# Sovereign Citizens & Freeman-on the-

Land

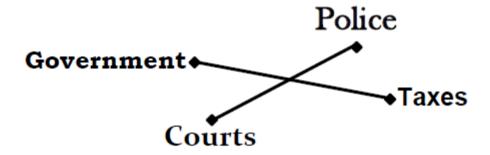
Peter Collins
Ontario Provincial Police &
University of Toronto





#### What is FOTL?

FOTL is a decentralized ideological movement that generally opposes:



 FOTL subscribe to complex sets of imaginary legal principles, centered around the idea that all human beings are "free" or "sovereign" beings, and can refuse to be governed.

# A growing challenge for Justice Officials

- Sovereign Citizens, Freemen, Freeman-on-the-land, Natural Persons, Free Travelers and the Moorish Movement are similar across North America
- Collectively these groups are considered "far right" movements due to their ideology
- Many are "de-taxers"
- Membership is difficult to estimate

- The ideas of the sovereign citizen movement originate in the ideology of the Posse Comitatus, an anti-Semitic group that was popular in the U.S. Midwest in the late 1970s and 1980s.
- claim that they are not subject to most taxes, are not citizens of the United States (but instead are "nonresident aliens") cannot be tried for crimes in which there is no complaining victim (i.e. zoning and professional licensing violations)



#### Potential Violence

- Establishment of a Peace Officer Corps, claiming a right to bear arms, or declaring non-compliance with laws sets the stage for potential conflicts
- Criminal or state enforcement, search and seizure or resistance, arrest or detention are likely
- Traffic violations or other contacts, service of legal notices or warrants, enforcement of court orders, could result in violence

#### Violence

- When a sovereign feels particularly desperate, angry, battle-weary and cornered, his next government contact, no matter how minor, can be his final straw.
- In 1995 in Ohio, a sovereign named Michael Hill pulled a gun on an officer during a traffic stop. Hill was killed.
- In 1997, New Hampshire extremist Carl Drega shot dead two officers and two civilians, and wounded another three officers before being killed himself.
- In that same year in Idaho, brothers Doug and Craig Broderick were pulled over for failing to signal, they killed one officer and wounded another before being killed in a violent gun battle.

#### Violence

- In December 2003, members of the Bixby family, who lived outside of Abbeville, S.C., killed two law enforcement officers in a dispute over a small parcel of land next to their home.
- 2014 incident in Vegas
- In May 2010, Jerry and Joseph Kane, a father and son sovereign team, shot to death two West Memphis, Ark., police officers who had pulled them over in a routine traffic stop.
- Later that day, the Kanes were killed in a shootout with police that wounded two other officers.

PROTECTED "A"

#### A Cautionary Tale

#### Alaska Peacemakers Militia

- The Militia was an extreme right Sovereign Citizens group, led by Schaeffer COX.
- In 2011, COX and other members of the Militia were charged in by the FBI "241" Conspiracy.

#### Schaeffer's Math:

- 1 APM Arrested = 2 Cops/Judges Kidnapped 1 APM Killed = 2 Cops/Judges Murdered
- In 2012, COX was sentenced to 25 years in prison for conspiracy to commit murder.



Schaeffer COX



**COX and Militia Members** 



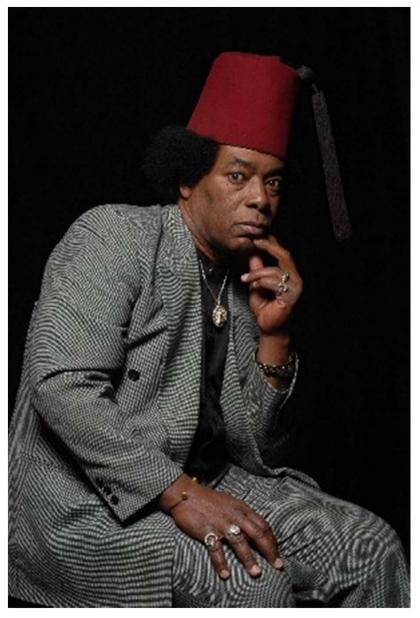
With their finances in shambles, sovereign citizen adherents Jerry Kane and his son Joe traveled the country giving sparsely attended seminars on avoiding foreclosure while clad in white suits.



