

Pastagate - Quebec Separatist Shame



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

In February 2013 news of over the top linguistic cleansing efforts by the separatist Quebec government made international headlines. The event in question involved a Quebec restaurateur, the word pasta, and Quebec's overzealous Language Police

It turned out to be an event heard around the world, as Quebec Premier Pauline Marois put an international spotlight on her silly and highly questionable separatist agenda, much to the dismay of Canadians across the country.

Massimo Lecas, owner of Buonanotte Italian Restaurant in Montreal, became a symbol of the "Great Canadian Language Divide" as news of "pastagate" came to the public's attention. The Office Quebecois de la Langue Francais (OQLF), who serve as Quebec's French language watchdog, cited Mr. Lecas for including words such as "pasta", "calamari" and "meatball" on his restaurant's menu. The OQLF warned him, essentially, that there was too much Italian on the menu of his Italian res-

taurant. Mr. Lecas was then given instructions to translate these items into French to be in accordance with Quebec's pro-French language legislation through provincial Bill 99 and Bill 14.

"Pastagate" became an international phenomenon, grabbing headlines from Australia to England to, not surprisingly, Italy. Although seen by many as an unfortunate yet comedic punchline in the news, "pastagate" was integral in bringing the injustices committed by the OQLF to the public's attention. Outside of the Buonanotte incident there are countless similar stories around the province, mostly in Montreal.

With these news stories continuing to come out, it has effectively forced the Quebec separatist government to call on their language watchdog to be less aggressive, or at least more circumspect. The head of the OQLF, Louise Marchand, hopefully embarrassed by the

silliness of the "pastagate" scandal, resigned after facing heavy scrutiny over this contro-



The Buonanotte Italian restaurant in Montreal was a recent target by the Office Quebecois de la Langue Francais, called "tongue trooper" to remove the word "pasta" from their menu.



versy.

The timing of this scandal is ironic, as earlier in 2013 a Parti Quebecois-funded report was released by the separatist group "The Estates General on Quebec Sovereignty" which holds to the claim that the Canadian state is committing soft ethnocide on all Francophones across Canada. However, with the truth coming to light regarding the actions taken by the OQLF to strictly enforce the use of only the French language within the province, it would seem that it is Quebec who is guilty of committing ethnocide - or linguistic cleansing - on English-speaking Canadians and visitors to the province.

I have enjoyed substantial involvement in Quebec in the past, from my military service with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the early 1960s being based in Lac St. Denis in Quebec guarding against the Front de Liberation du Quebec during the earlier years of FLQ terrorism, to my eight years of employment with a Quebec-based manufacturing company working in the Toronto office then being sent to open and manage their new Alberta marketing office.

This was followed by my 25 years of association through my manufacturing company with Quebec-based supplier companies that involved regular and frequent very pleasurable

visits to Quebec over the years developing numerous friendships.

I also spent time in Quebec around the 1995 referendum, garnering support for the Canadian Unity cause in the face of separation. My wife Lorraine and I always very much appreciate the opportunity to visit the beautiful province of Quebec. We have always felt very comfortable and quite enjoyed spending time there.



Mr. Goldring, accompanied by MP Massimo Pacetti, is shown presenting a plaque of a House of Commons statement he made for Buonanotte co-owner Massimo Lecas for his stand for linguistics rights and freedoms.

However, since the unconstitutional Bill 99 disavowing the Clarity Act received assent in 2000, and with the present separatist government publicly fostering an ever egregious French only policy under Bill 14, Quebec has become considerably less hospitable to English-speaking residents and visitors - Canadians and otherwise.

Bill 99, while dismissing Canada's Constitution and the Supreme Court ruling on the Clarity Act also further reduces the linguistic rights of Quebecers beyond those set out in Quebec's Bill 101 from 1977. This legislation instructs French-speaking Quebecers to speak only in French. (I don't see where!) Specifically, Bill 99 states:

"The Quebec State must promote the quality and influence of the French language. It shall pursue those objectives in a spirit of fairness and open-mindedness, respectful of the long-



established rights of Quebec's English-speaking community." Those fair-minded sentiments appear to be on paper only. In reality the long-established rights of L'Anglais are not being respected.

Section 16(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms says that, "English and French are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges".

Quebec legislators have declared French as the sole official language of the province. As such, Quebec only provides English assistance in areas of Federal jurisdiction where they are legally required to do so (yet French is still the declared language in all of these areas). This leaves many Canadians, like me, wondering where exactly is the "fairness and respect of the long-standing rights of Quebec's English-speaking community"?

With French being declared as Quebec's sole official language it is apparent that the French Language Police will stop at nothing to stamp out the use of any other language in the province and not just English, as is seen through the "pastagate" assault on the Italian language.

Although it is shameful that there would be Language Police in any part of Canada, "Pastagate" has become a symbol under which

Canadian Unity groups can focus, allowing them to raise awareness of the assault on the diminishing nature of Rights and Freedoms by separatists and other legislators.

The Special Committee for Canadian Unity, of which I have been a part of since 1996, and PutBackTheFlag.com joined forces to co-sponsor an event at Buonanotte Restaurant on April 1, 2013 as a direct result of the "pastagate" controversy.

The aims of the SCCU are:

- One Canada uni indivisible
- To challenge unconstitutional actions in the courts of Canada
- To organize and encourage Canadians everywhere to spread the message and benefit of Canadian Unity.

This comedic fundraising event was aimed at lampooning Quebec's separatist government and their linguistic cleansing comedy of errors.

On March 20, 2013, I spoke in the House of Commons on this issue, informing my colleagues and the Canadian public of the event that was to take place at Buonanotte - the Italian restaurant at the center of this particular scandal.

Here is the full text of my statement in the



The Special Committee for Canadian Unity co-sponsored an event at Buonanotte Restaurant on April 1, 2013 as a direct result of the "pastagate" controversy that went viral world wide for its outrageousness.

House of Commons:

the menu.

SCCU - Pastagate

Imagine – No Pasta – on an Italian Restaurant Menu!

“Mr. Speaker,

On April Fool’s Day, pasta lovers will gather at Massimo Lecas’ restaurant ‘Buonanotte’ in Montreal, lampooning Quebec’s separatist government and their linguistic cleansing comedy of errors.

Throughout the world from Australia to England to, of course, Italy, they regaled at this farce and at the silliness of the separatists.

Welcome to Pastagate!

Sponsored by the Special Committee for Canadian Unity and PutBackTheFlag.com, this evening of comedy will be held at the Italian Restaurant where Quebec’s Language Police ordered the removal of the word “PASTA” from

Join us on the evening of April 1st in Montreal for even more comedic fun as we support the needy; support Canadian Unity; support the Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms; support Linguistic Fairness; and indulge in our love of pasta!!”

UPDATE: In 2003 the Equality Party launched a court challenge against Bill 99, which has been progressing slowly. In October 2013 the Attorney General of Canada joined the legal challenge, saying Bill 99 has several sections that violate federal law.

9111 - 118th Ave.
Edmonton, AB T5B 0T9
(780) 495-3261
Fax: 495-5142

Web Site:
www.petergoldring.ca
Email:
peter.goldring.c1@parl.gc.ca

411 Justice Bldg.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
(613) 992-3821
Fax: 992-6898

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...

Q1: Do you support the federal government’s introducing a motion in court asking a judge to rule that a province cannot secede from Canada with a simple 50% plus one majority referendum result?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you want to help and join the fight against issues threatening the unity of Canada?

Yes

No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____



Peter Goldring
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6