

February 22,
2008

[Sports](#)

[Letters](#)

[Editorial](#)

[Columns](#)

[News](#)

[Archives](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Career Ads](#)

[Cybersaver](#)

[Place An Ad](#)

[Subscribe Online](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Featured Links](#)

[Alberta Farmer](#)

[Western Dairy](#)

[Farmer](#)

[Bowes Publishers](#)

[Sun Media](#)

[Quebecor Media](#)

**Newspaper
Advertisemen**



**Leduc Re
RATE CAR**

**Leduc Re
CITY MAP**



Protester seeks justice over pension

Friday February 22, 2008



Bill Glen

news@leducprep.com

Getting nowhere in Alberta's courts, Grant McLean has taken his message to the streets raising awareness that he has been unfairly treated by the province's judicial system. A senior manager with the provincial government and former two-term mayor of Airdrie, McLean is frustrated at the discrepancy in how the Alberta government treats its employees and how the province's MLAs treat themselves. McLean said that only a few years ago MLAs voted themselves a liberal severance package. He is bitter that a provincial government error cost him nearly 15 years of his pension, in the neighbourhood of a half-million dollars. He is frustrated at the government's denial and stalling tactics being used in the hope that he will go away.

But the 60-year-old is defiant, and on Feb. 19 dressed as a judge complete with a wooly wig, he carried several signs in



front of Leduc-Beaumont-Devon MLA George Rogers' unoccupied campaign headquarters in Leduc. He claimed to have attempted to contact Rogers on at least four occasions. "I'm going around to all of the campaign offices. I chose Mr. Rogers as a person who doesn't acknowledge phone calls or emails. These people were elected to represent all Albertans. They can't cherry pick issues and talk only to people in their ridings."

In 1982, McLean was an officer in Canada's regular force with more than 14 years of service. He has served abroad on both NATO and United Nations peacekeeping duties. He decided to apply for employment with the provincial government's correctional system. After a couple of interviews he was offered a job as a deputy director at Spy Hill Jail, also known as the Calgary Correctional Centre. McLean said he accumulated a considerable pensionable interest.

During his interviews for the prison position he enquired whether he could transfer his military pension rights over to the provincial plan. The province's letter offering McLean employment assured him he could transfer his pension over. McLean quit the army to take up the provincial job. McLean left his military career and was later told he couldn't transfer his pensionable service and that there was no such arrangement between the province and Canada's Department of National Defence for transferring pensions. This left McLean without pension build up for a decade and a half of his life, making for a considerably reduced pension when he retires. He is adamant that no one else endures what he has gone through to have his matter corrected.

"I realize the politicians have a lot on their plates, and I hate to do things like this, but that's 15 years of my life. I served my country here and abroad. What would you do?"

His signs read 'Slow Alberta justice is not working', 'Tory MLAs arranged their pension plans in record time. Why is Grant McLean's taking so long?', 'Alberta's government screwed Grant McLean,' and 'Is this how Alberta's government treats Alberta's soldiers?'

In 1999, McLean initiated legal action against the government. The lawsuit has yet to go before a judge.

"The government is dragging its feet. It's probably in its best interest that I just go away, but I won't. It's been very frustrating, taking a toll on relationships in my life and my health. I believe in standing up for things and I believe this isn't right."

Once Rogers heard that McLean was outside his campaign

office, he rushed down to meet him. But McLean was gone. Rogers was left to scratch his head over what exactly the St. Albert resident wanted. "I don't know him and I'm not sure where he tried to get a hold of me. My MLA office is still open half-days. My assistant is there and she'll take messages. There is voice mail. We also have voice mail at the campaign office. I haven't had any contact with him, either by email or telephone messages." Rogers was unaware of McLean's issue, but wondered if it wasn't a federal matter.

"How sincere is he to get his matter resolved? He's picketing in front of an empty office. He probably should be talking to his Member of Parliament," he said.

"His statement of trying to get a hold of me is hollow because my offices are open for the public to contact me. He is obviously trying to get attention and I wish him well in his travels."



Publisher: Neil
Sutcliffe
Proprietor and
published by
Bowes
Publishers
Limited at 4504
- 61 Avenue,
Leduc, Alberta,
Canada T9E
3Z1