fans of the United Nations, yet we ignore the UN's ruling that Quebec's French-only laws are illegal. The discrimination continues and the province continues to rely on massive funding transfers from the federal government.

So who pays for this discriminatory treatment? You and I.

Imagine York Region provides funds to Muslim groups to edu-

cate their youth in a religious setting and denies funds to any other religion. So you'd have a "choice": send your kids to public or Muslim schools, paid for with your taxes or pay all over again to send your kids to a school that incorporates your particular religion.

Substitute Catholic for Muslim and that's our reality.

The UN, once again, has studied Canada's special deal for Catholics and ruled it's inappropriate and discriminatory, but the massive duplication of infrastructure goes on.

Who pays? You and I.

Imagine, if you will, those of us descended from Scottish immigrants were successful in lobbying the government for an apology and compensation over the Highland Clearances, when hundreds of thousands of poor Scots were evacuated to make room for more profitable sheep farming.

We're generations removed from personal hardship and we've done pretty well by virtue of living in Canada, so why should we get

any money?

Well, substitute the families of Japanese interned during the Second World War and the families of Chinese immigrants who paid a head tax to come to Canada.

Both groups have successfully demanded apologies and the former received \$400 million in compensation from the federal government; the latter are awaiting details of an impending settlement.

Guess who pays your neighbours for their ancestors' misfortunes?

In 1961, Tax Freedom Day fell on May 3. That's when Canadians stopped paying all their income to the government and started earning for themselves.

This year, Tax Freedom Day fell on June 19. Congratulations, you're now working for yourself.

If not for discrimination, you'd have been working for yourself a lot sooner.

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### LETTERS POLICY

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