



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, amidst accusations of RCMP involvement.

The Kingsclear Boys Training School in Fredericton, New Brunswick is the home of Canada's worst sex scandal – a shameful story of massive child abuse and political cover-up.

Though ostensibly a reform school for young offenders, Kingsclear was hell on earth for children who endured rape and torture at the hands of pedophilic prison guards. The numbers are staggering: thousands of sexual assaults over 35 years that were officially verified by 233 victims and unofficially by up to 700. The victims identified prison guard Karl Toft and 14 others. Unbelievably, only Toft was ever tried or convicted for his crimes and atoned with a 13-year sentence greatly shortened by

parole.

Toft, who 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 is a free man, having served every day of his 13-year sentence.



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.

John Fearon, a victim of Karl Toft, has long struggled for justice and has kept this issue alive. Carl Schneider, a victim of both local RCMP officer Sgt. McCann and Karl Toft, has also had his life shattered by the ordeal. 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,

the Government of Canada, the Government of New Brunswick and specifically against a former senior member of the RCMP, Staff Sgt. Clifford McCann, who was on active duty during the Kingsclear days. In 2003, a default judgment was ob-



tained against Clifford McCann and his wife, though the default judgment was later set aside.

The federal government and the RCMP filed a joint statement of defence in early 2003 stating that they did not breach "any duty of care" to the Kingsclear plaintiffs. The province of New Brunswick claimed that it had no knowledge of abuse, and hence shouldn't be liable.

In November 2003, despite being in an apparent conflict of interest in investigating itself, the RCMP concluded a 12-year investigation into the events at Kingsclear, without laying any further charges. The RCMP even refused to admit that an investigation was ongoing or that it had even been initiated.

A deal is said to have been made to make Toft the fall guy, but to avoid dangerous offender status and to walk free. That might explain why such a serial child molester has been allowed back on the streets again.

The past so-called investigations of Kingsclear have swept the dirt under the carpet. The victims expect that the trail will be followed and that justice will prevail. 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.

Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring has long asked for the Kingsclear and post-Kingsclear investigation files to be seized by the government and that an independent investigator be appointed to review the proceedings and then report the findings to Parliament.



Member of Parliament Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament Peter MacKay, and Vern Johnson in front of Peter Goldring's campaign office.

In May 2004, Shirley Heafey, Chair of the RCMP Complaints Commission, initiated a public interest investigation into com-

plaints received relating to RCMP investigations of alleged sexual abuse at Kingsclear. At the time, Heafey said "I am committed to carry out this investigation thoroughly, in order to ensure that the allegations are addressed to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. I will complete this investigation as soon as possible, but will not sacrifice its effectiveness or quality for the sake of expediency."

That same month, Peter Goldring supported Heafey's initiative in a news conference at Edmonton's Grierson Centre, where Karl Toft was already enjoying unescorted day parole. Kingsclear victim Karl Schneider was there with his mother



Simone Winnicky and Edmonton lawyer Casey O'Byrne. Mr. Goldring said that the investigation was long overdue and he was particularly disappointed with the inaction of former Justice Minister Anne McLellan, who was by then Public Safety Minister and responsible for the RCMP.

After 30 years of failed promises and self-serving political avoidance, the issue is now before a special investigation review committee under RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccaradelli's authority.

Commissioner Zaccaradelli was the Commander of the RCMP's J Division during part of the Kingsclear and post-Kingsclear affair.

In June of 2005, Heafey revealed that that the investigation was the largest ever undertaken by the commission but said the provincial Attorney General of New Brunswick had declined to provide relevant documentation, citing solicitor-client privilege. Later that month, Peter Goldring met with Premier Bernard Lord and Attorney General Brad Green in Fredericton, New Brunswick and was encouraged by their very supportive responses to this matter being fully and independently investigated. Disclosure issues were also addressed by the New Brunswick government to the satisfaction of

Ms. Heafey.

In October, 2005, Heafey stated that the RCMP repeatedly avoided oversight functions. Within weeks, despite her publicly-expressed commitment to oversee the investigation to its completion, Heafey suddenly retired from the Commission, to be replaced by Paul Kennedy, an appointee of then Minister Anne McLellan. At the time of her departure, Ms. Heafey issued a statement in which she said, in part, the following:



RCMP New Brunswick "J" Division Headquarters

I appreciate Mr. Goldring's continued advocacy in relation to the Kingsclear investigation... However, I am more confident than he that the investigation will be successfully followed through... I regret that I will not be the Chair when this matter is completed.

Kennedy said the Commission's progress on the investigation was positive and promised that "new faces allow...a new perspective." Kennedy did not clarify questions over Heafey's sudden and mysterious departure. Moreover, Heafey did not initially announce her departure with a standard news release, but with a private e-mail that was sent to select addressees.

In September 2005, Peter Goldring went to New Brunswick, at the request of John Fearon. For over ten years, Fearon had

been trying unsuccessfully to lay new assault charges against Toft. Now Fearon is attempting to lay the charges by way of private prosecution, since he has been unable to do so otherwise.

Following his September appearance, Mr. Goldring again appeared in New Brunswick, at Fearon's request, in December 2005 and February 2006, at the ongoing hearings into the laying of new charges. The matter is to return to court in early April 2006 for a decision on whether charges will go forward.

Since Paul Kennedy's appointment as the new Complaints Commissioner, Mr. Goldring has attempted to arrange a meet-

ing to discuss Kennedy's commitment to pursue a rigorous and comprehensive investigation into the Kingsclear matter. Kennedy's office has not responded with a date or returned calls. Goldring is now very concerned that the new commissioner will not continue to investigate Kingsclear with the same scope and enthusiasm as his predecessor clearly envisioned. On Feb. 15, Goldring appealed directly to new Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day to examine the progress and direction of the ongoing investigation to ensure that it remains committed to the robust mandate that was originally planned.

Update:

With a new government begins a new era. Kingsclear victims can expect more than just good intentions – they can expect action.

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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: _____
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