



11/23/17

As many of you have noticed there have been more fear mongering tactics towards the PEI prospect charter in the local paper by Andy Cook of the RCMP. The ACC would like to take this opportunity to offer our perspective on a few issues surrounding these statements and try to offer a more realistic take on this issue as it applies to human rights.

Firstly, Andy Cook states that PEI belongs to Islanders, which is in fact a true statement. Where we disagree is when he implies that it is more his and others' Island than that of these men who are multi-generational born and raised members of our community. This charter is comprised of 100% tax paying citizens of our Island who lay equal claim to this land as everyone else. Motorcycle Clubs have worn a PEI rocker in the past without issue, so why the different treatment towards these individuals? Wearing PEI on their patch shows pride in where they are from as opposed to Cooks claim that they are "taking over." These are the same men that are our neighbors, family and friends, regardless of what they wear on their backs. How does a man who moved here a year ago lay more claim to our Island than long standing members of our community? This is not only ignorant and arrogant, but also offensive.

Secondly, a reminder that the supposed "crime" that these men are accused of is related to not purchasing a \$5 lottery license for a supposed one time 50/50 draw. The RCMP would lead you to believe these men were operating the equivalent of an underground casino or the like. Imagine the magnitude at which this act takes place for various teams, groups, etc. with no negative repercussions, on a weekly basis. Why treat these men severely for an act that for another citizen would likely result in a warning to purchase a license or possibly a small fine. Doesn't the treatment of these men constitute biased discrimination and profiling based on association? Does everyone who decides to hold a 50/50 draw but may not be aware of the local laws and legislations now need to fear their door being kicked in by armed officers and their property seized? What if these guys weren't bikers, would we even be talking about this?

Did you also know that if 3 or more people commit a supposed (serious) crime together that the law then deems them to be a criminal organization? If this is the case, why are these the first criminal organization charges laid in PEI? Makes you think.

Lastly, the manner in which these individuals we're paraded in front of the media so that everyone would see their faces and make a judgement takes away from their opportunity to a fair trial if election by jury trial is chosen to deal with this matter. If the security risk was that high that they needed an armored truck and carbide rifles to transport these individuals to court then why did Andy Cook parade them in to the front door instead of driving the truck into the sally port by the holding cells under the courthouse, would match the supposed level of risk?

Was this all just a show for the media designed to evoke fear in the public? Are we not assumed innocent until proven guilty? Who decides who's name and pictures go in the paper before they are tried by the courts? Is this treatment based on the negative bias of Andy Cook towards this group? It certainly appears that way doesn't it?

We the ACC stand behind these men as we do all of our members clubs and riders who face issues of erosion of basic human rights as outlined in the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Injustice to one is Injustice to all.

ACC Committee