

Re: I Feel Stonewalled

[REDACTED] >

[REDACTED] < [REDACTED] >

Sat, 14 Mar 2026 19:39:18 -0400

To "Michael [REDACTED]" < [REDACTED] >

Tags WW

Hi Michael

First please don't include your original denied article. It isn't useful. The Board does not take action based on a newsletter article. And half the Board has changed. (November elections).

However you can take issue with the Editorial Committee for its decision making, etc. and ask questions.

**As you requested, here's a suggested re-draft of your article about the Weekly response you received last summer** - you can use it as-is, edit it to be truer to your own voice, use AI to improve it, etc. etc.

Please know that I don't want you to submit anything that you think isn't true to you. Or your thinking.

One other thing:

1. YOU COULD CHANGE THE **TITLE** or leave it as "I feel stonewalled". However it is best for you to pick an article title.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

-----

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 2026-03-14 18:16, Michael [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

You've given me a lot of text. I don't know how to apply it to the letter that I intend to publish. I know what the individual sentences mean, but I don't know what your email means as a whole.

If you'd like to let me know any specific thoughts that you and the Committee have about my letter, please feel free.

If I don't receive specific feedback, I'll go ahead and publish while noting that the Editorial Committee was given an opportunity to comment, but only offered a lot of paragraphs that appeared to amount to nothing. With my letter, I'll also publish your email, with appropriate redactions, so the reader can decide for themselves whether or not it makes any sense. Perhaps this misunderstanding is entirely my fault. As you might know, I am autistic and often struggle with communication.

: ) Michael

p.s. There isn't a specific deadline for this, but I hope to publish soon.

Michael [REDACTED]  
133 Wilton St.  
Unit [REDACTED]

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From: <[REDACTED]>  
To: "Michael [REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Sat, 14 Mar 2026 12:12:12 -0400  
Subject: Re: I Feel Stonewalled

Hello Michael,

Michael, you are free to criticize the decisions made by the Editorial Committee and the editor will review it and publish it. The Newsletter Bylaw says that you can.

However your proposed article which includes the refused

article needs a rewrite, in our opinion. We suggest a more effective article that you can submit for publication.

The Newsletter Bylaw, Article 5.5 says: *Any member may criticize an Editor's decision to include or reject any item. That criticism may be made as a letter to The Weekly for publication, or to the Editorial Committee or the board of directors, for consideration.*

You could start with a short introduction that summarizes the problem, perhaps something like this:

[REDACTED]

And then talk about your concerns about the Weekly newsletter.

The **deadline** for submissions is Tuesdays at 7pm. However if you need more time, this week's editor has indicated that she is willing to consider more time. Please be sure to email her at the usual Weekly address prior to the deadline so she will see your request for an extension.

[REDACTED]

**Please review these Newsletter Bylaw clauses before you submit your revised article:**

*2.2 The purpose of The Weekly is also to be a forum for the exchange of views and opinions of members about the Co-operative and life in the Co-operative. This includes criticism of both the Co-operative and the decisions of the board, committees and staff, as well as responses.*

*5.1 Subject to this Article, any submission to The Weekly from a member, director or staff of the Co-operative will normally appear in an issue as soon as possible. The Editor in charge of an issue is ultimately responsible for whether or not a submission appears in that issue. If time permits, an Editor should consult with other Editors, the Chair of the Editorial Committee or one or more members of the Editorial Committee regarding a possible rejection.*

*5.2 An Editor must reject a submission or require changes if:*  
*(a) the submission appears to be defamatory and could expose the Co-operative to a lawsuit for libel; or*  
*(b) the submission is harmful to another member, staff, the Co-operative or the Co-operative movement.*

*5.3 The Editorial Committee may make decisions about types of submissions that will be rejected or restricted in some way. Such decisions must be published promptly in The Weekly.*

*5.4 If a submission is rejected for any reason, the person who submitted it will be advised in writing of the reason for the rejection.*

**The Newsletter Policies says:**

*3 (C) Personal Attacks*

*The Newsletter By-law requires rejection of submissions that are libellous or harmful. The following guidelines may be used in deciding if a submission is harmful:*

- (1) submissions may criticize decisions of the board, committees and staff;*
- (2) submissions may disagree with the opinion of another member;*
- (3) criticism should focus on the substance of the decision or opinion rather than the person or people who made the decision or expressed the opinion;*
- (4) criticism should focus on substance rather than motives or personalities; and*
- (5) criticism may be harsh but should not be insulting.*
- (6) prohibited grounds of discrimination for housing in Ontario human rights are race, colour, ancestry, creed (religion), place of origin, ethnic origin, citizenship, sex (including pregnancy,*



Please let me know if you have any thoughts.

Thanks,

: ) Michael

----- [START of letter] -----

Hello Neighbour : )

On August 12 of this year, our Editorial Committee sent to me an email to let me know that they would not publish my article.

They wrote the following:

*Hi Michael,*

*Thank you for the submission. It has been forwarded to the Board, however it will not be published as in the July 27th Weekly, the Board Report says:*

*If you have issues of an administrative nature (e.g. waiting lists, pest control, priority moves, housing charge, RGI or maintenance), please contact the office. The Board does not need to be cc'd on these emails.*

*If you have an escalation (regarding the property manager or another issue for which no resolution has been reached) contact the Board, and specify that it is an escalation requiring action.*

*Co-operatively,*

*The Editorial Committee*

The above instructions from our Board, as repeated by our Editorial Committee, don't apply to my situation. I'll try to be clear by addressing the two ostensibly applicable paragraphs

individually.

1. As of the printing of this document, our Editorial Committee haven't asked me about the nature of my communications with our Board. I have been in communication with our Board about an issue that isn't administrative in nature. Therefore, the first of the two ostensibly applicable paragraphs does not apply.

2. As of the printing of this document, our Editorial Committee haven't asked me if I have requested the attention of our Board regarding an escalation. I have been in communication with our Board about an issue that isn't regarding an escalation. Therefore, the second of the two ostensibly applicable paragraphs does not apply.

In defence of our Editorial Committee, I acknowledge that a reasonable person might assume that they know the content of an email based on the subject field, but I believe that said reasonable person should know that they might be wrong.

I disagree with the decision of our Editorial Committee to forward my article to our Board without discussing this choice with me. I understand that reasonable minds could differ on this, but I wonder about the criteria for such a decision.

Directly below is the article that I submitted to The Weekly on August 12, 2025.

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*I Feel Stonewalled*

*Since April 4, 2025, I've been trying to write an article for The Weekly. I haven't yet put pen to paper, so to speak. I am still in the information-gathering stage. I want to provide facts.*

*My attempts to receive information have fallen on ears that seem alien to me. Perhaps this is due to my autism. ...I'm not sure what is happening.*

*I am trying earnestly.*

*If The Board is reading this, could you please reply to my emails dated June 18, 2025, 12:16:38 (subject: "Display Case"), and June 18, 2025, 10:22:46 (subject: "Access to Internal Waiting List")?*

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In the spirit of Intentional Community Living,

Michael [REDACTED]  
----- [END of letter] -----

Michael [REDACTED]  
133 Wilton St.  
Unit [REDACTED]