

Who's Lying Now?? **Re: Venison vs Bologna**

October 11, 2011

See the Pembroke Daily Observer article below "Fake letter not written by Potts", which refers to the same letter we examined in the last posting.

We completely stand by the articles we write and publish, this last one included. If we make a mistake, we'll admit it. Sometimes with further insight, we feel the need to add some pertinent information so that readers can always form their own views on the subject. This is now the case.

When we read the recent letter from Robert Potts, the "\$350 letter", we had no clear reason to think it wasn't really from him.

We did think it was extremely ridiculous. We asked the sender if it was real or if this was a joke?? His reply, *"when it comes to this land claim nothing surprises me anymore"*. This cynicism is widespread in the Nishnaabe Algonquin community.

(As credible publishers and researchers, we don't reveal the sources of our information unless they wish to be named.)

Given, Potts' "\$350 letter" appeared on the AOO Algonquins of Ontario letterhead and was written entirely in Potts' style, it was convincingly authentic. To a writer, another writer's style is distinct so this was conclusive for us. We looked at some of his other letters and found this one was written in his style and tone. Typically, he does not sign his letters so we took the lack of a handwritten signature on this letter to be in keeping with his habits and not reason to suggest it was a forgery. If it's a forgery, it's a darned good one.

To look at this another way, if Potts habitually doesn't sign his letters, then there can come a day in the future when he can deny that he wrote those letters. This is how a lawyer thinks.

Given that we still consider the AOO land claim to be a fraud perpetrated upon the Original People by a select group of maybe Algonquins, impersonators of Algonquins, lawyers, government officials, academics and media personnel, we think it is highly possible that Potts is lying to cover his ass. Who knows what besotted condition he was in if and when he wrote the letter. It is not far fetched when you consider some of the other drivel he writes and the stuff he is doing.

We are in a position to see the theft, fraud and corruption that are taking place. It upsets us to an extreme degree. We feel the only

thing we can do at the moment to combat this criminal behaviour is to shed some light on it and talk about it. There are risks involved.

You might ask, why didn't we check with Potts. The answer to that question is that he and many of the AOO do not talk to us. Somebody, like former Ardoch chief and OPP Randy Cota, now in or near Kenora, put out the word, "Don't talk to her!" Many Nishnaabe Algonquins receive the Eagle Watch newsletter and remain silent. It was however one of the ANRs, writing to us for the first time ever, who sent us the Observer article.

Had we seen the October 3 article on the day we received the letter which was the SAME day, we would have handled the matter in a different way. We would include the article and the viewpoint that Potts may not have written the letter.

That doesn't mean we think it's probable he didn't write it cause we were convinced he did write it. So we still think it quite probable that he did write it. He may not have anticipated the reach and reaction it provoked. In habitual manner, he would take the road of deny, deny, deny. Isn't that what his ilk do when they get caught with their fingers in the cookie jar??

It is also not improbable that he would deliberately send out such a confounding letter only to later deny that he wrote it in order to discredit other people who don't agree with him. If so many "individuals" received the letter in the mail, where did the sender get all those addresses?? Would they all be Algonquins? Potts would be one of the few who would have that information! Does each ANR have all the names and addresses of everyone in other communities?? Does this include those who are not currently "enrolled" members??

Maybe a police investigation should be started to trace the origins of the letter which has upset so many people. Examining the list of recipients and the postal stamp on the envelopes would be a start. Fraud is a criminal act and allegations of such are very serious.

In the Daily Observer article, Potts is quoted as saying in a telephone interview, *"The point is to destabilize. When people are desperate, and they're feeling that they need to strike out at somebody, they resort to bizarre and rather sad means, and this is one of them. It's filled with inaccuracy, it's erroneous, it's fraudulent, it's all kinds of things and it's very sad that somebody would resort to something like that."*

Hmmm. Lawyer Potts is playing psychologist. Who is he really talking about here??

