

# Will Loblaws Ever Enter a Dialogue on Ending the True Causes of Hunger?

Loblaws president Richard Currie has refused to respond to numerous written letters inviting a dialogue on the issues (which include Loblaws' support of the Tories through parent company Weston Industries, Loblaws' \$56 million in deferred, unpaid taxes, and its \$9 million-plus compensation for Currie in 1997).

Then, Loblaws busted Santa Claus and two elves, then they had the Easter Bunny, three Bunny-helpers, and an innocent school teacher just there to shop carted off and charged with trespass. Now it appears they've installed intimidating guards in at least one store to keep out the truth (see story below).

## What can you do?

1. Phone (922-2500) or fax (922-0803) Richard Currie. Ask why Loblaws won't enter a dialogue which includes examining its own role in creating and perpetuating hunger. And ask why Loblaws is taking Santa, two elves, the Easter Bunny and four Bunny-Helpers to court for handing out anti-hunger literature during food drives.
2. Come to Court! Santa and Two Elves go to trial Tuesday, July 7, 1:30 pm, 2265 Keele Street. The Rabbits have yet to get a trial date.
3. Stay in touch with Toronto Action for Social Change at 651-5800. And come to the next Loblaws leaflet, Saturday, July 25, as Robin Hood and her merry band show Loblaws how to share the wealth!

# Loblaws ups security, blames Easter Bunny

BY CONAN TOBIAS

Grocery shoppers at the Christie/Dupont Loblaws were careful not to pinch the fruit last month after they were greeted by a team of ominous security guards.

One shopper described the guards as "a modern version of the [Nazi] SS" dressed entirely in black, wearing black Doc Marten boots and carrying billy clubs.

"I asked the manager about it and he said it was because of the Easter Bunny and shoplifting," said local resident Connie Harrison, who added that she found the presence of

the guards intimidating and unnecessary.

The Easter Bunny in question is

Matthew Behrens, a social justice advocate and member of the group Toronto Action For Social Change.

Behrens and four others were arrested and charged with trespassing on April 11 when they held a peaceful rally outside the Loblaws store protesting the food giant's deferred taxes. Behrens attended dressed as the Easter Bunny.

According to Loblaws manager Dino Naccarato, the guards have since been removed from the store. Naccarato would not comment further on the situation.

Loblaws head office did not return phone calls.



DON JOHNSTON

Behrens, right, at the April protest.

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