

Personal Public Statement

By John Taddeo, Ignace ON

Harassment, Bullying and Defamation Will No Longer Be Tolerated.

“What you say about others doesn’t define them, it defines you!”

Ignace, ON April 13, 2023 – Today I wanted to take this opportunity to make a public statement on behalf of myself and my family about the repulsive and unacceptable behaviour by a few local and out of town citizens on social media platforms. Over the past six weeks I have been listening, observing on social media, discussing, and meeting with professionals, friends and colleagues, and trying to understand the rationale and bad behaviour of certain individuals in this community and beyond. At the same time, I have felt disappointed, frustrated, upset and even angry with the untruthful, hateful, and misguided information that has been circulated on a variety of social media platforms. These few isolated negative voices have decided to disrupt, harass, bully and defame others and myself in this community. It is unjust, unlawful, and simply should not and will not be tolerated.

Although, many of our friends, family, colleagues, supporters both in town and beyond have reached out to provide their encouragement and engagement, they are both disgusted and repulsed by the outright bad behaviour of a few individuals in this community. These folks are not only hurting the reputation of the Township of Ignace in the present but are setting the standard of how individuals who want to engage and progress this community in the future, may be slandered and criticized for their positive contributions. As the Township’s image continues to erode with every negative, untruthful, unauthorized and slanderous comment that is made by these armchair computer warriors, this behaviour also begins to define how we expect others externally to see our community. These folks feel obligated to ignite and inspire rumours, speculation, and simple gossip over social media platforms they have created themselves as their soapbox to bring down caring, understandable and contributing citizens who have taken their own personal time to bring advancement and leadership for a better life for all ratepayers in Ignace.

Over the course of 30 years, I have taken great pride and admiration in every contribution I have made to this community, whether through leadership in minor hockey, contributions to policies that forbid abuse of minors, elders and those vulnerable in society to governance in municipal government and within my own long and well-established career. Although, I will not comment, respond or justify any of the recent comments made unlawfully on social media, I will attest to undertaking the utmost professional, and highest standards of conduct, contributing to policies that protect and elevate individuals rather than degrade them. As elected officials we are obligated to transparency, accountability and conduct in every aspect of our dedicated roles in this community.

As such, I have been consulting and have been advised by both authorities and legal professionals of my rights as an individual and Councillor for the Township of Ignace regarding the defamation, harassment, bullying and outright slander against me and my family by these few individuals.

I have been asked to accumulate, track and document every comment on social media, alongside the names of those who have so belligerently taken it upon themselves to act in this deplorable manner.

Therefore, I will utilize every tool at my disposal to ensure that those individuals who feel obligated to chastise and damage the reputation of others for their own personal fulfillment are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

I am pursuing this avenue, not only to protect myself and my family in the present, but to also protect potential community leaders in the future. We, as a collective community of concerned citizens for the Township of Ignace must come together and take a stand against hateful, disruptive, and untruthful comments that continue to damage both this municipality and those who are dedicated and committed to ensuring we live in a peaceful and inviting local environment, without the fear of being harassed and bullied. It is simply NOT acceptable. Remember what you say about others, does not define them, it defines you!