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BAD REPORTER OR BAD COUNCILLOR? **WHITBY UNDER FIRE...**

WHITBY - After a lengthy meeting a self proclaimed reporter aggressively approached a female councillor with questions from previous meetings. His actions prompted a series of events that tarnished the good name of journalism. Subsequently Durham Region Police were called to Whitby Town Hall Monday night as a reporter from Rebel News got into a confrontation with a security guard at the end of a meeting. At the end of the four-hour meeting, Rebel News reporter David Menzies confronted East Ward Coun. Victoria Bozinovski as she left council chambers and was heading out of the building. Menzies wanted to ask Bozinovski about comments she made on the floor of council several weeks prior, regarding a motion ruled out of order. According to eyewitnesses the (reporter) created a very unsafe situation, to the point of where they're (reporter and security guard) making physical contact. Subsequently, Bozinovski had to retreat to the mayor's office, where she remained for some time and later received a police escort home. Soon after Mayor Roy took the opportunity to make a Statement Regarding March 23 Committee of the Whole Meeting. She stated: "I want to address a concerning incident that occurred at Whitby Town Hall last night following Council's Committee

of the Whole meeting. An individual associated with media outlet Rebel News attended the meeting and, after adjournment, interacted with members of Council and Town staff in a way that made them feel extremely uncomfortable. This individual has a well-documented history of confrontational interactions with public officials, including behaviour that many -- particularly female politicians -- have found to be intimidating. Town security repeatedly advised the Rebel News representative that this behaviour was unacceptable and ultimately had to call Durham Regional Police. I will not tolerate any member of Whitby Council being made to feel unsafe at Town Hall. This is not about limiting media access. In recent months, more than two dozen media outlets have covered issues in Whitby, ranging from local publications to national news organizations. We welcome media of all types and respect the important role journalists play in covering both the successes and challenges in our community. **However, there is a clear line between legitimate journalism and conduct intended to provoke, intimidate, or harass -- and in this case, that line was crossed.** This is not who we are in Whitby. As we approach the municipal election period, it is more important than ever that we uphold a respectful and constructive environment at Town Hall. I will continue working with Town staff and Durham Regional Police as they inves-

tigate this incident and consider steps to ensure the safety of everyone who attends our meetings." As a result David Menzie from Rebel news made a video statement in order to justify his position. He stated in the video: "Here is to clear the air. You see folks yesterday I was covering council meeting at the town of Whiby. We were very interested in the comments made by councillor Victoria Bozinovski. That merely questioning the merit of the temporary workers program is quote, "is garbage and xenophobic, racist." Victoria in the video breaks to a segment that shows her claiming she had serious issues with it. Menzie continued in his video: After the meeting finished. **We decided to squirm Bozinovski.** In her own release Councillor Victoria Bozinovski stated: Short summary for those that do not want to read a long statement: Asking the town to report back on how to get around the law and not hire LEGAL immigrants is illegal, racist, xenophobic, and garbage. And in turn will cost the Town hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend. My stance on immigration is not the issue here. You talk about wanting your opinions on immigration reform heard, take them to your ... local MP. Understanding the law and jurisdiction is an essential life skill. Councillor Victoria Bozinovski continues her attempt to justify her position by stating: 'Over the past several days, I've seen a surge of attention, commentary, and messages,

some thoughtful, much of it not, and a significant amount driven by misinformation. Let's reset this conversation with facts. The motion in question was not within the jurisdiction of municipal government. That is not a matter of opinion, it is a matter of law. Immigration policy is federal. Municipal councils do not have the authority to regulate it, rewrite it, or work around it through procurement policy. Independent legal advice confirmed that pursuing this motion would likely expose the Town to legal challenges, conflict with existing legislation, and cost taxpayers a significant amount of money to defend something we would almost certainly lose. That alone is reason enough to reject it. Now, to my comments. **Yes, I called the motion garbage, xenophobic, and racist. I stand by that assessment.** When a proposal effectively seeks to exclude LEGALLY authorized workers based on citizenship or origin, it crosses a line. Dressing that up as a "request for facts" does not change what it is. Targeting people instead of addressing policy within proper legal scope is not good governance, it is irresponsible, and it carries real legal and human rights implications. If that language made people uncomfortable, it should. The implications of the motion were far more serious than the words used to describe it. At the same time, let's address another misleading narrative being pushed. Shockingly enough, the Temporary Foreign Worker

Program is not the only pathway into employment in sectors like quick-service restaurants. Canada's workforce includes open work permit holders and international students, and many others who are fully authorized to work. Suggesting that a single federal program is "taking jobs" in a simplistic, one-dimensional way ignores how the labour market actually functions. It also ignores reality: many of these roles face persistent labour shortages. Removing lawful workers from the equation does not magically create a workforce .. it reduces services, increases costs, and hurts local businesses. Council did not "shut down debate." Council made a decision not to pursue a motion that:
- falls outside municipal authority
- risks violating human rights and constitutional protections
- duplicates work already done at the federal level
- and exposes taxpayers to unnecessary legal costs
That is called doing the job responsibly. Public discourse matters. But there is a clear line between debate and distortion and an even clearer line between disagreement and the kind of harassment, personal attacks, and abuse that have followed. That behaviour does nothing to strengthen an argument; it only reinforces why leadership requires judgment, restraint, and a commitment to facts. My responsibility is not to amplify misinformation or entertain legally flawed proposals. My responsibility is to the residents of Whitby, to protect their interests, their tax

dollars, and the integrity of local government. That is exactly what I will continue to do. If some of my council colleagues are uncomfortable being proven wrong, that's not my responsibility. Handle it professionally. You're welcome to stay and engage constructively, but if you're going to resort to insults, take that approach elsewhere and focus on the next federal issue you believe you can solve.t
Who is Rebel News:
Rebel News (also known as The Rebel Media and The Rebel) is a Canadian far-right[political and social commentary media website operated by Rebel News Network Ltd. It has been described as a "global platform" for the anti-Muslim ideology known as counter-jihad. It was founded in February 2015 by former Sun News Network personalities Ezra Levant and Brian Likely. Rebel News broadcasts its content only on the internet and has been compared to Breitbart News in the US. Rebel News has been described as being part of the alt-right movement. Menzie's video continues to show Menzie following Victoria out of chamber. He appeared to be overly aggressive for a journalist. During the video a man appears that fails to identify himself as a security guard or employee of the town... in with that in itself is illegal and confrontational. At the end of the video he uses another example when he tried the same with another politicians with the same outcome..