- believe they are only subject to "common law courts," a sort of people's tribunal with no lawyers
- Most refuse to obtain Social Security cards, register their vehicles, carry driver's licenses or use zip/postal codes
- many refer to UCC-107, a part of the Uniform Commercial Code, to justify their bizarre claims
- to justify their bizarre claims and some use weird forms of punctuation between their middle and last names in all kinds of documents

- Claim to be different from "14th Amendment citizens," who are subject to federal and state governments, and themselves, who are also known as "organic citizens"
- The initial the sovereign citizens movement mostly attracted white supremacists and anti-Semites mainly because sovereign theories originated in groups that saw Jews as working behind the scenes to manipulate financial institutions and control the government.

- The ideology that causes adherents to claim that African Americans, who only became legal citizens when the 14th Amendment was passed in 1866, have far fewer rights than whites and are permanently subject to federal and state governments, unlike themselves
- Most sovereigns, some of whom are African American or FN are unaware of origins of their beliefs.



Moorish Science Temple of America leader Nature El Bey

# Sovereign Belief System

- The contemporary sovereign belief system is based on a decades-old conspiracy theory. At some point in history, sovereigns believe, the American government set up by the founding fathers — with a legal system the sovereigns refer to as common law.
- This **common law** was secretly replaced by a new government system based on **admiralty law**, the law of the sea and international commerce.
- Under common law, or so they believe, the sovereigns would be "free men". Under admiralty law, they are slaves, and secret government forces have a vested interest in keeping them that way.

# Sovereign Belief System

- Some sovereigns believe this change occurred during the Civil War, while others blame the events of 1933, when the U.S. abandoned the gold standard
- they stake their lives and livelihoods on the idea that
  Judges in the U.S. know all about this hidden government
  takeover but are denying the sovereigns' motions and
  filings out of treasonous loyalty to hidden and
  malevolent government forces

# Sovereign Citizen Beliefs

the next layer of the argument becomes even more implausible:

- Since 1933, the U.S. dollar has been backed not by gold, but by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt ended private ownership of gold in large amounts in 1933 but governments could still sell gold for dollars to the U.S. Treasury for a fixed amount after that, until that practice was ended by President Richard Nixon in 1971

# Sovereign Belief System

- According to sovereign "researchers," this means that the government has pledged its citizenry as collateral, by selling their future earning capabilities to foreign investors, effectively enslaving all Americans
- This sale takes place at birth.
- When a baby is born in the U.S., a birth certificate is issued, and the hospital usually requires that the parents apply for a Social Security number at that time

# Sovereign Belief System

 Sovereigns say that the government then uses that birth certificate to set up a kind of corporate trust in the baby's name — a secret Treasury account — which it funds with an amount ranging from \$600,000 to \$20 million, depending on the particular variant of the sovereign belief system

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A "bill of exchange," a fake check used to access the funds in the secret Treasury account supposedly set up by the government to monetize the value of each citizen's life at birth.

# Sovereign Beliefs

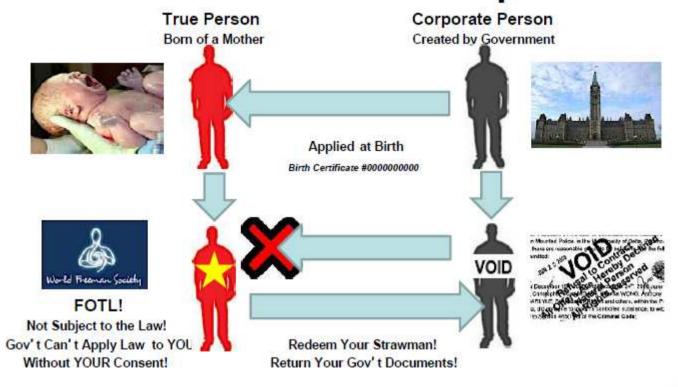
Though this all sounds bizarre, the next layer of the argument becomes even more implausible:

- By setting up this account, every newborn's rights are cleverly split between those held by the flesh-and-blood baby and the ones assigned to his or her corporate shell account
- The sovereigns believe evidence for their theory is found on the birth certificate itself.

