

Moosewaypayo, but felt he had no choice but to sign the Ministry of Justice document that investigator Tim Ostaforoff brought to his workplace last Thursday.

"I had to sign a paper ... Tim's pretty persuasive. He's a big boy," Hanowski said Monday.

"They've taken over my property," he said. "They have lots of power. More than I have ... There's no way I'm going to kick out a woman with five children who hasn't secured another place to live," he said.

SCAN's director of operations, Blair Ritchie, scoffed at the suggestion the agency's staff would pressure anyone to sign against their will.

"How could they make somebody sign?" he said.

Hanowski said he was told SCAN would get rid of the "undesirables" and then turn the property back to him.

"I don't know how you can get away with just kicking someone out like that," he said. The lady next door "complained a lot, to the point of harassment," he added.

SCAN officials refused to show Moosewaypayo or Hanowski the video evidence they said they had showing people using drugs on the front deck of the home.

Moosewaypayo and her aunt, Tracy Powder, visited Ritchie at his office on Monday, accompanied by a reporter. Ritchie's temper flared when Powder outlined her concerns about the way her niece was treated.

He shouted at the women to leave when Powder denied his allegation that Moosewaypayo is an admitted drug user.

When Ritchie was asked for his name, he sarcastically replied, "Peter Pan." He later gave a business card to a reporter, but did not provide one to Moosewaypayo. Saskatoon lawyer Nicholas Blenkinsop says the SCAN legislation is "rife for abuse by overzealous neighbours who imagine they see something and jump to conclusions.

"My opinion is SCAN officials do the same," he said. Blenkinsop has represented other people fighting SCAN evictions. He said SCAN officials "speak with authority and use bully techniques."

They trespass, put up signs declaring illegal activity is going on at the house, and tell tenants they're not allowed to be there and are going to be evicted, he said. Often, that's all it takes to make people move away, he said.

If people don't leave, SCAN takes the matter to the Office of the Rentalsman, where the person must attend to defend themselves and SCAN must prove its allegations.

SCAN is a provincial government agency intended to give people some control over crime in their neighbourhoods.

Neighbours can report suspicious activity to SCAN, which can investigate by doing background checks on people who live at or frequent the house and by surveillance, said Lisa Danyluk, a spokesperson for Saskatchewan Justice.

The provincial legislation uses civil law, not the criminal courts. Instead of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt before a judge, it uses the Residential Tenancies Act, which allows people to be evicted for using marijuana or other drugs without the high standard of proof required for a conviction on criminal charges.

If SCAN cannot obtain consent from the landlord, it can ask the court for

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a community safety order for the eviction.

Director Ritchie has the power to decide if the activity is consistent with crime such as drug trafficking, prostitution or child abuse.

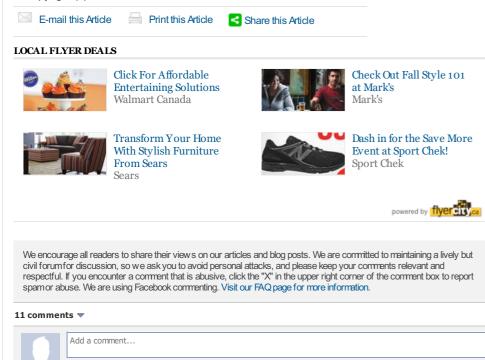
Since its creation in 2005, SCAN has issued 637 demands to vacate, served 200 warning letters and reached 60 informal resolutions. It has applied 25 times to the Court of Queen's Bench for community safety orders, according to a justice official. Government officials did not immediately have statistics on how many of the applications and demands resulted in actual evictions.

Ostaforoff told Hanowski that two people from Moosewaypayo's family have been murdered this year.

Hanowski and Moosewaypayo said they wonder why the family's victimization is being used to support SCAN'S claim that the house is being used for crime.

Moosewaypayo's grandfather, James Favel, 77, died in August after he was beaten by an unknown assailant as he walked home from bingo. Her uncle, Jonathen Moosewaypayo, 28, was stabbed to death on Jan. 1.

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Sarah Hunter Maunder

If you believe the SCAN policies need to improve and you want to assist this family in being treated in an honourab www.justice.gov.sk.ca/Contact. We can create change by working together.

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Jeff Maz

Blair Ritchie sounds like a government bully. I thought the governments stance on bullying was to protect people fr Reply · m¹ 3 · Like · Yesterday at 10:09am



Sarah Hunter Maunder

How can a family being punished and found guilty of a crime that has not been proven, or even brought to court? I they are now being further victimized by poor government legislation. These children and their mother are about to people. These children are our city's future, how exactly does this help any of us, by taking away their home?

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