



POLICE ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE CHARITABLE GIVING?

Christmas season is upon us, and most of us can't help but to think of those who have less than us, those in need within our community. With rising costs of food and housing, low wages and poor mental health and social services, just under 20 000 people utilized food banks in NB (according to Food Banks Canada Hunger Count 2016.)

Some of us do little and carry on with our lives, but many of us want to give back. We give money, or we collect food for a local charity who help those in need.

The North Shore Darksiders are a local motorcycle club made up of dedicated men who have a passion for riding, and brotherhood. They are like you, I and others who have careers and want what is best for their families and the communities they live in.

For the 4th year, they are collecting food for their local food bank. They are doing so because of all the reasons stated above, because there is a need in their community and because they want to help. This is nothing new in the motorcycle culture, it is part of who we are and what we do.

On November 16th, a few days after the launch of their food drive, media and local police have put out articles and TV news stories on the Darksiders; Not necessarily to praise their efforts, but to sabotage their charitable initiative! This is appalling, unethical and just plain disrespectful toward their very own community.

The media and police spoke to media about "criminal organization, and association to crime," again without any evidence of such. Even to the point of the police officer not wanting to respond further during the interview on these serious and damaging allegations. A food bank in the region (Peninsule) has a policy against accepting donations from "groups with criminal elements". How do they decide this? And how would they know or enforce this? Should the food bank ask everyone for a criminal record check upon receipt of a donation? Or is it just us labelled "bikers" who are prevented to give? It is beyond ridiculous. Maybe these charities are putting these policies in place because they fear the repercussions from the government or the police? Or is it because they don't want to be judged themselves? Is this the world we now live in?

The purpose of these types of articles is to sway the public's perception about motorcycle clubs with lies and prejudice. Motorcycle clubs are some of the most charitable organizations in Canada and elsewhere, they can do this because of their huge number of supporters, family and friends. They are also some of the most vocal groups when it comes to injustice and human rights. They stand for their beliefs and their freedoms, and do not accept abuse of authority. They are not the sheep of society and will fight for what they feel is right.

Do the police have the right to label these men criminals, who hold no criminal record, and who have never been convicted of a crime? Do they have the right to try to convince charities not to accept their generosity? They do not and we want to thank the community members who have gone on the news to state their opinions on the subject.

So now how do we stop this profiling of motorcycle clubs members?

Here's what we encourage everyone to do

- Think for yourselves, don't base your knowledge on media
- Get to know local bikers in your community
- Write a letter to your city counsellors or to the editor of your local news paper
- Support the clubs' initiatives and charity events, DONATE!
- Spread the message that "BROTHERHOOD IS NOT A CRIME"

On behalf of the ACC organizing committee, we want to commend all the clubs in the Atlantic Provinces doing fundraisers, Turkey drives, food drives and other initiatives to support those in need in their communities, congratulations on your efforts, and we wish you all a wonderful Holiday season!

ACC committee