# Sovereign Beliefs

- Since most certificates use all capital letters to spell out a baby's name, **JOHN LEE**, for example, is actually the name of the corporate shell identity, or "straw man," while **John Lee** is the baby's "real," flesh-and-blood name
- As the child grows older, most of his legal documents will utilize capital letters, which means that his state-issued driver's license, his marriage license, his car registration, his criminal court records, his cable TV bill and correspondence from the IRS all will pertain to his corporate shell identity, not his real, sovereign identity

#### FOTL As a Concept



# Redemption

- the process sovereigns have devised to split the straw man from the flesh-and-blood man is called "redemption" and its purpose is two-fold. Once separated from the corporate shell, the newly freed man is now outside of the jurisdiction of all admiralty laws
- by filing a series of complex, legal-sounding documents, the sovereign can tap into that secret Treasury account for his own purposes
- Over the past 30 years, many hundreds of sovereigns have attempted to perfect the process by packaging and promoting different combinations of forms and paperwork.

#### Redemption

- While no one has ever succeeded, for the obvious reason that these theories are not true, sovereigns are nonetheless convinced with the religious certainty of a true cult believer that they're close.
- All it will take, say the promoters of the redemption scam, is the right combination of words.

# Membership

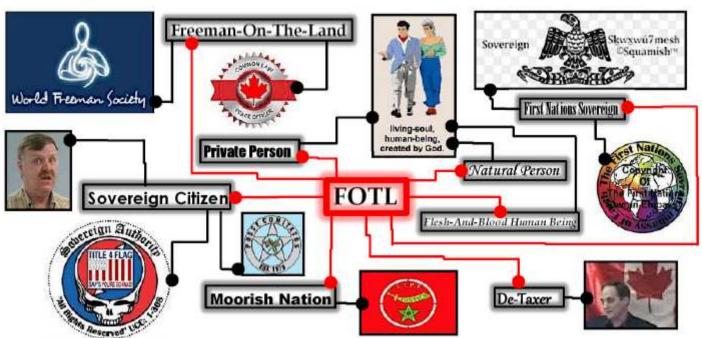
- No centralized leadership and no national organized group that members can join.
- variety of local leaders with individualized views on sovereign citizen ideology and techniques
- Those who are attracted to this subculture typically attend a seminar or two, or visit one of the thousands of websites and online videos on the subject and then simply choose how to act on what they've learned

#### Membership

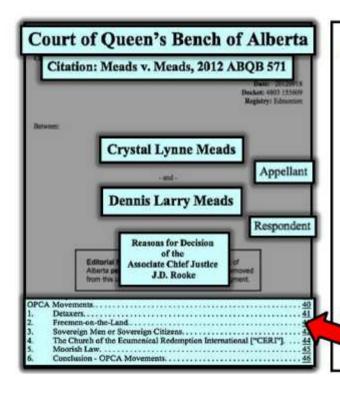
- Some start by testing sovereign ideology with small offenses such as driving without a license, while others proceed directly to taking on the IRS or CRA as tax protesters
- a conservative estimate of the number of all kinds of tax protesters today, in the U.S., would be about 500,000.
- Using this number and information derived from trials of tax protestors and reports from government agencies, a reasonable estimate of hard-core sovereign believers in early 2011 would be 100,000, with another 200,000 just starting out by testing sovereign techniques for resisting everything from speeding tickets to drug charges, for an estimated total of 300,000

# Membership growing

- Going viral in prison
- Poor economy contributing.
- Others are intrigued by the notions of easy money and living a lawless life, free from unpleasant consequences
- For many, it's a political issue. They don't like taxes, traffic laws, child support obligations or banking practices, but they are too impatient to try to change what they dislike through traditional, political means.



#### Meads v. Meads, 2012 ABQB



Meads is an important case, as it provided a legal context to FOTL, who Justice Rooke named:

> "Organized Pseudolegal Commerical Argument" Litigants

> > -or-

OPCA

Justice Rooke also listed OPCA Movements in his decision.

