



SAGE

Seniors' Action Group
of
Elliot Lake

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THE ELLIOT LAKE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The Honourable Paul R. Bélanger, Commissioner
info@elliottinquiry.ca

Re: Application For Commission Standing

October 5, 2012

Dear Commissioner Belanger:

We are, as captioned, the Seniors' Action Group of Elliot Lake (SAGE), and our purpose or "Mission Statement" is to defend, advance and communicate the common interests of the members, seniors and retirees of Elliot Lake. We have been in existence a short period of time, relatively, informally at first during a protest over council's decision to rescind senior discounts for recreation and transportation, at the Elliot Lake City Hall, on April 12, 2010. We were successful in our protest, forcing council to reverse their decision. We have since grown into a recognizable organization of seniors and have continued to advocate on behalf of our members and non members alike, with various issues and with all levels of government. Our advocacy and efforts have been recognized and spoken of by our local Member of the Provincial Legislature in the Legislature itself, and, by the local municipality. Some of our members sit on Advisory Committees of Council, freely, as a further effort to advocate on behalf of our constituency. SAGE is well known and recognized by many Elliot Lake citizens as a driving force for improvement. We have dedicated members who attend most Council and committee of Council meetings, and furnish written reports to our members and on our web site for public consumption. We also produce various reports and correspondence to both members and citizens at large, as well as politicians at all levels and Provincial Ministries. A complete list of our endeavours and documents are openly posted on our web site, a direct link provided above. If it is your preference, we will be please to forward individual documents separately.

We, like many other citizens of Elliot Lake, were greatly effected by the collapse of the Algo Centre Mall, and followed the proceeding rescue/recovery efforts with concern and interest. One of our members is well versed in Emergency Preparedness and, Emergency Response Plans and, their implementation. He, is Mr. Charles Myles and has contacted you separately with some of his concerns, as well as drawing many of his observations to our attention. He has pointed out where a number of the provisions and requirements of the Elliot Lake Emergency Response Plan were not followed and, where a number of the requirements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) were not followed, which resulted in confusion, needless anxiety, lack of public information (other than the news media), fatigue of workers and the public, and an over all public impression that "nothing was being done". Mr. Myles has prepared a number of questions that echo the concerns of many in Elliot Lake, as well as a list of pertinent, critical to our concerns, documents, which are yet unavailable to the public, that will indicate what was done, when, and by whom.

The purpose of our request for standing is to bring forth where some things were not done in the most effective and efficient way, with a view to identifying where improvements can be made, throughout Ontario and, indeed, across Canada, in both Provincial Legislation and, Municipal Emergency Response Plans. Our goal is to make this an open and public process in which all those interested can become familiar with what will occur should another unfortunate emergency situation occur. Our goal is to make sure that those involved in local Emergency Response Teams, at all levels, are properly trained, certified as required, and, that training is current. Our goal is to assure that the Plan, and duties of the Emergency Response Team Members are immediately activated and properly followed. Our goal is to assure that a rigid chain of command is in place and adhered to at all times, and that all activities are reported to the public in a clear and timely manner, and not having to await the next news cast. Our goal is to design (or have designed) efficient and effective procedures for Emergency Response, and have them entrenched and enforced through new Provincial Legislation, under an amended Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). The Emergency Management and Emergency Response will be our only focus for Standing. We would request Standing to participate in all three (3) of the criteria under the Mandates listed in the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry. Our main focus will be toward Items (b) and ©, however, given we are a critical information source, we would request Standing for Item (a) also, so as to enable us to report progress to our membership.

We would require funding consideration, since SAGE is not large and our funds just allow us to function at modest levels of activity, with reliance on the good and generous graces of the Renaissance Seniors' Centre for a free venue in which to hold our meetings. Our membership dues are modest, at \$10.00 annually and most available funds are eaten up through obtaining various documents from the municipality, a few promotional brochures, banking charges, and sundry supplies. Even most of our printing of our own documents is done by the executive itself, at the expense of the individual, without reimbursement asked or expected. We will not be incurring expenses for legal representation, and will represent ourselves; Charles Myles, at 66 Warsaw Place, Apt. 504, Phone 705-461-7767, e-mail <mailto:cam3@eastlink.ca> , acting as lead, and, through myself, Keith Moyer, address and phone shown above, and personal e-mail <mailto:cdroasis@hotmail.com> , acting as assistance and backup for Mr. Myles. The only funding assistance we would request would be necessary costs to obtain documents through the Commission, and, if required, costs for mailing or courier services. Both Mr. Myles and myself are prepared to make verbal presentations if allowed, and, to ask pertinent questions, and cross examination of available witnesses, again, if permitted.

We sincerely look forward to being granted standing for the reasons indicated and will be pleased to attend the planned hearing for Standing consideration at the Hampton Inn on October 26th and answer any questions you may have for us. To give you a clear picture of what SAGE is, and what we stand for, and how we operate, I have attached copies of our Operating Constitution and Our Frequently Asked Questions, both of which appear also on our web site.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Keith H. Moyer A.I.H.M.
SAGE Vice Chair

att: Operating Constitution SAGE
Frequently Asked Questions SAGE
2011/12 Fiscal Year Profit/Loss Financials SAGE

cc: Mr. Charles Myles
SAGE Executive Members

