

RCMP Investigation

Finally Underway?

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

New Brunswick's Kingsclear Boys training school affair has been an incredible saga of justice gone awry. Hundreds of victims, thousands of assaults, and only 1 person charged, while 14 others have been identified and even accusations of RCMP involvement.

The Kingsclear Boys Training School in Fredericton, New Brunswick has been a shameful story of massive child abuse and unconscionable political cover-up.

In 2003, the then Justice Minister and Attorney General, Anne McLellan was briefed and apprised by Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East and still failed to act. Minister McLellan also repeatedly refused to see her own constituent, victim Carl Schneider about this affair. Carl Schneider has long claimed to be a victim of both notorious Karl Toft and of R.C.M.P. Staff Sergeant Clifford McCann and has long been rebuffed by a system seemingly very much afraid of the truth. A cul-

ture of pedophilia was apparently rampant in New Brunswick during the Kingsclear era, from the guards to R.C.M.P. to high political offices.

The numbers are staggering, involving thousands of sexual assaults, over 35 years, attested officially to by 233 victims and unofficially by up to 700 victims. The victims identified Karl Toft and 14 others. Unbelievably, only one person, Karl Toft, atones with a 13-year sentence greatly shortened by parole.



Carl Schneider, Vern Johnson, John Fearon, Gordon Hum and Peter Goldring MP walk towards the gates of Grierson Prison after Karl Toft's parole hearing denied him pardon in 2004.

Toft, who alone admits to 200 sexual assault victims, was only subject to 34 charges, relating to 14 boys. Inexplicably, additional known charges were stayed and other accusations discouraged. Now in receipt of a government pension for his 35 years of "hard work" as a guard at Kingsclear, Toft walks the streets un-

escorted, while Edmonton community residents, quite justifiably, fear for their children's safety, and wonder how this person could possibly be set free.

While recent parole hearings have resulted in



Toft being refused further release privileges, to completely live on his own 24 hours a day, Toft still is only required to report in for overnight stays at the Edmonton Grierson-Stan Daniels Centre. In December 2005 he will be a completely free man without overnight living restrictions.

Canada's weak laws allow many serial, incorrigible pedophiles to return to the street, while in New Brunswick known pedophiles avoid justice altogether. It has been repeatedly made known by the Kingsclear victims that there were many more than just Toft involved in the organized sexual

assaults on New Brunswick's disadvantaged youth, yet Canada's justice system strangely remains mute to accusing others.

Even New Brunswick Justice Richard L. Miller, head of the purposefully narrowly mandated 1992 Miller Inquiry into the abuse at Kingsclear, spoke out repeatedly in frustration over the inquiry's inability to get to the bottom of the real issue as to who in high government office outside of the Kingsclear institution—were the parasites preying on the boys. Unfortunately (though conveniently for the abusers), the inquiry was not charged with the specific task of carrying out an investigation to that extent.

John Fearon, a victim of Karl Toft, has long been encouraging for justice and has kept this issue alive when few had shown they cared for Kings-

clear boys. Carl Schneider, a victim of both Sgt. McCann and Karl Toft has had his life shattered by the ordeal and is particularly embittered towards the RCMP who he feels are protecting its own.

In the fall of 2002, Edmonton Lawyer Casey O'Byrne issued a civil statement of claim, on behalf of four victims, against the RCMP itself and specifically against a former senior member of the RCMP, Staff Sgt. Clifford McCann, who was on active duty during the Kingsclear days.

The accusations are very disturbing and so graphic that the wonderment is why the RCMP did not lay charges long ago if only to clear the record in a court of law. Most sexual assault charges are typically laid based on a single complaint.

How could the public have confidence that the RCMP has fairly concluded its lengthy investigation into the Kingsclear affair and still was impartial, given a civil claim against itself and against one of its former senior members?

The truth is inescapable. There was a culture of child abuse ripe with neglect, dereliction of duty, deal-making, concealment and cover-up, with many pedophiles involved and all but one, Karl Toft, getting off free.