#### **Tactics**

- The weapon of choice for sovereign citizens is paper. A simple traffic violation or pet-licensing case can end up provoking dozens of court filings containing hundreds of pages of pseudo-legal nonsense
- Sovereign filings can quickly exceed a thousand pages.
   While a normal criminal case docket might have 60 or 70 entries, many involving sovereigns have as many as 1,200. The courts are struggling to keep up, and judges, prosecutors and public defenders are being swamped.

#### Paper Terrorism

- Since most sovereigns favor paper over guns
- when sovereigns are angry with government officials, their revenge most often takes the form of "paper terrorism."
- Sovereigns file retaliatory, bogus property liens
- will file fake tax forms in police officer's name designed to ruin a credit rating and cause the officer to be audited by the IRS.

#### **Tactics**

- a sovereign was involved in 2010 in a protracted legal battle over having to pay a dog-licensing fee.
- She filed 10 sovereign documents in court over a two-month period and then declared victory when the harried prosecutor decided to drop the case.
- The battle was fought over a three-year dog license that in Pinellas County, Fla., where the sovereign lives, costs just \$20

HARDY MYERS Acong General



PETER D. SHEPHERD Deputy Amortaly General

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

November 1, 2004

Paul Andrew Mitchell c/o MBB PMB #332 501 Broadway, Suite A San Diego, CA 92101

> Re: Mitchell v. AOL, et al. USCD Case No.: S 93-CV-1513-MCE DAD PS

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

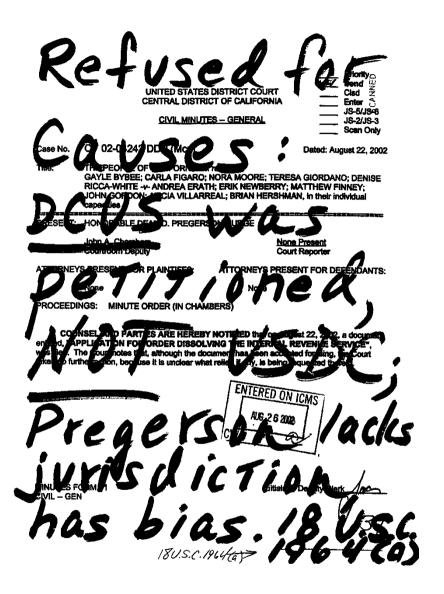
This case has been dismissed with prejudice. Please stop harassing my clients and me with senseless mujlings referring this case. Moreover you have been declared to be a vexations litigant, and an order has issued concerning your use of the judicial process. I suggest you read it, and consult an attorney if you do not understand the scope or impact of the order.

Sincerely

Chirles D. Ferrari Assistant Autories General Government Services Scotion

CDE extrgenic7462.DQC

1162 Court Strota NE, Salom, OR 97303-4096 Telephotes (503) 947-4520 Fax: (503) 578-6929 TTY: (503) 578-5930



### Attachment "D" INDEMNITY BOND

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# Intimidation of justice officials

 In the U. S., some engage in white-collar frauds, issue promissory notes

 Clog up the court system with pseudo-legal filing of motions

 The Freemen try to intimidate law enforcement, government and court officials and file false liens on their homes

# Nonsensical Language

- sovereign code language that judges, lawyers and other court staff simply can't understand (nor can most non-sovereigns).
- Sovereigns believe that if they can find just the right combination of words, punctuation, paper, ink color and timing, they can have anything they want:
- freedom from taxes, unlimited wealth, and life without licenses, fees or laws, are all just a few strangely worded documents away.
- It's the modern-day equivalent of "abracadabra."

# The Freeman plan in Canada

"The Plan is very simple and involves the creation of an actual society with the associated lawful courts and supporting peace officer force. Using fundamentals of law and existing and established rights, we will create a society called The Freeman Society of Canada, establish The Canadian Common Corps of Peace Officers, and convene new lawful de jure courts which will be accessible to all and not owned and operated by the law society."

# CANADIAN COMMON CORPS OF PEACE OFFICERS

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

I, Freeman on the Land, Wilfred-Keith of the Thompson Family/Clan, Son of Wilfred and born to Pauline, do hereby make oath and solemnly swear to preserve and maintain the public peace to the best of my abilities, to respect and defend the rights and freedoms of citizens and freemen alike, and, without favour or discrimination, enforce the criminal code of Canada equally and, to expand and exercise my rights as a freeman ensuring their existence for future generations.

