

# Elijah Elieff unjustly portrayed

While the quotes attributed to me in Hank Daniszewski's Dec. 29 article *London landlord finds fans in Freedom party* are accurate, the opening text of the article is misleading.

The article suggests the Freedom party "plans to turn London landlord Elijah Elieff into a symbol of their campaign to promote the right to discriminate." I said no such thing whatsoever to Daniszewski, nor is the Freedom party involved in any campaign to "promote" discrimination.

However, I did say that we planned to use the human rights commission's case against Elieff as an example of harassment and discrimination on the part of government — and that such discrimination is unjust and should be illegal. Daniszewski then asked me if this was a case of "reverse discrimination" and I replied that it was irrelevant, it's still discrimination and should not be permitted.

I pointed out clearly to Daniszewski, in the presence of other witnesses, that the Ontario government is being hypocritical by telling its citizens that they may not discriminate on certain grounds, when the government itself routinely discriminates on those very grounds. In fact, on the cover of our most recent party newsletter, which many members of The Free Press receive, is the headline: Freedom Party Says 'No' To Discrimination, while inside we outlined point-by-point how our own government discriminates on the very grounds it prohibits its citizens from discriminating.

As to the specific case of Elijah Elieff, I have become convinced, on the basis of overwhelming documentation, that he has been made a victim of discrimination, and is certainly not a perpetrator of it. Because he is a landlord who also happens to be a white male, the law specifically discriminates against him on both counts and there is no "human rights commission" nor other agency of defence to which he can objectively appeal his case.

To add insult to injury, the dismal reporting of his case by The London Free Press, combined with a coldly calculated campaign to ruin his reputation and devalue his business and property by certain local politicians and representatives of the United Church, have unjustly portrayed this man to the community as something he definitely is not.

This is the real story behind the story of Elijah Elieff. Somebody has to tell the truth, and the fact that The Free Press won't do the job leaves that responsibility to others. Discrimination and harassment wear many faces and some hide behind the institutions set up to prevent them.

**ROBERT METZ**

Ontario president  
Freedom Party of Ontario  
London