A deal is said to have been made to make Toft



Peter Goldring standing in front of the Kingsclear Reformatory in New Brunswick during his investigation visit in 2003.



the fall guy, but for him to avoid dangerous offender status, to enable him to walk free some day. How else could it be explained that such an evil person would ever make it back to the streets again? How many victims' rights to prosecute have been bought off with compensation settlements intended to protect high-placed, guilty pedophile accomplices? With a poorly explained investigation, to date, anything is possible.

Clearly a pedophile ring was acting with New Brunswick corrections officers' and RCMP members' complicity, whether overtly, covertly or by

negligence. The silence was bought by the New Brunswick government, through the pay out of millions of taxpayers' dollars to victims. The silence was continued by a negligent, uncaring Liberal government in Ottawa.

Since the official Miller investigation and the follow up settlement to over 230 victims, many more have come forward only to lay official complaints to be rebuffed by the RCMP and told that their accusations would not result in any charges being laid. The victims want closure, first by being believed, and then by bringing to justice all who are guilty. The simple fact is that Karl Toft did not act alone. The people of New Brunswick are quite naturally fatigued by the ongoing accusations and want and deserve to be told the truth so that the process of reconciliation can truly begin.

Nobody, not Miller himself, lawyers, victims, politicians, or the public, believes that an investigation, supposedly being conducted, in one form or another, over 20 years could not arrive at clear conclusions and result in criminal charges.



John Fearon, Peter Goldring MP, Carl Schneider, Vern Johnson and Gordon Hum at the gates of Grierson Prison in Edmonton, together after Karl Toft Parole hearing in 2004.

No less than the public's confidence in Canada's national police force is at stake here. Some victims have been told by RCMP not to lay complaints because the RCMP would not investigate the complaints, or nothing would be done, even if an investigation took place.

The past so-called investigations of Kingsclear have resulted in little more than a vile carpet, bulging with the mess of inept pedophile investigation efforts swept under it. The victims want and rightly expect that the trail will be followed and that justice will be done. It is a fundamental principle of our justice system that no one is above the law. That principle must be applied to bring New Brunswick pedophiles to justice.

Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has long asked for the Solicitor General to seize the Kingsclear and post-Kingsclear investigation files and appoint an independent investigator to review the proceedings and then report the findings to Parliament.

In June, 2004 the RCMP Complaints Committee finally agreed to conduct an investigation. After

30 years of failed promises and self-serving political avoidance the issue is now before a special investigation review committee under RCMP Commissioner Zacaradelli's authority. Commissioner Zacaradelli was the Commander of RCMP 'J' Division during part of the Kingsclear and post Kingsclear affair.

On June 7, 2005, Ms. Shirley Heafey, Chair of the Committee for Public Complaints (CPC) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, released a report on progress related to the events at Kingsclear. In the report, she stated that this was the largest investigation ever undertaken by the CPC and that they had recently obtained the necessary financial resources. However, she also stated that the provincial Attorney General of

New Brunswick had declined to provide relevant documentation citing solicitor-client privilege.

In order for this investigation to bring about resolution, it must be far reaching, into every possible aspect of civil, government, or police involvement.

A full and in-depth investigation should be welcomed by all, to finally bring about closure for the victims and the citizens of New Brunswick, and, to remove the clouds of mistrust for the actions of the RCMP and of the accused.

Update: News Brunswick Attorney General Brad Green has recently assured the public that previous reports of information being withheld are inaccurate, and that the Government of New Brunswick will fully co-operate with the RCMP Public Complaints Commission in releasing all relevant documentation.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Question #1 Do you believe that the RCMP'S Committee for Public Complaints will finally clear the air on the Kingsclear affair?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Question #2 Do you believe Karl Toft should be declared a dangerous offender?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Question #3 Do you believe all pedophiles should be named on a national sex offender registry?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
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