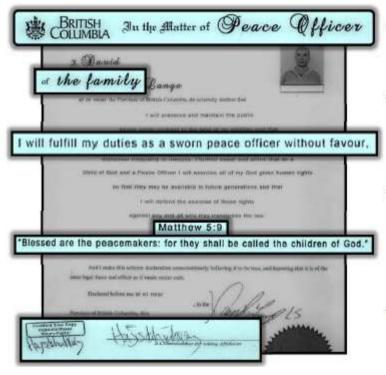
Furthermore, I agree to be hired for this role indefinitely for the sum of one dollar. I understand that upon acceptance of application, in exchange for a consideration, I will enjoy all rights and powers, privileges and duties of other peace officers. I understand that my duty is to the people of the land mass known as Canada, not the Queen, nor the politicians or any political group, So help me God.

Autograph

Wilfred-Keith: Thompson

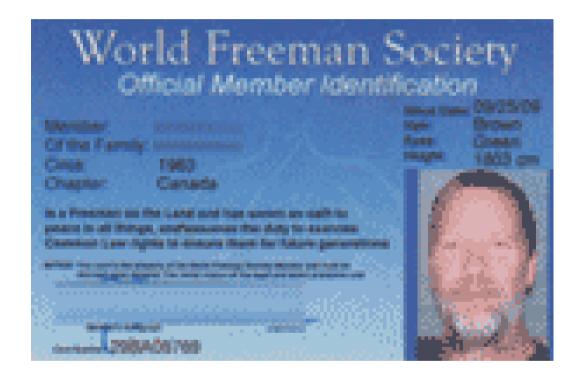
August 26th, 2010

### "Peace Officer Oath"



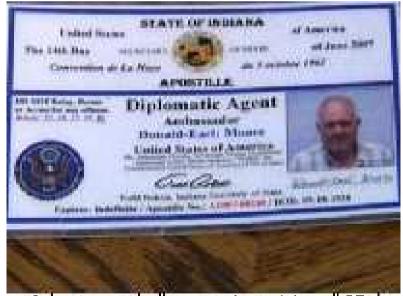
- The "Oaths" misused a BC Provincial Coat of Arms and included a false seal.
- In November 2012, 2 group members tried to procure badges from a manufacturer, stating that they were "peace officers."
- In November and December 2012, 5 group members attended three courthouses and identified themselves as "peace officers" to Sheriffs.
- In May 2013, 4 group members were charged with Personating a Peace Officer, s.130 CC.





Freeman Society Membership \$ 250.00





A homemade "sovereign citizen" ID ba





Sovereign citizens often use license plates with oddball names like the "Kingdom of Heaven" and the "Little Shell Pembina Band," which is a fake Indian tribe that runs a redemption scam. The FBI has a brochure available for all law enforcement agencies that includes pictures of a variety of sovereign plates.







ALLODIAL TITLE RECORDED AT ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE

7989

**472** 



WTR-1776
republic Pennsylvania State

**PRIVATE - NON COMMERCIAL** 

E.A.P. III

Republic of Pennsylvania







# "Without Prejudice" UCC 1-308











Title 8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(22)(B)



ABOLISH THE FEDERAL RESERVE!



Not Subject to Corporate Jederal or Corporate State Jurisdiction.