"If you really want to get down to it, what's happening is that we're getting closer and closer to what we think will be an AIP of some consequence for everybody, and I think what's happening here is you're seeing some folks who are just desperate not to see any change trying

to subvert and destabilize. That's not surprising, if you take the people who might be doing it, but it's really sad, is what it really comes down to, that you can't have an open debate and discuss meaningful matters in a conscientious way as opposed to using all kinds of dirty tricks like this."

This is where we have to say;, "now hold on a minute, Bobbie!"

They may be getting closer and closer to an AIP Agreement in Principle but they'll never actually reach an Agreement.

When he says, "*for everybody*", we are certain this is a big fat lie. The land claim always has been and is proving to be for a select few. That is what is causing so much anger.

Who's "*desperate not to see change*"? Most of us want big change but we don't want to get robbed all over again. This land claim itself would "*subvert and destabilize*" any future attempts at a just settlement. This is a main reason why it upsets us so much.

Further, when Potts refers to "*open debate*", you know that is a load of hooee because he is one who promotes all the private meetings, meetings where only the ANRs are allowed to attend while the People are not. That is the colonial way of doing things, NOT our Indigenous Original Ways.

And that my friends is an example of Potts using "all kinds of dirty tricks". Mind you, it's the same ole same ole bag of dirty tricks. The colonial entities have no new dirty tricks!

Nowhere in the article does Potts explicitly deny writing the letter. Could anyone get a signed statement in writing from him that he did not write the "\$350 letter"?? We'll bet that would be a tough job!

In the end, each person has to judge for herself/himself what is the Truth, who is lying, who is acting in whose interests, etc. We need to have facts, context and a Good Mind.

Kittoh

Notes:

See the Eagle Watch Newsletter #180
Venison vs Bologna
October 8, 2011

<http://www.thedailyobserver.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=3323397>
Fake letter not written by Potts
By Ryan Paulsen rpaulsen@thedailyobserver.ca
Posted 5 days ago
RYAN PAULSEN

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As discussions surrounding the 36,000 square kilometre Algonquin Ontario land claim continue through their 20th year, with principal negotiator Bob Potts hopeful that involved parties are getting ever closer to reaching an agreement in principal (AIP), someone has resorted to fraud in an apparent attempt to rock the boat.

In recent weeks, individuals from Mattawa to Golden Lake have received letters in the mail that claim to come from Mr. Potts himself.

The letter purports to announce an opportunity for "enrolment" into The Algonquins of Ontario, "for a nominal one-time fee of \$350," adding that new members "will receive all benefits available to a first nation [sic], including free dental, housing, tax exemptions and the right to hunt and fish."

The letter continues to say that "your membership 'yes' vote will guarantee you full Indian Status. You will be entitled to a \$10,000 payment, a land allocation as well as complete benefits."

No detail is provided as to where the \$350 "membership fee" should be directed, and the only contact information on the letter is that of Mr. Potts, who sees only one reason behind the misinformation in the document.

"The point is to destabilize," he said in a telephone interview with The Daily Observer. "When people are desperate, and they're feeling that they need to strike out at somebody, they resort to bizarre and rather sad means, and this is one of them. It's filled with inaccuracy, it's erroneous, it's fraudulent, it's all kinds of things and it's very sad that somebody would resort to something like that."

The land claim itself dates back as far as 1983, when the first claims were brought forward, but the governments of Ontario and Canada officially entered negotiations on the claim in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

After two decades of discussion, Mr. Potts believes that the three negotiating parties are approaching a milestone, and that may be what has led to the distribution of the letter.

"If you really want to get down to it, what's happening is that we're getting closer and closer to what we think will be an AIP of some consequence for everybody, and I think what's happening here is you're seeing some folks who are just desperate not to see any change trying to subvert and destabilize. That's not surprising, if you take the people who might be doing it, but it's really sad...what it really comes down to, (is) that you can't have an open debate and discuss meaningful matters in a conscientious way as opposed to using all kinds of dirty tricks like this."

For more information on the land claim or the ongoing negotiations, visit the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs website at:

www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca

or contact the Ontario Information Centre for the Algonquin Land Claim, located in the Government Information Centre at 31 Riverside Drive in Pembroke. The office can also be reached by phone at 613-732-8081.

