



BTL

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Monday, March 26, 2018

HATE SPEECH FOLLOWS STANLEY STORY REJECTION

TORONTO— On March 22 the Editorial Committee of Between the Lines (BTL) publicly turned down a request to meet with Robertson Stromberg LLP about publishing Gerald Stanley's story. Despite having received many messages of support, the BTL offices were also inundated with an alarming number of emails and phone calls from individuals and self-described supporters of Mr. Stanley that contain obscene, racially charged, and hate-filled language. Similarly, reactions on social media to our decision have also resulted in numerous posts containing disturbing language. The Editorial Committee of Between the Lines remains committed to our decision and will not be deterred by acts of intimidation.

Of the many negative messages received thus far, virtually all contain hate speech that targets not only our press and its staff but Colten Boushie, his friends, family, supporters, and Indigenous peoples in general. "There has certainly been a backlash against Indigenous peoples and those that stand in solidarity with them because of the Gerald Stanley trial. The hate speech that followed this decision should come as no surprise," said Veldon Coburn, an academic currently teaching at McGill University who has lectured publicly on anti-Indigenous racism in Canada. "It's time to prioritize Indigenous voices and stories if we're going to seriously confront Canada's anti-Indigenous racism and understand that Colten Boushie not only died without justice, but lived without it as well."

In response to the BTL press released on March 22, Robertson Stromberg LLP requested that we provide them with the contact information of our legal counsel. On March 23 our legal counsel contact their office and delivered the requested contact information. As of March 26, neither we nor our legal counsel has received any information about the reason for this request or what their intentions are.

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