### Freeman On The Land

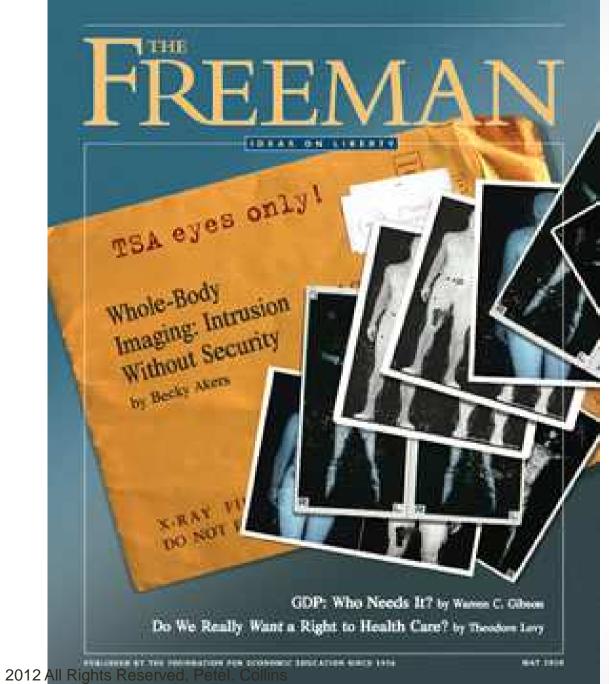


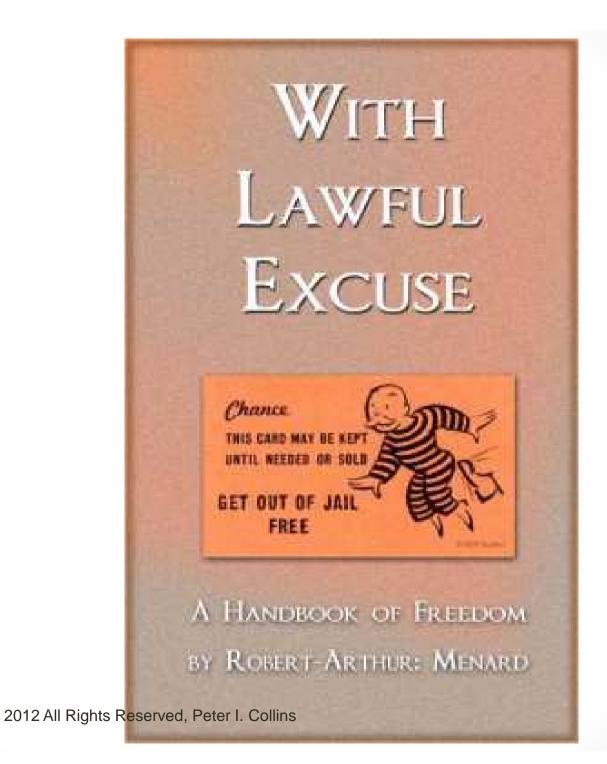
A Free Man on the land is a human being in a common law jurisdiction who has revoked consent to be represented and thus governed and therefore is not subject to any bylaws, orders...

...making a claim of right to ones own sovereignty sets one free from Statutory law and allows the Freeman to charge via a fee schedule for any violation of his sovereignty through a Notary Public Process.

This makes the Freeman exclusively bound only to Common Law.

Under Common Law a Freeman would revoke any licenses, social security card, birth certificate





### WARNING! PRIVATE PROPERTY

PERSONS ENTERING THIS PROPERTY MUST HOLD CONTRACT OR LICENSE WITH OWNER Taglia () GRANTING INGRESS WITH INDEMNITY, AND CARRY PROPER IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY SUCH CONTRACT OF LICENSE

YOU ARE HERELY NOTIFED, THAT THE DWNER CONDICE OF PROPERTY REQUIRES AIR PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR PERSONS TO AMDE BY "THE SUPPERE LAW OF THE LAND! THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE RATIFIED AMENDMENTS THERETO.

OWNER (allording ) WILL REPUSE TO PERMIT ANY ACCESS, SEARCH, AUDIT, ASSISSMENT, OR INSPECTION WHATSDEVER OF THIS PROPERTY WITHOUT THE PRESENTATION OF A WARRANT, PREPARED AS PRESCRIBED BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, IV AND X-X LAND "PARTICULARLY DESCRIBING THE PLACE TO BE SEARCHED, AND THE PERSONS OR THINGS TO BE SEIZED! See GLSO Article V. Sest. 25 Montana Constitution; Articles Seven

Eleven and Overing Thirteenth of the Amandon ents.

ANY OFFICIAL AGENT, OR PERSONS) ENTERING THIS PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSENT OF THE OWNER ( Jod's) . WITHOUT PROPER WARRANT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, WILL BE TREATED AS AN INTRUDER ATTEMPTING TO TRESPASS, EXTORT, INJURE, THEEATEN, HARASS, INTINIDATE, OR OTHERWISE ROPARDIZE THE LIFE OF THE OWNER (Modes) OF THIS PROPERTY.

No Prass allowed at any time! No foreign agents (i.e.

OWNER (by Quiet Title) Russ (1 700) by corrected Russey Skurdal, frastrum Character

without the United States , 28 U.S.C. Sect 1746 (1).

:Donald-Mark: Westover c/o RRI Kemble, Ontario

Phone: 519 534 3421 Email: don.westover.1@gmail.com Ignorance of FEE SCHEDULE is without excuse. All Principals and agents have been noticed. Fee Schedule is Noticed on public record at www.issuu.com/golden.don



### BILL FOR SERVICES RENDERED ACCORDING TO FEE SCHEDULE

Contracting Agent: J. Van Allen

Contracting Company/Organizations
- Ontavio Provincial Police

Description	Fee/service	No. of Services Rendered	Other	Total
Questioning, interrogation or in any wise detained, harassed or otherwise regulated	\$1,000 PER HOUR or portion thereof	Ihr		\$ 1,000.00
Bitls or orders	\$1000 PER ORDER/BILL	3	t Anadopaktora Ko	\$ 3,000.9%
Handcuffing, transporting, incarceration or subjection to any adjudica- tion process without my express written and notarized consent	\$10,000 PER HOUR WITH A BASE FEE OF \$5000	ihr		\$10,000.00
Signatures elicited under threat, torture or duress	\$10,000 PER SIGNATURE	Na	(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	La servicio de la companya della companya de la companya della com
Any violence brought against me and/or my family and/or anyone in my care	Minimum \$25,000,000, full commercial liability, prosecution	n/a		
Kidnapping or removing: McKenzie-Taylor:Westover: from my custody, or not returning him to me upon demand, or other custody related issue with respect to my son.	Minimum \$25,000,000, full commercial liability, prosecution	n/a		
Sum of additional charges found listed on reverse of this bill, if any.				\$17,935.60
No charges on reverse of bill		Library	Subtotal	Control of the Sales of
A Charges on reverse of bill			Total due	\$41,935.

Me, my or mine for the purposes of this bill refers to :Donald-Mark: Westover.

Payment of fees will be made payable in the functional currency of the day in the land at a value of the currency of the day in this land of Canada at the time of receipt of this schedule or with acceptable collateral property to me or my agent or, in event of my demise, my son or my son's agent. Make payment payable to DONALD MARK WESTOVER

Any property held under claim of right which is removed from my possession or custody or otherwise stolen without my express, written consent without duress for whatever reason will be assessed by me of value and a bill will be sent separately to all parties involved, each being responsible for the full bill.

The engaging of me or mine in any of the aforementioned activities/services is further agreement that liens be placed against the real and personal property of the living people utilizing offending/contracting organizations and corporations for defaulted of payment. Liens will also be filed against the offending corporations.

The law of Agent and Principal applies and service upon one constitutes service upon the other. Additional fees may be explained and charged to the agent on the reverse of this bill.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

# Tips for LE

- Unusual use of outdated language: A simple question like, "Where are you headed?" may get you a response along the lines of, "I am a free man, traveling upon the land."
- An arrogant or belligerent attitude: Sovereigns believe that they
  have secret knowledge about a complex government conspiracy that
  most Americans, including law enforcement officials, are too stupid
  to comprehend.
- Unsolicited anti-Semitic comments: either outright or veiled.
- Anti-Federal Reserve or banking comments: even though all you are discussing is a driver's license, registration tags or traffic infractions.
   Anger towards other government agencies such as FEMA, the EPA, the U.S. Post Office and the Census Bureau is common.

# Tips for LE

- Odd punctuation of names: typically involving colons and hyphens.
- The absence of a zip code: in adherents' addresses (sometimes, the zip code is present, but placed in brackets).

# Thank you AETAP

Peter Collins, MD, MCA, FRCP(C)

Criminal Behaviour Analysis Unit

**Ontario Provincial Police** 

705-329-6351 – direct line

705-238-1352 – cell phone

705-329-6950 – OPP Duty Officer

peter.collins@opp.ca